



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD
 DISTRICT 12 ONLINE NEWS
 TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

WELCOME DECEMBER

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Holidays and may 2023 bring you health, prosperity and new blessings!

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LET'S CELEBRATE 2023 TOGETHER – THE LIVE NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENT IS BACK AT GRAND PARADE

Plus, ring in the New Year with a special reception with the Mayor and Councillors on New Year's Day. Join us for the New Year's Levee from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in Halifax Hall in City Hall. I hope to see you there!

2023/24 BUDGET & BUSINESS PLANNING FOR HRM

Budget and Business Plan



The annual budget is a very important thing for the operation of our municipality; it funds all costs associated with servicing our municipality each year. That's ensuring we can have our roads plowed during a snowstorm, recreational facilities to enjoy, regular garbage pickup and so much more!

The municipality's 2023/24 Budget and Business Planning process has now started and will continue until into the spring of 2023. Over the winter, municipal business units present plans to Regional Council with their intentions for the upcoming fiscal year and outlining the required budgets to achieve their goals. During this process, Regional Council will ask questions, discuss, debate, and consider each department's proposed priorities and budget. This can result in revisions to budget plans along the way.

The 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan approval date is scheduled for April 25th, 2023, where Regional Council will finalize what next year's budget.

...3-2-1... Happy New Year! It's almost that time, and Grand Parade is set to light up the sky on New Year's Eve. Be a part of Halifax's biggest NYE celebration by joining the fun in-person or tuning in from home.

The free New Year's Eve event is from 9:45 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Eastlink Community TV will broadcast the celebration through the evening.

Halifax will have a spot on CBC's National TV broadcast from 9:45 - 10:15 p.m.

Enjoy artist performances, a main concert, large fireworks show and DJ. Performers include emerging rock star JJ Wilde, Tik Tok pop phenomenon Devon Cole and Halifax DJ OKAY TK. Find out more about this event at

halifax.ca/newyareseve



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INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE BUDGET PROCESS?

- You can review the proposed schedule of budget presentations, learn about the budget process, and keep up to date on upcoming milestones here: www.halifax.ca/budget
- Here are some common questions and answers regarding the municipal budget, and how it is determined each year: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/budget-finance/budget/common-questions>
- To learn more about the current 2021-25 HRM Strategic Priorities Plan that helps inform the budget direction, go to: www.halifax.ca/city-hall/budget-finance/budget/strategic-priorities-plan

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE BUDGET:

- During every budget meeting, members of the public also have an opportunity to share their views on any aspect of the proposed municipal budget. You can speak directly to me as your Regional Councillor about budget priorities. During each meeting, time will be set aside for the public to provide insight and comments. If you wish to make a presentation before HRM Council about the municipal budget, please contact the Municipal Clerks Office at clerks@halifax.ca or call 902-490-4210. Written submissions are also welcomed.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF BUDGET PRESENTATIONS FOR 2023/24:

Dates could change, so the most up to date information and more background on the budget process can be found here: www.halifax.ca/budget

SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM



There's no denying it – winter is on its way. There is a snow removal program available for seniors (ages 65 and older) and persons with disabilities to help ensure safe access to your home.

The Senior Snow Removal is a YMCA program provided in partnership with Halifax Regional Municipality, and oversees the clearing of front and back steps, walkways, ramps, and access to fuel tanks. Please note that the program does not include driveway clearing.

Those 65+ or persons with disabilities must also meet the following eligibility criteria:

- ✓ The participant must reside in a single dwelling home which is owned or rented;
- ✓ The participant, also including all individuals who live on the premises aged eighteen or older, must not exceed a total gross household income of \$32,000, and;
- ✓ The participant may not be a landlord.

The Senior Snow Removal operates on a first-come, first-serve basis. When maximum capacity is reached, the program will come to a close and individuals will be placed on a waitlist.

