



Councillor Janet Steele

TIMBERLEA – BEECHVILLE

CLAYTON PARK – WEDGEWOOD

DISTRICT 12
NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEELE

Happy January, District 12! I want to wish everyone a very happy new year and prosperous 2025. I hope you were able to take some well-deserved time with family and friends.

The Volunteer Award nomination period has been extended to Sunday January 12 at midnight. Details on the nomination process and submission can be found [here](#). I encourage you to nominate anyone you feel is an outstanding volunteer in our community.

As we move into January, Regional Council will begin the 2025/26 budget discussion. Further details on this process can be found below in this newsletter.

At the January 15 Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC) meeting, there is a request that the BoPC recommend that the HRM Budget Committee support the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) to acquire an additional fourteen regular member positions as part of the budget deliberations for the 2025-2026 operating budget. This would include a community office in Beechville with six positions.

According to HRD, a satellite office in the community of Beechville is needed to support the effective and efficient delivery of core policing services in those areas, but more importantly reflect the direct feedback HRD has received from its community and stakeholder consultations.

I welcome your feedback on this proposal. The link to the agenda and documents for the upcoming January 15 meeting can be found [here](#).

If you would like to receive my monthly E-Newsletter straight to your inbox, you can ask to be added to the mailing list by contacting my coordinator, Emily at smithem@halifax.ca

COUNCILLOR DROP-IN

I will be hosting community drop-ins and will advertise the date and location in this monthly E-Newsletter as well as on social media. The drop in date for January is:

January 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Keshen Goodman Library, Meeting Room 5

I'm also hoping to host a drop in date at the new Lakeside Community Centre once that is up and running. In the meantime, I'm happy to meet wherever is convenient to you.

WINTER OPERATIONS

December 20-21 and December 24-25 brought our first two major snow events of the winter season. Around these events, I received many calls and emails from the BLT communities expressing concern with the quality of the snow clearing and in some cases the lack of adequate salt. As follow-up, I have met with the HRM Winter Operations management team, and they will be monitoring this area closely to ensure that the performance-based contract is being respected. HRM staff have assured me that during storms they have supervisors out monitoring the quality of work and that the contractor has a patroller available 24 hours a day with a truck that has a plow and salt.


According to staff, the most effective and efficient way for snow and ice issues to be addressed is for residents to call 311 directly or email at contactus@311.halifax.ca. Agents can have HRM supervisors investigate and follow up directly. I am hopeful the first two snowfalls permitted new operators to gain experience and that we will have better outcomes over the rest of the season.

Residents should only call 311 after the service period has elapsed. To find out the service priority of your street, [click here](#).

A few additional points to note:


Some callers were concerned with parked cars impeding snow removal efforts. It is up to all of us to be aware of when there is a winter parking ban and to ensure vehicles are not impeding snow removal efforts and making it inconvenient for other residents. You can sign up to receive information on the winter parking ban [here](#).

HRM will be contracting a third-party review of winter operations in 2025. This type of third-party review is carried out every five years.



Roads and On-street Bikeways

Priority level	Type of road	Service Standard for clearing <small>(starts after end of event)</small>	Minimum accumulation <small>when plowing begins</small>	What finished surface should look like
1	Main arterial roads, emergency routes, Halifax Transit routes and roads with steep grades	12 hours	2 cm of snowfall	Bare
2	Residential streets, gravel roads and private lanes	24 hours	10 cm of snowfall	Snow covered but passable



Sidewalks and Protected Bike Lanes

Priority level	Type of road	Service Standard for clearing <small>(starts after end of event)</small>	Minimum accumulation <small>when plowing begins</small>	What finished surface should look like
1	Downtown Halifax and Dartmouth	12 hours	5 cm of snowfall	Bare
1	Main arterials and school drop-off zones	12 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Bare
2	Halifax Transit routes	18 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Mostly bare with salt for traction
3	Residential streets and walkways	36 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Mostly bare with salt for traction

When to contact 311
Once the service timelines have expired, you can report any snow or ice removal issues on municipal streets, sidewalks or bike lanes by emailing ContactUs@311.halifax.ca or by calling 311

Please note, clearing timelines may be exceeded during exceptional weather conditions.

HALIFAX

COUNCILLOR DISTRICT CAPITAL FUND

Each Councillor has a small fund that can be used to support non-profits to undertake activities that will benefit the community. To apply we require a letter of request, including the name and address of the non - profit group, and explanation of how the funds will be used and a completed [Capital Request Form](#).



New Year's Day Levee

BEECHVILLE, LAKESIDE, TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

Western Region Joint Emergency Management

On January 8, Councillor Hartling and I met with Sandra Hennigar, Chair, and Barry Beckwith, Secretary, of the Western Region Joint Emergency Management (JEM) Group to discuss their activities and issues.



Western Region JEM team are a group of volunteers who work with HRM Emergency Management to prepare for and assist during emergencies. They have a need for volunteers in the role of Community Status Reporters in the BLT Community. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sandra Hennigar at shennigar0@gmail.com for more information.

St. Margaret's Bay Road Construction

We want to thank the residents for their patience as we completed some important projects in the St. Margaret's Bay Road area, I know there were major inconveniences especially close to the holiday season.

