Councillor Billy Gillis

LOWER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK

DISTRICT 15 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME FEBRUARY!



February is <u>African Heritage</u> <u>Month</u> and also the month in which we celebrate <u>Nova</u> <u>Scotia Heritage Day</u>. February is traditionally the month for expressions of love. What better time than

now to extend love and appreciation to our friends, family, neighbours far and wide. Show your love and appreciation by learning more about our collective heritage by attending one of the many events planned for African Heritage month and Nova Scotia Heritage Day.

Keep reading for more information on Budget dates and times, the Sackville & Little Sackville River Floodplains, property tax appeals process, Cobequid Road tiny homes, development on Canavan Drive, recruitment for the Inclusion Support Advisory Committee and much more!

If you wish to discuss a municipal program or service, please contact me at <u>Billy.Gillis@halifax.ca</u> or call me at 902.471.6906.

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FEBRUARY MEETING DATES

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

Budget Committee:

Wednesday, February 5 at 9:30 a.m. Friday, February 7 at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

Wednesday, February 12 at 9:30 a.m. Friday, February 14 at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

Wednesday, February 19 at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, February 20 at 9:30 a.m. Friday, February 21 at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

Wednesday, February 26 at 9:30 a.m. Friday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

Regional Council:

Tuesday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m. (Special) Tuesday, February 11 at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 25 at 10:00 a.m.

North West Community Council:

Monday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Appeals Standing Committee

• Thursday, February 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

• Tuesday, February 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

• TBD

DID YOU KNOW

February is African Heritage Month.

February 2 is Ground Hog Day February 4 is World Cancer Day February 10 is International Epilepsy Day February 11 is International Day of Women and Girls in Science February 13 is Wear Red Day (Women's Heart Health) February 14 is Valentine's Day February 14 is International Book Giving Day February 15 is National Flag Day February 15 is International Childhood Cancer Day February 15 is Canada's Agriculture Day February 17 is Nova Scotia Heritage Day February 20 is World Day of Social Justice February 21 is International Mother Language Day

February 22 is World Thinking Day February 25 is World Spay Day February 27 is World Non-Governmental Organization Day February 28 is the First Day of Ramadan

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



The <u>Black Cultural Centre</u> of Nova Scotia has announced that this year's African Heritage Month provincial theme is *"Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance."* This theme highlights the living legacy of Black Nova Scotians, honoring the impact and perseverance of the long-standing community.

The theme also aligns with a reflection of Empowerment and Leadership over the past decade of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal of DPAD was to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness, and progress towards presence in all aspects of society. Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep, and complex history dating back over 200 years. African Heritage Month allows us to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent – past and present.

Come on out and celebrate at the African Heritage Month Gala 2025 on Saturday, February 22nd at the Halifax Convention Centre.

For more information or to purchase tickets, <u>click here</u>.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Property Valuation Services Corporation

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 <u>appeal/refute</u> 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 <u>inquiry@pvsc.ca</u>.



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:

Wednesday, February 5

 Budget Introduction and Capital Plan Recommendation

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 addons ("overs") and subtractions ("unders").

Tuesday, April 8

Budget Approval

Please note these dates are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, click <u>here</u>.

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 <u>halifax.ca/budget</u>.

HRM COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2025-26

Community Grants Program

A guide to different types of Community Grants, eligibility criteria and how to apply.

Applications deadline: March 31, 2025.

HRM's <u>Community Grants Program</u> is accepting applications from registered non-profits and charities located within HRM for the 2025-2026 program. The application deadline is March 31.

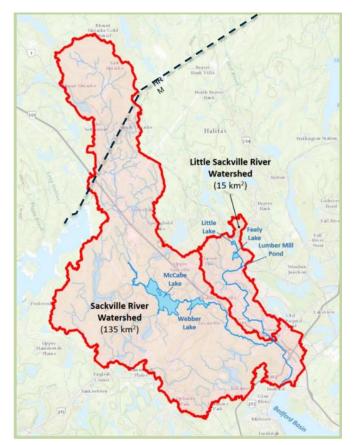
Application forms and program guidebooks are available <u>here</u> or by:

- Visiting one of our <u>Customer Service</u> Centres
- Contacting <u>311</u>

E-mailing nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

For further information, please email <u>nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca</u> or call 902.497.0479.

