



WELCOME AUGUST!



Happy
Emancipation
Day!

Happy Halifax
Dartmouth
Natal Day!

Enjoy this last month of summer before school starts by celebrating these significant heritage and cultural events with family and friends. Celebrating together unites us and builds a stronger community. Hope to see you at the Halifax Dartmouth Natal Day parade!

Keep reading for more information on the Tiny Home Village on Cobequid Road, free family movie at Kinsman Park, the Affordable Housing Pilot Project, the Recreational Trails Grants Program, Property Tax Rebate for Seniors 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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AUGUST MEETING DATES

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

Regional Council:

Tuesday, August 5 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, August 19 at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council: Monday,

- Monday, August 11 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Appeals Standing Committee

- Sept. 11 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday, August 20 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

- Wednesday, August 13 at 9:30 a.m.

DID YOU KNOW....

August is Children's Eye Health & Safety Awareness month and World Cancer Support month.

August 1 is International Beer Day

August 1 is World Scout Scraf Day

August 1 is World Day of Joy

August 4 is Halifax Dartmouth Natal Day

August 6 is International Day Physicians of the World for Peace

August 8 is International Rescue Cat Day

August 8 is Happiness Happens Day

August 9 is International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

August 9 is National Peacekeepers' Day

August 10 is United Nations World Day of Laziness

August 12 is International Youth Day

August 13 is International Left-Hander Day

August 15 is National Acadian Day

August 16 World Rum Day

August 19 is World Humanitarian Day

August 19 is World Photography Day

August 23 is International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition

August 26 is National Dog Day

August 29 is International Day Against Nuclear Tests

August 29 is World Video Game Day

August 30 is International Whale Shark Day

EMANCIPATION DAY



In 2021, Nova Scotia officially designated August 1 as Emancipation Day, a time to reflect and acknowledge our shared history of the enslavement of people of African descent in Canada.

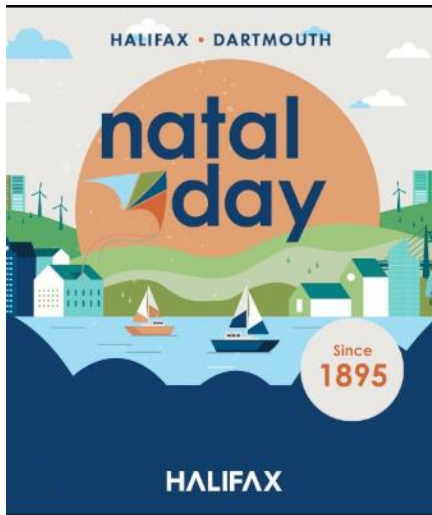
On August 1, 1834, the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 became law, officially ending the practice of slavery across the British Empire.

Slavery was foundational in the systemic anti-Black racism that impacts people of African descent today. Recognizing Emancipation Day provides an opportunity to maintain ongoing meaningful dialogue around race relations and inclusion, and to celebrate the diverse heritage,



culture and contributions of people of African descent across the region.

HALIFAX DARTMOUTH NATAL DAY



Happy 128th
[Halifax](#)
[Dartmouth](#)
[Natal Day!](#)
So much fun
planned for
August 4! Click
[here](#) for more
details.

DARTMOUTH ROAD RACE



The Dartmouth
Natal Day
Road Races
have been held
in Dartmouth
continuously
since 1907,
making it one
of the oldest
races in North

America. It consists of 2-mile and 6-mile events, run on a 2-mile course through historic downtown Dartmouth. The course starts and finishes in front of the 250-year-old Christ Church on Ochterloney Street and is followed by a reception and awards presentation. For more information, click [here](#).

FREE SWIMMING LESSONS AT RURAL BEACHES



The Halifax
Regional
Municipality is
offering residents
free swimming
lessons at rural

beaches and lakes this summer for children and youth.

The new weekly swim programs include general swimming lessons and lifesaving programs (including Bronze Cross and Workplace First Aid).

These programs compliment the municipality's annual swim lesson programs, which run at supervised beaches across the municipality. It also aligns with the recommendations of the [Rural Recreation Strategy](#).

All lessons are free and ages for each program differ.

For more information, including program schedules and registration, click [here](#).

BEACH CLOSURES – WATER QUALITY



Lifeguard supervision and water quality testing in 2025 will take place between July 1

and Sept. 1.

Know your swimming limitations if you choose to swim in unsupervised bodies of water. Always swim with a buddy in supervised areas



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and adults should never leave children unsupervised in the water.

