



311 MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION

When requesting assistance with routine municipal matters such as requesting traffic calming assessments, reporting potholes, missed garbage collection, and other routine requests, residents are encouraged to contact the 311 Contact Centre. Residents can report an issue to 311 by either calling 311 or emailing contactus@311.halifax.ca. Please feel free to copy me on your email to 311 if it is not a routine matter.

By reporting your municipal issues to 311, it helps ensure that your concerns are logged, tracked, and assigned to the appropriate staff department to address. Our contact centres are open seven days a week and are the fastest way to ensure your concerns are addressed.

Once you have submitted a service request you will be provided with a SR number. This number can be used to contact 311 and follow up on your request at anytime. You can also advise the agent at the time of your call that you would like to receive a follow-up from staff regarding your service request.

DUTCH VILLAGE ROAD

Dutch Village Road remains under construction as part of the Complete Streets project, with closures and transit detours continuing into late summer.

From July 1 to Aug. 22, southbound traffic will be closed between Supreme Court and Bayers Road, while northbound access from Joseph Howe Drive remains open. Several west-side intersections will also be closed, including Westerwald, Sunnybrae, Central, Rosedale, Frederick, and Rufus. Local access will be available via Alex Street. Pedestrian access remains open.

This follows an earlier closure between Joseph Howe and Central Avenue, in effect since June 16.

Transit routes 28 and 137 will be detoured. Several stops will be temporarily closed in both directions, including those on Dutch Village Road and Rosedale Avenue.

I am meeting with staff on an on-going basis to get updates about the project. For the most up to date information about the project please keep an eye on my [Facebook page](#) and the project [website](#).



COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

WEEKLY GREEN CART COLLECTION



Weekly green cart collection returns across the municipality starting **Monday, July 21**, and will continue until **Friday, Sept. 12**. This enhanced summer service is a helpful way to manage food waste during peak

heat months. While in previous years it ran through the full summer, Regional Council approved a slightly shorter collection period this year as part of the 2025–26 municipal budget process.

To ensure pickup, please have your green cart at the curb by 7 a.m. on collection day—and remember to keep items secured from wildlife. The easiest way to confirm your schedule is by checking the Halifax Recycles app or visiting our [website](#).

Here are a few simple tips to keep your green cart clean and odour-free during the heat:

- Wrap wet food waste in boxboard or newspaper
- Use paper liners in your mini-bin and green cart
- Empty your mini-bin daily
- Place your cart at the curb even if it's not full
- Freeze food scraps until collection day
- Store your cart in a shaded, well-ventilated area

Please note: Printed collection schedules distributed before June 10 are no longer accurate. For the most up-to-date information, always refer to the app or municipal website. Bi-weekly collection will resume starting **Monday, Sept. 15**.

UPDATE ON STRONG MAYOR POWERS MOTION

At the July 10 meeting, Regional Council voted in favour of a motion requesting consultation from the Province of Nova Scotia if it considers introducing strong mayor powers in Halifax or other municipalities.

The motion directs the Mayor to:

- Write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting that the province engage in discussion with Halifax Regional Municipality and other municipalities prior to any legislative changes.
- Write a letter to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Board encouraging them to adopt a similar position.
- Submit both letters by July 22 and circulate any responses to Council.

Council also directed the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report on how strong mayor powers have been implemented in other Canadian jurisdictions and what lessons may apply locally.

Strong mayor powers vary depending on provincial legislation but could include authority over hiring senior staff, preparing budgets, or vetoing council decisions. How such powers would apply in Nova Scotia would be determined by the province.

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





COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

HALIFAX – BEDFORD BASIN WEST

HRM MOVES TO BLUESKY

As directed by Regional Council, and following a recent staff report, the municipality will be phasing out its use of X (formerly Twitter) and moving to Bluesky, a growing platform where users can view short posts that include text, images, and videos.

This change reflects feedback from the public, emerging trends in other jurisdictions, and input from provincial and partner organizations.

