



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

The weather is cooling off, but now we have the opportunity to look forward to the holiday season. I hope to see you all out at the tree lighting and shopping local! I had a busy October with many community events, the Canadian Capital Cities, and Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance conferences.

We also have the opportunity this month to remember the incredible service and sacrifices of our Canadian Military on Remembrance Day.

We will soon be beginning budget deliberations for the 2026/27 fiscal year. You can find out more about the municipal budget process [here](#).

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me anytime with any of your municipal concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Nov. 11 is [Remembrance Day](#), when we pause, contemplate and thank those who have served, and continue to serve, our country during times of war, military conflict and peace.

This Remembrance Day, please consider attending one of the many [commemorative ceremonies](#) in our region or take a moment to [explore the stories](#) of people who have served Canada. No matter how you choose to recognize the day, do take time to pause and solemnly reflect on the sacrifices of veterans and military service members.

COW BAY ROAD TRAFFIC DELAYS

The municipality will be working on Cow Bay Road, between Oceanlea Drive and 625 Cow Bay Road on Monday, Nov. 10, Wednesday, Nov. 12 and Thursday, Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be stop and go traffic in place while this work is underway to facilitate road repair.



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DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

You're Invited



Eastern Passage Community Consultation with RCMP and Councillor Becky Kent

Learn about RCMP priorities and share
input on a new Eastern Passage satellite

RCMP office

The Buffalo Club

(625 Cow Bay Rd, Eastern Passage)

Monday, Dec. 1

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.



RCMP COMMUNITY MEETING

I'm looking forward to co-hosting a community meeting with the RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment to discuss the RCMP's policing priorities and discuss a proposed new community policing office for the area.

We are looking for your feedback on current and future priorities and will be answering your questions.

Drop-in and learn more about community safety from the RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment and Councillor Becky Kent.

HOUSING STRATEGY FEEDBACK

The Halifax Regional Municipality is launching community engagement opportunities for the municipality's first Housing Strategy.

Residents are invited to share their thoughts and help shape the strategy by completing a survey [here](#) until Nov. 30.

The goals of the Housing Strategy will be to clarify the municipality's role in housing, evaluate current affordable housing programs and establish a forward-looking framework to guide and enhance municipal housing action. It will build on the municipality's past work and current programs that support housing.

While housing is a cross-jurisdictional issue, the strategy will focus on actions within the municipality's jurisdiction while responding to priorities and investments of the federal and provincial governments and the community housing sector.

There will be additional opportunities to share feedback in spring 2026. The Housing Strategy is planned to be adopted by Regional Council in Fall 2026.





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MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE

Members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command have been conducting routine training in the vicinity of Shearwater and Eastern Passage communities and the Halifax Harbour until Nov. 14 between the hours of 2 pm and midnight.

The training will primarily take place on water and in the air. Residents can expect to see and hear military aircraft, watercraft, and a cargo vessel conducting training exercises in these areas. Residents may also see military personnel on land.

VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

Spots are filling up for our 2025 Volunteer Conference, taking place on Friday, Nov. 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 on our [website](#).

MARKETING LEVY GRANTS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that applications for a variety of Marketing Levy Special Event Reserve Grants and Regional Special Events Grants programs are now open for eligible events taking place from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

Marketing Levy Special Event Reserve Grants provide financial support for non-profit organizations to host large-scale special events in the municipality that support and promote tourism and business development.

The Regional Special Events Grants program provides financial support for non-profit organizations that host events which foster positive community development, celebrate heritage, arts and culture, build bridges between diverse populations, enrich quality of life for residents and improve civic pride in our region.

The deadline for applications is Sunday, Nov. 30. For more information, visit our [website](#).



