



COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG

DISTRICT 14 NEWSLETTER

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

WELCOME MARCH

Welcome to our March e-newsletter!

As we step into a new month, the promise of spring brings fresh energy and inspiration.

This month, we celebrate Francophonie Month, honouring the richness of French language and cultural heritage of Canada and around the globe. The French language, its diversity, and the richness it brings are an integral part of Canada’s historical heritage.

I am excited to share updates and information. Let’s embrace the season of growth together.

Enjoy the read!

John

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Standing Committees:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Thursday, March 6 at 10 a.m.
- Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Monday, March 24 at 10 a.m.
- Special Events Advisory Committee
- TBD

DATES TO NOTE

February is Francophonie Month.
 International Women’s Day – March 8
 Ramadan - March 1 – March 29

MARCH MEETING DATES

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

Regional Council, Budget Committee and Northwest 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. – **Contingency**

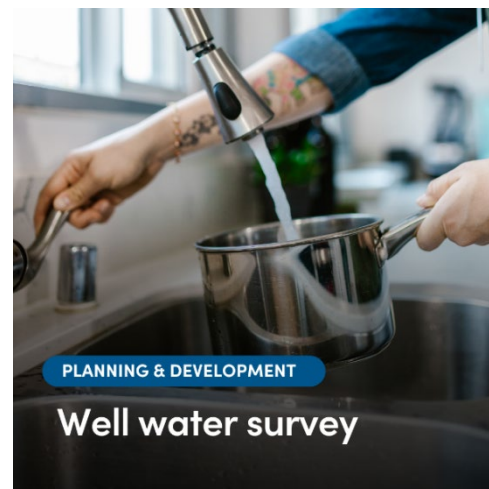
Regional Council:

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

North West Community Council:

Monday, March 3 at 6 p.m.

SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY



The municipality is inviting residents to participate in a survey about private wells as part of a rural groundwater assessment study.



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Your input will help us understand potential impacts and risks on well water quantity and quality. This data will support resilient rural growth by informing decisions on development density and climate adaptation.

Take the survey to help shape a sustainable future for the municipality's rural communities: halifax.ca/surveys

RAMADAN 2025: A HOLY MONTH OF GRATITUDE



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

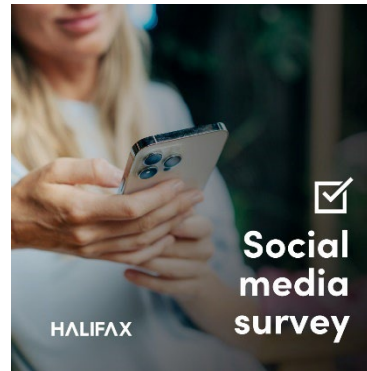
In practicing the self-restraint and gratitude that Ramadan involves, adult Muslims fast from dawn until dusk at this time and exhibit goodwill through acts of kindness and charity.

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 until March 29 in 2025. However, dates can vary slightly depending on the crescent moon's appearance.

Ramadan Mubarak – Blessed Ramadan!

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SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY



Social media is constantly evolving, and the municipality is looking to better understand where residents are most active.

By completing a short survey (will take less than 10 minutes), you can help ensure we're sharing municipal information and engaging with you, and other residents, in the most effective way.

The survey will remain open until Monday, March 10, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.

[Take Survey](https://halifax.ca/surveys)

FRANCOPHONIE MONTH



March is Francophonie Month, celebrating the French language and diverse Francophone cultures through cultural activities held worldwide.



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March 20 has been observed worldwide as International Francophonie Day since 1988. The date commemorates the establishment of the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, the precursor to the [International Organization of La Francophonie](#), the organization representing countries and regions where French is the first or customary language.

Today, with 300 million speakers worldwide, French is the fifth most spoken language in the world; La Francophonie has 88 member states and governments.

You can learn more about the valuable role the Acadian and Francophone population plays in contributing to the cultural, social and economic development in our region by joining celebrations throughout the month! Visit <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/diversity-inclusion/french-services/francophonie-month> for more information as event details are finalized.

GRANT TO ADDRESS SYSTEMATIC RACISM

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

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:

1. Racial segregation
2. Historic omission
3. Lack of recognition

4. Systemic expropriation
5. 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](#).

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



March 8 is International Women's Day (IWD). It's a global day to recognize and celebrate women's and girls' social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. It's also a time to highlight the progress made in advancing women's rights and the ongoing efforts needed to ensure their full participation in all aspects of society.

