



COUNCILLOR BILLY GILLIS
DISTRICT 15 NEWSLETTER
LOWER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK

WELCOME MAY!



May flowers have popped up just in time to help celebrate Mother's Day on May 11.

May is also [Asian Heritage](#) month. I look forward to celebrating and learning more about the invaluable contributions made by Canadians of Asian heritage.

Keep reading for more information on capital projects planned for District 15, the Seniors Recreation Services survey, information on the dry hydrant on Beaver Bank Road, traffic congestion on Beaver Bank Road and much more!

If you wish to discuss a municipal program or service, please contact me at Billy.Gillis@halifax.ca or call me at 902.471.6906.

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MAY MEETING DATES

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

Regional Council:

Tuesday, May 13 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 27 at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council: Monday,
Monday, May 12 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Appeals Standing Committee

- Thursday, May 8 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday, May 21 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

- TBD

DID YOU KNOW....

May is Asian Heritage Month.

May 1 is Global Love Day

May 1 is National Denim Day

May 1 is National Child & Youth Mental Health Day

May 1 is National Doctors Day

May 1 is May Day

May 2 is International Children's Day of Broadcasting

May 2 is International Harry Potter Day

May 4 is World Laughter Day

May 4 is Star Wars Day

May 5 is African World Heritage Day

May 5 is World Pulmonary Hypertension Day

May 5 is World Hand Hygiene Day

May 5 is Square Root Day

May 5 is Dutch Heritage Day

May 5 is National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls / Red Dress Day,

May 6 is World Asthma Day

May 8 is World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day

May 8 is VE- DAY

May 10 is World Fair Trade Day

May 11 is Mother's Day

May 12 is International Nurses Day

May 13 is World Day of Muslim Culture, Peace, Dialogue and Cinema

May 13 is Cannes Film Festival

May 15 is International Day of Families

May 15 is Global Accessibility Awareness Day

May 17 is International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

May 17 is World Baking Day

May 18 is International Museum Day

May 19 is Victoria Day

May 20 is World Bee Day

May 21 is International Tea Day

May 21 is Bike to Work Day

May 22 is International Day for Biological Diversity

May 22 is World Goth Day

May 23 is World Turtle Day

May 24 is Bike Day

May 25 is Greek Pride Day

May 29 is International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

May 30 is International Day of Potato

May 31 is World No Tobacco Day

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH



May is [Asian Heritage Month](#), a time to honour the rich history, cultures, and

contributions of Asian communities in Canada. It's an opportunity to learn, reflect, and celebrate the diversity that strengthens our country.



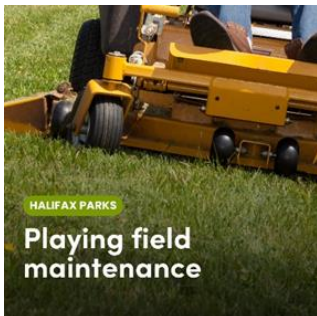
You can take part by:

- Exploring books, films, and stories that highlight Asian Canadian experiences
- Attending local or virtual events, exhibitions, and cultural festivals
- Supporting Asian-owned businesses in our community
- Starting conversations about the importance of inclusion and cultural understanding

By celebrating Asian Heritage Month, we can deepen our understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity that makes Canada a unique and vibrant country.

Check out our [website](#) for more updates on events taking place across the municipality to celebrate Asian Heritage Month.

PLAYING FIELD MAINTENANCE



HRM Parks staff have begun seasonal maintenance of playing fields.

We maintain over 300 fields and ball diamonds throughout

the municipality for residents to use and enjoy. Click [here](#) for more information.

SAFETY & HEALTH WEEK



This year's Safety and Health Week runs from May 5 to 10. Its goal is to encourage

employers, employees, partners and the public to focus on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home and in the community.

Together, we can create safer workplaces and communities. Here are a few quick reminders to ensure your health and safety stays top of mind as you go about your daily life:

- Follow safety guidelines and regulations when using equipment and machinery.
- Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms in your home and ensure they are functioning correctly.
- Regularly check your vehicle's safety features, including seat belts, airbags, and brakes.
- Be cautious when walking or cycling on busy roads and wear clothing that increases visibility.

By following these community safety tips, we can protect ourselves and those around us from potential harm and ensure a safer environment for everyone. Stay safe!

NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS / RED DRESS DAY



Wear red on May 5 in support of the [National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls \(MMIWG\)](#).

