



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD
DISTRICT 12 ONLINE NEWS
TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD



May is
ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

WELCOME MAY!

Happy May! I hope you have all been able to get outside and enjoy the natural beauty of District 12's parks and trails this spring.

May is Asian Heritage Month, an opportunity for us to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian heritage who, throughout our history, have done so much to make Canada the country we know and love. This month is a reminder for all Canadians to come together to combat anti-Asian racism and discrimination in all its forms.

Stay tuned on our [website](#) to learn more about upcoming Asian Heritage Month events this year.

We will also be celebrating Mental Health/ National Youth/ Heart Failure Awareness Week from May 1st to 7th, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls on May 5th, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia on May 17th, and Access Awareness Week from May 28th to June 3rd!

Please do not hesitate to reach out by phone (902.240.7926) or email (iona.stoddard@halifax.ca) to discuss municipal programs or services.



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TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL AND HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL .. 2

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK 2

DEMENTIA LEARNING SUMMIT 2023..... 3

WARNING OF SCAM TARGETING SENIORS3

NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES .. 4

DISTRICT LITTERATI CHALLENGE 4

HRM NEW DIGITAL PROCUREMENT PLATFORM BIDS&TENDERS 5

ON STREET PARKING MAPS..... 5

NEIGHBOURHOOD AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES 5

AFFORDABLE ACCESS PROGRAM..... 6

COVER ADVENTURE EARTH PROGRAMS THIS SUMMER!..... 6

PARKING FEE CHANGES IN EFFECT 6

NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MMIWG 7

MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN DAY 7

SPRING JOB FAIR..... 8

2023/24 BUDGET RATIFICATION..... 8

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK RESOURCES 9

COMMUNITY IMPACT SECTOR DAY OF RECOGNITION..... 9

IN THE COMMUNITY 10

MAILING LIST 12

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:

April 2023

Regional Council:

Tuesday, May 9th at 10:00 a.m.

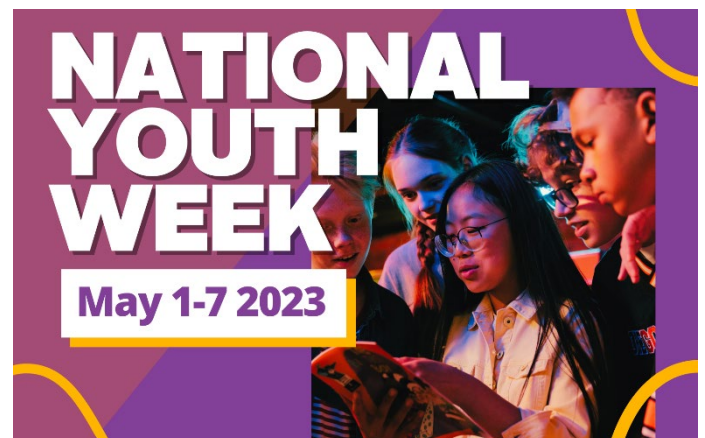
Tuesday, May 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, May 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Please confirm meeting dates and times on our [website](#) as they are subject to change.

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK



National Youth Week takes place every year from May 1st to 7th and is dedicated to the celebration of youth and their active participation in their communities.

Whether it is recreation, drama, sport, dance, civic engagement, art, volunteerism or leadership, young people are regularly engaged in meaningful activities during their discretionary time. National Youth Week is a time to honour their involvement!

This year's lineup of National Youth Week events have a variety of activities to participate in – from brunch with the Mayor, to potlucks, sports, baking, and so much more. Learn more about the schedule online [here](#).



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

DEMENTIA LEARNING SUMMIT 2023



The Canadian Institute for Seniors Care at Conestoga College is proud to announce that the Dementia Learning Summit is back for a second year.

