



**COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD**

*DISTRICT 12*

*TIMBERLEA - LAKESIDE - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD*

**WELCOME JANUARY!**

Happy New Year and welcome to January! I hope you were able to enjoy time with your loved ones over the holidays. As we head into the new year, we are also heading into the cold and dark days of winter. This time of year, is challenging for many, so I encourage you to check in on your loved ones and look after yourselves, too.

This edition of my e-newsletter has important information on the upcoming budget deliberations (you can find the schedule and more information on the process below in this newsletter), and important events, deadlines, and details for things happening in and for our community.

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities that 2024 brings, I will continue to do my best as your Councillor to champion initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life for all our community members. I encourage each of you to participate in upcoming opportunities to stay engaged and share your ideas about decisions that help shape the future of our region.

Iona

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## COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

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### JANUARY MEETINGS

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

#### **Budget Committee:**

Wednesday, January 24 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, January 26 at 9:30 a.m. (*Contingency Date*)

Wednesday, January 31 at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Regional Council:**

Tuesday, January 9 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 23 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Halifax & West Community Council:**

Tuesday, January 16 at 6 p.m.

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

### PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY IN COUNCIL CHAMBER MEETINGS

We've introduced virtual public participation for in-person meetings held in Council Chamber as of November 14!

This option is now available for any meetings taking place in Council Chamber where there is an opportunity for the public to speak, including meetings of Budget Committee. This is in addition to a livestream of all meetings, which is available on the municipality's [YouTube channel](#).

In August 2023, Regional Council passed amendments to [Administrative Order One –](#)

January 2024

[Respecting the Procedures of the Council](#) to enable virtual participation. These amendments provided the necessary legislative changes to accommodate virtual participants.

Those who wish to participate virtually must register in advance by 4:30 p.m. the business day before the meeting. For more information, visit [our website](#).

### BUSINESS UNIT BUDGET PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Regional Council has begun the 2024/25 municipal budget process by presenting the [2024/25 Budget Direction on November 28](#).

The annual municipal budget funds all costs to service a growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations (i.e. transit, police, fire, garbage collection, snow clearing, staffing costs), capital priority initiatives approved by Regional Council (i.e.: HalifACT, Cogswell District project, Integrated Mobility Plan), as well as capital projects and investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace municipal assets such as buildings, roads, active transportation, parks and bridges.

The Budget Direction is presented annually to Budget Committee with recommendations for tax and non-tax revenues to accommodate changing operational costs, capital investments, as well as debt and reserve changes. It is also reflective of ongoing and emerging opportunities and challenges.

Municipal staff will present their business unit proposed budgets on the dates outlined below. Information on each of these items will be posted on Halifax.ca the Friday before the meeting.



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## Business Unit presentation schedule:

Wednesday, January 24

Contingency date: Friday, January 26th

- Assessment/Budget Direction Update and Capital Plan

Wednesday, January 31

Contingency date: Friday, February 2

- Corporate Services  
CAO's Office  
Finance & Asset Management  
Human Resources  
Information Technology  
Legal & Legislative Services;  
Auditor General  
Property, Fleet & Environment

Friday, February 2

Contingency date: Wednesday, February 7

- Halifax Public Libraries  
Wednesday, February 7  
Contingency date: Friday, February 9
- Halifax Regional Police; RCMP

Friday, February 9

Contingency date: Tuesday, February 13

- Public Works

Tuesday, February 13

Contingency date: Wednesday, February 14

- Planning & Development

Wednesday, February 14

Contingency date: Wednesday, February 28

- Parks & Recreation

Wednesday, February 28

Contingency date: Friday, March 1

- Halifax Transit

Friday, March 1

Contingency date: Wednesday, March 6

- Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency  
Wednesday, March 6

Contingency date: Friday, March 8

- Community Safety; Fiscal  
Tuesday, April 2

Contingency date: Wednesday, April 3

- Budget Adjustment List (BAL) Review  
Tuesday, April 23

Contingency date: Tuesday, April 30

- Budget Approval

## SNOW SEASON IS HERE



With each weather event, snow-clearing crews are responsible for approximately 3,844 lane kilometres of streets and about 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks! We can't control Mother Nature or what this winter has in store, but if we work together, we can all be better prepared for whatever the season may bring.