According to the National Inquiry into MMIWG, Indigenous women and girls represented 16% of all female homicides in Canada. Service agencies



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estimate that of the trafficked or exploited women and girls they served, 51% were Indigenous.

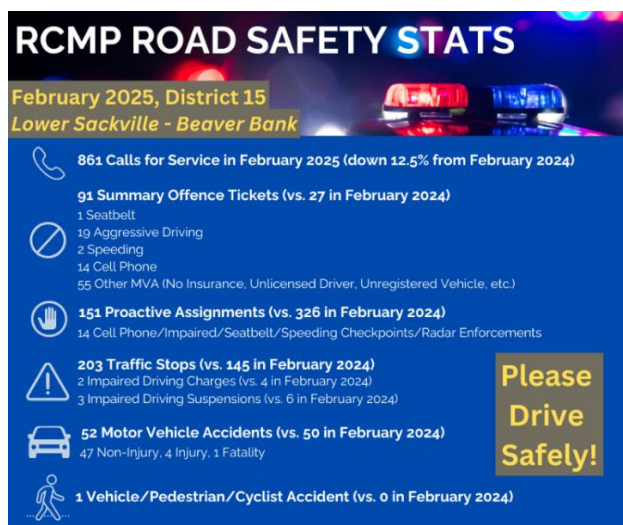
This day calls on each of us to speak out against the staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people.

In recent years, red dresses have become a symbolic representation of the more than 1,000 MMIWG across Canada. According to tradition, red is the only colour spirits can see and is a way of calling the spirits of those missing and murdered back to their loved ones.

On May 5, wear red to not only honour the voices of these women and girls, but to show your support of survivors, community members and those affected by the intergenerational trauma of this ongoing issue.

To learn more about this important day, click [here](#).

RCMP STATS – FEBRUARY



BUDGET 2025/26



On April 8, Regional Council ratified the 2025/26 municipal budget.

For more information on the 2025/26 municipal budget, visit halifax.ca/budget.

2025/26 Budget at a Glance

OPERATING BUDGET \$1.33B

CAPITAL BUDGET \$314M

**MUNICIPAL AVERAGE TAX
BILL INCREASE 4.7%**

**TOTAL AVERAGE TAX BILL
INCREASE 5.2%**

**RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE
0.770 (UNCHANGED)**



What does this mean for District 15? See the following list of street/road and parks/recreation projects planned for 2025.

Street Recapitalization

Dickey Drive – Zinck to Zinck (Integrated Traffic Calming)

Winsloe Drive – Alder to end

Asphalt Overlays

Alder Crescent – Riverside to Riverside



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Windgate Drive – Beaverbank to Terry
Parmac Drive – Dickey to End (Overlay with Dickey)

Walkways

34 Parmac Drive to 9 Erondale

Guiderail

23 Dickey Drive

Bridges

Sackville Drive Bridge (Carryover, Design)

Traffic Management Projects

Traffic Calming

- Beaumont Drive
- Chapais Drive

New Marked Crosswalk with Pedestrian Activated Beacons

- Cobequid Road at Hillside/Civic 111 (RA-5)

Traffic Signal Upgrade with Accessible Pedestrian Signals

- Glendale Drive at Riverside Drive

Planer Patching

Bellshire Drive – Kaye to End
Pinehill Drive – Silverlace to Glendale
Riverside Drive – Glendale to Civic 1540
Smokey Drive – Glendale to Grennan
Beaver Bank Road – Sackville to Windgate

The following is the list of outdoor recreational projects planned for 2025/2026:

- Beaver Bank Kinsac Elementary School Park - sport court rehabilitation
- Lost Creek Park - playground replacement
- Smokey Drive Elementary School Park - playground replacement
- Recreational Trails Grant - Acadia Recreation Club Society (carry forward).

Parks and Recreation:

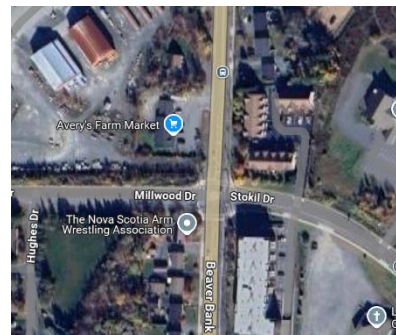
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Smokey Drive Elementary School Park

BEAVER BANK ROAD TRAFFIC CONGESTION



I am in continual contact with HRM staff working to resolve the issue of traffic congestion on Beaver Bank

Road.

