

HRM & NS PROPERTY TAX PROGRAMS

HRM has a variety of programs to aid homeowners with their property tax obligations. There are various options for payment plans, property tax rebates, or deferral of property taxes (payment is put off to a future later date). A homeowner with a LIC – (local improvement charge) can also apply for a deferral of these charges. It is important that you know what choices exist. Some of these programs are available to homeowners with a combined household income of \$48,000 or less a year. The HRM application form can be found at: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/about-halifax/cc-affordableaccessprogrampdf-updated-2024.pdf>

The deadline to apply is December 31st each year for an exemption applied to the interim (mid-year) tax bill the following year. And apply again by August 15th each year for an exemption on your final taxbill.

Furthermore, seniors should know that there is a NS Provincial Property Tax Rebate for Seniors Program: This program is for those who have been receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement in January of the application year. Criteria requires you to have paid your property taxes from the prior year in full. A receipt from HRM showing property taxes are paid in full is required. Applicants to this program can receive a rebate on half of their taxes paid to a maximum of \$800. More details about this provincial program can be found by calling (902) 424-5200 or 211 or toll-free at 1-800-670-4357 or at any Access Nova Scotia Center.

<https://novascotia.ca/sns/access/individuals/consumer-awareness/property-tax-rebate-for-seniors.asp>
Deadline to apply is also December 31st. Application form can be downloaded from:

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2-1781/property-tax-rebate-seniors-application-form-en.pdf>

RCMP & BODY WORN CAMERAS

Starting back in mid-November, the Nova Scotia RCMP have issued body-worn cameras (BWCs) to officers across the province. The cameras will be issued to 600 RCMP officers across the province in a phased approach over the next six to eight months. These BWCs can help build trust between the police and the community because the video evidence collected provides an independent, unbiased, and objective way to capture interactions. RCMP officers will typically wear their BWCs on their chests; members of the public will know they're recording when a red light is visible and flashing below the lens of the camera. BWCs will be complemented by a digital evidence management system that will be used to store and manage video captured by the cameras. The use of BWCs will also improve evidence collection and help resolve public complaints more quickly with actual recordings of the interaction between officers and civilians.

2025 VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

HRM is advising residents that applications have opened for the 2025 Volunteer Awards. Every year, the municipality recognizes the extraordinary contributions of outstanding individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in

their communities. The annual Volunteer Awards put a spotlight on the residents who volunteer in our region. There are three categories open for applications: Youth, Adult and Group. The award recipients will be announced at the 2025 Volunteer Awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 30th. This coincides with National Volunteer Week. The application period closes on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025 at 5 PM. More details can be found on our website: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/volunteering/volunteer-awards>
If you have any questions, please reach out to volunteerhelp@halifax.ca

LAKEWATCHERS REPORT 2022-23

Regional Council was given a "State of the Lakes" Report back on November 12th that provided an in-depth analysis of the 2022-23 LakeWatchers program, which was initiated to monitor the water quality of 73 lakes in HRM. In District 2 the following lakes were part of this study: Lake Echo, Porters Lake (4 sections) Petpeswick Lake, Pine Lake, Scots Lake and Lake Charlotte. The report outlines the key findings of the LakeWatchers Program related to the current baseline conditions of the lakes, focusing on eutrophication, chloride enrichment, and bacterial contamination. The LakeWatchers Program actively engages and involves community groups and volunteers in water quality monitoring, setting it apart from a previous municipal water quality monitoring program (2006-2011) which relied solely on consultants. The LakeWatchers program was launched in the spring of 2022. The number of lakes in which community groups and volunteers have participated has grown to include 30 of 73 lakes as of August 2023. Residents can participate by collecting data for a local lake. If you live on or near one of the 73 lakes selected for the program, HRM encourages you to start a LakeWatchers Monitoring Team to collect water quality samples. Please contact the Program Coordinator Chris Kennedy, 902-476-1853 or by email at water@halifax.ca to find out more about roles and expectations of LakeWatcher Monitoring Teams and when the next round of training and sampling will take place. More info at: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/environment-climate-change/lakes-rivers/lakewatchers>

Here is a link to the 2022-23 report:

<https://pub-halifax.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=441>

Here is a link to the Council presentation:

<https://pub-halifax.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=442>

INT'L HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - DEC.10th

We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. Human rights are inherent to all human beings, no matter our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. Learn what your human rights are, as well as your responsibilities. It has now been 76 years since the United Nations made the UN Declaration of Human Rights. www.standup4humanrights.org

VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

The Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) is a self-referral list for HRM residents who may require support during emergency situations. The VVPR provides important information to Emergency Management staff, volunteers and first responders to help appropriately respond to resident needs in situations such as sustained power outages, severe storms, and more. The Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry is for residents without 24-hour support who experience severe difficulty with any of the following: mobility, vision impairment, hearing impairment, developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment, mental health conditions, or any resident who requires electricity for life-sustaining equipment such as oxygen, dialysis, etc. The VVPR is not for all residents. Those receiving 24-hour support or homecare aide, in long-term care or supportive housing facilities are not eligible. Residents under the age of 18 with intensive needs that require electricity for life-sustaining equipment may be considered for the program. Registering for the VVPR is voluntary and easy and starts by completing an intake form at: <https://www.halifax.ca/form/vvpr> or call 311 to get started. More details at www.halifax.ca/vvpr

HFXALERT NOTIFICATIONS

hfxALERT is the municipality's mass notification system for informing residents about emergencies and operational updates. hfxALERT will send urgent and non-urgent notifications. You must sign up with hfxALERT to receive certain notifications. This will ensure the municipality can reach you to share important information quickly based on set locations, such as your home or workplace. Residents can sign up for notifications via the HRM website at www.halifax.ca/hfxalert

GOODWILL & PEACE ON EARTH

My wife Susan and I want to wish everyone the very best of this Holiday Season. During this joyful time of year there are many types of spiritual and cultural celebrations: Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noel, Season's Greetings, Happy Hanukkah, Al Hijra, and Kwanza. The message of 'Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All' is universal. Have yourself a blessed time with family, friends and neighbours. May we all strive to have peace, tranquillity and harmony in our daily lives. Remember those who may be less fortunate or are experiencing hardship and despair. Please give to your local food bank. Or better yet, give the gift of life and donate blood. May we all be blessed with good health and happiness throughout the New Year ahead!

Merry Christmas



Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor-Counciller municipal-Comhairlaiche-Wunaqapeme'
District 2: Lawrencetown-The Lakes-Chezzetcook-Eastern Shore

Railway Museum – #7895 Highway #7
P.O. Box 2, Musquodoboit Harbour, NS, B0J 2L0

1841 Argyle Street, Councillor's Support, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5

Office Phone: 902.889.2448
Cell Phone: 902.483.0705
City Hall: 902.490.4050
Fax: 902.829.3620

david.hendsbee@halifax.ca
David.hendsbee.ns.ca@gmail.com
www.hendsbee.ns.ca
[@david_hendsbee](https://www.facebook.com/david.hendsbee)
[facebook.com/david.hendsbee](https://www.facebook.com/david.hendsbee)

311

902.490.4000
TTY: 902.490.6645
TTY Toll Free:
1.866.236.0020
Toll-Free:1.800.835.6428