

# Celebrate African Heritage Month

**COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON**  
 DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER  
 WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY



## WELCOME FEBRUARY 2026!



February may be the shortest month of the year, but it's packed with opportunities for fun, self-care, and new experiences.

With Valentine's Day right in the middle, it's the perfect time to celebrate love—whether it's romantic love, friendship, or self-love. This month is all about embracing what makes your heart happy, from cozy winter activities to planning your next big travel adventure. It's also African Heritage Month, a time to commemorate the many contributions and resilient spirits of African Nova Scotian friends, family and neighbours. February 16 is Nova Scotia Heritage Day which is an annual reminder of our storied past and an opportunity to honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province's unique heritage. Winter is in full swing but despite the cold temperatures, we still have lots to celebrate this month.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding municipal programs/services by phoning 902-717-2718 or by email: [deaglec@halifax.ca](mailto:deaglec@halifax.ca).

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### FEBRUARY MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Budget Committee, North West Community Council and Standing Committee meetings will be held on the following dates:

**Regional Council:**

Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.

**Budget Committee:**

Wednesday Feb. 4 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday Feb. 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Feb. 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday Feb. 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday Feb. 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Feb. 18 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday Feb. 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday Feb. 20 at 9:30 a.m.

**North West Community Council:**

Monday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m.

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**Standing Committees:**

**Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee**

Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 1:30 p.m.

**Audit & Finance Standing Committee:**

Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m.

**Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee:**

Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 10 a.m.

**Executive Standing Committee:**

Monday, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m.

Please confirm dates and times on our [municipal website](#) as they are subject to change.

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### DID YOU KNOW....

February is African Heritage Month, Heart & Stroke Month, Junior Achievement Month and Psychology Month.

Feb. 2 is Groundhog Day

Feb. 4 is World Cancer Day

Feb. 11 is International Day of Girls in Science

Feb. 13 is Wear Red Day

Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day

Feb. 15 is National Flag Day of Canada

Feb. 16 is NS Heritage Day

Feb. 17 is Random Act of Kindness Day

Feb. 20 is World Day of Social Justice

Feb. 26 is Pink Shirt Day

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### KEY DATES - 2026/27 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

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.



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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:

- Feb. 4 to 6, 2026 – Operations Budget Presentations
  - Major Projects Office
  - Parks & Recreation
  - Planning & Development
  - Public Works
  - Strategic Infrastructure & Transportation Planning
  - Property, Fleet & Environment
- Feb. 11 to 13, 2026 – Public Safety Budget Presentations
  - Halifax Transit
  - Community Safety
  - Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
  - Halifax Regional Police
  - RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment
- Feb. 18 and 19, 2026 – 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
- Mar. 4 and 6, 2026 – Budget Adjustment List debate
- Mar. 31, 2026 – 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 [halifax.ca/city-hall](https://halifax.ca/city-hall).

For more information on the 2026/27 municipal budget process, visit [halifax.ca/budget](https://halifax.ca/budget).

### STREET AND SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL



The [winter - street and sidewalk](#) information maps and the overnight winter parking ban zone map are web-based, interactive maps allowing users to view street information pertaining to Winter Operations; for example, snow priority levels, street ownership, street maintenance and overnight winter parking ban zones.



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If your street or sidewalk does not meet the standards, please call 311 and they will dispatch a crew. In exceptional weather events, these timelines may not be able to be met, but we do our best to clear, as quickly as possible.

For more information on municipal winter operations, please visit our [website](#).

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### HRM COMFORT CENTRES

#### What is a comfort centre?

A comfort centre is a temporary gathering place that is opened by the municipality during prolonged power outages or other significant events. Comfort centres provide daytime accommodations and support residents with access to heat, power, refreshments, and up to date information about the emergency.

#### How does HRM determine if a comfort centre is needed?

Comfort centres are set up in facilities that are pre-screened and activated by HRM's Emergency Management Office. The municipality maintains facility data that informs selection of facilities during emergency situations. The decision to open a comfort centre is based on a number of factors: type and location of emergency, duration of impacts on citizens, number of people impacted, amenities required, etc. Comfort centres are generally located in municipal facilities due to them being the most efficient and cost-effective option. When an HRM facility is not

available or additional facilities are required, HRM works with a variety of community-based facilities, as required.

