



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEELE

Happy October, District 12!

Fall is officially here, folks! As the leaves begin to change and the days become shorter, I hope you can take some time for yourself and enjoy the changing of the seasons.

Thank you to everyone who came out to my District 12 Town Hall on Sept. 17. We had a great turnout with many great questions asked and ideas shared.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving with loved ones, it's a time to reflect on the importance of community, gratitude, and connection. I'm thankful for the support of our neighbours and the shared efforts that make our community thrive. From my family to yours, happy Thanksgiving!

As Councillor for District 12, I truly value hearing from residents. I receive a high volume of emails and do my best to respond thoughtfully and in a timely manner. To help me prioritize, please indicate if you're a District 12 resident when reaching out. Thank you for staying engaged and taking the time to connect.



CANADA POST MAIL DISRUPTION

Due to the ongoing Canada Post strike, there may be delays in receiving property tax bills and vendor payments. However, the September tax bill remains due on Oct. 31, 2025.

Residents can sign up for property tax email or text notifications, request a free reprint of their bill, or explore alternate payment options such as online banking, pre-authorized debit, or paying in person at a Customer Contact Centre.

Vendors are encouraged to sign up for electronic payments or submit invoices directly by email. Cheque pickup at Customer Service Centres can also be arranged with advance notice and ID.

For full details and payment options, visit our [website](https://www.halifax.ca/contactus), call 311 or email contactus@311.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. The left turn arrow signal onto Timberlea Village Parkway from St. Margaret's Bay Road is being programmed with proper timing and we hope to have it functional as soon as possible.

St. Margaret's Bay Road Sidewalk Update

The St. Margaret's Bay Road sidewalk improvements between Raines Mill Road and Beechville Park Drive is substantially completed. Remaining work includes installation of fencing, final site cleanup and deficiency work.

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.

Beechville Baptist Church 181st Anniversary Celebration



It was an honour to attend the Beechville Baptist Church's 181st Anniversary Service officiated by Reverend Lloyd Grant. It was also an opportunity to present a cheque from the Councillor District Capital Fund in support of paving the church parking lot.

BLT Community Fall Fair

Many residents came out to enjoy the BLT Community Fall Fair. Thank you to all the organizers for all your hard work and putting together a great event!



Colleen Kelly, community volunteer and I at the fair

Sept. 24 Townhall with the RCMP on the BLT Community Policing Office

I partnered with the RCMP on a community town hall on the upcoming BLT community policing office. Work is currently underway on recruitment of six officers and a public servant administrative support person. The RCMP is working with HRM on site selection. The officers may temporarily work from the Tantallon RCMP office until a site is identified.

Munroe Subdivision Update

Significant progress has been made within the Munroe Subdivision project and it has now reached a level of substantial completion. The remaining work includes the installation of fencing, final site cleanup and deficiency work.

Thank you everyone for your continued patience as this important project is completed.



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CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

Washmill Lake Drive & Regency Park Drive Proposed Development

There are no significant updates at this time regarding the proposed development. Negotiations with the applicant are ongoing and nearing completion. Once finalized, a recommendation report will be prepared, with the application expected to go before Halifax and West Community Council in late 2025 or early 2026.

Traffic impacts are being reviewed as part of the process. A Traffic Impact Study is available on the application webpage for public reference.

A Public Hearing will be held before Council makes a decision. Property owners within the notification area will receive direct notice, and updates will be posted on the [application page](#) on the HRM website.

I will continue to share updates as they become available.

Celebrating Diwali at the Keshen Goodman Library

Head to the Keshen Goodman Library on Oct. 18 from 2:30-4 p.m. as they celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival symbolizing the victory of light over darkness.

There will be crafts for kids, live dance performance and sweet treats.

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

Parkland Drive Crosswalks

A new marked crosswalk is proposed for Parkland Drive at Heathside Crescent, where combined pedestrian and park user volumes are nearing the threshold for installation. This location was selected to improve connectivity to nearby bus stops, trails, and community amenities.

Civil work will be required before installation, and the crosswalk will feature Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) for enhanced safety.

The project is planned for inclusion in the 2026/27 draft budget, pending Council approval.

Volunteer 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 September to 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





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SEPT. 17 DISTRICT 12 TOWNHALL

Thanks to everyone that came out to the Sept. 17 Townhall at the Canada Games Centre. I appreciated all the questions and engagement, and I am sorry if we did not have enough time to address everyone's questions. Some of the key themes that emerged were community building, community safety, and ensuring we protect our natural environment. To follow up on these excellent ideas, I am planning to collaborate with community partners to host a series of roundtables that will focus on these key priority areas. Please stay tuned for the dates.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACEMAKING



Applications are now open for 2026 Neighbourhood Placemaking! Apply to our annual municipal initiative that helps neighbours connect through community-led projects in their neighbourhoods.

Successful applicants will receive training, guidance and funding for their 2026 neighbour-led project.

Learn more and apply by Oct. 30 [here](#).

MI'KMAW HISTORY MONTH

October is
Mi'kmaw History Month

October is Mi'kmaw History Month, a time to commemorate the rich history, proud culture and important contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. In 1993, Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaw Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy declared October as the official month to recognize and celebrate Mi'kmaw culture and heritage.

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.

YOUTH SERVICES PLAN

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting youth to join Parks & Recreation's Youth Services Plan Team and contribute to the development of the 2026-29 Youth Services Plan.

Applications will remain open until Thursday, Oct. 16.

The Youth Services Plan identifies key issues affecting youth across the region and helps guide future youth-focused programs and services, particularly in recreation.

Applicants must reside in the region and be between 13 and 24 years of age. For more information and to apply, visit [our website](#)





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TAX RELIEF FOR NONPROFIT AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

The 2026/27 Tax Relief Program is now OPEN for applications.

Because the Jan. 31, 2026, deadline falls on a weekend the application deadline has been extended to Monday, Feb. 2, 2026.

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

HRM's [website](#) has an overview of the program and the Application Form for those organizations seeking to add a property to the program next fiscal year.

For those organizations already accepted into the program ("Renewals") the [webpage](#) also has the annual Confirmation Form. This form must be completed and submitted by the stated deadline to avoid a 50% reduction in level of tax relief up to a maximum of \$5,000 per property. Any deduction for non-compliance with the program's reporting requirements will be apportioned between the interim and final tax bills.

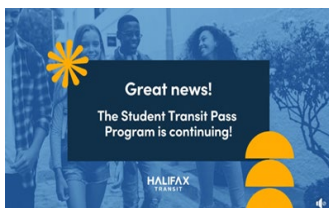
Inquiries should be directed to 311 or Contactus@311.halifax.ca

STUDENT TRANSIT PASS

Students in grades 7 to 12 at all HRCE and CSAP schools, as well as homeschooled students across Halifax, can ride Halifax Transit for free during the 2025/26 school year.

Your Student Transit Pass gives you unlimited access to buses and ferries from Sept. 4, 2025, to Sept. 11, 2026.

Learn more [here](#).



Commemorating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre

ANTI-BLACK RACISM GRANTS PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting applications for the second year of the Anti-Black Racism (ABR) Grants Program.

Launched in 2024, the program was established to address anti-Black racism through grassroots projects and initiatives.

Anti-Black racism is a form of discrimination uniquely rooted in the history of Black people, informed by the legacies of enslavement and colonization, and experienced daily across the municipality and the world.

Grants ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 are available to support community-based projects developed and delivered at the local level.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, Oct. 31 at 11:59 p.m.

Learn more [here](#).

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TRICK-OR-TREATING TIPS FOR ACCESSIBILITY



Did you know that there are around 400,000 children in Canada who identify as having a disability that may prevent them from trick-or-treating? This Halloween, we want to make sure everyone can enjoy a safe, fun, and inclusive experience.

Here are some tips to help make trick-or-treating accessible for everyone this Halloween:

1. If your house has stairs, consider setting them up on your driveway or front yard.
2. Clear the path to your trick-or-treating setup by moving vehicles and other obstructions.
3. Outdoor decorations are fun but avoid those with strobing lights or sudden loud noises.
4. If you have pets, keep them safely inside the house and away from the trick-or-treaters.



Mayflower Curling Club Grand Opening with Kirk MacDiarmid, Mayflower Board President and elected officials



Elizabeth Newman, ElderDog Outreach and Communications Coordinator and I at the ElderDog event at Dewolf Park. My doodles, Tucker and Joey were excited for this event!

PARK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



Regional Council has directed the CAO to develop a Park Stewardship Program.

