

WELCOME JUNE!

As we welcome June, my heart goes out to those affected by the wildfires throughout HRM and the rest of Nova Scotia. I hope you are keeping as best you can, considering this devastating situation.

Emergency events like this may cause significant stress and concern for those directly or indirectly affected. I want to thank all persons on the frontlines and in the background for your efforts to support our emergency response.



I send my sympathy to those who have had their community uprooted, have been displaced, and/or lost homes due to the ongoing wildfire crisis across the province. As this challenging and serious situation continues to evolve, we are all hoping for the earliest possible recovery from this disaster. For the latest info on the wildfires in HRM, click here.

Please remember that evacuation orders are mandatory, meaning residents must evacuate in accordance with local authorities. Also, residents are not allowed to return to their homes until they are advised that it is safe to do so by municipal authorities. Residents must remain clear of the evacuation area and refrain from filming and taking photos of the fire area, including flying personal drones. Residents in the local state of emergency zone should have a bag-packed as they may have limited time to leave their homes if required to evacuate on short-notice. Residents who are directed to evacuate are advised to bring their pets, important documents, and medication with them, as well as supplies for 72 hours.

Please don't hesitate to reach out by phone (902.240.7926) or email (<u>iona.stoddard@halifax.ca</u>) to discuss municipal programs or services.



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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL AND HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meetings of Halifax Regional Council and Halifax & West Community Council will take place on the following dates:

Regional Council:

Tuesday, June 6th at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, June 13th at 6:00 pm.

Please confirm meeting dates and times on our website as they are subject to change.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM



The municipality's annual tree planting program ensures the continued health of our urban forest and contributes to our climate action goals.

Beginning in mid-May, the Halifax Regional Municipality will plant approximately 2,500 trees throughout right-of-way spaces and other municipally-owned land.

Tree planting supports Regional Councilapproved initiatives, including the Urban Forest Management Plan and HalifACT. Learn more about our tree planting program here.

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ZERO-TOLERANCE BURN BAN

Increased fine for breaking burn ban



As crews battle multiple fires, there is a zero-tolerance policy in effect for the duration of the outdoor burning ban. Fines will be issued against those who are burning outdoors, which includes penalties up to \$25,000 (an increase from \$10,000, as announced by the Province of Nova Scotia). Any person responsible for fire spread can also be required to pay all expenses related to controlling or extinguishing the fire, and all related fire damages.

Illegal outdoor burning puts lives, properties, and the environment at risk. It also ties up critical fire department resources.

The Province of Nova Scotia has announced burn, travel, fireworks, and activities restrictions. The restrictions are in place until June 25th or until conditions allow them to be lifted.

Read the full Provincial news release <u>here</u>.



WOODED AREAS OF MUNICIPAL PARKS CLOSED

In addition to the Province of Nova Scotia restricting travel and activities in wooded areas, the municipality has closed all wooded areas of municipal parks and all municipal trails effective 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 31st.

Parks such as Shubie Park, Point Pleasant Park and Admiral Cove Park will be fully closed, as they are heavily wooded. However, non-wooded areas of municipal parks, such as greenspaces, playgrounds, sport fields and ball diamonds will remain open for use. Examples of non-wooded parks are the Halifax Common and Sullivan's Pond.

For parks which have both wooded and non-wooded areas, the wooded areas are closed and the non-wooded areas remain open. An example of this would be Fort Needham Memorial Park where the monument, playground and sports field remain open but the wooded section is closed.

Parking lot closures will be completed as soon as possible; however, with many wooded parks across the region this will take time to complete.

Given the impacts of fire emergency vehicles moving throughout the Halifax region, the municipality is asking residents to avoid road travel, particularly near the local state of emergency area. This will help to ensure that residents do not impede the work of first responders.

Please visit: halifax.ca/fire or follow @hfxgov on Twitter for all fire updates.



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BLUE MOUNTAIN-BIRCH COVE LAKES REGIONAL PARK PROJECT



Regional Council has received an update on the ongoing Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park project.

Located on the western edge of the Halifax urban core, the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes area comprises Acadian Forest, wetlands, and a system of lakes and head waters offering residents' opportunities to engage with nature.

In 2021, the municipality signed a statement of collaboration with Parks Canada to indicate mutual interest in the opportunities for the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove area as part of the National Urban Parks Program. In January 2022, the municipality initiated a comprehensive background study of a potential Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park. This included public consultations, feedback from which can be found in a "What We Heard" report.

