

HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
**HAPPY SOLSTICE**  
 HAPPY HANUKKAH  
 HAPPY KWANZAA  
 HAPPY NEW YEAR  
 AND YES **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY**  
 DISTRICT 9 ONLINE NEWS  
 HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE



**WELCOME DECEMBER!**



Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and, Happy New Year!

As we close out 2024 and look forward to a new year

with the recently elected municipal council and provincial legislature, I realize that there is much for which to be grateful. The freedom and democracy that was protected by our veterans, to whom we are eternally grateful, has enabled us to participate in elections to select our representatives. Given what we see around the world today, we must be ever vigilant.

I hope you get to spend time over the holidays with friends and family, to rest, recharge, and to contemplate.

Keep reading for updates on new street names for the Cogswell District, winter recreation program registration, holiday parade of lights,

the tax relief for non-profit organizations program, annual fall leaf clean-up and much more!

To discuss a municipal program or service, please contact me at:  
[Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca](mailto:Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca) or 902.579.6746.

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

## DID YOU KNOW...

That December is Universal Human Rights month; Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness month; National Write a Business Plan Month; and, Universal Health Coverage Awareness Month.

- December 1 – World AIDS Day
- December 2 - Women's Brain Health
- December 2 – Cyber Monday
- December 2 – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- December 3 – Giving Tuesday
- December 3 - International Day of Persons With Disabilities
- December 4 – International Cookie Day
- December 5 – International Volunteer Day
- December 5 – World Soil Day
- December 6 – St. Nicholas
- December 6 - National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- December 7 – International Civil Aviation Day
- December 9 – International Anti-Corruption Day
- December 9 – Green Monday
- December 10 – Genocide Prevention Day
- December 10 – Nobel Prize Day
- December 10 - Human Rights Day
- December 11 – Anniversary Statue of Westminster
- December 13 – National Violin Day
- December 17 – International Maple Syrup Day

## DECEMBER MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held on:

### Budget Committee:

Tuesday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m.

### Regional Council:

Tuesday, December 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 10 (Following Budget Committee)

### Halifax & West Community Council:

Monday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m.

### Regional Centre Community Council:

Monday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. (If Required)

### Standing Committees:

Wednesday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m. (If Required)

- Audit & Finance Standing Committee

Thursday, December 12 at 1:00 p.m. (If Required)

- Transportation Advisory Committee



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- December 17 - Anti-Bullying Day
- December 18 – International Migrants Day
- December 21 – Winter Solstice
- December 24 – Christmas Eve
- December 25 – Christmas Day
- December 25 – Hannukah (Start)
- December 26 – Boxing Day
- December 26 – Kawanzaa
- December 27 – International Day of Epidemic Preparedness
- December 28 – National Call a Friend Day
- December 31 – New Year’s Eve

## TRAFFIC DELAY – OXFORD STREET

This work is to support a natural gas pipeline installation and right of way restoration.

Two-way traffic will be maintained while work is underway. Motorists should expect delays and are asked to use alternative routes whenever possible.

- Location:** Oxford Street from Bayers Road to civic 6412 Roslyn Road
- Date:** Thursday, November 21 to Tuesday, December 31
- Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## WINTER RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Course catalogues for winter 2025 recreation programming are now available [online](#).

Registration for dryland programming starts at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 4.

Registration for skating & aquatic programs will open at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 5.

The new course listings can be found [here](#).

## NOVA SCOTIA POWER HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS



On Sunday, December 8, starting at 5:00 pm, Downtown Halifax will celebrate the 29th annual [Nova Scotia Power Holiday Parade of Lights](#), presented by Eastlink and hosted by the Holiday Parade of Lights Society. Santa will make a special appearance to bring the



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celebration to a joyful close, delighting everyone with his festive spirit.

For all inquiries related to the parade, please email [hpolsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hpolsociety@gmail.com).

## ANNUAL FALL LEAF CLEANUP



The annual fall leaf cleanup program began on November 25 and will conclude on December 15. During this time, crews will collect and remove fallen leaves in the heavily-treed streets of the Halifax peninsula and urban core.

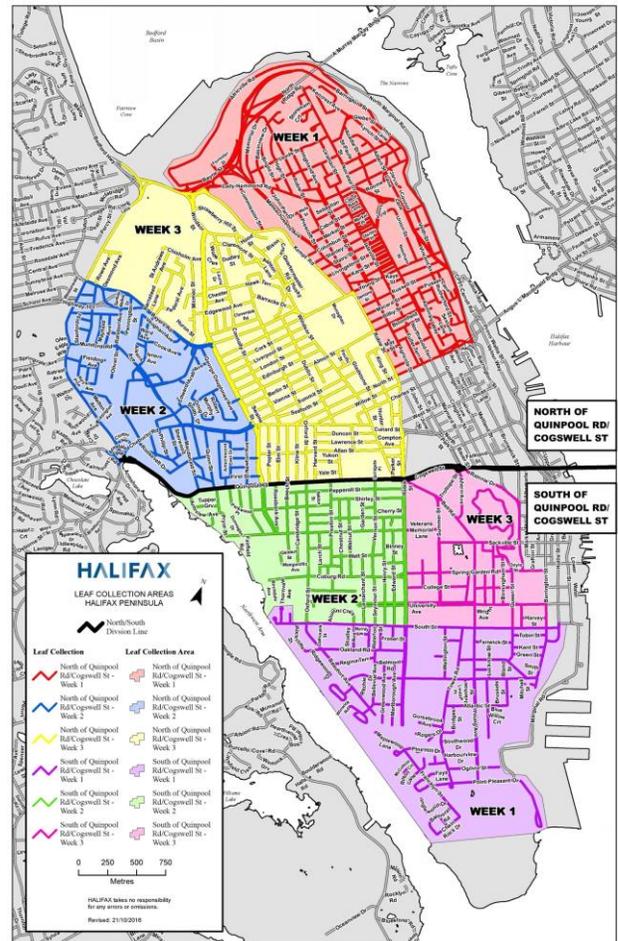
The municipality is asking for the cooperation of residents to efficiently complete this work. Temporary “no parking” signs will be posted in neighbourhoods prior to cleanup. To facilitate proper cleanup, residents are asked to abide by posted signage and not park on the street. Residents are also asked to respect municipal by-laws which prohibit the sweeping or depositing of leaves along the gutter of the street or in the roadway.

Minimizing fallen leaves not only helps the operation of stormwater systems, it also

contributes to safer roads as the potential for street flooding increases greatly when catch basins are clogged with debris.

Cleanup on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. Leaves and yard waste are collected during regular green cart (organics) collection weeks. This waste is permitted in the green cart and any excess must be placed in large paper bags.

For details on the scheduled cleanup, click [here](#).





## WINTER GREEN CART TIPS



When temperatures drop, materials in green carts can freeze and cause issues for both residents and waste haulers. To avoid

some of the problems associated with green cart in the winter, our Solid Waste Resources team has some helpful tips:

- Put your green cart out for each collection, even if it's not full. This will give material less time to freeze
- Line the bottom of your green cart with a yard waste bag, boxboard or newspaper
- Place your green cart in a place where the sun can reach it
- Wrap food in paper scraps

More information on green carts can be found on our [webpage](#).

## AUTOMATED CART-BASED COLLECTION SURVEY

The Halifax Regional Municipality is conducting a survey to gauge interest and support for automated cart-based collection. The survey will be available until December 20 and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

The results of the survey will be used to inform a 'Garbage/Organics Automated Cart Based Collection Implementation Plan' which staff will present to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee in the first quarter of fiscal year 2025/26.

There are several options for residents to access the survey:

- Online at: [Shape Your City – Solid Waste Strategy Review](#)
- Physical copies will be available in standard print and large print for pick-up at each of the municipal [Customer Service Centres](#) (Alderney Gate, Bayers Road and Musquodoboit Harbour).

Solid Waste staff are also hosting 20 pop-up events across the municipality to promote the survey and offer printed copies for residents to fill out. A list of events is available on [Shape Your City](#).

Rationale for adopting cart-based collection is typically related to health and safety considerations, modernization of collection infrastructure, citizen satisfaction (e.g. ease of use and storage) and protection from animals.

Cart-based collection for recycling (blue carts) is not in scope as part of this evaluation, as responsibility for blue bag material will shift from the municipality to producers in December 2025 under the provincial Extended Producer Responsibility program.

For questions about the cart-based collection survey [contact 311](#).

## TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM



The municipality is pleased to announce that the Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations



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Program is now accepting applications for 2024-2025. Organizations applying for acceptance into the program (or the addition of another property) must submit a complete application on or before Friday January 31, 2025.

The municipality's Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program can help eligible non-profit and charitable organizations reduce the amount of property tax they pay each year. You can find the application form online on the Program's [website](#) or by emailing [non-profittax@halifax.ca](mailto:non-profittax@halifax.ca).

## APPLICATIONS FOR BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS



The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking applications for volunteers to serve on a variety of municipal boards, committees and commissions. Applications are available [here](#) and will be accepted until Monday, December 16 at 11:59 p.m..

