



**COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON**  
**DISTRICT 1 ONLINE NEWS**  
WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

**WELCOME 2025!**



Welcome January and 2025! Happy New Year! A new year is a gift to each of us, the gift of another opportunity to plan and

implement our goals. Someone once said you're never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. Aim to live in the present and not in the past. The past no longer exists, so learn to live in the present and hope for the best because there's still so much to come. May this new year bring you health, happiness and the fulfillment of your dreams; and remember we have only 365 days to get it right! I continue to be honored and privileged to represent District 1: Waverley-Fall River-Musquodoboit Valley and all the wonderful communities within. I am continually amazed at the generosity of people, the respect shown to others and the patience shown to me and our HRM staff team as we research, navigate and find answers to difficult questions: it is truly appreciated. My term as Deputy Mayor has come to an end. At the December 10 Regional Council meeting, Councillor Tony Mancini was elected by his fellow Councillors to serve for the next year as Deputy Mayor for the Halifax Regional Municipality. Congratulations Councillor Mancini!

The first item on the agenda for 2025 will be budget discussions. I encourage you to offer comment during the public engagement section of each Budget Committee meeting so that we on Council hear your thoughts on where the funds should be allocated. You may also have your say during Budget Committee meetings by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at [clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:clerks@halifax.ca) or by calling 902.490.4210. You can attend any Budget Committee meeting in person or online and will have five minutes to address the committee on the capital/operating budget for 2025/26.

Keep reading for more information on dates and times for the 2025/26 budget discussions, the recent HalifACT update, winter snow removal standards, and much more! Please reach out to me with suggestions on how I can assist with providing the municipal programs/services you want to see by phone at 902-717-2718 or by email at [deaglec@halifax.ca](mailto:deaglec@halifax.ca). Your voice is important!



# COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

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## JANUARY MEETINGS

### 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:

**Audit & Finance** - Wednesday, January 15 at 10:00 a.m.

**Community Planning & Economic Development** - Thursday, January 16 at 1:30 p.m.

**Executive** - Monday, January 20 at 10:00 a.m.

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You can find the full schedule, agendas and all reports posted on our website [here](#).

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## DID YOU KNOW...

That January is Alzheimer’s Awareness Month, National Blood Donor Month, Crime Stoppers Month, and Sexual Assault Awareness Month

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- 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



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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

## 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. Everyone is welcome!

## 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”).



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- 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).

## 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.

## TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

JANUARY 2025



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.

## 2025 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each year the Mayor and Regional Council recognize the extraordinary contributions of outstanding individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in our communities. This annual event puts a spotlight on amazing people who give of their time in our municipality.

2025 nominations will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday January 8. If you have any questions, please reach out to [volunteerhelp@halifax.ca](mailto:volunteerhelp@halifax.ca).



## WINTER PARKING

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that the municipal overnight winter parking ban is now in effect during declared weather events to ensure effective snow clearing. 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 parking ban can be enforced throughout the entire municipality or just by zone. 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 any area outside of Zone 1. You can find out what zone you are in [here](#).

To get updates on when the parking ban is in effect, sign up for our [hfxALERT](#) system or check out our [public service announcements](#) or [@hfxgov](#) on X.

The municipality has enhanced enforcement for parking ban violations in areas around hospitals, schools, bus routes and challenging streets to ensure unobstructed access for snow equipment and emergency vehicles. Officers will also be ticketing vehicles obstructing sidewalk clearing. 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](#).

Learn more about the parking ban [here](#).

## SNOW CLEARING SERVICE STANDARDS

During a storm, our crews have 4,322 lane kms or road, 1,000 kms of sidewalks plus bike lanes, multi-use pathways and bus stops to clear. They begin their work before the winter weather event even begins by applying salt or brine to streets and sidewalks across the region and snow clearing efforts begin once the snow has begun to accumulate.

