



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



## WELCOME FEBRUARY!

February is African Heritage Month and this year's theme is Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore. I hope to see lots of familiar District 12 faces at the variety of Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) events.

As the first African Nova Scotian woman to serve as a municipal Councillor in the history of HRM, I am so proud of the more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities whose deep and complex history are an important part of who we are today. Our historic community of Beechville, formally called

Beech Hill founded in 1816, has helped shape the vibrancy and diversity of our region.

As part of this recognition, HRM Council recently approved the designation of Dr. Clement Ligoure's home at 5812-14 North Street as a heritage property. Dr. Ligoure was Nova Scotia's first Black doctor. It was wonderful to hear from Owen Lee and Jah'Mila, who sang the Black National Anthem at the African Heritage Month Flag Raising and at Regional Council! Jah'Mila can be heard [here](#).

Join me as I celebrate the legacy, achievements, and contributions of People of African Descent as part of our Nova Scotia heritage!



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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL AND HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meetings of Halifax Regional Council, Budget Committee and Halifax & West Community Council will take place on the following dates:

### Regional Council:

- Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 21<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

### Budget Committee:

- Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.
- Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)
- Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

**Halifax & West Community Council:**  
Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

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

## 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 between January 13<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup>.



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### SAFETY AROUND FROZEN LAKES AND PONDS



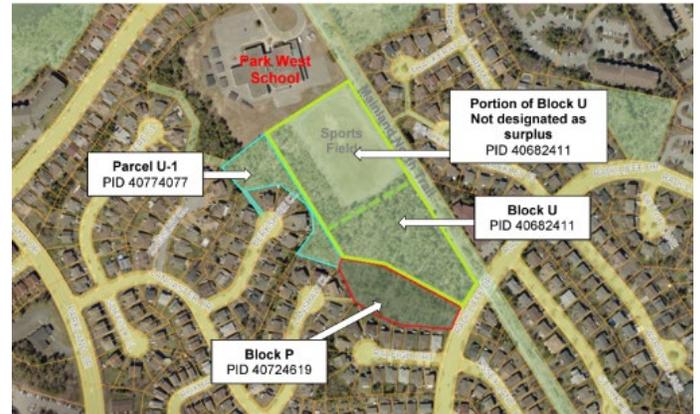
Residents are asked to take safety precautions for themselves and their families by avoiding any recreation activities on frozen lakes and ponds – including walking, ice fishing, snowmobiling, and skating – until ice thickness testing resumes. If the ice is not sufficiently thick, the consequences of heading out on a frozen body of water can be tragic.

HRM provides ice thickness testing during the winter, however it has not yet begun for the season. Testing will begin once ice has formed, and it is safe for staff to begin testing. Currently, it is not safe to be on frozen lakes or ponds, as there is noticeable thin ice and open water in many lakes across the region. Visit our [website](#) for ice thickness testing results for more than 70 lakes and ponds throughout the region once testing has begun for the season.

The Canadian Red Cross recommends that ice be at least 15 cm thick for individual skating, 20 cm thick for group skating and 25 cm for snowmobiling. Extreme caution is advised in areas where streams flow into and out of lakes. It is also important to note that ice conditions may vary over the entire surface of lakes and are subject to change with weather conditions.

See a complete list of guidelines from the Canadian Red Cross regarding ice safety [here](#).

### PARK WEST SCHOOL PARK



Regional Council recently approved the sale of Park West School Park to the Province of Nova Scotia for a new school.

These four parkland parcels are directly adjacent to the current P-9 Park West School.

I know many of you expressed concerns about selling this land as many of you do not want to lose park land. However, staff have reviewed the area and provided the opinion that the surrounding community contains parks that include a variety of recreation amenities and natural areas. Based on population trends, the Province has indicated that a new school is required in Clayton Park West and have further highlighted challenges in finding a site in the area.

Population growth has exceeded projections since 2019, the proposed school would accommodate approximately 800-1,000 students and would be three-storeys 125,000 square feet.

You can find the full staff report with details [here](#).



**2023 PROPERTY TAX BILL UPDATE**

# Property Tax Bill Update

The Halifax Regional Municipality has made **changes to the property tax bill format** and is providing additional ways to communicate about your account.

This insert explains those changes and introduces the new Climate Action Tax, which will fund ongoing and future climate change initiatives outlined in the municipality's long-term climate action plan, *HalifACT: Acting on Climate Together*.

