

# Councillor Billy Gillis

LOWER SACKVILLE – BEAVER BANK

DISTRICT 15  
NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME JANUARY!



Happy New Year!

It's the start of a new year and with it I look forward to assisting you with any municipal questions or concerns. The first item on

the agenda for 2025 is budget discussions! I encourage you to offer comment during the public engagement section of each Budget Committee meeting so that we on Council hear where you feel the funds should be allocated.

Keep reading for more information on dates and times for the 2025/26 budget discussions, the recent HalifACT update, winter snow removal standards, the Tiny Home Community and much more!

If you wish to discuss a municipal program or service, please contact me at

[Billy.Gillis@halifax.ca](mailto:Billy.Gillis@halifax.ca) or call me at 902.471.6906.

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## JANUARY MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Budget Committee and Northwest Community Council meetings will be held on:

### Regional Council:

Tuesday, January 14 at 10:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, January 28 at 10:00 a.m.

### North West Community Council:

Monday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m.

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### Standing Committees:

#### Appeals Standing Committee

- Thursday, January 16 at 10:00 a.m.

#### Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday, January 15 at 10:00 a.m.

#### Special Events Advisory Committee

- TBD

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## DID YOU KNOW....

January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month, National Blood Donor Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

January 1 is New Year's Day  
January 4 is National Spaghetti Day  
January 4 is World Braille Day  
January 5 is National Bird Day  
January 7 is Orthodox Christmas  
January 11 is Sir John A. MacDonald Day  
January 12 is Kiss a Ginger Day  
January 14 is Orthodox New Year  
January 18 is Winnie the Pooh Day  
January 21 is National Hug Day  
January 22 is Bell's Let's Talk Day  
January 23 is National Pie Day  
January 24 is International Day of Education  
January 24 is National Compliment Day  
January 24 is National Peanut Butter Day  
January 25 is Robbie Burns' Night  
January 27 is Family Literacy Day

January 27 is International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

January 29 is Chinese New Year

January 31 is National Hot Chocolate Day

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## NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE – CITY HALL



Join Mayor Fillmore and members of Halifax Regional Council on January 1, 2025 for the New Year's Day Levee at City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All are welcome!

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## BUDGET 2025/26



Please be advised of the following key dates for the 2025/26 municipal budget process.

The municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing a growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations, capital priority initiatives approved by Regional Council and capital projects and investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace municipal assets.

There are several milestones in the annual municipal budget process. Below are the key dates for the 2025/26 municipal budget process:

- Tuesday, January 14  
**2023/24 Strategic Performance Report and Snapshot:** Regional Council will receive the 2023/24 Strategic Performance Report, outlining progress on strategic key performance indicators intended to assess advancement on approved priorities from the [Strategic Priorities Plan 2021-25](#).
- Wednesday, February 5  
**Budget Introduction and Capital Plan Recommendation:**
- Wednesday, February 12 to Wednesday, February 26  
**Business Unit and Budget Presentations:** Each municipal business unit will present their proposed budget and business plan. Below are the scheduled presentation dates for each business unit.
  - Wednesday, February 12
  - Public Safety (including Community Safety; Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency; Halifax Regional Police; and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment)
  - Wednesday, February 19 and Thursday, February 20  
Operations (including Halifax Transit; Parks & Recreation; Planning & Development; Property, Fleet & Environment; and Public Works).
  - Wednesday, February 26  
Corporate Services (including Chief Administrative Office; Finance & Asset Management; Human Resources; Information Technology; and Legal & Legislative Services.

- Wednesday, March 19  
**Budget Adjustment List (BAL) Review:** The BAL includes all additional items that business units have presented beyond their proposed budgets, including additions (“overs”) and subtractions (“unders”).
- Tuesday, April 8  
**Budget Approval**

Please note these dates are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, visit [halifax.ca/budget](http://halifax.ca/budget).

Residents will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the budget process. During each meeting, time will be set aside for the public to provide insight and comments.

For more information on the 2025/26 municipal budget process, visit [halifax.ca/budget](http://halifax.ca/budget).

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## HalifACT COMMUNITY UPDATE



It is exciting to share the sixth issue of the [HalifACT community update](#) with you! The update offers an overview of the recent work that the municipality and its partners have been doing to mitigate and prepare for the impacts of climate change. In this issue, we highlight the winners of the [Youth Climate Action Fund](#), the approval of our [new watershed management framework](#) and the decision to source renewable wind energy from a local company.