Staff have made some temporary adjustments to the signal timing to get more vehicles through while data was being collected. The data is being collected to provide a new model to determine an optimal timing plan to address existing traffic patterns.

Staff have assured me that they will look into all available phasing options once the model has been developed.



DRY HYDRANT - BEAVER BANK ROAD



The Beaver Bank-Kinsac Fire Association, Station 48, advises that the dry hydrant located at Tucker Lake, Beaver Bank (see image above) is the emergency water supply when a large quantity of water is required.

Beaver Bank Kinsac Fire Association understands that this location is also a popular site for fishing and swimming in the summer, however; they ask that everyone obey the "No Parking sign" including in front of the hydrant and also on the approach to the hydrant. When vehicles are parked in this area, it makes it very difficult to access the hydrant and every minute counts! Changing the water supply plan or waiting for people to move can take up valuable time during house or brush fires.

On behalf of the Beaver Bank Fire Department and the community, I ask that you please respect the NO PARKING sign. Stay safe!

LANE CLOSURE – LUCASVILLE ROAD



The Lucasville Road at the bridge over the Sackville River will be closed from April 21 to September 2025 to facilitate the rehabilitation of Lucasville Bridge.

This work is in support of the [2021-25 Regional Council Strategic Priorities Plan](#) to establish a safe and accessible integrated mobility network.



Traffic impact: Temporary traffic signals will be installed to maintain access. Drivers should expect delays and use alternative routes.

SENIOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING SURVEY



The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to provide feedback on recreation programming for seniors 60 years and older. Residents are encouraged to complete the [survey](#) or attend one of the upcoming public engagement sessions listed on halifax.ca/seniors. The survey will remain open until Wednesday, June 4.

Parks & Recreation is in the process of developing a Seniors Recreation Services plan. This project is aimed at shaping the municipality's recreation programs and services for seniors over the next five years. Seniors' groups and individuals will be actively involved in creating this plan – and a Seniors' Recreation Advisory Group has been established to provide leadership and support to staff during the planning process.

By completing the survey, you can be entered in a contest to win!

- Grand Prize:

Win 1 of 2 \$100 grocery store gift cards

- Other prizes:

Win 1 of 20 \$10 Tim Hortons gift cards

The prize draw will take place on June 26, 2025. For more information, click [here](#).

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Emergency Preparedness Week is from May 5 to 11. Are you and your family equipped to handle any unexpected situations that may arise? Residents have a big role to play when it comes to ensuring their own safety.

If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to get to you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours.

This week serves as a great reminder to get prepared by:

- Checking your 72-hour emergency kit
- Knowing your key contacts
- Knowing the support services available in your area
- Where to find accurate information to stay informed

To stay informed about emergencies and operations, residents are encouraged to sign up for [hfxALERT](#), the municipality's mass notification system. Subscribers may receive urgent and non-urgent notifications by phone, email, and/or text message.

During emergencies, the municipality communicates with residents via public service



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announcements, web updates, social media ([@hfxgov](#)) and [hfxALERT](#). Residents may also contact 311 for more information about emergency operations.

By taking a few simple steps today, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies – anytime, anywhere. Visit our [website](#) to stay informed and to learn more.

BIKE TO WORK DAY!



Friday, May 16 is Bike to Work Day!

Each year on the third Friday in May, everyone is encouraged to try commuting to work via [bicycle](#). It's a great way to reduce your carbon footprint, improve your health, and enjoy the fresh air.

Whether you're an experienced cyclist or a first-timer, join us in celebrating this fun and eco-friendly initiative!

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA & BIPHOBIA

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia is recognized annually on May 17 as it was on this day in

1990 that homosexuality was declassified as a mental disorder by the World Health Organization.

Everyone has the right to be wholly themselves and we all share a responsibility to actively promote equity, diversity and inclusion and to stand against the prejudice, discrimination, stigma, hostility and violence experienced by the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

For more information, click [here](#).

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

May 18 – 24 is National Public Works Week. Thank you to the incredible team working behind the scenes to keep our community safe, connected, and thriving.

This year's theme — *"People, Purpose, Presence"* — is a reminder of the heart behind public works. These professionals do essential work every day, often unnoticed, but always vital. Whether it's fixing roads, maintaining water systems, or preparing for storms, their dedication makes a real difference in our daily lives.