SACKVILLE AND LITTLE SACKVILLE RIVERS FLOODPLAINS



In August 2024, the Municipality held six Public Information Meetings to receive feedback on the draft floodplain regulations for the Sackville and Little Sackville rivers. The meetings (3 per day) were held at the Bedford United Church on August 21 and at the Sackville Lions Club on August 28.

A total of 241 people attended the public meetings with approximately 77 people attending the meetings in Bedford and 164 people attending the meetings in Lower Sackville. The presentation on Case 21402 - Sackville **Rivers Floodplains Proposed Floodplain** Regulations can be viewed here.

A summary of the comments received at these meetings can be viewed in the What We Heard Report. Below are links to the meeting notes from each recorded meeting with the questions that were raised and the responses that were given by the project team.

21402-MeetingNotes-PIM-24Aug21.docx

21402-MeetingNotes-PIM-24Aug28.docx

Next Steps

The proposed regulations have been reviewed in response to the feedback received. Those revisions are now under internal review and will be posted on the municipal website as soon as the internal review is finalized.

A Staff Report to HRM Regional Council is being prepared to bring the proposed regulations and policies forward for a public hearing in early Winter 2025. A notice of the public hearing will be posted on the HRM website once a hearing date is approved by Halifax Regional Council.

Sackville and Little Sackville Rivers Floodplains

The municipality initially published the findings of the Sackville Rivers Floodplains

Study (2017), on August 14, 2018. This study involved an assessment of the Sackville River and the Little Sackville River, and their watersheds, to produce updated floodplain maps.

Sackville and Little Sackville Rivers Mapping Updates - March 2024

DesignPoint Engineering & Surveying was contracted, in early 2024, to update the Sackville Rivers Floodplain Mapping. The same model that was selected to account for Climate Change under the 2017 CBCL study was used

for this mapping update. The CBCL model was applied to a new LiDAR digital elevation model by DesignPoint to account for new survey measurements for the Lucasville and Beaver Bank Cross Roads bridges. The new digital elevation model also accounts for topographical changes that had occurred within the watershed up to 2019.

For more detailed information on the 2024 mapping updates, please refer to the DesignPoint Engineering technical memorandum, dated April 12, 2024.

To determine if you live in a floodplain view the 2024 interactive map to see if your property falls within the Sackville Rivers floodplains. Please allow time for the maps to come into focus.

Almost 900 properties have now been identified as being in the immediate vicinity of the proposed 1-in-20-year floodplain for the Sackville and Little Sackville Rivers (the number of properties previously in the vicinity when the floodplain maps were first drawn in 1983, was about 500). The map shows two floodplains: the 1-in-20-year floodplain and the 1-in-100-year floodplain based on the 2024 update of the 2017 study, including future climate change considerations to 2100.

Please note that each type of floodplain is defined in the common questions section. If you are looking for the 2017 interactive map application, it is available here.

Municipal Planning Documents Amendments

Regional Council initiated a process to amend the floodplain zoning and policies under the Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws for Bedford, Sackville, Sackville Drive, and Beaver Bank/Hammonds Plains/Upper Sackville (municipal planning documents).

In response to the updated floodplain mapping, Municipal staff are reviewing policies and regulations in the following planning documents:

- Bedford Community Plan Area
- Sackville Community Plan Area
- Sackville Drive Area Plan
- Beaver Bank/ Hammonds Plains/ Upper Sackville Plan Area

These planning documents outline how and where various land uses are permitted. The information about floodplains has recently been updated using new information, technology and modelling tools.

The Planning Process

The next step will be to host public open houses and meetings to review the draft policies and regulations. The draft regulation and policy revisions will be posted online then a staff report will go to Regional Council where Council will review, schedule a public hearing then if approved the Minister of Municipal Affairs provides final approval.

ACTIVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS



The following is a current list of active planning applications in the District 15 area. For more information on planning applications throughout the municipality, <u>click here</u>. Please note that not all planning applications may be listed.

