

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

It's officially the holiday season, a time to give generously, connect with friends and family and share in special traditions. I'm looking forward to celebrating this festive season with you as well at the many upcoming community events

While the holidays are a time for celebration, it can also be a difficult time for some, let's all be good neighbours this season – using every opportunity we have to connect with our community and embody the spirit of giving to those who are in need.

I also want to take a moment to thank the residents of District 3 for your continued confidence in me – it is an honour to represent this special community and together I know we can continue to effect positive change for HRM! Thank you to my campaign volunteers, friends and family for all your support during the long and sometimes stressful days of the 2024 Municipal Election – your support was invaluable to our success. As always, I encourage you to reach out to me anytime with any of your municipal questions or concerns. Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy new year!

Warmly,

Becky Kent

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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DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

Here are a few of the holiday events coming up in the month of December:

Eastern Passage Cow Bay Summer Carnival Holiday Craft Fair Sunday, December 8 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Email <u>easternpassagecarnival2020@gmail.com</u> to sign up to be a vendor or for more information.

Community Dance to Support Dog Guides

Thursday December 12, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.

<u>Eastern Passage Cow Bay Lions</u> are putting on a fundraiser for Dog Guides. \$10 admission.

Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14, 1 – 3 p.m.

The Eastern Passage Cow Bay Lions Club free Children's Christmas Party with Santa, the Mooseheads Mascot, Angie's Cotton Candy, Sparkle Tattoos, treat bags, cookie decorating, games, and a colouring station. Register by December 7 by Call 902 464 8851 or email <u>EPCBLions@outlook.com</u>.

Eastern Passage Cow Bay Holiday Parade *Sunday, December 15, 6 p.m.*

Join us for the parade from Fisherman's Cove to the Legion!

Looking forward to seeing you at some of these events this month – happy holidays to all!



TD DARTMOUTH CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

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The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to attend the annual TD Dartmouth Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 7 at 5 p.m. at Sullivan's Pond.

Residents will receive free candy canes at A Buyer's Choice Home Inspections tent (while quantities last); free hot chocolate, treats and glow sticks at the TD Festive Service tent (while quantities last); and a free holiday treat at the Kiwanis Findlay Fun tent (while quantities last).

Programming will include *A Celebration of Christmas*, presented by The African Nova Scotian Music Association and featuring Linda Carvey, Eriana Willis and Conquerors for Christ. Other activities will include fireworks, live music, crafting and games for the whole family.

For more information, visit our website.





WINTER PROGRAM REGISTRATION



Program registration for our winter recreation programs begins this month! Registration for recreation programs begins December 4 at 10 a.m., swimming and skating program registration begins December 5 at 10 a.m.

Make sure to sign up for an account before registration day. There's something for all ages and abilities – so make sure to check out the programs on our <u>website</u>.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

On December 3, we recognize and celebrating the International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD). This day aims to raise awareness and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and wellbeing of persons with disabilities.

This year's theme is Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future. Learn more about this important day <u>here</u>.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On December 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 <u>website</u>.

HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program provides assistance to low and moderate income Nova Scotians for help with the cost of home heating. Rebates are \$600/household. Find out more and apply by March 31 <u>here</u>.





WINTER PREPARATIONS



As we gear up for the winter season, it's important to ensure we're all prepared for whatever Mother Nature has in store for us. Our snow clearing crews are poised and ready, responsible for over 3,844 lane kilometers of streets and about 1,000 kilometers of sidewalks. While we can't control the weather, by working together, we can certainly be better prepared.

While the snow hasn't started to fly yet, I would encourage you to begin preparing your property for snow clearing season by removing planters, lawn decorations and any other portable objects near the sidewalk and trimming any tree branches and shrubs that originate from your property that may obstruct access and visibility for snow-clearing equipment. You can mark any permanent structures or objects with a reflector that will be visible above the snow. This helps crews identify obstacles.

Effective December 15 to March 31, the municipal overnight winter parking ban will be enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during weather events and snow removal operations. You can sign up for hfxALERT to receive crucial updates, including Winter Parking Ban <u>notifications</u>.

Let's work together to ensure a safe and smooth winter season for everyone in our community. Stay warm and stay safe!

CART-BASED TRASH COLLECTION

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve waste management and enhance community services, the Halifax Regional Municipality is exploring a cart-based collection system for garbage, similar to the green cart program for the collection of residential organics.