Judging the Halloween houses in Shearwater



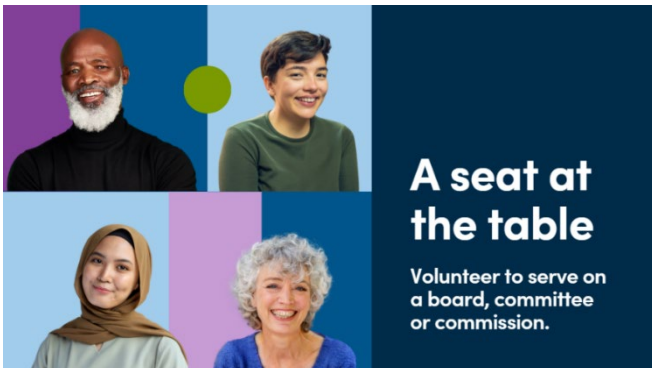
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INDIGENOUS DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

November is Indigenous Disability Awareness Month, which raises awareness about and celebrates the significant social, economic and cultural contributions that Indigenous people experiencing disability bring to our communities. It's also an opportunity to mobilize to address the complex, ongoing intersectional challenges Indigenous people face in their everyday lives. Indigenous persons who experience disability often face additional barriers and discrimination when seeking support for their disability-related needs.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT



The Municipal Clerk's Office has opened applications for Halifax's annual fall recruitment for municipal boards and committees. Information about vacancies and how to apply will be available on this [webpage](#) following the launch of applications.

For concerns about computer or internet access, or to request other accommodations during the application process, contact the Municipal Clerks Office at 902-490-4210 or clerks@halifax.ca

DARTMOUTH COVE INFILLING UPDATE

Since the district boundary changes in 2024, I've been hearing from many residents with concerns about the potential infilling at Dartmouth Cove. At the Tuesday, Oct. 7 meeting, Halifax Regional Council voted 12-3 to adopt planning amendments that would restrict infilling in Dartmouth Cove, following a public hearing.

The decision follows a series of motions dating back to 2023 that directed staff to explore options to manage and regulate water lot development in Dartmouth Cove. While staff had recommended deferring changes until completion of the [Downtown Dartmouth Waterfront Revitalization \(DDWR\) Project](#), Council instead chose one of three alternative approaches presented in the report; a full restriction on infilling within Dartmouth Cove.

Council's decision aims to balance environmental, recreational, and development considerations while ensuring future planning for the Dartmouth waterfront proceeds in a coordinated manner. The province has since confirmed that the amendments are under review. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing will determine whether to approve or reject the planning changes.

LEAF AND YARD WASTE REMOVAL

Leaf and yard waste that doesn't fit into the green cart belongs in paper yard waste bags, can only go out on green cart day and cannot contain grass clippings. Each can place up to twenty yard waste bags out on collection day. For more information about leaf and yard waste visit our [website](#).



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2024/25 HALIFACT CLIMATE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Halifax Regional Council continues to advance HalifACT: Acting on Climate Together, the municipality's long-term climate action plan to reduce emissions, build resiliency and promote equity and economic development. In 2024/25, several key initiatives progressed under HalifACT and related environmental programs:

- Public transit electrification: Completion of the Ragged Lake Transit Centre expansion and rollout of 60 electric buses to support zero-emission transit and service reliability.
- Home retrofit pilots: Deep energy retrofits achieved over 50 per cent energy savings, improving affordability and comfort for participating households.
- Renewable energy agreements: A long-term contract was signed to offset 45 per cent of corporate electricity use through planned wind turbine development, expected to reduce corporate emissions by approximately 25 per cent when operational in 2026.
- Resilient infrastructure standards: Updated design standards were adopted to improve safety, reduce costs, and ensure climate-adaptive capital investments.
- Public electric vehicle charging: 29 EV chargers of varying speeds were installed at parks and community centres across the municipality, supporting low-carbon transportation and reducing range anxiety.
- Flood resilience and stormwater management: City-wide floodplain mapping supported a pilot retrofit program in Spryfield and Upper Hammonds Plains, enhancing public safety through targeted home upgrades.

- Scotiabank Centre retrofit: A major energy retrofit began in spring 2024, including LED lighting, building automation, heat recovery, and a natural gas generator. The project is expected to reduce energy use by 26 per cent and cut greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 800 tonnes of CO₂e annually.

