



Councillor Janet Steele

TIMBERLEA – BEECHVILLE

CLAYTON PARK – WEDGEWOOD

DISTRICT 12
NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEELE

Happy December, District 12! The weather is getting colder, and the holidays are just around the corner. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous holiday season. I hope you can take some well-deserved time with your friends and family.

As this is my first official E-Newsletter as your Councillor, I want to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude for electing me as your municipal representative. I encourage you to follow me on my [facebook page](#) as I will be posting regular updates there. If you have any municipal questions or concerns, please reach out to me via email at janet.steele@halifax.ca or by phone at 902-471-3123.

If you would like to receive my monthly E-Newsletter straight to your inbox, you can ask to be added to the mailing list by contacting my coordinator, Emily at smithem@halifax.ca



COUNCILLOR DROP-IN

Beginning this month, I will be hosting monthly drop-ins and will advertise the date and location in this monthly E-Newsletter as well as on social media. The drop in date for December is:

Thursday December 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Keshen Goodman Library, Meeting Room 2

I'm also hoping to host a drop in date at the new Lakeside Community Centre once that is up and running. In the meantime, I'm happy to meet wherever is convenient to you.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

On December 3, we recognize and celebrate the International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD).

This day aims to raise awareness and mobilize support for the dignity, rights,

and well-being of persons with disabilities. This year's theme is amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future. Learn more about this important day [here](#).



BEECHVILLE, LAKESIDE, TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

St. Margaret's Bay Road Work

The current project on St. Margaret's Bay Road (Brentwood Ave-Maplewood Drive) is ongoing with asphalt repair, sidewalk, curb/gutter, guiderail, asphalt trail/parking lot paving and landscaping. We currently do not have an exact date for completion due to unforeseen challenges with this project. The full height curb in front of Fitzgerald's store has been removed and the parking lot is one large opening as it was prior to construction.

Traffic Signals on Timberlea Parkway

The installation of traffic signals at the bottom of Timberlea Parkway has been delayed until spring 2025. This is due to delays with utility relocations.

Lakeside Community Centre Update

Work is progressing on the new community centre and it is currently scheduled to open in the summer of 2025. The official opening of the centre will depend on when programming can begin. I will be sure to advise when the date has been finalized.



During construction, recreation programs continue to take place at 1300 St. Margaret's Bay Road, neighborhood schools and the firehall. Further information can be found on our [website](#).

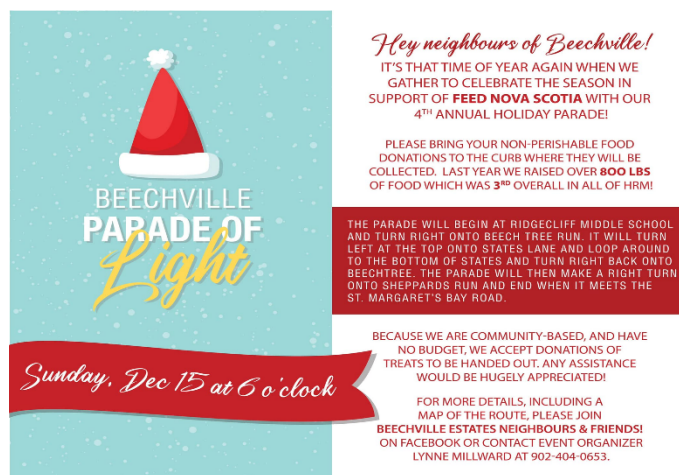
BLT Christmas Tree Lighting

Trinity United Church will be hosting their tree lighting on Friday, December 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. I hope to see you there!



Beechville Parade of Light

The 4th Annual Beechville Parade of Light will be held on December 15 at 6 p.m. This parade is in support of Feed Nova Scotia. The parade will begin at Ridgecliffe Middle School and end on Sheppards Run where it meets St. Margaret's Bay Road. I hope you can make it!



CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

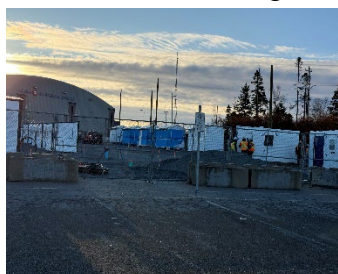
Construction on Parkland Drive

I have received many inquiries regarding the work on the property across from 767 Parkland Drive. Staff have confirmed there is a permit application for a Single Unit Dwelling at this site, however the permit is incomplete and has not been reviewed by a Planner or Building Official yet. Updates on the status of the permit can be viewed on HRM Open Data [here](#). I have been told that there is other activity taking place on this property and a Municipal Compliance case has been opened to investigate. I will provide updates on this site as they become available.

