

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2026

COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER

COLE HARBOUR - PRESTON - WESTPHAL - CHERRY BROOK

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy January, District 4!

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and had time to recharge. As we look ahead to 2026, I'm excited for the opportunities this year will bring for our community.

Budget debates are now in full swing, and your input is essential. There are several ways to participate, including speaking at a Budget Committee meeting or submitting feedback to the Clerk's Office. Details can be found later in this newsletter.

As always, my office is here to assist with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have. Please don't hesitate to reach out — it is always good to hear from you.

Sincerely,



January 2026

HALIFAX

COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY DROP-IN



Please feel free to drop by to discuss any municipal concerns or questions, I would love to see you!

Friday, Jan. 23 at Tim Hortons - Forest Hills Parkway from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 26 at Selby's from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Caldwell Road Phase 2 Update

HRM's design team for Caldwell Road has provided more clarity on the nuanced complications causing delays:

- The city has been actively working with Nova Scotia Power (NSP) on this project

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since late 2022. Early conversations helped shape the design to minimize impacts on private property.

- A formal review and site walk took place in mid-2023, and NSP has been engaged in reviewing designs and coordinating with other utilities since then.
- Easement negotiations have proven to be the most time-consuming part of the process. Several residents have been contacted, and a few agreements are already in place. Unfortunately, some easements have been declined, requiring design adjustments to keep the project moving forward.

While progress may seem slow, the complexity of coordinating with multiple stakeholders and meeting all legal and technical requirements is the main reason. The HRM design team is currently exploring redesign options so the recapitalization can be prioritized.

Cap Motion Clarification

In early December, Council voted in favor of a staff report to provide detailed information on the complexities of the Capped Assessment Program. The motion requested the report to:

- a) Identify inequities within the current Nova Scotia Capped Assessment program
- b) Examine the program's effects on housing affordability in HRM and its broader impact on HRM's Housing Strategy
- c) Include a jurisdictional scan
- d) Consult with impacted groups such as residential developers, home builders, rental housing operators, realtors, tenant advocates, economists, and senior advocacy groups.

HRM does not have legislative authority to change the Cap program. The motion purposely

excluded a request to the province for changes, as Council wanted to review the staff report first. The motion was not to remove the Cap but to gather all relevant information about the program.

HRFE APPLICATIONS OPENING



**Tough job.
Strong team.**

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) will accept applications for career firefighters from **Jan. 6 - 20.**

Becoming a firefighter with HRFE is serious commitment that requires unwavering dedication and extensive preparation at every stage of the recruitment process.

As a candidate, you will face rigorous evaluations designed to ensure you are physically and mentally prepared to tackle the challenges of this demanding profession. This process will test your resilience and determination, and it is essential to approach every aspect with seriousness and focus.

We seek individuals who demonstrate professionalism and integrity in all areas, as these qualities are crucial not only during training, but also in the field. Your commitment to these standards will set you apart as a candidate ready to serve and protect our community.

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



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MUNICIPALITY SUPPORTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Regional Council has approved a one-time grant of \$150,000 through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) to support the purchase of a six-unit building to be used for affordable housing.

Dartmouth Non-profit Housing Society, under the business name Rooted: Community Development Partners, a registered non-profit, is planning to acquire a six-unit building in Spryfield for use as affordable housing.

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

CYCLICAL TREE PRUNING PROGRAM



The municipality's cyclical tree pruning program is now underway.

Proactive tree pruning activities improve the health of street trees and extend their lifespan, while reducing

damage to trees and local infrastructure due to weather events.

During this time residents are advised to use caution when around crews and obey any posted signs.

For details about tree pruning, including where to expect pruning crews this season, click [here](#).

January 2026

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STAY INFORMED WITH ENGAGE HALIFAX

Want to stay up to date on municipal projects and opportunities to provide feedback? Visit Engage Halifax, the municipality's online hub for public engagement.

You can explore active projects, learn about upcoming initiatives, and share your input on planning, transportation, parks, housing, and more. Learn more [here](#).

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 [here](#).

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VOLUNTEER AWARD 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. Get your nomination in by January 8. For more information, click [here](#).

