



**COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE**  
DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER  
HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

## HIGHWAY 102 SPECIAL PLANNING AREA

Close to 400 people attended HRM's Open House for the Highway 102 West Corridor Special Planning Area where a massive housing development is being proposed. Still in the early planning stages, the project involves two different developers. Both developers were on hand at St Peter's Church in Rockingham on November 19 to present maps and concept plans to the public.

Studies have been done for the area assuming 11,500 housing units would be built. However at the Open House, the Annapolis Group presented a proposal with an additional 7000 units, bringing the proposed total to about 19,000 housing units. This would mean an approximate population of 42,000 housed between Kearney Lake Road, Bayers Lake Industrial Park, Susies Lake and Highway 102.

The Stevens Group is proposing a development called "The Lakes" consisting of 8700 housing units in clusters of buildings of 4-6 storeys. Based on what I heard from the Stevens Group representatives, this housing might look similar in size to the apartment buildings at

Rockingham South, only with many more of them.

The Annapolis Group is proposing a larger project with 9972 units. The majority of the housing (9172 units) is a mix of medium and highrise apartments. The Annapolis Group also proposes to build 794 single family homes and 108 townhouses. The company's plan includes land set aside for schools.

Some concerns I'm hearing: the Highway 102 Special Planning Area development designs have only two proposed access points. One access point is located on Kearney Lake Road near Highway 102 and the other is located on Lacewood Drive inside Bayers Lake Industrial Park. Just two access points for a possible 42,000 residents would likely present challenges from both a traffic and emergency response perspective.

Other concerns I'm hearing: these massive housing developments may also present significant environmental challenges for the nearby lakes and for the proposed Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes National Urban Park. It may be difficult to maintain lake water quality in such a densely populated area and it's



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### HIGHWAY 102 SPECIAL PLANNING AREA (cont.)

hard to see how the urban wilderness concept of the proposed park could be compatible with a development of this scale nearby.

One of the more unusual aspects of the project is a proposal to fill an existing quarry with water. This is a large, deep, steep-walled quarry. There are shallower water features in HRM that are fenced in for safety. The potential use and feasibility of this proposed lake will be assessed as part of the ongoing planning process.

It's still very early days. HRM staff will be assessing stormwater, traffic and transit implications of the proposals. They will look at emergency access and the impacts on the environment. Once this work has been done the developers will be asked to revise their plans. HRM will then hold a second phase of public engagement for the revised concept plans. The target date is early 2027 for the second public engagement session.

In the meantime, I hope you will review the concept plans and read more in the link below. I would also encourage you to complete the online survey and share your thoughts. Special Planning Areas like this one were created by the Provincial government to fast track housing construction and approvals will be made by the provincial Minister for Growth and Development. Although Regional Council no longer has a say, citizens can provide valuable early feedback through the survey in the link below (or through emails to me if you prefer).

The Link to the survey can be found [here](#).

### 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 Recycles [website](#).



Learn more about Nova Scotia's enhanced recycling system:  
[circularmaterials.ca/NS](https://circularmaterials.ca/NS)





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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/>.



### WINTER 2026 REC PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Mark your calendars! Winter 2026 recreation program registration starts on Dec. 2 and 9. To preview upcoming program PDFs, visit our [website](#) 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





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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](https://halifax.ca), where instructions are posted for each session.

### 2026 VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Nominations are open for the 2026 Volunteer Awards!

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 please visit our [website](https://halifax.ca/VolunteerAwards).





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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.

To learn more please visit our [website](#).

### 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

### 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: [halifax.ca/HalifaxExplosion](https://halifax.ca/HalifaxExplosion)

**Halifax Explosion  
Memorial Service**

**HALIFAX**



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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 please visit the United Way [website](#).



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

902.422.1501

LEARN MORE

HALIFAX



### 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 our [website](#).



### NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE





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### 311 OFFERS MULTILINGUAL AND 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



**311** | Accessibility Tools

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

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 by visiting our [website](#).

### 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](#).

### PROVINCE APPROVES DARTMOUTH COVE PLANNING AMENDMENTS WITH CONDITIONS

The Province of Nova Scotia has approved Halifax Regional Municipality's planning amendments for Dartmouth Cove, with conditions.

On Nov. 26, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing confirmed the amendments will proceed, subject to HRM demonstrating that all water lots in the Dartmouth Cove Special Area fall fully within municipal boundaries; that the municipality has authority under the HRM Charter to regulate infilling; and that the measures do not infringe on federal jurisdiction. The province's review was required under legislation, as planning amendments must be approved before taking effect.

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.





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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.



### 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.

### 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](#).







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### HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S 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.

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:

*"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."*

### PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### Federal Representatives in District 10:

- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** Halifax West  
401-3845 Joseph Howe Drive  
Halifax, NS, B3L 4H9  
Phone: 902-426-2217  
[lenametlege.diab@parl.gc.ca](mailto:lenametlege.diab@parl.gc.ca)

#### Provincial Representatives in District 10:

- **MLA Lina Hamid** Fairview-Clayton Park  
203-3845 Joseph Howe Drive  
Halifax, NS B3L 4G2  
Phone: 902-404-3220  
[linahamid@nsmla.ca](mailto:linahamid@nsmla.ca)

- **MLA Adegoke Fadare** Clayton Park  
West 120-287 Lacewood Drive  
Halifax, NS B3M 3Y7  
Phone: 902-457-0364  
[adegoke@adegokefadare.ca](mailto:adegoke@adegokefadare.ca)

### COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

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

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Canadian Capital Cities Organization
- Halifax Chain of Lakes Trails
- Halifax Harbour Bridges Commission



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