

# Councillor John Young

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

DISTRICT 14  
NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME FEBRUARY!



This month, we celebrate African Heritage Month, and the profound impact African cultures have had on the world.

The African Nova Scotian Heritage Month, themed "*Legacy In Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance*", highlights the living legacy of Black Nova Scotians, honouring the impact and perseverance of this long-standing community. It's a powerful reminder of the enduring strength and joy integral to the African Nova Scotian experience. A schedule of events follows later in this newsletter.

Keep reading for more updates on a variety of subjects of interest to residents of District 14 such as snow service standards, the Senior Snow Removal Program, Budget Committee meeting dates and much more!

*John*

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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 11 at 10 a.m.  
 Tuesday, February 25 at 10 a.m.

**North West Community Council:**  
 Monday, February 10 at 6 p.m.

**Standing Committees:**

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Thursday, February 6 at 10 a.m.
- Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Tuesday, February 18 at 10 a.m.
- Special Events Advisory Committee
- TBD

**DATES TO NOTE**

February is Black History Month/African Heritage Month.

- February 2 is Ground Hog Day
- February 4 is World Cancer Day
- February 14 is Valentine’s Day
- February 15 is National Flag Day
- February 17 is Nova Scotia Heritage Day
- February 20 is World Day of Social Justice
- February 26 is Pink Shirt / Anti-Bullying Day
- February 28 is the First Day of Ramadan

**AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH**



February is African Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich culture, achievements and contributions of African Nova Scotians and communities of African descent in our region and across the nation.

This year's provincial theme, *Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance*, highlights the living legacy of Black Nova Scotians, honouring the impact and perseverance of the long-standing community.

Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back over 400 years.

The Halifax Regional Municipality are committed to fostering safe and inclusive communities for all. Our African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office (ANSAIO) are committed to addressing anti-Black racism in our workplaces and communities with the [Anti-Black Racism Framework](#), the [African Descent Advisory Committee](#) advises Regional Council on the impact of municipal policies, programs and services for People of African Descent and we are sponsors of the [Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities](#), that encourages community efforts and provides a space for realizing future opportunities for all people of African descent.

This month, City Hall will be illuminated in black, green and red and the Pan-African flag will be displayed at some of our municipal buildings in honour of African Heritage Month. Take time to commemorate African Heritage this month by attending an [event](#) or checking out the [Halifax Public Library portal featuring programs that celebrate the African Nova Scotian community](#).

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## HERITAGE DAY

Celebrated the third Monday in February, Nova Scotia Heritage Day is an annual reminder of our storied past and an opportunity to honour

the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province's unique heritage.

This year's honouree is Nora Bernard, a Mi'kmaq activist for her community and First Nations across the country who was instrumental in ensuring justice, recognition and compensation for the survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. Learn more about Nora [here](#).

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## AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS HRM



### [Controlled Damage](#)

Neptune Theatre 1593 Argyle Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

The story of Civil Rights icon Viola Desmond. In this new production of *Controlled Damage*, Director Cherissa Richards, focuses on Viola Desmond's legacy as a trailblazing Black businesswoman and community leader, and

how her courage to fight racial segregation came at a deeply personal cost.

**February 2, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

**February 3, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

### [Preston Area Response to Trauma Conference](#)

NSCC Akerley Campus 21 Woodlawn Road, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada  
This conference will focus on the response to trauma as it affects the communities of the Preston Township. Culturally sensitive discussions led by culturally sensitive counsellors.

Free

**February 15, 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

### [The History of Motown Presented & Sung by Julia Tynes](#)

Cole Harbour Public Library 51 Forest Hills Parkway  
Celebrate African Heritage Month with an unforgettable journey through the legendary sounds of Motown! Join Julia Tynes, a local African Nova Scotian Pop/Soul singer-songwriter, as she performs iconic Motown hits.

Free

**February 15, 5:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.**

### [Black Cultural Centre - African Heritage Month Gala 2025](#)

Halifax Convention Centre 1650 Argyle Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
Gala Dinner with Reeny

**February 22, 6 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.**

## SACKVILLE SNOW DAYS



**GET READY TO HAVE SNOW MUCH FUN**

Sackville Snow Days returns for its 11th year

from February 14 – 17!

Whether you've been celebrating with us since the beginning or it's your first time participating, we can't wait for you to join in the frosty, fun-filled weekend. Expect family-friendly activities, contests, and exciting events for all ages.

Check out their [website](#) for details and a full schedule of events.

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## PINK SHIRT DAY



Wear a pink shirt on February 26 to promote a more kind, inclusive world and raise awareness

and funds for anti-bullying initiatives.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE



Notification of an upcoming  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE**  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, DROP IN ANYTIME BETWEEN  
4-8PM  
WALLACE LUCAS COMMUNITY CENTRE (596 LUCASVILLE RD)  
CASE 2023-01906:  
Application by UPLAND to amend an existing  
Development Agreement at 1200 Lucasville Road  
to allow for a campground use and formalized park  
entrance for the existing amusement park (Atlantic  
Splash Adventure). The open house will be a drop-in  
session, with no presentation. The applicant and HRM  
staff will be available to discuss the proposal. For more  
information, please contact the Planner (below). In the  
event of bad weather, we will be conducting Open House  
on February 20th.