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SHARED MICROMOBILITY PILOT PROGRAM PAUSE



The shared micromobility pilot program paused for the winter season on Monday, Dec. 15.

Bird Canada e-scooters and e-bikes will be removed from service until spring 2026.

Keep an eye out for updates on their return in spring 2026.

More details [here](#).

NOVEMBER 2025 IMPAIRED DRIVING STATS

HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE - IMPAIRED DRIVING STATS

(November 2025)



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DRIVING
SUSPENSIONS

CHARGES LAID
FOR IMPAIRED
DRIVING

REPORTS FROM
THE PUBLIC WHO
SUSPECTED
IMPAIRED DRIVING

Don't drive impaired. Let's keep our roads safe. Report suspected impaired driving by calling 911.

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HRM BUDGET 2026/27 KEY DATES



Budget and Business

Planning Sessions



The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents of key dates for the 2026/27 municipal budget process.

The municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing a growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations, priority initiatives approved by Regional Council and capital investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace assets.

There are several key dates in the annual municipal budget process. Residents will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the budget process. During each week of meetings, time will be set aside for the public to provide comments and feedback. Below are the key dates for the 2026/27 municipal budget process:

Jan. 27: Special evening public participation session (6 p.m., following Regional Council)

Jan. 28 & 30: Capital Plan Recommendation (Reserve Withdrawals, Multi-Year Projects)

Feb. 4-6: Operations Budget Presentations

- Major Projects Office
- Parks & Recreation
- Planning & Development
- Public Works
- Strategic Infrastructure & Transportation Planning
- Halifax Transit

- Property, Fleet & Environment

Feb. 11-13: Public Safety Budget Presentations

- Community Safety
- Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
- Halifax Regional Police
- RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment

Feb. 18-19: Corporate Services & Other Budget Presentations

- CAO's Office
- Finance & Asset Management
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Legal Services
- Auditor General
- Halifax Public Library
- Fiscal Services
- Mayor's Office

March 4 & 6: Budget Adjustment List debate

March 31: 2026/27 Municipal Budget and Business Plan approval

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

Residents will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the process. Pre-registration is required by 4:30 p.m. on the business day prior to the meeting. Virtual participation will also be available.

For meeting details and agendas, visit [here](#).

For more information on the 2026/27 municipal budget process, visit [here](#).



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HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND DRIVING PROGRESS



The municipality is making strong progress under the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), a federal program

that supports faster housing development across Canada.

Since signing its agreement in October 2023, Halifax Regional Municipality has:

- Achieved 77.5 per cent of its three-year housing target and is expected to surpass the goal before October 2026.
- Completed 10 of 11 initiatives outlined in its HAF Action Plan.
- Received \$39 million in funding so far, with another \$19.8 million expected by late December 2025.

The federal program, administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, provides funding to municipalities that remove barriers and accelerate housing supply. The municipality's Action Plan sets a target of 15,467 new housing units over three years, an increase of more than 20 per cent compared to historical growth. This includes about 2,600 net new units over the life of the project.

The program runs until 2026 and rewards municipalities for meeting critical milestones. HRM's success means more housing options for residents and continued federal investment in the region.

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

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RECREATION ACCESS PROGRAM



Changes to the Recreation Access Program

Including multi-district facilities

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Effective January 2026, multi-district facilities (MDFs) will be included in the Recreation Access Program.

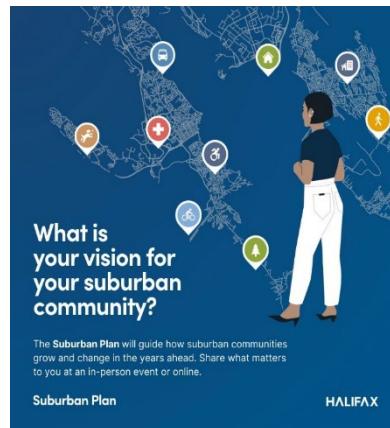
Previously, these facilities operated their

own affordable access programs. MDFs now included in the program:

- Canada Games Centre
- Cole Harbour Place
- St. Margarets Centre
- Zatzman Sportsplex

Are you a member of one of these facilities looking for affordable access? Learn more and apply in 2026 [here](#).