On May 23rd, 2023, the federal government announced the completion of Parks Canada's pre-feasibility report and a \$2.1 million contribution through the National Urban Parks Program. Along with contributions to the involved Indigenous nations, this funding will enable to province and the municipality to assess opportunities for the conservation of nature and enhanced access to urban greenspace – and to begin the planning phase of the project.

For more information, read the staff report presented at the May 23rd, 2023 Regional Council meeting <u>here</u>.

TEST DRIVE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE!



The municipality is partnering with Next Ride and the Clean Foundation to host 18 free electric vehicle test drive events in communities throughout the municipality between May and July 2023.

Our team will be on hand to answer questions and share information about electric vehicles, available rebates and what to expect from the municipality's electric vehicle strategy.

Interested? There are many dates left including the District 12 event being held from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on June 25th, 2023 at Canada Games Centre, 26 Thomas Raddall Dr.

Secure your spot by registering for a free test drive event! Links to register will become available approximately two weeks before each event. To register, visit Next Ride's webpage and scroll down to find our municipal test drive events as they become available. There are also limited walk-in spots available.

You can see the full list of event dates and locations by visiting <u>here</u>.



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REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR READY **FOR SUMMER REC**



Register now for Ready for Rec summer programs for youth 13-18.

Ready for Rec youth summer program

Date: Weeks of July 4th, July 10th, July 17th, July 24th, July 31st and August 8th

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Central Spryfield Elementary School, 364 Herring Cove Road, Spryfield

This fun summer program is designed for youth with disabilities aged 13-18. Participants will explore the community and learn new things along the way. The focus is healthy living through fun recreation activities. Participants should be able to be in a group of two or three campers to one staff.

🬳 Ready for Rec youth outdoor fun 🌳

Date: Weeks of August 14th and August 21st

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Shubie Park (drop off by the

Fairbanks Centre)

The Ready for Rec Outdoor Camp offers an inclusive and supported environment for youth (13-18) with disabilities to learn and explore nature. Participants will engage in a combination of structured and unstructured seasonal activities, such as nature walks, scavenger hunts, creative expression, and free

play. This program offers one-to-one staffing if needed.

- To register for Ready for Rec youth programs, please contact inclusion@halifax.ca
- To learn more about our Ready for Rec programs, visit here.

ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

Access Awareness Week (AAW) MAY 28 TO JUNE 3

Access includes Everyone: Moving the Bar on Quality of Life

To learn more, visit aawns.ca



Access Awareness Week is from May 28th to June 3rd and provides an opportunity to raise awareness and engage Nova Scotians on issues around access and inclusion

Inclusivity isn't just about eliminating physical barriers; it's also about challenging societal attitudes. While changing a municipal by-law or enforcing the UN Convention may remove physical barriers, it is by fostering attitudes of acceptance and responsibility that we can create a truly inclusive environment.

When the economic and social inclusion of those with disabilities are realized, the entirety of society benefits, from an economic standpoint, and for society and businesses. When persons with disabilities have access to resources, services and equal employment, our economy grows, and our communities thrive.

Learn more here.

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YOUTH POET LAUREATES



The Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to announce that **Damini Awoyiga** and **Asiah Sparks** have been selected as the inaugural <u>Youth Poet Laureates</u>.

The Youth Poet Laureates will serve as literary ambassadors for youth in the region. During their one-year tenure, the Laureates will seek to inspire and engage local youth to share their stories through written and spoken word.

The Youth Poet Laureates will work closely alongside current Poet Laureate, **Sue Goyette**, who will serve an additional year on her term to provide mentorship and guidance to these young writers. Both Youth Poet Laureates assumed their position on Monday, May 15.

For more information, visit our website.

THE EMERA OVAL IS OPENING ON REC DAY, JUNE 3



On **June 3rd, 2023**, the Emera Oval opens for residents and guests to enjoy in-line skating, roller skates, biking, skateboarding and more. The Emera Oval will offer:

- Free equipment rentals (with valid government issued ID)
- Public washrooms
- First aid

The Emera Oval includes an accessible washroom, on street accessible parking, and wheelchair access on the surface (outside lane only).

Before heading over, please check the schedule below in case of closures due to weather issues, surface condition closures or special events.

<u>Group bookings</u> are available for 20 people or more with advance registration. Learn more here.





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WHAT GARBAGE GOES WHERE?



I often get questions from residents about sorting recyclables, but also about what happens to your recyclables once they get picked up at the curb.

Where does our recycling go?

