

Councillor John Young

HAMMONDS PLAINS, UPPER HAMMONDS PLAINS
LUCASVILLE – MIDDLE & UPPER SACKVILLE

DISTRICT 14
NEWSLETTER



WELCOME JANUARY!

Happy New Year! Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season spending time with family and friends.

Budget planning begins this month, and I encourage you to participate in budget discussions. There are a few ways to participate including registering to speak during a Budget Committee meeting, submitting your feedback to the Clerk’s Office or reaching out to me directly. More information can be found on how to participate, including the meeting schedule below in this newsletter.

I also encourage to reach out to me with any of your municipal questions or concerns.

John

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME JANUARY!	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
JANUARY MEETINGS	2
SNOW SERVICE STANDARDS	2

BUDGET 2025/2026	2
2025 URBAN DESIGN AWARDS.....	3
WINTER RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION NOW OPEN	4
HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE & EMERGENCY RECRUITMENT	4
SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM.....	5
TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS	5
ICE SAFETY	6
WINTER GREEN CART TIPS.....	6
HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM	6
WINTER PARKING.....	7
EMERAL OVAL OPENS.....	7
2025 VOLUNTEER AWARDS	7
HALIFAX TRANSIT	8
STREAMING COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS	8
INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE.....	8
SALVATION ARMY FLAG RAISING	8
NEW YEAR’S DAY LEVEE	9
COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG	9
MAILING LIST	9

JANUARY MEETINGS

Regional Council, North West 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.

Standing Committees:

Thursday, January 23 at 1:00 p.m.

- Transportation Standing Committee

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

SNOW 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](#).

BUDGET 2025/2026



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.

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.

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.

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
- 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 nonprofit and student projects. Student submissions will be accepted until April 20.

An awards ceremony will take place on **Monday, May 26** 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.

WINTER RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Course catalogues for winter 2025 recreation programming are now available [online](#) and registration is open. Get registered by signing in to your myREC account [here](#).

HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE & EMERGENCY RECRUITMENT



Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) is accepting applications for career firefighters until January 16. 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 about the process. For information about an information session near you, click [here](#).

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, click [here](#).

SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM



There's no denying it – winter is here!

Did you know that 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.

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 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

TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

The Municipality's Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program for registered non-profit and Canadian charitable organizations located within the region is open until January 31.

This program can help eligible non-profit and charitable organizations reduce the amount of property tax they pay each year.

This intake is for organizations requesting the addition of a property for the 2025 – 2026 tax year. You can find more information and the application form [here](#).

SENIOR 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](#).

ICE SAFETY



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](#).

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](#).

HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM



The provincial 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 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](#).

EMERAL OVAL OPENS



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](#).

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 midnight on Sunday January 12. If you have any questions, please reach out to volunteerhelp@halifax.ca.

HALIFAX TRANSIT



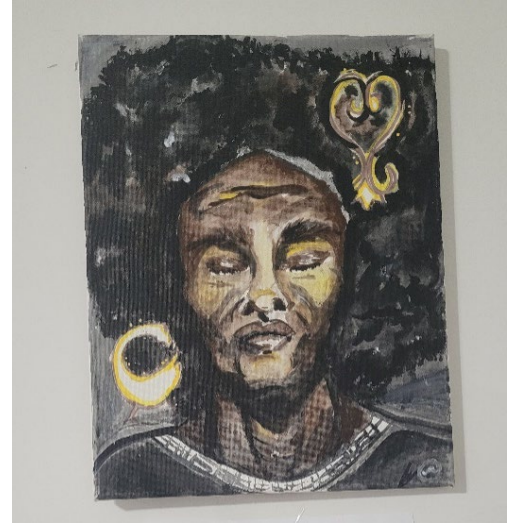
We're hiring bus Operators

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](#).

STREAMING COUNCIL AND 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.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE



WORDS TO LIVE BY

“When you change the way, you look at things. The things you look at change”

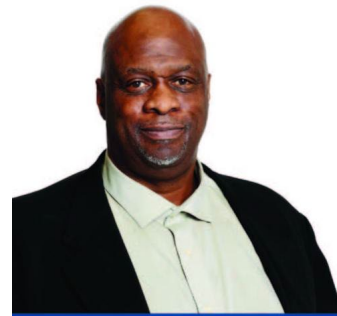
(Dr. Wayne Dyer)

SALVATION ARMY FLAG RAISING



COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG

NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE



Councillor John Young

District 14

Hammonds Plains, Upper Hammonds Plains - Lucasville - Middle & Upper Sackville

902.943.9241

john.young@halifax.ca

HALIFAX

Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749 | Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council

- North West Community Council
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Active Transportation Standing Committee
- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
- African Descent Advisory Committee

I encourage you to reach out to 3-1-1 or me at any time with municipal questions or concerns.

MAILING LIST

If you would like to have e-newsletters sent directly to your inbox, please contact my Council Constituency Coordinator Victoria Palmeter at 902-490-2012 or victoria.palmeter@halifax.ca