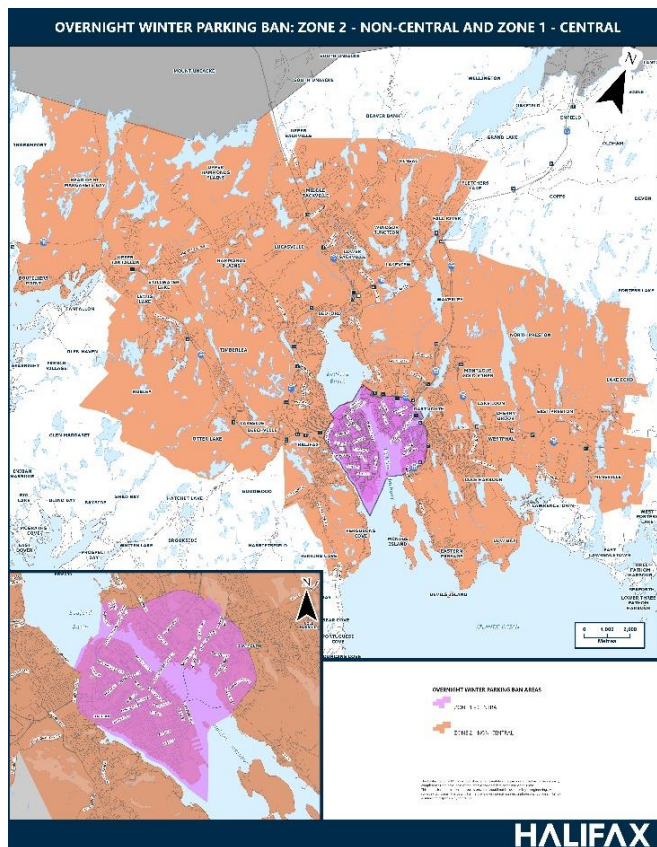


The municipality continues to install rooftop solar panels on eight more municipal buildings, with installations expected to be finished by the end of 2025. Solar energy systems were recently installed at the East Preston Community Centre, Sackville Public Library and the Carrolls Corner Community Centre. Once they are all online, these solar installations will save the municipality more than \$100,000 in electricity costs every year and protect against the volatility of energy prices.



# WINTER PARKING AND SNOW CLEARING

are able to determine which zone they're in by searching their address using the interactive tool available [here](#),



The following overnight winter parking ban scenarios may occur before, during or after a declared weather event:

- **Municipal** overnight winter parking ban is in effect/has been lifted for all zones  
**Zone 1 – Central**  
**Zone 2 – Non-Central**

Having two zones enhances service delivery by implementing overnight winter parking bans that accommodate targeted snow removal.

Weather conditions and snow clearing operations will determine how long an overnight winter parking ban will be enforced, as it may be in place for more than one night.

Overnight winter parking bans will continue to be communicated to residents via [public service announcements](#), [hfxALERT](#), [halifax.ca](#), and [@hfxgov](#) on X. Residents who are signed up for [hfxALERT](#) will receive notifications for all overnight winter parking ban scenarios.

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that the municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect from December 15 through to March 31, 2025. The overnight winter parking ban is enforced from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. during declared weather events and snow removal operations.

Residents are encouraged to plan ahead when snow is in the forecast and secure off-street parking when the overnight winter parking ban is enforced.

The municipality has two zones for the overnight winter parking ban: **Zone 1 – Central** and **Zone 2 – Non-Central** (see map above).

**Zone 1 – Central** refers to the Halifax peninsula and downtown Dartmouth within Highway 111 (the Circumferential Highway) and some surrounding areas. **Zone 2 – Non-Central** is anywhere outside Zone 1 – Central. Residents

## Compliance

When and where you park this winter can have a big impact on snow clearing. To help ensure the streets are cleared properly, the municipality has enhanced enforcement in areas around hospitals, schools, bus routes and challenging streets to ensure unobstructed access for snow equipment and emergency vehicles.

Officers will be ticketing vehicles obstructing sidewalk clearing. Vehicles hanging out of a driveway or parked on the sidewalk are prone to damage and become dangerous obstacles for crews. These obstacles prevent crews from clearing sidewalks properly, which can quickly become an accessibility issue.

Regardless of the status of the overnight winter parking ban, vehicles can be ticketed or towed at any time if their vehicle is interfering with

snow clearing operations as outlined in Section 139 of the [Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act](#).

To avoid a ticket and the costs of being towed, ask yourself these questions:

- Is the overnight winter parking ban currently being enforced?
- Is my vehicle making the road impassable?
- Is my vehicle impeding snow operations in the area?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, do not park on the street. The municipality does not want to ticket or tow. The objective is to keep vehicles off the streets to facilitate efficient and safe clearing and ensure emergency vehicles, buses and other vehicles have proper access.

### Safety

Planters, lawn decorations and any other portable objects near the sidewalk should be removed before the winter. Any permanent structures or objects too big to move should be marked with a reflector that will be visible above the snow to help crews identify obstacles.

### Important Reminders to All Property Owners

It is against [By-Law S-300](#) to throw or pile snow in the street or on the sidewalk. This is a serious problem that can cause safety issues for pedestrians and other users as it complicates snow clearing.

For more information on municipal winter operations, please visit [halifax.ca/snow](http://halifax.ca/snow).



## HALIFAX TRANSIT - BARRINGTON STREET TERMINAL

The new [Barrington Street Transit Terminal](#) reopened on Monday, December 16. Routes affected are: 1, 2, 5, 7A, 7B, 8, 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 10C, 29, 84, 93, 123, 127, 135, 136, 137, 138, 158, 159, 161, 165, 168A, 168B, 182, 183, 185, 186, 192, 194, 196.

Passengers are directed to use the following bays at Scotia Square:

- **Bay 1 (6087)** - Barrington Street after Duke Street: located on Barrington Street before Reconciliation Way. Routes that will service this stop include: 1, 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 10C, 182, 183, 185, 186, 192, 194, and 196.
- **Bay 2 (2348)** - located further down Barrington Street, after Reconciliation Way. Routes that will service this stop include: 2, 7B, 8, 29, 123, 127, 135, 136, 137, 138, 158, 159, 161, 165, 168A, and 168B.
- **Bay 3 (6105)** - located on Barrington Street after Cogswell Street. Routes that will service this stop include: 5, 84, 93, 123, 127, 135, 136, 137, 138, 158, 159, 161, 165, 168A, and 168B.
- **Bay 4 (6108)** - located further down Barrington Street, in the direction of Duke Street. Routes that will service this stop include: 2, 7A, 29, 182, 183, 185, 186, 192, 194, and 196.
- **Bay 5 (6107)** - located further on Barrington Street before Duke Street. Routes that will service this stop include: 1, 8, 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, and 10C.

Regional Express Routes (320, 330, 370) will continue to service stop **9061 at Duke Street before Albemarle Street** after Monday, December 16.

The following map shows the new locations of Scotia Square Terminal Bays 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 effective Monday, December 16.

As of Monday, December 16, 34 routes were also detoured to accommodate the reopening of Scotia Square Terminal. [Click here](#) for more details on the routes impacted by the detours.

**SCOTIA SQUARE**  
1930 Barrington St., Halifax, NS

<p><b>1 Bay 1 (Stop #6807)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Bridge Terminal</li> <li>94 Downtown</li> <li>95 Downtown</li> <li>10A Bridge Terminal</li> <li>10B Micmac Terminal</li> <li>10C Westphal</li> <li>92 Bedford Highway</li> <li>102 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>103 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>105 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>106 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>107 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>108 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>109 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>110 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>111 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>112 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>113 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>114 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>115 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>116 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>117 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>118 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>119 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>120 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>121 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>122 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>123 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>124 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>125 Sackville Terminal</li> <li>126 Sackville 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As a bus Operator representing the Halifax Regional Municipality, you are the face of Halifax Transit.

You'll promote a customer service and safety mindset when interacting with passengers, and provide a safe, comfortable, efficient and reliable transportation service.

No commercial driving experience? No problem!

We provide a paid training program that includes both classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction.

Consider becoming a bus Operator with Halifax Transit. Click [here](#) to apply.

## TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS



The application deadline for the Tax Relief for Non-Profit and Charitable

Organizations program is January 31. This includes for new applications and renewals. If you have participated in the program previously, please make sure to complete the [Confirmation Form which can be found here](#). Due to the Canada Post Strike, the municipality will be issuing tax bills this month with an amended due date for payment.

Organizations can request assistance through a payment plan by contacting [cashmgmt@halifax.ca](mailto:cashmgmt@halifax.ca), by calling HRM Customer Service at 311, or by email at [Contactus@311.halifax.ca](mailto:Contactus@311.halifax.ca). Inquiries or questions of clarification can also be directed to the program's designated email address at [nonproftax@halifax.ca](mailto:nonproftax@halifax.ca). A payment plan allows for smaller payment by installments which can assist with cash flow.