PLANAPP 2023-00287: 893 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville

KWR Approvals Inc., on behalf of property owner Rysco Properties Inc., is applying to enter into a development agreement to allow a mixed-use development at 893 Sackville Drive, Middle Sackville.

PLANAPP 2023-00368: 70 First Lake Drive, Lower Sackville

Application by Upland Studio requesting substantive amendments to an existing development agreement for lands at 70-80 First Lake Drive, Lower Sackville, to allow for two 6storey residential buildings on a shared podium and a new commercial building.

PLANAPP 2023-00656: 400 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville

Fathom Studio is applying to enter into a development agreement to allow a mixed-use development at 400 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

PLANAPP 2023-00943: 498 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville

An application by Paul Skerry Architects Limited to enter into a Development Agreement to allow for a 7 to 8-storey mixed use building containing 70 residential units and main-level commercial facing Sackville Drive at 498 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

PLANAPP 2023-01594: 153 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville

Application by Stephen Adams Consulting Inc. on behalf of property owners to construct a 14storey mixed-use building with 294 residential units and ground floor commercial.

PLANAPP 2024-00312: 229 Beaver Bank Road, Beaver Bank

Application for a development agreement to permit the construction of townhouse-style multi-unit buildings at 229 Beaver Bank Road.



CANAVAN DRIVE – BEAVER BANK

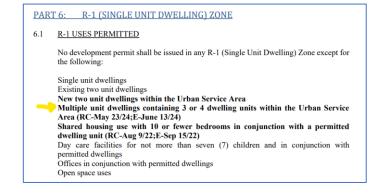


I have received numerous phone calls and emails regarding a proposed development on Canavan Drive, Beaver Bank expressing concerns about the proposed development of multi-unit dwellings. Residents have expressed that this building would not fit with the character of the mostly single-family homes neighbourhood and would cause increased traffic.

Many of the residents who contacted me asked how they could stop this development. This type of development is permitted in the current Land Use By-Law within the urban service boundary as per amendments that were made in May 2024.

The Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy (SMPS) and Land Use By-Law (LUB) amendments were part of the Housing Accelerator Fund initiative that resulted in a public hearing at Regional Council in May 2024 with Regional Council providing approval on May 23, 2024.

R-1 Zoning in the <u>Beaver Bank Hammonds</u> <u>Plains Upper Sackville Land Use By-Law (LUB)</u> was amended to permit the following:



This proposal is an as-of-right development which means that the plans comply with all current zoning regulations.

Land development within a particular community is based on Regional Council's policies as stated in the area <u>Municipal Planning</u> <u>Strategy</u> (MPS). The policies are implemented through the corresponding <u>Land Use</u> <u>Bylaw</u> (LUB) and the <u>Regional Subdivision</u> <u>Bylaw</u>.

Please call 311 if you have questions regarding the development or wish to speak to a Development Officer or Planner.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION – BEAVER BANK ROAD | MILLWOOD DRIVE



Thank you to those of you who have reached out to me regarding traffic congestion on the Beaver Bank Road and the timing of the street lights at the Millwood Drive/Beaver Bank Road intersection. In response to the concerns raised, I have requested that our Traffic Services staff review this situation and respond with possible solutions to the congestion / timing issue.

Currently there is a work order in place to replace the Firmware in the controller for this set of signal lights. Once replaced, the traffic signals should improve flow at this intersection.

WINTER MAINTENANCE – PATHWAYS TO CAUDLE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



I have received multiple calls and emails concerning winter maintenance for the three pathways leading to Caudle Park Elementary School off McGee Drive.

HRM is responsible for clearing and maintaining the pathway from McGee Drive to Caudle Park Elementary School. Please call 311 if there are any issues with this pathway.

The pathways to the school from Pope Crescent and Chandler Drive are owned and maintained by the <u>Halifax Regional Centre for Education</u> up to the blue lines shown on the map above. There is currently NO WINTER MAINTENANCE on these two pathways. While HRM Winter Operations advised they could maintain our section of the pathway, HRCE would have to maintain their section. Please call <u>HRCE</u> at 902.464.2000 for issues regarding the pathways from Pope Crescent or Chandler Drive to Caudle Park Elementary School.

FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES



The Halifax Regional Municipality invites Acadian and Francophone residents to share feedback on the

<u>French Language Services Strategy</u> through an online survey.

The survey can be completed in French or English and will be available until February 16 at <u>shapemycity.ca.</u>

In 2021, Halifax Regional Council approved the *French-Language Services Strategy*, designed to strengthen the municipality's engagement with its Acadian and Francophone communities. This strategy includes 33 action items, divided into three phases, to ensure municipal services, programs and decisions meet the needs of French-speaking residents. The first phase of this strategy is complete.

Public Engagement Sessions

Residents will also be able to attend an online engagement session offering the same information in French on the following date/time: Monday, February 3 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

These engagement sessions are intended to collect the community's feedback regarding the current strategy, the completed action items and how to revise and update the strategy to better reflect and meet the community's needs.

The Halifax Regional Municipality has the largest Acadian and Francophone community in

Nova Scotia, with more than one third of French-speaking Nova Scotians residing in the municipality. It also accounts for more than half of the self-identified bilingual individuals in the province.

INCLUSION SUPPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



The Inclusion Support Advisory Group will be a volunteer team of 8 to 12 residents from all over the Halifax region that will be responsible for leading the development of the Inclusion Support Analysis and Evaluation in Parks & Recreation and will help to ensure that the key priorities accurately reflect the needs of the disability community in the municipality.

The advisory group will consist of a mixed group of persons with disabilities, parents of persons with disabilities and service providers of persons with disabilities. This group will help in the following:

- the creation of a municipality-wide survey
- analysis of data to determine key issues
- providing recommendations that will make up the final plan

Each member will be expected to attend monthly meetings (outside of July and August) through to the end of 2025. Childcare can be provided, if needed.

<u>Application</u> deadline is Monday, March 3. If you have questions about the inclusion support analysis or the advisory committee, please contact <u>inclusion@halifax.ca</u>.

WILLIAM HENRY LITTLE PARK



I have received multiple phone calls and emails regarding the non-designated encampment at William Henry Little Park on the Old Sackville Road. When the designated locations are full people do sometimes settle in other areas, such as William Henry Little Park. The municipality is working hard with our Provincial partners to find indoor housing options for those sleeping rough. Be assured that HRM's Director of Housing and Homelessness, Max Chauvin, and the RCMP, are well aware of the situation and are working with the province and other service providers to find shelter for the individuals at this site.

The municipality's approach to homelessness centres on treating people experiencing homelessness in our public spaces with dignity while working to find ways to best support them within our capacity and scope as a municipality.

The right to adequate housing is embedded in international law, federal legislation, and municipal strategies and frameworks. Accordingly, the municipality understands encampments can be in violation of individuals' rights to adequate housing.

For these reasons, the municipality's approach involves allowing those sleeping rough,

estimated by Outreach workers to be 80 people in urban and suburban HRM, to remain in designated locations until indoor shelter spaces provided by the province or housing options have been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

The municipality's response to homelessness is collaborative and community-based. The municipality is the primary funding partner for the Street Outreach Navigators, through the downtown business improvement districts. The Street Outreach Navigators help ensure those experiencing homelessness have access to appropriate supports.

The Province of Nova Scotia, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, continue to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation such as shelters.

Shelters responding to extreme weather in the Halifax Regional Municipality are:

- North Park Shelter at 2029 North Park St., Halifax (902-429-3984)
- Halifax Forum at 6210 Young St., Halifax (902-830-4818)
- Windmill Road Shelter at 197 Windmill Rd., Dartmouth (902-333-1509)
- Beacon House at 125 Metropolitan Ave., Lower Sackville (902-864-1584)
- St. Mary's Boat Club at 1641 Fairfield Rd., Halifax (902-429-3984).

COBEQUID ROAD TINY HOMES



The Province's first tiny home community, in Lower Sackville, will provide supportive fully furnished housing for up to 70 people. <u>United</u> <u>Way Halifax</u> owns the units, co-ordinates amenities and is responsible for maintenance and property management.

