



## WELCOME MARCH!



Mars est le Mois de la Francophonie, un moment où nous célébrons la langue française et les diverses cultures francophones de notre région et du monde entier. Dans le cadre

du Mois de la Francophonie, la Journée internationale de la Francophonie est célébrée chaque année le 20 mars.

March is Francophonie month, celebrating the French language and diverse Francophonie cultures through cultural activities held worldwide. We are fortunate to have an extensive francophonie population throughout HRM and the province.

We also celebrate International Women’s Day, start Daylight Saving Time, students enjoy march break, we celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and, we welcome spring! What a busy month.

On March 28<sup>th</sup> I will host a community drop-in session at the Chocolate Lake Community Centre (6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.). Stop by for a chat about a municipal program or service!

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## COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

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### MARCH MEETINGS

Regional Council, Budget Committee, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held on the following dates:

#### Budget Committee

Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> (Contingency Date)

Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> (Contingency Date)

Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> (Contingency Date)

#### Regional Council

Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

#### Halifax & West Community Council

Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

#### Regional Centre Community Council

Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Please check our [website](#) to confirm dates and times as the meeting schedule is subject to change.

### DID YOU KNOW...

March is [Francophonie Month](#)

March 1<sup>st</sup> is [Zero Discrimination Day](#)

March 1<sup>st</sup> is [World Civil Defence Day](#)

March 3<sup>rd</sup> is [World Wildlife Day](#)

March 8<sup>th</sup> is [International Women's Day](#)

March 13<sup>th</sup> is [National Commonwealth Day](#)

March 14<sup>th</sup> is [Pi Day](#)

March 17<sup>th</sup> is [St. Patrick's Day](#)

March 20<sup>th</sup> is [International Day of Happiness](#)

March 20<sup>th</sup> is [First Day of Spring](#)

March 21<sup>st</sup> is [World Forestry Day](#)

March 21<sup>st</sup> is [World Poetry Day](#)

March 22<sup>nd</sup> is the start of [Ramadan](#)

March 22<sup>nd</sup> is [World Water Day](#)

March 26<sup>th</sup> is [Purple Day of Epilepsy](#)

March 27<sup>th</sup> is [World Theatre Day](#)

### PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON CLIMATE ACTION REQUESTED

The Halifax Regional Municipality, in partnership with Halifax Public Libraries, is launching public engagement activities to gain feedback on preparing and fighting against climate change.

You will have the opportunity to attend [pop-up engagement sessions](#) hosted by municipal staff at all 16 library locations across the municipality over the coming months. Additionally, you can share your thoughts through a [Shape Your City Halifax](#) online idea board.

Through this engagement, you will have an opportunity to engage in conversation about climate change and share your thoughts, questions, concerns or solutions to local climate impacts and actions.

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Feedback collected will be used to inform how we act on climate together, how we as a municipality move [HalifACT](#) forward and how we can all engage in climate action.

For more information, visit [halifax.ca/halifACT](http://halifax.ca/halifACT).

## COMMUNITY GARDEN APPLICATIONS



**Are you interested in starting a community garden?**

Applications close on March 30, 2023.



Interested in creating a community garden? Find program information and application forms [here](#).

Submit your application by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Many community gardens in HRM are operated by residents on municipally owned land. These are small-scale sites operated by non-profit societies for one or more of the following purposes:  
Growing produce for: personal consumption, donating to local food causes or to generate revenue to reinvest in the community garden;  
production of a floral or landscape display or

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to demonstrate gardening or other related instructional programming.

When ready to apply, fill out the [application form](#) and send to Darren Hirtle, Community Developer, at [Darren.Hirtle@halifax.ca](mailto:Darren.Hirtle@halifax.ca) or call: 902.476.1184.

## MARCH IS FRANCOFONIE MONTH



March is [Francophonie Month](#), celebrating the French language and diverse Francophonie cultures through cultural activities held worldwide.

March 20<sup>th</sup> has been observed worldwide as International Francophonie Day since 1988. The date commemorates the establishment of the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, the precursor to the [International Organization of La Francophonie](#), the organization representing countries and regions where French is the first or customary language.

Today, with 300 million speakers worldwide, French is the fifth most spoken language in the world; La Francophonie has 88 member states and governments.



# COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

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## 2023/24 BUDGET - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



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

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](http://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/budget-finance/budget/strategic-priorities-plan).

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.

If you wish to present before Council about the municipal budget, contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at [clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:clerks@halifax.ca) or call 902-490-4210. Written submissions are welcomed.

## HRM COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

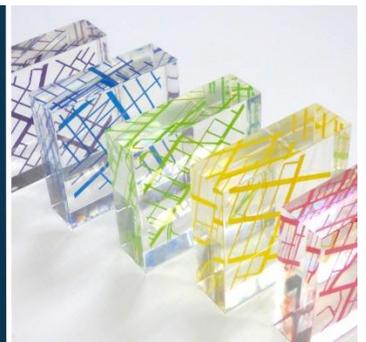


Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Program is currently accepting applications for the 2023 program. This program provides grants to registered non-profit

organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region. There are two types of grants, a project grant of up to \$5,000 or, a capital grant of up to \$25,000. The application deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

[Application forms and program guidebooks](#) are now available. For further information, please email [nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca](mailto:nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca) or call 902.490.7310.

## URBAN DESIGN AWARDS: 2023 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



The municipality is calling for submissions to the Urban Design Awards – a celebration of urban design excellence in the Halifax region.



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To qualify for an award, projects must have been completed after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, and meet one of the nine following awards categories (each with different eligibility requirements for award selection):

- Urban Design Plans
- Urban Architecture
- Landscape Architecture and Civic Design Projects
- Urban Elements
- Housing Solutions
- Community Connections and Initiatives
- Heritage Restoration Projects
- Heritage Adaptive Re-use Projects
- Student Projects

The submission fee is \$345 (including taxes) but is waived for non-profit and student projects. A panel of four independent jurors will evaluate the submissions, and an awards ceremony will take place on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Halifax Central Library. For more information or to submit an application, please visit <https://fal.cn/3veit> or contact [urbandesign@halifax.ca](mailto:urbandesign@halifax.ca).

**The submission deadline is March 10<sup>th</sup>.**



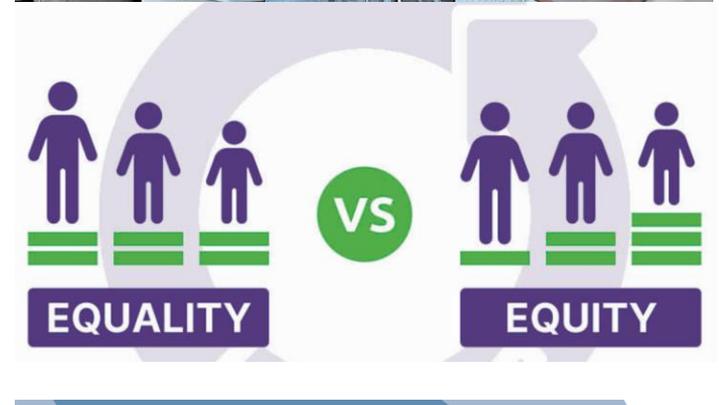
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## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The theme for 2023 is #EmbraceEquity. Equity isn't just a nice-to-have, it's a must-have. A focus on gender equity needs to be part of every society's DNA. And it's critical to understand the difference between equity and equality.

The International Women's Day (IWD) 2023 campaign theme drives worldwide understanding why *Equal opportunities aren't enough!*

Read more [here](#).



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## 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

## HALIFAX TRANSIT ROUTE CHANGES

Halifax Transit recently implemented further conventional bus service reductions due to current staffing issues.

As of Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> Halifax Transit temporarily suspended service on three bus routes, made schedule adjustments to three routes, and removed trips from 30 routes. These service reductions are new and replace several of the trips impacted by the service reductions introduced in November 2022. More details are available on [halifax.ca/servicechanges](https://halifax.ca/servicechanges).

The service reductions have been developed with consideration for passenger impact with no community completely losing service during these changes. The service reductions will be in place until late summer 2023. If recruitment continues at the current pace, Halifax Transit is planning to return to regular service levels.

Halifax Transit has continued to work to improve staffing levels. From September to December 2022, 35 new Bus Operators have been hired and trained. Hiring is ongoing this year with new training courses hosted every three weeks.

For more information, visit [halifax.ca/transit](https://halifax.ca/transit).



