



WELCOME DECEMBER!



Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas! Happy Kwanzaa! Happy New Year! It’s officially the holiday season, a time to give generously, connect with friends and family, and make special memories.

December is a perfect month to remind ourselves to be kind. A simple smile at a stranger can go so far and a small gesture can impact someone’s day in a most positive way. People will always remember the way you made them feel. I’m looking forward to celebrating this festive season with you at the many upcoming community events!

It’s budget time again and we will have some tough decisions following extensive debate on the municipal programs and services we provide. Keep reading for more information and to learn how you can have your say on the 2026/27 budget!

Please contact me if you have questions regarding municipal programs/services by phoning 902-717-2718 or email: deaglec@halifax.ca.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME DECEMBER!1

TABLE OF CONTENTS1

DID YOU KNOW.....2

OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS.....2

HIGHWAY 102 SPECIAL PLANNING AREA4

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2026 VOLUNTEER AWARDS.....5

OPERATION CHRISTMAS KICK OFF5

HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE RECRUITING FOR 2027 POLICE SCIENCE PROGRAM.....6

HALIFAX TRANSIT IS HIRING.....7

2024/25 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN PROGRESS REPORT ..7

PLAYING FIELD MAINTENANCE ENDS7

2026/27 MUNICIPAL BUDGET8

STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM SURVEY8

311 OFFERS MULTILINGUAL AND ACCESSIBLE SUPPORT.....8

FREE RURAL LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION9

PARKS & RECREATION WINTER PROGRAMMING9

COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL ELECTED TO DEPUTY MAYOR.9

HALIFAX RCMP ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICER IN CHARGE 10

HALIFAX EXPLOSION MEMORIAL.....10

CHANGES TO RECYCLING.....11

SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM12

SENIORS CARE GRANT.....13

HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM.....13

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES13

NEW YEAR’S EVE.....14

REMEMBRANCE | ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN .14

NEW YEAR’S DAY LEVEE.....14

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY14

INDEPENDENT LIVING NOVA SCOTIA HOLIDAY GALA 15

LUNCH WITH HALIFAX WATER CEO15

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN.....15

IMPORTANT INFORMATION HRCE16

PUBLIC HEALTH MOBILE UNIT VISITING SHEET HARBOUR .22

GORDON R. SNOW COMMUNITY CENTRE EVENTS22

WHO DOES WHAT?23

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES24

COUNCILLOR DEAGLE GAMMON.....24

E-NEWSLETTER/SUBSCRIBE25

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT25



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WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

DECEMBER MEETINGS

Regional Council:

Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 10 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11 Special Meeting

Budget Committee:

Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council:

Monday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

Thursday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee:

Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.

Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee:

Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 10 a.m.

Executive Standing Committee:

Monday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m.

Committee Appointments:

Halifax Water Board Meeting

Friday, Dec. 5 at 9 a.m.

Please confirm dates and times on our [municipal website](#) as they are subject to change.

DID YOU KNOW....

December is HIV/AIDS Awareness Month,
Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness Month,
Universal Human Rights Month.

December 1 – World Aids Day

December 2 - International Day for the

Abolition of Slavery

December 3 – Giving Tuesday

December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 5 – International Volunteer Day

December 6 – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

December 10 – Human Rights Day

December 14 – Beginning of Hanukkah

December 17 – Anti-Bullying Day

December 21 - Winter Solstice

December 24 – Christmas Eve

December 25 - Christmas Day

December 26 – Boxing Day

December 26 – First Day of Kwanzaa

December 31 – New Year's Eve

OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS



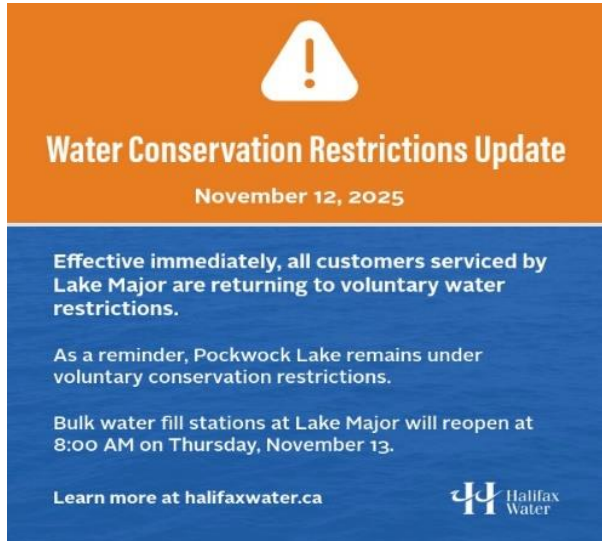
Winter use of playing fields as off-leash dog parks has begun. For a list of approved off-leash areas click [here](#).