International Women's Day 2025 theme

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. Creating opportunities for women and girls unlocks their potential and drives innovation,



supports Canada's economy, and helps ensure a sustainable future for all.

Every woman's story is a testament to resilience, determination, and the power of opportunity. This International Women's Day, celebrate the women and girls in your life and share their stories.

BUDGET AND BUSINESS PLANNING SESSIONS



The Halifax Regional Municipality has begun the 2025/26 municipal budget process with the tabling of a preliminary \$1.3 billion operating budget and a \$318.8 million 2025/26 Capital Plan.

Every year, Regional Council approves a Budget and Business Plan and a Capital Plan. These documents represent the annual municipal budget, which funds all costs associated with servicing a growing municipality.

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This includes day-to-day municipal operations (e.g. transit, police, fire, garbage collection, snow clearing), capital priority initiatives approved by Regional Council (e.g. HalifACT, Cogswell District project, Integrated Mobility Plan) – as well as capital projects and investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace municipal assets like buildings, roads, active transportation, parks and bridges.

The 2025/26 municipal budget is a transitional budget. It will be the first budget under the recently elected Regional Council and the final budget of the 2021-25 Strategic Priorities Plan. It will reflect the previous Council's decisions and strategic priorities – balancing the continuity of services while adapting to emerging needs and challenges, including the future priorities to be determined by the current Council in the 2026-30 Strategic Priorities Plan.

The region continues to see rapid population growth, which results in increased demand on municipal services. In addition, the threat of US tariffs on trade, the continued rise of inflation creates a challenging fiscal environment, faced by many jurisdictions.

To accommodate this, Council must balance the need for new infrastructure and maintaining existing municipal assets.

Over the coming weeks, each business unit will present their 2025/26 budget and business plans. During each meeting, time will be set aside for members of the public to provide insight and comments – both in-person and virtually. For more information or to register as a speaker, email the Municipal Clerk's Office at clerks@halifax.ca or call 902-490-4210.

In mid-March, the Budget Committee will review the Budget Adjustment List, or BAL. This



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includes all additional items that business units have presented beyond their proposed budgets, including add-ons and subtractions.

In April, Regional Council will approve the final version of the 2025/26 Budget and Business Plan and Capital Plan.

For more information about the 2025/26 municipal budget and the schedule for business unit presentations, visit halifax.ca/budget.

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, 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 [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.

AFRICADIAN EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY – AGM



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The Board and Management of the Africadian Empowerment Academy (AEA) invite you to our **2025 Annual General Meeting**.

This year's theme, "**Black Women in Skilled Trades: Celebrating Resilience and Achievement**," highlights the invaluable contributions, resilience, and successes of Black women in skilled trades. The event will feature an engaging panel discussion, offering insights into their experiences, challenges, and opportunities in the sector. Our goal is to inspire, educate, and foster meaningful connections.

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](#)

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 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



RCMP ROAD SAFETY STATS

RCMP ROAD SAFETY STATS
 January 2025, District 14
 Hammonds Plains - Upper Hammonds Plains - Lucasville - Middle & Upper Sackville

- 655 Calls for Service in January 2025 (up 8.3% from January 2024)
- 27 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 19 in January 2024)
 - 4 Speeding
 - 7 Aggressive Driving
 - 16 Other MVA (No Insurance, Unlicensed Driver, Unregistered Vehicle, etc.)
- 176 Proactive Assignments (vs. 246 in January 2024)
 - 36 Cell Phone/Impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding Checkpoints/Radar Enforcements
- 140 Traffic Stops (vs. 93 in January 2024)
 - 4 Impaired Driving Charges (vs. 5 in January 2024)
 - 3 Impaired Driving Suspension (vs. 1 in January 2024)
- 39 Motor Vehicle Accidents (same as January 2024)
 - 32 Non-Injury, 7 Injury
- 0 Vehicle/Pedestrian/Cyclist Accidents (same as January 2024)

Please Drive Safely!

- 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, read the [staff report](#).

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.

ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY



Halifax Regional Council has approved the 2025/28 Accessibility Strategy, 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 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:



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](#).

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](#).

COMMUNITY GARDEN APPLICATIONS OPEN



Interested in starting a community garden? Applications for 2025 are now open and will close on March 30. To review the program handbook and fill out the fillable online forms, visit <http://halifax.ca/CommunityGardens>.