Municipal boards, committees, and commissions consist of councillors, residents and industry representatives. These groups

provide recommendations to Regional Council, Community Councils, Standing Committees or municipal staff – and serve as an important part of the decision-making process.

There are 39 volunteer positions available on the following bodies:

- [Accessibility Advisory Committee](#)
- [Active Transportation Advisory Committee](#)
- [Audit Committee](#)
- [African Descent Advisory Committee](#)
- [Board of Police Commissioners](#)
- [Grants Committee](#)
- [Heritage Advisory Committee](#)
- [Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee](#)
- [Special Events Advisory Committee](#)
- [Women & Gender Equity Advisory Committee](#)
- [Youth Advisory Committee](#)

Information on each board, committee and commission – including terms of reference, meeting schedules, minutes, agendas, and reports – can be found on [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca). Applicants are encouraged to review these resources before applying to learn more about the role and typical work performed by each board, committee and commission.

The municipality is seeking board, committee and commission members that are reflective and inclusive of residents from across the municipality. Applicants from Black/African Nova Scotian communities, youth, women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous persons,



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and Francophone/Acadian, newcomer and 2SLGBTQ+ communities are encouraged to self-identify.

For more information or to apply, visit [halifax.ca/serve](http://halifax.ca/serve). Residents can also contact [serve@halifax.ca](mailto:serve@halifax.ca) or call 902-490-4210 for questions about the appointment process or to request accommodations.

## 2025 VOLUNTEER AWARDS



The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that applications have opened for the 2025 Volunteer Awards. The application period closes on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Every year, the municipality recognizes the extraordinary contributions of outstanding individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in their communities. The annual Volunteer Awards put a spotlight on the residents who volunteer in our region.

There are three categories open for applications: Youth, Adult and Group. The award recipients will be announced at the 2025 Volunteer Awards ceremony on Wednesday,

April 30. This coincides with National Volunteer Week.

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

## 2025 URBAN DESIGN AWARDS



The Halifax Regional Municipality is calling for submissions to the 2025 Urban Design Awards – a celebration of urban design excellence in the Halifax region that occurs every two years. The submission deadline is February 10, 2025.

To qualify for an award, projects must have been completed after January 1, 2020, 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



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- Heritage Restoration Projects
- Heritage Adaptive Re-use Projects
- Student Projects

A panel of four independent jurors will evaluate the submissions looking for category-specific criteria and broader design principles such as human scale, community context and intentional accessible or inclusive features.

The submission fee is \$402.50 (including taxes) and this fee is waived for non-profit and student projects. Student submissions will be accepted until April 20, 2025.

An awards ceremony will take place on **Monday, May 26, 2025** at the **Halifax Central Library**. Attendance will be open to the public and additional information will be shared closer to the event.

For more information or to submit an application, please visit [the website](#) or contact [urbandesign@halifax.ca](mailto:urbandesign@halifax.ca).

## HALIFAX TRANSIT CODE



Halifax Transit has been working closely with the Canadian Urban Transit

Association (CUTA) on safety and respect in transit systems. It is exciting to announce that CUTA has decided to adopt HRM's Transit Code campaign for adaptation into a National campaign for safety and respect in transit

systems. This program previously won a national award through CUTA.

This is now live and can be found [here](#).

It's definitely a proud moment to see our work recognized as a national leading practice, and I want to extend my congratulations once again to the business units and staff involved, particularly Halifax Transit and Corporate Communications.

## FALL CYCLING TIPS



As the days get darker, it's important for cyclists to take extra safety precautions.

Here are some safety tips for cyclists during the fall season:

- Remember to charge your bike lights.
- You are legally required to have a light at the front of your bike (or e-scooter) and a red reflector or red light at the back.
- Use your lights after dark and 30 minutes before dawn + dusk.
- Reduced daylight hours mean reduced visibility. Consider wearing brighter or reflective clothing and be extra aware of other road users around you.

Fall is a great time for cycling, keep up the good habits with some extra preparation.



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Learn more about cycling in the Halifax region [here](#).

### SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

There's no denying it – winter is on its way. There is a snow removal program available for seniors (ages 65 and older) and persons with disabilities to help ensure safe access to your home.

The Senior Snow Removal is a YMCA program provided in partnership with Halifax Regional Municipality, and oversees the clearing of front and back steps, walkways, ramps, and access to fuel tanks. Please note that the program does not include driveway clearing.

