



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

DISTRICT 12

TIMBERLEA - LAKESIDE - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

WELCOME MARCH!

Joyeux Mars/ Happy March!

March is Francophonie Month. Join me in celebrating the French language and diverse Francophone cultures in District 12 and all of HRM. This month we also celebrate Ramadan, which began at sundown on March 10, International Women’s Day, and St. Patrick’s Day. The first day of Spring is right around the corner!

March is also the end of the municipality’s budget season. Regional Council is scheduled to approve the 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan on April 23, 2024. You can learn more about the budget process [here](#).

Iona

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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

MARCH MEETINGS

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

Regional Council

Tuesday, March 19th at 10:00 a.m.

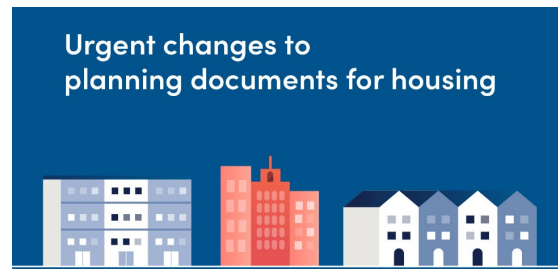
Tuesday, March 26th at 10:00 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Monday, March 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Please check our [website](#) to confirm dates/times.

HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND ANNOUNCEMENT



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



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density and flexible housing types in residential areas.

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

BUDGET & MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN APPROVED

Regional Council has approved the 2024/25 Capital Budget and the 2024/25 Multi-Year Capital Plan, which are the basis for staff's planning and resourcing preparations required to implement capital projects within the current year and next three years.

Some key projects in this budget include the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Recreation Centre recapitalization, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) Headquarters and Station 1, active transportation, sidewalk recapitalization, HRFE fleet replacement, Burnside & City of Lakes Industrial Park, electric bus procurement and municipal building retrofits as part of HalifACT.

For more information, click here to read the [staff report](#).

MUNICIPAL TREE PRUNING PROGRAM

The municipality's cyclical tree pruning program is now underway. Proactive tree pruning activities, as outlined in the [Urban Forest Master Plan](#), improve the health of the urban canopy of street trees, ensuring longer-lived

trees, while reducing damage to trees and local infrastructure due to weather events.

Crews will complete the tree pruning program according to best practices regarding tree health and infrastructure clearances (e.g. considerations relating to roads, sidewalks, power lines, and signage). Municipal trees are assessed for maintenance and removal on an individual basis. If removal is deemed necessary, a new tree will be planted in its place.

To learn when tree pruning may take place in your area, visit our [website](#) to view detailed schedules and maps. Work schedules are approximate and weather-dependent. The tree pruning program is expected to be completed in March 2024. There may be temporary street and sidewalk closures while work is underway.

For more information, visit our [website](#).

HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS



Further to the progress announced in the [municipal statement on February 23rd](#), Saunders Park is now completely vacated. This area remains closed to the public and will be assessed for any required clean-up efforts.



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The Province of Nova Scotia has assured the municipality that there are enough spaces available in indoor shelters and supportive housing options for everyone in the de-designated locations.

At the time of the municipal statement on February 7th, there were approximately 55 individuals sheltering outdoors among the five de-designated locations. Latest numbers indicate that only one person is still sheltering in a de-designated location. The province, service providers and navigators are discussing appropriate indoor sheltering or transitional housing options with those experiencing homelessness in the remaining locations.

Continuing with the municipality’s measured approach, municipal housing and homelessness staff are verbally communicating the next steps of the process with people sleeping rough in the de-designated locations.

Read the [March 11th Municipal statement about encampments and de-designated locations.](#)

REC FEES CHANGING

Parks & Recreation

Recreation encompasses parks, trails, facilities, fields, youth programs, recreation programming, culture and heritage, beaches and more.

In 2022, changes to the Parks & Recreation fee structure for recreation programs, services, rentals, drop-ins and membership fees were announced. In accordance with the five-year fee structure changes, Parks & Recreation fees, including membership fees, will be increasing

March 2024

effective April 1st. Please see the full list of changes [here](#).

ELECTRIC BUSES

In May 2022, the Halifax Regional Council approved the award to the vendor, Nova Bus Limited., for purchasing up to 60 40-ft battery electric buses and



chargers. The buses will be similar to the Nova Bus vehicles currently used by Halifax Transit, but will have an electric motor instead of

diesel, and will also include permanent Operator safety shields.

Halifax Transit’s first pilot electric bus, arrived in December 2023, and will initially be used for training, road testing, and public engagement activities. The remaining 59 buses will be arriving over the coming year, with the full fleet anticipated to arrive by the end of 2024.

Phase 1 of the Ragged Lake Transit Centre expansion began in June 2023 and is expected to be completed in fall 2024. The new expansion will include space for electric bus storage and charging equipment.

Councillors had an opportunity to visit the Ragged Lake Transit Centre and go for a test run.



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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 3rd, 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](#).

SNOW REMOVAL STANDARDS

Unfortunately, all streets cannot be plowed at the same time. However, if your street is not plowed within the service standards outlined [here](#), please call 311.

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

DATES TO NOTE IN MARCH

March is Francophonie Month.
 March 10th to April 8th is [Ramadan](#)

March 18th is [Transit Operator and Worker Appreciation Day](#)
 March 19th is the [First Day of Spring](#)
 March 20th is [International Francophonie Day](#)
 March 21st is [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)
 March 29th is [Good Friday](#)
 March 31st is [Easter Sunday](#)

MARCH BREAK IN HRM



Looking for fun things to do over March Break? 5

Halifax Public Libraries have plenty of activities planned! Check out their [What's On Calendar](#) for free events and activities for the whole family to enjoy—at-home and in-person!

Halifax Rec also has an awesome lineup of March Break programs at the Power House Youth Centre! Most workshops are free, but be space is limited so be sure to register to save your spot. Visit our [website](#) for a full list of events and registration info.

Check out [Discover Halifax](#) for more ideas and announcements!



COMMUNITY HEATH TEAM SPRING SUMMER FLYER



The Community Health Team spring/summer flyer is now available. For these free services please visit their [website](https://www.communityhealthteams.ca).

Spring weight restrictions

The Halifax Regional Municipality has implemented regulations restricting the maximum vehicle and axle weights permitted on all Halifax maintained roads NOT referenced in Schedule "B".

Schedule "B"

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. WINDGATE DRIVE |FROM BEAVER BANK ROAD EASTERLY 1.2 KM |
| 2. BEAVER BANK ROAD |WINDGATE DRIVE TO SACKVILLE DR |
| 3. BISSETT ROAD |COLE HARBOUR ROAD TO BISSETT LAKE ROAD |
| 4. COBEQUID ROAD |SACKVILLE DRIVE TO ROCKY LAKE DRIVE |
| 5. COLE HARBOUR ROAD |CALDWELL ROAD TO ROSS ROAD |
| 6. COW BAY ROAD |MAIN ROAD TO CALDWELL ROAD |
| 7. DUKE STREET |ROCKY LAKE DRIVE TO HIGHWAY 102 |
| 8. MAIN ROAD |BELMONT AVENUE TO COW BAY ROAD |
| 9. ESTATES ROAD |GLENDALE AVE SOUTHERLY TO END OF PAVEMENT |
| 10. FOREST HILLS DRIVE |MAIN STREET TO COLE HARBOUR ROAD |
| 11. GLENDALE AVENUE |COBEQUID ROAD TO HIGHWAY 102 |
| 12. HAMMONDS PLAINS RD |LARRY UTECK BOULEVARD TO HIGHWAY 103 |
| 13. LAKE MAJOR ROAD |IN TOTAL |
| 14. LUCASVILLE ROAD |SACKVILLE DRIVE TO HEFLER'S MILL |
| 15. ROCKY LAKE DRIVE |DUKE STREET TO HIGHWAY 2 |
| 16. SACKVILLE DRIVE |HIGHWAY 102 TO PATTON ROAD IN UPPER SACKVILLE |
| 17. ST. MARGARETS BAY RD |PROSPECT ROAD TO HIGHWAY 103, EXIT 4 IN TIMBERLEA |
| 18. HIGHWAY 2 |ROCKY LAKE DRIVE TO SUNNYLEA ROAD IN WELLINGTON |
| 19. MAIN STREET |RIDGECREST DRIVE TO LITTLE SALMON RIVER BRIDGE |
| 20. HERRING COVE ROAD |OLD HALIFAX CITY BOUNDARY TO HERRING COVE |
| 21. EVERGREEN PLACE |IN TOTAL |
| 22. WINDSOR JUNCTION RD |400 METRES NORTH FROM COBEQUID ROAD |
| 23. TIMBERLEA VILLAGE PKWY |ST. MARGARET'S BAY ROAD TO HIGHWAY 103 |
| 24. ALL STREETS |IN THE FORMER CITY OF HALIFAX, DARTMOUTH & TOWN OF BEDFORD |

HALIFAX

SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

To minimize potential damage to municipal roads, the Halifax Regional Municipality has introduced its annual spring weight restrictions, beginning at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 3rd and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 28th.

These restrictions are for heavy vehicles travelling on municipally maintained roads. Residents can view which roads are exempt from spring weight restrictions on a [map](#).

Regular weight tolerances apply on exempt roads.

The municipality's spring weight restrictions are consistent with those of the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works.

More details of vehicle restrictions can be found [online](#).

AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN ROAD TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

An information report has been provided to Regional Council outlining key activities of the Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities from September 2022 to September 2023.

The report outlines activities around the Strategic Priorities, including the following:

Build unity and capacity among African Nova Scotians:

- Through the guidance of the Advisory Committee, the outcome of this priority requires effective and culturally specific information sharing, collaboration with partners and establishment of a framework for supporting community capacity building efforts.



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Establish land ownership, develop infrastructure, and attract investment:

- This priority addresses historic and current issues related to land ownership and environmental racism, strengthens the revitalization of African Nova Scotian communities through investment and development, and supports the exploration of international economic and cultural opportunities.

Increase participation in education, employment and entrepreneurship:

- The Advisory Committee continues to collaborate with its partners and stakeholders around opportunities to advance this action.

For more information, click here to read the [staff report](#).

Tax clinics are now being hosted Monday, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – all March and April. There are currently still openings in April so sign up today.

There will be a coffee corner happening on Fridays and keep your eyes out for some new STEM programs for kids that could be coming soon.

Check out our [website](#) for details.

NEW CANADIANS SOCCER DAY BMO SOCCER CENTRE



KESHEN GOODMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY



Renovations are still on-going at the Keshan Goodman Public Library, but the library is now open with limited service.

There are additional programming spaces and programming has resumed in the Thomas Raddall Room.

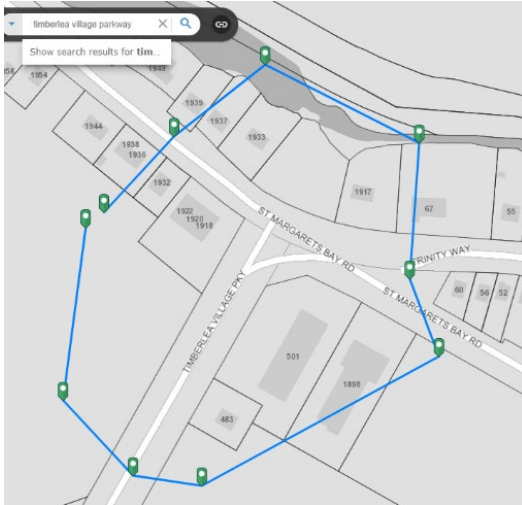
INTERSECTION UPDATE

The design for the traffic signal at the St. Margaret's Bay Road/Timberlea Village Parkway intersection is currently being finalized. The signal is included as part of the proposed 2024/2025 capital budget, and currently planned for installation during the upcoming 2024 construction season. Additional updates will be provided once the project has been tendered/awarded and a more specific construction timeframe is known.



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driving practices, including buckling up every time you get in the car. Teach your family that safety is the responsibility of all passengers as well as the driver.

Learn more [here](#).

HALIFAX WASTE-RESOURCE SOCIETY

PUBLIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS – THURSDAY, APRIL 18



6:30 p.m. April 18

7:15 p.m. April 18

Where: The Links, Brunello Clubhouse, Pavilion Building

The Halifax-Waste Resource Society* AGM will begin at 6:30 p.m. Voting is restricted to members—anyone over age 18 who pays the \$5.00 fee. The society will issue its annual report and elect a board of directors. The public is welcome to attend.

The Community Monitoring Committee AGM will follow at 7:15 p.m. Those in attendance from the public will have an opportunity to question the CMC membership.

