

WELCOME MARCH!



March is <u>Irish Heritage</u> month and <u>Francophonie</u> month with March 20 being <u>Francophonie Day</u>.

1922 the House of Commons designated March as Irish

Heritage Month to celebrate the contribution of Irish Canadians to Canada's story .

Canada has worked actively within the international Francophonie since its inception and was one of the first countries to promote La Francophonie.

Keep reading for more information on recreation registration dates, recreation fee changes, transit service changes and much more!

To discuss a municipal program or service, please contact me at:

Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca or 902.579.6746.

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MARCH MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held on:

Budget Committee:

Wednesday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council:

Tuesday, March 18 at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 25 at 10 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Monday, March 17 at 6 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council:

Wednesday, March 26 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Monday, March 24 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

Thursday, March 27 at 1 p.m.

• Transportation Advisory Committee

Please confirm dates and times on our municipal website as they are subject to change.

DID YOU KNOW...

March is Irish Heritage month and Francophonie month.

March 1 - start of Ramadan

March 1 is World Candle Day

March 2025

March 1 is World Music Therapy Day

March 2 is World Teen Mental Wellness Day

March 3 is World Wildlife Day

March 3 is World Hearing Day

March 4 is Shrove Tuesday

March 4 is Mardi Gras

March 5 is Ash Wednesday

March 7 is World Plant Power Day

March 8 is International Women's Day

March 9 Daylight Saving Time Starts

March 11 Canadian Women Physicians Day

March 13 is World Kidney Day

March 14 is Pi Day

March 14 is Commonwealth Day

March 15 is International Day to Combat

Islamophobia

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day

March 19 International Read to Me Day

March 20 is World Oral Health Day

March 20 is French Language Day

March 20 is First Day of Spring

March 21 is International Day for the

Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21 is International Day of Forests

March 22 is World Water Day

March 26 is Purple Day

March 27 is World Theatre Day

March 29 is Earth Hour

March 30 is Last Day of Ramadan

March 31 is International Transgender Day of Visibility

March 31 is National Indigenous Languages
Day







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RAMADAN 2025: A HOLY MONTH OF GRATITUDE!



This year, the holy month of Ramadan begins at the first sighting of the crescent

Moon on Saturday, March 1.

In practicing the self-restraint and gratitude that Ramadan involves, adult Muslims fast from dawn until dusk at this time and exhibit goodwill through acts of kindness and charity.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon. Ramadan is expected to last from March 1 to March 29 in 2025. However, these dates can vary slightly depending on the crescent moon's appearance.

Ramadan Mubarak - Blessed Ramadan!

BUDGET 2025/26



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, March 19

Budget Adjustment List (BAL) Review: The BAL includes all additional items that business units have presented beyond their proposed budgets, including add-ons ("overs") and subtractions ("unders").

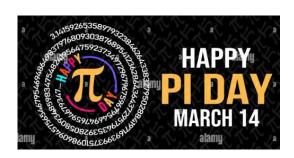
Tuesday, April 8

Budget Approval.

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

Residents will have the opportunity to <u>speak</u> <u>directly to the Budget Committee</u> 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>.





DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



When local standard time is about to reach 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9, clocks are turned forward one hour to 3 a.m. Sunday, March 9 local daylight time instead. Sunrise and sunset will be about one hour later on March 9 than the day before. There will be more light in the evening and less light in the morning.

RECREATION REGISTRATION DATES



Ready to get active?

There are 1000s of recreation programs and services

to help you and your family play, learn, move and stay active.

It's as easy as R-E-C!

Registration dates for Spring 2025: Wednesday, March 5 beginning at 10 a.m. for Recreation Programs Thursday, March 6 beginning at 10 a.m. for Swimming & Skating

Monday, April 14 beginning at 10 a.m. for Summer Camps

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY -MARCH 8



International Women's Day 2025

The Government of Canada's theme for International Women's Day 2025 is Strength In Every Story. This year's theme highlights the importance of amplifying the voices of all women, particularly those who continue to face barriers to success.

This International Women's Day, celebrate the women and girls in your life and share their stories. Click here for more information on local events that celebrate womanhood.