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WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE




Water Conservation Restrictions Update
November 12, 2025

Effective immediately, all customers serviced by Lake Major are returning to voluntary water restrictions.

As a reminder, Pockwock Lake remains under voluntary conservation restrictions.

Bulk water fill stations at Lake Major will reopen at 8:00 AM on Thursday, November 13.

Learn more at halifaxwater.ca



Due to the recent precipitation, Halifax Water's source water supply has started to replenish and recover.

As a result, Lake Major's levels have increased by 70cm and all customers serviced by Lake Major returned to voluntary water restrictions.

Halifax Water is cautiously optimistic that water levels are slowly recovering; however, staff continue to monitor water supply levels. The amount of precipitation that occurs over the winter months will ideally provide enough water to fully recharge lakes across the region. Until then, all customers and residents are urged to follow voluntary water conservation measures until further notice. Effective Thursday, Nov. 13th at 8:00 AM, Halifax Water resumed hydrant flow testing and reopened bulk water fill stations at Lake Major. Halifax Water would like to thank all the customers who have followed the mandatory restrictions over the past two months. Your cooperation has been appreciated

December 2025

and has helped ensure continuity of service for all customers on the system. As a reminder, Pockwock Lake remains under voluntary conservation measures.

Click [here](#) for more information on conserving water.

EXIT 3 UPGRADES AT HIGHWAY 102



Upgrades for Exit 3 on Highway 102 will help make day-to-day travel easier for many Nova Scotians by improving safety and better traffic flow on an often-congested Highway 102 off-ramp in Bedford.

On Thursday, Nov. 13, work on an additional lane and better sightlines at the Exit 3 southbound off-ramp to Hammonds Plains Road began.

"We have put out a request for a consultant to help develop the long-term vision for the 102," said Public Works Minister Fred Tilley.



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"We're moving on this short-term project to help bring some relief to this busy area faster. We want Nova Scotians to know that while we're planning for our future transportation system, we're also committed to making improvements that can help now."

The project, which is expected to last about six weeks, will see the existing off-ramp widened to extend the separate right and left turning lanes, effectively creating two lanes through the off-ramp.

The project will also create safer driving conditions by reducing blind spots at the ramp, making it easier for motorists to clearly see other vehicles as they travel through the exit.

During construction, the exit will remain open most of the time, but motorists should be prepared for intermittent delays and temporary closures. The project will start with clearing the landscape beside the ramp. Regular blasting will be required to create the space needed for the new lane.

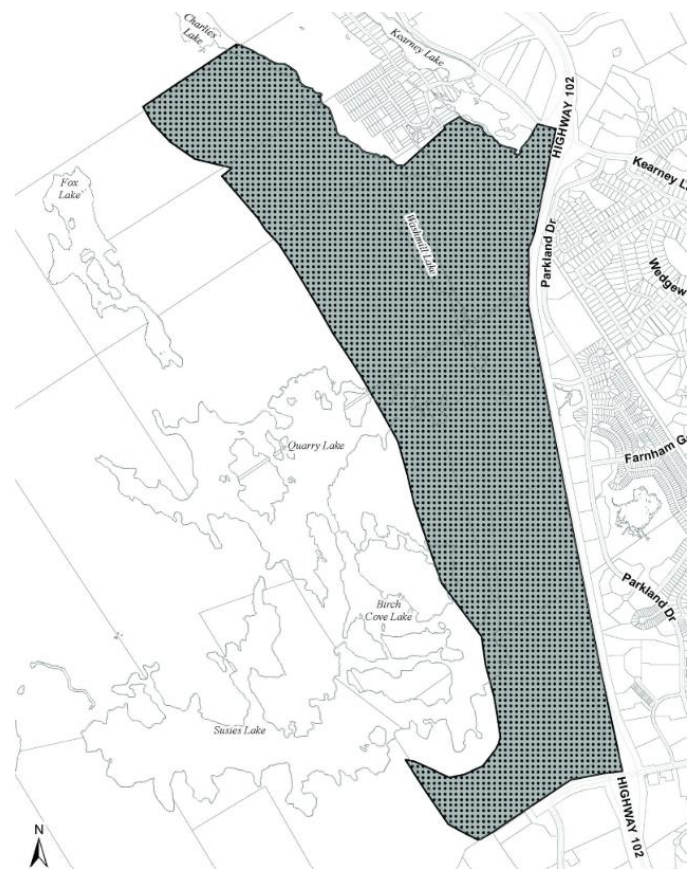
Quick Facts:

- blasting will take place once a day at a time between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to avoid peak traffic hours
- during blasting, Highway 102 before Exit 3, both southbound and northbound, and Hammonds Plains Road near the off-ramp will close for about 10 minutes
- some project work, such as paving, will take place at night to minimize the impact on traffic

- enhanced capacity and upgrades to Highway 102 support Action 1.2.2 in the Regional Transportation Plan.