## WE'RE HIRING BUS OPERATORS!

**We're hiring bus Operators**  
Learn more at [halifax.ca/transit](http://halifax.ca/transit)

HALIFAX TRANSIT

Earn \$27.27 per hour from day one, and up to \$32.30 per hour after four years in a unionized

position.



## LOWER SACKVILLE'S TINY HOME COMMUNITY

Lower Sackville's new tiny home community is now open. This supportive housing initiative welcomed approximately 70 residents, providing fully furnished homes and essential wraparound services. It's a compassionate step forward in addressing homelessness and creating safe, stable spaces for those in need.

The vision is that every resident of the Halifax Regional Municipality has a safe, supportive and sustainable home and that all homes are purposely constructed for long-term habitation, built to safety codes and standards, and in a suitable location based on municipal planning strategies, with access to transportation and amenities. The municipality is committed to working with all orders of government, service providers and communities to realize this vision.

For more information on what HRM is doing to address homelessness, [click here](#).



Photo courtesy of United Way

## BEAVER BANK KINSAC COMMUNITY CENTRE YOGA

BEAVER BANK KINSAC  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

# YOGA CLASSES

Multi-level Vinyasa yoga with  
Laura Whitman

**10AM**  
EVERY SUNDAY  
JAN 12 - MAR 16

You can expect a feel-good  
playlist, warm welcome, fresh  
practice each week, and a  
variety of seated and standing  
poses.

10 week program, from Jan 12 to Mar 16

\$125 for 10 classes or \$15 drop-in (cash only)

Bring your own mat

902-865-5114 TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFO

Bring your own mat and join in a Yoga class running every Sunday from January 12 to March 16 at the [Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre](#)!

## SACKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Please be advised that due to the New Year holiday, the library will be closed all day on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

The following are a few examples of what is available for you at the Sackville Public Library. Check out their [website](#) for more information.

## Teen Nights



### Teen Nights

Starting on Tuesday, January 2  
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Come on out for games, laughs, chill zones, entertainment, and more!



## Social Issues



### [Housing Support at the Library](#)

Starting on Wednesday, January 08  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Come meet Rachel Smith, RSW and Case Manager, from the Beacon House Shelter. She will be at the Library on Wednesdays to provide housing support services.

Registration is required: [Register for event.](#)

## Food & Cooking



### Coffee Corner

Starting on Friday, January 3  
Time: 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Come in and start your day with a coffee, tea, and some snacks. Sit down and socialize with other community members or take your drink and snacks to go.

## Arts & Crafts



### Stitch Niche Knitting Group

Starting on Wednesday, January 8  
Time: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

New and experienced knitters (and crocheters) are welcome to join this needle crafting crew. The group meets weekly to share project ideas, learn from each other, and socialize.

## Health & Wellness



### Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Starting on Tuesday, January 7  
Time: 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Caregiver Support Groups are safe places for people in caregiving roles to come together regularly for mutual care and support. These confidential groups provide space to talk, listen, and share information, tips, and strategies.

## Business & Careers



### Nova Scotia Works Opportunity Place

Starting Friday, January 10  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Nova Scotia Works Opportunity Place will be at the Library to offer assistance with resumé and cover letter writing, interviewing skills, and career planning. For more information, please contact Nova Scotia Works Opportunity Place by clicking [here](#).



## Early Childhood



### Baby & Tot Drop-in

Starting on Tuesday, January 14  
Time: 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

In this program, babies hear stories, songs, rhymes, and interact with other babies. Parents and caregivers learn new songs and fun things to do with baby, plus have some social time with other grown-ups. Ages 0-18 months.

## Socials & Clubs



### The Inbetweeners

Starting on Tuesday, January 14  
Time: 3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

Calling all those in grades 5-6! We've created a program just for you. No littles, no teens, just the inbetweeners; the tweens; you! Drop in each week for an hour of arts and crafts, games and activities, and much more.

Please check out the [Sackville Public Library](#) website for more details on all programs and services provided.

## HIGHWAY 107 EXPANSION – NOW OPEN

The provincial Highway 107 extension opened on Friday, December 20. The Highway 107 extension connects Sackville, Bedford and Burnside, from Highway 102 in Lower Sackville to the existing 107 from Burnside to Musquodoboit Harbour. The extension will ease

congestion on the Magazine Hill and provide more efficient travel routes.



Photo courtesy of City News.