For more information on our municipality's Winter Operations program, and tips to help you prepare for inclement weather, please visit [our website](#).





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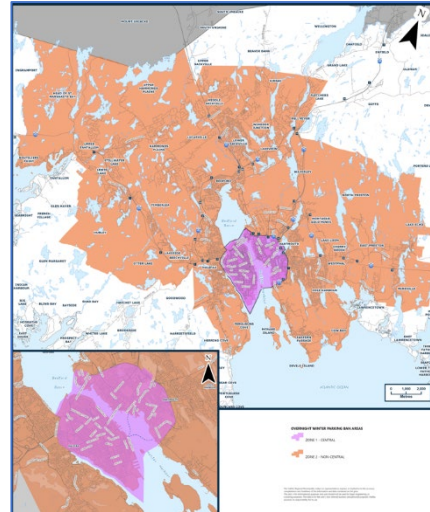
HRM has service standards for streets, sidewalks, and bus stops and the timing varies depending on the priority level. We prioritize commonly used streets, bus routes and roads that provide access to hospitals and schools. When the snow stops, operators work as quickly and safely as possible to have all the roads cleared within 24 hours and major roads and bus routes within 12 hours.

Before contacting 311 about snow clearing, please ensure the service timelines for your area have expired. You can find detailed information about snow-clearing service timelines on the interactive map or in the "when should clearing be complete?" section on the [website](#).

If your street or sidewalk has not been cleared by the indicated time in each chart, please email [ContactUs@311.halifax.ca](mailto:ContactUs@311.halifax.ca) or call 311 so crews can be dispatched to address the issue. If an emergency vehicle needs to access a street, staff dispatch a plow immediately to that street.

Residents should note that in snowfalls greater than 30 centimeters or in blizzard conditions, more time may be needed to complete clearing. The same exception may apply when there are rapidly changing weather conditions. Crews will continue working until all streets and sidewalks are clear and safe. Of course, some roads are taken care of by the province, depending on where you live. Provincial road information can be found [here](#).

## OVERNIGHT WINTER PARKING BAN IN EFFECT



As of Wednesday, December 13, the municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect through to March 31, 2024. The overnight winter parking ban is enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during

declared weather events and snow removal operations only.

Weather conditions and snow-clearing operations will determine how long an overnight winter parking ban will be enforced, as it may be in place for more than one night. The easiest way to stay informed about the status of overnight winter parking bans is to register for automated notifications by [signing up for hfxALERT](#). Subscribers will receive timely alerts by phone, email, and/or text message when the ban is in effect and again when it is lifted. Residents are encouraged to plan ahead when snow is in the forecast and secure off-street parking when the overnight winter parking ban is enforced.

The municipality has two zones for the overnight winter parking ban: **Zone 1 – Central** and **Zone 2 – Non-Central** (see attached maps).

**Zone 1 – Central** refers to the Halifax Peninsula and downtown Dartmouth within Highway 111



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(the Circumferential Highway) and some surrounding areas. **Zone 2 – Non-Central** is a designated area outside of Zone 1 – Central. Residents are able to determine which zone they're in by searching their address using the interactive tool available [here](#), or by referring to the attached maps.

The following overnight winter parking ban scenarios may occur before, during or following a declared weather event:

- **Municipal** overnight winter parking ban is in effect/has been lifted
- **Zone 1 – Central** overnight winter parking ban is in effect/has been lifted
- **Zone 2 – Non-Central** overnight winter parking ban is in effect/has been lifted
- **Zone 1 – Central** overnight winter parking ban has been lifted, but will continue to be enforced in **Zone 2 – Non-Central**
- **Zone 2 – Non-Central** overnight winter parking ban has been lifted, but will continue to be enforced in **Zone 1 – Central**

Sometimes, targeted snow removal in certain downtown areas is required. Having two zones enhances service delivery by implementing overnight winter parking bans that accommodate targeted snow removal.

