



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEELE

Happy September, District 12!

Summer has flown by and just like that we are in back-to-school season. I would like to wish all teachers and students a happy, productive and healthy school year.

I hope to see you all at my District 12 Town Hall on Sept. 17 at the Canada Games Centre from 7-8:30 p.m. If you are planning to attend, please register with Emily at smithem@halifax.ca

As the Councillor for District 12, I truly value hearing from residents. I receive a high volume of emails, and I do my best to respond to each inquiry in a timely and thoughtful manner. To help me prioritize responses, it's very helpful if you can kindly indicate that you are a resident of District 12 when reaching out. Thank you for staying engaged and for taking the time to connect with me.



You're Invited



District 12 Town Hall with Councillor Janet Steele

Join your local councillor for an evening of conversation, community, and connection.

Bring your questions, ideas, or just stop by to say hello!

📍 Canada Games Centre Boardroom
(26 Thomas Raddall Drive)

📅 Wednesday, Sept. 17

🕒 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Please register in advance by emailing Emily Simonov at smithem@halifax.ca

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BEECHVILLE, LAKESIDE, TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

Traffic Light Installation on Timberlea Parkway

Thank you everyone for your patience while this project is underway. The light installation is substantially complete. The remaining work includes installing a few extra sensors at the intersection to bring the lights to optimal performance. This should be completed in the next couple weeks.



St. Margaret's Bay Road Sidewalk Update

Significant progress has been made on the St. Margaret's Bay Road sidewalk improvements between Raines Mill Road and Beechville Park Drive. The project has successfully completed:

- A new retaining wall
- Storm infrastructure connections
- Safety railings
- Over 380 linear meters of new sidewalk

Remaining work includes installation of sign bases and signage, including two Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at pedestrian crossings on Raines Mill Road and Oliver Street.

These upgrades will enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility along this busy corridor. Thank you to residents for your continued patience as final touches are completed.

Munroe Subdivision Update

Progress continues on the Munroe Subdivision project, with major construction milestones now completed. Crews have installed a new stormwater system, retaining walls, pedestrian railings, laid roadway base gravels, poured concrete curb and gutter, and roadway asphalt is now completed as well.

What's left? Just a few final touches:

- **130 m² of sidewalk** and landscaping on Oliver Street
- **Sign bases and signage installation (including RRFBs)**
- **Minor landscaping**

Thanks to residents for their patience as this work wraps up. The improvements will enhance safety, accessibility, and overall infrastructure in the area.

Beechville Days 2025



Congratulations to the organizers of Beechville Days for a well-planned and well-attended community event. I saw some best practices that I will pass along to other groups. Bravo!



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CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

Friends of Clayton Park Barbecue



Sunday, Aug. 17 proved to be a perfect day for the community barbecue at Veterans Park.

Congratulations to community volunteer Cory Vincent who was recognized for his long-serving contribution to the Friends of Clayton

Park organization, and Wendy McDonald for her contribution to many community initiatives including Engage Mainland North, Halifax Northwest Trails Association, Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes, and for supporting our democracy by organizing candidate fora for municipal and provincial elections. We were privileged to be joined by the Honourable Mike Savage to present the awards.

Westridge Ballfield Reconstruction

The Westridge Ball field reconstruction has begun. The work includes the complete re-grading and re-sodding of the field, new fencing, back stop and dugouts. Also included are new bleachers and asphalt walkways.

Construction began the week of Sept. 1 and is expected to be completed by mid-November and will reopen in the spring of 2026 once the turf is established.

Susie's Lake Fire

A heartfelt thank you to the Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR) crews for their swift and professional response in bringing the Susie's Lake fire under control. Your dedication and quick action helped protect both the wilderness area and nearby communities. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping our region safe.

Regency Park Resurfacing

The work on Regency Park Drive has concluded. This work was part of our Thin Overlays Program as part of



HRM's Pavement Maintenance & Rehabilitation Strategies. The work includes concrete curb repairs, concrete sidewalk repairs, hardware adjustments, milling, planer patching, paving top lift, pavement markings and reinstatements.

Thank you everyone for your patience as work was underway in this area.

Keshen Goodman Library Hours Extended

Halifax Public Libraries is pleased to [announce](#) that starting Sept. 7, 2025, Keshen Goodman Library will be open year-round, seven days a week. Holiday closures are noted on our [website](#). Newly added hours of operation are Sundays from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and Sundays in the summer starting in 2026.

