



COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

DISTRICT 8 NEWSLETTER

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

WELCOME AUGUST

Summer is flying by, but luckily, we still have lots of time left to enjoy the beautiful weather that August brings! There continues to be lots of fun festivals and activities happening throughout the summer months. Keep an eye out on your [Civic Events webpage](#) to stay up to date on all things happening across the municipality!

Emancipation Day will be celebrated on August 1. This is an important day to recognize Canada's history of slavery and celebrate the strength and resilience of African Nova Scotians. I hope that you will attend one of the many Emancipation Day events happening throughout the city.

Keep reading to find out more about weekly green cart collection, participatory budgeting, and the affordable surplus housing program.

If you have any questions regarding a municipal program or service, please contact me at 902-237-8373 or virginia.hinch@halifax.ca

AUGUST MEETING DATES

Regional Council:

Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 10 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 7 at 10 a.m.- if required

Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 10 a.m.

Halifax and West Community Council

Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 6 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council

Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 6 p.m.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change, please confirm on our municipal [website](#).





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EMANCIPATION DAY

Aug. 1 is Emancipation Day in Nova Scotia, a day to acknowledge the history and legacy of slavery in Canada and to recognize the strength and contributions of people of African descent.

Emancipation Day marks the anniversary of Aug. 1, 1834, when the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect, ending slavery in most parts of the British Empire, including Canada. The day provides an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing impacts of systemic anti-Black racism, and to engage in meaningful conversations about equity, justice, and inclusion. It is also a time to honour the heritage, culture, and resilience of African Nova Scotian communities across the region.

A flag raising will take place at Province House on Aug. 1 at 9 a.m., followed by Emancipation Day events on the waterfront.

**CELEBRATE
EMANCIPATION
DAY**

AUGUST 1ST 2025

9:00am - flag raising at Province House
1726 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS

11:00am - Emancipation Day event
1521 Lower Water Street, Halifax, NS

ANSA BCC NOVA SCOTIA

EMANCIPATION DAY PARADE

On Monday, Aug. 4, the United African Women's Association of Nova Scotia will be having a Grand Emancipation Parade. The parade will be held at 10 a.m., followed by a Family BBQ at 1 p.m. Both events will take place at Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park in Dartmouth.

Residents are encouraged to register before the event. A link to the event can be found [here](#).

2025
**GRAND EMANCIPATION
PARADE**
Unity: strengthening our Legacy

Date: Monday, August 4th, 2025
Time: 10 am - 5 pm
Venue: Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park
45 Grahams Grove, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 1X6

Come and enjoy performances, diverse culture, and lots of delicious food
Call 782-641-0549 or 902-237-9644 if there is any issue finding the venue

[Click here to register, or scan the code](#)

UACWA NOVA SCOTIA CCTH ANSA

WEEKLY GREEN CART COLLECTION

Weekly green cart collection has returned across the municipality, starting **Monday, July 21, continuing until Friday, Sept. 12.**

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

Bi-weekly collection will resume starting **Monday, Sept. 15.**



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NATAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Mark your calendars for the 128th annual Natal Day celebrations happening across the municipality! From fireworks and live music to parades and family-friendly activities, there's something for everyone.

Highlights include:

- Natal Day Parade: Monday, Aug. 4 | 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Fireworks on the Harbour: Saturday, Aug. 2 | 10 p.m. (*Rain date: Sunday, Aug. 3*)
- Lake Banook Fireworks: Monday, Aug. 4 | 9:30 p.m.
- Freedom Festival: Sunday, Aug. 3 | Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Park | 2–9:30 p.m.
- Dartmouth Natal Day Road Race: Monday, Aug. 4 | 8–9:30 a.m.
- Family Undersea Adventure Day: Monday, Aug. 4 | Sullivan's Pond | 12–4 p.m.
- Bridgewalk: Sunday, Aug. 3 | Macdonald Bridge | 2–4 p.m.
- Mike Cowie Band: Monday, Aug. 4 | Halifax Public Gardens | 2–4 p.m.

Bonus: Enjoy *free ferry service* on Saturday, Aug. 2. The Parker Street Food Bank will also be accepting donations at the Halifax and Alderney ferry terminals. To find out more details please visit our [website](#).

UPDATE ON STRONG MAYOR POWERS MOTION

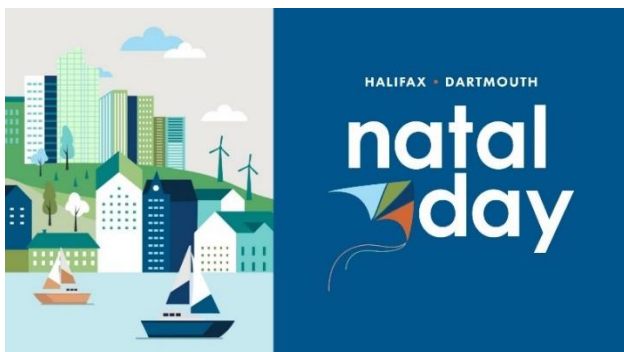
At the July 10 meeting, Regional Council voted in favour of a motion requesting consultation from the Province of Nova Scotia if it considers introducing strong mayor powers in Halifax or other municipalities.

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](#).





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2025 PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IS HERE!

Participatory Budgeting is coming back to District 8! On **Thursday, Sept. 25**, District 8 residents will once again have the opportunity to provide input on how to spend **\$75,000** to support community projects.

On Participatory Budgeting vote night everyone (including children!) is encouraged to come and help choose projects that will help build a stronger community. This is a more engaging and different way to make decisions about how to spend public money in our neighborhood. Community members, like YOU, will propose projects and/or make recommendations on how to spend this money.