The following is an update on what has been completed and the future projects still required:

Completed Projects:

- Sidewalks from Raines Mill Road to Beechville Park Drive
- New bus stop located beside 1399 St. Margarets Bay Road
- Paving and concrete work on Brentwood Avenue and Maplewood Drive
- The Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Trail between Brentwood and Maplewood has been paved and trees have been planted along the realigned trail embankment
- Landscaping has been completed around Fitzgerald's Grocery,
- Paving and trench work across the road from the Lakeside Community Centre

2025 Projects:

- Additional sidewalk into Oliver Street in Munroe Subdivision
- Two new crosswalks with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons lights on St. Margarets Bay Road at Oliver Street and Raines Mill Road are to be installed as soon as possible as pavement markings are temperature dependent.
- Guide rail and fencing along the Brentwood trail will to be completed in January 2025.
- Munroe Subdivision will be receiving paving this year and the current gravel pathways for all three access points, including the right of way next to 21 Oliver to Munroe Park Playground.



Thanks to MLA Iain Rankin for inviting Councillor Hartling and I to meet to discuss issues affecting both of our districts. It is important to work with all levels of government to advance the interests of our residents.

CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

Construction on Parkland Drive

I have received many inquiries regarding the work on the property across from 767 Parkland Drive. Staff have confirmed there is a permit application for a Single Unit Dwelling at this site, however the permit is incomplete and has not been reviewed by a Planner or Building Official yet. Updates on the status of the permit can be viewed on HRM Open Data [here](#). It is clear other activity is taking place on this property and a Municipal Compliance case has been opened to investigate. Staff are in communication with the property owner to have the use occurring on the site addressed to be in compliance with the by-law. While a compliance investigation is ongoing, staff are unable to provide further details. I will continue to provide updates as they become available.

Thomas Raddall Drive Shelter Village Update

The Nova Scotia Department of Opportunities and Social Development (formerly the Provincial Department of Community Services) construction of the Shelter Village at Thomas Raddall Drive is nearing completion, and some residents have moved in. We are expecting the Province to announce the official opening of this site very soon.

EV Chargers at the Canada Games Centre

The four new Level 2 EV chargers at the Canada Games Centre parking lot are now open! The Level 3 charger is not yet open but it should be soon.

There are user fees for public EV charging stations that are owned and operated by the municipality. The fees are set at \$0.03 per minute for Level 2 charging and \$0.75 per minute for Level 3 charging and were designed to cover ongoing fixed and variable operational costs of the chargers.

For more information on electric vehicles and charger types, [click here](#).



I couldn't resist getting a picture by the book tree at the Keshen Goodman Library in December!



Clayton Park residents attending the New Year's Levee at Halifax City Hall

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 all costs associated with servicing our growing municipality including day-to-day municipal operations, capital projects and more.

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:

PVSC Presentation - Tuesday, January 14

Property Valuation Services Corporation's presentation of the assessment roll.

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, including police, public works, transit and much more will present their proposed budget and business plan for discussion. Full schedule can be found [here](#).

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 our [website](#).

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 the following: 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](#).



My first meeting with Mayor Fillmore

311 MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION

For routine municipal matters such as reporting potholes, snow clearing, requesting traffic calming assessments, garbage collection and much more, please call 311 or email at contactus@311.halifax.ca. Please feel free to copy me on your email if this not a routine matter.

When you call 311, your request is logged and tracked to ensure follow up and action by the appropriate department. Please be sure to advise the agent if you would like to receive a follow up from staff regarding your service request.

More than a telephone number, 311 is your direct connection to important municipal services and information. There are [three customer service centre locations](#) in the Halifax region. You can also contact 311 by [phone](#), [regular mail](#), [online service requests](#), or [email](#).

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 AND EMERGENCY IS HIRING

Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency is hiring career firefighters. The 2025 Firefighter application period opened 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.

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

In Person:
January 14, 2025 – St. Andrews Rec Centre

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

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



HALIFAX TRANSIT IS HIRING



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](#).



We had the pleasure of meeting Mary Crosby, Queen of Socks. Mary collects and hand knits socks, donating thousands of pairs to local shelters for those in need

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Applications for the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage's (CCTH) Community Infrastructure, Active Transportation, and Access-Ability grants for the fiscal year 2025-26 are now open until February 14. This is an important opportunity for local organizations and entities to enhance and improve community facilities and help to support a more accessible and vibrant future for everyone.

There are grants available for renovations to community halls, recreation facilities, rinks and legions, accessibility improvements for businesses and community centres, and active transportation projects that link communities.

To apply, groups must be registered non-profit societies, Mi'kmaw Band Councils, municipalities and villages and schools with facilities available for community recreational use.

Potential applicants can discuss their projects with a CCTH regional manager or program officer before submitting an application to ensure that you are best positioned to succeed in securing the support you need. To learn more about the available categories and appropriate contacts, check out their [website](#).

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!

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](#).



DISPOSING OF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

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.

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](#).

CONNECTING WITH HALIFAX WATER

Halifax Water is the municipal water, wastewater and stormwater utility serving the residents of the Halifax region. For questions or concerns regarding your water bill, storm water infrastructure and operational concerns, please contact their [Customer Care Centre](#) at 902-420-9287 or customercare@halifaxwater.ca



UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for January. Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:

- January 14
- January 28

Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings – including committees [here](#). Meeting agendas (including the specific start time of 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.) and a link to watch the video are generally available by the Friday prior to the meeting. Reports on the items that councillors vote on are available and are linked throughout the meeting agenda.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Halifax and West Community Council normally meets once a month on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

Stay tuned for the video link to be shared closer to the next Halifax and West meeting, scheduled for February 18.

Currently serving on:

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

Appeals Standing Committee

Halifax and West Community Council

Halifax Water Board of Commissioners

Canada Games Centre Board of Directors

Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee