



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEELE

Happy March, District 12!



We are only a few weeks away from spring and I'm sure we are all looking forward to longer and warmer days.

As we head into spring and the snow begins to melt, please notify 311 as soon as possible if you notice

any property damage due to snow clearing so we can add it to the list for repair.

The Suburban Plan engagement is off to a great start and it has been wonderful to see so many residents out at the various engagement and pop-up sessions in the community. If you're unable to attend an in-person session, there is still time to complete the survey. More information can be found below in this newsletter.

As always, please reach out to me with any of your municipal questions or concerns. I love to hear from you!

COUNCILLOR DROP-IN

I will be hosting community drop-ins, which are a fantastic opportunity for me to connect with residents in a one-on-one format. I will advertise the date and location in this monthly E-Newsletter as well as on social media. The drop in date for March is:

Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Keshen Goodman Library, Meeting Room 2

I'm also hoping to host a drop in date at the new Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Community Centre once that is up and running. In the meantime, I'm happy to meet wherever is convenient to you.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS



Sunday, March 8 was the start of Daylight Saving Time, which begins at 2:00 A.M. Don't forget to "spring forward" and set the clocks one hour ahead!



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BEECHVILLE, LAKESIDE, TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

BLT Community Centre Update

Progress on the new BLT Community Centre is moving ahead, and we're excited to offer a full lineup of Spring programs - including fitness, dance, art, and pickleball. Registration opens March 10 on the HRM Parks & Recreation [webpage](#).

The building is expected to be turned over to HRM in mid-March, followed by move-in and setup through the end of the month. Spring programs at BLTCC and other locations will begin April 1 onward.

A grand opening is planned for after Easter, with a tentative date of April 17 for a weekend of activities. I will be sure to share on my Facebook page once the date has been finalized.

More updates to come – stay tuned!

BLT Community Market February 8 at the Lakeside Legion

Congratulations to event organizer Tom Phelan and the many vendors who participated in the February 8 Community Market at the Lakeside Legion. It was a full house of dynamic local businesses.



BLT RCMP Officers Update

The BLT Community Policing officers are off to a great start - patrolling the community, working with Citizens on Patrol, and connecting with residents. They've been doing proactive speed enforcement, attending local events, and partnering with other units to address ongoing theft issues.

Currently we have one supervisor and three constables, with two more constables expected in the near term.

**B.L.T. Rails to Trails
Community Discussion**



Join Councillor Janet Steele and MLA Iain Rankin to discuss the future of the B.L.T. Rails to Trails trail.

Wednesday, April 15
6 - 7:30 p.m.
B.L.T. Recreation Centre, 1492 St Margarets Bay Rd.

HALIFAX

The Executive of the BLT Rails to Trails has decided to return the Letter of Authority to the Province effective March 31, 2026 which means the trail will no longer be under active management. We are hoping community members will come forward to serve on a Board and to support the ongoing community use of the trail.

Lakelands Boulevard Project

The municipality will upgrade Lakelands Boulevard between St. Margarets Bay Road and Chain Lake Drive in 2026, including repaving, new curbs and sidewalks, refreshed crosswalks, a mid-block RRFB near Tim Hortons, and minor stormwater work. Driveway access and transit stops may be temporarily affected. Residents should remove personal items from the street before construction. For access needs or property concerns, contact 311. For lateral work: Halifax Water (902-420-9287) or Eastward Energy (1-877-836-7427).



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CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

Canada Games Centre Re-Naming

The Canada Games Centre is getting a new name! Last month, the Halifax Regional Municipality and Manulife Canada announced a 10-year naming rights partnership. HRM will receive \$1 million over 10 years for capital facility improvements.

I'm pleased to share that Manulife will be offering 12 free events per year at the facility. I will share more details as they become available.

The new branding of the Manulife Recreation Centre will roll out gradually starting in May and there will be no changes to the facility ownership, operation or member or visitor access and fees.

You can find out more about this change [here](#).

ROCKINGHAM HERITAGE SOCIETY'S SPRING LUNCHEON

GUEST SPEAKER: DENISE HANSEN – "FRANCIS WENTWORTH:
A NEW LOOK AT THE GOVERNOR'S LADY"

PLACE: ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BIRCH COVE

TIME: SAT. MARCH 21, 12:30 for 1:00 start.



For tickets (\$25) contact Glenn or Peggy Taylor at 902-443-1257. Tickets available until March 15.

BONUS EVENT: SILENT AUCTION (cash or cheque)

Chebucto Health Board Wellness Fund

If you live in Clayton Park, you're part of Chebucto West - and there's a volunteer group working to make your community healthier. The Chebucto West Community Health Board (CWCHB) focuses on the broader factors that affect health, like access to food, safe spaces, transportation, income, and social connection.

The board listens to local concerns and supports projects through its Wellness Fund, which has helped launch walking groups, youth programs, and community gardens. The 2026 Community Health Board Wellness Funds applications are now open. The deadline to apply is April 15 at 5:00 p.m. More information and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Canada Games Centre Board Recruitment

The Manulife Recreation Centre (formerly the Canada Games Centre) is recruiting two volunteer Board Members for a 2-year term (up to 3 terms).

The Centre welcomes applicants from equity-deserving communities and is seeking individuals with experience in legal services, sport and recreation, finance, community development, or government relations.

Board Members help guide the Centre's mission, monitor performance, and review budgets, with a time commitment of about 2-3 hours per month.

Apply with a cover letter, resume, and application form to furlong@canadagamescentre.ca by March 20, 2026, at 4 p.m.





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2026 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting applications for the 2026 Community Grants Program. Applications opened January 2 and close March 31, 2026.



The program offers annual cash grants to registered non-profits and charities for projects that enhance community life. Two types of grants are available:

- Project grants: up to \$5,000
- Capital grants: up to \$25,000

Funding categories include:

- Community arts
- Diversity & accessibility
- Environment & climate change
- Emergency assistance & public safety
- Community histories
- Leisure & recreation

Applicants should review the [Program Guidebook](#) and first-time applicants are encouraged to contact staff for guidance. For details and to apply, visit our [website](#) or call 311.

STAY INFORMED WITH ENGAGE HALIFAX

Want to stay up to date on municipal projects and opportunities to provide feedback? Visit [Engage Halifax](#), the municipality's online hub for public engagement. You can explore active projects, learn about upcoming initiatives, and share your input on planning, transportation, parks, housing, and more.

FRANCOPHONIE MONTH

March is Francophonie Month, celebrating the French language and diverse Francophone cultures through cultural activities held worldwide.



March 20 has been observed worldwide as International Francophonie Day since 1988. The date commemorates the establishment of the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, the precursor to the [International Organization of La Francophonie](#), representing countries and regions where French is the first or customary language. Today, with 321 million speakers worldwide, French is the fifth most spoken language in the world.

Visit the [Calendar of the local francophone network Hého](#) to learn more about various events celebrating the rich and diverse Francophone cultures happening in Halifax.

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.

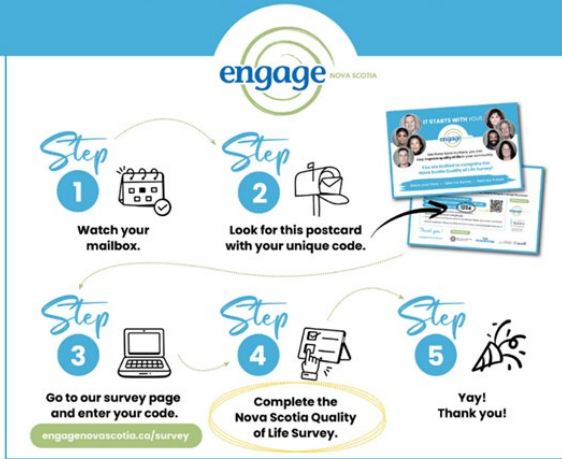
Complete the survey by March 16 [here](#).



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What's Your Story? Tell us starting February 23rd, 2026!



YOUTH WORX APPLICATIONS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting youth aged 16 to 24 who face employment barriers to apply for Youth WORX, a professional development and skill-building program.

Youth WORX offers up to 24 weeks of paid full-time employment. Participants gain hands-on experience in the service industry in a supportive space for those who have anxiety and other barriers to finding employment.

In addition to café-based work, the program also delivers, repairs and dismantles organic green carts for residents on behalf of Solid Waste Resources. Participants assist with data collection, general repairs, along with cart replacements and removals throughout the municipality.

Benefits of working for Youth WORX include no formal interview, a Monday-to-Friday schedule with weekends off, free training and certification transferable to other jobs, and opportunities to build confidence, life skills and job readiness.

Participants who complete the full 24-week program may also earn a Grade 11 elective personal development credit toward high school graduation.

Applications for the spring session close on April 10.

For more information on how to apply, or attend an upcoming information session, visit [our website](#).

HRM BUDGET 2026/27



Budget Committee has completed their review of each business unit's budget and business plans and the challenging work of identifying necessary budget reductions and a few service enhancements. Currently, we are looking at 7.5% increase to the average tax bill, however this is

subject to change until the budget has been approved.

We expect to complete final budget approval at the March 31 meeting of the Budget Committee, but dates are subject to change. For more the full schedule and more information on the 2026/27 municipal budget process, visit our [website](#).

REPORTING POTHOLE

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](#).





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SUBURBAN PLAN



The municipality is developing a Suburban Plan, a new planning document that will guide growth and change in our suburban areas, and we're looking for your feedback.

Complete our online survey or visit one of our upcoming in-person engagement opportunities.

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 and fill out the survey by visiting our [website](#).

Popups are being held around the region and I encourage you to attend.



It was a pleasure to chat with residents at the recent Suburban Plan Pop-Up Engagement Session at the Keshen Goodman Library!

SUBURBAN PLAN MAIN STREET VISIONING WORKSHOPS

The municipality is developing a Suburban Plan, a new planning document that will guide growth and change in our suburban areas, and we're looking for your feedback.



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.

For the next phase of engagement on the Suburban Plan, help shape the future of your suburban main street! We're looking for community members to provide ideas for the design of buildings and public spaces, types of stores and services, accessibility improvements, and more!

In each workshop, community members will work together to create a unique vision and guiding principles for their local main street area.

The workshops will be 2 hours and will include presentations, seated group activities and the opportunity to review photos, maps, modelling blocks and other materials to spark discussions.

You can register to participate in the full two-hour workshop or just drop by.

Workshops will run throughout March and April across our suburban communities. The engagement session for District 12 will be held on:

Lacewood Drive (Dunbrack Street to Highway 102) Main Street Visioning Workshop

Date: March 31

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location: Canada Games Centre, Boardroom

Follow the event registration link [here](#).



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8, we celebrate International Women's Day, honouring



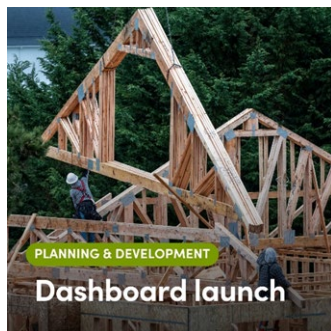
the achievements of women across social, economic, cultural and political aspects of life and advocating for gender equality.

This year's theme is "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls" and calls for action to dismantle all barriers to equal justice: discriminatory laws, weak legal protections, and harmful practices and social norms that erode the rights of women and girls.

This International Women's Day, celebrate the women and girls in your life and share their stories. You can learn more and find out how to get involved [here](#).

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DASHBOARD LAUNCH

The Halifax Regional Municipality's Planning & Development Dashboard is now live. This new, interactive tool provides real-time information on permit and construction activities including current and requested permits, metrics on housing and projections of population trends.

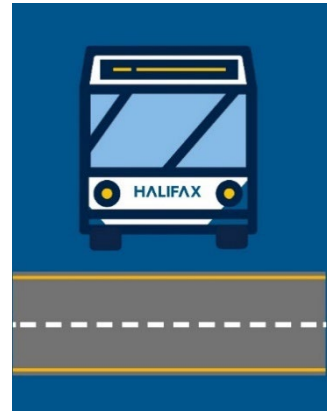


Data is updated daily and includes filters that allow users to explore by community and by different permit and structure types.

Explore the dashboard [here](#).

TRANSIT CORE SERVICE PLAN

At the February 24 meeting of Regional Council, Council approved the Transit Core Service Plan.



As ridership is increasing across our transit network, especially in developing communities and in suburban communities, Transit is working to meet the needs of our growing community. The Core Service Plan aims to invest in increasing service where ridership demand exceeds service levels, a more reliable network and strategically supporting growth.

More information can be found [here](#).

FEBRUARY 16 HERITAGE AND FLAG DAY SKATE AT ST. MARGARET'S CENTRE



It was fantastic to see many residents enjoying skating and family fun at the St. Margaret's Centre. Thanks to MLA Iain Rankin and MP Lena Metlege Diab for organizing.



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YOUTH SERVICES PLAN 2026-29 ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting youth to participate in an online engagement survey to help guide future youth-focused programs and services.

Survey results will inform the municipality's Youth Services Plan 2026-29 by identifying areas for improvement and opportunities to enhance recreation services for youth across the municipality.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

All respondents will be entered into a draw to win prizes, including a Nintendo Switch, two Apple Watch devices and three Apple AirPods sets. To qualify, participants must provide their name and phone number.

For more information on the Youth Services Plan 2026-29 and to take the survey, visit our [website](#).

TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES

Halifax Transit have introduced service changes to routes 136 Farnham Gate Express and 137 Clayton Park Express to now service the bus stop at Barrington St. Before Devonshire Ave. (2372) on morning trips.

Individual route maps have been updated to reflect long-term detour routing for Express Routes [135](#), [136](#), [137](#) and [138](#) related to the Windsor Street Exchange Project. Check out our website for more information.



SECONDARY UNITS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality has decided to expand the Secondary Suite Incentive Grant Program eligibility and timelines to support the creation of more small-scale housing options across the region.



Under new changes to the program, more than one secondary unit per property may now be eligible for funding (subject to land use requirements). Non-profit organizations and housing co-operatives are also now eligible to apply for funding.

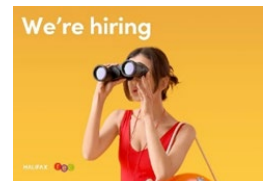
The program offers eligible residents up to \$13,000 per unit to help reduce building expenses related to water and wastewater. The Secondary Units Incentive Program offers non-repayable grants to help offset certain costs associated with building new secondary units, including backyard suites and internal conversions.

The application deadline has been extended from June 1, 2026, to Oct. 11, 2026, and the construction completion deadline has been extended from Oct. 11, 2026, to April 1, 2027.

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

SUMMER RECREATION JOBS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is recruiting applicants for summer positions in aquatics, inclusion and recreation programming across the region.



These are ideal job opportunities for teenagers and students with wages ranging between \$17.75 and \$24.75 per hour. Visit our [website](#) for more information on dates and locations, as well as a list of job openings.



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STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM FUNDING

The municipality received notice from the Province of Nova Scotia that the funding for the HRM Student transit pass pilot program from the Department of Early Education and Early Childhood Development has been discontinued.

This program is primarily funded by the provincial government. The province currently contributes \$1.2 million towards this program, an additional \$600,000 of funding comes from the Municipality.

The student transit pass pilot program was launched in 2021 and provides free transit passes to all HRCE and CSAP students in grades 7 to 12.

Staff will be assessing the future of the program during budget discussions this month. You can learn more about this program [here](#).

CELEBRATE YOUR MILESTONE WITH A COMMEMORATIVE SCROLL

Are you or someone you know celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary? You can request a commemorative scroll signed by both your district councillor and the Mayor! To request one, simply email me at janet.steele@halifax.ca with the following details:

- Name of the individual or couple
- Occasion (birthday or anniversary)
- Date of the celebration
- Community they live in

We'll take care of the rest and ensure a scroll is prepared to mark the special occasion.

COUNCILLOR SLOW DOWN SIGNS

If you are interested in a slow-down sign for your lawn/personal property, please email me at janet.steele@halifax.ca. These signs are made of plastic and come with the lawn stakes for installation.

Please be informed that the District 12 "Please Drive Slowly" signs are NOT a traffic calming measure, and they have no authority to direct or slow down traffic or make children safer on the streets.



RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION



Halifax Rec have programs for all ages and abilities. Check out upcoming Spring programs on our website and get ready for registration coming up this month!

Spring recreation program registration will begin on March 10 at 10 a.m. with swimming and skating program registration will begin March 24 at 10 a.m.

If you haven't registered for an HRM program in a while, make sure to have your account ready in our new system. Check out our [website](#) for program guidebooks, registration information and more.



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REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for March. Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:

- March 10
- March 31

Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings – including committees [here](#). Meeting agendas (including the specific start time of 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.) and a link to watch the video are generally available by the Friday prior to the meeting. Reports on the items that councillors vote on are available and are linked throughout the meeting agenda.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Halifax and West Community Council normally meets once a month on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

Stay tuned for the video link to be shared closer to the next Halifax and West meeting, scheduled for March 24.

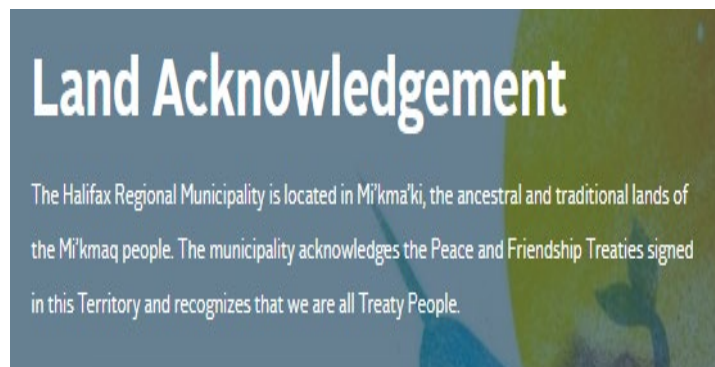
Currently serving on:

- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Executive Standing Committee
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
- Appeals Standing Committee
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Halifax Water Board of Commissioners
- Canada Games Centre Board of Directors
- Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. Another way the municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement.

In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.



AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes that African Nova Scotians are a distinct founding people in Nova Scotia who have been a key part of the province's culture and history.



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