HalifACT targets reflect the urgency of the climate crisis and require bold, sustained action. Continued investment will deliver meaningful environmental, social, and economic benefits for residents, businesses, and the municipality.

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



Woodlawn Library 50th Anniversary



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NEW CRISIS TEAM PILOT

Residents in Dartmouth, Woodlawn and Cole Harbour now have had access to a new community service called CARE – Crisis Assistance and Response. In the pilot phase, the CARE Team operates Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. As part of the phased pilot project, the service will expand to 24 hours a day, seven days a week in January 2026.

CARE is a pilot program that provides in-person support for people 16 and older experiencing non-emergency, non-violent crises related to mental health, substance use and personal well-being. The service offers a safe, trauma-informed alternative to calling police or other first responders when that may not be the best fit. They can provide in-person help, and support such as calming and de-escalating a crisis, making a safety plan, helping someone get to a safe place, and connecting to community support.

Call 211 to access CARE and a trained navigator will assess the situation and, if it qualifies for CARE, dispatch a mobile CARE team from Souls Harbour. The CARE Mobile Team will then come in-person to provide support. For more information about the CARE program, visit our [website](#).

HRP IMPAIRED DRIVING STATS

Halifax Regional Police charged 34 drivers with impaired related offences during the month of September.

- 24 for impaired driving by alcohol (10 at least twice the legal limit)
- 1 for impaired driving by drugs
- 9 issued suspensions for consuming alcohol before driving

Of the 34 drivers, police received 17 calls from people reporting suspected impaired drivers.

If you suspect someone is driving impaired, call 911 immediately with details, including the vehicle's description and direction of travel.

OFF LEASH DOG PARKS

Winter use of playing fields as off-leash dog parks has begun. For a list of approved off-leash areas throughout the municipality, visit our [website](#).

I am so happy to see so many users of the Off Leash Dog Park in Eastern Passage. Since it's opening, we have an average of 40-50 dogs per day using it. With such a great layout and natural environment, dogs of all sizes are able to freely use the park, having alone space and interaction space with other dogs. I have been receiving such positive remarks/emails/phone calls.

Thank you to the folks who have organized as a committee of event planning, park stewardship and connection between the park and the parks supervisor at HRM and myself as Councillor!

Can you help?

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program needs volunteers to complete tax returns

To volunteer or for information on local participating community organizations, go to: canada.ca/taxes-volunteer





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THE BEACON FUNDRAISER

For 47 years, *The Beacon* has been the place to go for neighbourhood news, local stories, and small business highlights—all run by dedicated volunteers. Now, they need your support to keep the presses running. By entering their 50/50 fundraiser, you're helping fund *The Beacon's* continued printing and online publishing. Every ticket supports community journalism and gives you a chance to win a cash prize on Dec. 1, just in time for the holidays! Buy your tickets [here](#).

WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents of upcoming traffic disruptions in and around the Windsor Street Exchange area. These traffic impacts are necessary to support early construction work for the Windsor Street Exchange project, which aims to improve safety, reduce travel delays, and enhance sustainable and accessible mobility for all users. There will be temporary evening and overnight lane reductions on Highway 111 to allow for the realignment of traffic lanes and the creation of a workspace for the future construction of the new overpass. Minor traffic delays are expected for two to three weeks. This overnight work will take place after the evening rush hour to minimize impacts on traffic flow. Traffic delays are anticipated on Forrester, Bayne, and Mackintosh streets to accommodate early construction near the Windsor Street Exchange. More specific timing and details will be shared as planning progresses. Impacted Halifax Transit routes will follow marked detours during these traffic impacts. See all active Halifax Transit service disruptions [here](#). To learn more about the Windsor Street Exchange project, click [here](#).

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. Find out more [here](#).

FALLEN PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL



I was pleased to attend the 43rd Fallen Peace Officer Memorial Service honouring peace officers based in Nova Scotia who died in the line of duty.