- All blue bag material is collected and taken to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), located in Bayers Lake.
- Approximately 80-90% of what is recyclable in the blue bag is sent from the MRF to market for recycling.
- Most of the residue produced from the MRF (i.e., material that is landfilled) is non-recyclable material, including materials that should have been placed in the garbage.
- Approximately 50% of materials shipped from the MRF were transported to markets within Nova Scotia.
- Approximately 80% of materials shipped from the MRF were transported to markets within Canada.

 Approximately 20% of materials were shipped to international markets.

How are these items recycled? Here are some examples:

- Newspaper/Writing Paper: made into products such as paper plates and paper cup holders here in Nova Scotia
- Corrugated Cardboard made into products such as new cardboard boxes, liner board for corrugated cardboard, and paper egg cartons in Canada.
- Steel/Aluminum Food Cans processed as scrap metal locally and used to make new metal products.
- Laundry Detergent and Shampoo Containers – shredded into what is known as 'flake' in Canada and then used to make new plastic products.
- Stewardship Programs Managed by Divert NS:
 Glass Bottles – some are crushed and used as aggregate feedstock for concrete here in Nova Scotia Plastic Bottles – shredded into what is known as 'flake' in Nova Scotia and then used to make new plastic products.

Despite best efforts to recycle and reuse – reduction of single use plastics can go a long way, and we are all making a collective effort to do this.

Here are some facts to provide a bigger picture look at plastic waste reduction efforts:

 On June 20th, 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Health Canada published final regulations to

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prohibit single-use plastics, including checkout bags, cutlery, food-service ware made from or containing plastics that are hard to recycle, ring carriers, stir sticks, and straws (with some exceptions). Over the next decade, it is estimated that these Regulations will eliminate over 1.3 million tonnes of hard-to-recycle plastic waste and more than 22,000 tonnes of plastic pollution. Other key elements of Canada's approach toward reducing plastic pollution include establishing performance standards to increase the use of recycled content in certain plastic products and ensuring that manufacturers, importers, and sellers of plastic products and packaging are responsible for collecting and recycling them. Regional Council sent a supporting letter in response to consultation conducted in 2020.

 It is anticipated that the Province of Nova Scotia will likely enact Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation in the next 6 months. This will completely change the approach to recycling in Nova Scotia and will facilitate a transition to a circular economy approach by making brand owners responsible for their products. Regional Council has supported this on multiple occasions in the past.

Questions?

To learn more about recycling and waste collection in our municipality, visit our website.

You can find out information about What Goes Where, sign up for weekly reminders and service alerts, or print a calendar customized for your address. You can also download the free

Halifax Recycles app on your Android or iOS device to have waste info at the palm of your hand!

HOURLY PAY STATION PARKING INCREASES



The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that effective May 29th, hourly pay station parking will increase by 25 per cent, or up to 75 cents per hour. This increase is a result of budget considerations and is motivated by the goals of the municipality's Integrated Mobility Plan, which aims to create connected, healthy, affordable and sustainable travel options.

Where on-street paid parking is available, it is divided into parking zones. Parking rates are based on time-of-day demand within the parking zones. Rates vary by zone and time can be purchased in 15-minute increments. On-street pay stations allow for payment by coin, debit card, credit card, and <a href="https://example.com/https://example.com

For more information, visit our website.



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SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS: PARKING LIGHT SURVEY



Did you know? The Halifax Regional Municipality has over 900 parks in urban, suburban and rural settings that are used for a variety of recreation and leisure purposes. In some circumstances, parks are also locations through which people travel between destinations. While parks are typically used during daylight hours, park lighting needs to be considered to accommodate evening use as well. Currently, there is no formal process to evaluate when and where lighting might be installed, and which parks, or areas within parks, should be prioritized.

A Park Lighting Strategy is being developed to address the safe use and passageway in parks. The information gathered through this survey will help shape the process, criteria, prioritization, and design of spaces within parks that could be considered for lighting.

The engagement program is organized into two tasks:

- Task 1 includes a few questions about you and preferences for lighting.
- **Task 2** includes interactive maps for you to highlight your experiences in parks as they relate to lighting.

The engagement program will be available from May 15 to June 11, 2023. Paper copies of the survey can also be collected from all branches of the Halifax Public Libraries. If you require special accommodation to participate in the engagement program, please contact Stephen Cushing at cushins@halifax.ca.

For all information and to access the survey, click here.

NEW TRAFFIC CALMING ASSESSMENTS & INFRASTRUCTURE WEB MAP





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JUNE ROAD SAFETY FOCUS

Distracted driving puts you and everyone on the road at risk. It is one of the leading causes of fatal and serious injury collisions in HRM. From cellphones to loud music and other passengers, there are many distractions that can compete for a driver's attention and affect their ability to drive safely. Quickly checking your phone may seem harmless, but when you find yourself needing to stop suddenly to avoid a collision, every second counts. Stay alert, arrive alive.

