

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter. In this newsletter, we will cover:

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1. 2025 VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

The 25th annual Volunteer Conference will be held at the Delta Hotel at 240 Brownlow Ave in Dartmouth on November 21, 2025. The volunteer conference is an opportunity for all people who volunteer with an organization in the municipality to participate in training, networking and learning that help them become more effective in their work. Registration opened on September 12, with an early bird registration fee of \$40 until October 21. On October 22, the fee to attend will increase to \$60. Find the agenda for this year's conference at halifax.ca/VolunteerConference and apply online today with registration course code **35814**.

2. 2026 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each year, the Mayor and Regional Council recognize the extraordinary contributions of individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in our communities. Nominations will open on November 17 and the deadline for nomination submissions is Thursday, January 8, 2026. To recognize an adult, youth or group you feel makes a difference in their community, submit a nomination form at halifax.ca/VolunteerAwards.

3. LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The community development team offers a range of training workshops designed to support community leaders, volunteers and grassroots organizations. Whether you're looking to develop new skills, strengthen your board or enhance your community programs, our team is here to help. We offer a selection of workshops that are available to residents on a regular basis. These **FREE** workshops are offered regularly across the

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municipality and are suitable for learners of all levels. This fall, the workshops being offered include:

Date	Course	Time	Location	Course Code
Oct 1	Neighbourhood Placemaking 101	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Halifax Central Common, multipurpose Room	23762
Oct 8	Boards 101	6 – 8 p.m.	Cole Harbour Place, meeting room #1	27561
Oct 30	Navigating Community Resources: Asset Mapping 101	6 – 8 p.m.	Cole Harbour Place, meeting room #1	27564
Nov 5	Boards 101	6 – 8 p.m.	Sackville Sports Stadium, multipurpose room	19934
Dec 3	Communication & Conflict Resolution	6 – 8 p.m.	Chocolate Late Recreation Centre, multipurpose room	25118

Check out [our training catalogue](#) and register for upcoming workshops at halifax.ca/myREC. To request a training session, either from the workshop catalogue or a customized one, please fill out our [training request form](#).

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACEMAKING

Want to connect with your neighbours and create a placemaking project in your community? Apply to host a Neighbourhood Placemaking project with your neighbours and receive training, guidance and up to \$1,500 in support funding. Neighbourhoods hiring a professional artist can apply for up to an additional \$1,000 toward artist fees.

NEW FOR 2025/26 is our climate stream. Neighbourhood projects with an environmental sustainability focus will have access to a separate funding source, allowing support from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for the strongest applications.

To learn more about Neighbourhood Placemaking visit halifax.ca/placemaking. Applications are due on Thursday, October 30, 2025.

5. ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities provides a [comprehensive list of art, culture and heritage grants](#) on their website. Find a variety of federal and provincial grants, including the NS Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage's [Recreation Community Development Grant](#). Check out our partner organization's websites to view additional volunteer options throughout the Halifax region.

- [VolunteerNS](#)
- [211](#)
- [Volunteer Halifax](#)

6. A SUCCESS STORY by Jasmine Du VILLAGE GREEN PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN BLOOMS



For over 20 years, the Village Green Recreation Society (VGRS) has been at the heart of community life, offering social and recreational opportunities that bring neighbours together. In 2025, the society took on an exciting new chapter with the launch of the Village Green Park Community Garden, led by its newly formed subcommittee, the Village Green Thumbs. Approved earlier this year through the municipal Community Garden Program, construction of the garden began in June. What was once just an idea, quickly came to life, thanks to the dedication of volunteers and the support of the wider community. Today, the garden is already blossoming into a welcoming hub where residents can grow food, learn new skills and connect with one another.



The garden offers 17 plots that are available to residents, creating opportunities not just for gardening but for building friendships and sharing knowledge. Families, seniors and newcomers alike are finding ways to get involved, making the garden a space that is both intergenerational and inclusive. Events and informal gatherings at the garden have already sparked conversations and connections, showing how powerful even small projects can be in strengthening neighbourhood ties.



For the Village Green Recreation Society, the garden is a natural extension of its longstanding mandate. The group's mission has always been to support physical, social and mental well-being, which this community garden perfectly aligns with. More than fresh vegetables and flowers, the garden represents sustainability, resilience and the importance of neighbours working side by side.

As one of the newest additions to municipality's growing network of community gardens, the Village Green Park Community Garden is already a success story. It stands as a reminder that when residents lead the way, communities flourish. The future looks bright and green for Village Green Park.

If you have a success story you would like us to share in the future, please submit to volunteerhelp@halifax.ca with "Success Story – ATTN: Darren Hirtle" in the subject line.

7. SUCCESSION PLANNING by Rachelle M. Turple-Christmas

Succession planning in non-profit organizations is preparing for leadership transitions by identifying and developing potential leaders, creating a plan and ensuring an onboarding and transition to help ensure continuity and sustainability.

A board succession plan outlines the process that boards and committees must follow when replacing board members, board leadership or the Executive Director. These plans can also serve to help fill an existing vacancy or plan ahead for a future vacancy. In the event of sudden or gradual change, effective succession and proactive change management strategies can help the organization remain intact with little disruption.

Succession planning can address two types of departures:

1. **Emergency departure** – an individual unexpectedly resigns or is removed from the position.
2. **Planned departure** – an individual's term limit is approaching, or they announce an early departure.

Effective succession planning can:

- **Reduce risk** by having a plan in place, non-profits can minimize the risks associated with leadership transitions.
- **Enhance stability** through a smooth transition can help maintain stability and continuity during times of change.

- **Improve performance** with well prepared leaders can lead to better outcomes and a stronger non-profit.
- **Greater sustainability** with succession planning is crucial to ensuring the long-term sustainability of non-profit organizations.

Steps to succession planning, made simple:

1. Assess leadership needs and expectations.
2. Develop a leadership pipeline.
3. Create and document the succession plan.
4. Communicate the plan.
5. Onboarding and transition.

8. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Applications are now open for volunteer positions on municipal boards, committees and commissions. Visit halifax.ca/serve to see the full list of available volunteer positions. Applications close on **November 30, 2025**.

9. CONTACT US

Community Developers increase volunteer impact by developing community strengths, supporting resident-led initiatives and encouraging everyone to get involved. Whether you're a community leader, volunteer or organization, our team of Community Developers is here to support you every step of the way. Join our network, stay informed about upcoming training opportunities and engage with us to help build a stronger, more connected community.

Subscribe to our [email list](#) to get the latest updates. If you are looking to unsubscribe, click [here](#).

Our team of Community Developers:

- [Darren Hirtle](#) | Dartmouth, Eastern Passage to Eastern Shore
- [Rachelle M. Purple-Christmas](#) | Westphal, Cole Harbour, Lake Loon/Cherry Brook, Preston(s), Eastern Shore
- [Kate Moon](#) | Halifax Peninsula
- [Adam Huffman](#) | Bedford, Sackville, Fall River and Musquodoboit Valley
- [Jasmine Du](#) | Mainland north, south and western communities