Cart-based collection can address health and safety considerations, modernizes collection infrastructure, and has been demonstrated to improve citizen satisfaction and protection from animals/birds and associated litter. Cart-based programs are also typically implemented with automated collection which reduces labour requirements.

If implemented, each household would receive a wheeled cart specifically designed for garbage disposal. On collection days, residents would place their carts at the curb, where trucks equipped with hydraulic arms will lift, empty, and return the carts.

Cart-based collection for recycling (i.e., blue carts) is not part of this current evaluation. Under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), the delivery of curbside recycling collection will shift from the municipality to the producers of blue bag material, commencing in December 2025.

A survey to gauge public interest and support will be available until December 20. The results of the survey will be used to inform a staff report to be presented to Halifax Regional Council in Spring 2025. <u>Take the survey here.</u>





DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

LAKE MAJOR SUPPLY WATER CONSERVATION

Halifax Water is continuing to ask customers supplied by the Lake Major Supply Plant to conserve water use. While recent rainfall has aided in water levels, a significant amount of rain is still required for the lake to return to normal levels. Lake Major is the water supply that serves the communities of Dartmouth, Burnside, Cole Harbour, Westphal, North Preston and Eastern Passage. You can find out if you're home is serviced by the Lake Major Water supply <u>here</u>.

Voluntary water conservation measures include:

- If it's yellow, let it mellow. Depending on the efficiency of your toilet, each flush uses between 6 to 26 litres of water.
- Shorten your showers. Cut back on the frequency and length of showers.
- Turn off the tap when you don't need it.
 Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth, shaving, washing your face etc.
- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.

There are also mandatory restrictions on lawn/plant watering, car washing, and making backyard ice surfaces.

To learn more about water conservation, visit Halifax Water's <u>website</u>.



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RCMP Corp Doug Saunders at EP Legion Remembrance Day

2025/26 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

This month, Regional Council will begin setting our strategic priorities for the next four years and start the municipal budget review process. Over the next few months, we will be reviewing each department's budget in preparation for a final budget approval in April.

You can find the full schedule as it becomes available on our <u>website</u>. We welcome public feedback throughout this process - participating in the Public Participation portion included in each meeting or you can submit correspondence to the Clerk's Office.





BODY WORN CAMERAS



Starting this month, as part of the RCMP's national deployment, the Nova Scotia RCMP will begin issuing body-worn cameras (BWCs) to officers across the province.

BWCs can help to improve police outcomes, accountability, and relationships with the public. The cameras will be issued to 600 Nova Scotia RCMP officers in a phased approach over the next six to eight months with a digital evidence management system that will be used to store and manage video captured by the cameras.

RCMP officers will typically wear their BWCs on their chests; members of the public will know they're recording when a red light is visible and flashing below the lens of the camera. You can find out more <u>here</u>.

Halifax Regional Police are also reviewing the potential use of BWCs. A <u>presentation</u> came to the Board of Police in June and Police will likely bring this forward for approval during budget.

MUNICIPAL BOARD AND COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT

We're looking for people to serve on the boards, committees and commissions that help to advise Regional Council, Community Councils, Standing Committees and municipal staff on important issues.

There are 39 positions currently available including on boards such as the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Board of Police Commissioners, Grants Committee, Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee and many more. We encourage people from all backgrounds reflective and inclusive of residents from across the municipality to apply.

Applications are available <u>online</u> and will be accepted until Monday, December 16 at 11:59 p.m.

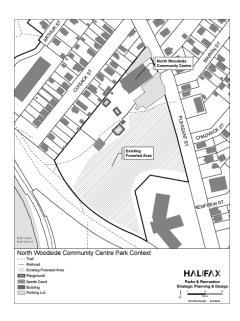
SHEARWATER FLYER OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

RnS Landscaping have begun construction on the Shearwater Flyer Off-Leash Dog Park. They will complete as much work as they can before winter weather sets in and complete the landscaping in the spring. Some of the parking lot will remain open for park users. The pathway connection between the provincial trail and parking lot will have to be closed at times for safety reasons, but users will still be able to access the trail from Caldwell Road.





NORTH WOODSIDE PARK PLAN



The North Woodside Community Centre Park is an important park that serves the recreation needs of several community neighbourhoods and operates as a community hub alongside the North Woodside Community Centre. The park's facilities and amenities include playgrounds, a half basketball court, an outdoor gym, pathways including some sections with lighting, a play lawn, wooded and naturalized areas, and benches.

