

# Councillor Virginia Hinch

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

DISTRICT 8  
NEWSLETTER



## DECEMBER 2024

Welcome December! I would like to extend a Happy Chanukah! Merry Christmas! Happy Kwanza! Happy New Year to all residents of District 8.

December is always a busy time of year filled with gatherings with family and friends. It is also a time to reflect on the year that was and look forward to what's ahead! I want to encourage residents of District 8 to consider donating to a local charity or volunteering your time to help those within our community if you can.

I would like to take a moment to thank the residents of District 8 for putting your trust in me to serve as your new Councillor. The past few months have been busy as I take the time to settle in my new role and I appreciate your patience get my feet under me. If you have any questions regarding a municipal program or service, please contact me at 902-237-8373 or [virigina.hinch@halifax.ca](mailto:virigina.hinch@halifax.ca)

If you would like to receive my E-newsletter directly to your inbox please reach out to me and I will add you to the mailing list

## DECEMEBER MEETING DATES

### Regional Council:

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

### Budget Committee

Tuesday, December 10 at 10 a.m.

### Halifax and West Community Council

Monday, December 16 at 7 p.m.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change, please confirm on our municipal [website](#).



## COGSWELL DISTRICT UPDATE

Last month, the municipality announced three new street names in the Cogswell District: Reconciliation Way, Dr. Alfred Waddell Street and Amalamek Way.

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

**Dr. Alfred Waddell Street** - Dr. Alfred Waddell was among the first of Dalhousie University's black physicians to graduate, dedicating 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.

**Amalamek Way (Um-a-lem-ick)** - Following the recommendation from the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History, Amalamek, the Mi'kmaq 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.



## AFRICVILLE DESIGNATED AS UNESCO HERITAGE SITE

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 continuing 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](#).

## PROVINCIAL HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM NOW OPEN

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 WINTER RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Winter recreation program registration has begun!

Parks & Recreation offers a variety of innovative, cost-effective programming led by local, passionate instructors in a judgment-free zone. Programming is offered in numerous fields – including health, wellness, outdoor and artistic – and is available for residents of all ages and abilities.

Many programs are available at [local community centers](#), which can help limit travel time. Access to discounted recreation opportunities is also available for children, youth and adults in financial needs through the [Recreation Affordable Access Program](#).

Registration for **winter dryland programming** opened on Wednesday, December 4 at 10 a.m. Registration for **winter aquatics and skating programming** will open on Thursday, December 5 at 10 a.m.

A full list of all programs can be found on [halifax.ca/rec](http://halifax.ca/rec). Residents can register through their [MyRec account](#).



## NEW HALIFAX TRANSIT TERMINAL TO OPEN

On June 17, 2024, Barrington Street, from Upper Water Street to Duke Street, was closed to accommodate construction in support of the Cogswell District project for approximately six months. This was a major closure that impacted drivers, Halifax Transit, pedestrians, cyclists and property owners as it required the relocation of the Barrington Street bus bays and the rerouting of 30 Halifax Transit routes.

Residents are advised that on December 16, 2024, the new Halifax Transit Terminal at Scotia Square will open, rerouting approximately 30 Halifax Transit routes that have been on detour for the last six months. The Transit Terminal will include new heated shelters, additional seating and waiting space for passengers, wider sidewalks and an additional bus bay. New trees and landscaping elements will be installed in 2025.

In addition to these changes, Valour Way, which closed in February 2023, will re-open, and the new roundabout, which partially opened in October 2024, will be fully operational as of December 16, with a temporary connection to Nora Bernard Street. The Nora Bernard Street connection will facilitate local access to the businesses on Amalamek Way but will not connect to Brunswick Street at this time.

Cogswell Street, from Brunswick Street to Upper Water Street, will also open on December 16. At this time, the transit lanes along Barrington Street through the roundabout, and on Cogswell Street between Barrington Street and Gottingen Street, will come into effect.

## NEW YEAR'S 2025

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 11p.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 this web page closer to the event date for all the details.

On New Year's Day please join the Mayor and Council for our New Year's Day Levee that will be held in Halifax Hall from 9:30 until 11 a.m.



## 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 2025/26.

There are several options for residents to access the survey:

- Online: [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 [CustomerService Centers](#) (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 (eg 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](#) .

### Automated cart-based collection survey

We want to hear from you!

Complete the survey online at [shapeyourcityhalifax.ca](https://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca). For an alternate way to participate, call 311.

