



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

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

Happy February, everyone! Winter is now in full swing and that arctic blast we experienced this past weekend was certainly one for the history books.

I am happy to share that I have recently been elected as Chair of the Board of Police Commission. My skills, experience and passion for the community and public safety motivated me to offer. I look forward to making a difference in this role.

We are now deep in budget discussions, and I encourage you all to participate in this process via public participation which is offered at the start of every budget session. The budget schedule can be found below in this newsletter.

I encourage you to check out and participate in the many wonderful events planned to celebrate African Heritage month as well as Nova Scotia Heritage Day. More information can be found below.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me with any of your municipal questions or concerns.

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.





FEBRUARY IS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



February marks African Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the legacy, achievements and contributions of African Nova Scotians – past, present and future.

The 2023 provincial theme, *Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore*, outlines the struggles People of African Descent faced from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia. Recognizing that the one thing that has remained constant in our history is the Atlantic Ocean. In the long-standing history of People of African Descent in the development of Canada, the sea has played a vital role. This theme explores the struggle and adversity that was overcome. It also examines the effects of slavery and seafaring on African Nova Scotians.

The theme also aligns with the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal of DPAD is to strengthen global cooperation in support of People of African Descent, increase awareness and the passage towards presence in all aspects of society.

Celebrate the rich culture of people of African descent by participating in this year's events and activities:

City Hall Lit in Pan-African Colours **February 18-21 | February 23-28**

City Hall will be illuminated in black, green, red and yellow in honour of African Heritage Month.

Delightful Downtown Light Show

Throughout February, the Downtown Halifax Business Commission will project light displays on the former Halifax Memorial Library Building at Grafton Park in celebration of African Heritage Month.

Pan-African Flag to be displayed across the region

Throughout February, the Pan-African flag will be displayed on all Halifax Transit ferries and at both transit garages in honour of African Heritage Month.

Virtual Museum Tours

[Take an immersive virtual tour](#) of popular heritage and cultural sites, including the Africville Museum and the Black Cultural Centre.





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AFRICAN DESCENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

The Halifax Regional Municipality has extended recruitment for adult and youth volunteers to join the new African Descent Advisory Committee. Applications are available [here](#) and will now be accepted until Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

The African Descent Advisory Committee will advise Regional Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, 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](#).

Detailed information on the Committee's objectives, member information and terms of reference can be found in [Administrative Order 2021-004-GOV – Respecting the African Descent Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality](#).

For more information or to apply, click [here](#). For questions about the Public Appointment Policy, application process, concerns about computer or internet access or to request another accommodation to the recruitment process, please contact serve@halifax.ca or call 902-490-4210.



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, the 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.

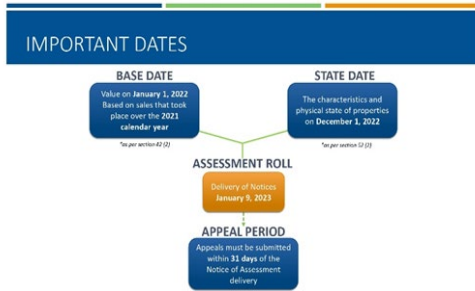
Visit the [website](#) to learn more.



2023 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT FROM PVSC

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.

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 [here](#).



Councillors' Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mancini and Deputy Mayor Austin present a \$7,000 District Capital cheque to members of Scouts Canada. The money will be going towards building an accessible campsite for Camp Harris



My sons Isaac and Tyler with Councillor Mancini and his son, Lucas at the World Junior Championships



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2023 COMMUNITY GRANTS: APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Program is currently accepting applications for the 2023 program. This program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region. There are two types of grants:

Applications are now **open** for the **Community Grants Program**.
This program provides cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities.

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- a project grant of up to \$5,000 OR
- a capital grant of up to \$25,000.

The application deadline is March 31, 2023. Applicants should review the Program Guidebook prior to applying for a grant. Application forms and program guidebooks are now available. You can access them in several places:

- [Online](#)
- At an HRM Customer Service Centre:
Alderney Gate, 40 Alderney Drive, - Dartmouth, 1st floor
Musquodoboit Harbour Strip Mall, Corner of Hwy #7 & East Petpeswick Road
Bayers Road, 7071 Bayers Road, 2nd floor
- By contacting [311](tel:311)
- Or by emailing nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

For further information, please email nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca or call 902.490.7310.



Dartmouth Adult Services Centre cheque presentation for funds to assist in purchasing a new accessible vehicle for their programming.

WORK WITH HRM'S RECREATION TEAM THIS SUMMER!

Are you a student or young adult looking for a summer job that offers more than minimum wage? Check out exciting opportunities with HRM's recreation team this summer!



There are a variety of positions available in recreation programming, aquatics and inclusion support. These fun summer jobs pay \$16.30 to \$19.30 per hour.

Visit our [website](#) for a full list of postings until April 16th.



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2023/24 BUDGET & BUSINESS PLANNING FOR HRM

The municipality's 2023/24 Budget and Business Planning process has now started and will continue 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.

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

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the budget process, FAQs, 2021-25 HRM Strategic Priorities Plan and more.

