



WELCOME DECEMBER

Season’s Greetings from District 14!

As we wrap up another year, I want to take a moment to thank you for staying engaged and connected with our community. December is a time for reflection, celebration, and looking ahead. Whether you’re enjoying festive traditions, supporting local businesses, or lending a hand to those in need, your contributions make District 14 a vibrant and welcoming place.

In this edition, you’ll find updates on upcoming winter events, important municipal notices, and ways to stay involved as we move into 2026. Let’s continue working together to keep our neighborhoods safe, inclusive, and full of opportunity.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a bright New Year!

John

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OCTOBER MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Northwest Community Council and Standing Committee meetings will be held on:

Regional Council:

- Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 10 a.m.

Budget Committee Meeting:

- Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council: Monday,

- Monday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Appeals Standing Committee

- Thursday, Dec. 4 at 10 a.m.

African Descent Advisory Committee

-

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

- TBD

DATES TO NOTE

December 1 is World AIDS Day

December 2 is International Day for Abolition of Slavery

December 3 is International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 5 is International Volunteer Day

December 10 is International Animal Rights Day

December 10 is Human Rights Day

December 14 is Hanukkah

December 17 is Anti-Bullying Day

December 17 is National Maple Syrup Day
December 20 is International Human Solidarity Day

December 21 is Winter Solstice

December 24 is Christmas Eve

December 25 is Christmas Day

December 26 is Boxing Day

December 26 is Kwanzaa

December 31 is New Year's Eve

LUCASVILLE ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT COMPLETE



Lucasville Road bridge upgrade project

The municipality is pleased to announce that the Lucasville Road bridge project is now complete. Work carried out during the 2024 and 2025 construction seasons has renewed the bridge, providing a safer, longer-lasting connection for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Learn more about the completed infrastructure improvements here: <https://brnw.ch/21wXOz9>



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Dec 3 marks International Day of People With Disabilities (IDPWD). The theme of this year's IDPWD

is **Ability to Rise: Celebrating Leaders in Disability Inclusion.**

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on Dec. 6 serves as a platform to raise awareness, challenge misconceptions, and advocate for the rights and well-being of people with disabilities.

What is gender-based violence?

Gender-based violence (GBV) is committed against someone based on their gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender. GBV disproportionately impacts women and girls as well as Indigenous Peoples, 2SLGBTQ+,

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gender diverse, non-binary individuals, persons with disabilities, newcomers, children and youth, and seniors.

- According to the [Nova Scotia Domestic Violence Resource Centre](#), women in Nova Scotia are approximately 45 times more likely to be murdered by a spouse or intimate partner than they are by a stranger (57.9 per cent versus 1.3 per cent).
- Women who self-identified as lesbian or bisexual reported significantly higher rates of violence by a partner than heterosexual women.

How can you help?

Preventing and ending gender-based violence is everyone's responsibility. You can be part of the solution when you:

- Listen to and support survivors of gender-based violence.
- Speak up when you see harmful behaviour and maintain confidentiality if someone in the workplace has experienced gender-based violence.

If you or a loved one is experiencing violence, speak with someone you trust about getting support.

- Call 911 if you or someone you know is in danger.
- To connect with community services including legal aid, counselling, family resource centres, housing, and accessibility support within the municipality, call 211 or [search online for community resources](#).
- See the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women's [Resource Map](#).



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Learn more about gender-based violence by visiting <https://endingviolencecanada.org/>.

COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL ELECTED TO DEPUTY MAYOR



District 11 Councillor Patty Cuttelli was elected today by her fellow councillors to serve for the next year as Deputy Mayor for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

“Deputy Mayor Cuttelli brings significant professional experience to her role, including her national leadership at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities,” says Halifax Regional Municipality Mayor Andy Fillmore. “On a personal note, I’ve had the great pleasure of working with her in our previous roles and look forward to that continued partnership.”

The new Deputy Mayor takes over from Deputy Mayor Tony Mancini, who held the position for the past 12 months.