Call 902-483-3678 for more information. You can download the 2022/2023 application package online by visiting:

<https://ymcafx.ca/communityymca/ymca-senior-snow-removal/>



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SNOW CLEARING: MUNICIPAL SERVICE STANDARDS



With each weather event, snow clearing crews are responsible for approximately 3,844 lane kilometres of streets and about 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks! We can't control Mother Nature or what this winter has in store, but if we work together, we can all be better prepared for whatever the season may bring.

For more information on our municipality's Winter Operations program, and tips to help you prepare for inclement weather, please visit

www.halifax.ca/snow.

SERVICE STANDARDS:

HRM has service standards for streets, sidewalks, and bus stops and the timing varies depending on the priority level. We prioritize commonly used streets, bus routes and roads that provide access to hospitals and schools. When the snow stops, operators work as quickly and safely to have all the roads cleared by 24 hours and major roads and bus routes within 12 hours.

Before contacting 311 about snow clearing, please ensure the service timelines for your area have expired. You can find detailed information about snow clearing service timelines on the interactive map or in the "when should clearing be complete?"

section on the website (www.halifax.ca/snow).

If your street or sidewalk has not been cleared by the indicated time in each chart, please e-mail ContactUs@311.halifax.ca or call 311 so crews can be dispatched to address the issue. If an emergency vehicle needs to access a street, staff dispatch a plow immediately to that street.

Residents should note that in snowfalls greater than 30 centimeters or in blizzard conditions, more time may be needed to complete clearing. The same exception may apply when there are rapidly changing weather conditions. Crews will continue working until all streets and sidewalks are clear and safe. Of course, some roads are taken care of by the province, depending on where you live. Provincial road information is here:

<https://novascotia.ca/tran/winter/losmap.asp>

WINTER PARKING:

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect annually from December 15th to March 31st. The ban is enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during declared weather events and snow removal operations only. Sign up for hfxALERT notifications to receive important updates from the municipality, including Winter Parking Ban notifications:

www.halifax.ca/fire-police/fire/emergency-management/hfxalert

For more information on service standards, winter parking, and winter's impacts across our municipality, visit halifax.ca/snow or keep up to date on clearing operations and municipal service updates via [@hfxgov on Twitter](https://twitter.com/hfxgov).



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SHOP SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Halifax Regional Police has shared some great tips we can take to be safe this holiday shopping season. Check out the helpful ideas below and learn more about how you can #ShopSafe here:

<http://ow.ly/2AZT50LLYO6>

Holiday shopping safety tips from Halifax Regional Police:

Online shopping

- It is best to shop from your personal device at home on a trusted network.
- Consider using different user ID and passwords for different accounts and updating your passwords frequently.
- Verify secure connections and make sure you are on a secure website. Look for the padlock icon in the address bar and check for the valid certificate by clicking on the padlock icon.
- Unlike secure order forms on a websites, email and text messages are not private. Don't send confidential personal or financial information by email or text.
- Be cautious, if an online deal looks too good to be true then it probably is.
- Watch out for email scams. Be wary of clicking on links in an email message, even if the deal seems great.

- After making purchases it can be helpful to keep the receipt, confirmation number and postal tracking numbers in a safe accessible place.
- If you are at an online store that you are unfamiliar with, read and understand the online shop's policies. It's always a good idea to check a site's reviews before making a purchase.

In-store shopping

- We encourage you to lock your vehicle and park in well-lit and busy areas if they are available.
- Would-be thieves will look for shoppers storing valuables in their vehicles. If you're going to drop off your purchases and return to the stores, consider locking your packages in the trunk and move your vehicle to another location in the parking lot.
- Thieves sometimes watch shoppers exiting a store. You may want to shop strategically and wait until the end of your shopping trip to make high-end purchases or make a special trip to take high-end items home and then return to continue shopping.
- Protect your PIN when using bank and debit machines. Cover the keypad to prevent someone from observing your keystrokes or from recording your PIN. It's a good idea to change your PIN frequently.
- After a day of shopping, we recommend removing parcels and valuables and locking the vehicle upon returning home. Even an empty shopping bag can create the appearance that there's something in your car worth stealing.



