



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

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## UPCOMING DATES

**March 8**

[International Women’s Day](#)

**March 12**

Daylight Savings Time

**March 13-17**

HRCE March Break for Students

**March 17**

February 2023

St. Patrick’s Day

**March 25**

Greek Independence Day

**March 31**

International Transgender Day of Visibility

## BUDGET UPDATE

On February 17<sup>th</sup> the council chamber at City Hall was packed for the budget debate, a rare thing. About two dozen people spoke passionately against proposed cuts to arts and heritage grants. The cuts are among dozens of options proposed to reduce the pending property tax increase. As many of the advocates pointed out, HRM’s support for the arts is modest and therefore does not have much impact on the tax rate, however it is significant enough to be meaningful to those working in the arts. Instead of a cut, council agreed to consider an increase for arts grants and moved this item to the end of March for a vote. On the same day, the budget committee approved an increase in the cost of building permits which could generate an additional \$1.5 million for the municipality.



### SHORT TERM RENTALS

Halifax Regional Council is developing new regulations for Airbnb and other types of short-term rentals. This will no doubt be of interest to the 2000+ hosts in HRM offering short term rentals, including at least eighty in District 10. Regional Council is planning to regulate short term rentals because of the severe housing shortage in HRM. The aim is to place limits on short term rentals, which mainly serve visitors on vacation, in order to make more rental housing available for local residents year-round.

Some of the new regulations being proposed include:

- short term rentals in residential areas to be permitted only in the host’s primary residence.
- short term rentals to be permitted in mixed-use and commercial zones where tourist accommodations are already allowed.

Halifax isn’t the first municipality to take these steps. From Paris to Charlottetown, short-term rentals are facing new regulations. Given our 1% vacancy rate, I believe regulations are needed in HRM. Ideally HRM's regulations will strike the right balance: more rental housing will be available for local residents, while at the same time, some hosts will be able to continue to rent out rooms in their own homes to help pay the bills.

### HOMELESSNESS PLAN

Regional Council continues to work on plans to address homelessness in HRM. Emergency shelters and social housing are provincial responsibilities, but in the last few years, the increase in tents in municipal parks has highlighted the gaps in these services and the urgent need for solutions.

HRM council has been working to develop practical and compassionate approaches such as the modular housing in downtown Halifax and Dartmouth, but the gaps continue to grow. In February council discussed a new report called the Framework for Addressing [February 2023](#)

Homelessness. One of the recommendations is for HRM to set up a year-round daily drop-in centre for the unhoused in partnership with the Province. The drop-in centre would be a place for people to get warm and dry, access phones, get some food and connect with services.

There are close to 800 people considered homeless in HRM. They find temporary beds in cars, friends’ homes and emergency shelters. The report found that the number of people sleeping outdoors in HRM has risen dramatically in the last few years from 18 in 2019 to 108 in 2023.

### HRM ICE TESTING PROGRAM



Did you know that the municipality provides weekly reports on ice thickness testing on more than 70 lakes throughout the Halifax region? Ice thickness testing has begun for the season, and results will be

posted on <https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/parks-trails-gardens/ice-thickness> as they become available.





### VOLUNTEER WITH NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES



From July 15-23 Halifax will host the largest-ever sporting event in Atlantic Canada: the North American Indigenous Games. Five thousand athletes representing 756 Nations will be coming to Nova Scotia. For many of the young athletes it

will be their first time away from home. Organizers are looking for volunteers, age 16 and over, to welcome the athletes and help run the games. Join the volunteer team and help welcome over 5,000 Indigenous athletes to Kijipuktuk (Halifax) for 8 days of sport and culture celebrations.

### BEWARE OF "GRANDPARENTS SCAM"

Halifax Regional Police are cautioning residents about a phone scam targeting seniors. The scenario involves a phone call from someone who pretends to be a grandchild. In a muffled voice they explain they've just caused a serious car accident, are being held in jail, and need bail money right away. The caller asks the (by now) very distressed grandparent to go to the bank, get the money in cash, and hand it over to the "bailiff" who will make a house call to pick it up, often the same day. This is no way resembles a regular police or court process, but seniors in Halifax have been fooled by this scam and lost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

### WORKING WITH VOLUNTEERS

Congratulations to Alesha MacIntyre and the dedicated volunteers of Birdland Rec for getting the outdoor rink at DJ Butler Park up and running. Finally - in February - some good freezing weather! Alesha (centre) and her group of rink builders (Nick Barker, Jason Bond, Diego Marchi and Jle Marchi, as well as Ron Burke and Nathan Guy, missing from photo) have really been fighting the weather this year. I was pleased to support this community project with a new tarp and I'm happy to see the rink is being used day and night.

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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 cannot 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.



# COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

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](http://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](mailto: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. 15<sup>th</sup> to Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://halifax.ca/snow) or keep up to date on clearing operations and municipal service updates via [@hfxgov on Twitter](#).

## CONTACT ME

### LET'S CONNECT

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