



COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

DISTRICT 10
HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

SPEEDS REDUCTION FROM MILL COVE TO FAIRVIEW OVERPASS



The speed limit on a large section of the Bedford Highway has been reduced from 60 km/h to 50 km/h. Signs identifying the reduced speed zones have gone up between Southgate Drive and Tremont Drive as well as between Sherbrooke Drive and the Fairview Overpass.

The reduced speed zones include Mount Saint Vincent University and numerous businesses. This change is related to the increase in residential and commercial development along the Bedford Highway, along with the related increase in vehicle, pedestrian and cycling traffic. Targeted speed limit reduction is part of HRM's Strategic Road Safety Plan. For further information, please refer to [our website](#).

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MORE AFFORDABLE FOOD

In HRM, about 1 in 5 people live in a household that has trouble getting food on the table. HRM's food insecurity rate is higher than the national average.

The JUSTFood plan is aimed at helping more HRM residents get the healthy food they need. The plan was developed by HRM, Nova Scotia Health, Dalhousie University, the Ecology Action Centre and other partners. It recommends establishing the Halifax Food Council to set up social supermarkets (to provide healthy, discounted food) and circular food hubs (to divert and use food that might otherwise have gone to waste).

There are also plans to set up a community orchard and expand community gardens.

Regional Council will vote on whether to fully fund the plan in late March. Please review the [report for more information](#).



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TACKLING THE HOUSING SHORTAGE

Urgent changes to
planning documents for housing



Regional Council is looking at ways to tackle the housing shortage in HRM. This spring, Council will vote on a package of zoning changes aimed at speeding up housing construction across the municipality.

Dozens of sites are being considered. Priority will be given to multi-unit housing proposed near universities, on bus routes and near existing services.

Five multi-unit housing projects are proposed in District 10: 70 Lacewood Drive, 167 Willett Street, 127 Harlington Crescent, 1 Lodge Drive and 44-48 Main Avenue. They are part of a package of projects coming to Regional Council under the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) agreement, a national program aimed at increasing housing supply.

As part of the HAF, it is also proposed to allow 4 units of housing on residential lots in suburban areas, up from 3 units currently permitted. The definition of units includes basement apartments, garage conversions or backyard suites. This is aimed at adding more affordable housing. Housing projects of 4 units will have more stringent setback and building code requirements than those involving 3 units.

If approved, HAF projects would receive new zoning which would allow them to move forward quickly. In suburban areas like ours, the zoning has not been updated for more than 40 years and a full rezoning

for all suburban areas is a few years away. Projects approved under the Housing Accelerator Fund could therefore get a head start.

A report on the HAF projects will come to Regional Council in March or April and a public hearing will be held at that time. In the meantime, I welcome any questions at Kathryn.morse@halifax.ca. For more about the Housing Accelerator Fund projects, visit our [website](#).

NEW SIDEWALKS COMING

More transportation news! Regional Council has instructed municipal staff to proceed with the plan to construct approximately 55 kilometers of new sidewalks on high-need streets within the urban tax boundary over the next decade. This initiative aims to address the issue of many streets lacking sidewalks, forcing pedestrians to walk on sod, gravel shoulders, or in the street. Filling in these gaps is crucial for municipal planning, road safety, climate change mitigation, and accessibility.

This directive ensures that sufficient resources are allocated for Public Works to plan, design, construct, and maintain this infrastructure. Building new sidewalks within the urban tax boundary is a key component of HRM's Roads and Active Transportation capital budget. The funding for this work will be sourced from the existing budget and other potential cost-sharing opportunities.

Moving forward, staff will continue to use an evaluation tool to identify streets with the highest need for new sidewalks, with a particular emphasis on stand-alone projects on major roads. This proactive approach demonstrates HRM's commitment to enhancing pedestrian infrastructure and ensuring safer and more accessible streets for

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

2024/25 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Regional Council is currently engaged in the review of budget presentations from various municipal departments. So far, we have reviewed Corporate Services; the Auditor General; Property, Fleet & Environment and more. Key upcoming presentations include Halifax Transit and Community Safety on February 28, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency and Fiscal matters on March 1, and Halifax Regional Police, RCMP, and Corporate Services on March 6.

In April, the Budget Committee will review the Budget Adjustment List, and Regional Council will conduct a full review at the end of the month. Your attendance and input during these sessions would be greatly valued as we work to ensure our budget aligns with the needs of our community.

For more information about how you can participate and the agenda date, please visit our [website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



February 1 to 28

African Heritage Month.

March 1 to 31

Francophonie Month

March 8

International Women's Day

March 8

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Ramadhan

GRANTS TO PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

The Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program supports the operating and artistic capacity of Halifax-based professional arts organizations to develop and present artistic work as well as strengthen their capacity.

Applications for this program are due on March 31 at 5 p.m.

We have two streams of funding, Operating Assistance, and Project Assistance. For more information click [here](#).

PARKS & RECREATION FEE CHANGES



In 2022, the municipality announced changes to the Parks & Recreation fee structure for recreation programs, services, rentals, drop-ins and membership fees over the next five years.

In accordance with the five-year fee structure changes, Parks & Recreation fees, including membership fees, will be increasing effective April 1, 2024.

Please see the full list of changes [here](#).



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COMMUNITY GARDENS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2024



The average distance food travels to reach Nova Scotia is approximately 4,000km, rendering our local food system particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change. In the event of unexpected emergencies or disruptions, our reliance on external resources may leave us vulnerable to meeting the needs of our residents.

Community gardens offer a vital solution to bolstering our local food system. If you've been considering starting a community garden, now is the perfect time to act. To initiate a community garden project, your group must be a registered non-profit organization and submit your application before the **March 30 deadline**. This ensures sufficient time for our staff to review your proposal and collaborate with you on its implementation.

For detailed guidance and resources, please refer to the [Community Garden Handbook](#). If you're ready to apply, complete the application forms and forward them to Jasmine Du, Community Developer, at 902.471.3417 or Jasmine.Du@halifax.ca.

Let's work together to strengthen our local food resilience and create vibrant, sustainable communities for all residents.

FEBRUARY ROAD SAFETY FOCUS

Distracted driving encompasses a range of activities that divert a driver's attention from the road, such as texting, talking on the phone, eating, adjusting the radio, and interacting with passengers or pets. These distractions severely impair a driver's ability to react promptly and make split-second decisions, significantly increasing the risk of accidents, injuries, and even fatalities.

By implementing simple yet effective strategies, we can all play a role in enhancing road safety. Let's prioritize attentive and focused driving to prevent accidents and safeguard the well-being of all road users.

To learn more about safe driving practices and contribute to making our roads safer for everyone click [here](#).

SUMMER RECREATION JOBS

We're excited to announce that once again, we've been recognized as one of Nova Scotia's Top Employers for 2024. This marks the third consecutive year that our municipality has received this prestigious honor, solidifying our commitment to providing an exceptional workplace environment.

If you're a student or young adult seeking a summer job that offers more than just minimum wage, this is the opportunity you've been waiting for. Joining our team, working for one of Nova Scotia's top employers and gaining valuable skills with Parks & Recreation. Here's why you should seize this opportunity:

- ❖ Engaging work culture that promotes fun and camaraderie.
- ❖ Competitive wages ranging from \$17 to \$20 per hour.
- ❖ Flexible schedules with free evenings and weekends for specific positions.
- ❖ Diverse job opportunities in aquatics, inclusion, and recreation.



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- ❖ Minimal travel required, with positions available in urban, suburban, and rural communities.
- ❖ The chance to work outdoors in an environment that fosters health, wellness, and physical activity.

Don't miss out on this chance to be part of an outstanding team and make a meaningful impact in your community. Apply now and discover the rewarding experience of working with us! For more information, visit our [website](#).