Overnight winter parking bans will continue to be communicated to residents via [public service announcements](#), [hfxALERT](#), [halifax.ca](#), and [@hfxgov](#) on X. Residents who are signed up for hfxALERT will receive notifications for all overnight winter parking ban scenarios.

### Compliance

When and where you park this winter can have a big impact on snow clearing. To help ensure the streets are properly cleared, the municipality has enhanced enforcement in areas around

hospitals, schools, bus routes, and problem streets to ensure unobstructed access for snow equipment and emergency vehicles.

Officers will be ticketing vehicles obstructing sidewalk clearing. Vehicles hanging out of a driveway or parked on the sidewalk are prone to damage and become dangerous obstacles for crews. Such obstacles prevent crews from clearing sidewalks properly, which can quickly become an accessibility issue.

Regardless of the status of the overnight winter parking ban, vehicles can be ticketed or towed, at any time, if their vehicle is interfering with snow-clearing operations as outlined in Section 139 of the [Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act](#).

To avoid a ticket and the costs of being towed, residents should ask themselves these questions when considering parking on the street this winter:

- Is the overnight winter parking ban currently being enforced?
- Is my vehicle making the road impassable?
- Is my vehicle impeding snow operations in the area?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, do not park on the street. The municipality does not want to ticket or tow — the objective is to keep vehicles off the streets to facilitate efficient and safe clearing. This, in turn, ensures emergency vehicles, buses, and other vehicles have proper access.

### Safety

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



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marked with a reflector that will be visible above the snow to help crews identify obstacles. Safety is our top priority for residents and crews. We ask for residents' continued cooperation and diligence during declared overnight winter parking bans.

### Important reminders to all property owners

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 for pedestrians and other users as it complicates snow clearing. The municipality has [enforcement tools](#) in place to address non-compliance with the by-law.

For more information on municipal winter operations, please visit [halifax.ca/snow](http://halifax.ca/snow).

heading out on a frozen body of water can be tragic.

HRM provides ice thickness testing during the winter, however, it has not yet begun for the season. Testing will begin once ice has formed, and it is safe for staff to begin testing. Currently, it is not safe to be on frozen lakes or ponds, as there is noticeable thin ice and open water in many lakes across the region. Visit our [website](#) for ice thickness testing results for more than 70 lakes and ponds throughout the region once testing has begun for the season.

The Canadian Red Cross recommends that ice be at least 15 cm thick for individual skating, 20 cm thick for group skating, and 25 cm for snowmobiling. 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](#).

## SAFETY AROUND FROZEN LAKES AND PONDS



Residents are asked to take safety

precautions for themselves and their families by avoiding any recreation activities on frozen lakes and ponds this upcoming season— including walking, ice fishing, snowmobiling, and skating — until ice thickness testing resumes. If the ice is not sufficiently thick, the consequences of

## SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

There's no denying it – winter is on its way. There is a snow removal program available for seniors (ages 65 and older) and persons with disabilities to help ensure safe access to your home.

The Senior Snow Removal is a YMCA program provided in partnership with Halifax Regional Municipality and oversees the clearing of front and back steps, walkways, ramps, and access to fuel tanks. Please note that the program does not include driveway clearing.