Beach status in 2025 is updated weekdays by 8 a.m. and by 9 a.m. on weekends (between July 1 and Sept. 1). Please note that beach closures due to suspected blue-green algae can happen at any time. The municipal website will be updated as needed regarding blue-green algae-related closures.

Water sample results are provided when they exceed Health Canada Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality. More information on testing processes and Health Canada guidelines are available here: [Water Testing at Supervised Beaches](#).

NOTE: HRM stopped testing First Lake in 2020 due to poor bacteria quality. It is better known as the Kinsman Beach and is not currently supervised by the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). It was removed from the HRM's supervised beach program in 2020 due to frequent high E. coli levels. The beach is still used by residents, but there are no lifeguards.

Click [here](#) for information on beach closures.

AEROTECH CONNECTOR – OPENING SOON!



[The Aerotech Connector](#) will be a four-lane road, with an adjacent active transportation

trail, between Exit 5A at Highway 102 and Trunk 2 in Wellington near Sunnylea Road.

At a length of 5 kilometres, the connector will provide quicker and shorter access from the Wellington area to the Aerotech Industrial Park and Halifax Stanfield International Airport.

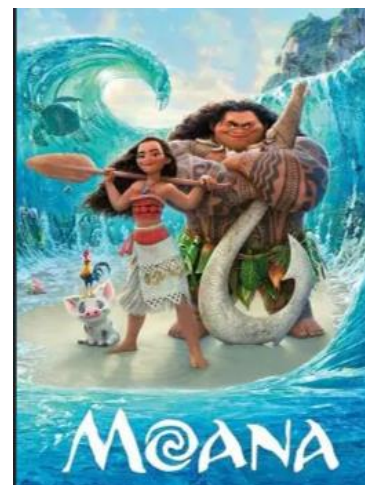
The roundabout at Trunk 2 and the connector road will open in the summer/fall of 2025.

FREE MOVIES IN THE PARK



Come on out Saturday, August 9 at 7 p.m. to Kinsmen Park, 71 First Lake Drive, to see the movie *Moana* at the park!

Bring your family, friends, blankets, and chairs for an adventure that's sure to make a splash! There will be a 50/50 draw on site, with proceeds supporting [Beacon House Food Bank](#).





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DEER ON GLENDALE DRIVE



I have received concern from residents regarding deer on Glendale Drive and some unfortunate collisions with vehicles. A request has been submitted to HRM staff for signage to be installed along Glendale Drive cautioning drivers of deer in the area and a reminder to slow down.

COBEQUID ROAD TINY HOME COMMUNITY - UPDATE



In response to many concerns raised by residents concerning the tiny home community

on Cobequid Road, I reached out to [Atlantic Community Shelters Society](#) and asked how they are addressing the issues raised. I have attached their letter of response below.

Hello Councillor Gillis & Chris,

Thank you for bringing this concern from a resident forward. We appreciate hearing from community members who demonstrate care for their neighbours.

As you know, the Sackville tiny home community is designed to offer wrap around supports so people are able to remain successfully housed. The homelessness experience for each individual is unique, and so is their healing journey. It is also not always linear. Many individuals have experienced trauma and have lacked appropriate support over time.

ACSS and United Way have worked together to create policies and practices that are meant to keep residents safe and provide them with the support they need to thrive. For the majority of residents, these policies are working well. Tenants are respectful of each other and of staff and visitors, they take pride in their home, and they are working through the barriers that previously made finding and sustaining housing difficult.

For others, the transition has been less smooth. We understand that some residents have used substances in the past to deal with homelessness and other challenges. Our policies do not allow for the use of illegal substances on site. ACSS offers substance use counselling to residents who indicate they need this support, amongst other supports to help them reach their personal goals. It is important to note that those substances may be legal. However, unlike housing supports for those with higher acuity, staff do not have eyes on residents 24/7. Residents might use illegal substances in the privacy of their own homes without our knowledge.

If it becomes known that a resident is using illegal substances, we have mechanisms in place to offer additional support or, if necessary, to end their tenancy. Ending a tenancy is a last resort, but it does happen in cases where the needs are higher than what can be met by staff, or in cases of harassment, violence or another threat to the safety and well-being of residents, staff or visitors.

Tenants start on short term, one month fixed term leases, and those that appropriately thrive have their leases extended. In cases where a tenant has violated a policy that threatens the well-being of the community, we let tenants know they may not be offered a new short term and offer to help them find alternative shelter options.

