



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEELE

Happy March, District 12!

We are only a few weeks away from spring and I'm sure we are all looking forward to longer and warmer days. I encourage you to get outside and enjoy our many municipal parks and trails.

March Break will be here soon, and I hope that all of our families will take some time to make memories that will fill their spirits and re-energize their batteries.

If you are aware of an upcoming community event taking place in District 12, please feel free to reach out and let me know. I am always happy to support community events and I can advertise these during regional council meetings during the community announcements portion.

As we head into spring and the snow begins to melt, please make sure to notify 311 as soon as possible if you notice any property damage due to snow clearing so we can add it to the list for repair.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me anytime with your municipal questions or concerns.

COUNCILLOR DROP-IN

I will be hosting community drop-ins and will advertise the date and location in this monthly E-Newsletter as well as on social media. The drop in date for March is:

March 20, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Keshen Goodman Library, Meeting Room 5

I'm also hoping to host a drop in date at the new Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Community Centre once that is up and running. In the meantime, I'm happy to meet wherever is convenient to you.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind folks that daylight savings time is quickly approaching. Don't forget to set your clocks forward at 2 a.m. on March 9.





COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

BEECHVILLE, LAKESIDE, TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

Nine Mile River Watershed Planning

The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking your input to inform a watershed management plan for the Nine Mile River watershed.

A watershed is a geographic area where all water drains to a single location, for example a stream, river, lake, or the ocean. A watershed management plan sets targets for the health of the watershed based on the current conditions, how people are using it now and how uses may change in the future. Examples of targets could include improving (or adding) fish habitat, identifying areas for improved stormwater management, maintaining recreational water quality or updating bylaws.

We need your input to help build these management plans! **Please fill out the survey [here](#)** to have your say about what places and activities in the Nine Mile River watershed are important to you, and how you would like HRM to manage these places going forward.

Halifax-Waste Resource Society

The Halifax-Waste Resource Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on March 22 at 1:30 p.m. in the boardroom at the Links at Brunello Clubhouse in Timberlea.



The society will issue its annual report and elect a board of directors. Voting is restricted to members. Anyone aged 18 or older can register as a new member by emailing their name and civic address to cmc.hwrs@gmail.com by March 14. The AGM is open to the public.

Otter Lake Community Monitoring

The Community Monitoring Committee AGM will also be held on March 22 at 3 p.m. in the boardroom at The Links at Brunello. Those in attendance from the public will have an opportunity to question the CMC membership. All are welcome to attend.

The Halifax-Waste Resource Society is a citizens' organization that works with representatives of HRM, through the Community Monitoring Committee, to monitor the HRM Solid Waste Program at the Otter Lake Landfill. Please visit the CMC's [website](#) for more information.



Beechville Community Event

Head out to the Lakeside Legion on Saturday, March 8 from 5-10 p.m. for good food, entertainment and music bingo.

Please RSVP at beechvillecda@gmail.com





CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

Traffic Calming on Langbrae Drive-Parkland to Dunbrack

After review of traffic volume, speed, and other considerations, HRM will be proceeding with traffic calming on Langbrae Drive from Parkland to Dunbrack in the 2025 construction season.

Figure 1. Approximate Speed Cushion Locations



Figure 2. Example of Speed Cushions



Speed cushions were selected as the appropriate traffic calming measure for Langbrae Drive. Similar to a speed table/hump, speed cushions are a raised area of a roadway which causes the vertical upward movement of travelling vehicles. They encourage slower speeds of travel by causing discomfort for drivers travelling at higher speeds.

For more information regarding the traffic calming program in HRM, please visit our [website](#).

KESHEN GOODMAN LIBRARY UPCOMING EVENTS

March Break Programming

Keshen Goodman Library has something every day of March Break, starting on Friday, March 7. Below are a couple of highlights:

[The Villans' Theatre: Dinostories](#)

Live Theatre for kids and families!

Monday, March 10 from 2-3 pm

Did you know that dinosaurs ate porridge? Or lived at the top of beanstalks? Or liked wearing your grandmother's pajamas? It's all true!

[Indian Dance Performance: The Nectar of Dance](#)

Friday, March 14 from 10:30-11

Watch an engaging presentation of Indian classical dance style, Bharathanatyam, performed by Adhya Praveenkumar.