Last year, the Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council approved a motion to create a Parks Plan for the park that would assess the needs of the community and create a plan that would meet our needs. There will be public engagement as part of the planning process so there will be a chance for everyone in the neighbourhood to offer feedback. This report is expected to be before Council during budget for full consideration. You can

find the staff report with more details here.

SALTWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Regional Council has directed the Chief Administrative Officer to initiate a review of the municipality's current Saltwater Management Plan and to explore policy options for setbacks for new stormwater discharge locations.

These recommendations came from the LakeWatchers Water Quality Monitoring Program Report. The LakeWatchers Program, launched in 2022, conducts water quality monitoring in 73 lakes. Water quality monitoring is a critical component of effective water resource management. This responsibility is shared across all levels of government, the private sector and the general community.

Given that many municipal programs, services and responsibilities directly affect lake health and water quality, the municipality is uniquely positioned to monitor water quality and address emerging issues, as well as ongoing concerns. For more information, read the <u>staff report</u>.



Poppy Tribute Show in support of our service men and women.





DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS



We have some incredible volunteers and community organizations in District 3 – let's show them the appreciation they deserve! Nominations are now open for the 2025 Volunteer Awards, you can nominate deserving volunteers in the youth, adult or group categories to be recognized at a ceremony in the Spring for their contributions to their communities. Fillable nomination forms can be found on the program <u>web page</u> and will remain open until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

NOVA SCOTIA FALLEN PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL CEREMONY

On Sunday, October 20, I was pleased to attend the 42nd annual Nova Scotia Fallen Peace Officers' Memorial Service. The service honours peace officers based in Nova Scotia who died in the line of duty. It is a humbling reminder of the selflessness and dedication of those who lost their lives while serving others. Peace officers, first responders, civilian employees, military personnel and volunteers marched from Police Headquarters on Gottingen Street to Grand Parade prior to the service at the Nova Scotia Fallen Peace Officers' Monument.

VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

The Halifax Regional Municipality has a Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) for those who require more support during emergencies.

The VVPR provides essential information to first responders and Emergency Management staff and volunteers to help prioritize responses to residents' needs in situations such as sustained power outages or severe storms.

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You can learn more or sign up here.







DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIPS

Holiday shopping season is in full swing. Whether you're going to stores or shopping online, consider these safety tips to keep your holiday season happy and bright:

Online shopping

- It is best to shop from your personal device at home on a trusted network.
- Consider using different user ID and passwords for different accounts and updating your passwords frequently.
- Verify secure connections and make sure you are on a secure website. Look for the padlock icon in the address bar and check for the valid certificate by clicking on the padlock icon.
- Unlike secure order forms on a websites, email and text messages are not private. Don't send confidential personal or financial information by email or text.
- Be cautious, if an online deal looks too good to be true then it probably is.
- Watch out for email scams. Be wary of clicking on links in an email message, even if the deal seems great.
- After making purchases it can be helpful to keep the receipt, confirmation number and postal tracking numbers in a safe accessible place.
- If you are at an online store that you are unfamiliar with, read and understand the online shop's policies. It's always a good idea to check a site's reviews before making a purchase.

In-store shopping

- We encourage you to lock your vehicle and park in well-lit and busy areas if they are available.
- Would be thieves will look for shoppers storing valuables in their vehicles. If you're going to drop off your purchases and return to the stores, consider locking your packages in the trunk and move your vehicle to another location in the parking lot.
- Thieves sometimes watch shoppers exiting a store. You may want to shop strategically; wait until the end of your shopping trip to make high-end purchases or make a special trip to take high-end items home and then return to continue shopping.
- Protect your PIN when using bank and debit machines. Cover the keypad to prevent someone from observing your key strokes or from recording your PIN. It's a good idea to change your PIN frequently.
- After a day of shopping, we recommend removing parcels and valuables and locking the vehicle upon returning home. Even an empty shopping bag can create the appearance that there's something in your car worth stealing.

No matter whether your shop in-person or online, we encourage you to monitor your bank and credit card statements closely and immediately report any discrepancies to your bank or to the company that issued the credit card.



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HALIFAX TRANSIT CODE

In August 2021, Regional Council adopted the Halifax Transit Code encouraging safe and respectful practices for using transit.

This code has been so successful that the national organization that connects and speaks for public transit, the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA), has decided to adopt HRM's transit code campaign to be used nationwide.