Hours of operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 a.m.- 9 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



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CORE SERVICE PLAN ENGAGEMENTS

Halifax Transit is developing its 2025–27 Core Service Plan and wants your input on improving the transit network.

You can participate by:

- Completing the online survey on [Shape Your City Halifax](#)
- Attending in-person engagement sessions

The next session in District 12 is on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at Sheldrake Lake Park and Ride, from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Your feedback will help shape future routes, service frequency, and long-term transit planning. For questions, contact: transitplanning@halifax.ca.



Councillor Morse and I at the Transit Pop Up at Lacewood Terminal

RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES

When batteries end up in the garbage, they can start fires. Please recycle yours responsibly. To find drop-off locations, [click here](#).

For more information visit our [website](#).



DUTCH VILLAGE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

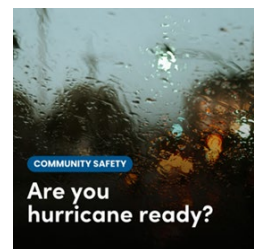
Work continues to progress on Dutch Village Road. This project aims to improve safety and address active transportation and transit gaps along this roadway. Features and considerations include:

- A sidewalk on the west side of the street, addressing the current sidewalk gap.
- Raised protected cycle lanes on both sides of the street.
- New accessible concrete bus stop pads.
- Additional high-quality pedestrian crossings. Shortening existing pedestrian crossing distances and adding accessible pedestrian signals.
- On-street parallel parking spaces, replacing the perpendicular parking spaces which are encroaching on the right of way.
- Streetscaping elements, such as benches, trees, planters, waste receptacles and pocket parks.

For more updates and information regarding the Dutch Village Project please visit the [project webpage](#).

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](#).

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT THE KESHEN GOODMAN LIBRARY

Volunteer tutors are needed at Keshen Goodman Library this fall to help adults from their area learn and practice English.

This is an opportunity for someone who can give 2-3 hours per week from Sept- June. Potential times include Mondays 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesdays or Fridays 1:15-3 p.m. at the library or Thursdays 12-2 p.m. at the outreach site in Fairview.

There are also opportunities over Zoom on Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. or Fridays 12-2 p.m. For more information, visit their [website](#) or email ELLKG@halifaxlibrary.ca

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 [here](#).

FALL 2025 LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY TRAINING WORKSHOPS

HRM's Neighbourhood & Volunteer Services Community Development team is offering a new season of free workshops this fall to support volunteers, board members, grassroots organizations, and non-profits. These sessions are designed to build leadership skills and strengthen community capacity.

Workshop Schedule:

- **Oct. 1** – *Neighbourhood Placemaking 101* (Halifax Central Common)
- **Oct. 8** – *Boards 101* (Cole Harbour Place)
- **Oct. 30** – *Navigating Community Resources: Asset Mapping 101* (Cole Harbour Place)
- **Nov. 5** – *Boards 101* (Sackville Sports Stadium)
- **Dec. 3** – *Communication & Conflict Resolution* (Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre)

To register for a workshop, [click here](#).

While workshops rotate locations each season, groups can also request customized training through the [Training Request Form](#) or by [contacting your local Community Developer](#).

Full workshop descriptions and additional opportunities are available on our [website](#).



Natal Day Parade with my council colleagues



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Are you a teacher, educator, or just generally interested in learning about environmental education? Divert NS has free resources available on their [website](https://www.divertns.ca/). Resources include activities and videos on Ocean Plastics, Litter, Textiles, and more.

If you'd like to have an HRM Waste Educator come into your classroom or community space and deliver these resources in person, please email wasteless@halifax.ca to book.



