



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DISTRICT 3 ONLINE NEWS

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

It's 2025! Happy New Year to you and your families, and I hope you had a chance to relax and recharge over the holidays. The new year is a great time to take stock of the challenges and opportunities of the past year and look forward to the growth we want to see for 2025. I would encourage you all to consider how you can make a difference in your community this year – whether it's through volunteering with one of our amazing community organizations, donating to a cause you're passionate about or just by lending a hand to a neighbour in need. We can all make a difference!

Much of my work in the coming months will be budget deliberation. We begin in January and vote on a final budget in April. You will have or soon have an assessment notice if you are a homeowner. You may notice that assessments have gone up, which was expected this year, and such will affect the budget approach that staff will take to Council for consideration. It is, and has always been, my goal to minimize

increases in tax bills, balanced with service delivery that you tell me matters to you.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me with any of your municipal questions or concerns.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Becky Kent".

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.



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

BOARD OF POLICE SERVICE



On Monday, January 6 I was honoured to serve for the last time as Chair of the Board of Police

Commissioners (BoPC) and hand the torch to Commissioner Gavin Giles.

As Chair of BoPC for the last two years, I've been so pleased to serve in selecting a new police chief, initiating the review of off duty/extra duty work policies, following through on the Wortley Report recommendations and a review of Halifax Regional Police (HRP) response to protests on August 18, 2021 as we provided oversight in the evolving roles of police in our community.

I look forward to continuing to serve as a commissioner, promoting women in policing, public safety and more trust and satisfaction with our policing services.

TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT 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](#).



18 Dartmouth Lions Air Cadet Mess Dinner

URBAN DESIGN AWARDS 2025



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 on categories, eligibility and submission guidelines, visit our [website](#).



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

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.

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.

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



Presentation of District Capital donation cheque to support The Beacon.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising eligible registered non-profit and charitable organizations that applications for the [Community Grants Program](#) have opened.

The program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the region. There are two grants available – a project grant of up to \$5,000 or a capital grant of up to \$25,000. The program has seven funding categories, which include community arts; diversity and accessibility; environment and climate change; emergency assistance and neighbourhood safety; community histories; leisure; and recreation. Applicants must indicate the category which best matches the funding category.

Applicants should review the [2025/26 Program Guidebook](#) prior to applying, and first-time applicants are encouraged to contact municipal staff prior to submitting an application. For more information, visit our [website](#).



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

2025/26 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Halifax Regional Council has begun the process of reviewing the municipal budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year.

The municipal budget funds are all costs associated with servicing our 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. Residents are encouraged to check out these meetings, you can even have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the public participation portion of each meeting:

Budget Introduction and Capital Plan

Recommendation - Wednesday, February 5
High level discussion of the starting point for the 2025/26 municipal budget.

Business Unit and Budget Presentations

Wednesday, February 12 to Wednesday, February 26

Each municipal business unit will present their proposed budget and business plan for discussion.

- 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).

Budget Adjustment List (BAL) Review - Wednesday, March 19

Reviewing all additional items that business units have presented beyond their proposed budgets, including add-ons (“overs”) and subtractions (“unders”).

Final Budget Approval - Tuesday, April 8

Please note these dates are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, visit halifax.ca/budget.



Eastern Passage Holiday Tree Lighting



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](#).

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](#).



Our annual Dartmouth Elected Officials Christmas lunch - Great food and atmosphere at The Canteen on Portland Street!

COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Nova Scotia's Councillor Code of Conduct was adopted by Regional Council at our December 10 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](#).



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

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](#).

ARMOURED VEHICLE

Halifax Regional Police are requesting funding for a new rescue vehicle in their 2025/26 budget.

This is an rescue vehicle used to protect police and first responders in high risk situations such as active shootings. This vehicle is built with more armoured protection than traditional vehicles. These types of vehicles can transport police and civilians through dangerous conditions to get them to safety and medical help.

If approved, policies would need to be put in place to allow the use of rescue vehicles only under specific circumstances. The police budget will be discussed in Budget Committee meetings in mid-February.

NATURALIZING BIRCH COVE PARK

This summer, dozens of residents took part in a three-day naturalization workshop at Birch Cove Beach, hosted by the municipality and Helping Nature Heal, a landscape design company focused on sustainability and environmental stewardship. The workshop gave participants hands-on experience with the company's Shore Up Program techniques for restoring healthy freshwater shorelines to limit erosion, improve water quality, enhance local biodiversity and reduce the build-up of geese droppings on the beach, which can be toxic in large amounts.

For more HalifACT projects, see their latest community update [here](#).

Do you want the experience of a lifetime?

If so, apply to **CAMP COURAGE HALIFAX** Before February 15th

Only 24 youth WILL BE SELECTED TO ATTEND THIS FREE CAMP

An empowering program that introduces Nova Scotian young women and gender-diverse youth ages 15-19 years to emergency service careers.

Date : Saturday June 28th to Sunday July 6th 2025.

Contact us at campcourage.ca or Call (902) 701-1405

Discover Camp Courage in Alberta, Nova Scotia & New Brunswick.



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

WINTER WEATHER ROAD SAFETY TIPS

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.
- 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.
- 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?

WINTER PARKING BAN

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](#).



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

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](#).



Mrs. Santa in EP Holiday parade of Lights

January Dates

January is [Alzheimer's Awareness Month](#)

January 24

[International Day of Education](#)

January 27

[Holocaust Memorial Day 2023](#)

January 29

[Chinese/Lunar New Year](#) (Year of the Snake)

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!



New Years Levee at City Hall



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

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](#).

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](#).

SENIORS CARE GRANTS

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](#).



Performing in the Eastern Passage Passage Players Christmas production.

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN DISTRICT 3

Barbara Adams, MLA/ Eastern Passage
barbadamsmla@gmail.com
902-406-0656

Brad McGowan, MLA/ Cole Harbour –
Dartmouth
jbgmcfowan@gmail.com
902-424-2731

Darren Fisher, MP/ Dartmouth-Cole Harbour
darren.fisher@parl.gc.ca
902-462-6453



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

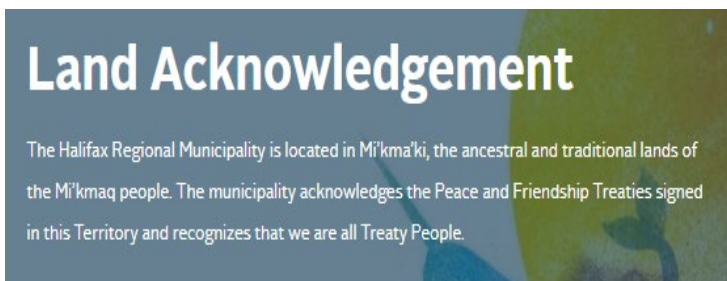
I'm pleased to be serving on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council for this term:

- Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council (Chair)
- Regional Centre Community Council (Vice Chair)
- Board of Police Commissioners
- Appeals Standing Committee (Chair)
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
- Canadian Capital Cities Organization

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.



Lieutenant Governor's Levee with His Honour Mike Savage and Her Honour Darlene Savage.

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at becky.kent@halifax.ca or 902-478-5368. For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at 311.

To reach my office, please call Laura Nooyen at 902-490-1577. To sign up for my monthly e-newsletter, please e-mail Laura at laura.nooyen@halifax.ca.

For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).