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

HIGHWAY 102 SPECIAL PLANNING AREA



The municipality is seeking to understand community values, aspirations and concerns related to development in the Highway 102 West Corridor Lands Special Planning Area.

We want to hear from you! Share your feedback on topics such as housing types, land uses,



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transportation connections, parks and open spaces and other public infrastructure that will guide future development of the site. Share your thoughts through the survey until Dec. 10 by [clicking here](#).

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2026 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Nominate an outstanding
volunteer for the

2026 Volunteer Awards

Learn more at
halifax.ca/VolunteerAwards

Nominations close at 5 p.m. on
Thursday, January 8, 2026

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that nominations have opened for the 2026 Volunteer Awards. The nomination period closes on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026, at 5 p.m.

Every year, the municipality recognizes the extraordinary contributions of outstanding individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in their communities. The annual Volunteer Awards puts a spotlight on the residents who make a meaningful difference in our region.

There are three categories open for applications: Youth, Adult and Group.

The award recipients will be announced at the 2026 Volunteer Awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 22, which coincides with National Volunteer Week.

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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS KICK OFF



Operation Christmas, an annual province-wide campaign that aims to reduce impaired driving, has begun. Operation Christmas was kicked off on Nov. 26 on Citadel Hill, where law enforcement agencies and public safety partners from across Nova Scotia gathered to speak about the impacts of impaired driving. Officers then set up checkpoints across Halifax Regional Municipality to conduct enforcement and hand out educational materials about the dangers of impaired driving.



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WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

"As officers, we have a front-row seat to the consequences of impaired driving," said Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police Chief. "Few moments are more heartbreaking than responding to a tragic collision or delivering the news no family should ever have to hear. That's because we know these collisions are preventable. It's as simple as not getting behind the wheel if you're impaired."

This year, Halifax Transit supported Operation Christmas by donating hundreds of transit tickets for officers to distribute at roadside checkpoints. The donation served as an important reminder that there are always safe alternatives to driving impaired.

Operation Christmas will continue throughout the month of December with an increased number of roadside checkpoints across Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE RECRUITING FOR 2027 POLICE SCIENCE PROGRAM



Applications for the 2027 Halifax Regional Police Science Program are now being accepted.

Those interested in becoming a police officer can apply for

the program until Jan. 9, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Successful applicants will enter a 38-week police

training program designed to prepare them for careers with Halifax Regional Police.

The program is based at the Halifax Regional Police Training Facility in Dartmouth, which is a recognized private career college by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education.

"This is our third consecutive year offering the Police Science Program, and it reflects our continued commitment to building a healthy and engage workforce," said Halifax Regional Police Chief Don MacLean. "Being a police officer takes courage and strength, but it also takes compassion, understanding and a desire to build relationships of trust with the communities we serve. If you are looking for a career where you can make a meaningful impact, I encourage you to apply."

Recruiters are hosting two open house events for those interested in learning more about policing, application process, and physical abilities testing.

Anyone interested in a career in policing is welcome to attend an open house on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Police Science Program Training Facility, 2 Chapman Street in Dartmouth.

An open house focused on women in policing will be held Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Police Science Program Training Facility, 2 Chapman Street in Dartmouth.

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



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WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

HALIFAX TRANSIT IS HIRING



Halifax Transit is inviting applications for the Eligibility List position of Truck and Transport Mechanic in the Transit

Fleet division. Join the team of approximately 130 other Truck and Transport Mechanics, Body Mechanics, and Hostlers who work to maintain a reliable fleet of buses used to serve a community of approximately 400,000.

This posting will be used to create an Eligibility List. Applications will be accepted until **11:59 pm on Wednesday, March 11, 2026**.

Learn more by clicking [here](#).

2024/25 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN PROGRESS REPORT



The Halifax Regional Municipality has released the [2024/25 Strategic Priorities Plan Progress Report](#).

This annual report provides a high-level analysis on the municipality's progress in delivering Regional Council's priorities and the management of municipal services, staff and finances, using strategic indicators.

This is the fourth annual report on the [2021-25 Strategic Priorities Plan](#).

The [Strategic Performance Snapshot](#), the municipality's public-facing dashboard has also been updated with data for 2024/25. This online tool is a 'snapshot' in time based on data that is updated annually to provide residents with insights on how the municipality is performing.