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Those 65+ or persons with disabilities must also meet the following eligibility criteria:

- ✓ The participant must reside in a single dwelling home which is owned or rented;
  - ✓ The participant, also including all individuals who live on the premises aged eighteen or older, must not exceed a total gross household income of \$32,000, and;
  - ✓ The participant may not be a landlord.
- The Senior Snow Removal operates on a first-come, first-serve basis. **When maximum capacity is reached, the program will come to a close and individuals will be placed on a waitlist.**

Call 902-483-3678 for more information. You can download the 2023/2024 application package online by visiting:

<https://ymcafx.ca/communityymca/ymca-senior-snow-removal/>

Completed applications may be faxed to 902-423-8530 or can be mailed or dropped off in person to:

Attention: YMCA Senior Snow Removal

Community YMCA  
2269 Gottingen Street  
Halifax, NS B3K 3B7

## EMERA OVAL IS OPEN FOR THE SEASON!



January 2024

## VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY (VVPR)



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.

The VVPR is a voluntary, self-referral list intended for residents without 24-hour support who experience severe difficulty with any of the following:

- Mobility
- vision impairment
- hearing impairment
- developmental disabilities
- cognitive impairment
- mental health conditions
- any resident who requires electricity for life-sustaining equipment such as Those not eligible include (exceptions may residents receiving 24-hour support from a caregiver or home care aide
- residents receiving care or assistance from a long-term care home or supportive housing facility
- residents under the age of 18 who receive parent/guardian support; however, children with intensive needs that require electricity for life-sustaining equipment may be considered





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Applications can be submitted only by individuals seeking to become part of the VVPR or their representative/legal guardian. All applications will be reviewed by municipal staff to confirm eligibility and verify personal information upon submission of the self-referral online application form. When the VVPR program is activated, a warning will be sent through hfxALERT, the municipality’s mass notification system, to registrants, their representatives/legal guardians, and emergency contacts. Emergency Management staff will then conduct phone calls if needed or attempt door-to-door contact through Emergency Management volunteers.

After the event, Emergency Management staff will provide check-in communications through hfxALERT to registrants, their representative/legal guardian, and emergency contacts. Prioritization checks will be conducted based on personal information included in the registration form, with door-to-door contact, as necessary.

- Transportation Trail (between Alderney and Woodside ferry terminals)
- Portland Lakes Trail (between Baker Drive and Freshwater Trail to Waterside Terrace)

The use of e-scooters is guided by By-law M-300, the Micromobility By-law and the Province of Nova Scotia’s Motor Vehicle Act (MVA).

## COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2024-25

2024-2025

### COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

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

HALIFAX

Halifax Regional Municipality’s Community Grants Program will begin accepting applications from registered non-profits and charities located within Halifax Regional Municipality on January 3. The application deadline is April 1, 2024.

Application forms and program guidebooks are available from:

- [The municipal website](#)

## E-SCOOTERS PERMITTED ON SELECT MUNICIPAL TRAILS



The operation of e-scooters is now being permitted on the following municipal trails:

- Mainland Linear Trail
- Chain of Lakes Trail
- Halifax Common pathways
- McIntosh Run Trail
- AT Trail around Lake Banook
- Park and Brookdale Crescent)
- Dartmouth Waterfront Active





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- Visiting one of our [Customer Service Centres](#):
  - Alderney Gate, 40 Alderney Drive, - Dartmouth, 1st floor.
  - Musquodoboit Harbour Strip Mall, Corner of Hwy #7 & East Petpeswick Road
  - Bayers Road, 7071 Bayers Road, 2nd floor.
- Contacting 311
- E-mail - [nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca](mailto:nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca)

Organizations considering an application to the Program are encouraged to review the guidebook.

For further information, please email [nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca](mailto:nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca) or call 902.497.0479.

## 2024 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT NOTICES

Over the next few days, property owners throughout Nova Scotia can expect to receive their 2024 Property Assessment Notices which reflect a market value as of January 1, 2023. Assessments are determined by Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC), the independent, municipally funded, not-for-profit assessment authority for Nova Scotia.

PVSC assesses every property in Nova Scotia every year. They collect and analyze sales and financial data to determine property values. The [Property Assessment Notice](#) (<https://www.pvsc.ca/your-property-assessment-notice>) you get every January shows the estimated value of your property one year ago, on January 1, based on market sales and financial data. It also reflects the characteristics and physical state of your property on December 1, one month before your Property Assessment Notice is mailed.

2024 property assessments are based on sales and financial data and reflect a market value as of January 1, 2023, and the physical state of properties as of December 1, 2023, including new construction, renovations, demolitions, and impacts from natural disasters.

This year's rate for the provincial government's Capped Assessment Program (CAP) is 3.2 per cent. The CAP rate reflects the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Nova Scotia as confirmed by the Province. The CAP limits the annual increase in taxable assessment for eligible residential properties to no more than the CPI rate for the year. About 68 percent of residential assessments, and 415,576 property accounts, qualify for CAP for 2024.

### Join Independent Living Nova Scotia's:



CAP is funded by the Department of Community Services (DCS) and their Disability Support Program (DSP).

- Are you 18-24 years old?
- Do you identify as having a disability/disabilities?
- Do you live in the Halifax area?
- Do you want to participate in your community?**



CAP is a 9-week pre-employment program that will help you:



- Engage in your community;
- Develop life and soft skills;
- Create and achieve different goals;
- Participate in social activities;
- And so much more!

CAP starts **February 12, 2024**

Have questions? Contact us at: [cap@ilns.ca](mailto:cap@ilns.ca) or 902-453-0004



Apply today at: <https://ilns.ca/cap/>

"I've had the opportunity to meet new friends and learn lots of new skills that I've been able to use at home and school. I have a lot of fun doing different activities and really enjoy volunteering at the animal shelter."  
~CAP Participant



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## How to view your Property Assessment Notice:

Property owners can view detailed information on their assessment by accessing their "My Property Report" on the [Property Valuation Services Corporation](http://www.pvsc.ca/en/home/default.aspx) (<http://www.pvsc.ca/en/home/default.aspx>) website. Use your Assessment Account Number and PIN access number to see your information. To obtain a PIN number, phone 1.800.380.7775.

Assessors are available to discuss assessments and answer questions by phone (1-800-380-7775) or email ([inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca)). For more information, please visit <https://www.pvsc.ca/>.

## The Appeals deadline is approaching.

Assessment Appeals must be received by PVSC before midnight on February 8, 2024. Signed appeal forms can be submitted by email, mail, or fax.

For more information about the process and timeline, visit their [website](https://www.pvsc.ca/understand-your-assessment/assessment-cycle) (<https://www.pvsc.ca/understand-your-assessment/assessment-cycle>).

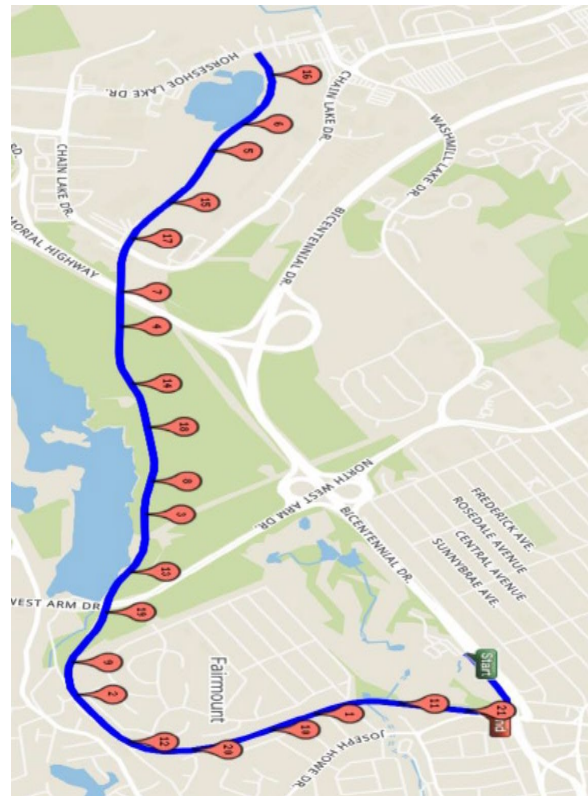
## Hypothermic Half Marathon

Where: Chain of Lakes Trail in Halifax

When: Sunday, February 18

Start Time: 8 a.m.

