



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT
DISTRICT 3 ONLINE NEWS
DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday filled with special time with family and friends. I also hope you were able to get some much-needed rest. I hope 2023 will bring you great success and inspirations of positivity. We all need that sometimes.

I had a different type of December by way of the dreaded cold/flu which later turned in to pneumonia. I share this because I was unable to participate in the holiday events and socials throughout December, and am behind on email and phone call responses. The good news is that I am back to about 85% but there still lingering challenges. I am getting caught up on emails and phone calls each day. Thank you for your patience and well wishes over the last month.

As we head into the new year, we are also heading into the cold and dark days of winter. This time of year can be challenging for many,

so I encourage you to check in on your loved ones and look after yourselves as well.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me anytime with your municipal concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,

The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.





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HRM WELCOMES NEW CAO

I am pleased to welcome Cathie O’Toole as the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Ms. O’Toole assumed her responsibilities as CAO on January 1st, with her first day in the office on Tuesday, January 3rd.

Ms. O’Toole brings with her more than three decades of leadership and public sector experience – most recently as the General Manager of Halifax Water, a role she has held since 2019. From 2011-2019 she was the Director of Corporate Services/CFO for the municipally-owned water utility.

Prior to joining Halifax Water, she worked with the Halifax Regional Municipality for 10 years in a variety of roles including Director of Finance/CFO and Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management. For full details, visit our [website](#).



WINTER 2023 REC REGISTRATION



Registration is open for Rec programs happening this winter! This includes dryland programs, along with skating and aquatics! Program details are available [here](#).

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.
- ✓ Starting in this month, 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 [here](#).



**2023/24 BUDGET & BUSINESS
PLANNING FOR HRM**

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

**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](#).
- [Here](#) are some common questions and answers regarding the municipal budget, and how it is determined each year.
- To learn more about the current 2021-25 HRM Strategic Priorities Plan that helps inform the budget direction, visit our [website](#).

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. 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, then please contact the Municipal Clerks Office at clerks@halifax.ca or call 902-490-4210.
- Written submissions are also welcomed.
- You can also speak directly to me as your Regional Councillor about budget priorities.



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 - ensuring we can have our roads plowed during a snowstorm, that we have 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. Over the winter, municipal business units present plans to Regional Council with their intentions for the upcoming fiscal year, 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.





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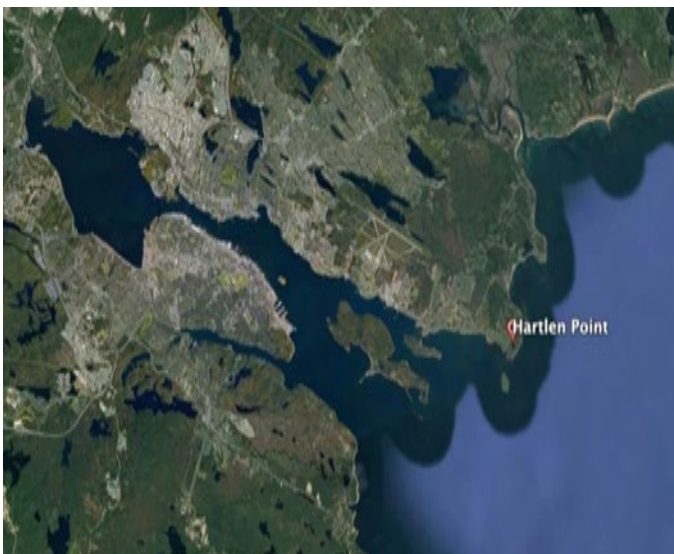
LAND-BASED TESTING FACILITY AT HARTLEN POINT

The next community engagement session for the Hartlen Point land-based testing facility is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, January 31st from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Hartlen Point Golf Club, 2400 Shore Road, in Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia. Virtual participation will also be available, and a link will be provided on the Trident newspaper [website](#) in January.

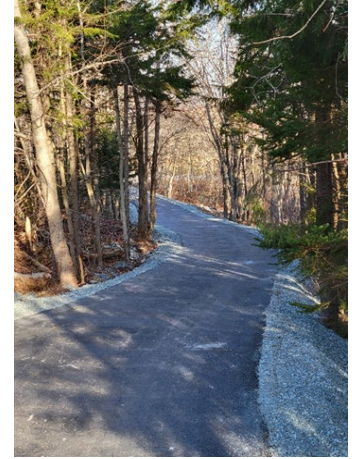
This will be open to the public to participate in-person or virtually (online or by phone) and will include a question and answer period. During the session, updates will be provided on the environmental and traffic studies, as well as the project's progress, including target schedule dates for design and construction.

If you are interested in registering to participate in-person or online, please contact Keelan Green at rsvp@prospectus.ca.

The presentation from the first community engagement session in March 2022 can be found [here](#).



PORTLAND LAKES GREENWAY UPGRADE



This trail is now paved and widened from the Russell Lake pumping station through to the trailhead park (corner of Baker Drive & Norm Newman).

DISCOVER HALIFAX

Discover Halifax Community Info Session

Discover Halifax will have a short presentation on what the organization does to promote tourism to the region, and how your business can benefit from their programs. Membership with Discover Halifax is free.