The tiny home community was built through a partnership including the Province, Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), United Way Halifax, <u>The Shaw Group</u> and <u>Dexter</u> <u>Construction. The Atlantic Community Shelters</u> <u>Society</u> provides wraparound supports including counselling, job search supports and referrals, and life skills training.

Rent in the community is capped at 30 per cent of a tenant's income, which could include employment earnings or support from government programs such as employment insurance, income assistance and disability supports. Residents have been chosen from the HRM By-Name List of people experiencing homelessness, maintained by the <u>Affordable</u> <u>Housing Association of Nova Scotia.</u> As of January 22, it was reported that there were 1,155 people in need of housing.

If you have questions regarding the Tiny Homes, please contact Suzanne Ley, the Executive Director of Employment Support and Income Assistance with <u>Nova Scotia's</u> <u>Opportunities and Social Development</u> <u>Department</u>; your local <u>MLA Paul Wozney</u>; Paul Rudderham, the Director of Operations for the <u>Atlantic Community Shelters Society</u>, which manages the Cobequid Road site; <u>Beacon</u> <u>House Shelter</u> and/or <u>Shelter Village</u>.

MINIMUM PLANNING REQUIREMENTS - HOUSING

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to learn more about new Minimum Planning Requirements that will affect policies and regulations regarding housing in our region.

The municipality is inviting residents to learn about these changes and submit comments during an online public engagement period that will run until Monday, February 24.

Minimum Planning Requirements are provincial regulations that the municipality's land use plans and strategies must meet as required by the province. In August 2024, the province announced 12 new Minimum Planning Requirements. The intent of these requirements is to have the municipality's land use planning framework, including policies, by-laws, regulations, decisions and development approvals prioritize increasing housing supply.

To comply with the new regulations, the municipality is making changes to the <u>Regional</u> <u>Plan</u>, as well as Community Plans and land use by-laws.

More information can be found on <u>our website</u>. For any questions, please contact 902.943.5139 or <u>regionalplan@halifax.ca</u>.

SACKVILLE SNOW DAYS 2025



Sackville Snow Days will take place from February 14 to 17. Updates on this frosty, funfilled weekend with family-friendly activities and 11 | Page February 2025 events for all ages will be available on the <u>Sackville Business Association's website</u>.

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

SACKVILLE SPORTS STADIUM



The <u>Sackville Sports Stadium</u> 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, <u>click</u> <u>here</u>.

HALIFAX WATER

Halifax Water is the municipal water, wastewater, and stormwater utility serving the residents of the Halifax region. <u>Halifax</u> <u>Water Regulations</u>, as laid out by the <u>Nova</u> <u>Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB)</u>, applies to both the public's use (residential and business) of Halifax Water's systems, including water, wastewater and stormwater, as well as Halifax Water's operation and maintenance of these systems. <u>The Public Utilities Act</u> also includes guidelines for:

(v) any plant or equipment for the production, transmission, delivery or furnishing of water either directly or indirectly to or for the public,

Halifax Water is not regulated by Halifax Regional Council. We do not direct their work.

They are separate from the Halifax Regional Municipality administration and have their own customer service centre and customer support phone line at 902.420.9287 or email: <u>customercare@halifaxwater.ca</u>.

If you have questions about water, wastewater or stormwater, please <u>contact Halifax Water</u> directly.

BOIL WATER ADVISORY

Following the January 21 boil water advisory issued by Halifax Water for the area supplied by the Pockwock J.D. Kline treatment plant, I received a number of phone calls from residents questioning what happened and how Halifax Water will address the issue to ensure no further such events occur.

Halifax Water is not regulated by Halifax Regional Council. It is regulated by The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB).

In addition to the Halifax Water Board requesting a follow-up on this incident, the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board has requested an investigation report be submitted on February 4, 2025. Halifax Water staff are conducting an investigation into what happened at the Pockwock Water Treatment Plant. The report will be submitted to the NSUARB and then publicly available on their website. Halifax Water will also share the report with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change and Regional Council.