#### Who operates comfort centres?

Comfort centres are operated by volunteers from Joint Emergency Management (JEM), an HRM-led humanitarian response group. JEM is accepting new members to help with Comfort centres and emergency preparedness. Visit the [HRM website](#) or contact [hrm\\_emo@halifax.ca](mailto:hrm_emo@halifax.ca) to learn more about joining JEM as a volunteer.

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### PREPARING FOR COLD TEMPERATURES

Freezing temperatures can cause issues with internal plumbing and the privately-owned section of the water service lateral; which can result in a loss of water service.

To help avoid this, it is recommended that customers ensure there is a safe heat source in the area where your water service lateral enters your home - usually in a basement or utility closet near your water meter.

#### What to do if you lose water service during extreme cold?

Check the Halifax Water [website](#) or a known water service outage in your area. If your water has stopped flowing, and you are not impacted by a known service outage in your area please contact our 24/7 emergency line at 902-420-9287.



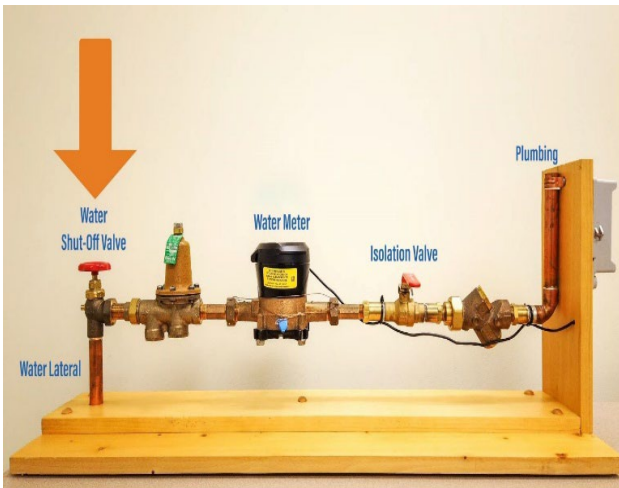
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We recommend that you close the water shut-off valve controlling water flow inside your home. This can help minimize the risk of flooding from frozen, cracked, or split plumbing caused by freezing temperatures.

## Where is the water shut-off valve?

As illustrated in the picture below, the valve can usually be found at the point the water line enters your home, between the entry point and the water meter. If your shut-off valve does not work, contact a plumber. If water must be shut off at the property line for the repair, please contact Halifax Water at 902-420-9287.



## HRM COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM



The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting applications for the 2026 Community Grants Program.

Applications are now open until Tuesday, March 31.

The Community Grants Program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the region. The program ensures organizations across the municipality have equal opportunities to seek funding for projects that help make their community a great place to live and work for all residents.

There are two types of grants available: a project grant of up to \$5,000 and a capital grant of up to \$25,000. Funding is available for projects in the following categories:

- Community arts
- Diversity and accessibility
- Environment and climate change
- Emergency assistance and public safety
- Community histories
- Leisure
- Recreation

Applicants are encouraged to review the [Program Guidebook](#) before applying.

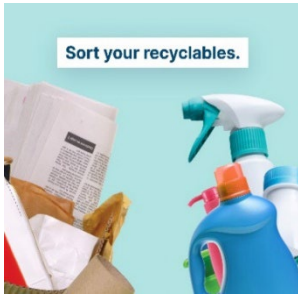


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First-time applicants should contact staff for guidance prior to submission. For more information, including how to apply, visit our [website](#) or call 311.

## RECYLCING 101 BOOTHS



On December 1, the provincial Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging, Paper Products and Packaging Like Products Regulations came into effect,

meaning you'll be able to recycle more materials than ever before.