Peace officers, first responders, civilian employees, military personnel and volunteers marched from Police Headquarters on Gottingen Street to Grand Parade prior to the service.

Participants from across the province assembled at the Nova Scotia Fallen Peace Officers' Monument for a brief ceremony where dignitaries spoke and laid wreaths along with peace officers and family members in memory of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.



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INDEPENDENT LIVING NOVA SCOTIA GALA AND DANCE



Join Independent Living Nova Scotia for the ultimate East Coast kitchen party! Celebrate the holiday season at their fully inclusive Holiday Gala & Dance. Tickets include a 3-course meal, unlimited Polaroids from the BoothAlmighty photobooth and Musical performances by Signal Hill. Get your tickets [here](#).

2025/26 MUNICIPAL ASSET NAMING

Halifax Regional Council has directed staff to initiate a review of Administrative Order 46, Respecting HRM Asset Naming Policies, to implement Action 3.2 of the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan. A review will make naming and renaming processes clearer and more consistent. It will support inclusive, culturally respectful asset naming across the municipality and will better reflect Mi'kmaq, Acadian, and African Nova Scotian history and culture. For more information, read the [staff report](#).

COMMUNITY MEDIATION PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Council approved a one-year \$100,000 pilot in July 2025 for a [Community Mediation Program](#), delivered in partnership with United Way Maritimes.

The effort offers free, voluntary, confidential, and unbiased mediation services to residents dealing with common neighborhood disputes like noise, parking, fence lines, property boundaries, and shared driveway conflicts.

CMHC HOUSING DESIGN CATALOGUE PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality will participate as a Local Partner in the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing Design Catalogue.

The Housing Design Catalogue is a new national initiative to help build more housing. The catalogue offers a collection of pre-designed building plans developed by local architecture and engineering professionals. These plans are tailored to regional building codes, climate zones and construction practices, and are available to property owners free of charge.

Using the Housing Design Catalogue can help homeowners and builders save time and money by reducing the need for custom designs. The plans are energy-efficient, adaptable and climate-resilient, helping to increase the supply of “missing middle” housing options in communities across the region.

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



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311 MULTILINGUAL & ACCESSIBLE SUPPORT

Did you know 311 provides accessible support for municipal services and information over the phone at in-person at our contact centres?

NEW ASL Video Relay Service: Deaf and hard of hearing residents who contact 311 can now request real-time sign language interpretation through SRV Canada VRS.

Multilingual Services: When calling 311 or visiting a centre, residents who need to communicate in languages other than English can request interpretation services in over 300 languages.

Learn more at [here](#).

FREE LIFEGUARDING TRAINING

The Halifax Regional Municipality is offering free lifeguard certification this fall for residents, with priority given to those living in rural areas.

Participants must complete a series of courses throughout November and December to receive full certification. Courses include Intermediate First Aid, Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross and National Lifeguard – Pool. Sessions will be held in Musquodoboit Harbour, Sackville Sports Stadium and online.

Applicants must be 15 years of age or older, with priority given to rural residents. Registration is required. For more information, including course dates and registration details, visit [our website](#).

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

HRM's Neighbourhood & Volunteer Services team is offering free workshops this fall to support volunteers, boards, grassroots organizations, and non-profits in building stronger communities. There is one more session on Dec. 3 on Communication & Conflict Resolution at the Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre.

Community groups can also request customized training through the Leadership & Community Training Opportunities page [here](#).

PLAYING FIELD MAINTENANCE

Please note that playing field maintenance has ended for the season. Thanks to all staff and community partners who helped provide this service!