“The trust placed in me by my colleagues means a great deal, and I look forward to working closely with the Mayor’s Office, Council and residents to represent Halifax with pride and move our shared priorities forward,” says Deputy Mayor Patty Cuttelli. “I believe success in the coming year will depend on teamwork and shared responsibility. I will do everything I can to strengthen that work, to be a connector, a collaborator, and a representative who reflects the values we all share with integrity and accountability.”

Deputy Mayor Patty Cuttelli 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 Cuttelli on the appointment! We look forward to her leadership and collaboration in the year ahead. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Councillor Tony Mancini for his dedicated service as Deputy Mayor over the past year.

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



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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.

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY REGULATIONS



Starting Dec. 1, Nova Scotia will transition to an enhanced recycling system managed by Circular Materials, a not-for-profit organization that is committed to growing an efficient and effective recycling system. What does this

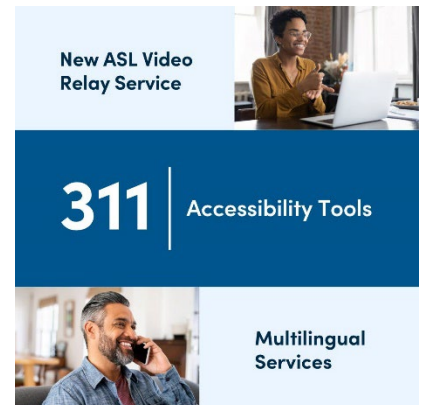
mean?

- Your curbside collection day/schedule and requirements for placement (i.e. blue bags) will stay the same.
- You'll be able to recycle the same materials, no matter where you live across the province.
- You'll be able to recycle more materials than ever before, including hot and cold beverage cups, deodorant, toothpaste tubes, frozen juice containers and ice cream tubs, to name a few!
- Recycling and collection questions will continue to be addressed by the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Learn more at: circularmaterials.ca/NS or halifax.ca/recycling

311 OFFERS 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?

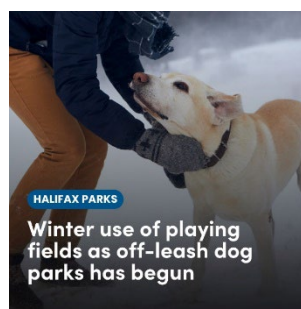


NEW ASL Video Relay Service: Deaf and hard of hearing residents who contact 311 can now request real-time sign language interpretation through SRV Canada VRS.

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 halifax.ca/311.

OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS

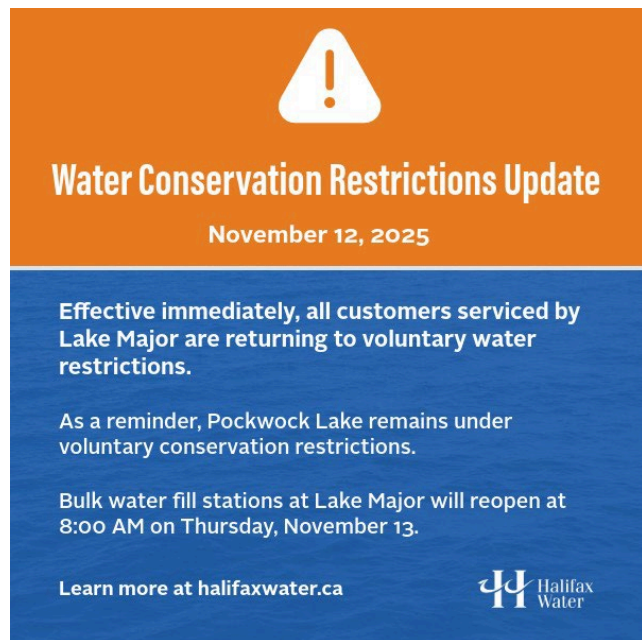


Winter use of playing fields as off-leash dog parks has begun.