To view the full report and explore the dashboard, visit: halifax.ca/budget.

PLAYING FIELD MAINTENANCE ENDS



Please note that playing field maintenance has ended for the season.

Thanks to all staff and community partners who helped provide this service!



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2026/27 MUNICIPAL BUDGET



Regional Council has begun setting the strategic priorities for the next four years and start of the

municipal budget review process.

Over the next few months, each department's budget will be reviewed in preparation for a final budget approval in April.

Public feedback throughout this process is welcomed. You can have your say by taking part in the Public Participation portion included in each meeting or by submitting correspondence to the clerk's office at clerks@halifax.ca.

STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM SURVEY



Halifax Transit wants to hear from you. What do you think about the Student Transit Pass Program?

Share your thoughts and complete the Student Transit Pass survey by **Dec. 15**. For full details, click [here](#).

311 OFFERS MULTILINGUAL AND ACCESSIBLE SUPPORT



Did you know 311 provides accessible support for municipal services and information over the phone and at in-person 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.

To learn more, click [here](#).



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FREE RURAL LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION



This fall the municipality is offering free lifeguard certification, with priority given to residents 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.

Find the full course schedule and register by clicking [here](#) and enter course code #45004.

PARKS & RECREATION WINTER PROGRAMMING

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that registration will open for winter recreation programming soon.

*Registration for **winter recreation programming** will open on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 10 a.m.

*Registration for **winter aquatics and skating programming** will open on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.

Parks & Recreation offers a variety of innovative, cost-effective programming led by local, passionate instructors in a judgement-free zone. Programming is offered in numerous fields, including health, wellness, outdoor and artistic and is available for residents of all ages and abilities. Many programs are available at [local community centres](#), which can help limit travel time.

Access to discounted recreation opportunities is also available for children, youth and adults in financial need through the [Recreation Affordable Access Program](#).

A full list of all programs and information on how to register can be found on halifax.ca/MyRec.

COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL ELECTED TO DEPUTY MAYOR



District 11 Councillor Patty Cuttell was elected by her fellow councillors to serve for the next year as Deputy Mayor for the Halifax

Regional Municipality.

"Deputy Mayor Cuttell brings significant professional experience to her role, including her



COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

national leadership at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities,” says Halifax Regional Municipality Mayor Andy Fillmore.

Deputy Mayor Patty Cuttell was first elected in 2020 to represent Spryfield - Sambro Loop.

The Deputy Mayor has a master’s degree in urban and Rural Planning from the Technical University of Nova Scotia and brings over 20 years of experience working with communities throughout the Atlantic Provinces.

Congratulations to Deputy Mayor Patty Cuttell on the appointment!

A heartfelt thanks to Councillor Tony Mancini for his dedicated service as Deputy Mayor over the past year.

HALIFAX RCMP ANNOUNCES 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.

HALIFAX EXPLOSION MEMORIAL



Dec. 6 marks the 108th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, one of the most devastating events in our city’s

history.

On the anniversary, residents are invited to gather at 9 a.m. at the Bell Tower in Fort Needham Memorial Park for the annual Halifax Explosion Memorial Service to honour the lives lost and the resilience of those impacted.

On Dec. 6, 1917, the collision of the French munitions ship Mont Blanc and the Norwegian relief ship Imo in the Narrows of Halifax Harbour caused a catastrophic explosion. The blast leveled much of north-end Halifax, killing over 2,000 people and injuring 9,000 more and

December 2025

HALIFAX



COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

buildings throughout Halifax and Dartmouth were significantly damaged.

At 9:04 a.m. naval ships across the Dockyard will sound their whistles for one minute in remembrance. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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..

For those organizations already accepted into the program ("Renewals") the web page 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.

Click [here](#) to access the website or simply use the search bar on HRM's home page. Inquiries should be directed to 311 or Contactus@311.halifax.ca

CHANGES TO RECYCLING



On Monday, Dec. 1, 2025, provincial regulations for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) will come into effect across Nova Scotia. These regulations shift the operational and financial responsibility for recycling packaging and paper products to the companies that produce, import or sell them. The Halifax Regional Municipality has opted into the program and will continue to provide curbside recycling collection for residential properties. Residents will have the same contracted service provider, collection day and customer supports available through 311 and the [Halifax Recycles app](#).

Circular Materials, a national not-for-profit organization, is responsible for managing the collection and processing of materials under the new system. The administrator, Divert NS,



COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

oversees the program to ensure compliance with provincial regulations. Learn more about Divert NS and Circular Materials [here](#).