Here are some tips to help avoid distracted driving:

- Keep your cellphone out of reach.
 Reduce the temptation to use it by keeping it out of sight (for example, in a bag in the backseat) and turn the ringer off.
- 2. Plan your route ahead of time. Before you get in the car, know where you're going and how you're getting there. If you use a GPS system, program your route prior to starting the car.
- Avoid eating and drinking while driving. If you need to take a drink, wait until you are stopped at a red light.
- 4. Keep music or radio at a reasonable volume and don't use headphones. Music should never be so loud that you would not be able to hear a siren, or the screech of brakes from another vehicle.
- Offer help. If you're a passenger and notice the driver trying to use the phone, offer to send a text or make a call for them. You can also offer to help navigate the GPS.
- Talk to new drivers. Remind them of the importance of staying focused behind the wheel and the serious risks when driving distracted.
- 7. Model good behaviour. Kids are always watching.

DISTRICT LITTERATI CHALLENGE

QUICK START GUIDE



Help keep HRM clean! HRM's Solid Waste Resource Team created the Litterati challenge which will determine which district's residents can pick up the most pieces of litter.

Residents can join the new Electoral District Challenges by downloading the app and searching their municipal district number, plus the word "Cleanup" (e.g. District 12 Cleanup). Residents can also join using the code "HRM" with their district number (e.g., HRM12).

In June, zero waste prize kits will be awarded to the top three litter collectors in each district for the month of May. In October 2023, a second round of prizes will be awarded for the top three litter collectors in each district for the timeframe of April 1st to September 30th. Information on municipal electoral districts can be found here.

HRM Solid Waste Resources staff will be offering free webinars throughout the spring, summer and fall months to train residents and community groups about how to download the Litterati App and to explain how it can be used to benefit their cleanup efforts! Download the App or learn more here.

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NEW OPEN DATA SETS ARE AVAIALBLE



We've released two new datasets on Open Data as part of an ongoing commitment to provide public access to data created and managed by the municipality. The new datasets include:

- Food and Artisan Vendors
- LW Lab Results (LakeWatchers)

The addition of these datasets brings the total number of Open Data datasets to 211.

In addition, the following five existing datasets have been modified:

- PPL&C Building Permits
 - "Date_Inspection_Complete" field added
- PPL&C Construction Permits
 - "Date_Inspection_Completed" and "Occupancy Type" fields added
- PPL&C Engineering Permits
 - "Date_Inspection_Completed" field added

- Dataset name changed from "PPL&C Engineer Permits" to "PPL&C Engineering Permits"
- PPL&C Halifax Water Permits
 - "Date_Inspection_Completed" and "Active Parcel" fields added
 - Dataset name changed from "PPC&C Issued Halifax Water Permits" to "PPL&C Halifax Water Permits"
- PPL&C Issued Public Works ROW Permits
 - o "Active Parcel" field added

A wide range of data can be sourced for free through the catalogue, such as transit routes and schedule data, solid waste collection schedules, and area rates. New data releases occur several times throughout the year, with the most recent release on March 29th, 2023.

For more information on the municipality's Open Data program, and to access all the datasets, click here.

HRM LAKE WATCHERS WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM



Get involved in monitoring the quality of our local lakes! The municipality's Lake Watchers program launched last year and is a great way to help keep our lakes safe and clean.

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The program will involve community teams to:

- ✓ Conduct environmental monitoring in 76 lakes across the municipality.
- ✓ Collect data, such as pH levels, to inform future actions to maintain/improve a lake's health.
- ✓ Share data with residents through future staff reports to Regional Council and through the municipality's Open Data Portal

You can get involved!

Data collection will take place twice yearly through a year through internal sampling (staff or contractors) and/or trained community teams, called Lake Watchers. The municipality will leverage existing water quality community groups and welcomes new volunteers to collect data in support of this program.

Interested in getting involved? Learn more here.

*Note that the Lake Watchers Program is separate from regular water quality testing for safe recreational use. This program runs every summer from July 1st to August 31st.

PETS IN VEHICLES



We're excited to welcome the warm, summer-y weather! However, the heat is not so enjoyable for pets – it can prove to be deadly when they're left behind in your vehicle. The RCMP and the SPCA are encouraging all motorists to think twice before leaving your pets in your vehicle for any amount of time. Leaving your window cracked or parking in the shade makes almost no difference. Even during a quick trip into the grocery store, the inside of your vehicle can heat up quickly and be too much for pets.