Thank you to the amazing staff, especially from Halifax Transit and Corporate Communications, for your work on this important program. You can find out more about the transit <u>code</u> here, and more about CUTA <u>here</u>.



Southdale Academy's 1st Trunk or Treat event!

COGSWELL DISTRICT UPDATE



Last month, the municipality announced three new street names in the Cogswell District that honour our history, Reconciliation Way, Dr. Alfred Waddell Street and Amalamek Way and this month we're making major progress towards the new Cogswell District.

On December 16, the new Halifax Transit Terminal at Scotia Square will open, rerouting approximately 30 Halifax Transit routes that have been on detour for the last six months. The Transit Terminal will include new heated shelters, additional seating and waiting space for passengers, wider sidewalks and an additional bus bay. New trees and landscaping elements will be installed in 2025.

Valour Way and the new roundabout will be fully operational with a temporary connection to Nora Bernard Street. Cogswell Street, from Brunswick Street to Upper Water Street, will also open on December 16. To learn more about the Cogswell District project, visit our website.





DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE



2024-2028 Muncipal Council Swearing In Ceremony

HALIFAX WATER FLUORIDE STATEMENT

Halifax Water have issued the following statement about fluoridation of the drinking water supply:

"Halifax Water acknowledges that it should have notified customers about the interruption of fluoridation at both Pockwock Lake and Lake Major water supply plants over the past several years. We take feedback very seriously and want to assure customers and the public that they will be made aware of these interruptions moving forward. These were operational decisions based on independent equipment issues at both water supply plants that had to be repaired or replaced at each facility.

From an operations perspective, Halifax Water intends to resume the fluoridation process when systems are ready and it is safe to do so. We will advise our customers when this occurs."

You can read the full statement and find out more on their <u>website</u>.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

The goal of the Halifax Regional Municipality is to ensure that no one is forced to sleep rough and that designated encampments are no longer needed in our region and that everyone has a safe and supportive place to call home. Municipal staff continue to work daily with our colleagues at the province and their service providers to make this a reality.

As the province launches new initiatives such as the shelter villages and the tiny homes project, there will be more than 150 new spaces for people currently experiencing homelessness. In addition, as people transition from existing temporary sheltering and housing options into more permanent and supportive housing options, the spaces they were in are freed up for someone else, providing other options for those sleeping rough in the municipality.

As people from the University Avenue green space relocate, Street Navigators and housing support workers from multiple agencies will concentrate their efforts on identifying alternative options for those currently in the designated locations at Green Road Park, Cogswell Park, the Geary Steet green space, Lower Flinn Park and the Barrington Street green space.

You can find out more about our efforts to combat homelessness <u>here</u>.





DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

WINTER SAFE DRIVING

With winter weather arriving potentially any day, Halifax Regional Police is sharing some winter safety tips to help road users be winter ready. Plan ahead to ensure your vehicle is roadworthy.

- Check your safety inspection sticker and the tread on your tires.
- Consider topping up your vehicle with extra windshield washer fluid.
- Keep a shovel, a bag of salt or sand and your snow brush and ice scraper in your vehicle.

Driving safely for the road conditions

- Stay up to date with the weather conditions.
- Visibility is key. Before you hit the road, clear all snow from the roof, hood, license plate, windows, mirrors, lights, turn signals and cameras of your vehicle. Scrape/defrost your windshield if necessary.
- Be mindful that winter conditions create challenges for pedestrians who may need to walk in the roadway to avoid snow-covered or icy sidewalks.
- Never drive distracted. Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. Watch for other road users, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Adjust your speed to the conditions. Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you so that you can safely slow down and/or stop. Remember

not to accelerate or brake too quickly when the roads are slippery.

Think before you park on the street. When and where you park in the winter can have a big impact on clearing streets and sidewalks, which, in turn, can affect road safety. To help make a responsible parking choice, ask yourself:

- Is the overnight parking ban currently being enforced?
- Is your vehicle causing a safety issue?
- Is it making the road impassable?
- Is it impeding snow operations underway in the area?



Sending a shout out to the Arrows 11U AA team who captured their provincial title this summer!

SOLID WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW

In order to align our solid waste system with our climate change action goals, and update outdated strategies, HRM is conducting a Solid Waste Strategy Review. The review began in February 2023, and the final report will be presented to Halifax Regional Council in Spring 2025. We all need to do our part to reduce waste. You can find out more <u>here</u>.