These provincial regulations determine which materials are accepted for recycling. Starting on Monday, Dec. 1, 2025, residents will be able to recycle a consistent list of materials no matter where you live in Nova Scotia. Some items will be added to the curbside recycling program, while others will be removed.

New items accepted in blue bag curbside recycling include:

- Multi-layer paper containers, such as:
 - paper cups (including disposable paper hot and cold beverage cups)
 - paper bowls
 - ice cream cartons
 - cookie dough spiral cans
 - frozen juice spiral cans
 - potato chip spiral cans
- Plastic tubes, including:
 - toothpaste
 - deodorant
 - hand cream containers
- Small item plastic packaging, such as:
 - bottles/pumps
 - candy/gum containers
 - pails
 - garden pots
 - seedling trays

The following items will be accepted at [participating depot drop-off locations](#):

- foam packaging (such as meat trays, takeout containers).
- flexible plastics (such as coffee or deli pouches, chip bags, bubble wrap, vacuum

packaging, candy and snack wrappers and cereal liner bags); and

- non-hazardous aerosol cans (food spray, hairspray, air fresheners, shaving cream).

The municipality will share updates with residents as they are made available by Circular Materials.

Recycling Routines For Residents And Businesses

Residents should continue sorting recyclables into blue bags and placing them at the curb on their regular collection day.

For questions or service concerns click [here](#), call 311 or refer to the [Halifax Recycles App](#).

SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM



Winter is on its way. YMCA Senior Snow Removal is available to all seniors who are sixty-five years of age or more and persons with disabilities who reside in the Greater Halifax/Dartmouth area, and meet the

following criteria:

- The participant must reside in a single dwelling home which is owned or rented;
- The participant, also including all individuals who live on the premises aged eighteen or older, must not exceed a total gross household income of \$35,000, and;
- The participant may not be a landlord.



COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

The Senior Snow Removal is a YMCA program provided in partnership with Halifax Regional Municipality, and oversees the clearing of front and back steps, walkways, ramps, and access to fuel tanks. Please note that the program does not include driveway clearing.

The Senior Snow Removal operates on a first-come, first-serve basis. When maximum capacity is reached, the program will come to a close and individuals will be placed on a waitlist.

You can download the 2025/2026 application package by clicking [here](#). Call (902) 483-3678 for more information or Email: ssr@halifax.ymca.ca

SENIORS CARE GRANT

The Seniors Care Grant helps low-income seniors with the cost of household services like lawn care, snow removal, grocery delivery, transportation, small home repairs and phone service, healthcare services like physiotherapy and mental health support and home heating.

Grants are \$750 for each household. The grant is available for seniors with a household income of \$45,100 or less.

Applications are available [online](#) or print applications can be picked up at Access Nova Scotia and MLA offices. Previous recipients will also receive the applications by mail. Applications will close March 31, 2026.

HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program provides assistance to low- and moderate-income Nova Scotians to help with the cost of home heating.

Rebates are \$400/household.

Apply by March 31, 2026. More information can be found [here](#), or by calling: 902-424-5200 or Toll-free: 1-800-670-4357

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



On Dec. 3, we recognize and celebrate the International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD).

This day highlights the importance of inclusivity, accessibility, and equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities, while also celebrating their achievements and contributions to society; and aims to raise awareness and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities.



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WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

This year's theme is Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress.

Learn more about this important day [here](#).

NEW YEAR'S EVE



Come on down to the Grand Parade on Wednesday, Dec. 31 to ring in the New Year! Check our [municipal website](#) for details on the festivities!

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE & ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



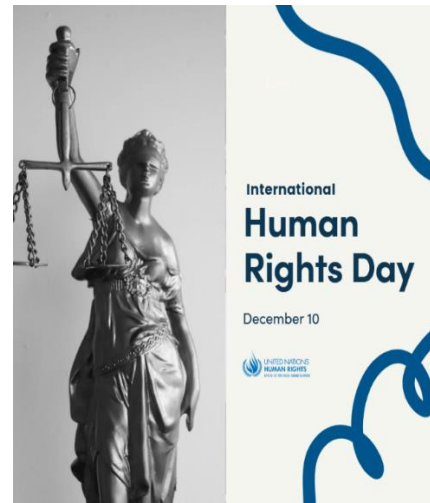
On Dec. 6, we recognize The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – commemorating the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre where 14 women lost their lives. We honour them by observing a moment of silence at 11 a.m. and wearing a white ribbon if possible. It is important to remember that violence can affect women from all backgrounds regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, immigration status, ethnicity, education or income. Preventing and ending gender-based violence is everyone's

responsibility. Learn more about gender-based violence and find helpful resources on the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women's [website](#).

NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE

Mayor Andy Fillmore and members of Regional Council invite you to join them in celebrating the arrival of 2026 at the New Year's Levee on Thurs, Jan. 1 from 9:30-11 a.m. at Halifax City Hall. Light refreshments will be provided.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



Dec. 10 is International Human Rights Day, which commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This year's theme is *Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials*, with a goal of reaffirming the values of human rights and show that they remain a winning proposition for humanity.

To learn more, click [here](#).

December 2025

HALIFAX



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WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

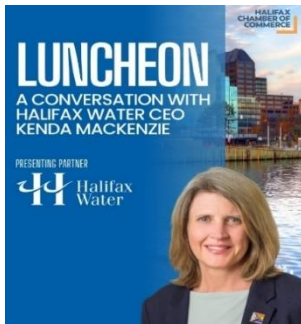
INDEPENDENT LIVING NOVA SCOTIA HOLIDAY GALA



Join Independent Living Nova Scotia for the ultimate East Coast kitchen party! Celebrate the holiday season at our fully inclusive Holiday Gala & Dance featuring Signal Hill.

Click [here](#) for more information.

LUNCH WITH HALIFAX WATER CEO



As the utility responsible for delivering high-quality drinking water, managing wastewater and stormwater systems, and maintaining complex infrastructure across the municipality, Halifax

Water is central to how our city grows and functions. Join us as Kenda MacKenzie, Halifax Water CEO outlines the organization's current priorities and long-term strategy, including major infrastructure projects, regulatory requirements, sustainability initiatives, and system modernization efforts.

Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at The Lord Nelson Hotel. Click [here](#) for more information.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN



The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence is an annual international campaign, occurring from

Nov. 25 to Dec. 10. This campaign began in 1991 to call out and speak up against gender-based violence (GBV), and to renew our commitment to ending violence against women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ communities.

Silent Witness Silhouettes are a traveling exhibit of dedicated red life-sized figures, each representing a woman who has died at the hands of her intimate partner. The silhouettes pictured represent two women who were killed by intimate partner violence in HRM. Each Silhouette bears a shield-shaped plaque bearing personal details provided by the victim's family. Even though these victims were silenced by domestic homicide, their Silhouettes are powerful in spreading awareness of domestic violence without speaking a word.

The Silhouettes were delivered to the Mayor's office on Nov. 17, where they will reside until Dec. 10th.

On the Nov 18 Council meeting day, we all stood beside them for a photo.

In 2023, eight women in Nova Scotia were killed by a current or former intimate partner. Each of



them was more than a number. They were mothers, sisters, daughters, friends, and neighbours.

Their deaths remind us that domestic violence is not a private issue. It's a community one. Awareness and early intervention saves lives.

Abuse is not always physical. It can take the form of control, manipulation, intimidation, or isolation. Emotional, psychological, sexual, and financial abuse are all forms of domestic violence. Recognizing these patterns early is critical. If someone is afraid of their partner, being monitored, or cut off from family and friends, they may be experiencing coercive control. If you're unsure, reach out. Asking questions and offering support can make a difference.

Gender-based violence is not a private matter. It affects all of us. Whether as neighbours, coworkers, friends, or family, we all have a role to play in prevention.

Checking in, listening, and speaking up when something feels wrong can interrupt the cycle of violence. A caring conversation can save a life.

Violence thrives in silence. Ending it requires every one of us to be aware, informed, and willing to act.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, you can reach out to Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS) or call 211 for confidential help and information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION HRCE



Important dates in Dec. for Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE).

Dec. 4:

Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day (no classes - PP-12)

Dec. 19:

Last day of school for students before holiday break

Dec. 22:

Teacher Professional Practice Day (no classes - PP-12)

New Educational Technology Resource For Families

HRCE has a new online resource designed to help families understand how technology supports student learning.

This page provides an overview of how tools like Chromebooks and Google for Education are used in classrooms, what provincially approved online platforms students may access, and how student privacy is protected. You'll also find information about Nova Scotia's guidance on the provincial cell phone expectations, tips for supporting online safety and digital citizenship at home, and an introduction to how students are learning



COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

about artificial intelligence in a thoughtful and responsible way. It also includes answers to common questions about screen time, passwords, communication during the school day, and more.

You can find the webpage [here](#).

Resources for Parents from Unplugged Canada

If you're concerned about your kids' screen time, smartphone use, or social media pressure, there are some wonderful resources below to help parents and caregivers navigate the challenges of raising kids in a digital world.

For parents:

The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt highlights the research and evidence behind how early smartphone and social media exposure have shaped a generation over the last 10–15 years.

Ten Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World by Jean Twenge offers practical, actionable guidance to help parents set healthy boundaries and support their kids' digital wellbeing.

