



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Spring is in the air – and with it warmer temperatures and brighter days! I'm looking forward to connecting with more of you at community events and in our beautiful parks and trails in the coming months!

March Break is next week, I hope that all of our families will make some time to make memories and re-energize their batteries.

In this newsletter, you'll find important updates about the continuing 2025/26 budget deliberations, upcoming grant applications, and opportunities to provide your feedback.

Please continue to reach out to me with any municipal questions or concerns.

Warmly,

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8, we celebrate International Women's Day, honouring the achievements of women across social, economic, cultural and political aspects of life and advocating for gender equality.

This year's campaign theme is Accelerate Action, emphasizing the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face in personal and professional spheres.

I'm so honoured to be a part of a community that values the voices of women and to sit on a Regional Council that now includes a majority of women. In September 2020, when I was re-elected to Regional Council, we achieved gender parity, and in 2024 nine women were elected to our 17-person council. I'm grateful to serve alongside these amazing men and women this term, and look forward to creating a stronger, more equitable community for all!



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SOCIAL MEDIA USE SURVEY

Social media is constantly evolving, and the municipality is looking to better understand where residents are most active. By completing a short survey (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.

You can find the survey [here](#) until Monday March 10

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

March 7 is 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 hard to make our communities thrive and a better place to live, work and play!

RAMADAN 2025

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

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 expected to last from Feb. 28 to March 29 in 2025. However, these dates can vary slightly depending on the crescent moon's appearance. *Ramadan Mubarak – Blessed Ramadan!*

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.





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INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONIE DAY

Mars est le **Mois de la Francophonie**, un moment pour célébrer la langue française et les diverses communautés acadiennes et francophones de notre province.

La municipalité abrite la plus grande population francophone et bilingue de la province, ce qui souligne notre engagement à faire progresser les initiatives de services en français.

La [Stratégie des services en français](#) vise à mieux servir et impliquer nos résidents acadiens et francophones de la région. Nous avons récemment accompli la consultation publique sur la stratégie afin de nous assurer qu'elle reflète les besoins de la communauté et y réponde.

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.

The Halifax Regional Municipality's [French Language Services Strategy](#) aims to better serve and engage our local Acadian and Francophone residents. We recently completed public engagement on the strategy to ensure

we're reflecting and meeting the community's needs.

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.

RCMP ROAD SAFETY STATS

January 2025, District 3
Eastern Passage

- 277 Calls for Service in January 2025 (vs. 16.9% from January 2024)
- 8 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 2 in January 2024)
 - 1 Speeding
 - 1 Seatbelt
 - 2 Aggressive Driving
 - 4 Other MVA (No Insurance, Unlicensed Driver, Unregistered Vehicle, etc.)
- 101 Proactive Assignments (vs. 85 in January 2024)
 - 18 Cell Phone/Impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding Checkpoints/Radar Enforcements
- 18 Traffic Stops (vs. 28 in January 2024)
 - 2 Impaired Driving Charges (vs. 0 in January 2024)
 - 1 Impaired Driving Suspension (vs. 0 in January 2024)
- 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents (vs. 11 in January 2024)
 - 4 Non-Injury, 0 Injury
- 0 Vehicle/Pedestrian/Cyclist Accidents (same as January 2024)

Please Drive Safely!

TRANSIT OPERATOR AND WORKER APPRECIATION WEEK

March 18 – 24 is Transit Operator and Worker Appreciation Week. I encourage you to show your support of Halifax Transit by complimenting your bus driver, post to social media or call 311 to thank staff for their essential service every day.



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CONGRATULATIONS CHIEF!

COMMUNITY GARDEN APPLICATION



Halifax Regional Police Chief Don MacLean was recently awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal, in recognition of his significant and long-term service.

Chief MacLean is one of 25 recipients representing a diverse cross-section of individuals who have provided exceptional and enduring service to the Crown, Canada, the province and their communities.

HALIFAX REGIONAL INTEGRATED TOURISM MASTER PLAN FEEDBACK

Discover Halifax is inviting you to help shape the future of tourism in our community.

This work will update the Halifax Regional Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP 2030) and is a chance to share your ideas, insights, and priorities to shape a strategy that reflects our community identity and fosters local opportunities.

You can have your say through an online survey and mapping tools, which you can access by clicking [here](#).