HRM Solid Waste Resources will be hosting a series of Recycling 101 booths across the municipality to highlight and assist residents with new recycling rules associated with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

### Gordon R. Snow Community Centre

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 10

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Location: Gordon R. Snow Community Centre, 1359 Fall River Rd, Fall River

## PINK SHIRT DAY



Wear a pink shirt on February 26 to promote a more kind, inclusive world and raise awareness and funds for anti-bullying initiatives.

You can find out more about Pink Shirt Day [here](#).

## SUBURBAN PLAN SURVEY

The Halifax Regional Municipality is developing a Suburban Plan, a new planning document that will guide growth and change in our suburban areas.

The Suburban Area is generally located outside of the Regional Centre (Peninsula Halifax and Dartmouth within the Circumferential Highway) where there is access to main transit, piped water and piped wastewater systems.

Residents will have opportunities to share their ideas and help influence the Suburban Plan throughout the planning process, including an initial online survey. [Learn more](#) and fill out the survey by visiting our [website](#).

The survey is open and will remain available until June 15, 2026.

### Open houses:

Members of the public are invited to kick-off open houses to learn about the Suburban Planning process and provide initial feedback on key issues and opportunities.

The same information will be available in each session, but with opportunities to discuss the local community in more detail:

- **Beechville, Lakeside and Timberlea:** Monday, Feb. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Lakeside Fire Hall, 26 Myra Road, Timberlea
- **Sackville and Beaver Bank:** Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Sackville Sports Stadium, 409 Glendale Drive, Lower Sackville



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Residents, businesses and community-based organizations will have opportunities to share feedback and ask questions at each phase of the planning process.

The goal of the suburban planning process is to update land use policies under one plan while respecting each community's unique history, characteristics and aspirations. Learn more about the project by visiting our [website](#).

### REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

The Regional Plan sets out a common vision, principles, and long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining where, when and how future growth and development should take place.

In order to comply with provincial "Minimum Planning Requirements," (MPRs) the Municipality has been working on amendments to the plan to reflect the needs of our growing municipality. The amendments were approved by Regional Council in June 2025; however the province rejected the plan so further changes were required.

On Dec. 31, 2025 HRM received [a letter](#) from the Provincial Director of Planning indicating that they have completed their review of the amendments. The review has identified that the HRM planning documents appear to affect a provincial interest, and the documents will require review and decision by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Our Planning & Development staff are continuing to work with Provincial staff to provide advice and feedback if any changes are necessary. You can find updates on the Regional Plan [here](#).

### FEBRUARY IS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



This year's provincial theme is *"Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress."*

This theme highlights the power and impact when African Nova Scotians and people of African descent stand together with a shared sense of direction. It emphasizes that unity is an active force for change, strengthening communities, advancing justice, and creating new opportunities.

The theme also reflects the ongoing journey beyond the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent, promoting the principles of recognition, justice, and development.

"Strength in Unity" calls on all to leverage collective resilience to build prosperity in its cultural, social, economic, and spiritual dimensions.

It is important to acknowledge that 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Negro History Week, as established by Carter G. Woodson on the second week of February in 1926, which later evolved into Black History Month.

This centennial moment honours Woodson's original vision that Black history be researched,



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preserved, and shared by Black communities themselves.

A legacy that continues today through community-led storytelling, cultural preservation, and the honoring of elders whose wisdom guides future generations.

Residents are encouraged to celebrate the rich culture of people of African descent by participating in this year’s events and activities:

Residents are encouraged to take part in events throughout the municipality celebrating African Heritage Month:

- City Hall is illuminated in black, green and red in honour of African Heritage Month until the end of February.
- The Pan-African flag will be displayed at both the Burnside and Ragged Lake Transit Centres, as well as ferry terminals as weather permits.
- Residents are encouraged to explore the Halifax Public Libraries African Heritage Month [virtual portal](#), featuring programs that celebrate the African Nova Scotian community.

Nova Scotia is home to 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities, each with a profound and complex history spanning over two centuries.

For more information, visit the municipality’s African Heritage Month [website](#).

## SECONDARY SUITE INCENTIVE GRANT

The Halifax Regional Municipality is offering money to help homeowners build a second unit on their property. This could be:

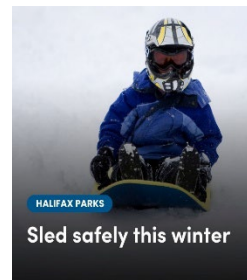
February 2026

- a basement apartment or in-law suite;
- a backyard suite (like a tiny home or garden suite); or
- a duplex conversion (turning a single home into two units).

The Second Unit Incentive Program (SUIP) offers up to \$12,900 in non-repayable grants and is part of the [Housing Accelerator Fund](#).

For more details on the program and how to apply, visit our [website](#).

## SLED SAFELY



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.

## RECREATION ACCESS PROGRAM



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



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The Recreation Access Program offers subsidies of 25, 50 or 100 per cent of the costs for most recreation programs and facility memberships.

Previously, MDFs such as the Canada Games Centre, Cole Harbour Place, St. Margarets Centre and Zatzman Sportsplex operated their own affordable access programs.

Are you a member of one of these facilities looking for affordable access?

Learn more and apply in 2026 at [website](#).

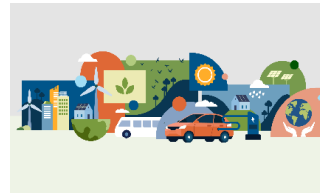
### HERITAGE DAY



Celebrated the third Monday in February, Nova Scotia Heritage Day is an annual reminder of our storied past and an opportunity to honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province's unique heritage.

This year we will be honouring the accomplishments of **Joseph William Comeau**. Comeau represented Digby County in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly from 1907 to 1925 and from 1928 to 1948 and represented Clare in the Senate from 1948 to 1966. Throughout his life he was a champion for the preservation and recognition of Acadian history and culture.

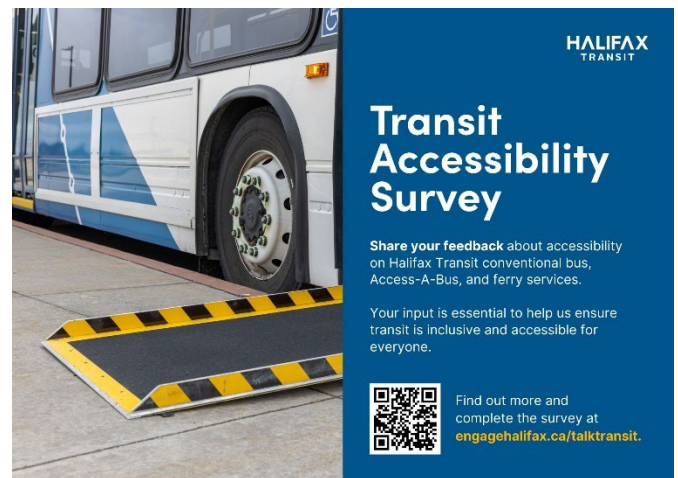
### HALIFACT HUB



Our Environment and Climate Change Team has launched the HalifACT Hub website, showcasing climate and environment projects and initiatives!

Check it out [here](#) to learn more about the most ambitious climate action movements in Canada, how you can get involved, and what's new!

### HALIFAX TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY



The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking feedback from passengers about accessibility on Halifax Transit's conventional bus, Access-A-Bus and ferry services.

Feedback from the public will help ensure continued improvements, making transit more inclusive and accessible for everyone.



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Improving accessibility for all residents is a key municipal priority outlined in the [2026–2030 Strategic Plan](#) and the [2025–2028 Accessibility Strategy](#). Complete the survey [here](#).

### POLICING FEEDBACK

The Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC) has engaged Narrative Research to conduct a community survey on Policing.

The survey covers topics such as your perception of police effectiveness, what the most important crime related priorities should be and much more and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

The results of the survey will be reported quarterly, and there will be a final report and presentation in the fall. Check out the survey [here](#).

The BoPC are also collecting feedback on the Use of Force policy.

You can find more information on our [website](#) and submit policy feedback to [bopc@halifax.ca](mailto:bopc@halifax.ca).

Please take the time to participate and provide your feedback for these two important community safety initiatives!

### HALIFAX WATER RATE INCREASES



Halifax Water’s proposed rate hikes for January

February 2026

and April have been approved by the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board. The rates will increase by 12.1 per cent starting January 2026 and an additional 6 per cent increase in April 2026.

The original proposal included a 15.8 per cent increase in January and a 17.1 per cent increase for April. This was rejected by the board, recommending Halifax Water adjust their revenue requirements.

The increase is expected to up the average household bill by \$9.28 per month in January and an additional \$5.11 per month in April. Find out more on their [website](#).

### WEIGHT-BASED PRICING FOR RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMITS



At the Jan. 13 Council meeting, Regional Council has requested amendments to our parking permit rates that would charge higher permit fees for heavier vehicles. This tiered system would aim to better reflect the impact larger vehicles have on our roads and public spaces.

The approach would be based on the Nova Scotia Registry of Motor Vehicles’ weight categories and is intended to encourage more efficient

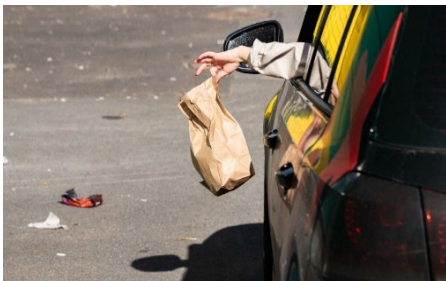


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vehicle use, improve on-street parking capacity, and support infrastructure cost recovery. Staff estimate the model could generate approximately \$20,000 in additional annual revenue. Staff will return to Regional Council with the necessary by-law and administrative order amendments for consideration. For more information, read the [staff report](#).

### COMPREHENSIVE LITTER STRATEGY



At the Jan. 13 meeting, Council supported a review of relevant

municipal by-laws and administrative orders to identify updates that would enable a more coordinated and effective approach to litter prevention and management. We will also be exploring opportunities to collaborate with provincial agencies for enforcement.

In addition, Council directed staff to develop an Adopt-A-Street pilot program for implementation in 2026/27, aimed at encouraging shared responsibility and increased community participation in keeping neighbourhoods clean.

Staff were also asked to prepare a briefing note for Regional Council's consideration on the potential need for additional enforcement resources as part of the 2026/27 budget process.

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

February 2026

### MAJOR SPORTING EVENT GRANTS



Regional Council has approved funding support for two major sporting events in 2026 through the Marketing Levy

Special Event Reserve Grants Program.

The Marketing Levy Special Event Reserve is funded by a levy on overnight accommodations such as hotels and short-term rentals.

Regional Council agreed to support the 2026 U SPORTS Men's University Cup at Saint Mary's University in March with a \$90,000 grant and support the 2026 ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships at Lake Banook in July with a \$1 million grant, pending approval of the 2026/27 budget.

Both events are expected to attract national and international visitors, generate significant economic activity, and enhance Halifax's profile as a host city for major sporting events.

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

### PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

At the Jan. 13 meeting of Regional Council, the Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) presented the 2026 assessment roll to Council.



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The PVSC is a non-profit governed by a board of directors who completes property assessments for the entire province.

The report is an important part of our budget process, as municipal tax rates are charged on assessed values.

To discuss your property assessment or lodge an appeal, please contact PVSC 1-800-380-7775 or [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca). Appeals must be received by February 12. You can find more information about PVSC and assessments on their [website](#) or view the presentation to Council [here](#).

### 2026 CENSUS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Government of Canada will be conducting the next Census of Population in May 2026. To support this important project, Statistics Canada is hiring for supervisory and non-supervisory positions. Approximately 32,000 jobs are available across Canada! They are looking for local people to help us collect accurate data in your community.

These data are vital for planning and evaluating programs and services such as education, health care, childcare, housing, emergency services, roads, public transportation and job training. Check out their website for more [information](#).

### HRM NAMED TOP EMPLOYER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



The Halifax Regional Municipality is proud to be named one of **Canada's Top Employers for Young People for 2026.**

Visit [halifax.ca/employment](http://halifax.ca/employment) to see our latest jobs and career advancement opportunities.

[Canada's Top Employers for Young People](#) is an editorial competition that recognizes the employers across Canada that lead their industries in offering exceptional workplaces and programs for young people starting their careers. We were recognized for our Bridging the Gap 18-month internship program, an opportunity for recent grads to learn about government policy, administration, operations, services and planning. Congratulations to the Bridging the Gap team for this special honour. We're grateful for all our amazing interns and the fresh perspective they bring to our team!

Check out our current postings [here](#).



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## PEOPLE PROJECT – COMMUNITY MEDIATION PROGRAM



United Way Halifax, part of United Way Maritimes, and the Halifax Regional Municipality are proud to be offering The People Project, a local community mediation program designed to empower neighbours to navigate and resolve conflicts together with the support of a trained mediator.

Available to all residents in Halifax Regional Municipality, this project focuses on facilitating conflict resolution on issues like noise, parking, trees, fencing, snow removal, garbage, nuisance lighting, pets and shared driveways.

It's easy to take part:

- Fill out an intake form with basic information regarding the situation.

- If the situation fits the program criteria, a trained community mediator will be assigned to you and contact you.
- With guidance from the mediator, participants will work toward an agreeable solution that resolves the issue and builds understanding.

To learn more about the process or program, please visit [United Way Halifax's webpage](#).

## COGSWELL UPDATE



Heads up – a new southbound transit-only lane is now open from Artz Street to the Cogswell District roundabout. This lane is for buses only and completes a missing link in the Barrington Street transit corridor from the north end to downtown, helping transit move faster and more reliably.

Reminder: transit-only lanes continue through the roundabout. Please watch for signage and keep these lanes clear for buses. You can find out more about the Cogswell project [here](#)



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## TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFITS

HALIFAX

### Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations

The Municipality's Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program is now open and accepting applications to add a property in 2026!

Find more details at:  
[halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/tax-relief-non-profit-organizations](http://halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/tax-relief-non-profit-organizations)



The Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations program is now open for applications.

The program can help eligible non-profit and charitable organizations reduce the amount of property tax they pay each year.

Organizations who are in receipt of HRM tax relief must submit an annual confirmation form by Monday February 2. You can also submit new applications to add a new property to the program. For more information and to find the application paperwork, visit our [website](#)

## REPORTING POTHOLES

Our road operations crews are always on the lookout for potholes, but we also rely heavily on residents to report any problematic potholes and sinkholes so they can be assessed and fixed as soon as possible. To report a pothole in your area, just call 311 or you can report online. Depending on the location and depth of the pothole, the repair will be planned and prioritized. You can find out more about pothole repairs [here](#).

February 2026

## WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE LANE REALIGNMENT



Plan ahead.

Upcoming construction preparations.

The Windsor Street Exchange re-development project is underway!

The project will add active transportation connections and transit priority measures through

the intersection, improve the movement of vehicles and goods through the area, and improve the safety for all road users.

The Highway 111 ramp between the Massachusetts Avenue ramps and the Windsor Street Exchange will now be closed until the completion of the new overpass construction in 2027. There will be a marked detour in place and access from Massachusetts Avenue toward the MacKay Bridge will remain open.

For bus stop impacts and detour routing, including maps, please visit the Halifax Transit service disruptions page [here](#).

Please note, to protect both drivers and construction crews, the speed limit in the Highway 111 construction zone has been reduced to 50 km/h. The municipality is reminding drivers to follow all posted safety signage and be aware that speed fines double in construction zones.



## 2026-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN



The Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to introduce the [2026-2030 Strategic Plan](#).

This plan is the municipality’s overarching guide for everything we

do. It defines our purpose, articulates our vision, mission and values, and sets priorities that will shape projects, initiatives and service delivery over the next four years.

The Strategic Plan establishes five priority areas:

- **Enabling Prosperity** focuses on building inclusive, sustainable communities and a resilient economy.
- **Strengthening Communities** focuses on the quality of life of residents, and promoting safety, belonging and the protection of the natural environment.
- **Moving Better** focuses on creating a transportation system that safely, reliably, and efficiently connects residents throughout the region.
- **Responsible Administration** focuses on delivering quality services through a commitment to fiscal responsibility, environmental sustainability, and community engagement.

- **Our People** focuses on making the organization a place where employees feel engaged, safe, and proud of their work.

Accompanying the Strategic Plan is the [Action Plan](#) that outlines the major projects and initiatives the municipality will undertake to achieve the goals identified in the Strategic Plan.

The plan was developed by Regional Council, municipal employees and strategic partners, and was informed by the 2024 Resident Survey and existing municipal plans and strategies.

To learn more and access resources, including the Strategic Plan video, full document and summary, visit our [website](#).

## HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND DRIVING PROGRESS



At the Jan. 13 meeting of Regional Council, staff provided the Housing Accelerator Fund Annual Update for 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.



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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.

The municipality is making strong progress under the HAF. Since signing its agreement in Oct. 2023, Halifax Regional Municipality has:

- Achieved 77.5 per cent of its three-year housing target and is expected to surpass the goal before Oct. 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 early 2026.

For more information, you can find the staff report and presentation linked [here](#).

## WINTER GARBAGE COLLECTION



To help our Winter Operations crews keep roads and pathways safe and accessible, please remember to place waste for curbside collection in a spot that won't interfere with sidewalk

or road clearing. Placing waste at the edge of your driveway is the best option to ensure snow clearing goes as safely and smoothly as possible this winter season.

## ONLINE PROPERTY TAX MANAGEMENT



Did you know that you can manage your property taxes easily online with e-billing and pre-authorized payments?

Opt in for email notifications for a copy of your latest tax bill, overdue notices, charges against your property, by-law infraction bills or other charges or text notifications for pre-authorized payments and overdue tax bills.

Please note, if you opt in to receive a copy of your tax bill via email, you will not receive a copy in the mail.

Learn more and sign up [online](#).

## HIAA INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS FACILITY





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Mi'kmaw artist, Alan Syliboy, has collaborated with Halifax Stanfield International Airport to feature his work within the newly expanded international arrivals area.

Syliboy's artwork adorns six pillars in the facility and 14 Drums from his "Daily Drum" collection are featured along the upper wall area.

Eskasoni's own Stephen Francis created the eight-pointed star in the center of the new facility.

The airport recently completed major infrastructure upgrades to its international facilities. Renovations to the ground floor of the existing International Arrivals area continued through late 2025.

As of January 2026, the fully refreshed facility is welcoming international travelers with expanded capacity and modernized amenities.

### GORDON R. SNOW COMMUNITY CENTRE



We will be kicking off the month of February with their annual WINTERFEST on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 2 - 4:30 p.m.

Join our Youth Ops team for this free family event celebrating winter and all it has to offer with both indoor and outdoor activities.

To register go online at [halifax.ca/myrec](http://halifax.ca/myrec) (code #40895) or call the centre 902 860-4570.

Every Wednesday morning, we welcome parents and guardians to bring their little ones to our free gym time from 9 - 11 a.m.

If your child is ready for independent play, there is still plenty of space in Preschool Basketball (#40134) on Mondays from 5:10-5:40 pm and Tumblebugs (#40141) on Thursdays from 4:15-5:00 p.m.

Sketch and Draw classes with Michael Bonnell are being offered on Tuesday evenings for both children (#40161) and adults (#40654).

What a great chance to explore your passion or try something new!

If you would like to share your love of golf with your young children, we are offering golf for kids every Thursday for ages 5.5-12 years. Using modified indoor golf equipment, children will be introduced to the basics of the sport in a fun, relaxed environment.

If slippery sidewalks and icy road conditions are limiting your exercise this winter, you are welcome to walk inside our gymnasium weekday mornings from 7:15-8:30 a.m.