Thomas Raddall Drive Shelter Village Update

The Provincial Department of Community Services' construction of the Shelter Village at Thomas Raddall

Drive is now underway. This village will provide temporary housing solutions for people experiencing



homelessness. They also provide case management 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There will also be fencing and on-site security and security cameras.

The village will consist of 40 residential units along with several other buildings that will include bathrooms, showers, laundry service, and communal space. The Shelter Village will be run by the Atlantic Community Shelters Society. As soon as an opening date is finalized that will be announced by the Province.

More information on this initiative can be found [here](#).

EV Chargers at the Canada Games Centre

New EV chargers at the Canada Games Centre parking lot are expected to be available soon. The chargers will include both level 2 and level 3 charging. There will be user fees for public EV charging stations that will be owned and operated by the municipality. The fees are set at \$0.03 per minute for level 2 charging and \$0.75 per minute for level 3 charging and were designed to cover ongoing fixed and variable operational costs of the chargers.

New Crosswalk Installations

Exciting news! A new crosswalk was installed on November 4 at Barkton and Radcliffe. You will also see a new crosswalk on Parkland, near Belcher's Marsh Trail. The crosswalk was installed this past Sunday, December 1, and will have Rectangular Reflective Flashing Beacons (RRFB's) to enhance visibility to motorists. The RRFB's will be installed at a later date.



I had the pleasure of attending the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Korean War Memorial in Clayton Park. Thank you to our Veterans and those who courageously serve our country today.

WINTER PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Program registration for our winter recreation programs begins this month! Registration for recreation programs begins December 4 at 10 a.m., swimming and skating program registration begins December 5 at 10 a.m.

Make sure to sign up for an account before registration day. There's something for all ages and abilities – so check out the list of programs on our [website](#).



BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS RECRUITMENT

We're looking for people to serve on the boards, committees and commissions that help to advise Regional Council, Community Councils, Standing Committees and municipal staff on important issues.

There are 39 positions currently available including on boards such as the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Board of Police Commissioners, Grants Committee, Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee and many more. We encourage people from all backgrounds reflective and inclusive of residents from across the municipality to apply.

Applications are available on our [website](#) and will be accepted until Monday, December 16 at 11:59 p.m.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On December 6, we recognize The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – commemorating the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre where 14 women lost their lives. We honour them by observing a moment of silence at 11 a.m. and wearing a white ribbon if possible.

It is important to remember that violence can affect women from all backgrounds regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, immigration status, ethnicity, education or income. Preventing and ending gender-based violence is everyone's responsibility.

Learn more about gender-based violence and find helpful resources on the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women's [website](#).

311 MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION

For routine municipal matters such as reporting potholes, snow clearing, requesting traffic calming assessments, garbage collection and much more, please contact 311. When you call 311, your request is logged and tracked to ensure follow up and action by the appropriate department.

More than a telephone number, 311 is your direct connection to important municipal services and information. There are [three customer service centre locations](#) in the Halifax region. You can also contact 311 by [phone](#), [regular mail](#), [online service requests](#), or [email](#).

AUTOMATED CART COLLECTION SURVEY

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve waste management and enhance community services, the Halifax Regional Municipality is exploring a cart-based collection system for garbage, similar to the green cart program for the collection of residential organics.

If implemented, each household would receive a wheeled cart specifically designed for garbage disposal. On collection days, residents would place their carts at the curb, where trucks equipped with hydraulic arms will lift, empty, and return the carts.

Cart-based collection for recycling (i.e., blue carts) is not part of this current evaluation. Under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), the delivery of curbside recycling collection will shift from the municipality to the producers of blue bag material, commencing in December 2025.

A survey to gauge public interest and support will be available until December 20. The results of the survey will be used to inform a 'Garbage/Organics Automated Cart Based Collection Implementation Plan' which staff will present to Halifax Regional Council in Spring 2025. [Take the survey here.](#)



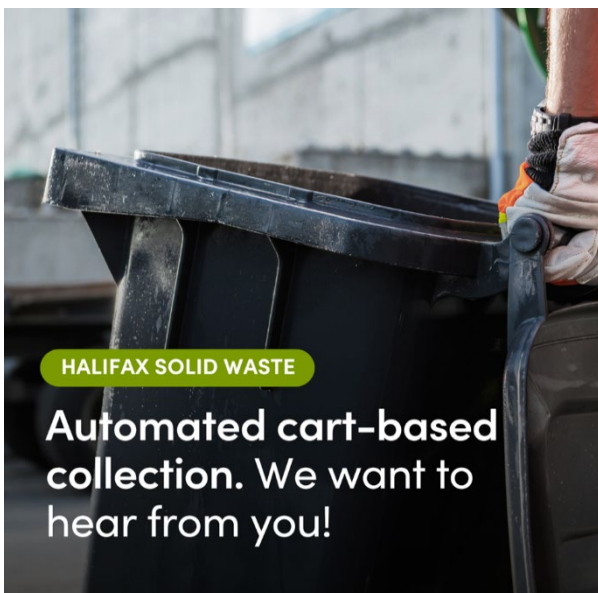
CAO Cathie O'Toole and the women of Regional Council (Just missing Councillor Becky Kent!) at the swearing in ceremony on November 5.

HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND

In May 2024, Regional Council approved amendments to legislation to support more options for housing across the region and to advance HRM's application under the [Housing Accelerator Fund](#). The Province approved these changes on June 13.

These changes were made to respond to our growing population and the urgent need for housing among our residents. They enable a minimum of four units per lot in all residential zones within urban areas.

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

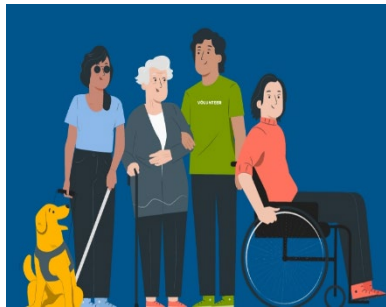


SENIORS CARE GRANT

The Seniors Care Grant helps low-income seniors with the cost of household services like lawn care, snow removal, grocery delivery, transportation, small home repairs and phone service, healthcare services like physiotherapy and mental health support and home heating. Grants are \$750 for each household. You can find out more information and the application form [here](#).

VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

The Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) is a self-referral list for residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality who may require support during emergency situations. The VVPR provides important information to Emergency Management staff, volunteers and, first responders to help appropriately respond to resident needs in situations such as sustained power outages, severe storms, and more.



Registering for the VVPR is voluntary and easy and starts by completing an intake form. Visit our [website](#) or call 311 to get started. The Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry is for residents without 24-hour support who experience severe difficulty with any of the following: mobility, vision impairment, hearing impairment, developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment, mental health conditions, or, any resident who requires electricity for life-sustaining equipment such as oxygen, dialysis, etc.

SNOW CLEARING

While the snow hasn't started to fly yet, I would encourage you to begin preparing your property for snow clearing season by removing planters, lawn decorations and any other portable objects near the sidewalk and trimming any tree branches and shrubs that originate from your property that may obstruct access and visibility for snow-clearing equipment. You can mark any permanent structures or objects with a reflector that will be visible above the snow. This helps crews identify obstacles.

Effective December 15 to March 31, the municipal overnight winter parking ban will be enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during weather events and snow removal operations. You can sign up for hfxALERT to receive crucial updates, including Winter Parking Ban [notifications](#).

During snow events, all our equipment and operators work as quickly as possible to clear roads and sidewalks as efficiently as possible. If the [service standard](#) has expired for your street to be cleared, please contact 311 and they can dispatch a plow. Before the service standard has expired, please be patient and give our crews time – we are working as quickly as we can. You can find out what classification your street is by searching on our [interactive map](#).

Let's work together to ensure a safe and smooth winter season for everyone in our community. Stay warm and stay safe!



VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS

Do you know an outstanding volunteer? Nominations are now open for HRM's 2025 Volunteer Awards! You can nominate deserving volunteers in the youth, adult or group categories to be recognized at a ceremony in the Spring for their contributions to their community!

Fillable nomination forms can be found on the program [web page](#) and will remain open until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.



Nominate an outstanding volunteer for
the 2025 Volunteer Awards

Submit your nomination by Wednesday, January 8, 2025.
Learn more at halifax.ca/volunteerawards

HALIFAX

CONNECTING WITH HALIFAX WATER

Halifax Water is the municipal water, wastewater and stormwater utility serving the residents of the Halifax region. For questions or concerns regarding your water bill, storm water infrastructure and operational concerns, please contact their [Customer Care Centre](#) at 902-420-9287 or customercare@halifaxwater.ca



HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program provides assistance to low- and moderate-income Nova Scotians for help with the cost of home heating. Rebates are \$600/household. Find out more and apply by March 31 [here](#).

2025/26 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

This month, Regional Council will begin setting our strategic priorities for the next four years and start the municipal budget review process. Over the next few months, we will be reviewing each department's budget in preparation for a final budget approval in April.

You can find the full schedule as it becomes available on our [website](#). We welcome public feedback throughout this process. You can have your say by taking part in the Public Participation portion included in each meeting or by submitting correspondence to the [Clerk's Office](#).

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.

UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for December. Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:

- December 3
- December 10

Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings – including committees [here](#). Meeting agendas (including the specific start time of 10 a.m. or 1 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.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Halifax and West Community Council normally meets once a month on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

Stay tuned for the video link to be shared closer to the next Halifax and West meeting, scheduled for Monday December 16.

Currently serving on:

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

Appeals Standing Committee

Halifax and West Community Council

Halifax Water Board of Commissioners

Canada Games Centre Board of Directors

Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee