



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

WELCOME SEPTEMBER



As we bask in the summer sun and move into September, I want to take a moment to remind all of you that the school bells will soon be ringing once again. Yes, that’s right, students will be returning to school on Sept. 4! It’s an exciting time filled with new beginnings, fresh supplies, and the promise of learning. But with this transition, it’s also crucial that we prioritize safety for our children as they head back to school. The HRCE 2025/26 school calendar can be found here: [Calendar FIXED](#)

In this newsletter, you’ll find some valuable back-to-school safety tips that I encourage you to read and share with your families along with lots of information for residents on HRM services and programs.

John

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SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES

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

Regional Council:

Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council: Monday,

- Monday, Sept. 8 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Appeals Standing Committee

- Sept. 11 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

- TBD

DATES TO NOTE

Sept. 1 is [Labour Day](#)

Sept. 8 is [International Literacy Day](#)

Sept. 20 is International Coastal Clean-Up Day

Sept. 21 is [International Day of Peace](#)

Sept. 21 is [World Alzheimer's Day](#)

Sept. 22 is [Autumnal Equinox \(Start of Fall\)](#)

Sept. 29 is International Day of Awareness of

Sept. 30 is [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation \(Orange Shirt Day\)](#)

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

As summer fades and school resumes, prioritizing traffic safety in residential areas is crucial. When students return to school, keeping them safe on the streets should be a top concern. Here are essential tips and reminders for motorists and parents during this back-to-school season.

Respect Speed Limits:

Obey posted speed limits, especially in school zones. Reduced speed limits during school hours protect children traveling to and from school.

Yield to Pedestrians:

Always yield to pedestrians, especially near crosswalks and school zones. Children may not accurately judge traffic, so extra caution is necessary.

Eliminate Distractions:

Avoid distractions like cell phones and eating while driving in residential areas. Focus entirely on the road, as children might unexpectedly enter the street.

Stop for School Buses:



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When a school bus stops, stop behind or in front of it as per local laws. Failing to do so endangers students and can lead to fines.

Promote Walking and Biking Safely:

Consider walking or biking to school for physical activity and reduced traffic. Use designated paths and wear helmets while biking.

Safe Routes to School:

Work with schools and parents to identify safe routes to school. This can include walking groups, carpooling, and advocating for better signage.

Educate Children:

Teach children road safety, emphasizing looking both ways before crossing, using crosswalks, and wearing reflective clothing in low-light conditions.

Support Traffic Calming Measures:

Advocate for traffic calming measures like speed bumps and narrowing roadways to slow traffic and protect pedestrians and cyclists.

Back to school should be a safe and exciting time for all. By following these tips and fostering responsible driving practices in your community, we can ensure a secure environment for students year-round. Let's make our neighborhoods safer for children during this back-to-school season and beyond.

TRAVEL & ACTIVITIES RESTRICTED IN WOODS

Effective Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 4 p.m., restrictions were placed on access to woods in municipal park spaces due to the Fire Proclamation –

Travel Ban issued by the Province of Nova Scotia. These restrictions will remain in place until 2 p.m. on Oct. 15, 2025, unless the province's proclamation is revoked or amended.

Woods, as defined in the provincial Forests Act, include forested land, rock barren, brush land, dry marsh, bog or muskeg.

Municipal Park spaces

Parks that are entirely woods are now fully closed. Examples of this include Admiral Cove, Hemlock Ravine and Shaw Wilderness Park.

Parks with non-wooded areas remain open for use. Examples of this include the Halifax Common, the Dartmouth Common, Sullivan's Pond – as well as municipal playgrounds, sports fields and ball diamonds.

For parks which have both woods and non-wooded areas, the woods are closed and the non-wooded areas remain open. Examples of this include:

- Fort Needham Memorial Park, where the monument, playground and sports field remain open, but the woods are closed.
- Point Pleasant Park, where the Sailor's Memorial Way remains open, but trails through the wooded areas are closed. Residents are advised that the upper parking lot, from Point Pleasant Drive, is closed.
- Shubie Park, where the campground, ballfield, Fairbanks Centre, pump track and supervised beach remain open. The trails, including the off-leash trail system and off-leash beach area, are closed.

These restrictions apply to trails that are part of any active transportation routes through woods



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such as the Mainland North Trail and the Chain of Lakes Trail, which are closed.

Supervised beaches in municipal parks will remain open.

The municipality is in the process of installing signage at impacted park spaces. There are over 900 municipal park spaces and signage installation, which is expected to take several days, will not be done for all parks. Regardless of the presence of signage, residents are required to adhere to these restrictions

Residents can contact 311 for more information.

If park users do not follow these guidelines, the municipality may need to put further restrictions in place.

Service impacts

Residents are advised that the grass at municipal park spaces and trails that are closed will not be mowed or maintained at this time. Garbage bins will continue to be emptied at all park locations to support fire safety efforts. Service requests for affected areas may not be processed while these restrictions are in place.

If these restrictions affect any recreation programming, impacted users will be advised.

Enforcement

Residents are reminded that these restrictions will be enforced as necessary and that violating them may result in a provincial fine of \$25,000.

Both Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) members, along with the province's Department of Natural Resources Conversation Officers, are authorized to issue summary offence tickets

when required, which include a fine of \$25,000 (+ surcharges).

If residents wish to report any violations of the restrictions, they can do so by contacting 1-800-565-2224.

Read the full PSA at:

<https://www.halifax.ca/.../municipality-provides-further...>

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

In its commitment to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten, the Government of Canada recently passed legislation to make Sept. 30 a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Formerly known as Orange Shirt Day, this day provides an opportunity to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools and provides a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event.

Resources

- Read the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report](#) and think about how you can implement the Calls to Action in your own life.
- Watch 215 Reflections to learn more about the intergenerational impacts of the residential school system, presented by Cheryl Copage-Gehue, Indigenous Community Engagement Advisor.
- Read *Out of the Depths: The experiences of Mi'kmaq children at the Indian Residential School at*



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Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia by Isabelle Knockwood, and other memoirs by survivors.

- Watch *We Were Children* (available on Amazon Prime), *Indian Horse* (available on Netflix), and *Little Bird* (available on Crave).
- Watch Gord Downie's [Secret Path](#).
- Learn about the Mi'kmaw communities whose land you live on and visit the three First Nations in Halifax Regional Municipality.
- Visit Indigenous cultural heritage sites to learn about the traditions, culture, and resilience of your local communities.
- Visit the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, and Peace and Friendship Park in Halifax.
- Have conversations with the people in your life about what reconciliation means and why it's important.
- Support Indigenous artists, drummers, singers, dancers, language learners and small business owners. They are helping communities heal.

GENDER EQUALITY WEEK

Gender Equity Week (Sept. 22-26) is an opportunity to celebrate the valuable contributions of women and gender-diverse communities while reaffirming our commitment to advancing gender equality within our organization and region.

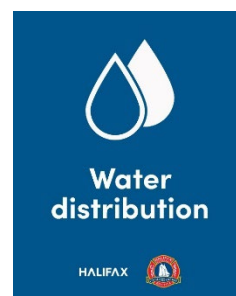
Gender equality means that all gender identities have equal rights and opportunities.

Conversely, gender inequality, rooted in colonialism and patriarchy, connects to other forms of oppression. It encompasses issues like violence against women and the transgender

community, gender stereotypes dictating how boys and girls "should behave," and limited career choices based on gender.

While progress has been made, including electing a predominantly female Regional Council for the first time, there is still work to do.

WATER DISTRIBUTION IN HRM



The Halifax Regional Municipality is experiencing extremely dry conditions due to a prolonged period without significant rainfall. Surface water and groundwater levels are below normal, leaving many private wells dry.

Prolonged drought can strain municipal water supplies, making water conservation essential.

Beginning Aug. 13, the municipality will provide pre-packaged drinking water on Wednesdays and Sundays for individuals in need of potable water due to dry wells at five rural facilities across the municipality:

Fire Station 39, 14 NS-336, Upper Musquodoboit

- Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sundays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fire Station 48, 1581 Beaverbank Road

- Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sundays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fire Station 50, 2050 Hammonds Plains Road

- Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sundays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fire Station 56, 8579 St Margarets Bay Road



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- Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sundays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sheet Harbour Ground Search and Rescue, 44 Behie Road

- Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sundays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The municipality is following provincial guidelines, provided by the Canadian Red Cross, to distribute four litres of water per person per day. Water is also available for pets, based on their weight.

This process will remain in place until Sept. 10, when Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency will reassess whether ongoing water shortage efforts are needed.

For full details, please visit halifax.ca

Shower access is also available for residents with dry wells

Some recreation facilities have made their showers available to residents affected by dry wells during the drought. These include:

Canada Games Centre, 26 Thomas Raddall Drive

- 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Prospect Road Community Centre, 2141 Prospect Road

- 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Cole Harbour Place, 51 Forest Hills Parkway

- Weekdays: 6 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 9 p.m.;
- Weekends: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This list may be updated as demand changes.

CONSUMER FIREWORK BAN



While the provincial burn ban is in place, use of consumer fireworks is prohibited across the municipality.

MULCH FIRE PREVENTION



In hot, dry, and windy conditions, mulch can catch fire—from decaying material that builds up heat, sparks, embers, or improperly discarded smoking materials.

Stay safe with these steps:

1. Keep mulch moist during hot, dry, and windy weather.
2. Maintain a clear zone of at least 45 cm (18 in) between mulch and your home, deck, siding, or propane tanks.
3. Spread mulch no more than 5 cm (2 in) thick to prevent heat buildup.
4. Always fully extinguish smoking materials in a deep ashtray or metal can with sand or water—never drop them in or around mulch.



Spread the word—stop mulch fires before they start.

UPDATE ON MORRIS STREET EAST CONNECTION

At the Aug. 5 meeting of Regional Council, councillors voted 11-5 to rescind their previous decision to proceed with the Morris Street East Connection bikeway project. Staff had recommended reversing the July 8 motion and initiating new planning and engagement for an alternative East Connection that maintains two-way traffic on Morris Street.

The decision follows a July 16 letter from Premier Tim Houston advising the municipality that the Province would act under new authorities in Bill 24 if Council did not reverse its decision.

Bill 24 grants the Minister of Public Works the authority to direct municipalities to build, change, or remove transportation infrastructure in the interest of safe and efficient movement.

On July 8, Council had directed staff to proceed with implementing the Morris Street bikeway using temporary materials, and to return with an evaluation report two years after installation. The approved design would convert Morris Street to one-way eastbound for vehicle traffic and install a two-way protected bikeway connecting University Avenue to Lower Water Street.

The Morris Street East Connection is part of the Peninsula South Complete Streets project, approved in October 2024, and is included in the municipality's AAA (All Ages and Abilities) Regional Centre Bike Network.

PVSC ASSESSMENTS



Property Valuation Services Corporation Assessors are especially busy this time of year, conducting exterior property

inspections across Nova Scotia. They are reviewing building permit progress and gathering up-to-date information as part of the annual assessment process.

For your safety and peace of mind, Assessors are easy to identify with PVSC-marked vehicles, PVSC-issued ID, and high-visibility vests.

You don't need to be home for these visits. The Assessor will leave contact information and next steps if a follow-up is needed. Learn more about their fieldwork: bit.ly/3U5E5ZJ

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.



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Date: Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025

Time: 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Location: 45 Knightsridge 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 at: <https://brnw.ch/21wUncJ>

HURRICANE READY

In an emergency like a hurricane, it may take emergency workers some time to get to you. Have an emergency kit ready and be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for at least 72 hrs. That includes your pets! Don't forget items they'll need to stay safe and healthy.

Find hurricane preparedness information [here](#).

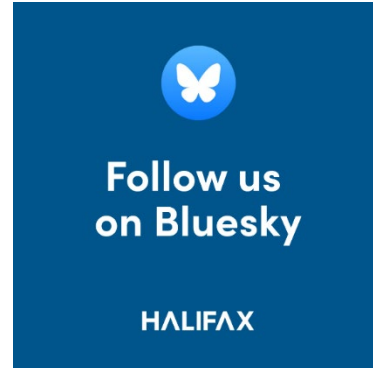
FALL RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION



Recreation program registration opens at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 19 and registration for aquatics and skating programs will start at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

For more information and to preview the fall program PDFs, visit halifax.ca/myrec. Registration for fall programming will be hosted on halifaxregionalmunicipality.perfectmind.com.

HRM MOVES TO BLUESKY



HRM has transitioned from X (formerly Twitter) to Bluesky. Official accounts include:

- [@hfxgov.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxgov.bsky.social)
- [@hfxtransit.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxtransit.bsky.social)
- [@hfx-fire.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfx-fire.bsky.social)
- [@hfxevents.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxevents.bsky.social)
- [@hfxrec.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxrec.bsky.social)
- [@hfxplanning.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxplanning.bsky.social)

Municipal X accounts were discontinued on July 14, 2025.

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: halifax.ca/flood-ready



TICK CHECKS



As we spend more time outdoors, it's important to be aware of ticks and how to protect yourself. Ticks can be found in wooded areas, tall grass, and shrubs — even in urban parks and backyards.

To reduce your risk:

- Wear light-coloured clothing to spot ticks more easily
- Tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants
- Do a full body check after being outdoors — on yourself, children, and pets
- Shower within two hours of coming inside

For more information on tick safety and prevention, click [here](#).

HFX ALERT



Get notified when it matters most.

Sign up for hfxALERT, the Halifax Regional Municipality's mass notification system, to

receive critical and non-urgent alerts, as well as municipal winter parking ban notices.