The following official Bluesky accounts are now active:

- [@hfxgov.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxgov.bsky.social) (main municipal account)
- [@hfxtransit.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxtransit.bsky.social) (Halifax Transit)
- [@hfx-fire.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfx-fire.bsky.social) (Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency)
- [@hfxevents.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxevents.bsky.social) (Halifax Events)
- [@hfxrec.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxrec.bsky.social) (Halifax Parks & Recreation)
- [@hfxplanning.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxplanning.bsky.social) (Planning & Development)

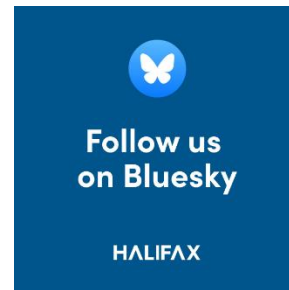
Content on Bluesky will mirror what has traditionally been posted to X—such as updates on programs, services, events, disruptions, and emergency notifications. While an account is not required to view content on Bluesky, residents can follow and engage more actively by signing up.

Municipal X accounts will be discontinued by July 14, 2025.

This change does not affect Halifax Water, Halifax Regional Police, or Halifax Public Libraries, as they manage their own social media platforms independently.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed through a variety of channels:

- Sign up for hfxALERT for emergency and operations notifications
- Download the HFX Recycles app for solid waste info and reminders
- Use the HFX GO app for transit fare payments and service updates
- Visit halifax.ca/news for the latest PSAs and news releases
- Explore Shape Your City Halifax to participate in municipal engagement
- Subscribe to the municipality's RSS feeds
- Call 311 with any questions



RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANTS PROGRAM

Applications are now open for our Recreational Trails Grants Program. Funding through the program supports community associations that operate and maintain recreational trails across the region.

Applications for 2026/27 are due Sept. 1, 2025. For details and the application forms please visit our [website](#).





COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

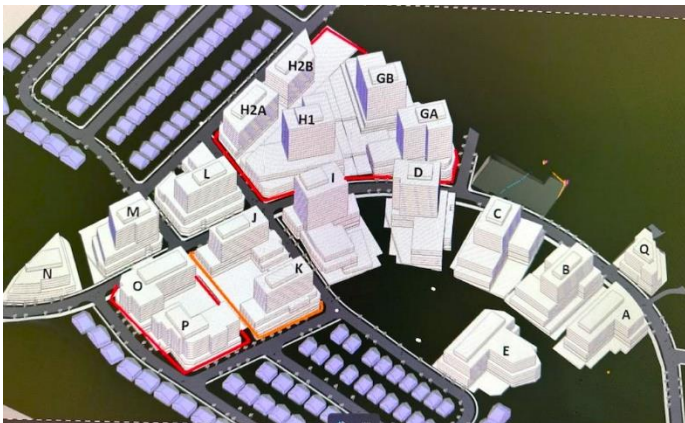
SETON RIDGE UPDATE

After months of rock breaking and rock moving, the Seton Road/Lacewood Drive intersection is starting to take shape. Lacewood will be the second access point for the Seton Ridge development.

Developer Southwest plans to have the Lacewood end of Seton Road paved by the end of 2025. Once paved, it will be used mainly by construction vehicles for the next few years. It will also ensure the Sisters of Charity residence has a second entrance and exit during construction.

Meanwhile, blasting continues for Seton Ridge's underground utilities and side roads. Blasting will also be done for the underground parking garages for 13 mixed use buildings (shown in white). These buildings will be mainly multiunit housing with ground floor retail and commercial, ranging from 6-16 storeys (as shown in the diagram). Blasting for these buildings will continue until late 2026.

Construction of the multiunit housing is expected to start in 2027. These buildings will be surrounded by 175 single family homes and townhouses (shown in purple in the diagram) for a total count of about 2,400 housing units. The projected population is 6,500-7,000. This is one of the largest housing projects in HRM and is expected to take 10 years to complete. For more information on the development please visit Southwest's [website](#).



ANNEX PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Fairview Heights Elementary is getting a new playground at the Annex (at Coronation and Willett). The old play structures and raised gravel platform are being removed. They will be replaced with new equipment and a more accessible play area.

The project is expected to take 5-7 weeks. The goal is to have the playground open by the time school is back in session in September.



STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM

The Student Transit Pass Program is being extended for the 2025/26 school year.

All HRCE/CSAP-registered students in grades 7 to 12 will continue to have access to free travel on all Halifax Transit busses and ferries in the fall. Starting in September 2025, registered homeschooled students in grades 7 to 12 who live in the Halifax region will also be eligible to receive a free Student Transit Pass.