For a list of approved off-leash areas throughout the municipality, visit: <https://brnw.ch/21wX8lf>



WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE



The graphic features an orange header with a white warning triangle icon. Below the header, the text is on a blue background. It states that customers serviced by Lake Major are returning to voluntary water restrictions as of November 12, 2025. It also mentions that Pockwock Lake remains under voluntary conservation restrictions and that bulk water fill stations at Lake Major will reopen at 8:00 AM on Thursday, November 13. A link to halifaxwater.ca is provided for more information, along with the Halifax Water logo.


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 reopen bulk water fill stations at Lake Major.

Halifax Water would like to thank all the customers who followed the mandatory

restrictions over the past two months. Your cooperation has been appreciated and has helped ensure continuity of service for all customers on the system.

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

Visit halifaxwater.ca/reducing-your-water-wastewater-use for a full list of ways to conserve water.

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.

Venue: Halifax Marriott Harbourfront in their Nova Scotia Ballroom (2nd floor)

Date: Friday, Dec. 12, 2025

Time: 7-11:30 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Tickets: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/ilns-holiday-gala-and-dance-ft-signal-hill>

Each ticket includes:

- 3-course meal
- Unlimited Polaroids from the BoothAlmighty photobooth
- Musical performances by Signal Hill



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WINTER REC PROGRAM REGISTRATION



Mark your calendars! Winter 2026 recreation program registration starts on Dec. 2 and 9. To preview upcoming program PDFs, visit halifax.ca/myREC to see what's available

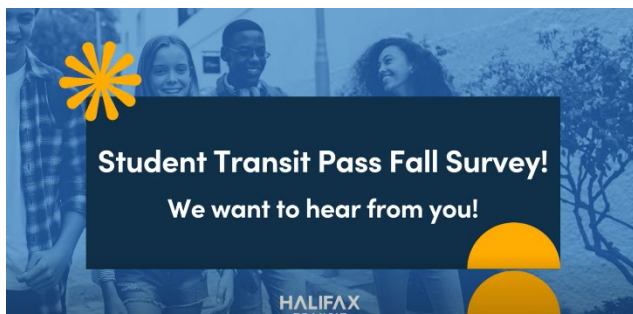
in your community.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. each day for all ages:

Tuesday, Dec. 2 – rec programs

Tuesday, Dec. 9 – aquatics and skating

STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM SURVEY



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

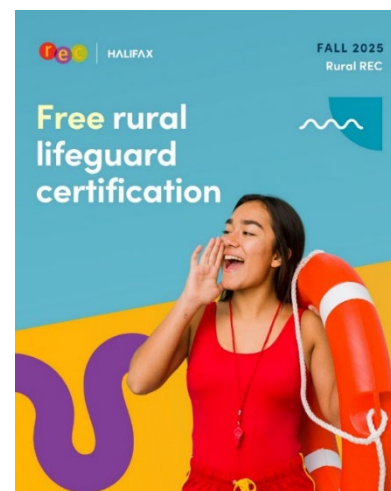
Share your thoughts and complete the Student Transit Pass survey by Dec. 15.

For full details, visit <https://brnw.ch/21wXB11>

TRANSIT RECRUITMENT



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 at halifax.ca/myREC with course code #45004.



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JOIN HRP 2027 CADET CLASS



Join the Halifax Regional Municipality as a Cadet with the Training division of Halifax Regional Police. There are full-time student positions available.

The Halifax Police Program teaches the knowledge, skills and discipline needed to serve and protect communities with integrity. Cadets will be trained in law, ethics, communication, defensive tactics and crisis management. Training also emphasizes teamwork, resilience and community engagement. All the tools to prepare you as an Officer who upholds justice, maintains public safety and builds trust with the people you serve.

Apply by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, 2025.

Learn more at: <https://brnw.ch/21wXFwU>

MUNICIPAL BUDGET CONSULTATION UNDERWAY



Halifax Regional Council has begun the 2026/27 municipal budget process with the release of the proposed Budget Direction on Nov. 19. The annual municipal budget funds all municipal operations and services, including transit, police, fire services, parks, snow clearing, waste collection, capital projects, and required contributions to reserves.

