



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

WELCOME AUGUST!



Hello and welcome to the August edition my e-newsletter.

Summer is in full swing, and I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather and longer days.

It has been a busy month connecting with residents, attending Council meetings and community events.

This month, I'll be sharing updates on municipal events, community information and general HRM news.

John

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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, August 11 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Active Transportation Advisory Committee

- Thursday, August 21 at 4:30 p.m.

African Descent Advisory Committee

- Thursday, August 14 at 6 p.m.

Executive Standing Committee

- Monday, August 18 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

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

Transportation Standing Committee

- Thursday, August 21 at 10 a.m.

DATES OF NOTE

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

August 1 is Emancipation Day

August 4 is Halifax Dartmouth Natal Day

August 6 is International Day Physicians of the World for Peace

August 9 is National Peacekeepers' Day

August 12 is International Youth Day

August 13 is International Left-Hander Day

August 15 is National Acadian Day

August 19 is World Humanitarian Day

August 23 is International Day for the

Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition

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.

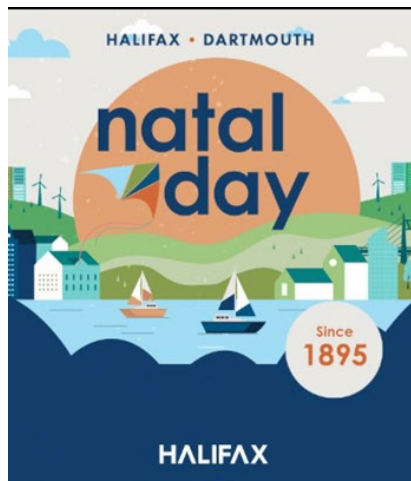
Slavery was foundational in the systemic anti-Black racism that impacts people of African descent today. Recognizing Emancipation Day provides an opportunity to maintain ongoing meaningful dialogue around race relations and inclusion, and to celebrate the diverse heritage, culture and contributions of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



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HALIFAX DARTMOUTH NATAL DAY



Happy 128th
[Halifax](#)
[Dartmouth Natal](#)
[Day!](#)

So much fun
planned for Aug.
4!

Click [here](#) for
more details.

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](#).

WALLACE LUCAS COMMUNITY CENTRE SOCIETY



The Wallace Lucas Community Centre is a volunteer-run community centre located at 596 Lucasville Road, Lucasville.

The facility hosts many community events including dances, dinners, and other seasonal events. Their mission is to provide a social and recreational meeting place, which recognizes and celebrates the rich African Nova Scotian Heritage of the Community, thus fostering a greater sense of Community and pride in the Lucasville area, both past and present.

For more information call: (902) 865-0944.

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).

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HAMMONDS PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTRE



The Hammonds Plains Community Centre is a 3,000 square foot, two-story building located in the heart of Hammonds Plains at 2041 Hammonds Plains Road at the Glen Arbour Way intersection. The facility is adjacent to the [Eisenhauer Ballfield](#).

For more information, call 1-902-835-6790.

UPPER HAMMONDS PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTRE



The [Upper Hammonds Plains Community Centre](#) is a 7,000 square foot community facility located at 711 Pockwock Road, Upper Hammonds Plains.

The community centre building is owned by HRM, but the property is owned by the Trustees of Emmanuel United Baptist Church Society (EBCS). Ownership of the former schoolhouse was transferred from the province to Halifax County and the Upper Hammonds Plains Community Development Association (HPCDA) has managed the community centre since 1970. HRM Parks also has multiple outdoor amenities on the EBCS property including a basketball court, playground, and a now decommissioned ballfield.

For more information call 902-835-6730.

WEEKLY GREEN CART COLLECTION



Weekly green cart collection has returned across the municipality, starting Monday, July 21, continuing 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.



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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 halifax.ca

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.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our community clean and green!

NATIONAL ACADIAN DAY



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Since 1881, Acadians have celebrated National Acadian Day on Aug. 15, a

tradition established at the first National Acadian Convention in Memramcook, N.B.

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The day is marked by community gatherings, music, and the *Tintamarre*, a festive procession where participants make noise as they walk together to celebrate Acadian identity and solidarity.

The Halifax region is home to the largest Acadian and Francophone population in Nova Scotia. In recognition of this important day, the municipality will host its **12th annual National Acadian Day flag raising ceremony**.

National Acadian Day is an opportunity to learn about the history and cultural contributions of Acadians, and to participate in celebrations taking place across the municipality.

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



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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.

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTS NEW 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.

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

MUNICIPALITY LAUNCHES SURPLUS LANDS FOR 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 non-profit housing

development.

The program will make four surplus municipal properties available to eligible non-profit 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



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RURAL SWIMMING LESSON PROGRAMS



This summer, Halifax Rec is introducing two new FREE swimming programs at rural beaches and lakes! Children and youth can sign up for free swimming lessons and lifesaving programs — including Bronze Cross and Workplace First Aid —across rural communities.

Learn more at halifax.ca/SwimPrograms.

HALIFAX SUMMER SERIES



Discover the exciting events happening in Halifax this summer!

The Halifax Regional Municipality is hosting and promoting a variety of activities through its Summer Series, running from June to early

September.

Events include live music, family-friendly activities and fireworks. Many events are free for residents. Plan your summer today:

halifax.ca/SummerSeriesEvents

IN THE COMMUNITY



It was a thrill to ride the HRM Float in the Canada Day parade with fellow colleague Councillor Billy Gillis and spending time with former MLA Steve Craig.



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Rick Burns, MLA, and Brent Pottie, President of Kynock Resources, enjoying the Kynock Customer Appreciation BBQ on July 26, 2025



Pride Week Book Fair at the Pink Piano Sackville Drive July 26, 2025.



Cheque presentation to the Upper Hammonds Plains Community Development Association to support Seniors Group.

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TALK TRANSIT



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 at:

<http://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/talktransit>

I encourage you to reach out to 3-1-1 or me at any time with municipal questions or concerns.

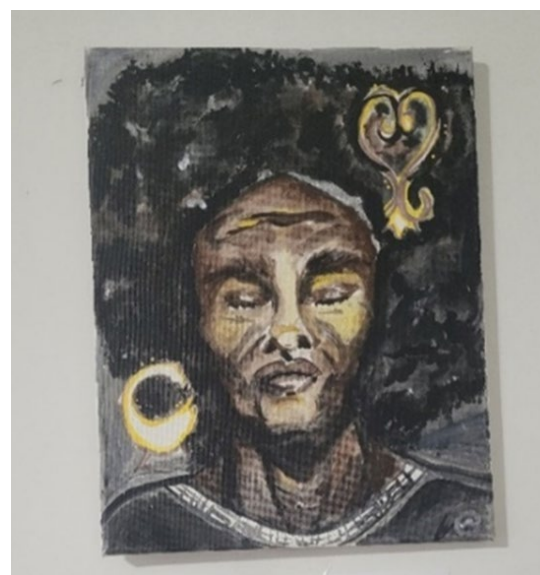


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I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council

- Northwest Community Council
- Executive Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Active Transportation Standing Committee
- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
- African Descent Advisory Committee



"Words to Live By"

"Self-Determination"

Tomorrow belongs to

People who prepare for it today.
African Proverb

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