Fitness Centre Hours:

Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For a full list of winter programs check out our [program guidebook](#).



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## IN THE COMMUNITY

### NEW YEAR LEVEE FUN !



February 2026

HALIFAX



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WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

## MIDDLE MUSQUODOBOIT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 17th, 2026 7:00 pm

Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre

### ALL ARE WELCOME

The Halifax County Exhibition grounds in Middle Musquodoboit is owned by the Agricultural Society. Our mandate is to promote agriculture in the Musquodoboit Valley. We are working to find ways to use our exhibition grounds throughout the year for agricultural events and we are also open to renting our grounds and buildings for other events, such as the Canada Day Celebrations, truck and tractor pulls, wedding receptions, etc.

If you are curious about us, please consider attending the AGM and joining as a volunteer member for the various events that are hosted throughout the year.



## COMMUNITY HALLS/CENTRES

District 1 is home to many community halls and non-profit organizations. Check out their website or Facebook pages to find information on local events as well as opportunities to volunteer in your community.

[Elderbank Recreation Club](#)

[Lemmon Hill Sports Association](#)

[Upper Musquodoboit Nova Scotia Nunavut Command](#)

[Upper Musquodoboit Community Hall](#)

Upper Musquodoboit Fellowship Centre  
(902)568-2536

[Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre](#)

[Musquodoboit Valley Family Resource Centre](#)

[Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank](#)

[Carrolls Corner Community Center](#)

[Meaghers Grant Community Hall](#)

[Gordon Snow Community Centre](#)

[Wellington Fletchers Lake Station House](#)

[Grand Lake Oakfield Community Centre](#)

[Waverley Heritage Museum](#)

[Waverley Legion Dieppe Branch 90](#)

[LWF Community Hall](#)

[Windsor Junction Community Centre](#)

[Helping Hands Families Helping Families](#)

[Barefoot Farmers Association](#)



## ENJOY OUR MEMORY CAFÉ SERIES THIS WINTER

Join us from 2:30-4:30pm on:

January 13th	September 8th
February 10th	October 6th
March 17th	November 3rd
April 14th	December 1st
May 12th	



### What is a Memory Café?

A free winter social event for individuals, families and care partners living with memory challenges.

### What happens at Memory Café?

We enjoy conversations, live musical entertainment, and each other's company in a relaxing, welcoming atmosphere.

### Where are in-person cafés held?

LWF Community Hall  
843 Fall River Road, Fall River

How do I register?  
Contact Debbie Young at  
dsnowie@hotmail.com



Feb. 20 TGIF Meal at  
Meaghers Grant  
Community Hall 6 p.m.



## COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

### PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

The following are the [provincial](#) Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and [federal](#) Members of Parliament (MPs) representatives for [municipal District 1](#).

#### MLA Scott Armstrong



Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

Progressive Conservative  
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#### MP Sean Fraser



[Central Nova](#)

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#### MP Braedon Clark



Sackville-Preston-  
Chezzetcook  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A6

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Email: [braedon.clark@parl.gc.ca](mailto:braedon.clark@parl.gc.ca)



#### MLA Brian Wong

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Beaver Bank

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## COUNCILLOR DEAGLE GAMMON



I currently serve on Regional Council, North West Community Council and the following boards and committees:

- Executive Standing Committee
- Audit and Finance Committee (Chair)
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (Chair)
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
- Halifax Regional Water Commission (Vice Chair)
- Halifax Partnership
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Canadian Capital Cities Organization

### Community Committees:

- Aerotech Community Liaison Community Committee
- Halifax International Airport Advisory
- Goffs Quarry Community Liaison

## E-NEWSLETTER/SUBSCRIBE

The District 1 newsletters, are available on my [municipal website](#), or to request to be added to the distribution list, please contact my Council Constituency Coordinator, Nancy Viner at [Nancy.Viner@halifax.ca](mailto:Nancy.Viner@halifax.ca).

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The Halifax Regional Municipality honours and recognizes the importance of the Indigenous people (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) and their cultural contributions to the tapestry of our region. 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 & Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

