



**COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG**  
DISTRICT 14 NEWSLETTER  
*Hammonds Plains - Upper Hammonds Plains - Lucasville - Middle & Upper Sackville*

**WELCOME MAY**

Welcome to our May e-newsletter!

The blossoms are out, and I’m excited to share the latest updates with you this month.

From community events to important announcements, there’s lots happening across the district.

Let’s make the most of everything May has in store!

*John*

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# COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG

HAMMONDS PLAINS - UPPER HAMMONDS PLAINS - LUCASVILLE - MIDDLE & UPPER SACKVILLE

## MAY MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Standing Committee and Northwest Community Council 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.

Transportation Standing Committee

- Thursday, May 22 at 10 a.m.

## DATES TO NOTE

May 5 is African World Heritage 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 11 is Mother's Day

May 12 is International Nurses Day

May 15 is Global Accessibility Awareness Day

May 17 is International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

May 19 is Victoria Day

May 22 is International Day for Biological Diversity

May 29 is International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

## BUDGET 2025/26



The Halifax Regional Municipality's Regional Council has approved the 2025/26 municipal budget.

The annual municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing the growing region – including municipal operations, Regional Council-approved priority initiatives and investments to purchase, construct and rehabilitate municipal assets.

The 2025/26 municipal budget includes an operating budget of \$1.33 billion and a capital budget of \$314 million.

The residential tax rate remains unchanged at 0.770. Due to higher assessment increases, commercial rates have decreased in each assessment tier and tax area.

The tax bill is the collection of all necessary levies – including the general property taxes, area charges and provincial contributions. The tax bill is calculated by multiplying the tax rate by the total assessed value of a property as set by the Property Valuation Services Corporation



(PVSC). For more information on how to read the tax bill, visit: [halifax.ca/taxes](https://halifax.ca/taxes).

Due to the increase in property assessment values, the municipal portion of the residential tax bill will increase by 4.7 per cent. The average residential tax bill (including provincial contributions and mandatory tax) will increase by 5.2 per cent – or approximately \$117. This is based on the average single-family home assessment value of \$338,500.

For more information on the 2025/26 municipal budget process, visit [halifax.ca/budget](https://halifax.ca/budget)

## MUNICIPALITY SETS 2026-2030 STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The municipality's administration has started creating the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan and Regional Council has approved the proposed approach in finalizing the plan.

The Strategic Plan reflects the municipality's vision, mission and values – and establishes key areas of focus now and into the future. The four-year plan outlines priorities and goals, which guide how the municipality tracks progress and aligns business plans and budgets. The plan also helps municipal employees understand how their work fits into the long-term goals of the organization, and how they can work together to make a difference in the region.

The draft plan content has been informed by the results of the 2024 Resident Survey and workshops with Regional Council and the administration's senior leadership.

Beginning in May, Regional Council will review the draft plan. This feedback will then inform a subsequent round of working group meetings and plan development in advance of the final plan being presented to Regional Council in summer 2025.

For more information, read the staff report [here](#).

**SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Do you own a well?  
Have you experienced drought?  
Worried about floodwater in your well?

Join the Dalhousie Coastal Hydrology Lab to learn about how climate change is affecting your drinking water!

**TUESDAY MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 2025**  
**6:30PM TO 7:30PM**

**UPPER HAMMONDS PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
711 Pockwock Road, Upper Hammonds Plains, NS, B4B 1N8

Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund | COASTAL HYDROLOGY LAB | DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

This project is supported by the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund, delivered by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia.





## 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.

## 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:

- 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 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.

## 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
- Knowing 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.

## PLAYING FIELD MAINTENANCE

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.

Find more info [here](#). **BIKE TO WORK DAY!**



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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!

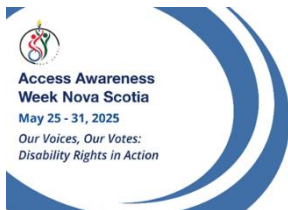




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### ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK



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

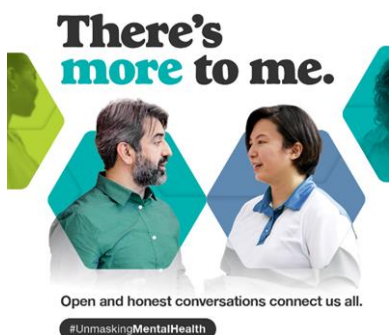
inclusive, accessible community for all.

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.

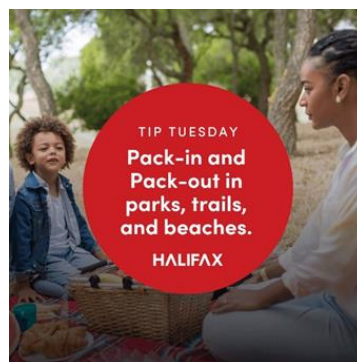


In Canada, 1 in 5 people experience a mental health problem or illness each year. This year's theme from the Canadian Mental Health Association is ***"Unmasking Mental Health."*** Many who live with mental health or substance use challenges often feel pressured to wear a "mask" to avoid judgment and 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.

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.





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### HRFE CELEBRATES MAJOR MILESTONE



I'd like to congratulate Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) on achieving international accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation

International (CFAI), a gold standard in the fire service. This honour recognizes HRFE's commitment to service excellence, planning, and continuous improvement, and places them among an elite group of departments worldwide. This is a proud moment for our municipality and a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our fire service team. Well done, HRFE!

### NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS FEES

Starting May 1, the municipality began charging a non-sufficient funds (NSF) fee for any pre-authorized payments returned by a financial institution due to insufficient funds, closed accounts or incorrect banking information.



The NSF fee will be \$40 per occurrence and will be applied to the associated account automatically. This change aligns our billing

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practices with standard municipal and financial institution policies, and it helps recover the administrative costs of processing returned payments.

We encourage residents and businesses to ensure that all banking information is accurate and that sufficient funds are available before making payments to avoid any unexpected fees.

### TICK CHECKS



As we spend more time outdoors, it's important to be aware of ticks and how to protect yourself. Ticks can be found in wooded areas, tall grass, and shrubs — even in urban parks and backyards.

To reduce your risk:

- Wear light-coloured clothing to spot ticks more easily
- Tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants
- Do a full body check after being outdoors — on yourself, children, and pets
- Shower within two hours of coming inside

For more information on tick safety and prevention, click [here](#).





## REQUESTING A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD



School crossing guards play a vital role in protecting young students at busy intersections, especially in elementary school

zones.

If you believe a crossing guard is needed in your area, here's how you can help make it happen:

### How to Request a School Crossing Guard

- Anyone—including parents, school staff, or community members—can request a school crossing guard by contacting 311 and providing details through the HRM Crossing Guard Program.
- If a marked crosswalk is already in place, HRM will conduct a site assessment.
- If no crosswalk exists, HRM or the Province will first evaluate whether one is warranted.

### What Are the Criteria?

- The location must serve elementary-aged students, with at least 10 students and 200 vehicles during peak times.
- Other factors include collision history, traffic speed, and safety conditions.

If approved, deployment of a crossing guard depends on budget availability, and unfunded locations are considered in the next cycle.

Visit [halifax.ca](https://www.halifax.ca) for more details.

## SACKVILLE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEET AND GREET

I'm pleased to be co-hosting the Sackville Business Association's June Meet & Greet with District 15 Councillor Billy Gillis on Thursday, June 5, from 8:30–9:30 a.m. at the Sackville Library (636 Sackville Drive).

Stop by for coffee, light refreshments, and a chance to chat about local issues and what's happening in District 14.

I look forward to seeing you there!

## 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.

## WILDFIRE SEASON

Wildfire season runs from March 15 to October 15. While [burning restrictions](#) are in effect year-round, additional restrictions are in effect during wildfire season.

[Fire safety](#) is key to protecting your home and community. Follow these tips every time you make an outdoor fire:

- Always check the [daily burn restrictions](#) before starting a fire to ensure it's safe and allowed.



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- Never leave your fire unattended - unattended fires can spread quickly and become dangerous.
- Completely extinguish your fire - douse it with water, stir the ashes and repeat until everything is cool to the touch.

Through a voluntary process, residents may register to receive a wildfire risk assessment for their property using the [FireSmart](#) standard. The FireSmart program is a national initiative designed to help communities and property owners reduce the risk of wildfires. It provides education, guidelines and practical actions to minimize fire hazards in homes, businesses and public spaces. To learn more about a FireSmart assessment, visit our [website](#).

For more information about wildfire safety, visit our [website](#).

### COMMUNITY EVENTS



Sackville Rivers Clean-Up Day on April 26.





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Dropping by Bookmark Halifax for Canadian Independent Bookstores Day on April 26.



On The Todd Veinotte Show with Councillor Patty Cuttell on April 21.



Mobile Food Market Site Visit with Executive Director Mandy Chapman Friday on April 25.



Happy to be in attendance with Councillor Billy Gillis and Councillor Virginia Hinch at Mayor Andy Fillmore's State of the Municipality Address.





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## COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG



**Councillor John Young**

**District 14**  
Hammonds Plains, Upper Hammonds  
Plains Lucasville – Middle & Upper  
Sackville

**902.943.9241**  
[john.young@halifax.ca](mailto:john.young@halifax.ca)  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
PO Box 1749 | Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

**HALIFAX**

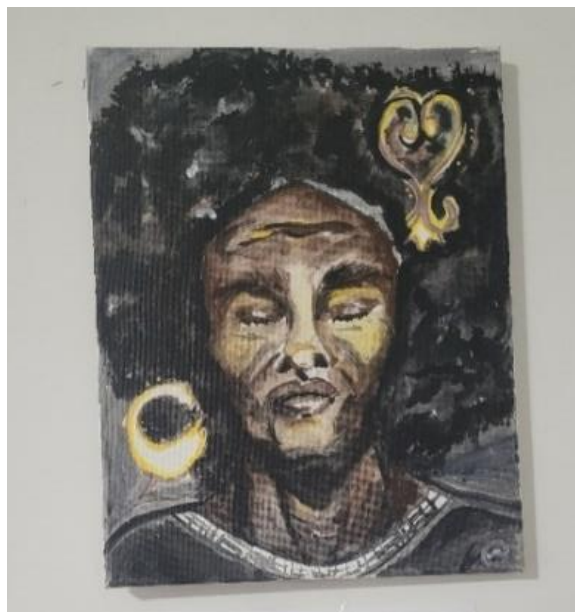
[halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) | 311

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”

"Examine What Is Said, Not Who Is Speaking"

*African Proverb*

## 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.palmeter@halifax.ca](mailto:victoria.palmeter@halifax.ca)