HRM Litter Pop-Up Event at Keshen Goodman Library

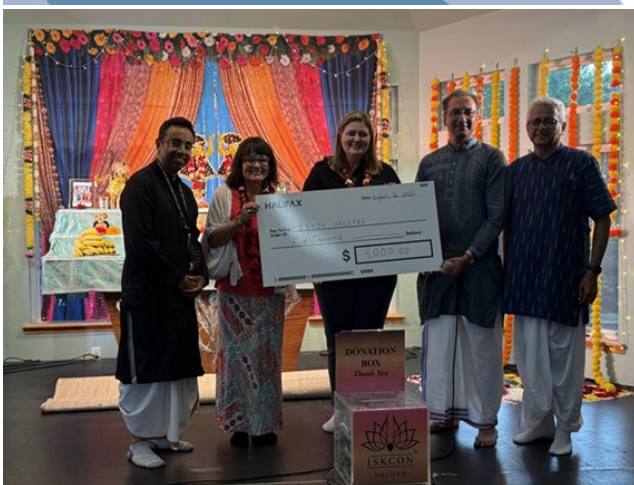
UPDATE ON MORRIS STREET EAST CONNECTION

At the Aug. 5 Regional Council meeting, councillors voted 11–5 to rescind the previous decision to proceed with the Morris Street East Connection bikeway project. Staff 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. I supported the rescission, as one-way vehicle traffic on Morris Street will still be considered as an option. Recent communications from stakeholders, including Emergency Medical Care Inc. and the Port of Halifax, raised new concerns about one-way traffic, requiring further staff consultation.

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.



Along with Nancy Hartling, District 13 Councillor it was an honour to attend the joyful August 16 celebration of the birth of Lord Krishna at the ISKON Halifax Temple in Tantallon.



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UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF HRM'S REGIONAL PLAN

On Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, the Halifax Regional Municipality received a letter from the Province of Nova Scotia's Minister of Municipal Affairs in response to the municipality's submission of the updated Regional Plan.



In the letter, the Minister indicated that the Regional Plan, as submitted, could not be accepted by the province and therefore could not be approved.

I am disappointed with this refusal as it was unexpected, and it delays much needed housing. For example, at the August 19 Regional Council meeting, HRM staff advised that the refusal has affected at least 12 development projects totaling 2000 units. Currently we are expecting a revised plan to be brought back to Council in late 2025.

Underway since 2020, the Regional Planning process has incorporated years of extensive public engagement to inform updates to the 2014 Regional Plan – aimed at supporting sustainable growth across our region.

On Thursday, June 19, 2025, Regional Council [passed a motion](#) to repeal the existing 2014 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (also known as the Regional Plan) and adopt the proposed 2025 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy with related amendments to other planning documents including the Regional Subdivision By-Law, Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-Laws.

In accordance with the [Halifax Regional Municipality Charter](#), adoption of the Regional Plan and other planning documents is subject to provincial review and approval.

Over the past several months, municipal Planning & Development staff have been actively working with provincial staff to address feedback that had been previously received from the province. The decision by the province to not approve any of the proposed amendments was not expected, given the ongoing collaboration with provincial counterparts leading up to and following the submission for approval.

Moving forward, this means that the [current 2014 Regional Plan](#), last amended in May 2025, remains in effect, as the new proposed amendments have not been approved by the province. Over the coming weeks, municipal staff will re-engage with the province to determine the next steps on the planning process and ensure the Regional Plan is updated in a way that aligns with provincial interests and fulfills the municipality's obligations under existing legislation.

For more information on the Regional Plan, including a copy of the Aug 8. letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, visit the [website](#).

UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

On August 22 HRM raised the Ukrainian flag to celebrate the 34th anniversary of Ukrainian Independence. I was honoured to read the proclamation on behalf of Halifax Regional Council. MLA's Damian Stoilov and Susie Hansen brought remarks.



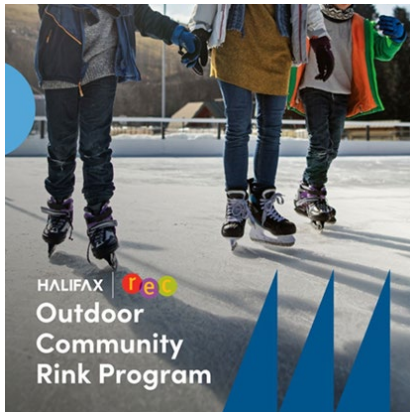


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APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR OUTDOOR COMMUNITY RINK PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that applications have opened for the [Outdoor Community Rink Program](#).



This program provides non-profit organizations the opportunity to operate a community rink on municipally owned property. The municipality offers grants of up to \$1,000 to a minimum of seven successful applicants to assist them in covering the insurance cost associated with the operation of the community rink.

Applications opened on Monday, Sept. 1 and will remain open until Friday, Oct. 3.