2024-2025 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

2024-2025

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

This program provides cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities.

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HRM is still accepting application for the 2024 Community Grants Program. The deadline for submissions is April 1.

The program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region. There are two types of grants: a project grant of up to \$5,000 OR a capital grant of up to \$25,000.

Applicants should review the Program [Guidebook](#) prior to submitting an application. First-time applicants are encouraged to contact staff prior to applying. For more information on how to apply visit [here](#).

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WINTER PET CARE TIPS



As temperatures remain frigid, Halifax Regional Police wants to ensure that pet owners are taking extra precautions to keep their furry friends safe and warm. Here are some essential tips to help protect Fluffy and Fido during this cold weather season:

- ❖ Avoid leaving pets in cold cars: a cold car can be dangerous for pets.
- ❖ Keep pets indoors: Even though pets have fur, cold temperatures can still pose a risk to their health. It's best to keep them indoors, both during the day and at night.
- ❖ Provide a draft-free shelter: If your pets must stay outside, ensure they have a shelter that is large enough for them to move comfortably in and retain body heat. Use materials like straw or blankets for insulation and position the entrance away from wind and snow.
- ❖ Stay with pets during bathroom breaks: When taking your pets outside, be sure to accompany them. If it's too cold for you, it's too cold for them. Head back indoors promptly.
- ❖ Exercise caution around frozen bodies of water: thin ice on lakes, ponds, and rivers may not support your weight or that of your pet. Be extra cautious when near these areas.

Remember, if you see an animal in distress, don't hesitate to call 902-490-5020. Take direction from the call taker and help ensure the safety of our furry companions. Let's work together to keep our pets safe and warm this winter season.



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ICE THICKNESS TESTING PROGRAM NO LONGER BEING CONDUCTED



Over the last number of years, there has been a decline in the number of days available for skating. Based on these changed climate patterns, including rapidly fluctuating temperatures, ice thickness testing is no longer feasible. For this reason, the Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that it will no longer conduct the ice thickness testing program.

We realize that some residents may wish to continue skating on lakes, and there may occasionally be times when it is safe to do so.

Residents are asked to take safety precautions for themselves and their families by avoiding any further recreation activities on frozen lakes and ponds, including walking, snowmobiling, and skating.

The Canadian Red Cross recommends that ice be at least 15 cm thick for individual skating, and at least 20 cm thick for group skating. Extreme caution is advised in areas where streams flow into and out of lakes. It is also important to note that ice conditions may vary over the entire surface of lakes and are subject to change with weather conditions. See a complete list of guidelines from the Canadian Red Cross regarding ice safety [here](#). For more information, visit our [website](#).

E-NEWSLETTER/SUBSCRIBE

I send this monthly e-newsletters to community members. If you'd like to keep up to date with District 10 and Regional Council news, please get in touch with my Council Constituency Coordinator [Sarah Edjemudiare](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, February 28

9:30am

[Budget Committee](#)

Thursday, February 29

5:00pm

[Regional Watersheds Advisory Board](#)

Friday, March 1

9:30am

[Budget Committee](#)

Monday, March 4

12:00pm

[Investment Policy Advisory Committee](#)

1:00pm

[Board of Police Commissioners](#)

Tuesday, March 5

10:00am

[Halifax Regional Council](#)

Wednesday, March 6

9:30am

[Budget Committee](#)

FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN DISTRICT 10



[Lena Metlege Diab, Member of Parliament](#)

District government office

401-3845 Joseph Howe Dr

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4H9

lenametlege.diab@parl.gc.ca

(902) 426-2217



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Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA for Fairview-Clayton Park

District government office

3845 Joseph Howe Dr, Suite 203

Halifax, NS B3L 4H9

Email: info@patriciaarab.ca

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Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA for Clayton Park West

District government office

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Council Constituency Coordinator:

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CURRENTLY SERVING ON:

- Regional Council
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Halifax Regional Library Board
- Special Events Advisory Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Canada Games Centre Board
- Centennial Arena Board

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