



COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

DISTRICT 8 NEWSLETTER

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

WELCOME DECEMBER

Happy Holidays! I want to wish residents of District 8 a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy Kwanza and a Happy New Year!

On January 1, residents of District 8 are invited to join myself, the Mayor and my fellow Councillors for the annual New Year's Day Levee here at City Hall. More details can be found in the newsletter.

Continue reading to learn more about the holiday events taking place in District 8 in the month of December, Halifax Explosion Memorial details, and the volunteer award nomination process and more.

If you have any questions regarding a municipal program or service, please contact me at 902-237-8373 or virginia.hinch@halifax.ca

DECEMBER MEETING DATES

Regional Council and Budget Committee:

Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.

Halifax and West Community Council

Monday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council

Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change, please confirm on our municipal [website](#).





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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+, 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?

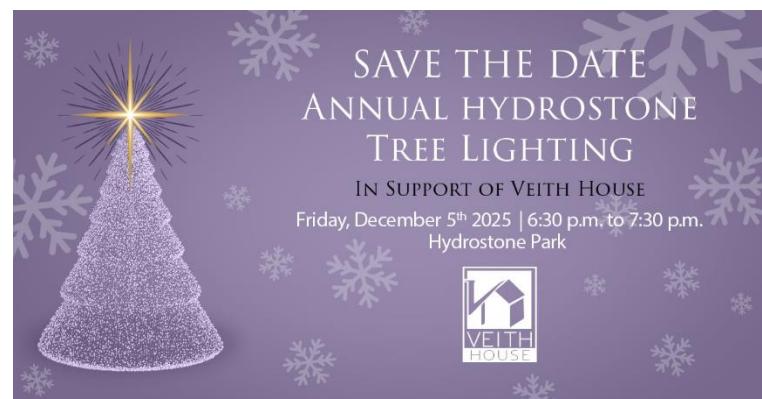
Preventing and ending gender-based violence is everyone's responsibility. You can be part of the solution when you:

- 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](#).

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





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ANNIVERSARY OF THE HALIFAX EXPLOSION

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 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.

Learn more on our [website](#).



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](#).

3





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MUNICIPAL BUDGET CONSULTATIONS 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.

NORTH END COMPLETE STREETS ENGAGEMENT

The Halifax Regional Municipality is launching North End Complete Streets Phase 2, an Active Transportation planning project, to make North End streets safer, more comfortable and more accessible for residents.

This project focuses on improving sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, bikeways and public spaces, while respecting the area's history and identity. And we need your feedback.

Share your feedback in person at an engagement session on Thursday, **Dec. 4**, or complete a survey online.

Learn more [here](#).

4



**Free Holiday Dinner
at Community Y!**

Come warm your spirits at this free holiday dinner with the YMCA! Halal and Vegetarian options will be served.

All are welcome!



December 10th, 2025
4:00pm-6:00pm
Community YMCA, 2269 Gottingen St

Shine On YMCA
Greater Halifax/Dartmouth



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THE PEOPLE PROJECT- 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.

To learn more about the program or to connect with a mediator please visit the United Way website by clicking [here](#).



Reach out to be connected to a community mediator in your area

902.422.1501

[LEARN MORE](#)



HALIFAX

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 the Circular Materials [website](#) or the Halifax [website](#).



Learn more about Nova Scotia's enhanced recycling system:
circularmaterials.ca/NS





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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 driveway, not on the sidewalk or road.



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 by visiting our [website](#).



HALIFAX

NEW YEAR'S LEVEE





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OPERATION CHRISTMAS BEGINS

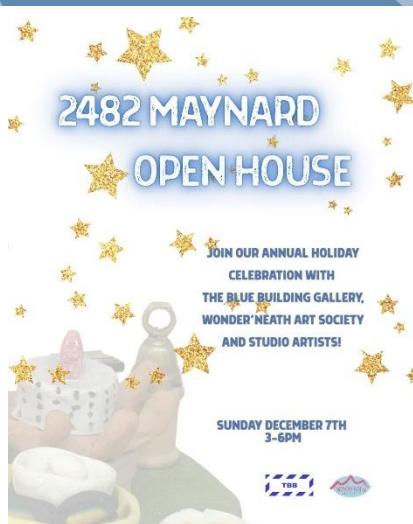
Operation Christmas, an annual province-wide campaign that aims to reduce impaired driving, has begun.

Operation Christmas was kicked off this morning 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.

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.



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.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

STUDENT TRANSIT 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 more information, please visit our [website](#).





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HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. 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.

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PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Federal Representatives in District 8:

- **MP Shannon Miedema** Halifax
1003-1809 Barrington St
Halifax, NS
B3J 3K8

Provincial Representatives in District 8:

- **MLA Suzy Hansen** Halifax- Needham
6090 Young St, Suite 1000
Halifax, NS B3K 3B5
Phone: 902-455-7300
suzyhalifaxneedham@gmail.com

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Virginia currently serves on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council:

- Grants Committee
- Board of Police Commissioners
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Regional Centre Community Council
- Halifax Forum Community Association
- Indigenous Community Liaison Representation



**Councillor
Virginia Hinch**

DISTRICT 8
Halifax Peninsula North
902.237.8373
virginia.hinch@halifax.ca

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