The tiny home community is still very new, and we are still learning and refining as we go. We expect that we will occasionally have tenants who don't thrive in this environment, but we hope that as we learn, we can continually improve so that these situations are very rare.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Paul Rudderham

Director of Operations

Atlantic Community Shelters Society

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PILOT PROGRAM

Through the federal [Housing Accelerator Fund](#), the Halifax Regional Municipality is launching the [Surplus Lands for Affordable Housing Pilot Program](#) to support nonprofit housing development.

The program will make four surplus municipal properties available to eligible nonprofit organizations for one dollar to help offset land acquisition costs:

- 48 Pinecrest Drive, Dartmouth



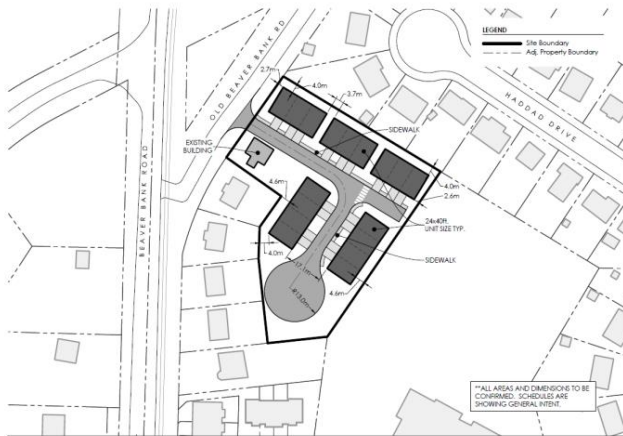
- 15 Laurelcrest Drive, Eastern Passage
- 18 Scotia Drive, Bedford
- 6850 Bayers Road, Halifax

Applicants must meet existing residential zoning requirements. Successful projects will offer below-market rental units and be ready for construction by October 2026.

Find more details here: buff.ly/JLVE3aJ

DEVELOPMENT IN BEAVER BANK

Proposal Details



On June 9, the North West Community Council (NWC) held a public hearing on [PLANAPP 2024-00312: Development Agreement for 229 Beaver Bank Road, Beaver Bank](#). The proposed development maintains the existing single unit dwelling located on the subject property as well as consists of 17 residential units arranged in five (5) townhouse blocks located off a new private driveway with access to the Beaver Bank Road.

NWCC approved the recommendation for a 17-unit townhouse development at 229 Beaver Bank Road.

For more information, contact Matt Conlin, Planner III, Current Planning at [902.719.9457](tel:902.719.9457) or by Email at conlinm@halifax.ca.

For information on other development projects in District 15, visit the [Active Planning Applications](#) site on the HRM Website.

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MONARCH RIVENDALE TRAIL BRIDGE REPAIRED



HRM staff have repaired the bridge at the Monarch Rivendale Trail. Thank you for your patience while we completed the required maintenance.

COMMUNITY MEDIATION PILOT



Halifax Regional Council has approved funding and directed staff to collaborate with the United Way Maritimes to create and implement a Community Mediation pilot program. This initiative will provide voluntary, confidential,



and impartial mediation services to residents experiencing interpersonal disputes across multiple neighbourhoods in the municipality.

The pilot program aims to improve community safety and cohesion by offering no-cost mediation and conflict coaching in accessible, neutral locations, including virtual options. The program will focus on common neighbourhood conflicts such as noise, parking, property boundaries, and nuisance issues, while excluding legal and certain sensitive matters.

This partnership leverages United Way Maritimes' extensive community presence and expertise to deliver services in diverse urban and rural areas including Spryfield, Fairview, Dartmouth North, and East Preston. A project coordinator will be hired to oversee program design and delivery, with referral pathways established through municipal staff, community partners, and self-referrals.

This program supports safer, stronger communities by offering a helpful way to solve disputes without legal action.

[Click here](#) for more information.

SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 4!



The Halifax Regional Centre for Education has 136 schools! For more information on school finder assistance, student transportation or general information, [click here](#).

Please contact the [Halifax Regional Centre for Education \(HRCE\)](#) for more information or your local MLA for issues or questions regarding education.

PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR SENIORS



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[The Nova Scotia Property Tax Rebate for Seniors program](#) helps low-income seniors with the cost of municipal residential property taxes. The rebate amount is based on your municipal residential property taxes. Rebates are 50% of what you paid on last year's property taxes, up to a maximum of \$800. You can apply until Dec. 31, 2025.

