



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

DISTRICT 12

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

WELCOME FEBRUARY!

As we navigate through the winter months, I extend warm greetings and acknowledge the significance of Nova Scotia Heritage Day, marked this year on February 19. This year, we pay tribute to the impactful life of William Hall, adding another chapter to our community's diverse history.

February also marks African Nova Scotian Heritage Month, themed "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians." It's a powerful reminder of the enduring strength and joy integral to the African Nova Scotian experience.

Amidst the winter chill, let's also look forward to upcoming municipal initiatives. As we bundle up and embrace the season, we anticipate engaging with you in discussions about our community's future during the 2024-2025 budget deliberations. Your input is invaluable as we work together to shape initiatives that will benefit us all. You can find out more information about this in this issue of my e-news.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community in District 12. Here's to a season of

reflection, celebration, and anticipation for the promising initiatives ahead.

Warm regards,

Iona

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FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Regional Council, Budget Committee, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held on the following dates:

Budget Committee:

- Friday, February 2nd at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 7th at 9:30 a.m.
- Friday, February 9th at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 14th at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 28th at 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council:

- Tuesday, February 6th at 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday February 13th 6:00 p.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

- Tuesday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council:

- Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Please check our [website](#) to confirm dates and times as the meeting schedule is subject to change.

HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND

The Halifax region is experiencing an urgent housing shortage.

High interest rates, rapid population growth and supply shortages have contributed to this lack of housing.



As part of the [Housing Accelerator Fund](#), the municipality is collaborating with partners and other levels of government in a national effort to support housing. The municipality is proposing updates to planning policies to enable more density and flexible housing types in residential areas. Public feedback on the proposed changes can be provided until February 16th.

To learn more about the Housing Accelerator Fund and the proposed amendments, click [here](#).

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



This year's [African Heritage Month](#) provincial theme, *Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians*, outlines the spirit of perseverance that people of African descent have demonstrated over the centuries. It can be



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said that smiles can tell a story, they can share joy and resilience. This African Heritage Month, celebrate the heritage, culture and the incredible spirit to overcome. The theme also aligns with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024.

Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back over 200 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements and contributions past and present.

For more information about African Heritage Month, please contact the [Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia](#):

Phone: (902) 434-6223

Email: contact@bccns.com

OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN



The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that the overnight winter parking ban will be enforced from 1 to 6 a.m. (in both Zone 1 – Central and Zone 2 – Non-Central), to allow crews to properly clear

streets and sidewalks.

Residents are able to determine which zone they're in by searching their address using the interactive tool available [here](#).

Vehicles must be parked off municipal streets during the hours noted above. Regardless of the status of an overnight winter parking ban, or whether you have received a notification, vehicles can be towed, day or night, at any time of year, if they are interfering with snow-clearing operations, as per Section 139 of the [Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act](#).

The overnight winter parking ban is in effect from now until Mar. 31, 2024. The easiest way to stay informed is to register for automated notifications by signing up for [hfxALERT](#), checking halifax.ca/snow for updates, or by calling 311. Subscribers to hfxALERT will receive timely alerts by phone, email, and/or text message when the ban is in effect and again when it is lifted. Standard text messaging rates apply.

Vehicles obstructing a driveway or sidewalk are prone to damage and become dangerous for crews. Such obstacles prevent crews from clearing the sidewalks properly, which can quickly become an accessibility issue for pedestrians, seniors, people with mobility issues and parents pushing strollers.

Think before you park this winter - it will help make the season a little easier on everyone.

Do Your Part

Planters, lawn decorations and any other portable objects near the sidewalk should be removed before the winter. Any permanent structures or objects too big to move should be marked with a reflector that will be visible above the snow to help crews identify obstacles.

Never clear snow from your property onto the street or sidewalk. Property owners must ensure the snow they clear is piled on their own property. It is against [By-Law S-300](#) to throw or pile snow in the street or on the sidewalk. This is a serious problem that can cause safety issues as it complicates clearing. The municipality has [enforcement tools](#) in place to address non-compliance with the by-law.



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For more information on municipal winter operations, please visit halifax.ca/snow.

ICE THICKNESS TESTING DISCONTINUED

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that it will no longer conduct the [ice thickness testing program](#).

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.

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.

Residents are reminded that 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. For more information, click [here](#).

PARKS & RECREATION SUMMER STAFF RECRUITMENT

The Halifax Regional Municipality has launched recruitment efforts for casual Parks & Recreation summer staff positions.