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 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:

Business Unit	Budget Committee Date/(Contingency Date)
Information Technology Human Resources & Corporate Communications, Property, Fleet & Environment	Wednesday, February 8 th (Friday, February 10 th)
Halifax Public Libraries	Friday, February 10 th
Public Works	Tuesday, February 14 th (Wednesday, February 15 th)
Planning and Development Parks and Recreation	Friday, February 17 th (Wednesday, February 22 nd)
Halifax Transit Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency	Friday, February 24 th (Wednesday, March 1 st)
Halifax Regional Police RCMP (Department of Justice) Fiscal and Consolidated Accounts	Friday, March 3 rd (Wednesday, March 8 th)
Budget Adjustment List	Wednesday, March 29 th (Friday, March 31 st)

Budget and Business Plan





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NOVA SCOTIA HERITAGE DAY HONOURS ELDER RITA JOE



Her words inspired the country, leading her to eventually receive the Order of Canada in 1989, become a member of the Queens Privy Council in 1992, and receive Honorary Doctorates from Mount Saint Vincent University and the University College of Cape Breton. She went on to receive an Aboriginal Achievement Award and was named Poet Laureate of the Mi'kmaq.

In the prologue to her memoir, Rita Joe wrote: "My greatest wish is that there will be more writing from my people, and that our children will read it. I have said again and again that our history would be different if it had been expressed by us.

- Learn more about Elder Rita Joe [here](#).
- Find out about the [Heritage Day Celebrations](#) planned for 2023
- Access Heritage Day Resources in Honour of Elder Rita Joe [here](#).

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Celebrated the third Monday in February each year, Nova Scotia Heritage Day is an opportunity to honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province's unique heritage and storied past. Heritage Day 2023 is on February 20th and is a holiday for many workplaces.

This year's Heritage Day Honouree is Elder Rita (Bernard) Joe. Elder Rita, a member of the We'koqma'q Mi'kmaq Community and published author, was instrumental in paving the way for other Mi'kmaq authors. Rita Joe endured hardships from attending the Indian Residential School in Shubenacadie that eventually led her to begin writing to share her experiences and celebrate Mi'kmaq culture with a focus on language.

.CA ICE THICKNESS TO SAFELY ENJOY WINTER ACTIVITIES

15 CM	20 CM	25 CM
WALKING OR SKATING ALONE	SKATING AS A GROUP OR PLAYING HOCKEY	SNOWMOBILING OR DRIVING AN ATV



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CAO Cathie O'Toole, Chief Dan Kinsella and myself at the HRP Awards

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. 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 until March 31st, 2023, and you don't need to apply for the rebate again if you already applied.

How do I apply?

- ✓ Click [here](#) to learn more about eligibility and apply online!
- ✓ If you cannot apply online, there is also a printable application available on the website above.
- ✓ 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

RCMP Road Safety Stats

December 2022, District 3 Eastern Passage

- 230 Calls for Service in Dec. 2022 - Down 18.1% from Dec. 2021
- 0 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 12 issued in Dec. 2021)
- 47 Proactive Assignments (vs. 119 in Dec. 2021)
- 11 Cell Phone/Impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding Checkpoints/Radar Enforcement
- 40 Traffic Stops (vs. 43 in Dec. 2021)
- 2 Impaired Driving Charges (vs. 1 in Dec. 2021)
- 1 Impaired Driving Suspension (vs. 2 in Dec. 2021)
- 5 Motor Vehicle Accidents (vs. 2 in Dec. 2021)
 - None of these accidents resulted in injuries
- 0 Vehicle/Pedestrian/Cyclist Accidents (same as Dec. 2021)

Please Drive Safely!





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UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

HEMDCC NOW STREAMED ONLINE

As part of continued efforts to support open and accessible meetings, webcasts will now be available from the Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council Chamber (60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth), thanks to some recent technical upgrades. This means that all Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council (HEMDCC) meetings that take place at that location will be streamed online for residents to watch. This follows a soft launch webcast pilot that occurred at the HEMDCC meeting on January 12th. This pilot was a success and the [video from this meeting can be found here](#).

Where to watch:

The HEMDCC webcast will be live on HRM's [YouTube channel](#) and [agenda postings](#). Stay tuned for the video link to be shared closer to the next HEMDCC meeting, scheduled for March 2nd.

Other webcast opportunities:

Due to the ability to webcast in this room, this space will also be available to other meeting bodies. Other meetings may take place there in the future, and if they do, they may also be webcasted. For example, Regional Centre Community Council also uses this space. Community Councils that do not use this space will not have a webcast, aside from Halifax and West Community Council (meetings occur in Council Chambers, which also has the capacity to webcast).



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

- February 7th
- February 21st

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.



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HALIFAX PARTNERSHIP: VIRTUAL ADVISOR PROGRAM

Halifax Partnership has partnered with Seasoned Pros to offer solutions through **The Virtual Adviser Program**. The free Virtual Adviser Program powered by SeasonedPros.ca matches businesses with a Seasoned Professional to help them solve **one unique growth challenge** their business is facing. The program has helped businesses stay focused, set clear priorities, gain new perspectives, new connections, and more. Participants enjoy a wealth of information from a business expert, the collaboration of ideas, mentorship, and coaching.

Please note there are 12 spaces remaining in the program and applications are processed and approved on a first-come, first-served basis. Their goal is to enroll all participants by March 1st, 2023.

For more information or to apply, visit their [website](#).

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PARTNERSHIP

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.

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.



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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](#).