## Race route



HALIFAX

## St. Mary's Boat Club

The SMBC is now accepting bookings for 2025 weddings, corporate events and parties. Residents can learn more about the venue, see the availability calendar and book the venue at [halifax.ca/renttheboatclub](http://halifax.ca/renttheboatclub).

## COMMUNITY CENTRE FAREWELL CLOSING

The Lakeside Community Centre special social held Thursday, December 7 prior to the demolition. Among the large crowd that attended. There were students, teachers, local residents, MLA Ali Duale and MLA Iain Randin



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along with myself and other distinguished guests and the HRM staff that made it happen.

The new Center will be opened by the end of 2024 or early 2025. I can't wait!!

Temporary Location: 1300 St Margaret's Bay Road (Can be found behind 1308 St. Margaret's Bay Road Beechville, NS B3T 1A2

Phone # 902-86-8812.

Most classes will begin in early January 2024



February is African Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich culture, achievements and contributions of African Nova Scotians and communities of African descent in our region and across the nation.

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 in our province. It can be said that our smiles can tell a story, they can share our joy and can share our resilience.

The Halifax Public Libraries is hosting the African Heritage Month Opening Night Celebration, on Thursday, January 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Central Library. Learn more about the event [here](#), and [stay tuned](#) in the coming weeks on more ways to learn and celebrate African Heritage Month in our region!

For more information, visit <https://bccns.com/ahmposter/>.

## SCHOOL STREETS PILOT PROGRAM

Are you concerned about traffic congestion at school? Interested in making the streets around the school safer for children to walk and cycle? If so, our School Streets Pilot may be of interest to you!

School Streets are a type of traffic calming initiative designed to keep vehicular traffic off the street(s) near the school during drop-off and pick-up time.

**This School Streets Pilot is expected to run for 2-4 weeks this spring.** The pilot will be free and open to any public school in HRM, but participation will be limited to 3 schools. **Application deadline: February 16, 2024.**

For learn more about this pilot, including program timelines and eligibility criteria, or School Street Programs in general, please join one of our [online Information Session Sessions](#) or contact Natalia Diaz-Insense at [ndiazinsense@gmail.com](mailto:ndiazinsense@gmail.com).

**Dates:** Wed, January 17, 24 & 31, 2024

**Times:** 9:30 - 10 am  
12:30 - 1 pm  
6:30 - 7 pm

To sign-up for these sessions, please visit:  
<https://forms.gle/Exp6bMCAq5jMZZIn8>









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### Spryfield Shopping Centre

16 Dentith Road  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

### Chebucto Community Health Team

ph: 902-460-4560 ext. 2  
Email: [cht@nshealth.ca](mailto:cht@nshealth.ca)

This location serves people from the following communities:

- Armdale
- Beechville
- Clayton Park
- Fairview
- Hatchet Lake
- Herring Cove
- Hubbards
- Hubley
- Lakeside
- Pennants
- Prospect
- Purcell's Cove
- Rockingham
- Sambro Loop
- Spryfield
- St. Margaret's Bay
- Tantallon
- Timberlea

- 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

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DISTRICT 12  
Timberlea - Beechville - Clayton Park - Wedgewood  
Cell: 902.240.7926  
Fax: 902.490.4122  
[Iona.Stoddard@halifax.ca](mailto:Iona.Stoddard@halifax.ca)

Halifax Regional Municipality  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

**HALIFAX**      [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca)      311

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

## CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT RECEIVED 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

## MAILING LIST

If you would like to have e-newsletters sent directly to your inbox, please contact Victoria Palmetter at [victoria.palmetter@halifax.ca](mailto:victoria.palmetter@halifax.ca)