A diverse range of positions are available in aquatics, inclusion, and recreation at municipal facilities across the region. This opportunity is ideal for students and young adults looking to spend their summer working outdoors, supporting children's recreation, and contributing to their local community. Hourly wages range from \$17 to \$20.

The municipality will also be visiting job fairs, schools, and community events throughout the winter to support recruitment. A full list of dates and locations can be found [here](#).

Applications are now available [here](#).





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SNOW REMOVAL STANDARDS



Roads and On-street Bikeways



Priority Level	Type of Road	Service Standard for clearing (starts after end of event)	Minimum Accumulation	What surface should look like
1	Main arterial roads, emergency routes, Halifax Transit routes and roads with steep grades	12 hours	2 cm of snowfall	Bare
2	Residential streets, gravel roads and private lanes	24 hours	10 cm of snowfall	Snow covered but passable



Sidewalks and Protected Bike Lanes



Priority Level	Priority Level Location/type of sidewalk or bike lane	Service Standard for clearing (starts after end of event)	Minimum Accumulation	What surface should look like
1	Downtown Halifax and Dartmouth	12 hours	5 cm of snowfall	Bare
1	Main arterials and school drop-off zones	12 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Bare
2	Halifax Transit routes	18 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Mostly bare with salt for traction
3	Residential streets and walkways	36 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Mostly bare with salt for traction

When to contact 311
Once the service timelines have expired, you can report any snow or ice removal issues on municipal streets, sidewalks or bike lanes by emailing ContactUs@311.halifax.ca or by calling 311.

Please note, clearing timelines may be exceeded during exceptional weather conditions.

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Unfortunately, all streets cannot be plowed at the same time. However, if your street is not plowed within the allotted times shown in the table above, please call 311.

For more details on snow clearing standards follow this [link](#).

MUNICIPALITY COMPLETES DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Halifax Regional Municipality has completed the District Boundary Review and

February 2024

unveiled new electoral district boundaries. These updated electoral district boundaries will be used for the 2024 Municipal and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) Election. The [Municipal Government Act](#) requires that all municipalities in Nova Scotia regularly review the number and boundaries of electoral districts in the municipality. Following two phases of public engagement, the [Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board \(NSUARB\)](#) released their [boundary review decision](#) on December 21st, 2023.

Updated digital and printable municipal electoral district maps can be found [here](#).

For more information on the District Boundary Review, including a summary of key milestones, visit halifax.ca/boundaryreview.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

2024-2025

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

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

HALIFAX

Starting January 3, our Community Grants Program is welcoming applications. The program provides annual program or capital grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities. Access application forms at our Customer Service Centers or through our [website](#).



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accessibility, inclusivity, and engagement for the next three years and there will be an update to Regional Council within one year.

To learn more, the [Rural Recreation Strategy](#) can be found [here](#).

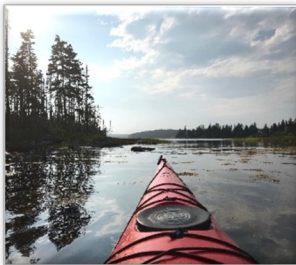
AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH OPENING CEREMONY

I was very proud to be invited to the Halifax Central Library for the 2024 Opening Night of Celebration of African History Month. Councillor Lindell Smith spoke on behalf of Mayor Savage and Regional Council. I take great pride in our accomplishments and victories, but we still have a long way to go,

Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

These words taken from the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing", (otherwise known as the black national anthem) always makes me think of Nova Scotia. This month we celebrate the contributions of African cultures to our collective past and present as new immigrants add to the rich legacy of Black Loyalists, Jamaican Maroons, Black Refugees as well as others who created vibrant communities in the Preston's, Upper Hammonds Plains and Beechville and many others. The destroyed community of Africville is an unfortunate part of our past. The buildings including the church were bulldozed but the roots of the community still exist, as evidenced by their annual reunion every summer. I encourage everyone to visit the Africville Museum, the Black Cultural Centre, and the many events this month. It's a rich history, come out and enjoy.