SIGNAL OPERATIONS CHANGE OF **DUNBRACK AND WILLETT STREETS**



The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents of changes to signal operations at

March 2025

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the intersection of Dunbrack and Willett streets.

The intersection now operates with fully protected left turns from the Dunbrack Street approaches, meaning motorists can no longer turn left without the flashing green left arrow. On the green arrow, drivers are given the right-of-way to complete left turns free of any other traffic or pedestrian conflicts. The amber arrow warns drivers that the left-turn phase is ending. Once the red ball is displayed on the left turn signal heads, motorists waiting to execute the left-turn movement must wait for the green arrow display during the next cycle.

This change resulted from in-service safety assessments of the intersection which recommended fully protected left turn phasing as an option to address potential left turn conflict with pedestrians and with other vehicles.

This change supports the municipality's <u>Road</u> <u>Safety Strategy</u>, which aims to reduce fatal and injury collisions on municipal roadways.

For more information about the Road Safety Strategy and other road safety countermeasures, visit halifax.ca/roadsafety.

LANE CLOSURE - ROBIE STREET



Location:

Robie Street between Bell Road and Veterans Memorial Lane (northbound only)

Date:

Tuesday, February 18 to Wednesday, March 26

Time: 24/7

Work details:

This lane closure is due to expansion of the encroachment on Robie Street to support the development of the QEII Halifax Infirmary Expansion Project.

Traffic impact:

Two lanes of northbound traffic will be closed. Left turns from Robie Street onto Quinpool Road will not be permitted for northbound traffic. Southbound traffic will not be impacted.

The following crosswalks at the intersection of Robie Street, Bell Road, Quinpool Road will be closed:

- Bell Road
- Robie Street south

Pedestrians are asked to use alternative crosswalks to navigate around the intersection.



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EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY



Employee
Appreciation Day is a day dedicated to recognizing and expressing gratitude for the hard work, dedication, and

contributions of employees within an organization.

Celebrated annually on the first Friday in March, this day serves as an opportunity for employers to show appreciation and acknowledge the efforts of their staff.

Thank you to those serving our municipality. Your work assists in making our communities thrive and a better place to live, work and play!

MARCH 10 TO 14 - SPRING BREAK



The Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) notes that March 10 to 14 is spring break, a time when no classes will be held.

Check the <u>Halifax Central Library</u> website for events planned during the week of March Break. Also check your local community recreation centres for events/activites: <u>St. Andrew's Community Centre</u> or <u>Chocolate Lake Community Centre</u> and don't forget the <u>Emera Oval!</u>

HALIFAX PARTNERSHIP - LOCAL BUSINESS SURVEY

HALIFAX PARTNERSHIP

<u>Halifax Partnership</u> wants to hear from local businesses in HRM.

As part of their commitment to support businesses throughout HRM, they are gathering insights to better understand business challenges and growth opportunities. Your feedback will help to shape and improve supports and resources for local businesses. Halifax Partnership asks that you take their short 5-minute survey delivered in partnership with CBDC Blue Water.

Submit your responses before 11:59 pm on March 23 to be eligible to win a prize.

Click <u>here</u> to take the survey.



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SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY



We want to make sure you're getting municipal updates where you're most active online. Take this short <u>survey</u> (less than 10 minutes) and help us understand your experience with social media and how you choose to get information about municipal services in HRM.

The survey closes at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 10.



HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES



Halifax Transit <u>service changes</u>, effective as of February 24, are part of Halifax Transit's <u>2024/25 Annual Service Plan</u>, approved by Regional Council on April 23, 2024. These service changes also include the latest installment of the <u>Moving Forward Together Plan (MFTP)</u>, Halifax Transit's long-term plan to better align the transit network with the needs of the municipality's residents now and into the future. Approved by Halifax Regional Council in 2016, the plan initiated a complete network redesign of Halifax Transit's service.

Q: Why are there 25 trips being reinstated?

A: In February 2023, Halifax Transit announced ongoing service reductions due to staffing challenges. With these service changes, 25 previously cancelled trips on 11 routes will be reinstated, with four of these routes returning to full service, on Feb. 24.

Q: How can I find out more information about the changes?

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A: Visit our website for up-to-date changes to routes and schedules, including maps.

Q: Was there any consultation to inform these changes?