If you are a nonprofit organization or community group looking for District Capital Funding to support your community project, I highly encourage you to apply for funding. The maximum amount of funds that will be provided for a single project will be **\$10,000**.

To determine if you are eligible to participate in the Participatory Budgeting vote night you are encouraged to contact my office and speak to Kate Richardson my Council Constituency Coordinator she can be contacted by email at richark@halifax.ca or by phone 902-490-4090.

All funding requests must be submitted to my office by **Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, by 4p.m.** This will ensure that my office can vet all applications that have been received and ensure that they qualify for District Capital funding.

You're Invited

Participatory Budgeting with District 8 Councillor Virginia Hinch

 Halifax Forum-Maritime Hall
 Thursday, Sept. 25
 6 - 8 PM

Get in touch:
virginia.hinch@halifax.ca
902.237.8373



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.



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MUNICIPALITY LAUNCHES SURPLUS LANDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PILOT PROGRAM

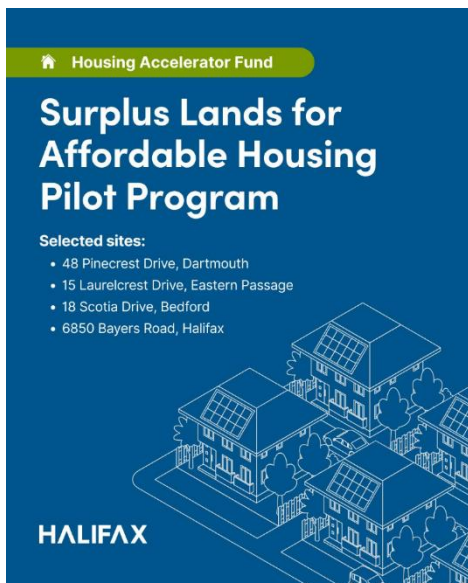
Through the federal Housing Accelerator Fund, the Halifax Regional Municipality is launching the Surplus Lands for Affordable Housing Pilot Program to support non-profit housing development.

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.

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



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.



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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](#).

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 August 28.

Mondays and Thursdays 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Attended the Halifax Pride Parade with my fellow Councillors.



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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.

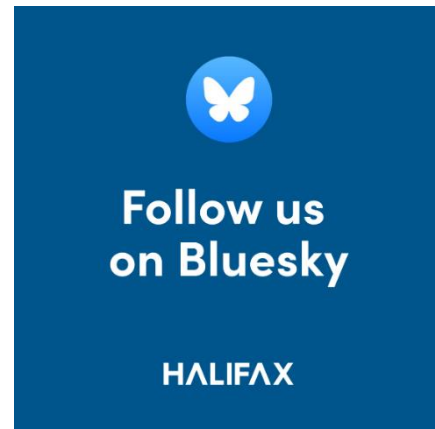
The following official Bluesky accounts are now active:

- [@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.

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



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.

To find your collection schedule and more information about What Goes Where please visit our [website](https://halifax.ca/what-goes-where).



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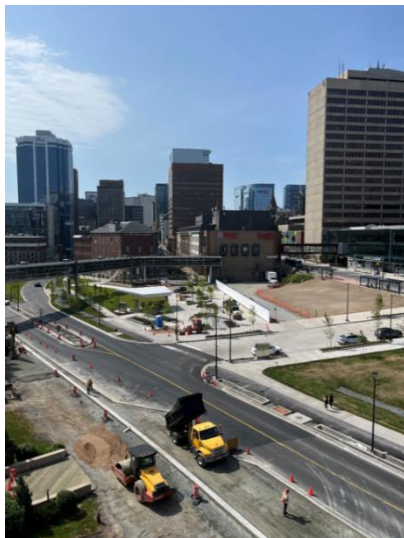
HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

COGSWELL DISTRICT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION TO REACH SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION BY END OF YEAR

The final phase of construction of the Cogswell District project marks a major milestone in transforming this key area of downtown Halifax into a vibrant, connected urban space. Over the next six months, the project will deliver significant infrastructure improvements, including the completion of Upper Water Street's realignment, modernized underground services and new corridors such as Amalamek Way and Nora Bernard Street.

Active transportation infrastructure will be expanded with the completion of the multi-use path network. With new lots prepared for future development, green spaces like Granville Park nearing completion and major roadways reopened or reconnected, this phase will bring the project's construction to substantial completion — creating a more accessible and well-connected downtown district.

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



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.



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NORTHERN LIGHTS LANTERN FESTIVAL

The 22nd Northern Lights Lantern Festival will be taking place on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 5 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at Merv Sullivan Park (the Pit). The festival is a celebration of the vibrancy and diversity of Halifax's North End. There will be a free community BBQ, live music and lots of family friendly activities.



NATIONAL ACADIAN DAY

Since 1881, Acadians have celebrated National Acadian Day on Aug. 15, a tradition established at the first National Acadian Convention in Memramcook, N.B.

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.





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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 8:

- **MP Shannon Miedema** Halifax
Office Location and Contact Information to come

Provincial Representatives in District 8:

- **MLA Suzy Hansen** Halifax- Needham
6090 Young St, Suite 1000
Halifax, NS B3K 3B5
Phone: 902-455-7300
suzyhalifaxneedham@gmail.com

COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

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

- Grants Committee
- Board of Police Commissioners
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Regional Centre Community Council
- Halifax Forum Community Association
- Indigenous Community Liaison Representation



**Councillor
Virginia Hinch**

DISTRICT 8

Halifax Peninsula North

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HALIFAX

halifax.ca | 311

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