RURAL RECREATION STRATEGY



On January 9, 2024, Regional Council approved the Rural Recreation Strategy. The strategy demonstrates a meaningful shift away from applying urban

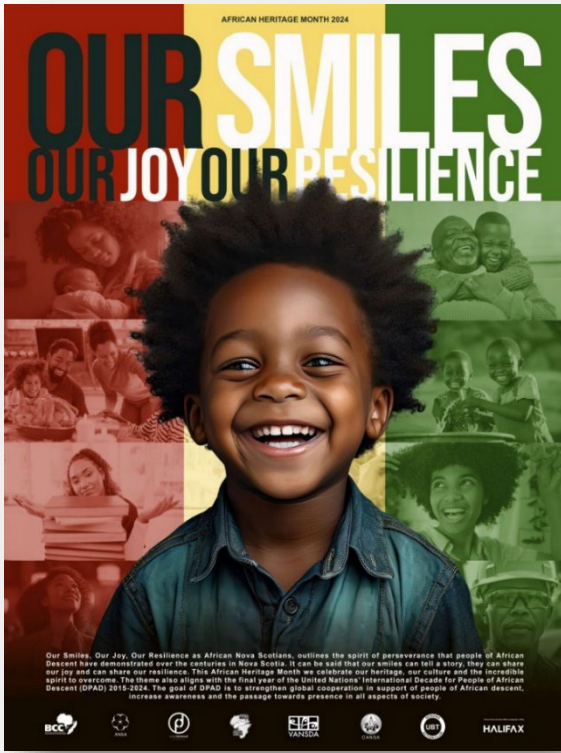
solutions to rural challenges. Designed to reflect and respond to the unique and evolving rural experience, it outlines six common themes based on the priorities identified in our public engagement. These include:

- 1) equitable access to indoor facilities;
- 2) access to outdoor recreation opportunities;
- 3) volunteer support;
- 4) programming that meets rural needs;
- 5) interdepartmental and inter-governmental partnerships; and
- 6) advertising and communications that reflect rural communities.

The strategy also identifies 60 actions for the short and longer term to improve access to enhanced services, while prioritizing



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Pictures from the opening Ceremonies at the Halifax Central Library





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PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 2024/25 BUDGET

Committee of the Whole meetings on budget are held to consider the proposed budgets and business plans of the municipality for the next fiscal year. Time is given during each meeting to allow you to provide verbal comments about the budget to council.

Each person may speak for up to five minutes. If more than one person appears representing a group in relation to a particular topic, the Chair may require that you choose one person who will speak on behalf of the group.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact the Municipal Clerk's Office.

You can find the full schedule of budget committee meetings [here](#).

Email: clerks@halifax.ca

Phone: 902.490.4210

KESHEN GOODMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library was scheduled to be close from January 15th to February 11th, while it was undergoing some major renovations.

The Keshen Goodman Public Library will need an additional day and reopen on February 12th.

All existing and incoming holds will be paused until the branch reopens.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVED CAPITAL FUNDING 2023/2024

- Soccer Nova Scotia
- Eastern Seals Nova Scotia
- Walk and Roll Safety Halifax Association
- Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Society
- Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank
- BLT Community Garden Association
- Lake City Woodworkers
- Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization
- Pride Crosswalk painting
- The North Grove
- Beechville Baptist Church
- Hubbards Area Recreation Association
- MacDonald Memorial Legion Branch 156
- Halifax Meals on Wheels
- Halifax Christian Church
- Souls Harbour Rescue Mission
- Freedom Foundation
- HeART Youth Programs
- Ronald MacDonald House Charities
- Wonder'neath Art Society

FEBRUARY 19, 2024





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BLT COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

Dear residents,

I appreciate your patience and feedback as the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Community Centre project develops. The project team continues to discuss the program needs of our community. I have connected with the project team over the last few weeks with your questions, concerns, and comments.

Project-related information will continue to be posted on the project page on our website [here](#). This webpage has been recently updated.

Feedback from past community engagements will help to inform current programming. As with all Halifax Recreational facilities, staff will continue to monitor trends and feedback from residents to align program offerings with community needs.

For questions or comments, please contact me via email at iona.stoddard@halifax.ca and I will continue to ensure feedback from our community is advanced to the project team. For questions, I will continue to work with municipal staff to share information as it becomes available.

Thank you again for your patience and feedback.

COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD



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I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Western Common Community Council
- Halifax and West Community Council
- CMC (Community Monitoring Committee re Otter Lake Landfill)
- African Decent Advisory Committee

MAILING LIST

If you would like to have e-newsletters sent directly to your inbox, please contact Victoria Palmeter at victoria.palmeter@halifax.ca