Adhya has been honing her Bharatanatyam skills for the past five years and has graced numerous stages in Halifax with her captivating performances. This remarkable achievement marks her 25th stage appearance. Adhya, as a 6-year-old prodigy, achieved an Indian Book of Records by flawlessly demonstrating 53 Bharatanatyam hand gestures within 36 seconds.

For a full list of events taking place over the break, [click here](#).

[Historical Photo Scan-a-thon with Halifax Municipal Archives](#)

Saturday, March 29 from 1-4 p.m.

Halifax Municipal Archives invites you to help them preserve our local history. If you have old photographs, slides, or negatives from your neighbourhood (or from Clayton Park, Fairview, Rockingham, and Wedgewood) showing what your area used to look like, bring them to this drop-in scan-a-thon.



I had a wonderful tour of the Keshen Goodman Library with Åsa Kachan, CEO of Halifax Public Libraries, Hannah Colville, Senior Service Manager and Jocelyn Covert, District Manager. I have now gained a better understanding of all the myriad community services they offer.



WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE

At the Feb. 25 meeting, Regional Council voted 15-2 in favour of proceeding with the Windsor Street Exchange project under its current design and funding agreement with the additional commitment to begin planning a second dedicated bus lane and separated pedestrian and cycling areas. The proposed project aims to add active transportation connections and transit priority measures through the intersection, improve the movement of vehicles and goods through the area, and improve the safety for all road users. The previous design was rejected at the Jan. 28 meeting, when Council raised concerns about the lack of a firm commitment to dedicated bus lanes in both directions and active transportation in the design. Work is anticipated to begin in summer 2025.

For background on the Windsor Street Exchange project, please visit our [website](#).



DISTRICT CAPITAL FUND

Each councillor has a small fund that can be used to support non-profits to undertake activities that will benefit the community. To apply we require a letter of request, including the name and address of the non - profit group, and explanation of how the funds will be used and a completed [Capital Request Form](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY

We want to make sure you're getting municipal updates where you're most active online. Take this short [survey](#) (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.

GRANTS TO PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAMS

HRM is accepting applications for the 2025/26 Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program.

The Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program supports the operating and artistic capacity of Halifax-based professional arts organizations to develop and present artistic work as well as strengthen their capacity.

We have two streams of funding, Operating Assistance and Project Assistance.

Learn more and apply online until March 31 [here](#).

RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Spring 2025 recreation program registration starts on March 5 and 6. To preview upcoming program PDFs, visit our [website](#) 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



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Business Unit budget presentations have now concluded. The Budget Committee will reconvene on March 19 at 9:30 a.m. to review the Budget Adjustment List (BAL). This includes all additional items that business units have presented beyond their proposed budgets, including the items included on the budget reduction proposal added by Mayor Fillmore on Feb. 26. The March 19 meeting will include a staff report on each item identifying the impact of decreasing or increasing budgets. 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, please visit our [website](#).

2025-26 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION EDUCATION AND PROMOTION GRANT PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to launch the **2025-2026 Active Transportation Education and Promotion Grant Program**.

- Submissions deadline for Spring - Summer Intake is March 30, 2025 for projects starting after May 15, 2025 and ending before March 31, 2026.
- Submissions deadline for Fall - Winter Intake is Sept. 15, 2025 for projects starting after Oct. 15, 2025 and ending before March 31, 2026.

[Active Transportation Education and Promotion Grants Terms](#) outline projects' eligibility, evaluation criteria, terms and timelines.

To submit a proposal, please download and save on your computer the [Active Transportation Education and Promotion Grant Application](#).

Complete the info requested and sent it along with required supporting documents by email: ATGrants@halifax.ca.

To arrange other methods to submit the proposal and supporting documents, please contact:

Emma Martin, AT Community Projects Coordinator
Transportation and Public Works - Active Transportation
martinem@halifax.ca; C: 902-499-6742

MARCH IS FRANCOPHONIE MONTH

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

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 our [website](#) for more information as event details are finalized.





AFFORDABLE ACCESS PROGRAM

With the Halifax Regional Municipality's **Affordable Access Program** you only need one application to apply for:

- Affordable Transit Passes (applications open mid-May and processed on a first-come, first-served basis)
- Recreation programming funding (applications are open year-round with no deadline)
- Property tax payment assistance (deadline of August 15 for an exemption on your final tax bill)

To learn more, to see if you qualify, or to apply, call 311 or visit our [website](#).