*The Halifax Waste-Resource Society is a citizen organization that works with representatives of HRM, through the Community Monitoring Committee, to monitor the HRM Solid Waste Program at the Otter Lake Landfill. See Otterlakecmc.ca for more information.

Linda MacKay, Chair

ROAD SAFETY

The road safety theme for the month of March is **Occupant Restraints (seatbelt safety)**.

As a parent, you are your kids' strongest influence when it comes to modeling safe

March 2024

MUNICIPAL TRADE APPRENTICE POSITIONS



APPRENTICESHIPS which one works for you?

Are you ready to embark on a journey that combines hands-on learning with real-world experience? As a dynamic and forward-thinking organization, we are seeking motivated individuals who are eager to jump-start their career in the fleet trades. Our comprehensive apprenticeship program is designed to provide you with the essential tools, knowledge, and practical skills needed to thrive in today's competitive workforce. This isn't just a job; it's a chance to cultivate your talents and contribute to meaningful projects that make a difference to your community.

Read the full job descriptions and apply for the positions shown below:

[Truck & Transport Apprenticeship \(position #78639768\)](#)

[Autobody Apprenticeship \(position #78639770\)](#)

[Welding Apprenticeship \(position #78639769\)](#)

Visit halifax.ca/jobs to view all current opportunities.



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ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVED CAPITAL FUNDING 2023/2024

The District Capital Fund provides larger grants to non-profit organizations for projects that benefit our community. For more information, see my [website](#).

- 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
- 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
- AIDs Coalition of Nova Scotia
- Birch Cove Baptist Church

HFXGO INSTALLATIONS UNDERWAY!



Installation of HFXGO validators is underway on [#hfxtransit](#) buses!

Some validators are already installed but

will not be active until installation is complete on

the entire fleet. Please continue to show your HFXGO ticket or pass to your operator when boarding.

FREE TAX CLINICS

Through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP), community organizations host free tax clinics where volunteers complete tax returns for people with a modest income and a simple tax situation.

To check for eligibility and clinic locations, see their [website](#).

ENGAGE MAINLAND NORTH

Engage Mainland North needs a new host. Charlene will not be able to continue convening due to a shift in Inspiring Communities' mandate. If you or your organization would like to take on convening, please reach out:

cboyce@inspiringcommunities.ca

Basic requirements:

- Book meetings, plan agendas, take and distribute notes.
- Provide online meeting space and host occasional in person meetings.
- Facilitate connections among organizations and community resources.

GET ACTIVE

Active School Travel – collective impact-based work looking at making schools more active by the HRCE, Department of Health, HRM, parents and community. Find out more [here](#).

Walk Nova Scotia - weekly 1 hour walk hosted by members of Halifax Northwest Trails. Meet at



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1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, at parking lot at top of Westridge Drive for a walk in the Mainland Common Loop &/or Mary Clayton Park, along the Mainland North Trail. Initial sign up required to Walk Nova Scotia but enables a walk with new friends when individuals prefer to have walking buddies. Other walks hosted around the region, check the [website](#).

Newcomers always welcome.

OBITUARY

Helena Doris Poirier (Johnson) Sept 29, 1927 - February 23, 2024

It is with great sadness that that I announce the peaceful passing of Helena Doris Poirier (Johnson) 96, at Hospice Halifax, Friday February 23, 2024.

Born in Halifax September 29, 1927, her family moved to Timberlea in 1937.

Always interested in politics, she was convinced to run for municipal Councillor and spent 15 years as Councillor of district 2 (Timberlea) County of Halifax from 1976 to 1991. She worked hard to the best represent her constituents and the community she loved.

HALIFAX TRANSIT DISCOUNTS

Halifax Transit is now able to offer 50% discounts to non-profit organizations and registered charities purchasing a minimum of 50 tickets at a time. Additionally, under Halifax Transit’s Community Support Policy, we are also able to donate up to 60 transit tickets each year. Applications can be made on [Halifax.ca](#).

These tickets are intended to be distributed to the clients they serve and/or to volunteers and are not intended for use by paid staff.

DASC FUNDRAISER

I was fortunate enough to take part in the March 6th DASC fundraiser “LaughAbility!” at the Westin Nova Scotian. It was an evening of performances by comedians with disabilities.





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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