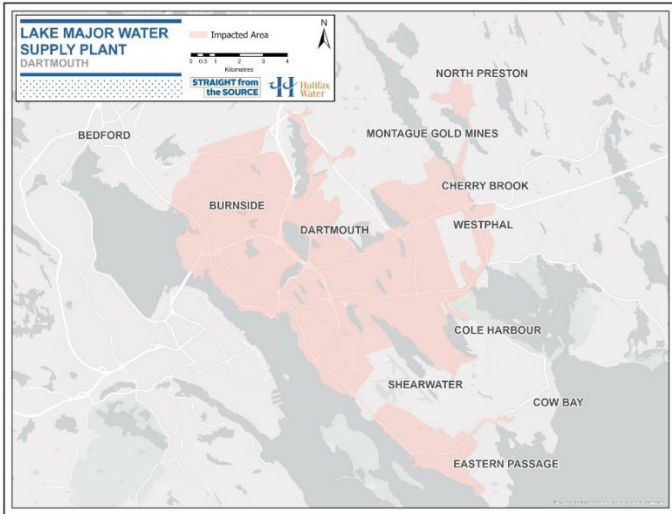
Thank you, former Chief Ken Stuebing for over 40 years serving your community in public safety. Your contributions to Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency will leave a lasting impact!



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DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES



Reminder - Halifax Water has implemented mandatory Stage 1 water restrictions for the Lake Major. This impacts water service for the communities of Dartmouth, Burnside, Cole Harbour, Westphal, North Preston and Eastern Passage (see attached map for affected service areas).

This is due to the ongoing dry conditions and lack of precipitation. As a result, Lake Major has moved to the warning phase, which triggers the need for these mandatory Stage 1 restrictions.

In order to conserve water, Halifax Water requests that all residents and businesses supplied by the Lake Major Water Supply Plant follow mandatory Stage 1 water conservation measures until further notice. The following activities are prohibited under mandatory Stage 1 conservation:

- Watering lawns.
- Washing vehicles.
- Filling pools.

- Watering golf courses.
- Bulk Fill Stations serviced by Lake Major will be closed

With the move to mandatory, residential and commercial customers are now expected to adhere to these measures. Failure to do so may result in a warning, a non-compliance fine, or suspension of service.

These mandatory water conservation measures are being implemented to maintain essential water service for all customers in the Lake Major service area. The goal is to help reduce demand until the rainfall can replenish the lake and remove/delay the need for an engineered pumping solution. Additional mandatory Stage 2 restrictions may be implemented in the future if lake levels are not replenished.

Halifax Water is also asking customers serviced by the Lake Major Water Supply to consider the following additional measures to conserve water:

- If it's yellow, let it mellow. Depending on the efficiency of your toilet, each flush uses between 6 to 26 litres of water
- Shorten your showers. Cut back on the frequency and length of showers.
- Turn off the tap when you don't need it. Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth, shaving, washing your face etc. Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.

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 [here](#).



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ONLINE PROPERTY TAX MANAGEMENT

Did you know that you can manage your property taxes easily online with e-billing and pre-authorized payments? Opt in for email notifications for a copy of your latest tax bill, overdue notices, charges against your property, by-law infraction bills or other charges or text notifications for pre-authorized payments and overdue tax bills. If you opt in to receive a copy of your tax bill via email, you will not receive a copy in the mail. Learn more and sign up online [here](#).

FIRESMART VEGETATIVE DEBRIS MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Halifax Regional Council has directed the CAO to allocate \$20,000 to support vegetative yard waste and debris disposal during municipal FireSmart events.

FireSmart™ Canada is a national program focused on wildfire resilience through education and mitigation. Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) adopted FireSmart in 2022. HalifACT will provide up to \$20,000 from the Small Projects Bundle to support HRFE in coordinating vegetative debris management, including:

- Curbside collection for eligible properties
- Mobile chipping services via private contracts
- Temporary drop-off sites on HRM property
- On-site processing using air curtain burners or grinders
- Hauling and recycling through local facilities

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

RCMP NEW OFFICER IN CHARGE



The RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment has a new Officer in Charge: Chief Superintendent John Duff, a longtime Halifax resident with deep roots in both the community and the RCMP.

C/Supt. Duff brings over 35 years of policing experience to the role, having started his career in 1990 after graduating from Acadia University with a degree in Biology. His journey through the RCMP took him across the country, with the majority of his service spent in Manitoba. There, he rose through the ranks to become Superintendent and later served as Manitoba East District Commander. After a brief retirement in 2018, Duff returned to policing, driven by a continued passion for public service. His leadership in Selkirk, Manitoba, earned him recognition and a promotion, ultimately leading him back home to Halifax.