**Changes include:**

- new property tax bill format
- new options to communicate about your tax bill
- account number update (which will mainly impact residents who pay via online banking)
- changes to your property tax bill amount

**New property tax bill format**

- 1 Property description**
- 2 General tax rate** – funds the various services the municipality provides, such as policing, solid waste, recreation programs, libraries and sports fields. The charge on your property tax bill will be listed as urban, suburban or rural, depending on where you live
- 3 Supplementary education rate** – used to supplement funding to the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) and the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP), the province-wide Acadian school board, for programs within the Halifax region
- 4 Area charges** – funds specific services in your area and will vary depending on where you live. For example, those in close proximity to transit routes will see a charge for “Local Transit” on their property tax bill
- 5 Climate action** – see details on page two
- 6 Provincial rate** – collected by the municipality on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia
- 7 Total property taxes for the current year**
- 8 Balance due** – current amount owing
- 9 Payment due date**
- 10 PIN number** – required for email/SMS registration

**HALIFAX** Property Tax Bill  
 Halifax Regional Municipality  
 PO Box 1746, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 Canada B3J 2A5

Contact Us  
 Website: [halifax.ca/taxes](http://halifax.ca/taxes)  
 Phone: 311  
 Email: [contactus@311.halifax.ca](mailto:contactus@311.halifax.ca)

Assessment Account Number (AAN): 12345678  
 Property Legal Description: 123 Anywhere Street  
 Customer Number: 1000000000  
 Assessed Owner(s): PERSON 1, PERSON 2

Residential Tax	Value	Rate	Amount	Your Summary
Urban General Rate	215,200	1.252	1,347.14	Account Balance as at Bill Date
Supplementary Education	215,200	0.038	40.88	<b>Balance Due</b>
Fire Protection	215,200	0.026	27.58	<b>\$1,204.02</b>
Local Transit	215,200	0.196	210.90	
Regional Transportation	215,200	0.094	101.14	
Climate Action	215,200	0.023	49.50	
Provincial Rate	215,200	0.056	705.95	
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.285</b>	<b>\$2,483.40</b>	

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT  
 Bill Date: Oct 1, 2022 Due Date: Oct 31, 2022 Account #: 41123456781 PIN #: 000000000000 Amount Due: 1,204.02 Amount Paid:

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
 Please print change of mailing address below:

PERSON 1, PERSON 2  
 123 ANYWHERE STREET  
 CITY PROVINCE POSTAL CODE

Questions about the new bill format? Please call 311 or email [contactus@311.halifax.ca](mailto:contactus@311.halifax.ca).





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### New communication options

Sign up to receive copies of your tax bill via email. You can also opt in to receive SMS (text) notifications for upcoming pre-authorized debit payments (PAPs) and overdue bill alerts.

Please note that your new tax bill has a personal identification number (PIN) required for you to opt in to receive email or SMS notifications. Visit [halifax.ca/taxbills](https://halifax.ca/taxbills) for more information.

### Account number update

Your account number has changed as a result of a system upgrade and now includes a new two-digit number at the beginning and an additional digit on the end.

This will impact you if you pay your bill via online banking or if you call 311 about your bill. If you have the old account number saved in your online banking, you will need to update it through your financial institution.

### Changes to your property tax bill amount

As approved in the April 2022 budget, this year the average property tax bill is increasing by 4.6 per cent. Of the 4.6 per cent increase, 1.6 per cent will support servicing a growing municipality with ongoing operations, public safety, maintenance and service improvements, as well as capital investments. The remaining 3 per cent goes towards climate action initiatives to support our community response to the climate crisis as outlined in our municipal action climate plan, HalifACT.

### What is HalifACT & why do we need a Climate Action Tax?

HalifACT is a commitment to reduce our region's greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. The municipality is striving to achieve community-wide emissions reductions of 75 per cent by 2030 and net-zero by 2050. HalifACT also sets out a plan to ensure that residents, infrastructure and natural systems are prepared to withstand and recover quickly from climate impacts. Halifax Regional Council unanimously adopted HalifACT on June 23, 2020.



### Funding HalifACT through the Climate Action Tax enables projects such as:

- electrifying transportation (e.g. buses, fleet, installing public charging for electric vehicles)
- constructing new buildings and retrofitting existing buildings to be net-zero (meaning that 100 per cent of a building's energy need is generated on-site or off-site through a renewable source)
- taking actions to safeguard communities and infrastructure against the impacts of climate change (e.g. flood mitigation projects, improved food security and emergency preparedness)

While implementing HalifACT will require significant investment from all levels of government, **investing today will save money, prevent loss, prepare communities and improve wellbeing.** Our model shows that if we successfully implement HalifACT, we will see a substantial return on investment by our target date of 2050. Halifax has an opportunity to grow the green economy and create more jobs in sectors such as energy efficiency, solar and wind energy and building energy retrofits.

### Benefits of investing and acting on climate change



- as part of a partnership with Efficiency Nova Scotia, the municipality has implemented approximately 200 energy efficiency projects, saving over \$2 million each year
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions in municipal buildings by 15 per cent

To learn more about HalifACT, the breakdown of the HalifACT 2022/23 budget, and what you can do to help our community fight climate change and be better prepared for impacts, visit [halifax.ca/climate](https://halifax.ca/climate).

Questions about the new bill format? Please call 311 or email [contactus@311.halifax.ca](mailto:contactus@311.halifax.ca).

**HALIFAX**



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### 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.

### NOVA SCOTIA HERITAGE DAY HONOURS ELDER RITA JOE



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 20<sup>th</sup> 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'kmaw 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. 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](#) and find out more about Heritage Day events [here](#). You can also find Heritage Day resources in honour of Elder Rita Joe [here](#).