For kids:

The Amazing Generation, written for pre-teens and teens and co-authored by Jonathan Haidt, will be released on Dec. 30. It explains the impact of today's digital environment in an engaging, age-appropriate way.

All of these books are available at your local Library or bookstore.

Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are more developmentally ready. Join thousands of Canadian families choosing to delay by taking the Unplugged Canada Pledge at unpluggedcanada.com/sign-pledge.

Planning for Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6 a.m. as possible. A 6 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11a.m. announcement could be:

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and



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WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- [On the HRCE website](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages inclement weather, click [here](#).

We're ALWAYS hiring!

Did you know that HRCE has more than 10,000 employees serving more than 60,000 students?

Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities!

As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly by clicking [here](#).

IN THE COMMUNITY



Remembrance Day in Middle Musquodoboit. Inspiring ceremony and, in attendance, a truly remarkable veteran of the Second World War - Signelman Retired William McCurdy at the incredible age of 102! Thank you sir for your service.



Trisha Munroe and son Alex Munroe were awarded the Carnegie Medal.



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WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

Established April 15, 1904, by Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was created to recognize outstanding acts of selfless heroism performed in the United States and Canada. The Commission awards the CARNEGIE MEDAL to those who risk death or serious physical injury while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

Carnegie Medals were presented to Trisha Munroe and her son Alex Munroe of Windsor Junction at the November Regional Council meeting of HRM. They both acted in heroic fashion to rescue another son and brother from a dog attack in 2023.

Real heroes do not always wear capes, they can be mothers and sons who act in the moment and protect those in need of their help.

Congratulations on well-deserved recognition.



Thank you to HRM staff who made sure our float was ready on time and full of bubbles! We had a wonderful parade and tree lighting.





COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

Spread Holiday Cheer This Year! The Fall River & Area Holiday Lights Tour is back for 2025, and we can't wait to see your beautifully decorated homes lighting up our community!

Tour Dates: Dec. 4-31

Registration Deadline: Nov. 30

[Register here.](#)

We're keeping things fun and festive by removing the contest aspect — the tour is all about community spirit, creativity, and holiday joy. This tour features outdoor decorations only.

Let's make this holiday season bright together!



Christmas is a time of giving! [The Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank](#) will have a box to collect non-perishable food items and women's | men's toiletries at their decorated tree.

This weekend, sort through your closets and bins and find your winter gear that can be donated to Helping Hands: Families Helping Families Society.

When you enter the admission gate, turn right to bring your winter gear donations to the concession booth and you will receive a coupon for a FREE hot chocolate from the MRHS Europe Trip group located in the Dance Hall.

December 2025

Accepted items include coat/boots/ski pants/hats/mitts/gloves/scarves.



Giving the Gift of Time
Makes Memories that last
a Lifetime!



Me, MP Braedon Clark and MLA Brian Wong

Thank you to FRABA - Fall River and Area Business Association - for hosting an all orders of government session. Topics included traffic congestion, service expansion for transit, water

HALIFAX



COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

and wastewater, immigration, support to navigate government applications, support for skilled trades, education options, federal and municipal budgets, and opportunities as well as process to name a few.

When all orders of government work together, we can do better for our residents. I look forward to our work together.



Don't miss the Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club - Christmas Parade of Lights – Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.

Theme:

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Hot chocolate on site in front of the church.

Parade hosted by the Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club with support from the RCMP and other Volunteers.



So nice to have our MP Braedon Clark joining us at the Waverley Legion - Royal Canadian Legion Dieppe Br90.



COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY



Over the next 10 months, the Atlantic Economic Panel, comprising Chair Dom Mills, members Joyce Carter, Cathy Bennett, Mike Cassidy, J Scott McCain, Anne Whelan, and Chief Terry Richardson, will provide recommendations to the federal government on strategies to enhance economic growth in Atlantic Canada.

It was a notable gathering of business leaders, government officials, and politicians. I was pleased to attend and witness the positivity and enthusiasm for the panel's initiatives.

Thank you [Sean Fraser](#) for the invite!

Public Health Mobile Unit - Sheet Harbour



Nova Scotia Health will host a Mobile Public Health Unit clinic at the Sheet Harbour Public Library on Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 12 to 5 p.m. The clinic will offer all-

ages vaccinations and testing services.

Residents can book appointments for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV vaccines through the

December 2025

provincial booking system by [clicking here](#) or call 1-833-797-7772.

Shingles and pneumococcal vaccines will be available on a drop-in basis, as these services cannot be booked online. While appointments are encouraged to ensure availability, limited drop-in spaces will be offered throughout the clinic.

