

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

May has arrived, and with it some glimpses of the beautiful weather that's to come.

As many of us start our spring cleaning, it's a great time to download our Halifax Recycles app, which will keep you up to date on your collection schedule, what goes where, and any upcoming special household waste depots.

HRM is also completing some much-needed road and active transportation work to clean up after a long winter. Please be patient with our crews as we work to complete pothole repair and begin construction season. If you see an area that needs attention, please take a moment to email contactus@311.halifax.ca or call 311 to report the details so we can add it to the list.

As always, please reach out to me or my office with any questions or concerns about your municipal services.





TALK TRANSIT



HALIFAX

We want to hear from you! Halifax Transit is seeking feedback about accessible bus stop features for passengers with vision-related disabilities, as well as Our Student

Transit Pass Pilot Program. Learn more and take the online survey here.



DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

BUDGET 2025/26

The Halifax Regional Municipality's Regional Council has approved the 2025/26 municipal budget including an operating budget of \$1.33 billion and a capital budget of \$314 million.

This was a long and challenging process as we reviewed every department's budget and discussed how we can most efficiently deliver the services our community needs without raising the tax rate.

The residential tax rate will remain unchanged at 0.770. With increased property assessment values, the average residential tax bill (including provincial contributions and mandatory tax) will increase by 5.2 per cent – or approximately \$117 annually on the average household. Due to higher assessment increases, commercial rates have decreased in each assessment tier and tax area.

For more information on how to read the tax bill, visit halifax.ca/taxes and for more details about our budget process, visit halifax.ca/budget.



Visiting the Eastern Passage Community Fridge
- I'm so grateful that District 3 has these
amazing people working so hard to support
people with food insecurity!

NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS FEES



Starting May 1, the municipality will be charging a non-sufficient funds (NSF) fee for any pre-authorized payments returned 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 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.

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!





DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

2025 VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS



On April 30, I was so pleased to honour seven incredible volunteers from District 3 with an HRM volunteer award.

- Dylan Blain for his over 30 years of volunteer service in politics, sports and nonprofit organizations including founding the Beginner Men's Kick Around program.
- Anne Fay has been a driving force within the 1st Woodlawn Scout Group for six years including a pivotal role in launching a new cub pack in 2024, creating inclusive spaces for youth who thrive in smaller groups.
- Samantha Galvin is the co-founder of the <u>Eastern Passage Community Fridge</u> and President of the Eastern Passage Food Security Society which she has expanded to include a community garden and educational programs.
- Erin Mosher spearheaded the <u>Eastern</u>
 <u>Passage Skate Park</u> project, has organized life-changing trips with <u>Dreams Take Flight Atlantic</u>, and champions mental health through music initiatives and supports local schools.
- Michael Perrier has been a dedicated advocate and volunteer for the Deaf community for over 50 years serving as a mentor, interpreter and advocate, bridging communication gaps and ensuring Deaf

- seniors feel heard and included at Northwood.
- Patrick Sangster has dedicated countless hours as a volunteer firefighter, President of the <u>Eastern Passage Cow Bay Firefighters</u> <u>Association</u> and Vice President of the Eastern Passage Food Security Society.
- Tamer Sobeih is a dedicated community leader with the <u>Portland Estates and Hills</u> <u>Residents' Association</u>, organizing events like Party in the Park and Movie in the Park. He is also a youth soccer coach and cofounder of the <u>Dalhousie Arabic Society</u>.

For a fuller list of their accomplishments, check out the full Volunteer Award Program Guide here. If you'd like to learn more about volunteering in our community, check out some resources here.

SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK



Together We can create safe workplaces and communities









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.



DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

HALIFAX WATER RATE INCREASE APPLICATION

Halifax Water will be applying for an increase to rates for water, wastewater and stormwater service effective Jan. 1, 2026 and April 1, 2026 to combat significant operating deficits projected at \$18.7 million for 2024/25 and \$34.1 million for 2025/26 fiscal years.