A: Halifax Transit regularly tracks route performance to improve service quality and ontime performance. Halifax Transit presents an Annual Service Plan as part of the public budget and business planning process. This includes opportunities for public input. Halifax Transit also receives feedback from residents through 311 and from Regional Council to determine where improvements can be made. The changes taking effect on Feb. 24 for Route 196 are part of the Moving Forward Together Plan, Halifax Transit's long-term plan to better align the transit network with the needs of residents now and into the future, which included extensive public consultation. To view recent reports on Halifax Transit services, visit our website.

Q: Will trip planning apps (ex. Google Maps, Transit App) provide new route and scheduling information by Feb. 24?

A: Yes, service changes coming into effect Feb. 24 will be reflected in trip planning apps. In addition, routing changes and new bay assignments associated with the re-opening of Scotia Square terminal in December 2024 will be reflected in trip planning apps. While Halifax Transit provides transit data for public use, the municipality does not have a standalone trip planning app.

Q: When was the last service change to Halifax Transit?

A: The last service changes came into effect November 18, 2024.

COMMUNITY GARDEN APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 30



Interested in starting a community garden? Applications for 2025 are now open and will close on March 30.

Community gardens can include vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers, native and/or ornamental plants established and operated within existing municipal regulations, by-laws and assessments.

To review the program handbook or to fill out the fillable online forms, click <u>here</u>.



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COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Community Grants Program

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

Applications deadline: March 31, 2025.

The program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region.

There are two types of grants: a project grant of up to \$5,000 **OR** a capital grant of up to \$25,000.

Applicants should review the Program Guidebook prior to submitting an application. First time applicants are encouraged to contact staff prior to submitting an application.

Email:

NonProfitGrants@halifax.ca

Staff contact:

Peter Greechan | Community Developer, Grants and Contributions 902.497.0479 | greechp@halifax.ca.



March 2025

EXTRA CARE ACCESSIBLE TAXI SERVICE



Halifax Regional
Municipality supports an
accessible taxi service, Extra
Care Taxi, that operates
vehicles 24 hours a day, 7
days a week across the

municipality. Passengers pay the standard taxi rate for trips.

Bookings can be made by phone at 902.334.0334, <u>online</u>, or through the <u>Extra Care Taxi App</u>, found at the Google Play store or the Apple Store.

In March 2022, Regional Council <u>approved a</u> <u>staff recommendation</u> to grant a three-year contract to Extra Care Taxi. The municipality's support for an accessible taxi service is based on feedback from:

- Residents and visitors citing the lack of accessible vehicles, making spontaneous trips a challenge.
- Service providers about the high costs of providing accessible taxi services.
- The municipality's Accessibility
 Strategy, which mandates the creation
 of an inclusive environment for
 individuals with disabilities and
 acknowledges the need to create
 accessibility for all, regardless of
 ability.



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LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY TRAINING



Starting this spring, Neighbourhood & Volunteer Services (NVS) will offer a wide selection of FREE 101-level workshops for residents.

Check out the new <u>training catalogue</u> and the spring 2025 workshop schedule.

PARKS & RECREATION FEES CHANGING APRIL 1



In 2022, changes to the Parks & Recreation fee structure for

recreation programs, services, rentals, drop-ins March 2025

and membership fees were announced. In accordance with the five-year fee structure changes, Parks & Recreation fees, including membership fees, will be increasing effective April 1, 2025.

The fee changes will provide more clarity and predictability for residents:

- New user categories will be based on the age group and type of organization.
- Consistent subsidization for fee categories. For example, the fee structure will ensure all youth programs across the municipality receive the same subsidy.
- Reduced risk of unexpected fee increases. The new fee structure accounts for inflation, helping to reduce unexpected and potentially significant fee increases.
- Predictable five-year review cycle. New requirement to review fee structure every five years.
- No user charge for Parks that are rented for public events that are open to the public, non-exclusive and free of charge.
- Overall standardization, consistency and transparency of fees across the municipality.

If you have any questions regarding how the Parks and Recreation fee changes will affect you, please email myREC@halifax.ca.



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RECREATION FUNDING ACCESS PROGRAM







Affordable access program
Learn about the Affordable Access Program

The Funding
Access Program
provides
recreation
opportunities to
children, youth

and adults in financial need. Depending on the need, the cost of recreation programs could be 50% or 100% covered by the program.