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 our [website](#).



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 on our [website](#).



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.

YOUTH WORX PROGRAM

Are you 16-24 and struggling to find work? Get 24 weeks of paid work experience, training and skill building with the Youth Worx Program!

Join us at an upcoming information session and apply by April 11 for our spring program. Learn more [here](#).



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality, in partnership with the Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation and Impact (HCi3) Fund, is advising youth in our region that applications for the Youth Climate Action Fund program are now open. The program provides funding to cities worldwide to engage tens of thousands of youth ages 15 through 24 in designing, implementing and overseeing climate solutions.

The municipality was selected as one of 100 cities internationally to participate in the Youth Climate Action Fund program by Bloomberg Philanthropies and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

During the first round of the program, \$50,000 USD (approximately \$72,000 CAD) was awarded to 11 projects that engaged over 400 young people in our region. For the second round of funding, more than 90 cities across five continents will receive an additional \$100,000 USD (approximately \$144,000 CAD) to fund youth-led climate initiatives. It is hoped the added layer of funding will give cities the opportunity to deepen collaboration, support more impactful projects and inspire the next generation of local youth leaders.

Applications will be open until March 31, 2025, with recipients of the funding expected to be announced in late April. All applications are assessed by a selection committee based on criteria such as:

- youth leadership as part of a team or through a youth-serving organization;
- a connection to HalifACT, the municipality's long-term climate action plan; and
- the feasibility of the project and their impact on the community.

More details on the Youth Climate Action Fund program, including how to apply, are available [here](#).

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:

- 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](#).



African Heritage Month Gala with Mayor Fillmore and my council colleagues

ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY

HALIFAX

halifax.ca | 311 | contactus@311.halifax.ca



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.



311 MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION

For routine municipal matters such as reporting potholes, snow clearing, requesting traffic calming assessments, garbage collection and much more, please call 311 or email contactus@311.halifax.ca. Please feel free to copy me on your email if this is not a routine matter.

When you call 311, your request is logged and tracked to ensure follow up and action by the appropriate department. Please be sure to advise the agent if you would like to receive a follow up from staff regarding your service request.

For more information about how to get in touch, please visit our [website](#).

HALIFAX POLICE RELEASE IMPAIRED DRIVING STATS FOR JANUARY

Halifax Regional Police charged 45 drivers with impaired-related last month:



- 32 for impaired driving by alcohol
- 6 for impaired driving by drugs
- 7 issued suspensions for consuming alcohol before driving

Fifteen drivers were at least twice the legal limit, and seven refused a breath test, which is also a chargeable offence.

Police received 15 calls from people reporting suspected impaired drivers. If you suspect someone is driving impaired, call 911 immediately with details, including the vehicle's description and direction of travel.



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for March. Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:

- March 18
- March 25

Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings – including committees [here](#). Meeting agendas (including the specific start time of 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.) and a link to watch the video are generally available by the Friday prior to the meeting. Reports on the items that councillors vote on are available and are linked throughout the meeting agenda.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Halifax and West Community Council normally meets once a month on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

Stay tuned for the video link to be shared closer to the next Halifax and West meeting, scheduled for March 17.

Currently serving on:

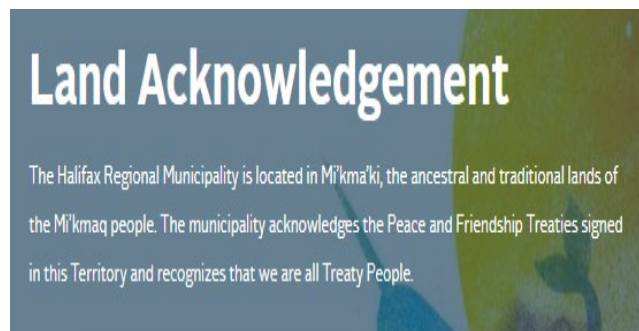
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
- Appeals Standing Committee
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Halifax Water Board of Commissioners
- Canada Games Centre Board of Directors
- Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.

We also acknowledge the histories and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities that have been here for more than 400 years.



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE
DISTRICT 12
TIMBERLEA-BEECHVILLE-CLAYTON
PARK-WEDGEWOOD
(902)-471-3123
Janet.Steele@halifax.ca
PO BOX 1749
HALIFAX, NS B3J 3A5
www.halifax.ca