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HRM'S TREE PRUNING PROGRAM



You might see our crews around your neighbourhood attending to municipal trees! That's because HRM's cyclical tree pruning program is now underway and will continue through March 2023.

Why is this done?

This proactive approach to maintaining our urban forest prolongs the health of street trees, dramatically reduces tree hazards and is less resource intensive than a reactionary approach to maintaining trees individually.

What work is happening?

Crews will complete the tree pruning program according to best practices regarding tree health and infrastructure clearances (e.g. considerations relating to roads, sidewalks, power lines and signage).

Municipal trees are assessed for maintenance and removal on an individual basis.

If removal is deemed necessary, a new tree will be planted in its place.

To learn more and see maps of impacted areas, visit: halifax.ca/trees

NOMINATIONS FOR HRM'S 2023 VOLUNTEER AWARDS: JANUARY 6TH DEADLINE



Do you know an outstanding volunteer who gives back to our community? You can give them the recognition they deserve!

Nominations are open for the 2023 Volunteer Awards until January 6th! For detailed criteria and online applications, visit halifax.ca/volunteerawards

Successful nominees will be notified in March 2023. An awards ceremony and banquet with Mayor Mike Savage and Regional Council will coincide with National Volunteer Week (April 16th – 22nd, 2023).

WINTER 2023 REC REGISTRATION



Registration is now open for Rec programs happening this winter! 🏠 🏊 This includes dryland programs, along with skating and aquatics! Program details are available at www.halifax.ca/myrec



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Issues with registration? Questions can be directed to your local recreation centre or call (902) 490-6666.

Did you know?

- ✓ The Recreation Funding Access Program provides discounted recreation opportunities for children, youth and adults in financial need: <https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/programs-activities/program-registration/funding-access-application>
- ✓ Starting in January 2023, the municipality's aquatics program will be transitioning from the Red Cross Swim Program to the Lifesaving Society's Swim Program. Residents can find more information on the transition at halifax.ca/swimprogram.

FREE MEAL KIT:

Mujadarrah

with Chocolate Chip Banana Oat Cakes

Please register for your kit using the links provided at:
facebook.com/squarerootsfvcp

Pick up will be:
Saturday, December 17th, 9:30am - 10:00am
The Salvation Army Halifax West Community Church
50 Gesner Street, Fairview

Made possible with support from:

Community Health Teams	COBS Bread Bedford	St. Andrew's Recreation Centre	Kin Club of Halifax
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IN THE COMMUNITY

LOCAL VEGGIE BUNDLES



Square Roots is a social enterprise which redirects surplus farm produce to community members at an affordable rate. Visit squarerootsfood.ca for more information.

Saturday, December 17th
9:30am - 10:30am

The Salvation Army Halifax West Community Church
50 Gesner Street, Fairview

Please register for your bundles using the links provided at:
facebook.com/squarerootsfvcp
to ensure we have enough produce for everyone

Please note: The next pickup will be January 14th, 2023

Made possible with support from:

Kin Club of Halifax	Salvation Army 50 Gesner St	Patricia Arab MLA Fairview Clayton Park
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Christmas

HOME DECORATING CONTEST

-BLT AREA-
BEECHVILLE TO EXIT 4

DEC. 11-18TH, 2022

WINNERS ANNOUNCED DEC 19TH

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DECEMBER MEETING DATES

Budget Committee and Regional Council:

Met in person on Tuesday, December 13th at 9:30 a.m.

Halifax and West Community Council:

Met in person on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Please confirm meeting dates and times on our [website](#) as they are subject to change.

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HALIFAX

halifax.ca

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I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council and the Halifax & West Community Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee, Vice-Chair
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee



Legion #156 Lakeside



UACWA (United African Cultural Women's Association) 2022 Multicultural Holiday Gala