This situation is attributed to increased inflation, rising interest rates, depleted reserve funds, and aging infrastructure. Measures must be taken to tackle these financial challenges and maintain reliable water services. You can find the full details here.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As part of <u>Emergency Preparedness Week</u>, the Halifax Regional Municipality is encouraging all residents to take proactive steps in preparing for emergencies. This year's theme is **Know Your Risks**, emphasizing the importance of understanding potential hazards and taking proactive measures to protect yourself, your family and your community.

- Know your risks those who live on a coastline, floodplain or area prone to wildfire should understand the risks in their communities.
- Be prepared have an emergency kit, sign up for <u>hfxALERT</u>, know your emergency contacts and where to find important information, such as insurance documents.
- Get involved consider volunteering with the Joint Emergency Management team, which is activated during emergencies and provides support yearround through community emergency preparedness.

The devastating impacts of severe weather events, such as wildfires and floods, continue to

highlight the importance of emergency preparedness. The Emergency Management team is focused on the safety and security of residents, their properties and the environment by providing a timely and coordinated response to crisis events through a number of programs and initiatives.

- Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR)
- Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- <u>Joint Emergency Management</u> (JEM) Teams

There will be a JEM Jamboree with local emergency agencies, emergency management staff and community response teams where you can learn about local risks, how to prepare your home and family for emergencies and how you can volunteer on Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Porters Lake Superstore. For more information on emergency preparedness, visit our website.

PACK IN AND 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.

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

2026 - 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Halifax Regional Municipality is working with the Regional Council and the public to develop our strategic plan. The strategic plan sets out the priorities we hope to pursue as your municipal government over the next four years.

The 2021 – 2025 plan goals included four council priorities – fostering a prosperous economy, investing in communities, integrated mobility and our environment. It also includes our administrative priorities, mission, vision and values. You can find the full plan, performance reports and more information <a href="https://example.com/here.com/h

We recently completed a survey where residents could provide feedback on whether the draft plan reflects the most pressing issues facing the municipality and is inclusive of the entire region and are now working on final refinement and to have the Councillors review. A report will be presented to Regional Council this summer for final review and adoption. You can find out more here.

MOBILE HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE DEPOT EVENT

Residents looking to dispose of household special waste, not acceptable for curbside collection, can bring their materials to the following upcoming Mobile Household Special Waste Depot Events:

When: Saturday, May 10

Where: Porters Lake Transit Terminal, 21

Inspiration Drive, Porters Lake **When:** Saturday, May 17

Where: Mic Mac Mall, 21 Micmac Boulevard,

Dartmouth

The mobile drop-off events operate from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and take place rain or shine. Events are open only to residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Business waste is not permitted.

MENTAL HEALTH 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.

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

COMMUNITY CLEAN UPS



Community Clean Ups with the Portland Estates and Hills Residents Association and at the North Woodside Community Centre



SHARED MICROMOBILITY PILOT PROGRAM

The municipality is pleased to introduce new transportation options to explore and get around the city.

To celebrate, we welcome you to join HRM and Bird Canada for a launch event on Wednesday, May 14 from 3 – 5 p.m. at Grand Parade to test ride e-bikes and e-scooters, learn how to rent them and ride safely. Municipal staff will be there to walk you through the new service. Bird Canada will be there to help users download the app, register for services, learn how to unlock, ride safely and park. United Way Maritimes will also be there to spread awareness of equity pricing options including discounted rates in identified equity zones.

As part of the Halifax Regional Municipality's Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP), this new program will roll out in phases, starting with the downtown core and expanding into suburban areas to support a more connected, sustainable Halifax.

More information regarding the shared micromobility pilot will be published soon on our website.

BIRDS & BINOCULARS

Join us for a guided bird walk around the trails at Russell Lake on Saturday, May 24 at 10:30 a.m.

We will meet at the Woodlawn Public Library for a short talk then we will set out to check out some of our local birds and habitats. You can find out more here.



DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

RCMP ROAD SAFETY STATS



WOODLAWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Have you checked out the programs being offered at the Woodlawn Public Library lately? There truly is something for everyone. Find out more on their website here.



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!

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE SAFETY

District 3 is fortunate to have many great recreational outdoor trails, and we need to share them responsibly to use them safely.