HRM Regional Council initiated the Student Transit Pass with a small pilot program in 2021. The expanded program for all junior and senior high school students is funded by HRM and the Province of Nova Scotia. The 2024/25 Student Transit Pass can be used for free transit all summer until Sept. 12, 2025.

To learn more about the program and how to register please visit our [website](#).



COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

UPDATE ON COUNCIL VOTE REGARDING BIKE LANE CONSTRUCTION

At the June 11 meeting, Regional Council considered a motion brought forward by Mayor Andy Fillmore regarding upcoming bike lane projects.

The motion proposed that the municipality temporarily pause awarding any new bike lane design or construction capital project contracts until Council received a supplementary staff report outlining:

1. A list of bike lane projects proposed in the current four-year capital plan that could reduce vehicular traffic capacity and/or increase traffic congestion; and
2. An assessment of the feasibility of alternative network solutions that could achieve active transportation goals while maintaining or improving current traffic flow.

The motion was defeated in a 12–5 vote.

Following the vote, Council considered and approved a separate motion related to the [Morris Street project](#) directing staff to provide alternatives that would allow two-way traffic on Morris Street while still meeting the project's transportation goals. A Brunswick Street alternative motion, which sought to maintain vehicular lanes while delivering a protected bike lane, was defeated.

At the June 25 meeting, Council voted in favour of a new motion requesting a staff report outlining:

- A list of AAA bike network capital projects proposed for the 2026–2029 fiscal years and their estimated budgets;

- An assessment of alternative network solutions that could reduce future costs; and
- Opportunities for additional external funding sources.

The motion also included a request to break down project budgets by general traffic, public space, pedestrian, and bike lane components. A proposed amendment to include a full cost-benefit analysis was not adopted. The requested staff report is expected to return to Council in December.

For more information on Council decisions or to review meeting materials, visit our [website](#).



Joined my fellow Councillors Nancy Hartling and Janet Steele to present a donation cheque to Halifax West High School Principal Lee Anne Amaral. The funds will be used to purchase new indoor bleachers for the Halifax West Gym.



COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

HALIFAX – BEDFORD BASIN WEST

MUNICIPALITY LAUNCHES SURPLUS LANDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PILOT PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality, through the Housing Accelerator Fund, is launching the Surplus Lands for Affordable Housing Pilot Program. This program aims to make municipal surplus land available to non-profit organizations for the creation of vibrant, affordable housing communities.

The goal of this program is to reduce the upfront costs of non-profit housing construction by eliminating land acquisition costs, and providing land for one dollar to eligible, non-profit organizations. The pilot includes property at four locations:

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

As part of the pilot project, the municipality will be considering applications that meet current residential land use rules for each property (eg, permitted number of units, building size and height, setbacks from property lines and street frontage.) Successful projects will offer new rental units at below average market rents and be ready to start construction by October 2026.

By supporting affordable units in a short timeframe, this pilot program is an investment in the vibrancy and affordability of our community's future.

Whether you're a neighbor, a community advocate or simply curious – this is your opportunity to learn more about one way the municipality is addressing housing needs.

Learn more about the program and by visiting [our website](#)

HALIFAX COUNCIL APPROVES NEW REGIONAL PLAN

Halifax Regional Council has approved a new Regional Municipal Planning Strategy to guide development as the municipality prepares for a population that could reach one million by 2050.

The updated plan replaces the 2014 version and sets policies for how and where growth should occur, aiming for 75 per cent of new development in serviced urban areas. It also expands environmental buffer zones, supports commercial solar projects in rural zones, and allows short-term rentals on rural lots.

The plan includes changes required by the province's Minimum Planning Requirements, such as allowing residential uses in most zones and lifting bedroom mix requirements until 2027. With the plan now approved, staff will move ahead with suburban planning work and a strategic growth and infrastructure plan to assess future servicing needs

FLOOD READY

Floods happen in the HRM. Climate change is increasing the risk. With the new municipal flood maps and resources, you can learn:

- what flooding is;
- where it could flood;
- how the municipality is building resilience;
- how to get flood ready.

Learn more here by visiting our [website](#).





COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

LAWN MOWING

As we move into the growing season, residents are reminded that they are responsible for mowing the grass in front of their properties, including the strip between the sidewalk and the road, known as the right of way.

While the municipality previously mowed some of these areas, particularly along major streets with a high number of non-residential properties, that approach changed with budget adjustments in recent years. For the 2025 season, maintenance of these grassy strips is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

Under the [Streets By-law \(S-300\)](#), all property owners, including landlords and owners of commercial or private residential properties, are expected to keep the grass on their property, as well as the adjacent right of way, trimmed to a reasonable height of about six inches. The municipality does not mow grass on privately owned properties or sites owned by other government agencies.

If a complaint is received about long grass, a Compliance Officer will inspect the site. If the property is found in violation, the owner will receive an Order with a deadline to cut the grass. If the work isn't completed by that date, the municipality will hire a contractor to do the work, and the cost will be billed back to the property owner and applied as a lien on the property.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep our community looking its best.

CAO CATHIE O'TOOLE ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO RETIRE

On July 9, Cathie O'Toole announced her intention to retire as Chief Administrative Officer of the Halifax Regional Municipality after over 25 years of public service.

Ms. O'Toole, who has served as Chief Administrative Officer since January 2023, will continue in her role into October and assist Mayor and Regional Council in the development of a transition plan for the municipality.

"It has been an honour to serve both the municipality and Halifax Water, and I take pride in the projects and initiatives I have had the privilege of working on and leading," said Ms. O'Toole.

In the coming weeks, additional details will be shared, including Ms. O'Toole's last day, and the transition plan.

WASTE COLLECTION TIMING RULES

Waste can be placed curbside no earlier than **7 p.m.** the evening before the scheduled collection day and no later than **7 a.m.** the morning of the scheduled collection day. Remove any materials not collected by **9 p.m.** on the scheduled collection day.

Call 311 for collection issues.





COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

E-SCOOTER RULES

With more people using e-scooters across the municipality, it's important to know where and how they can be used.

Under By-law M-300 (the Micromobility By-law), as well as the Province of Nova Scotia's Motor Vehicle Act, here's what you need to know.

Where e-scooters are allowed:

- On roads with speed limits of 50 km/h or lower
- In bike lanes
- On multi-use pathways within streets

Where e-scooters are not allowed:

- On sidewalks
- On park trails, unless they are specifically signed as permitted
- At speeds over 25 km/h on roads or bike lanes
- At speeds over 15 km/h on multi-use pathways

Safety first:

- Riders must wear a helmet
- Riders must be at least 14 years old

E-scooters may also be used on private property with permission from the property owner.

By following the rules, we can all help ensure micromobility options like e-scooters continue to be a safe and accessible part of how we move through our communities.



FIT WITH FIRE INFORMATION SESSION

Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency has added a third Fit with Fire information session.

This session is for women and gender-diverse folks and is a great opportunity to break a sweat in a workout led by real firefighters, speak with recruiters and see if firefighting could be your future career.

Date: Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025

Time: 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Location: 45 Knightsbridge Dr., Halifax

You don't need to be a fitness pro – all levels are welcome. Spots are limited, so sign up is required. Please register using this [link](#).



FREE AQUAFIT CLASSES

Free Aquafit classes are being offered this summer at the Halifax Central Common Pool. No need to sign up, just show up for some exercise in the sun. Classes run Mondays-Thursdays from **July 1 to Aug. 28**.

For class times and more information about other programs being offered at the Halifax Central Common Pool this summer please visit our [website](#).



COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'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. The municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official 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."

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Federal Representatives in District 10:

- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** Halifax West
401-3845 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, NS, B3L 4H9
Phone: 902-426-2217
lenametlege.diab@parl.gc.ca

Provincial Representatives in District 10:

- **MLA Lina Hamid** Fairview-Clayton Park
203-3845 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, NS B3L 4G2
Phone: 902-404-3220
linahamid@nsmla.ca

- **MLA Adegoke Fadar** Clayton Park West
120-287 Lacewood Drive
Halifax, NS B3M 3Y7
Phone: 902-457-0364
adegoke@adegokefadare.ca

COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

Councillor Morse currently serves on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Canadian Capital Cities Organization
- Halifax Chain of Lakes Trails
- Halifax Harbour Bridges Commission



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