### 2023 Scholarships and Grants

Applications for the 2023 - 2024 school year are now available for:

- Community College/ Trade School Award
- Performing Arts Award
- Post-Secondary Award
- Science Profession Scholarship
- Teacher Education Scholarship
- University Entrance Scholarship
- Imhotep's Legacy Academy - STEM related

**To Apply Today Visit:**  
[www.ednet.ns.ca/acs/scholarships-grants](https://www.ednet.ns.ca/acs/scholarships-grants)

[www.nurturingstrongansf.com](https://www.nurturingstrongansf.com)



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### FREE TRANSIT SERVICE

**MARCH 13 - MARCH 18**

# FREE FERRY

**11 am - 2 pm**

**SHOP, EAT & EXPLORE  
BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR!**



**HALIFAX** TRANSIT **DOWNTOWN HALIFAX**

**DOWNTOWN DARTMOUTH**

### ELECTRIC BUSES



Most of Halifax Council and some of our Transit staff rode a demo version of our new electric buses

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from Nova Bus. We've ordered 60 EV buses and the first 30 should arrive in September.

There are MANY benefits - environmentally, financially, and socially. There's a huge reduction in GHG emissions from our current diesel buses. They are quieter and will give pedestrians and patio patrons a way better auditory experience as they cruise down our mainstreets. They also require less maintenance and are cheaper to operate.

They charge in 5 hours or less, and can run from ~350 kms in the winter to ~500 kms in the summer (good for about 80% of our current bus routes).

### SPRING RECREATION REGISTRATION

## Spring Registration Dates

**March 8 at 10 a.m.**  
recreation programs

**March 22 at 10 a.m.**  
aquatics and skating

**April 6 at 10 a.m.**  
summer camps



**rec** | HALIFAX



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### FREE TENNIS FOR GIRLS



**TRY TENNIS!**

Join us **SATURDAY** March 11 3pm-4pm  
Sobeys Atlantic Tennis Centre  
**FREE TENNIS FOR GIRLS**  
9-10 years old

EMAIL to REGISTER:  
[info@glgtennis.com](mailto:info@glgtennis.com)  
limited space available- sign up early!

in partnership with




Girls Leading Girls Tennis is a non-profit organization, with a goal of supporting and promoting participation in tennis for girls.

Girls Leading Girls Tennis, in partnership with Tennis Nova Scotia, is hosting a free 'try tennis' event for girls ages 9-10 scheduled for Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Sobeys Atlantic Tennis Centre.

It's a great opportunity for girls to try out a sport they might not typically consider and be taught by young women who are accomplished tennis players in Atlantic Canada – some of our top ranked players in this part of the country.

For more information, email: [info@glgtennis.com](mailto:info@glgtennis.com).

### GIRLS SCIENCE RETREAT



**Girls Get WISE Science Retreat**

Saturday, April 1st, 2023  
Mount Saint Vincent University



Registration opens February 27th

Scan for more info → 

Registration is now open for the 2023 Girls Get WISE Science Retreat at Mount Saint Vincent University on April 1<sup>st</sup>! Be sure to [register](#) early as spots can fill up quickly!

### GIRLS IN ACTION CONFERENCE



 **girls** CONFERENCE  

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the date of the Mount St. Vincent University (MSVU) "Girls In Action" conference. There will be an interactive workshop including how to tie knots, take fingerprints, put on a sling and much more. Click [here](#) to register.



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### GIRLS CONFERENCE 2023 "GIRLS IN ACTION"

FRIDAY MARCH 3, 2023 | ROSARIA STUDENT CENTER, MSVU CAMPUS



#### ANDR EA SPERANZA CAMP COURAGE

CAMP COURAGE IS AN AWARD-WINNING, FREE, LIFE-CHANGING CAMP THAT EDUCATES, ENGAGES, AND EMPOWERS WOMEN AND GENDER-DIVERSE YOUTH TO ATTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICE CAREERS.

TO REGISTER, CLICK [HERE](#)

GIRLSCONFERENCE@MSVU.CA | AMI\_MSVU



- Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation, and Impact Fund
- Investment Policy Advisory Committee, Co-Chair
- Transportation Standing Committee

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### Land Acknowledgement

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.

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. Another way the municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement:

*"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."*

Making a respectful Land Acknowledgement now, remains a way to express gratitude and respect to Indigenous peoples for being stewards of the land we live and work on. It is a crucial step in reconciliation.

In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.

## COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

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I am a member of Halifax Regional Council, Halifax and West Community Council, Regional Centre Community Council and the following boards and committees:

- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Chain of Lakes Trails Association
- Community Design Advisory Committee

March 2023

# HALIFAX