Streets and sidewalks are prioritized based on traffic volumes, local amenities such as hospitals and schools and steepness. We work as quickly as possible to get all streets cleared, but Priority 1 roads should be cleared to bare pavement within a maximum of 12 hours of the end of a weather event and Priority 2 Roads should be snow covered but passable within a maximum of 24 hours from the end of an event. You can find out who clears your street and what priority level it is with our interactive map [here](#). More information about the service standards and sidewalk priority levels can be found [here](#).

If your street or sidewalk does not meet the standards, please call 311 and they will dispatch a crew. In exceptional weather events, these timelines may not be able to be met, but we do our best to clear as quickly as possible.

For more information on municipal winter operations, please visit our [website](#).



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## EMERA OVAL OPENS FOR THE 2024/25 SEASON

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that the Emera Oval, located on the Halifax Common, is now open.

Every year, the Emera Oval is transformed into the largest outdoor, artificially refrigerated ice service east of Quebec City. The skating surface is equal to three NHL hockey rinks, and the facility includes an accessible washroom, street parking on Cogswell Street and wheelchair access to the ice surface.

A full schedule of public skate times, details about equipment rentals and more can be found [here](#).

## ICE SAFETY

**ICE THICKNESS TO SAFELY ENJOY WINTER ACTIVITIES**

<b>15 CM</b> WALKING OR SKATING ALONE	<b>20 CM</b> SKATING AS A GROUP OR PLAYING HOCKEY	<b>25 CM</b> SNOWMOBILING OR DRIVING AN ATV
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The municipality is no longer conducting ice thickness testing as changing climate patterns, including rapidly fluctuating temperatures, have made ice thickness testing no longer feasible or reliable.

Residents are asked to take safety precautions for themselves and their families by avoiding any further recreation activities on frozen lakes and

ponds, including walking, snowmobiling, and skating. If you are going to engage in any activity on frozen lakes, make sure to take precautions. You can find a complete list of guidelines from the Canadian Red Cross regarding ice safety [here](#).

## JANUARY IS CRIME STOPPERS MONTH

It's Crime Stoppers Month and Halifax Regional Police says that partnering with the public is key to the success of Crime Stoppers Nova Scotia. You can do your part – visit their [website](#) and see what you can do to help. Remember to always report your tips!

## DISPOSING OF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

The holidays are over! You can dispose of natural Christmas trees by placing them curbside on your regular green cart collection day. Natural Christmas trees picked up from the curb are processed into mulch for landscaping. Please remove all plastic, tinsel, ornaments, metal rings, nails, stands and plastic tree bags before disposing of your tree.

## 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](#).



## 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](#).

## WINTER SAFETY TIPS FOR MOTORISTS

With winter weather arriving potentially any day, Halifax Regional Police is sharing some winter safety tips to help road users be winter ready.

Plan ahead to ensure your vehicle is roadworthy.

- Check your safety inspection sticker and the tread on your tires.
- Consider topping up your vehicle with extra windshield washer fluid.
- Keep a shovel, a bag of salt or sand and your snow brush and ice scraper in your vehicle.

Driving safely for the road conditions

- Stay up to date with the weather conditions.
- Visibility is key. Before you hit the road, clear all snow from the roof, hood, license plate, windows, mirrors, lights, turn signals and cameras of your vehicle. Scrape/defrost your windshield if necessary.
- Be mindful that winter conditions create challenges for pedestrians who may need

to walk in the roadway to avoid snow-covered or icy sidewalks.

- Never drive distracted. Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. Watch for other road users, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Adjust your speed to the conditions. Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you so that you can safely slow down and/or stop. Remember not to accelerate or brake too quickly when the roads are slippery.

Think before you park on the street. When and where you park in the winter can have a big impact on clearing streets and sidewalks, which, in turn, can affect road safety. To help make a responsible parking choice, ask yourself:

- Is the overnight parking ban currently being enforced?
- Is your vehicle causing a safety issue?
- Is it making the road impassable?
- Is it impeding snow operations underway in the area?

## URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting submissions for the 2025 Urban Design Awards. We're recognizing outstanding projects completed after January 1, 2020 that have helped shape and enhance our communities. For details, visit our [website](#).



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## COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Nova Scotia’s Councillor Code of Conduct was adopted by Regional Council at our December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The new Code of Conduct will replace our previous administrative order and has specific guidelines and sanctions for any violations. The code of conduct includes stipulations for general conduct, the use of confidential information and municipal property, equipment and services, restrictions on any gifts and benefits, relationships with development groups, proper use of influence, business relations, nepotism, fairness, adherence to policy and laws, respecting council decisions, communicating accurately, respectful interactions with Council and staff, and more. You can read the full code [here](#).

## STREAMING COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Regional Council are using a new system for electronic streaming, to find the council videos – go to our [Agendas, Meetings and Reports page](#) and click the meeting you want to view. Meetings will still be live-streamed and videos will be available after the meeting.

## HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE & EMERGENCY



Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency are hiring career firefighters. The 2025 Firefighter application period will begin on January 2 and closes

January 16.

JANUARY 2025

The recruitment and selection process includes aptitude testing, physical abilities testing, background screening and a panel interview. The skills, abilities and competencies measured through each of these phases are in alignment with the requirements for the position of firefighter. Candidates must demonstrate competence and proficiency at each stage to advance.

For more information, check out one of our in person or virtual information sessions beginning at 7:00 p.m. sharp:

### In Person

January 7, 2025 – Station 58 – Timberlea

January 9, 2025 – Station 17 - Cole Harbour

January 14, 2025 – St. Andrews Rec Centre

### Virtual:

January 2, 2025 - [Join the meeting now](#)

January 15, 2025 - [Join the meeting now](#)

[You can find out more details about the process here.](#)

## WE'RE HIRING BUS OPERATORS!



Looking for a career that moves you forward? Join us at Halifax Transit, where your journey to success begins behind the wheel.

We provide a paid training program that includes both classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction and great benefits. To learn more, visit our [website](#).





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## PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS



Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) assesses every property in Nova Scotia and mails over 638,000 Property

Assessment Notices to property owners every January.

If you are a property owner, you should be receiving your latest Property Assessment Notice in the coming weeks. There is an option to appeal/refute your assessment within 31 days of the date on your Assessment Notice.

To learn more about your assessment, call PVSC assessors at 1-800-380-7775 or email them at [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca).

Visit their [website](#) to learn more.

## LAND USE COMMUNITIES



The municipality is reviewing the licensing program introduced last year for land-lease communities. We want feedback from residents and operators about what's working and what could be improved. If you live in or operate a land-lease community in the municipality, share your thoughts by Jan. 10, 2025. Learn more and take the survey [here](#).

## NEW DEPUTY MAYOR



My time as Deputy Mayor has come to an end and I cannot stress enough how enjoyable an experience it has been. Thank you to fellow councillors, past Mayor Mike Savage and current Mayor Andy Fillmore.

Congratulations to [Tony Mancini](#) our new Deputy Mayor.

## LT GOVERNOR RECEPTION



It was an honour and a privilege to be a guest at the reception for our 34th Lt Governor His Honour Mike Savage.



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## IN THE COMMUNITY...



An amazing Christmas Express and a special thank you today to Musquodoboit Ground Search and Rescue for assisting again with today's deliveries. We could not do it without you. Thank you so much. [Musquodoboit Valley Search and Rescue](#).

This pic is from last year as we were too busy to stop for photos. 😊



Sorting food donations for our [Fall River & Riverlake District Lions Club](#)/Christmas Express



Helping out at the Middle Musquodoboit Food Bank



Official Groundbreaking of our Artificial Turf Field

JANUARY 2025



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Thank you to the [Musquodoboit Valley Lion's Club](#) Christmas Pot Luck for an enjoyable evening. Always a pleasure to be in your good company.