The Outdoor Community Rink Program aligns with Regional Council's commitment to advance community-based projects and support residents' ability to participate in outdoor winter activities in their own communities.

For more information, visit [our website](#).

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 our [website](#).

ACTING CAO ANNOUNCED

Halifax Regional Council has appointed Brad Anguish as the acting Chief Administrative Officer (A/CAO) of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Mr. Anguish assumes his new responsibilities as A/CAO on Sept. 8, 2025.



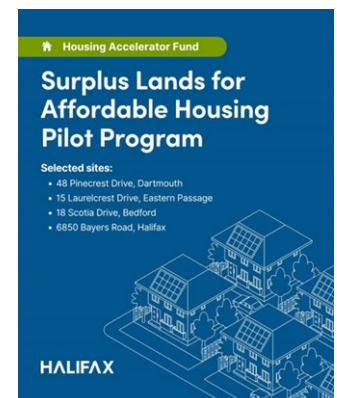
Mr. Anguish brings more than 22 years of experience with HRM, including leadership roles in Operations, Public Works, and Parks & Recreation. He has also overseen major municipal projects such as the Harbour Clean Up and the Cogswell District project.

Congratulations, Mr. Anguish! We look forward to working with him in this important leadership role.

SURPLUS LANDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PILOT PROGRAM

The municipality is now accepting proposals from non-profit housing providers for the Surplus Lands for Affordable Housing Pilot Program.

Eligible entities include societies, non-profit associations, non-profit corporations and registered charities in the Halifax Regional Municipality that commit to affordable housing provision. Partnerships with the private sector are also eligible, provided the land title and administration of affordable housing remain in the name of the non-profit partner.



Applications are due by Sept. 5, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. Learn more about eligibility, criteria and the application process at [here](#).

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COUNCILLOR SLOW DOWN SIGNS

If you are interested in a slow-down sign for your lawn/personal property, please email me at janet.steele@halifax.ca. These signs are made of plastic and come with the lawn stakes for installation.

Please be informed that the District 12 "Please Drive Slowly" signs are NOT a traffic calming measure, and they have no authority to direct or slow down traffic, or make children safer on the streets.



311 MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION

For routine municipal matters such as reporting potholes, requesting traffic calming assessments, garbage collection and much more, please call 311 or email contactus@311.halifax.ca. Please feel free to copy me on your email if this is not a routine matter.

When you call 311, your request is logged and tracked to ensure follow up and action by the appropriate department. Please be sure to advise the agent if you would like to receive a follow up from staff regarding your service request.

For more information about how to get in touch, please visit our [website](#).

CELEBRATE YOUR MILESTONE WITH A COMMEMORATIVE SCROLL

Are you or someone you know celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary? You can request a commemorative scroll signed by both your district councillor and the Mayor!

To request one, simply email me at janet.steele@halifax.ca with the following details:

- Name of the individual or couple
- Occasion (birthday or anniversary)
- Date of the celebration
- Community they live in

We'll take care of the rest and ensure a scroll is prepared to mark the special occasion.

LEAF AND YARD WASTE REMOVAL

Leaf and yard waste that doesn't fit into the green cart belongs in paper yard waste bags.



Did you know that each household that receives curbside collection can place up to twenty yard waste bags out on collection day? This makes disposing of leaf and yard waste easy.

Reminder that leaf and yard waste:

- Can only go out on green cart day
- Belongs in paper yard waste bags (no plastic is accepted)
- Cannot contain grass clippings

For more information about leaf and yard waste visit our [website](#).

For tips and tricks with grass clippings, [click here](#).

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REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meeting scheduled for September. Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:

- Sept. 9
- Sept. 23

Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings – including committees [here](#). Meeting agendas (including the specific start time of 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.) and a link to watch the video are generally available by the Friday prior to the meeting. Reports on the items that councillors vote on are available and are linked throughout the meeting agenda.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Halifax and West Community Council normally meets once a month on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

Stay tuned for the video link to be shared closer to the next Halifax and West meeting, scheduled for Sept. 16.

Currently serving on:

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
Appeals Standing Committee
Halifax and West Community Council
Halifax Water Board of Commissioners
Canada Games Centre Board of Directors
Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.

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.

AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes that African Nova Scotians are a distinct founding people in Nova Scotia who have been a key part of the province's culture and history.



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