The proposed program will expand opportunities for residents and community groups to take part in the care and enhancement of municipal parks. It builds on existing initiatives such as community gardens and naturalization projects, while adding new components like Adopt-a-Park and more flexible cleanup opportunities.

Halifax has more than 900 parks, ranging from neighbourhood green spaces to wilderness areas. While day-to-day maintenance is performed by municipal staff or contractors, there is strong community interest in contributing to stewardship activities. The Park Stewardship Program will provide a consistent, coordinated framework for this involvement.

The program is expected to launch using existing resources, with future program growth to be assessed and reported back to Council as required.



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING

Regional Council has directed the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate \$1.5 million from the Density Bonus Reserve to fund affordable housing projects in the regional centre.



The program provides project-specific grants to non-profit and charitable housing providers for new construction, conversions, repairs, acquisitions and studies.

The AHGP supports municipal priorities to increase the supply of affordable housing and to improve and maintain existing stock. Since 2021, the program has awarded \$14 million to create or preserve more than 730 units and rooms of affordable housing.

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

2025-2028 ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY

The municipality has released the [2025–2028 Accessibility Strategy](#). It outlines 30 recommendations in six key areas to improve accessibility and representation.



The recommendations are to be completed over a three-year period and represent a call to action to create a municipality that is accessible to all, regardless of ability.

Four versions are available: plain text, plain language, condensed and condensed & plain language.

CHEBUCTO WEST COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD WELLNESS FUND CELEBRATION

The recent Wellness Fund Celebration at Keshen Goodman Library highlighted the inspiring work of local non-profits dedicated to building healthier, more connected communities.

Congratulations to all the 2025 Wellness Fund recipients, including BGC Greater Halifax, Chebucto Family Centre, Sail Able Association of Nova Scotia, Souls Harbour Rescue Mission, Chebucto Connections, Bay Gals, Chebucto Links Senior Support Association, Fédération des Parents Acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse, HRM Newcomers Society of NS, Leading Leaders Society of Nova Scotia, Menopause Society of Nova Scotia, Phin Performing Arts Society, Schools Plus Cunard Junior High, YWCA Halifax and Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield.

The Wellness Fund is now closed for 2025 and will reopen in 2026. For more information on the program and how to apply next year, [click here](#).

MASKWA AQUATIC CLUB AWARDS BANQUET

It was an honour to attend the 2025 Maskwa Awards Banquet. A big congratulations to all the athletes, coaches, parents and board members that make this club such an amazing success. This is the third year in a row that Maskwa has won the National Championship.



Maskwa Commodore Peter Giles welcoming everyone to the awards banquet



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HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is just around the corner! We look forward to the fun that comes with this spooky day, but it is important to keep safety a priority.

Trick-or-treaters, parents and guardians:



- Look both ways before crossing the street but try to limit cross-crossing the street (go down one side of the street and up the other). Always watch for vehicles.
- Trick-or-treat with people from your household or your close social group – never go alone.
- Ensure Halloween costumes are bright, reflective, fit well and are warm. Consider using face paint or makeup instead of a mask.
- Carry a flashlight and stay close to well-lit areas.
- Be sure an adult checks all Halloween candy before trick-or-treaters dig in.
- Trick-or-treaters should tell their parents and/or guardians their Halloween route and when they expect to be home.
- Never enter someone's home while trick-or-treating.

Motorists:

- Drive slowly and be careful backing up and drive with extra caution in residential areas.

Homeowners:

- Keep your doorway well-lit; clear of tripping hazards and open flames.
- Give out only commercially wrapped snacks.
- Keep pets inside on Halloween.

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](https://www.halifax.ca/hfxalert).

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.





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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.



RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment senior representatives along with HRM Councillors

VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

Spots are filling up for our 2025 Volunteer Conference, taking place on Friday, November 21. This year's workshops will cover:

- Basic financial management for volunteer organizations
- Building inclusive and supportive communities by working smarter, not harder
- Cultivating community panel
- Exploring socially prescribed volunteering
- Gen V: Empowering the next generation of volunteers
- Making tech work for you: Tools for volunteers, boards and non-profits
- An introduction to grant writing
- Community event planning
- Conflict as opportunity
- From story to solution: Community voices in a changing world
- Micro neighbourliness
- Volunteer Management 101



Register now [here](#).



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REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- Oct. 7
- Oct. 28

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 Oct. 14.

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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