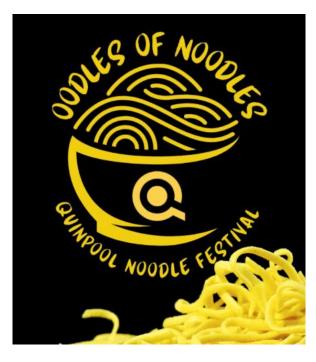
All Halifax Recreation programs are eligible except private swim lessons, birthday parties, third-party programs, and rentals.

Proof of financial need must accompany <u>your</u> <u>application</u>. You must include the following as applicable to your application request.

- <u>Canada Child Benefit Statement</u> for children and youth under 18 years of age
- Notice of Assessment for individuals 18 years of age and over
 - o Sample Notice of Assessment
- Letter from the <u>Department of</u> <u>Community Services</u>

If you are applying to the Affordable Access Program and would like to provide feedback, please fill out and submit our <u>Feedback Survey</u>.

OODLES OF NOODLES ON QUIINPOOL



A Food Event for everyone who LOVES Noodles... and who doesn't love noodles!

Oodles of Noodles is the only celebration of noodles in town and it's happening on Quinpool Road from Wednesday, March 5 to Tuesday, March 11. Everyone is invited to discover all the tasty noodle dishes that the chefs on Quinpool have created. Visit for lunch, supper or even late night and enjoy these noodle creations... slurping encouraged!

NEW DATA SETS ON OPEN DATA

The Halifax Regional Municipality has released one new dataset on <u>Open Data</u>, as part of an ongoing commitment to provide public access

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to data created and managed by the municipality.

PPL&C Inspections The new datasets include:

The addition of this dataset brings the total number of Open Data datasets to 255.

As well, the following datasets have been updated with more current information:

Cityworks Work Orders

The dataset is being updated to include two additional fields: Work Order Cause and Work Order Resolution.

Legacy Building Permits

A new field, titled Certificate of Occupancy, will be incorporated into this dataset. This addition aims to assist external agencies in identifying when the occupancy permit has been issued.

PPL&C Halifax Water Permits

Two new fields will be added to the dataset, titled Net New Residential Units and Net New Commercial Space. These additions will enable external agencies to access essential information regarding units.

PPL&C Halifax Water Permits Geolocated -

Two new fields will be added to the dataset, titled Net New Residential Units and Net New Commercial Space. These additions will enable external agencies to access essential information regarding units.

<u>Traffic Calming Assessments</u> - A new field is being added to this dataset called Assessment

Year, to identify the year the speed assessment was conducted.

A wide range of data can be sourced for free through the catalogue, such as transit routes and schedule data, solid waste collection schedules, and area rates. New data releases occur several times throughout the year, with the most recent release on Nov. 27, 2024.

The Open Data initiative was launched in early 2014 to help improve resident engagement and enhance transparency on municipal data. The program was formalized by Regional Council later that year through the adoption of <u>Administrative Order 2014-006-ADM</u>
<u>Respecting Open Data</u>.

For more information on the municipality's Open Data program, and to access all the datasets, click <u>here</u>.

ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY APPROVED



Halifax Regional
Council has
approved the
2025/28
Accessibility

<u>Strategy</u>, representing an important step in our continued commitment to a more accessible region.

The 2025/28 Accessibility Strategy focuses on how we can improve accessibility throughout the municipality by identifying, removing and

March 2025



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preventing barriers for persons with disabilities.

In line with the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act, the 2025/28 Accessibility Strategy has 30 recommendations with five key focus areas:

- Transportation and Transportation Infrastructure
- Built Environment
- Information and Communications
- Goods and Services
- Employment

Through deliberate and conscious planning and with this strategy as our guide, the municipality will work diligently to make our municipality a more inclusive place. For more information, click here to read the staff report.

COMMUNITY MEDIATION PROJECT



I'm excited to share that Regional Council has approved funding for a

<u>Community Mediation Projec</u>t established to promote public safety, improve community wellbeing and further the civilian delivery of non-core policing functions.