As is typical during the budget cycle, the initial figures presented are a starting point for Council's deliberations. Through the budget consultation and adjustment process, Councillors will have the opportunity to propose changes to the staff recommendations to find efficiencies while balancing the core services the municipality needs.

This year's starting Budget Direction reflects an estimated \$88.9 million increase needed to maintain service levels, meet contractual and inflationary costs, and support previously approved initiatives. Based on current projections, this would require an average residential property tax bill increase of approximately 10.5%.

Business units will present their proposed budgets to the Budget Committee over the coming weeks. Residents will have opportunities to follow deliberations online and participate directly during the public participation portions of each meeting.

Members of the public may speak in person or virtually, and can register or submit written correspondence through the meeting agenda page on Halifax.ca, where instructions are posted for each session.



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WATER DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ENDING



Please note that all water distribution will be scaled back to pick-up on Sundays only. Water will no longer be available for pick-up on Wednesdays.

There are also some changes to pick-up times to note.

For full details, click [here](#).

VOLUNTEER AWARDS NOMINATIONS OPEN



Nominations for the 2026 Volunteer Awards are open!

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 put 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](#).

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PARKING BAN

The overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from Dec. 15 until Mar. 31; however, it is only enforced during declared weather events and clearing operations. When the ban is enforced, it restricts any on-street parking between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Vehicles in violation of the ban will be ticketed and/or towed.

Remember to stay informed about the status of the parking ban and please think before you park.

WINTER GARBAGE COLLECTION



As the snow season approaches, please remember to place waste for curbside collection in a spot that won't interfere with sidewalk or road clearing. To help our crews keep pathways safe and accessible, place waste at the edge of your drive way, not on the sidewalk or road.



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IN THE COMMUNITY



November 2025 Cheque Presentation to the LUBC "Youth For Truth" program



Lucasville Teatime with Community Members



Pockwock Watershed Tour



Building Futures Multi-Sensory Room Sponsored by the NWCC Councilors

SNOW CLEARING

Snow clearing in our municipality is a big job and if stretched into a straight line, it would reach from Halifax to Winnipeg. Streets and sidewalks are prioritized based on commuter usage and access to key infrastructure. Learn more: <http://halifax.ca/snow>



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COMMUNITY MEETING SPACE

As your Councillor for District 14 I want to ensure that I make myself available to residents to listen to your ideas and concerns of our community. I am excited to share that I have secured office space at the Sackville Library at 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

If you would like to book an appointment during my office hours (see below), please contact my Council Constituency Coordinator Vicki Palmetier at 902-490-2012 or Victoria.palmetier@halifax.ca. She would be happy to assist you in scheduling an appointment.

Office Hours:

Wednesday's from 9 AM-12:30 PM

Dates:

Dec. 3, 2025

Dec. 17, 2025

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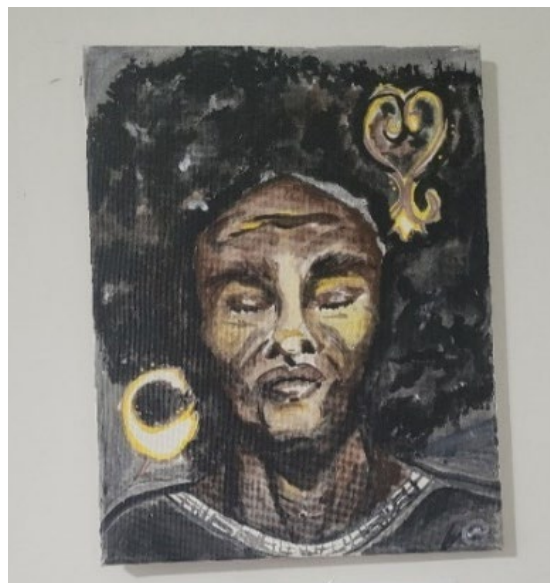
I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council

- Northwest Community Council
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Active Transportation Standing Committee
- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
- African Descent Advisory Committee

I encourage you to reach out to 3-1-1 or me at any time with municipal questions or concerns.



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE



“Words to Live By”

Learn From Your Past

**“If you want to know the end,
look at the beginning”**