



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

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

Although we are currently experiencing some late winter storms and heavy snow, have no fear because spring is just around the corner! The sun is setting later each day; warmer and brighter days are ahead.

I would like to remind folks that daylight savings is quickly approaching. Don't forget to set your clocks forward by one hour at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday March 12th.

HRM has lots of wonderful programs currently open: HRM community grants, community garden and the neighbourhood seed kit initiative to name a few. I encourage you to check them out and apply. These programs are great ways to build community! More information can be found below in this newsletter.

Budget discussions are continuing and I am pleased to say we are on track for the final budget debate on April 25th. I encourage you to reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns regarding budget discussions.

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.





MARCH IS FRANCOFONIE MONTH

March is Francophonie Month, celebrating the French language and diverse Francophonie cultures through cultural activities held worldwide.

March 20th 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.

Visit the [Calendar of the local francophone network](#) to learn more about various events celebrating the rich and diverse Francophone cultures happening in Halifax this March 2023.



Council eBus demo

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8th is International Women's Day! Together, let's celebrate all women and girls and their incredible contributions to our world. Let's also acknowledge the progress made towards achieving gender equality - and the work yet to be done. We all have role to play in forging a more gender-balanced world.

I am very proud to be part of HRM's first Regional Council with gender parity – which is equal representation of elected Councillors who identify as women and men.





SHEARWATER FLYER TRAIL LETTER OF AGREEMENT (LOA) WITH PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

I am pleased to have attended a meeting recently to hear about the Shearwater Flyer Trail Letter of Authorization (LOA). This 8 km trail provides important infrastructure for recreation and physical fitness.

In the past, we have been lucky that Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association have developed and maintained this trail through a LOA with the Province, however they have recently relinquished this agreement. Thus, the Marine Riders Trail Association applied to take over. Without this, the trail will continue to be orphaned and unmanaged.

As a community, we need to be part of this important work. The Marine Riders want residents from Eastern Passage and Cow Bay to be part of this change and be a voice for our community to influence and have agency in “our trail”. Please consider volunteering with this group so we can shape what is happening and what can happen in the future. Information on the Marine Riders Trail Association can be found [here](#).

I am happy to chat with you more to give you more insight on history and future impact on the trail. I hope I hear from you.



2023 COMMUNITY GRANTS: APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Halifax Regional Municipality’s Community Grants Program is currently accepting applications for the 2023 program. This

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

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

HALIFAX

program provides annual cash 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 31st. 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](#)
- Or by emailing nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

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



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HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE REDUCTIONS

The municipality is reminding residents that, due to current staffing issues, Halifax Transit is implementing further conventional bus service reductions.

As of Monday February 27th, Halifax Transit has 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 [here](#).

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

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

For more information, visit our [website](#).



Mi'Kmaq Native Friendship Centre Community Breakfast Fundraiser

STEP UP TO LEADERSHIP

Step Up to Leadership is a free 8-week course for volunteers. The program covers leadership training and developing skills so our volunteers can effectively serve their communities. Step Up to Leadership runs Tuesdays March 21st – May 9th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Findlay Community Centre.

You can find out more by reaching out to Darren at hirtled@halifax.ca or 902-479-1184.



Dartmouth Community Health Board Grant Presentations



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THANK YOU, CHARLIE OAKEY

Charlie Oakey is no stranger to many of us in Eastern Passage and Cow Bay. He is a steadfast community contributor and passionate advocate. One of his most sustained efforts has been in safe crosswalks in our community.

I have worked with Charlie for my entire career in community leadership so I am particularly pleased to thank Charlie publically for his passion for our safety and our community.

Charlie and I were able to celebrate the recent Rapid Reflective Flashing Beacons at the Crossing on Main Road near the post office. There are others in District 3 and more to come, but this location and Charlie deserved highlighting. THANK YOU Charlie Oakey.



CONSIDER STARTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN THIS SUMMER



Thinking of starting a community garden? Many community gardens in Halifax are operated by residents on land owned by the municipal government.

Applications for spring 2023 are due by March 30th. To review HRM's application form and handbook, visit our [website](#).