To find out more and to register, visit:
<http://halifax.ca/hfxalert>

FREE WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT FROM FIRESMART

Wildfires are becoming more frequent and severe, especially in areas where homes meet natural vegetation. To help reduce this risk, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency is offering free, voluntary FireSmart property assessments to residents.

As part of this service, trained staff will visit your home, identify potential wildfire hazards—like flammable materials or overgrown vegetation—and provide personalized tips to help you make your property safer.

Request your free assessment today at halifax.ca/firesmart or call 311 to learn more. Taking action now can make a big difference in protecting your home.

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 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.



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

Please call our Customer Care Centre at 902-420-9287 to start the process.

Halifax Water recommends having this work done before your new driveway or landscaping is in place to avoid unnecessary disturbance of newly installed landscaping or paving.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Elizabeth Mantley Youth Recreation Centre Grand Opening



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Canada Day Parade in Sackville



Special Celebrations at the 2025 IRI JI New Yam Festival



Met with MP Braedon Clark and MLA Rick Burns. Listening, communicating and collaborating. Even though we are positioned as three levels of government, we are working to enhance and better the communities we serve together.



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District 14 Tour with Halifax Transit Executive Director and Transit Community Engagement Director (Robin Gerus and Patricia Hughes) and HRM Transit Team and Community Leader Gina Jones Wilson.

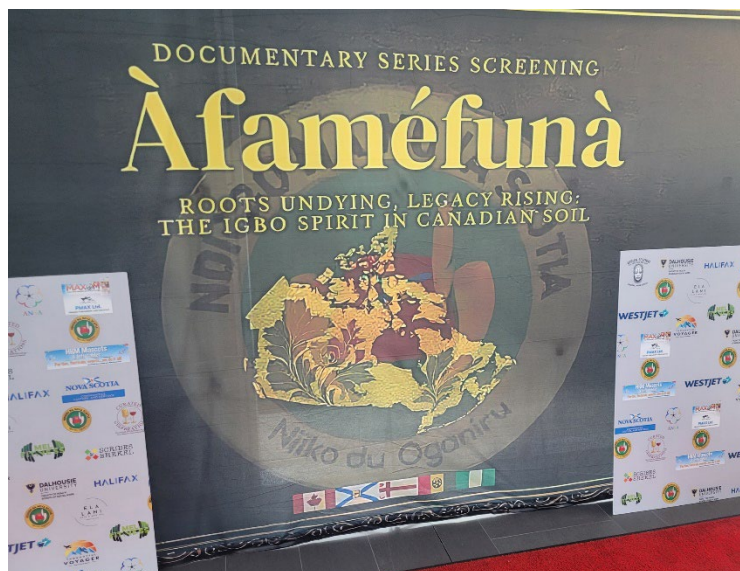


HRM Solid Waste Resources Hammonds Plains Road Clean Up Day



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Afaméfuna Event Documentary Screening



EV – Tantallon Electric Avenue Test Drive Event



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2025 Emancipation Day Event.

MUNICIPAL? PROVINCIAL? FEDERAL? WHO DOES WHAT?

Wondering what level of government to contact? The chart below will help you determine if it is a matter under the municipal, provincial or federal mandate.

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		
Additions 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	

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Councillor John Young

District 14

Hammonds Plains, Upper Hammonds Plains Lucasville – Middle & Upper Sackville

902.943.9241

john.young@halifax.ca

Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749 | Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

HALIFAX

halifax.ca | 311



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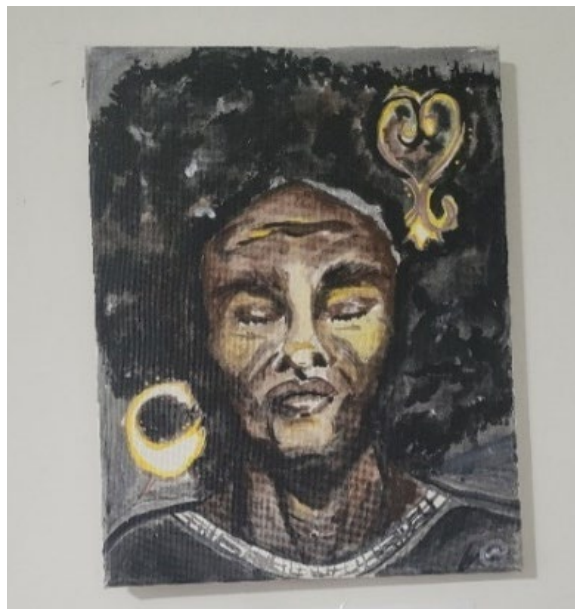
I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council

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

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



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE



“Words to Live By”

“TRUST”

Confiding a secret to an
Unworthy person is like
Carrying grain in a bag
With a hole.

African Proverb