Off-Highway Vehicles can be a great way to get outdoors and explore our trails if used responsibly. Off-Highway Vehicles are governed by the provincial Road Trails Act and the Off-Highway Vehicles Act and our municipal By-Law R-500 Respecting the designation of Road Trails on Municipal Highways.

Vehicles that are operating outside these provisions can face fines and jeopardize the safety of operators and others. If you see potentially unsafe behaviour happening near you, please contact the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR) at 1-800-565-2224.

DNRR will work closely with police to review any trends and problem areas and can provide the data for enforcement action.

If there is an immediate risk to public safety, call the police to report.





DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

MAY IS 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.

Stay tuned for more updates on events taking place across the municipality to celebrate Asian Heritage Month on our website.

REPORT A POTHOLE

Potholes can form any time of year but worsen more rapidly with fluctuating winter temperatures.

See a pothole? Report it by calling 311 or using our <u>online form</u>. You can also find answers to common questions, priorities and timelines on our website.

WOODSIDE-SHEARWATER ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

The municipality is working on the revised functional design for the Woodside-Shearwater Active Transportation corridor.

The project aims to bridge a key 3-kilometre gap between the Dartmouth Harbourfront Greenway and the Shearwater Flyer Trail, improving connections for people walking, rolling and cycling.

Residents participated in a public engagement session to review the updated design and share feedback on April 1 and staff will be working to compile this feedback to provide more recommendations moving forward. For more details about this project, visit our website.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND 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, visit this website.



DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

SENIOR RECREATION SERVICES PLAN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

HRM is inviting residents to provide feedback on recreation programming for seniors 60 years and older. Residents are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming public engagement sessions:

- Saturday, May 17 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Lake Echo Community Centre, Gymnasium (3168A Highway 7)
- Saturday, May 24 | 1 to 4 p.m. | East Dartmouth Community Centre, Meeting room A/B/C (50 Caledonia Rd)
- Wednesday, May 28 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. North Preston Community Centre, multipurpose room (44 Simmonds Rd)
- Thursday, May 29 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 | Musquodoboit Harbour Community Centre, Recreation Office (7900 Highway 7)
- Monday, June 2 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Sheet Harbour Lion's Centre (183 Pool Rd)

You can also complete an online survey <u>here</u> which will be open until June 4.

For more information, visit our website.



Deputy Mayor Tony Mancini, Councillor Sam Austin, and I presenting a cheque to Cory's Lil Angler's. We are proud to support our local organizations!

OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL AND TENNIS NETS



Spring has sprung and so have our outdoor pickleball and tennis nets. Crews have been busy getting courts ready for play, so be sure to check them out soon. Have a question or concern about a

court in your area? Call 311 or email contactus@311.halifax.ca.

DARTMOUTH NORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE/PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that the Dartmouth North Community Centre and Dartmouth North Public Library remain closed to the public. On March 6, the facility sustained significant flood damage. This impacted recreation programming and library services. Assessment and remediation work is ongoing, and there is currently no projected reopening date. Additional details will be shared when they are available.

For more information, visit Halifax Public Libraries' website or contact 311.



DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

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.

HALIFAX WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTIONS



Activities such as driveway paving and landscaping on your property can damage your connection to the water supply. This is why Halifax Water asks customers

planning property improvements such as driveway paving or landscaping to contact the utility at **902-420-9287** 2-3 weeks before work begins. This will allow time to schedule and conduct a visit to your property to complete an inspection and maintenance of the water service box that connects your home to the water main in the street.

Halifax Water offers this service at no charge to its customers.

PLAYING FIELD MAITENANCE UNDERWAY



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.

MARKETING LEVY SPECIAL EVENT RESERVE GRANTS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that applications for two Marketing Levy Special Event Reserve Grants programs are now open for events taking place from October 1, 2025 to and including March 31, 2026.

Marketing Levy Special Event Reserve Grants provide financial support for non-profit organizations to host large scale special events in the municipality that support and promote tourism and business development. The Distinguished Events program supports onetime, large-scale events that have high potential for national and international exposure, encourage multiple day visits to the municipality, provide the municipality with a competitive advantage and have a minimum budget of \$50,000. The New Events (Emerging) program supports organizations that bring or create a new event in the municipality that address gaps in the existing event calendar and have the potential to become an annual tourism event. Organizations must operate for a minimum of one year with demonstrated experience in event management and the event must have a minimum budget of \$50,000.