You'll also find a full list of existing community gardens if you're thinking of joining one. Let's get growing!

ICE THICKNESS TESTING PROGRAM

HRM has begun the annual [ice thickness testing program](#) for this year's winter season. Each year, the municipality provides reports on ice thickness testing undertaken on more than 70 lakes throughout the region.

The Canadian Red Cross recommends that ice be at least 15 centimeters thick for individual skating, and at least 20 centimeters thick for group skating. 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. For more information, visit [our website](#).



PROPOSED POLICY AND REGULATION AMENDMENTS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Regional Council has approved new recommended changes to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy, Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to establish policies and regulations for short-term rentals. These policies are necessary as short-term rentals are a new land use that are regulated inconsistently throughout the municipality's various land-use by-laws.



Short term rentals are temporary overnight accommodations in traditional dwelling units that are rented for a short period of time, i.e., a few days or weeks. The prevalence of short-term rentals has grown significantly in the last decade through the use of online booking platforms. There are currently approximately 2,000 active listings in the Halifax Regional Municipality. While some of this growth is welcome within the tourism sector, the growth has also impacted traditionally residential neighbourhoods and the availability and affordability of long-term rental housing.

The proposed amendments to land use planning documents will seek to prioritize the protection of long term housing supply and affordability, while also making considerations for the region's tourism sector and associated accommodations.

For more information, read the [staff report](#).

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 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





2023/24 PLANNED CAPITAL WORK FOR DISTRICT 3

Below you will find a list of the proposed planned capital work for 2023/24 in District 3. **Please be advised that this is not yet final and is subject to change pending Council’s final approval of the 2023/24 budget.**

Street Recapitalization

Cow Bay Rd – Dyke to Bissett (Carryover)
Lucien Dr – Owen to Dorothea (Integrated Traffic Calming)
Pauline Cres – Stephen Cross to Belle Vista

Asphalt Overlay

Bayswater Rd – Regal to Regal (Integrated Traffic Calming)

Walkways

15 Bayswater Rd to 82 Regal Rd
18 Bayswater Rd to Lake
55 Lucien Dr to 36 Steed Crt
65 Lucien Dr to 15 Carlson Crt

Guiderails

Cow Bay Rd at Dyke Rd Intersection (Carryover)
Cow Bay Rd near Rainbow Haven (Carryover)
Pauline Cres (Near Belle Vista)

Bridges

Hornes Rd (Replacement)

Traffic Calming

Belle Vista Dr – Spring to Mount Edward (Vertical Deflections)
Oceanlea Dr (School Zone)

Planer Patching

Locations TBD

Proposed Crack Sealing

Brompton St – Elswick to End (Carryover)
Everette St – Pleasant to Elswick (Carryover)
Londra Crt – Cranberry to Cul De Sac
Portland Hills Dr – Portland to Bellbrook (Carryover)
Topsail Blvd – Mount Edward to Dorothea

Celebrating the 90th birthday of EP resident Hazel Joyce!



NEIGHBOURHOOD SEED KIT INITIATIVE

Neighbourhood Seed Kits encourage residents to build relationships with their neighbours through vegetable gardening. Residents can apply to receive a free community seed kit to share with their whole neighbourhood. Each kit contains enough seeds for approximately 30 households.

Applications for the Neighbourhood Seed Kits are open until Friday, March 31st. Residents can apply [online](#).



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](#).





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 27th.

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 March. **Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:**

- March 7th
- March 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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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.

DISTRICT 3 RCMP ROAD SAFETY STATS: JANUARY 2023

Calls for service were down almost 30% in January from last year.

RCMP responded to 228 calls for service including issuing tickets for 10 summary offences, 1 cell phone use, 2 aggressive drivers, 4 speeding offences and 3 other motor vehicle act violations like lack of registration and insurance.

There were no impaired driving charges or suspensions in January and RCMP completed 28 traffic stops. They also responded to 7 motor vehicle accidents, versus 12 in January 2022. For more information on our RCMP's work in the community, see their [website](#).

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.

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](#).