Come meet members of the Discover Halifax team and learn how you can get more involved with their programs. There will be refreshments and other treats!

Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 6pm
Fisherman's Cove Heritage Centre, 4 Government Wharf Rd, Eastern Passage



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 our [website](#).

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](#).

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. Some roads are taken care of by the province, depending on where you live. Provincial road information is [here](#).

WINTER PARKING:

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect annually from December 15th to March 31st. The ban is enforced from 1:00 to 6:00 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 [here](#).

For more information on service standards, winter parking, and winter's impacts across our municipality, visit our [website](#) or keep up to date on clearing operations and municipal service updates via [@hfxgov on Twitter](#).





AFRICAN DESCENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Consider volunteering on the African Descent Advisory Committee! The Halifax Regional Municipality is looking to recruit 13 residents of the municipality to sit on the African Descent Advisory Committee. Recruitment is now ongoing until January 31st and eligible residents are encouraged to apply.

The African Descent Advisory Committee will advise Regional Council on the impact of municipal policies, programs and services for People of African Descent. The formation of this Committee aligns with the municipality’s Anti-Black Racism Framework, approved by Regional Council. Learn more about this opportunity, view eligibility and apply online [here](#). If you require accommodation to the application process, please call 902-490-4210 or email serve@halifax.ca.

Municipal boards, committees, and commissions consist of councillors, residents and industry representatives. These groups provide recommendations to Regional Council, community council or standing committees, and serve as an important part of the decision-making process.

UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for January. **Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:**

- January 10th
- January 24th

I look forward to participating in these meetings, and I hope you can join us – in person or by tuning in on YouTube! Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings - including committees [here](#).

Meeting agendas (including the specific start time of 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.) and a link to watch the video are generally available by the Friday prior to the meeting. Reports on the items that councillors vote on are available and are linked throughout the meeting agenda.

Volunteer for the new African Descent Advisory Committee.

Applications close on January 31, 2023.

To learn more about the committee and how to apply, visit halifax.ca/serve or call 902.490.4210.



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DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

WEAR RED FOR WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH

Heart disease is the number one killer of women worldwide and the leading cause of premature death in



Canadian women. Wear Red Canada Day (WRCD) is celebrated annually on February 13th to raise awareness about women's cardiovascular health – the greatest health risk to women in our communities. **I hope you will join me and wear red on February 13th for this significant day of awareness.**

In Halifax, WRCD has been proclaimed by Mayor Savage. Halifax City Hall, Province House, Alderney Landing, Halifax Seaport and Rogers Centre will be lit up in red on the evenings of February 12th and 13th, along with many other businesses and locations locally, and across our nation.

The first Wear Red Day in Canada occurred here in Halifax in 2018, sponsored by our Women's Heart Health Clinic. It is now a national movement in its third year! WRCD is organized by the Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance (CWHHA), a volunteer group of clinicians, scientists, allied health care providers, and women with lived experience with heart disease from across Canada.

Visit the [website](#) to learn more.

Impaired Driving Statistics

From Halifax Regional Police (Nov. 2022)

- In **November 2022**, 19 drivers were charged with impaired-related offences. 17 of these charges were alcohol-related, 2 were drug-related.
- 3 of these drivers - who provided breath samples - **were at least twice the legal limit.**
- 1 of the drivers **refused a breath sample** and was charged with the offence of refusal.
- Police received **9 calls in November** from citizens who suspected impaired drivers.

If you see a potential impaired driver:

Call 911 immediately. Give the call taker your location, a description of the vehicle, including the license plate number, colour, make and model, the direction of travel for the vehicle and a description of the driver.

RCMP Road Safety Stats

November 2022, District 3
Eastern Passage

187 Calls for Service in Nov. 2022 - Down 49.6% from Nov. 2021

11 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 15 issued in Nov. 2021)
2 other MVA (e.g., unregistered vehicle, invalid inspection sticker, etc.),
3 aggressive driving, 6 speeding

43 Proactive Assignments (vs. 183 in Nov. 2021)

14 Cell Phone/Impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding Checkpoints/
Radar Enforcement

29 Traffic Stops (vs. 62 in Nov. 2021)
2 Impaired Driving Charges (vs. none in Nov. 2021)
0 Impaired Driving Suspensions (same as Nov. 2021)

2 Motor Vehicle Accidents (vs. 8 in Nov. 2021)
• None of these accidents resulted in injuries

1 Vehicle/Pedestrian/Cyclist Accident (vs. none in Nov. 2021)

**Please
Drive
Safely!**



PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY SIGNS AVAILABLE

If you are interested in a slow down sign for your lawn/personal property, please email me. These signs are made of plastic and come with the lawn stakes for installation. Please be informed that the District 3 “Please Drive Slowly” signs are NOT a traffic calming measure, and they have no authority to direct or slow down traffic or make children safer on the streets.



HALIFAX

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at becky.kent@halifax.ca or **902-478-5368**. For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at **311**.

To reach my office, please call Emily Simonov at **902-490-7177**.

To sign up for my monthly e-newsletter, please e-mail Emily at smithem@halifax.ca.

For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council normally meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

The next Community Council meeting will take place on Thursday, January 12th. Meeting dates, times and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, reports, and minutes [online](#).