



COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE
DISTRICT 10 ONLINE NEWS
 HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

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UPCOMING DATES

January 22

[Chinese/Lunar New Year](#) (Year of the Rabbit)

January 24

International Day of Education

January 27

[Holocaust Memorial Day 2023](#)

February

[African Heritage Month](#) (Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore)

January 2023

February 2

Groundhog Day

February 4

World Cancer Day

February 13

[Wear Red Canada Day](#) (for Women’s Heart Health)

February 14

Valentine’s Day

February 15

[National Flag of Canada Day](#)

February 20

[Nova Scotia Heritage Day](#) (2023 Honouree: [Elder Rita Joe](#))

Holiday

February 26

[Pink Shirt Day / Anti-Bullying Day](#)



LOW RISE HOUSING PROPOSED FOR WEDGEWOOD MOTEL

Rockingham residents have been asking me recently what's going on with the Wedgewood Motel at 374 Bedford Highway. Built in the 1960s, the Wedgewood is showing its age. The motel's sign advertises "Very Low Rates".

A few weeks before Christmas the owners applied to HRM for a permit to redevelop the site as an apartment building. A four storey building with 99 units and two levels of underground parking is being proposed. The preliminary design, by WM Fares, looks similar in style to the buildings at Rockingham South on Wentworth Drive, also designed by WM Fares.

Since the C2B-Highway Commercial zoning in this location permits a maximum of four storeys, and the proposed building is four storeys, it is likely to be permitted. Housing developments that are in keeping with existing height and zoning requirements do not require public hearings.

APPLY FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications are now **open** for the **Community Grants Program.**

This program provides cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities.

HALIFAX

The Community Grants Program is now accepting applications. This program provides cash grants of \$5000 and \$25,000 to registered non-profit organizations and charities in HRM.

The application deadline is March 31st, 2023. Application forms and program guidebooks are available:

- [Online](#)
- At the HRM Customer Service Centre: 7071 Bayers Road, 2nd floor
- By contacting 311
- Or by emailing nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

For details, please email nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca, call 902.490.7310 or contact me.



The Wedgewood at on the Bedford Highway in its current state



NEW COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR AT KESHEN GOODMAN LIBRARY

Halifax is fortunate to have an outstanding library system staffed by caring people. At one time our libraries offered books and a quiet place to read them, but Halifax's modern public libraries offer so much more.

Along with lending print books, Halifax Public Libraries lend e-books, audiobooks, movies, music, musical instruments, radon detectors, wellness lamps, Nordic poles, and ice grips for winter hiking (see ['Beyond Books'](#) on Halifax Public Libraries' main page). At our libraries residents can participate in concerts, newcomers' language programs, income tax clinics, and a wide range of classes for tots, teens and adults. HRM's libraries are real community hubs.

In this part of HRM, Keshen Goodman library on Lacewood was already a welcoming place and now it's even more welcoming with the recent addition of Community Navigator Chris Rogers. Chris will be helping residents find the services they need through the gateway of the library. Whether residents are looking for English language classes, employment programs or accessing other assistance, Chris will help make those important connections happen. Welcome Chris!



Community Navigator, Chris Rogers. Welcome Chris!

2023 PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) assesses every property in Nova Scotia and mails over 638,000 Property Assessment Notices to property owners every January. The Assessments have now been mailed for this year. There is an option to appeal/refute your assessment, but keep in mind PVSC must receive your appeal within 31 days of the date on your Assessment Notice. Details about proceeding with this option and contact information to discuss your assessment with PVSC Assessors are provided within your Property Assessment Notice once you receive it in the mail. Visit [their website](#) to learn more.

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Please note the Property Assessment Notice is not a tax bill and is calculated or sent by the municipality. It is expected that most people will see an increase in their assessments done by PVSC. This does not mean the municipal tax rate is going up (municipal budget deliberations have started and will be ongoing until final approval of the budget in April).

PVSC presented recently to Regional Council to provide updates and explain their assessment process in detail. You can [view the presentation online](#).

HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

The Province of Nova Scotia's Heating Assistance Rebate Program helps low-income Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating. Starting January 30th, 2022, Nova Scotians can receive \$1,000 if you qualify for the Heating Assistance Rebate Program. To qualify for the rebate, you need to pay for your own home (residential) heat and have a household income of \$85,000 or less.

You can apply from January 30th – March 31st, 2023, and you don't need to apply for the rebate again if you



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already applied.

HOW DO I APPLY?

- ✓ Visit [the Province's website](#) to learn more about eligibility and apply online!
- ✓ If you cannot apply online, there is also a printable application available on the [website](#).
- ✓ Or, contact the Heating Assistance Rebate Program directly to request an application by mail:

Phone: 902-424-5200

Toll-free: 1-800-670-4357

Fax: 902-428-2164

Mailing address:

PO Box 641, CRO,

Halifax NS B3J 2T3

2023/24 BUDGET & BUSINESS PLANNING FOR HRM

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, 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 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.

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.
- To learn more about the current 2021-25 HRM Strategic Priorities Plan that helps inform the budget direction, visit [this webpage](#).

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 Council about budget priorities. During each meeting, time will be set aside for the public to provide insight and comments. If you wish to make any presentations 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.

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 by [visiting our website](#).



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ROADS & PARKING: ALL ABOUT HRM'S WINTER OPERATIONS

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.

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 can be accessed [here](#).



WINTER PARKING:

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect annually from Dec. 15th to Mar. 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. 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](#).

LET'S CONNECT

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311 Contact Centre

Dial 311 or e-mail ContactUs@311.halifax.ca