## COMMUNITY HALLS / CENTRES

District 1 is home to many community halls and non-profit organizations. Check out their website or Facebook pages at the links below to find information on local events as well as opportunities to volunteer in your community.

[Elderbank Recreation Club](#)

[Lemmon Hill Sports Association](#)

[Upper Musquodoboit Nova Scotia Nunavut Command](#)

[Upper Musquodoboit Community Hall](#)

Upper Musquodoboit Fellowship Centre  
(902)568-2536

[Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre](#)

[Musquodoboit Valley Family Resource Centre](#)

[Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank](#)

[Carrolls Corner Community Center](#)

[Meaghers Grant Community Hall](#)

[Gordon Snow Community Centre](#)

[Wellington Fletchers Lake Station House](#)

[Grand Lake Oakfield Community Centre](#)

[Waverley Heritage Museum](#)

[Waverley Legion Dieppe Branch 90](#)

[LWF Community Hall](#)



Congratulations [Elderbank Recreation Club](#) for a great display and love the Cookbook. Our district capital funds are helping to support this great volunteer group.



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[Windsor Junction Community Centre](#)  
[Helping Hands Families Helping Families](#)  
[Barefoot Farmers Association](#)

For those I have missed this time around please reach out let me know and I will add to the list!

## PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

The following are the [provincial](#) Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and [federal](#) Members of Parliament (MPs) representatives for [municipal district 1](#).

### Provincial MLAs:

#### MLA Scott Armstrong

Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley



Progressive Conservative  
Caucus Office: 1601 Lower  
Water Street, Halifax, NS  
B3J 3P6

Phone: 902-424-2731  
Fax: 902-424-7484

E-mail: [PCcaucus@novascotia.ca](mailto:PCcaucus@novascotia.ca)

### MLA Brian Wong



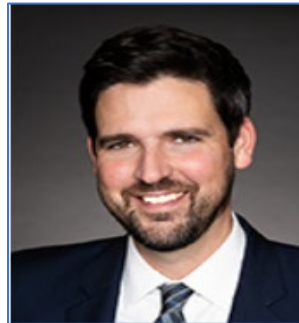
Waverley-Fall River-  
Beaver Bank  
Constituency Office:  
1265 Fall River Road  
Suite 101  
Fall River, NS B2T 1E6

Phone: 902-576-3411

Email: [brianwongmla@gmail.com](mailto:brianwongmla@gmail.com)

### Federal MPs:

#### MP Sean Fraser



[Central Nova](#)

House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Phone: 613-992-6022  
Fax: 613-992-2337

Email: [sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca](mailto:sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca)

#### MP Darrell Samson



Sackville-Preston-  
Chezzetcook  
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2900 Highway 2  
Suite 2nd Floor  
Fall River, NS B2T 1W4  
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WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

## COUNCILLOR DEAGLE GAMMON

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**DISTRICT 1**  
Waverley - Fall River -  
Musquodoboit Valley



**CONTACT ME**  
902.717.2718  
cathy.deaglegammon@halifax.ca

HALIFAX

halifax.ca 311

I currently serve on Regional Council, North West Community Council and the following boards and committees:

- Audit and Finance Committee (Chair)
- Canadian Capital Cities Organization
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee (Chair)
- Environment and Sustainability Committee (Vice Chair)
- Executive Standing Committee
- Grants Committee (Chair)
- Halifax Regional Water Commission
- Halifax Partnership
- North West Planning Advisory Committee

#### Community Committees:

- Aerotech Community Liaison Community Committee
- Halifax International Airport Authority
- Goffs Quarry Community Liaison

## E-NEWSLETTER/SUBSCRIBE

The District 1 newsletters, available on my [municipal website](#) or to request to be added to the distribution list – please contact my Council Constituency Coordinator, Nancy Viner at [Nancy.Viner@halifax.ca](mailto:Nancy.Viner@halifax.ca).

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The Halifax Regional Municipality honours and recognizes the importance of the Indigenous people (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) and their cultural contributions to the tapestry of our region. 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 & Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