Interested in starting a community garden? Many community gardens in the region are operated by residents on land owned by the municipal government. These are small-scale sites operated by non-profit societies can growing produce, create a floral or landscape display or be used to demonstrate gardening or other related instructional programming.

Community gardens can include vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers, native and/or ornamental plants.

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](#).

SNOW PROPERTY DAMAGE

Our crews and contractors do their best to avoid property damage while clearing streets and sidewalks as quickly as possible, but damage can happen when we're dealing with heavy equipment and challenging conditions.

Contractors who plow the streets and sidewalks are responsible for repairing any damage caused by their equipment. The municipality is responsible for damage caused by municipally-owned clearing equipment.

Residents who have sustained damage to their property or know of damage to municipal property should report the damage as soon as possible by emailing contactus@311.halifax.ca or calling 311. Unless there is an immediate safety concern, most damage will be repaired in the spring, when weather has improved.



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PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATION PROGRAM GRANTS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting applications for the 2025/26 Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program. This program supports the operating and artistic capacity of producing and presenting art organizations in the region that advance the profile of the local arts sector, with an overarching goal to foster broad public access to public art.

There are two funding streams: operating assistance and project assistance. The municipality provides up to three-year funding agreements towards the operating funds of eligible groups and annual funding agreements supporting distinct artistic projects.

For more information about the program or to discuss your project or eligibility, groups are invited to book a virtual meeting, contact Lindsay Cory, Community Developer (Public Arts), at lindsay.cory@halifax.ca.

The deadline for the applications is Monday, March 31. To learn more and apply, visit [our website](#).

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

March 21 is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and this year we celebrate the [60th anniversary of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Racial of Discrimination \(ICERD\)](#). You can learn more about global efforts to combat racial discrimination [here](#).

COME TRY Ringette

NOVA SCOTIA FREE

Ringette Nova Scotia - Come Try Ringette March 15
Saturday, March 15, 2025 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Come Try Ringette - Harbour City Lakers
Saturday, March 15, 2025 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Ringette Nova Scotia - Come Try Ringette (March 16)
Sunday, March 16, 2025 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Come Try Ringette - Nova Central Ringette Association
Sunday, May 25, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

RINGETTE CANADA RINGUETTE CANADA

WOODSIDE SHEARWATER ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FEEDBACK

The Halifax Regional Municipality is considering options for the development of new active transportation facilities to provide active transportation connections between Dartmouth and communities on the Eastern Shore by filling the gap between the Dartmouth Harbourfront Trail and Shearwater Flyer Trail. The project also considers options for Main Road in the area of the Shearwater Base.

This is the second round of engagement that we are hosting to consider a new option. Join us Tuesday April 1 for an Open House at the South Woodside Community Centre any time between 6 – 8 p.m. to learn more and provide your feedback. You can also find project information and a survey (to be posted April 1) [here](#).



SOUTHDALE SPIRIT LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

2025/26 MUNICIPAL BUDGET



Check out the Southdale Spirit Little Free Library at 1 Regency Drive, at the corner of Regency Drive and Gaston Road.

We began the 2025/26 municipal budget process last month with the tabling of a preliminary \$1.3 billion operating budget and a \$318.8 million 2025/26 Capital Plan and we have now reviewed each business unit’s plan and budget for the next fiscal year, and this month we will review the Budget Adjustment List to discuss any add-ons or subtractions that have been brought forward throughout the process. Final budget approval is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8.

JOINT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY CHANGES

On Feb. 20, the provincial government tabled amendments to the Joint Regional Transportation Agency (JRTA) Act to broaden the agency’s scope beyond its original mandate of HRM and surrounding municipalities to now include the entire province, clarify roles and responsibilities, and focus on implementation of the JRTA plan.

This includes day-to-day municipal operations like transit, policing, garbage collection and snow clearing, funding our strategic priorities like the Integrated Mobility Plan and HalifACT, and capital projects like upgrades to buildings, roads, active transportation, parks and bridges.

The JRTA is a provincial Crown Corporation reporting to the Minister of Public Works. The original mandate of the JRTA was to address transportation issues associated with rapid growth in and around the Halifax Regional Municipality. To achieve this goal, the JRTA has developed a Regional Transportation plan to “establish a coordinated long-term vision for a regional transportation system that makes sustainable growth and development possible and improves the safe and efficient movement of people and goods into, out of, and throughout Halifax and surrounding communities”. The plan has not yet been released.

For more information on the process or to find out more about providing your feedback, visit our [website](#).

TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES

Halifax Transit implemented service changes affecting Halifax, Bedford, and Dartmouth last month. These service changes include the latest installment of [Moving Forward Together Plan](#) (MFTP) changes, the reinstatement of 25 trips across eleven routes, a minor schedule adjustment for Route 10C on Saturdays, and the publication of updated route maps and schedules to reflect the reopening of Scotia Square terminal. To learn more, visit our [website](#).

To find out more, see the full act [here](#).



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COMMUNITY MEDIATION PROJECT

Regional Council has approved funding for a Community Mediation Project 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. Mediation can prevent the escalation of community disputes, reduce harm, and avoid time and cost of resolving conflicts through the legal system.

Once approved in the 2025/26 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](#).

FREE VOLUNTEER WORKSHOPS



Starting this spring, Neighbourhood & Volunteer Services (NVS) will offer a wide selection of FREE 101-level workshops for residents. Workshops like Leadership and Teamwork, Communication and Conflict Resolution,

Strategic Planning, Volunteer Recruitment and much more will be offered around the municipality for free over the next few months.

Check out more details and the full schedule of workshops [here](#).

BOIL WATER ADVISORY REPORT

The Preliminary Investigation Report on the January Boil Water Advisory to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board has been released that includes more details about the recent boil water advisory and next steps to prevent future issues.

In January, during a power outage, the main generator at the low lift pump station was engaged as designed, and power was restored to both the low lift and main facility buildings. However, during the transition to generator power, fuses on the service water pumps blew, resulting in a loss of service water. The main chlorination system could not function without service water and went offline during the incident, resulting in a lack of chlorination for primary disinfection. The Boil Water Advisory was issued to protect public health from the resulting 66-minute interruption in chlorine disinfection that helps eliminate the potential risk of microbial contamination.

Planning has been underway to enhance resiliency and ultimate asset renewal. Based on the number of upgrades that are required, Halifax Water is currently evaluating several potential solutions, including a new replacement facility. The draft report and recommendations will be submitted to the NSUARB this month and Halifax Water has developed preliminary corrective measures ranging from enhanced monitoring, improved communications with interested parties, and implementing processes to aid in troubleshooting during emergencies.

You can find out more [here](#).



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FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH

This Fraud Prevention Month, the Nova Scotia RCMP is reminding the public to always stay vigilant to help protect themselves against fraud.

Fraud can happen to anyone at anytime. Scammers use sophisticated ways to target individuals from across Nova Scotia. The best way to fight these types of crimes is through awareness and using educated caution when dealing with fraudulent calls, texts, emails and messages.

The most common scams in Nova Scotia over the past year, include:

- **Extortion:** Scammers unlawfully obtain money, property or services through intimidation.
- **Romance:** Using fake profiles on social media and dating websites, scammers convince people to enter into a virtual relationship with the goal of having them send financial support.
- **Investment:** Scammers solicit investments into false or deceptive investment companies that promise higher-than-normal returns.
- **Service:** Scammers offer services such as tech support, air duct cleaning, or new cellphone service plans, in attempt to steal personal information.
- **Vacation:** Scammers share that you have won a free trip and that you have to pay taxes or fee associated with the free trip.

- **Spear phishing:** Pretending to be from legitimate sources, and using what look to be legit email addresses, scammers try to get businesses or individuals to send them money.
- **Job:** Online ads and fake job interviews; victims are often directed to purchase and send gift cards using fraudulent cheques.
- **Rental:** Scammers will list a property that is not real or that they do not own. Next, they ask potential renters to pay deposits for the fake property.
- **Bank investigator:** Scammers call and ask for help catching fraudulent bank employees or offer help in resolving suspicious account transactions.
- **Merchandise:** Scammers create fake online ads online using resale sites, website pop-ups or fake company websites.
- **Emergency:** Fraudsters prey on people's fear of a loved one being hurt or in trouble and in need of financial support. (Also known as the 'grandparent scam').
- **Prize:** Scammers contact people claiming they've won, or have a chance at winning, a prize or lottery; the winner is then asked to pay taxes or fees related to the fake winnings.

If you or someone you know is a victim of a scam, report it to your local police and the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#).



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ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION EDUCATION AND PROMOTION GRANTS

Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to launch the 2025/26 Active Transportation Education and Promotion Grant Program to support community organizations with projects that are increasing the number of people walking and bicycling and improving the safety of people using these modes.