**Survey deadline: December 20, 2024**



HALIFAX

## HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY RECRUITMENT

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) is accepting applications for career firefighters from January 2 to 16, 2025. Career firefighters serve their communities by protecting and preserving life, property and the environment through appropriate emergency management.

The recruitment process is multi-phased and will include an application, aptitude testing, physical abilities testing, a background screening and panel interview. The skills, abilities and competencies measured through each of these phases are in alignment with the requirements for firefighters. Becoming a firefighter is a serious commitment that requires unwavering dedication and extensive preparation at every stage of the recruitment process. Candidates will face rigorous evaluations designed to ensure they are physically and mentally prepared to tackle the challenges of this demanding profession.

HRFE is hosting several community sessions to help potential candidates learn more about the firefighting recruitment process. The community sessions will run from December 10 to January 15, 2025. For information about an information session near you, visit our [website](#).

Firefighting is a rewarding and challenging career. Firefighters work long hours and often under highly physically demanding work. Careers with HRFE offer flexible work-life balance and competitive salaries.

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



## 2025 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.



## NEW DATASETS AVAILABLE ON OPEN DATA

The Halifax Regional Municipality has released two new datasets on [Open Data](#), as part of an ongoing commitment to provide public access to data created and managed by the municipality. The new datasets include information on [African Nova Scotian Communities](#) and the [Tree Canopy](#).

Data sets regarding the HRCE School Boundaries, the Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation 2021 and Tax Rates have also been updated with more current information.

The Open Data initiative was launched in early 2014 to help improve resident engagement and enhance transparency on municipal data.

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

## HOUSING AND HOMLESSNESS UPDATE

The goal of the Halifax Regional Municipality is to ensure that no one is forced to sleep rough and that designated encampments are no longer needed in our region and that everyone has a safe and supportive place to call home. Municipal staff continue to work daily with our colleagues at the province and their service providers to make this a reality.

As the province launches new initiatives such as the shelter villages and the tiny homes project, there will be more than 150 new spaces for people currently experiencing homelessness. In addition, as people transition from existing temporary sheltering and housing options into more permanent and supportive housing options, the spaces they were in are freed up for someone else, providing other options for those sleeping rough in the municipality.

As people from the University Avenue green space relocate, Street Navigators and housing support workers from multiple agencies will concentrate their efforts on identifying alternative options for those currently in the designated locations at Green Road Park, Cogswell Park, the Geary Steet green space, Lower Flinn Park and the Barrington Street green space.

You can find out more about our efforts to combat homelessness [here](#).

---

## NEEDHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE-TEMPORARY POOL CLOSURE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that the Needham Community Centre pool will be closed from Tuesday, December 3 to Tuesday, January 10 for maintenance.

For a full list of alternative swimming facilities, visit [our website](#).

## SNOW CLEARING

As we gear up for the winter season, it's important to ensure we're all prepared for whatever Mother Nature has in store for us. Our snow clearing crews are poised and ready, responsible for over 3,844 lane kilometers of streets and about 1,000 kilometers of sidewalks. While we can't control the weather, by working together, we can certainly be better prepared.

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](#).

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



## IN THE COMMUNITY



I was proud to have attended the Annual Firefighter Line of Duty Death Service at the Duffus Street Fire Station



I was proud to have emceed the 107<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service of the Halifax Explosion on December 6

## 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. 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."*



Being sworn in as the new Councillor for District 8 by The Honourable Michael J. Wood, Chief Justice for the Province of Nova Scotia

## PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

### Federal Representatives in District 8:

There is currently no Member of Parliament in District 8 the closest Member of Parliament would be MP Lena Metlege Diab her contact information is below:

- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** Halifax West  
1496 Bedford Highway  
Suite 222  
Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1E5  
  
Telephone: 902-426-2217  
Fax: 902-426-8339

### Provincial Representatives in District 8:

- **MLA Suzy Hansen** Halifax- Needham  
6090 Young St, Suite 1000  
Halifax, NS B3K 3B5  
Phone: 902-455-7300  
[suzyhalifaxneedham@gmail.com](mailto:suzyhalifaxneedham@gmail.com)

## COUNCILLOR VIRIGINA HINCH

Virigina currently serves on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council:

- Grants Committee
- Board of Police Commissioners
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Regional Centre Community Council
- Halifax Forum Community Association
- Indigenous Community Liaison Representation



### Councillor Virginia Hinch

DISTRICT 8  
Halifax Peninsula North  
  
902.237.8373  
[virginia.hinch@halifax.ca](mailto:virginia.hinch@halifax.ca)

HALIFAX

halifax.ca | 311