SUBURBAN PLAN



The municipality's suburban communities are changing. The Suburban Plan is an opportunity to talk about community needs and develop a vision for the future.

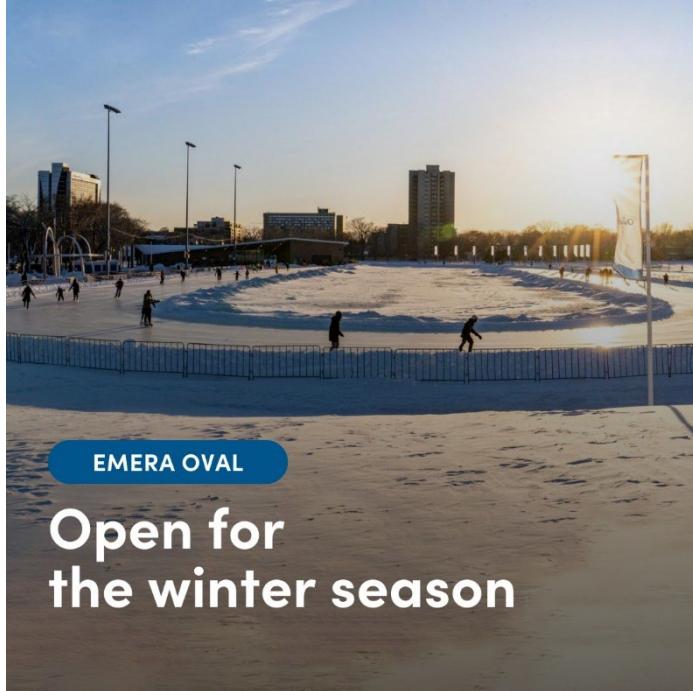
We want to hear from you! Learn more about the Suburban Plan and how you can get involved [here](#).



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OVAL OPENS FOR THE SEASON



It's time!

The Emery Oval opened for the winter season on Monday, Dec. 15.

Click [here](#) for daily programming schedules, last-minute weather cancellations, and planned event closure notices.

SLED SAFETY

Sled safely this winter. Remember – municipal parks aren't set up, inspected or maintained for sledding, and obstacles can be hiding beneath the snow. Sledding in parks is at your own risk.

No matter where you sled, be sure to wear a helmet and watch for hazards like trees, rocks, fences, benches, and play equipment.

NEW REC PROGRAM PROPOSAL PROCESS



Looking for ways to share your talents and skills with your community? Recreation is now accepting applications for new program ideas from residents interested in

leading their proposed classes.

Proposals are accepted year-round and reviewed regularly.

Learn more and apply [here](#).

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 [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 sidewalks 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.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL



Did you know Natural Christmas Trees can be disposed of curbside and will be picked up on your regular organics green cart collection day?

When disposing of Christmas trees curbside, please make sure to remove the following:

- All Plastics, including plastic tree bags
- Metal Rings
- Nails
- Tinsel
- Ornaments
- Stands

For more on how to manage your waste, download the Halifax Recycles app, or visit halifax.ca/whatgoeswhere

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After the holidays, an option for disposing of natural Christmas trees is to place them curbside. They will be picked up on your regular green cart collection day. Remove all plastic, tinsel, ornaments, metal rings, nails, stands and plastic tree bags.

Did you know? Some non-profit groups actively seek out natural Christmas trees for repurposing, such as for animal feed. Consider this disposal option before putting your tree to the curb.

For more on how to manage your waste download the Halifax Recycles app or click [here](#).



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EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY REGULATIONS

Starting Dec. 1, Nova Scotia transitioned 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 [here](#) and [here](#).



New Year's Day Levee at City Hall

January 2026

STREAMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Meetings will still be live-streamed, and videos will be available after the meetings

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at trish.purdy@halifax.ca or **(902) 240-3067**.

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

To reach my office, please call Andrea Rowan at **(902) 490-7184**.

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