Those 65+ or persons with disabilities must also meet the following eligibility criteria:

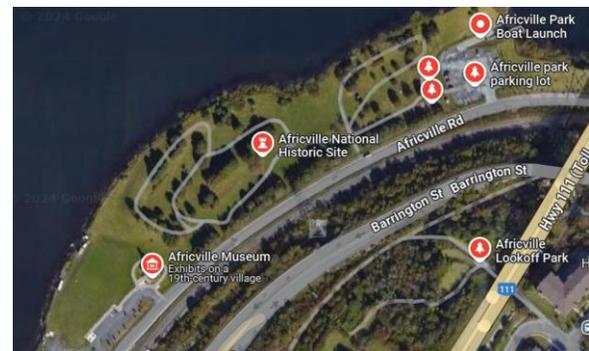
- The participant must reside in a single dwelling home which is owned or rented;
- The participant, also including all individuals who live on the premises aged eighteen or older, must not exceed a total gross household income of \$32,000, and;
- The participant may not be a landlord.

The Senior Snow Removal operates on a first-come, first-serve basis. When maximum capacity is reached, the program will come to a close and individuals will be placed on a waitlist.

Call 902-483-3678 for more information. You can download the 2024/2025 application package online.

Completed applications may be emailed to [ssr@halifax.ymca.ca](mailto:ssr@halifax.ymca.ca) faxed to 902-423-8530 or can be mailed or dropped off in person to:  
Attention: YMCA Senior Snow Removal  
Community YMCA  
2269 Gottingen Street  
Halifax, NS B3K 3B7

### AFRICVILLE - UNESCO DESIGNATION



The Halifax Regional Municipality congratulates the Africville Heritage Trust on the [recent UNESCO designation](#) of Africville as a Place of History and Memory linked to Enslavement and the Slave Trade. Africville is the first location in Canada to receive this designation.

The municipality remains committed to continue supporting the Africville Heritage Trust, the Africville Genealogy Society and the descendants of Africville. This work includes the Africville Visioning Project – where community members will have a voice in the



development of a long-term vision for Africville. Community input will be key in shaping the areas of focus and informing the accompanying phases, priorities and actions.

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

## SHELTER VILLAGES



The Halifax Regional Municipality is committed to treating people experiencing homelessness in our public spaces with dignity while working to find ways to best support them within our capacity and scope as a municipality.

The municipality has worked with the province to identify potential shelter village locations and it was determined that municipal land on Thomas Raddall Drive and Bancroft Lane were best suited to meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Shelter villages are not tent encampments. They are staffed by trained professionals 24/7 to help residents and address any concerns and wrap around supports will be available on site for people to help them transition toward

permanent housing including food and medical supports.

Each shelter has a bed, desk, chair, storage, and have both air conditioning and heat. This means open fires or fuel-based heaters are not permitted. Beyond the shelters themselves bathrooms, showers and laundry services are on site and as well as a communal meeting space for staff and residents to use.

The province and their service provider commit to being good neighbours in their community, including responding to community concerns. The Shelter Villages will be fenced and have security cameras as well as on site security. The municipality will provide garbage removal as well as snow and ice control for the main road into the shelter village.

These initiatives, along with the tiny home project, will provide 150 new spaces for people experiencing homelessness. We will continue to work with the Province to transition people sleeping rough outdoors to appropriate sheltering options.

## YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the winners of the [Youth Climate Action Fund](#) grant program!

Earlier this year, the Halifax Regional Municipality was selected as one of 100 cities internationally to participate in the Youth Climate Action Fund program by Bloomberg



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Philanthropies and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), a youth micro-granting program with values from \$1,000 to \$5,000 USD for youth-led climate projects and initiatives, distributed by the municipality.

The municipality received 15 applications from youth and youth-serving organizations who are passionate about being a part of the solution to climate change. A total of \$50,000 USD will be granted to the eleven selected applicants. The selected organizations and their respective project titles are listed below:

- Caring for the Barrens, Caring for the Barrens Kijipuktuk - Community Capacity Building
- DaISol (Dalhousie University), Solar-Powered Electric Race Vehicle Open House
- Girl Child Art Foundation - Banye Art, My Climate and Art: A Climate Justice Art Exhibition
- Hope Blooms, Community Climate Action Mural
- Level. Changing Lives Through Law, Environmental Justice Program
- Oakhill Outdoor, Oakhill Biomass Project
- ONE North End, Low Carbon African Nova Scotian Community Ideas Mobilization
- Preston Area Food Network, Growing Resilience: Youth Empowerment Through Sustainable Gardening
- Rotaract Club of Halifax, Seeds of Tomorrow

- Shambhala School, Turning the (Green) Tide: Investigating the Applications of Algal Climate Relief
- Woodlawn High School's Oceans Club in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, From Land to Sea

You can find more details on the Youth Climate Action Fund program [here](#).