If you witness an animal exhibiting the following signs, they may be in distress:

- Exaggerated panting
- Rapid or erratic pulse
- Anxious or staring expression
- Weakness and muscle tremors
- Lack of coordination
- Red or blue tongue and lips
- Convulsions or vomiting
- Collapse or coma

If you come across an animal in a vehicle that appears to be in distress:

- Look for the owner of the car. Go to nearby stores and have the owner paged.
- If you cannot locate the owner, call your local police and stay at the vehicle until police arrive. Do not contact police unless the animal is obviously distressed.
- If you are unsure if an animal is in distress, call the Nova Scotia SPCA at 1-888-703-7722
- Follow up by filing a report with the Nova Scotia SPCA either online or by phone and ensure that you obtain a license plate of the vehicle.

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IN THE COMMUNITY B.L.T. RAILS TO TRAILS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The B.L.T. Rails to Trails Association will be hosting their Annual General Meeting on June 13th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.. This year's meeting will be held via Zoom.

More information and Zoom link found here.

FARMERS' MARKET RETURNS



The weekly Fairview/Clayton Park Farmers' Market is back! It started on June 1st and will fun until October. Every Thursday from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., rain or shine, you will find the market in the multi-purpose room and parking lot of the Centennial Arena (27 Vimy Avenue). Visit the Fairview Clayton Park Farmers' Market on Facebook and enter the Grand Opening MEGA Contest. The winner will take home \$500 worth of prizes donated by the vendors.

MOBILE FOOD MARKET AT TITUS PARK



The Mobile Food Market truck is back at Titus Smith Memorial Park starting June 3rd. The friendly Mobile Food Market staff and volunteers offer a wide selection of fresh produce, as well as Stone Hearth Bakery bread and dried goods, all at reduced prices.

The market is open to everyone and will be at Titus Park every other Saturday all summer. Read more.





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CANCELLED: BLT FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL 2023



Due to the ongoing fire situation in HRM that is still out of control, we have made the difficult decision to postpone the Food Truck Rally scheduled for this Saturday, June 3rd.

Find more information here.

We'll get through this. Together.

CANCELLED: CURBSIDE GIVE AWAY WEEKEND

Our Curbside Giveaway Weekend, planned for June 3rd and 4th, has been cancelled due to current local state of emergency. The next Curbside Giveaway Weekend will be held on October 14th and 15th.

Residents who have items they wish to give away may choose to donate those items to a charity or to use one of the many free online resources to help rehome those items. For more details, click here.

PROPER TRAIL ETIQUETTE FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL USERS



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PUBLIC HEARING UPDATE: PLANNING CASE 24509: BEECHVILLE COMMUNITY PLANNING PHASE 1



The public hearing that was to be held by Halifax Regional Council on Tuesday, June 6th, 2023 at 6:00pm, has been cancelled due to the ongoing wildfire situation.

The new date for the public hearing on this application is Tuesday, July 11th, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Halifax City Hall (Council Chamber), 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

HRM Planning & Development is proposing changes to some policies and zones in the Beechville area that will incorporate community priorities into land use planning. These priorities are outlined in the Beechville Community Action Plan that Regional Council approved in September 2020. A recent update indicated that 1024 St Margarets Bay Road is no longer part of the report and no changes to its zoning are being contemplated.

Find the full council report here.

To stay up to date, find information on the case, or review the municipal planning strategy and land use by-law amendment process, click here.





May 17th Flag Raising to mark International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia!

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Parks Canada advancement of Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes as a park within Parks Canada's National Urban Parks program.



May 26th Menstrual Health Day Flag Raising!







May 18th Guided Bird Walk at Belcher's Marsh hosted by the Bird Friendly Halifax Coalition.



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Congratulations to District 12 2023 Citizenship Award winners Jayden Tran, Parks West School and Adli Baillie Abidi, Ridgecliff Middle School! I wish I could have attended though I appreciate Mayor Savage and District 11 Councillor Patty Cuttell presenting your awards on my behalf.



Mayor Mike Savage, Jayden Tran, and District 11 Councillor Patty Cuttell.



Mayor Mike Savage, Adli Baillie Abidi, and District 11 Councillor Patty Cuttell.

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I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council and the Halifax & West Community Council:

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

MAILING LIST

If you would like to have these e-newsletters sent directly to your inbox, please contact Eric Bowdridge at eric.bowdridge@halifax.ca