Trained community mediators can help neighbours, relatives, and others resolve conflicts peacefully. Staff propose a one-year community mediation pilot (with the possibility of year-by-year renewals).

Once approved in the 2025 Operating Budget, Council has directed the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a contribution of \$100,000 to the United Way of Halifax to create and implement this pilot program.

For more information, read the staff report.

ANTI-BLACK RACISM GRANTS PROGRAM



Regional Council has approved funding for 13 projects under the 2024 <u>Anti-Black Racism</u> <u>Grants Program</u>.

The Halifax Regional Municipality's Anti-Black Racism Grants Program offers project-specific funding to eligible registered non-profit organizations and charities within the municipality. Grants range from \$500 to \$10,000 and focus on five key categories:

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- 1. Racial segregation
- 2. Historic omission
- 3. Lack of recognition
- 4. Systemic expropriation
- Negative portrayal in media and literature.

Out of 28 submissions, 13 projects were selected for their strong commitment to addressing systemic challenges faced by Black communities while aligning with the municipality's commitment to equity and inclusion.

For more information, read the staff report.

HALIFAX WATER



Between 2019 and 2049, Halifax Water plans to invest about \$4 billion to upgrade infrastructure to ensure the continued delivery of high-quality water, wastewater and stormwater services to benefit customers and the environment.

To see a list of major Halifax Water projects, click here.

24-Hour Emergency Service

Call 902-420-9287 for water, sewer, and flooding emergencies.

Customer Care Centre

902-420-9287

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Email: <u>customercare@halifaxwater.ca</u> (please allow up to three business days for a reply)

Head Office Address

Mailing Address

450 Cowie Hill Road Halifax, NS Halifax Water
PO Box 8388, RPO CSC
Halifax, NS
B3K 5M1

Head Office Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

As a regulated public utility, <u>Halifax Water</u> must conduct business in accordance with the Halifax Water Regulations as approved by the <u>Nova Scotia Utility and Review</u> <u>Board</u>. These can be used to help you determine if we have applied an approved practice.

Halifax Water will respond to concerns and complaints about:

- Billing
- Metering and meter reading
- Application of standard charges
- Misuse of water resources, sanitary, or stormwater systems
- Halifax Water staff or service delivery

Formal complaints can be sent to: Halifax Water Complaints Department P.O. Box 8388, RPO CSC Halifax, NS B3K 5M1



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Email: <u>customercare@halifaxwater.ca</u>.

If you are not happy with Halifax Water's response, you may make an appeal to the <u>Dispute Resolution Officer</u> (DRO).

The Dispute Resolution Officer is an independent officer (not an employee of Halifax Water or the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board) who manages regulation-based customer issues.

PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Below are the provincial Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and federal Members of Parliament (MPs) representatiing District 9 and surrounding areas.

PROVINCIAL MLAs



Krista Gallagher Halifax Chebucto 208 Quinpool Road, Suite 102 Halifax

Phone: <u>902-454-8365</u>

E-mail: KristaGallagherMLA@gmail.com



Halifax Needham
Suite 1000 - 6080
Young St. Halifax

Suzy Hansen

March 2025

Phone: 902-455-7300

E-mail: suzyhalifaxneedham@gmail.com



Lisa Lachance Halifax Citadel – Sable Island

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E-mail: <u>LisaLachanceMLA@gmail.com</u>



Brendan Maguire Halifax Atlantic

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Phone: 902-444-0147 Fax: 902-444-8941

E-mail: brendan@brendanmaguire.ca



Rod Wilson Halifax Armdale

2625 Joseph Howe Drive, Suite 21 Halifax

Phone: <u>902-493-0221</u>

E-

mail: info@rodwilsonmla.ca



HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

FEDERAL MP's



Lena Metlege Diab Halifax West

401-3845 Joseph Howe Drive Halifax

Phone: 902-426-2217 Fax: 902-426-8339 Centre Community Council and the following boards & committees:

- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Chain of Lakes Trail Association Board of Directors
- Halifax Partnership Board of Directors
- Transportation Standing Committee

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Rick Perkins South Shore – St. Margarets

517 King St Bridgewater

Phone: 902-527-5655 Fax: 902-527-5656

COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY



I am a member of Halifax Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council, Regional

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.