To our Public Works team: thank you for your presence, your purpose, and your service to the people of our community!

ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK



May 25 – 31 is Access Awareness Week, a time to reflect on how we can build a more

inclusive, accessible community for all.



Nova Scotia has led the way in recognizing this week, inspired by Rick Hansen's Man in Motion World Tour. For 38 years, communities have come together to raise awareness and take action to remove barriers for persons with disabilities.

There's been progress, but there's still work to do to reach a barrier-free Nova Scotia by 2030. Let's use this week to listen, learn, and continue moving toward full inclusion and equity.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



Mental Health Week, which runs from May 13-19 is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of mental health for Canadians. Mental health is an essential part of overall health and well-being, and it is crucial to take care of our mental health just as we take care of our physical health.

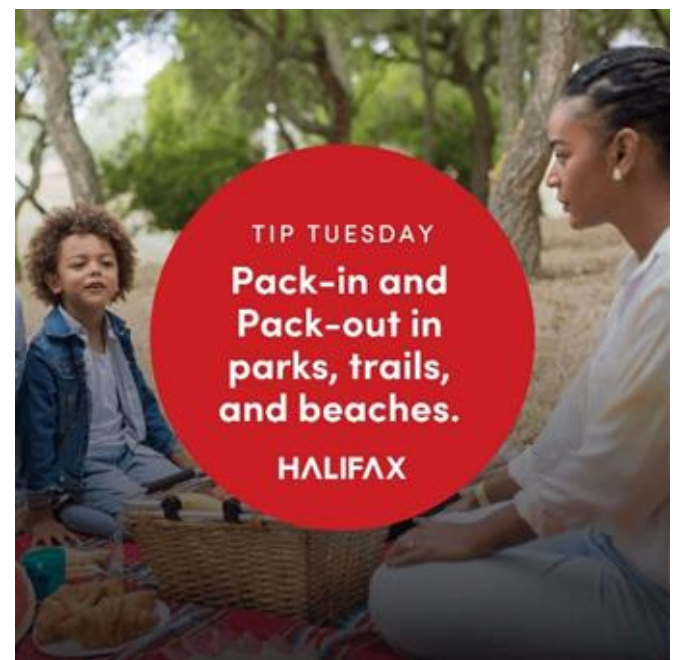
In Canada, 1 in 5 people experience a mental health problem or illness each year. This year's

theme from the Canadian Mental Health Association is ***"Unmasking Mental Health."*** Many who live with mental health or substance use challenges often feel pressured to wear a "mask" to avoid judgment and discrimination. But the more we hide, the heavier that mask becomes — and the more isolated we may feel.

During Mental Health Week, Canadians are encouraged to prioritize their mental health and to seek support if needed. By doing so, we can promote a healthier and more resilient society.

The Canadian Mental Health Association has a great list of resources on Mental Health. Check them out by downloading one of their helpful and informative toolkits on their [website](#).

PACK-IN & PACK-OUT



When enjoying our beautiful parks, trails, and beaches, remember to pack-in and pack-out. That means bringing everything you need and taking it all with you when you leave.

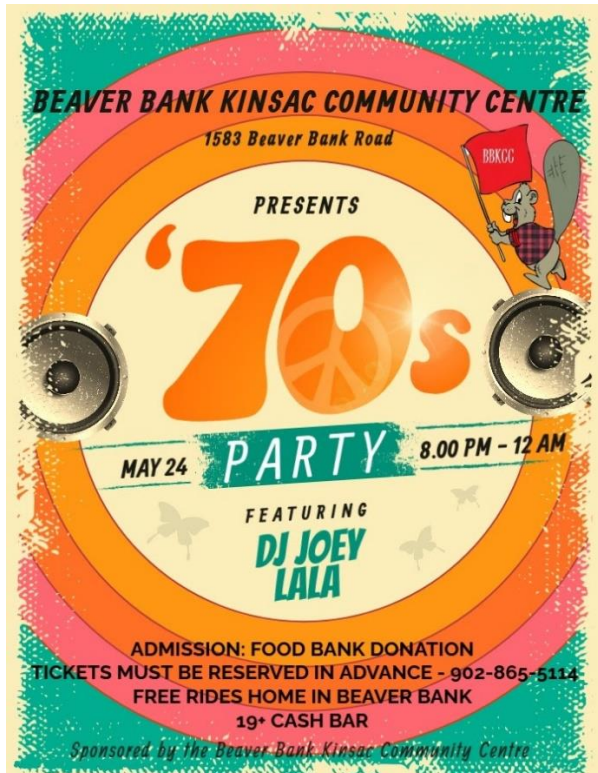


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Keeping our shared spaces clean helps protect nature and ensures everyone can enjoy them. Let's all do our part to keep Halifax green and clean.