The Boil Water Advisory asked customers to take an additional precautionary step before consuming water readily available at their tap. Whether a customer followed the advisory or decided to purchase water themselves was a personal preference and, in this instance, Halifax Water would not reimburse the cost as water was readily available. The leadership and staff of Halifax Water understand the impact these events have on people's lives and that their customers are frustrated. Halifax Water stated that they are committed to taking every precaution to ensure the safety of their customers' drinking water and remain committed to improving service.

Tips During a Boil Water Advisory



SOUL'S HARBOUR FUNDRAISER – COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR



On February 22, <u>Soul's Harbour Rescue</u> <u>Mission</u> will be conducting the <u>Coldest Night of</u> <u>the Year (CNOY)</u> family friendly fundraiser walk in support of local charities for people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness, for the Halifax/Lower Sackville area.

268 walkers signed up in 2024 and helped to raise over \$87,000 to combat poverty, food

insecurity and mental health issues! Over 200 communities across Canada are involved with CNOY.

To become a CNOY sponsor contact Tim Richardson at 902.405.4663 ext. 209 or email: trichardson@shrm.ca.



IN THE COMMUNITY



It was an honour to be part of the Sackville Kraft Hockeyville puck drop and the Nova Scotia Regional Junior Hockey League's All Star Game!





Had a great time at the Beaver Bank Awareness Association (BBAA) appreciation dinner with Victor Cobb, President BBAA, and MLA Brian Wong.



Congratulations to Steve Warren recently appointed as Volunteer Lieutenant at Station 48 in Beaver Bank.



Mayor Andy Fillmore and I attended the community Candlelight Walk/vigil for the Loppie-Steiger family following the tragic event of January 11. Thank you to Councillors Nancy Hartling, Jean St. Amand and John Young for your attendance in support of the community.



Thank you to high school student Ronan Doherty for organizing the Candlelight Walk in honour of the Loppie-Steiger family. I coached Ronan, a member of the Steiger family and my own son for many years in baseball. Seeing him support his teammate like this was very heartwarming and inspiring.

IN MEMORY OF ALAUNA, CHLOE & CAYSON



The flags at City Hall were lowered to half-mast in honour of Alauna, 9, Chloe, 6, and Cayson, 5, of the Loppie-Steiger family who perished in a tragic house fire on January 11 in Lower Sackville.



Photo courtesy of Alyssa Martin

I have been moved by the outpouring of love and support during this most traumatic time for the family and friends of these precious children. I am so very proud to be part of a community that came together to offer not only emotional support but financial support through a GOFUNDME account that raised over \$140,000. I am certain the family is extremly appreciative of your sympathy, compassion and support as you stood in vigil and in attendace at the funeral service during this most difficult and challenging time.

During the Tuesday, January 14th Regional Council meeting, we held a moment of silence to honor the family. I also want to extend deepest gratitude to the brave first responders who acted swiftly and courageously in the face of this tragedy. Your dedication and service to our community are truly commendable. In times like these.

Thank you to neighbour Gerrid Hunt who entered the home to rescue Jermaine Loppie. An incredible act of heroism.

Thank you to the Halifax Fire and Emergency Services personnel. Firefighters face immense physical, mental, and emotional challenges in their line of duty but dealing with such tragic situations is never easy no matter how well trained and skilled you are. Thank you for being there for us at all times.

It is important for us to come together and support one another in times like these. If you need support or need to talk to someone, there are resources available through 9-8-8, the national mental health crisis line. Call 1-800-668-6868 or text 686868 for the Kids Help Phone or 1-888-429—8167 for the Provincial Mental Health Crisis Line.

PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Provincial Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) representing the Lower Sackville – Beaver Bank area are: 15 | Page February 2025



Paul Wozney Sackville-Cobequid

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

Phone: 902-864-6271 Email: paulwozneymla@gmail.com



Brian Wong Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank

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

Phone: 902-576-3411 E-mail: <u>brianwongmla@gmail.com</u>

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



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

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

HRM'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land Acknowledgement

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 and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

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

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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



HOPE

Is seeing light in spite of being surrounded by darkness.