MORE INFORMATION: [HALIFAX.CA/PLANNING/APPLICATIONS](https://www.halifax.ca/planning/applications)

**Project Contact**  
PLANNER: AASTHA PATEL  
t: 902-497-3622 e: [aastha.patel@halifax.ca](mailto:aastha.patel@halifax.ca)

HALIFAX

[halifax.ca](https://www.halifax.ca)

311

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](#).

## 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



## 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:

- 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](https://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](https://halifax.ca/budget).

## INCLUSION SUPPORT ADVISORY GROUP



We are looking for 8-12 people to make up the Inclusion Support Advisory Group, a volunteer team of residents from all over the region that will be responsible for leading the development of the Inclusion Support Analysis and Evaluation in Parks & Recreation ensuring that key priorities reflect the needs of the disability community.

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
- analyzing of data to determine key issues
- providing recommendations that will make up the final plan

Applications are open until Monday, March 3, 2025. Any questions about the inclusion support analysis or the advisory committee, please contact [inclusion@halifax.ca](mailto:inclusion@halifax.ca). To learn more or apply, visit our [website](#).

## HFXALERT



hfxALERT is the municipality's mass notification system for informing residents about emergencies and operations updates.

hfxALERT will send urgent and non-urgent notifications from Halifax Regional Police, Halifax Fire & Emergency's Emergency Management Division, as well as municipal winter parking ban notices. [Sign up for notifications](#) or [click here to download the mobile app](#).

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## 2024 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that campaign finance disclosure documentation for the 2024 Municipal and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial Election is now available on our [website](#).

Within 60 days of 2024 Municipal Election, every candidate was required to provide a *Statement of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures and Statement of Campaign Surplus* in accordance with [By-law C-1100 – Respecting Campaign Financing](#) and the Province of Nova Scotia's [Municipal Elections Act](#).

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## 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](mailto: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

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## 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. Halifax Water staff are investigating 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



Learn more about the Boil Water Advisory at [halifaxwater.ca](http://halifaxwater.ca)



## 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](#).

## 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).



## 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](#).

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## SUMMER JOB RECRUITMENT



Applications are now open for our summer casual positions in aquatics, inclusion and recreation programming. These positions are ideal for teenagers and students with a fun work college, competitive wages and opportunities to work outdoors in an environment that promotes health, wellness and physical activity.

For more information on dates and locations, as well as a list of job openings, visit our [website](#).

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## NEW MINIMUM PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

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.

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](#) to prioritize increasing housing supply.

To comply with the new regulations, the municipality is making changes to the [Regional Plan](#), as well as Community Plans and land use by-laws.

Check out the new requirements and submit your feedback in our online public engagement by Monday, February 24 [here](#).

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## 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](#).

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## 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.

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## WEAR RED DAY



Heart disease is the number one killer of women worldwide and the leading cause of premature death in Canadian women. Wear Red Canada Day (WRCD) is celebrated annually on February 13 to raise awareness about women's cardiovascular. I hope you will join me and wear red on February 13 for this significant day of awareness.

This national movement first WRDC occurred here in Halifax in 2018, sponsored by our Women's Heart Health Clinic. WRCD is

organized by the Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance (CWHHA), a volunteer group of clinicians, scientists, allied health care providers, and women with lived experience with heart disease from across Canada.

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

contacts, check out their [website](#).

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## SIGN UP FOR SHAPE YOUR CITY

Shape Your City is HRM's engagement hub. This online hub promotes community consultation activities such as open houses and town halls. It makes engagement programs like these more inclusive, accessible and makes it easier for you to share your opinions through tools like discussion forums, quick polls and surveys. I encourage you to sign up at the link [here](#).

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## 2024 RESIDENT SURVEY

2,029 residents responded to the 2024 Resident Survey in the fall and results were presented to Regional Council last month.

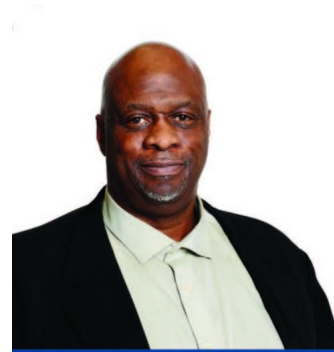
These surveys help to inform where Regional Council can focus our priorities to better serve our residents. Residents provided their feedback on what the top issues facing our municipality are, satisfaction with services and much more. You can check out the presentation [here](#) or the full staff report [here](#).

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## COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG



### Councillor John Young

#### District 14

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

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HALIFAX

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

## INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE



### “Just Be Yourself”

The more you live in someone else’s shadow,  
The harder it is for you to cast your own.

Ashe

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 Palmett at 902-490-2012 or [victoria.palmett@halifax.ca](mailto:victoria.palmett@halifax.ca)