The deadline for both programs is Friday, May 30. For more information, visit our website.



DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

2025 URBAN DESIGN AWARDS CEREMONY

Residents are invited to attend the 2025 Urban Design Awards ceremony on Monday, May 26 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Paul O'Regan Hall in the Halifax Central Library. The event is free with no pre-registration required but is first-come, first served.

The Urban Design Awards is a celebration of urban design excellence in the Halifax region. This year a panel of four independent jurors will evaluate the 2025 submissions.

Award winners will receive an Award of Excellence, or an Award of Merit, in one of eight categories. Award of Excellence recipients will be eligible for the National Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Urban Design Awards later this year. Further information can be found on our website.

SECOND UNIT INCENTIVE PROGRAM



The Halifax Regional
Municipality, with help from
funding from the federal
government's Housing
Accelerator Fund, has
introduced a new grant
program to help property
owners create more housing
options. The Second Unit
Incentive Program offers

financial grants to help offset costs associated with building new secondary units. Eligible residents can receive up to \$12,000 to help reduce building expenses related to water and wastewater.

Applications will be open until June 1, 2026, or until funding is fully allocated. More information on how to apply can be found on our <u>website</u>.

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK



May 18 – 24 is National Public Works Week, and I want to give a big 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!

THE BEACON 50/50 FUNDRAISER

For 47 years, *The Beacon* has been our trusted source for neighborhood news, local stories, and small business highlights—all powered by dedicated volunteers.

Now, they need your support to keep the presses running. Enter their **50/50 fundraiser** today to support community journalism and have a chance to win a cash prize!

You can buy tickets <u>here</u>.





DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

PEPSI NATAL DAY PARADE FLOAT REGISTRATION

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that registration has opened for the 128th Pepsi Natal Day Parade, which will take place on Monday, Aug. 4. This annual event attracts hundreds of residents from across the region and is a key piece of the municipality's Natal Day programming.

Registration will close on Friday, July 18.

For more information, visit their website.

NOVA SCOTIA'S TOP EMPLOYERS (2025)



Halifax
Regional
Municipality
has once again
been named
one of Atlantic
Canada's Top
Employers and

Nova Scotia's Top Employers for 2025. The recognition highlights HRM's commitment to employee wellness, professional growth, and retirement support. Highlights include:

- Generous contributions to a defined benefit pension plan, plus retirement counselling and information sessions
- Career planning resources, leadership development, and mentoring opportunities
- Wellness programming, paid sick days, and mental health coverage up to \$1,500 per year

This designation reflects the Municipality's ongoing efforts to foster a supportive, inclusive, and healthy workplace.

DEACTIVATING HRM X ACCOUNTS

At the Tuesday, April 8 meeting, Regional Council voted 16-1 in favour of moving away from the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter), following the recommendation of a recent staff report.

The report was developed in response to a motion passed on Feb. 11, 2025, which asked the Chief Administrative Officer to explore whether HRM should stop using X as a communications tool — and to propose alternative ways to stay connected with residents.

After reviewing resident feedback, speaking with partner organizations, and looking at how other municipalities are adapting, staff recommended a gradual shift from X to Bluesky, a newer, decentralized social media platform that's gaining traction.

Council approved the recommendation, which will see HRM deactivate all active X accounts by July 15, 2025.

The goal is to ensure a smooth transition with minimal disruption while keeping HRM's digital communications in step with evolving trends and community preferences.

CLEARING STORM DRAINS, CATCHBASINS AND HYDRANTS



Halifax Water is encouraging residents to check their storm drains/catch basins to ensure they are clear. If you see they are blocked by snow, we ask that customers clear them if

they are able, and it is safe to do so.





DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

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 jbgmcgowan@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 (Vice Chair) 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 <u>Agendas</u>, <u>Meetings and Reports page</u> 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:

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.

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.