The submissions deadline for Spring - Summer Intake is March 30, 2025 for projects starting after May 15, 2025 and ending before March 31, 2026. We will also have a fall intake.

Find out more about eligibility, evaluation criteria and the terms and timelines [here](#).

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

There has been a 182 per cent increase in women and children seeking shelter from Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and six women have been killed between Oct. 2024 and January 2025 in Nova Scotia. Unfortunately, statistics show that 34 per cent of people who have experienced IPV don't speak to anyone about it, let alone report it.

Intimate Partner Violence can include coercive control, harassment, emotional, financial, physical and sexual abuse, and can result in immediate and long-lasting health, social and economic consequences.

If you or someone you know is experiencing gender-based violence, support is available – whether it's someone to talk to or help getting out of an unsafe situation. Call the Halifax Regional Police's Victim Services Unit at 902.490.5300, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or find more information on their [website](#).

RECREATION FEE UPDATE

As part of a planned five-year fee structure update, Parks & Recreation fees including memberships, rentals, and programs will be increasing on April 1.

Residents who qualify for the low income cut off can apply for the Recreation Funding Access program before you register to have programs 50% or 100% covered.

To learn more, visit our website [here](#).



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YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND APPLICATIONS

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.

During the first round of the program, approximately \$72,000 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 \$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
- 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](#).

MINIMUM PLANNING REQUIREMENT CHANGES

In August 2024, the province announced [12 new Minimum Planning Requirements](#) to prioritize increasing housing supply. Minimum Planning Requirements are provincial regulations that the municipality’s land use plans and strategies must meet as required by the province.

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. These changes are expected to come to Regional Council later this spring along with the broader Regional Plan update.

You can find the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay plan [here](#).



Tuesday BINGO

DOORS OPEN AT 5 pm
for 6:15 pm start for Minis
Regular Bingo 7 pm

EP CB Lions Club
65 Hornes Rd,
Eastern Passage

 **HOT BALLS** 
We Serve We Serve

SNACK CANTEEN
Pop, Chips & bars \$175
Hot Dogs \$2.00

Volunteer Workers Welcome
Call 902 465 6055



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 strategy focuses on how we can improve accessibility throughout the municipality by identifying, removing and preventing barriers for persons with disabilities. It 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](#).

GRANTS TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC RACISM

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

The 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](#).

NEW DATA SETS

Halifax Regional Municipality has released one [new dataset](#) on permit inspections on Open Data as part of an ongoing commitment to provide public access to data created and managed by the municipality.

There are now 255 data sets available on this platform. Check it out [here](#).



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311 CONTACT CENTRE

More than a telephone number, 311 is your direct connection to municipal services. Email contactus@311.halifax.ca or call 311 and speak to our helpful operators for information about anything HRM-related: property taxes, illegally parked vehicles, recreation services, pet licenses, by-law concerns, litter and more:

Monday to Friday
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN DISTRICT 3

Barbara Adams, MLA/ Eastern Passage
barbadamsmla@gmail.com
902-406-0656

Brad McGowan, MLA/ Cole Harbour – Dartmouth
jbmgcowan@gmail.com
902-424-2731

Darren Fisher, MP/ Dartmouth-Cole Harbour
darren.fisher@parl.gc.ca
902-462-6453

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

I'm pleased to be serving on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council for this term:

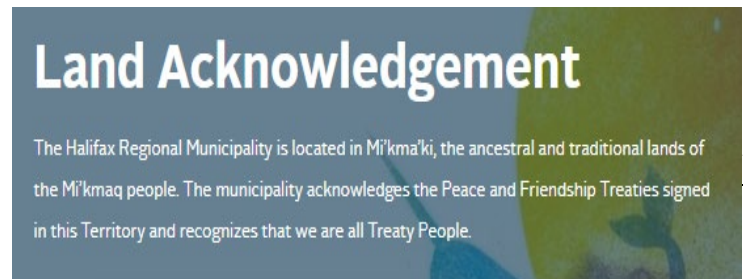
- Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council (Chair)
- Regional Centre Community Council (Vice Chair)
- Board of Police Commissioners
- Appeals Standing Committee (Chair)
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
- Canadian Capital Cities Organization

STREAMING REGIONAL COUNCIL

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.

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.

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **becky.kent@halifax.ca** or **902-478-5368**. For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at 311. To reach my office, please call Nadine Yuriev at **902-490-1577**. For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).