WAYNE HARRETT STREET NAMING

I was proud to speak in support of adding Wayne Harrett to the Commemorative Names List at the November 12 meeting of Regional Council.

The Asset Naming criteria includes individuals who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of HRM. Wayne was a beloved figure who dedicated his life to connecting with people through radio, preserving local history, and supporting his community.

Wayne worked tirelessly to found and operate Seaside FM – starting in his own home and growing it to an organization that is now a vital part of our community fabric. Wayne's name will be used to name a future street in Eastern Passage. Thank you to the staff, family and everyone who made this well-deserved recognition possible.



Hanging out with Santa at the Eastern Passage Holiday Parade Of Lights!

SCAM TARGETTING SENIORS

Police are advising citizens to be cautious of a scam that targets seniors intending to defraud them of money that is continuing to occur throughout our region.

In each incident, the victim received a call from someone pretending to be a family member who indicated that they have been arrested and are in jail. Another person representing themselves to be from the legal system becomes involved in the call and informs the victim that they need to pay money to have their loved one released from custody.

If you receive a call like this, do not provide or confirm any personal or financial information and hang up the phone. In Canada, law enforcement and court officials will not attend a residence to collect money in relation to bail.

Call police at <u>902-490-5020</u> if you've lost money or your identity has been compromised as the result of a scam. You can report a scam where you haven't been a victim to the <u>Canadian Anti-</u> <u>Fraud Centre</u>, or call 1-888-495-8501.

STREAMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regional Council are using a new system for electronic streaming, to find the council videos – go to our <u>Agendas</u>, <u>Meetings and Reports page</u> and click the meeting you want to view. Meetings will still be live-streamed and videos will be available after the meeting.





BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

I was so pleased to be nominated and approved to serve on the Board of Police Commissioners again this term.

The <u>Halifax Board of Police Commissioners</u> provides civilian governance and oversight for the Halifax Regional Police on behalf of Regional Council. The Board also functions as a Police Advisory Board to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax District as it performs contractual policing services within the Halifax Regional Municipality.

We have many challenges and opportunities ahead with our police force, and I'm looking forward to working with police, staff and my colleagues and citizen volunteers to help shape the future of policing for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

NEW DATA SETS AVAILABLE

The Halifax Regional Municipality has released two new datasets on <u>Open Data</u>, as part of an ongoing commitment to provide public access to data created and managed by the municipality. The new datasets include information on <u>African</u> <u>Nova Scotian Communities</u> and the <u>Tree</u> <u>Canopy</u>. Data sets regarding the HRCE School Boundaries, the Canadian Index of Multiple Deprevation 2021 and Tax Rates have also been updated with more current information.

For more information on the municipality's Open Data program, and to access all the datasets, visit the open data <u>hub</u>.



Presenting a donation to the Kiwanis Club for Park Beautification

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.

You can find out more information and the application form <u>here</u>.





NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATIONS



The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to its annual live New Year's Eve celebrations, taking place on Tuesday, December 31 in the Grand Parade from 11:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

This free event will include a live TV broadcast on Eastlink Community TV, fireworks, music and tons of fun! Visit <u>here</u> closer to the event date for all the details.

NEW HRP OFF-DUTY/EXTRA-DUTY EMPLOYEMENT POLICY

At the November 20 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, we approved updates to the Off Duty and Extra Duty Employment Policy for the Halifax Regional Police to ensure appropriate use of extra duty assignments, minimize potential impacts on regular police work and increase public awareness of the role of extra duty police officers.

The new policy includes more specific criteria to determine the necessity of police presence in extra duty requests including consideration of public safety needs and HRP reputation, the extra training that may be required, consideration of the health, safety and mental and physical wellness of members when determining work assignments and more thorough reporting requirements for tracking. You can find details and the full staff report <u>here</u>.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

I'm pleased to be serving on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council for this term:

Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council (Chair) Regional Centre Community Council (Vice Chair) Board of Police Commissioners (Chair) Appeals Standing Committee Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Canadian Capital Cities Organization

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at <u>becky.kent@halifax.ca</u> or 902-478-5368. For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at **311**. To reach my office, please call Laura Nooyen at **902-490-1577.**

To sign up for my monthly e-newsletter, please e-mail Laura at <u>laura.nooyen@halifax.ca</u>.

For information on all things municipal, please visit our <u>website</u>.