To qualify for the rebate, you need to meet all of the following criteria:

- your 2024 municipal residential property taxes are paid in full (your name is on the property title)
- you lived at the property as your primary residence in 2024 (the property can't be someplace that you live occasionally or a seasonal home)
- you receive or are eligible to receive the [Guaranteed Income Supplement](#) (GIS) or the [Allowance](#) from Service Canada as of 1 July 2025

If you're not already receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or the Allowance, you can check with Service Canada to see if you're eligible for them.

[Click here](#) for more information or [click here](#) to apply.



RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM



Applications have opened for the [Recreational Trails Capital Grants Program](#). Applications are available [here](#) and will remain

open until Monday, Sept. 1.

Funding through the Recreational Trails Capital Grants Programs supports community associations that operate and maintain recreational trails across the region. The program was established to support the municipality's recreational trail objectives, which are implemented in conjunction with community associations.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Fultz House Flag Raising on Canada Day.



Family Fun Day at the Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre



Motion Dance Fundraiser



The Teddy Bear Picnic

I attended many Canada Day events throughout District 15 from: the Flag Raising



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and Bean Luncheon at Fultz House where elected representatives delivered remarks to the crowd; Family Fun Day at Beaver Bank Community Center; Motion Dance Fundraiser BBQ on Sackville Drive; and a Teddy Bear Picnic at the Sackville Arena.



Had a great time with Councillor John Young riding the HRM Float in the Canada Day Parade and seeing former MLA Steve Craig.



Happy Birthday to Sackville's very own [Walter N Regan](#), protector of rivers and nature and all around good human who shares a Birthday with Canada.



I had a chance to get out on the water with some lovely volunteers from the [Lake Watchers Program](#) and Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon to do water sampling from points around Second Lake. Thank you to Bruce, Janey and Yvonne for showing Cathy and I the sampling process and educating us on the history of the lake. A sincere thank you for your efforts in keeping our lakes healthy and clean.



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Spent some time on the Lost Creek Trails following up on projects and requests from residents.



Another great meeting focused on building a stronger HRM with Councillor Jean St-Amand and former MLA Steve Craig and host Eric Yeung, owner of May Garden. We enjoyed lively conversation about business, politics, culture and exciting things ahead in the Chinese community in Nova Scotia.



I attended the Pride Flag Raising at the Grand

August 2025

Parade with MLA Brendan Maguire, Deputy Mayor Tony Mancini, Mayor Andy Fillmore and Councillor Jean St-Amand to kick off the 2025 Pride Festival.





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Had a great day at the Halifax Pride Parade with Mayor Andy Fillmore and fellow council colleagues Councillor Jean St-Amand, Laura White, Janet Steele, and Virginia Hinch.

PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Not sure what level of government does what? See the chart below to help determine which level you need to contact for assistance.

WHO DOES WHAT?

Federal Government

Airports	Criminal laws	Canadians Mortgages
Borders & passports	Employment Insurance	National RCMP
Broadcasting & telecommunications	Environment	National defence & veteran's affairs
Canada Child Benefit	Fisheries, oceans & national parks	Postal service
Charter of Human Rights	Immigration	Student loans
Correctional facilities	Income tax	
	International travel and support for abroad	

Provincial Government

Addictions and mental health	100 series highways & off ramps	Property tax (property assessment)
Affordable/public housing	Hospitals	Provincial parks
Correctional facilities	Housing	Provincial RCMP
Employer and employee supports	Justice	Schools and school parking lots
Environment	Landlord and tenant supports	Student loans
Family and Community Support Services	Lakes	Workplace safety
	Post-secondary education	

Municipal Government

City Hall	Municipal police force (i.e. HRP & RCMP District H)	Property tax (municipal portion)
Development and building permits and fees	Municipal parks	Recreation facilities
Environment	Libraries	Snow removal & waste collection
Fire services (i.e. HRFE)	Local road maintenance & improvement	Transit
Halifax Water	Parks, trails and playgrounds	

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



COUNCILLOR BILLY GILLIS

LOWER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK

Phone: 902-576-3411

E-mail: brianwongmla@gmail.com

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



Braedon Clarke
Sackville-Bedford-Preston

Suite 201
2900 Hwy 2
Fall River

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](#) – now the [Nova Scotia Energy and Regulatory Boards Tribunal](#). 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.

COUNCILLOR BILLY GILLIS



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