More information about Public Health Mobile Unit services is available at nshealth.ca/PHMU.

Gordon R. Snow Community Centre Events

What's new for winter?

- Sketch & Draw classes for both children and adults - instructor Michael Bonnell
- Tai Chi & Qi Gong – instructor Don Evans
- Chair Yoga – instructor Debbie MacDonald
- Arts & Crafts class for children

We also offer a variety of fitness and yoga classes as well as a full line up of preschool and children's sports and activities.

Preschooler Play for 3-5-year-olds will be starting in early January. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to make new friends and socialize in a safe, welcoming environment. This program is offered M/W/F mornings from 9:00-11:30 a.m. with the option of registering for individual days.

Winter registration dates:

- Recreation Dryland programs – Dec. 2 starting at 10 a.m.



COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

- Aquatic & Skating programs – Dec 9 starting at 10 a.m.

Register online by clicking [here](#) or call the registration line at 902-490-6666 or call the centre directly at 902-860-4570.

COMMUNITY HALLS/CENTRES

District 1 is home to many community halls and non-profit organizations. Check out their website or Facebook pages to find information on local events as well as opportunities to volunteer in your community.

- [Elderbanks Recreation Club](#)
- [Lemmon Hill Sports Association](#)
- [Upper Musquodoboit Nova Scotia Nunavut Command](#)
- [Upper Musquodoboit Community Hall](#)
- Upper Musquodoboit Fellowship Centre (902)568-2536
- [Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre](#)
- [Musquodoboit Valley Family Resource Centre](#)
- [Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank](#)
- [Carrolls Corner Community Center](#)
- [Meaghers Grant Community Hall](#)
- [Gordon Snow Community Centre](#)
- [Wellington Fletchers Lake Station House](#)
- [Grand Lake Oakfield Community Centre](#)
- [Waverley Heritage Museum](#)
- [Waverley Legion Dieppe Branch 90](#)
- [LWF Community Hall](#)
- [Windsor Junction Community Centre](#)
- [Helping Hands Families Helping Families](#)
- [Barefoot Farmers Association](#)

For those I may have missed, please reach out to let me know, and I will add you to the list!

WHO DOES WHAT?

Not sure which level of government does what - Federal, Provincial, or Municipal – check below!





COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

The following are the [provincial](#) Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and [federal](#) Members of Parliament (MPs) representatives for [municipal District 1](#).

MLA Scott Armstrong



Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

Progressive Conservative
Caucus Office:

1601 Lower Water Street,
Halifax, NS B3J 3P6

Phone: 902-424-2731 Fax: 902-424-748

E-mail: PCcaucus@novascotia.ca

MLA Brian Wong



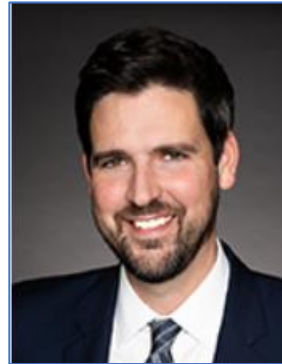
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank

Constituency Office:

1265 Fall River Road
Suite 101 Fall River, NS B2T 1E6

Phone: 902-576-3411

Email: brianwongmla@gmail.com



MP Sean Fraser

[Central Nova](#)

House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Phone: 613-992-6022

Fax: 613-992-2337

Email:

sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca

MP Braedon Clark



Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook

House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A6

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COUNCILLOR DEAGLE GAMMON



Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon

DISTRICT 1

Waverley – Fall River – Musquodoboit Valley

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HALIFAX

halifax.ca | 311

I currently serve on Regional Council, North West Community Council and the following boards and committees:



COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

- Audit and Finance Committee (Chair)
- Canadian Capital Cities Organization
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee (Chair)
- Environment and Sustainability Committee (Vice Chair)
- Executive Standing Committee
- Halifax Regional Water Commission
- Halifax Partnership

Community Committees:

- Aerotech Community Liaison Community Committee
- Halifax International Airport Authority
- Goffs Quarry Community Liaison

E-NEWSLETTER/SUBSCRIBE

The District 1 newsletters, are available on my [municipal website](#), or to request to be added to the distribution list, please contact my Council Constituency Coordinator, Nancy Viner at Nancy.Viner@halifax.ca.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The Halifax Regional Municipality honours and recognizes the

importance of the Indigenous people (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) and their cultural contributions to the tapestry of our region. 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 & Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.



Happy, Happy New Year!

I wish you all the best, Great work to reach your fondest goals, and when you're done, sweet rest.

I hope for your fulfillment, contentment, peace, and more - A brighter, better New Year than you've ever had before!