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](#).

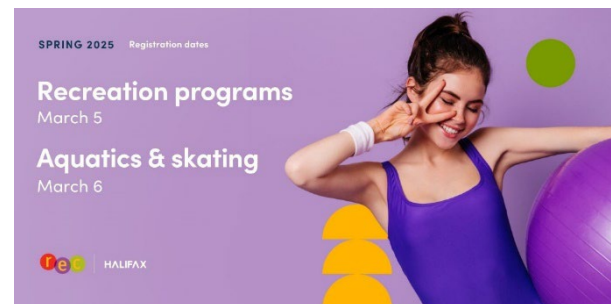
SUMMER JOB RECRUITMENT



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](#).

RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION



Mark your calendars! Spring 2025 recreation program registration starts on March 5 and 6. To preview upcoming program PDFs, visit halifax.ca/myREC to see what's available in your community.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. each day for all ages:

Wednesday, March 5 – recreation programs

Thursday, March 6 – aquatic and skating programs



REC FEES CHANGING



Parks and Recreation fees are changing on April 1, 2025.

In 2022, changes to the Parks & Recreation fee structure for recreation programs, services, rentals, drop-ins 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 also 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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REC FEES CHANGING

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.

To qualify, you must:

Live in HRM

Show proof of financial need

Apply before registering for a program

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

Proof of financial need must accompany [your application](#). You must include the following as applicable to your application request.

[Canada Child Benefit Statement](#) for children and youth under 18 years of age

[Notice of Assessment](#) for individuals 18 years of age and over

[Sample Notice of Assessment](#)

Letter from the [Department of Community Services](#)

If you are applying to the Affordable Access Program and would like to provide feedback, please fill out and submit our [Feedback Survey](#).

NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CATALOGUE



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

Check out the new training catalogue and the spring 2025 workshop schedule at:
<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/volunteering/leadership-community-training-opportunities>

STREAMING COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Regional Council is 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.

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](#).

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH GALA 2025



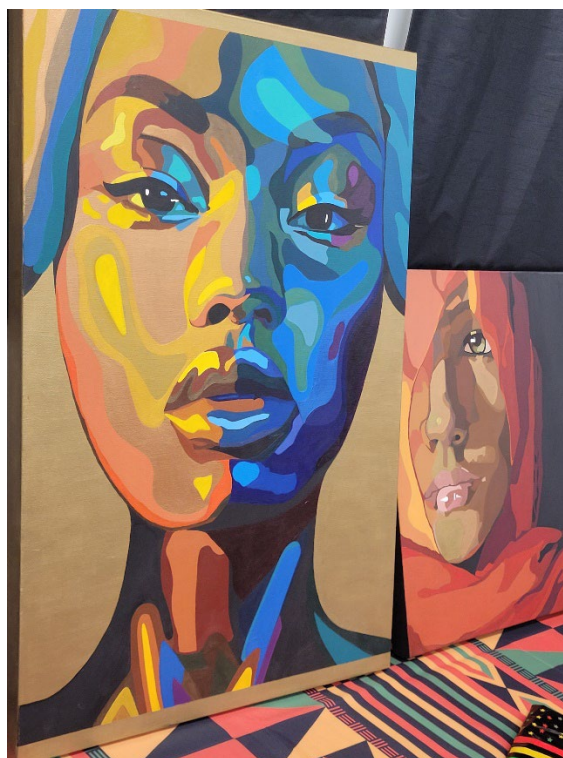


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AHM WALLACE LUCAS COMMUNITY CENTRE – YOUTH EVENT





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AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH BLACK JOY EVENT



BLACK FILM FESTIVAL





COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG

**WALLACE LUCAS COMMUNITY
 CENTRE**



Councillor Young presenting a cheque to Shauna Oliver, Chair, Wallace Lucas Community Centre, in support of the African Heritage Month Community Breakfast and African Heritage Month Youth Celebration events.



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 Hammonds Plains, Upper Hammonds
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902.943.9241
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 Halifax Regional Municipality
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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.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE



**“Words to Live
 By”**

It is only impossible,

Until it is done.

Nelson Mandela

MAILING LIST

If you would like to have e-newsletters sent directly to your inbox, please contact my Council Constituency Coordinator Victoria Palmeter at 902-490-2012 or victoria.palmer@halifax.ca