INQUIRY AND APPEAL PERIOD	
•	Assessment Notices were mailed out January 9, 2023
•	Appeal period is January 9, 2023 – February 9, 2023
–	Our Service Representatives and Assessors are available to take calls Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.
•	Appeals can be emailed, mailed or faxed
–	The appeal form must be signed to be accepted

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

#### PVSC CONTACT INFORMATION

**Phone:** 1-800-380-7775

**Email:** [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca)

**Mail:** 6-15 Arlington Place, Truro NS, B2N 0G9

**Fax:** 1-888-339-4555 (within North America)  
1-902-893-6101 (outside North America)

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### FEB. 13TH: 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 the Rogers Centre will be lit up in red on the evenings of February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 their [website](#) to learn more.

### 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 residential home heat and have a household income of \$85,000 or less. Applications are open until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and you don't need to apply for the rebate again if you already applied. To apply:

✓ [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

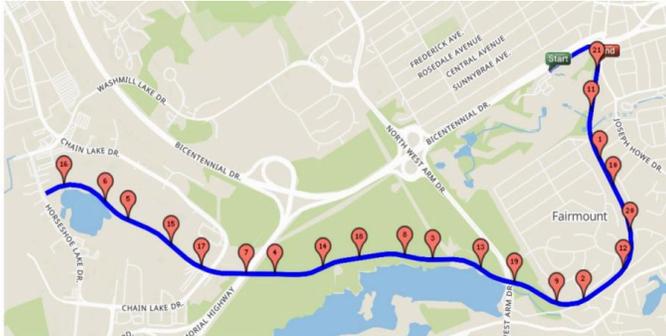


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### IN THE COMMUNITY

#### HYPOTHERMIC HALF MARATHON IN DISTRICT 9 & 12



On Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00a.m., District 9 & 12 will be hosting the Hypothermic Half Marathon! The half marathon will start and finish at the Ashburn Golf Course (3250 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax).

The Hypothermic Half Marathon is part of a Canada-wide series of races that happen early in the running season. If you like running in multiple layers of clothing and braving whatever elements the season decides to throw at you, this is a race worth checking out!

To learn how to participate check out their [website](#).



Bell Let's Talk Event

#### BLT COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

On January 20<sup>th</sup> Regional Council approved a delay in the construction of the BLT Community Centre, allowing HRM to raise the necessary funds to build the structure. Construction of the BLT Community Centre will now begin in August 2024.

HRM has confirmed funding for the BLT Community Centre from the Provincial and Federal governments. While Regional Council did not want to delay the project, we are fortunate to be able to defer funding from all sources until we are able to move forward. This is the best-case scenario to commit to finishing this project and keep it moving forward.

February 2023

#### EMERA OVAL CLOSURE

The Emera Oval will be closed for an event from Feb. 18-25 while we host the Prince Edward Island (PEI) Canada Winter Games long track speed skating events. All are welcome to attend these events and cheer on the world-class athletes performing in our region. Details are available on our [website](#).

#### LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

The Keshan Goodman Public Library is still undergoing renovations but full service is still available. The renovations will include new meeting spaces, kid and adult pods, outdoor enhancements and much more! See our website for [details](#).



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### INTERSECTION SAFETY MATTERS

We're all responsible for intersection safety. When driving through an intersection, make sure to:

- ✓ Keep enough space between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead of you.
- ✓ Look left and right to scan your surroundings as you approach an intersection.
- ✓ Come to a full stop at stop signs and red lights.
- ✓ Stop when approaching a yellow or amber light if you can do so safely.
- ✓ Scan left and right before proceeding on a green light through the intersection or entering the intersection to make a left or right turn.
- ✓ Do shoulder checks, mirror checks and use signals before turning.
- ✓ Do double shoulder check for cyclists when turning right.
- ✓ Yield to pedestrians at intersections. Crosswalks exist on all legs of an intersection, whether marked or unmarked. Turning vehicles at signalized intersections must yield to pedestrians crossing on the walk signal. If the intersection doesn't have traffic lights, drivers must yield to pedestrians waiting to cross or when they're already in a crosswalk. Drivers must wait until pedestrians are completely across the road before proceeding.

### MAILING LIST

If you would like to have e-newsletters sent directly to your inbox, please contact Eric Bowdridge at [eric.bowdridge@halifax.ca](mailto:eric.bowdridge@halifax.ca)

February 2023

### CROSSWALK SAFETY UPGRADES



The crosswalk at Grandhaven on Washmill Lake Drive will be receiving RA-5 signage with overhead flashing lights. There has been a delay in the manufacturing and shipment of the parts,

so HRM staff are aiming to have them installed in the Spring.

For more information about crosswalk safety, see our [website](#).

### COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD



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Halifax Regional Municipality  
 PO Box 1749  
 Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

**HALIFAX**      halifax.ca      311

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

- African Decent Advisory Committee
- Appeals Standing Committee
- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee
- Western Common Advisory Committee