### OPEN DATA UPDATE



A wide range of data can be sourced for free through our Open Data catalogue. Last month, we added [NSPW HRM Service Exchange Boundary 1996 data](#).

And have modified the [HRM Traffic Studies](#), [Traffic Calming Assessments](#) and [Transit Automated Passenger Counts](#) data sets.

The Open Data initiative was launched in early 2014 to help improve resident engagement and enhance transparency on municipal data. The program was formalized by Regional Council later that year through the adoption of [Administrative Order 2014-006-ADM Respecting Open Data](#).

For more information on the municipality's Open Data program, and to access all the datasets, visit our [website](#).



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## HALIFAX INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN REVIEW FOR ENCAMPMENT EVICTIONS

On Tuesday, September 10, *The Halifax Independent Civilian Review Into August 18, 2021 Encampment Evictions* was presented to Regional Council for their review.

On August 18, 2021, tent occupants in various public spaces, including municipal parks, were directed to remove their encampments, with the assistance or participation of municipal compliance officers, Parks & Recreation staff and HRP. Concerns were expressed about the role and involvement of HRP in the eviction of unhoused and/ or underhoused individuals and in its handling of the related protests.

On May 3, 2023, the Board of Police Commissioners [announced the commissioning of an independent civilian review](#) of the issues relating to the Board’s oversight, governance and policy responsibilities that arose out of the response. Cooper, Sandler, Shime & Schwartzentruber LLP conducted the independent civilian review which began in June 2023. The report is available on the Board [webpage](#), along with the Terms of Reference for the independent civilian review.

The Board has directed that Halifax Regional Police initiate an assessment of the Review and provide a report and Regional Council requested a report from the Chief Administrative Officer to review the Independent Civilian Review’s recommendations pertaining to Halifax

Regional Municipality, develop an action plan and report back to Council.

## NEEDHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE POOL TEMPORARILY CLOSED



The Needham Community Centre pool, located at 3372 Devonshire Avenue, Halifax, will be closed

from Tuesday, December 3 to Tuesday, January 10 for maintenance.

A full list of alternative swimming facilities is available [here](#).

## NEW STREET NAMES - COGSWELL DISTRICT



The Halifax Regional Municipality is announcing three new street names in the Cogswell District:

- Reconciliation Way
- Dr. Alfred Waddell Street
- Amalamek Way



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These names were included in the commemorative names list and were approved by Regional Council on September 3.

### **Reconciliation Way**

*Name changeover date: November 20*

The name Reconciliation Way was approved as it reflects the history and culture of the municipality's diverse communities.

Reconciliation is a process that requires acknowledging historical and ongoing injustices inflicted upon Indigenous people and learning about our collective commitment to one another through the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia. Reconciliation also means taking action to address and remediate injustice, as well as building positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples that are based in respect and equality.

Reconciliation Way will open in early December.

### **Dr. Alfred Waddell Street**

*Name changeover date: November 25*

The name Dr. Alfred Waddell Street was approved as it reflects an individual who has demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the municipality.

Dr. Alfred Waddell was among the first of Dalhousie University's black physicians to graduate. He established his first medical

practice at the southwest corner of Gottingen and Nora Bernard streets. Dr. Waddell dedicated his life to providing medical care to isolated, marginalized and underserved communities while speaking out against racial injustice, oppression and segregation through lobbying and other efforts.

Dr. Alfred Waddell Street will open in early December.

### **Amalamek Way (Um-a-lem-ick)**

*Name changeover date: December 9*

Following the recommendation from the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History, Amalamek, the Mi'kmaw word for mackerel, was approved as a commemorative name as it reflects or represents traditions and tradition bearers. This name honours the historical fishing patterns of the Mi'kmaq people.

Amalamek Way is open to local traffic only.

For more information on the Cogswell District project, click [here](#).





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## IN THE COMMUNITY



Me with Karla Nicholson of the Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association.

joyful ride. There were refreshments, prizes, and giveaways, including free high-quality bike lights.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE - CELEBRATE 2025 TOGETHER



The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to its annual live New Year's Eve celebrations, taking place on Tuesday, December 31 in the Grand Parade from 11:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

This free event will include a live TV broadcast on Eastlink Community TV, fireworks, music and tons of fun! Visit [here](#) closer to the event date for all the details.



My wife Michelle and I participated in the [Light HFX event](#), put on by the Halifax Cycling Coalition on November 2. This is a family friendly event that I have participated in previously. Participants are encouraged to decorate their bikes with lights and join the





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## COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

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

- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Chain of Lakes Trail Association Board of Directors
- Halifax Partnership Board of Directors
- 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:

DECEMBER 2024

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