## WINTER SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL SERVICE STANDARDS

### PRIORITY ONE - 12 HOURS

- ▶ ROAD SERVICE BEGINS AFTER 2<sub>CM</sub> OF ACCUMULATION

### PRIORITY TWO - 24 HOURS

- ▶ ROAD SERVICE BEGINS AFTER 10<sub>CM</sub> OF ACCUMULATION

Crews begin their work before the winter weather event even begins. They do so by applying salt or brine, to streets and sidewalks across the region. Snow clearing efforts begin once the snow has begun to accumulate.

[Learn](#) when clearing will take place - per our standards and timelines - what your street or sidewalk should look like when the job is done and find who to contact if your street or sidewalk is not cleared within timelines.

By entering your address into our [interactive map](#), you can find out if your [street](#) is cleared by the municipality or the province, what priority level and the clearing timeline. If you are using

a screen reader, please call 311 and an agent will assist you in finding your street priority.

Our crews are out and clearing snow as soon as it begins to accumulate, but the service standards for clearing start when accumulation stops and [the weather event end time is confirmed](#).

Before contacting 311 to report snow and ice clearing issues, make sure the clearing timelines have expired. Please note, clearing timelines may be exceeded during [exceptional weather conditions](#).

If you contact 311 before the specified timelines have passed, your concerns will be recorded but crews will not be dispatched, as clearing efforts are still underway within timelines.

Once the service timelines have expired, you can report any snow or ice removal issues on municipal streets/ sidewalks/ bike lanes via email [ContactUs@311.halifax.ca](mailto:ContactUs@311.halifax.ca) or by calling 311.

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## SAVE THE DATE – SACKVILLE SNOW DAYS 2025



Sackville Snow Days will take place from February 14 to 17, 2025. Updates on this frosty, fun-filled weekend with family-friendly activities and events for all ages will be available on the [Sackville Business Association's website](#).

There's something for everyone to enjoy so check back soon to see what's in store!

## SACKVILLE SPORTS STADIUM



The [Sackville Sports Stadium](#) is a multi-purpose facility that offers programs and services in the areas of fitness, sport, wellness, arts, crafts, and general leisure programs, servicing Sackville and its surrounding communities.

For information on programs and services offered at the Sackville Sport Stadium, [click here](#).

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## IN THE COMMUNITY



I was pleased to present a District 15 Capital fund cheque to Scott Hillman and student representative Mia for the Sackville High School Library Project.







It was an honour to be at the groundbreaking event for the HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Field at Lockview High with Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon, MP Darrell Samson and MLA Brian Wong along with Rita Nigham and the Northern Suburban Area Turf Committee volunteers who worked so hard to bring this project to fruition.



Had a great time at the Sackville Christmas Tree lighting event with MLA Paul Wozney handing out candy canes to the awesome attendees.



Happy to present a cheque from District 15 District Capital Fund to the Sackville Sports Heritage Hall of Fame for new display cases.



I was honoured to be part of [Councillors on the Hot Seat on News 95.7 Todd Veinotte Show](#), with guest host Dan, on Monday, December 2, along with fellow colleague Councillor Shawn Cleary.



Proud to be part of the Halifax Regional Council 2024-2028. Ready for my first council meeting!







Newly sworn-in as Councillors for Halifax Regional Council and now members of the North West Community Council: (LtoR): Me, District 15, Nancy Hartling, District 13, John Young, District 14, and Jean St. Amand, District 16.

## PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

**Provincial Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)** representing the Lower Sackville – Beaver Bank area are:



**Paul Wozney**  
Sackville-Cobequid

Unit 104, 445  
Sackville Drive  
Lower Sackville NS  
B4C 2S1

Phone: 902-864-6271



**Brian Wong**  
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank

1265 Fall River  
Road  
Suite 101  
Fall River, NS  
B2T 1E6

Phone: 902-576-3411

E-mail: [brianwongmla@gmail.com](mailto:brianwongmla@gmail.com)

**Federal Members of Parliament (MPs)** representing the Lower Sackville-Beaver Bank area are:



**Darrell Samson**  
Liberal  
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook  
Nova Scotia

2-2900 Highway 2  
Fall River, Nova Scotia  
B2T 1W4

Telephone: 902-861-2311  
Fax: 902-861-4620

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



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



## COUNCILLOR BILLY GILLIS



**Councillor Billy Gillis**  
District 15  
Lower Sackville – Beaver Bank  
902-471-6906  
billy.gillis@halifax.ca  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
PO Box 1749 | Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

**HALIFAX**      halifax.ca | 311

I am a member of Halifax Regional Council and the North West Community Council and serve on the following boards and committees:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Special Events Advisory Committee

### WINTER MORNING MUSINGS