Please join us in welcoming Chief Superintendent John Duff back to the Maritimes and into his new leadership role with the RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment.

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DEED TRANSFER TAX

At the Tuesday, Oct. 7 meeting, Halifax Regional Council voted to send a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia requesting legislative changes that would allow the municipality to adopt a tiered deed transfer tax structure.

The move follows a staff recommendation to replace the current flat 1.5 per cent tax with a progressive, tiered structure, aimed at improving fairness and increasing revenue for major capital projects. Under the proposed model, lower-value property sales would see reduced taxes, while higher-value transactions and luxury homes would contribute more. Staff estimate the changes could generate at least \$25 million in additional annual revenue.

Council's decision means the municipality will now request amendments to the Municipal Government Act to permit tiered and luxury rates, raise the maximum allowable tax to 2.5 per cent, and close existing legislative exemptions. Because deed transfer taxes are governed by provincial law, any changes must first be reviewed and approved by the Province.

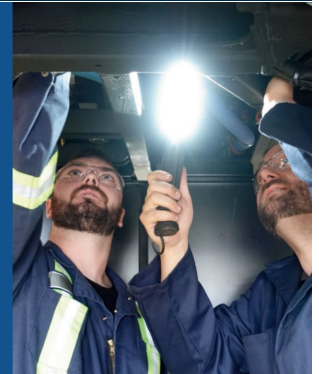
If supported, the Minister of Municipal Affairs would have final authority to approve or amend the requested legislative updates before they take effect.



We're hiring fleet maintenance roles

Learn more at halifax.ca/transit

HALIFAX
TRANSIT



FERRY BOARDING PROCEDURES

New ferry boarding procedures have begun!

1. Passengers are now asked to enter the waiting area single file. It might seem like a simple change but this will help keep everyone safer during boarding.
2. Passengers are now asked to let staff know if you or someone in your group may need extra assistance in the case of an emergency.

Please note that security screening hasn't changed. The only difference is that passengers are asked to enter the waiting area one at a time to allow security to conduct proper counts. We recommend arriving about five minutes early to allow time for this new process. These changes are required to comply with recent updates to federal safety regulations. Learn more [here](#).

PARADE OF LIGHTS

On Saturday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m., Downtown Halifax will celebrate the 30th annual Nova Scotia Power Holiday Parade of Lights, presented by Eastlink and hosted by the Holiday Parade of Lights Society.



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311 CONTACT CENTRE

More than a telephone number, 311 is your direct connection to municipal services. Email contactus@311.halifax.ca or call 311 and speak to our helpful operators for information about anything HRM-related: property taxes, illegally parked vehicles, recreation services, pet licenses, by-law concerns, litter and more:

Monday to Friday

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN DISTRICT 3

Barbara Adams, MLA/ Eastern Passage

barbadamsmla@gmail.com

902-406-0656

Brad McGowan, MLA/ Cole Harbour –
Dartmouth

jbgmcgowan@gmail.com

902-424-2731

Darren Fisher, MP/ Dartmouth-Cole Harbour

darren.fisher@parl.gc.ca

902-462-6453

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

I'm pleased to be serving on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council for this term:

Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council
(Chair)

Regional Centre Community Council (Vice
Chair)

Board of Police Commissioners (Vice Chair)

Appeals Standing Committee (Chair)

Community Planning and Economic

Development Standing Committee

Canadian Capital Cities Organization

STREAMING REGIONAL COUNCIL

Regional Council are using a new system for electronic streaming, to find the council videos – go to our [Agendas, Meetings and Reports page](#) and click the meeting you want to view.

Meetings will still be live-streamed and videos will be available after the meeting.

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:

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.

In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **becky.kent@halifax.ca or 902-478-5368.**

For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at 311.

To reach my office, please call Laura Nooyen at **902-490-1577.**

For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).