BEAVER BANK KINSAC 70's PARTY



Get your tickets for the 70's Party on May 24!
Call 902-865-5114 for tickets.

SUMMER MOVIES IN THE PARK!



Summer Movies in the Park are returning to Sackville! Get ready for two

fantastic movie screenings at our beloved parks: Acadia and Kinsman. [Stay tuned for more details](#) on these exciting events!

IN THE COMMUNITY



I was honoured to attend the farewell to MP Darrell Samson event as he ends his ten years of service as the Member of Parliament for Sackville – Preston – Chezzetcook. Council colleagues Becky Kent, Trish Purdy, Cathy Deagle Gammon and David Hendsbee also joined me in thanking Mr. Samson for his service.



I had a great time at the Lockview High School Boys Rugby game!



Attended a taping of the *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* show with Council colleagues Virginia Hinch, Nancy Hartling, Jean St-Amand, Tony Mancini, Sam Austin, Mayor Andy Fillmore,



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John Young, Laura White, Janet Steele, Cathy Deagle Gammon and Becky Kent.

planning fun activities and events for our community.



Enjoying the Sackville Beaver Bank dance and breakfast with the Easter Bunny at Kinsman Hall! Thank you to the amazing volunteers who made the event such fun!



I'm happy to be in attendance with Councillor John Young and Councillor Virginia Hinch at Mayor Andy Fillmore's State of the Municipality Address.



Thank you to the 50+ volunteers who came out on Earth Day to help clean-up the Sackville River and trail area. I am pictured here with Ann Angelidis, President of Sackville Rivers Association and Councillor John Young. Councillor Jean St-Amand and I are shown below hauling trash out of the river.



Here I am at the Sackville Community Development Association meeting. Thank you to all the volunteers who put their time into



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PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Provincial Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) representing the Lower Sackville – Beaver Bank area are:



Paul Wozney
Sackville-Cobequid

Unit 104, 445 Sackville Drive
Lower Sackville NS
B4C 2S1

Phone: 902-864-6271

Email: paulwozneymla@gmail.com



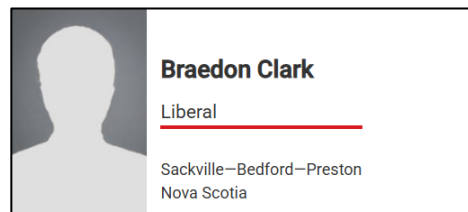
Brian Wong
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank

1265 Fall River Road
Suite 101
Fall River, NS
B2T 1E6

Phone: 902-576-3411

E-mail: brianwongmla@gmail.com

Federal Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the Lower Sackville-Beaver Bank area are:



Braedon Clark

Liberal

Sackville—Bedford—Preston
Nova Scotia

House of Commons,
Ottawa,
Ontario
K1A 0A6

Email: info@parl.gc.ca

Toll-free (Canada): 1-866-599-4999

Telephone: 613-992-4793

TTY: 613-995-2266



HALIFAX WATER



**STRAIGHT from
the SOURCE**

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: customercare@halifaxwater.ca

(please allow up to three business days for a reply)

Head Office Address

450 Cowie Hill Road
Halifax, NS

Mailing Address

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, [Halifax Water](#) must conduct business in accordance with the Halifax Water Regulations as approved by the [Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board](#). 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

Email: customercare@halifaxwater.ca.

If you are not happy with Halifax Water's response, you may make an appeal to the [Dispute Resolution Officer](#) (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.

HRM'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.



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Councillor Billy Gillis

District 15
Lower Sackville – Beaver Bank

902-471-6906
billy.gillis@halifax.ca

Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749 | Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

HALIFAX

halifax.ca | 311

I am a member of Halifax Regional Council and the North West Community Council and serve on the following boards and committees:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Special Events Advisory Committee

*“A mother’s arms are
more comforting than
anyone else’s.”*

- PRINCESS DIANA



TOWN&COUNTRY



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Hope your month
is positively
a **May**zing