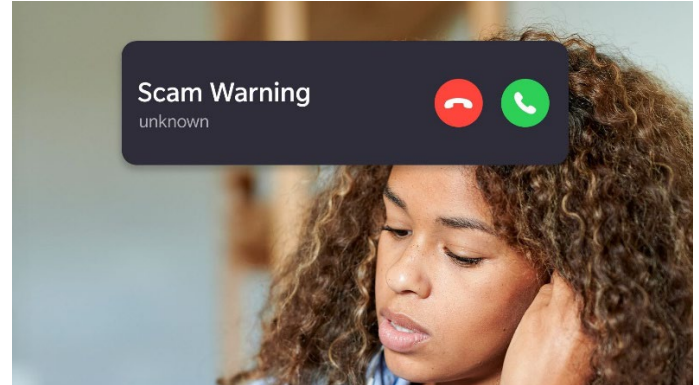
Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in engaging presentations, interviews, and activities on innovative solutions for dementia care while learning from people living with dementia, their care partners, and industry thought leaders.

You can register for this free two-day virtual conference from June 6th – 7th [here](#).

If you have any questions about the 2023 Dementia Learning Summit project, please contact: seniorscare@conestogac.on.ca

This event is part of the Canadian Remote Access for Dementia Learning Experiences (CRADLE+), a four-year project funded by the Government of Canada's Future Skills Centre to develop, deliver, and evaluate an online course on dementia care for up to 50,000 unregulated care providers across Canada. To learn more about this online course or register for free, click [here](#).

WARNING OF SCAM TARGETING SENIORS



Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District RCMP have received a number of reports in relation to a scam intended to defraud seniors of their money. In each incident, the victim received a call from someone pretending to be a family member who indicated that they have been arrested and are in jail. Another person representing themselves to be from the legal system becomes involved in the call and informs the victim that they need to pay money to have their loved one released from custody. In one case, a suspect made arrangements to pick up the money in person.

If you receive a call like this, do not provide or confirm any personal or financial information and hang up the phone. In Canada, law enforcement and court officials will not attend a residence to collect money in relation to bail.

Police remind people to be suspicious of any emails or calls asking for money and to make sure the person is legitimate before providing any money. Scammers can spoof phone numbers and make it appear as though they're calling from a trusted source. You should not give personal information to anyone, whether solicitation occurs by email, telephone or in person, unless you have initiated the contact or you are certain of the identity of the individual



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

and/or the legitimacy of the organization they claim to represent.

Police are asking the public to share this information broadly, particularly with seniors, to help raise awareness of this scam.

Call police at 902-490-5020 if you've lost money or your identity has been compromised as the result of a scam. You can report a scam where you haven't been a victim to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, or call 1-888-495-8501.

Information and scam prevention tips here:

- [Anti Fraud Centre](#)
- [HRP Fraud Prevention](#)

NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES



The countdown is on! We're less than 100 days from the start of the 2023 North American Indigenous Games!

Soon, Kijipuktuk will welcome over 5,000 Indigenous athletes, managers and coaches across 16 different sports from all across Turtle Island representing over 750 Nations. Learn more [here](#)

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](#).



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

HRM NEW DIGITAL PROCUREMENT PLATFORM BIDS&TENDERS

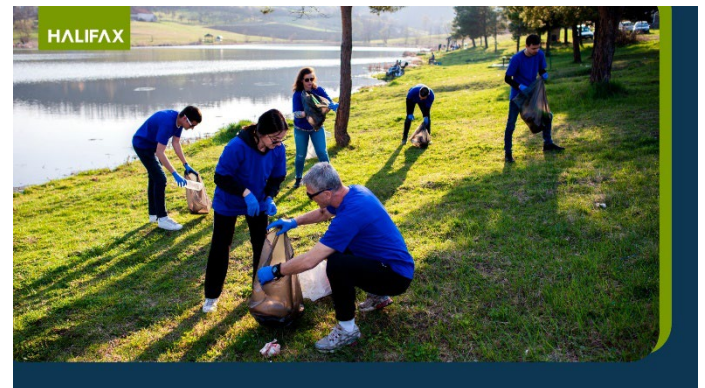
On May 1st, the municipality launched a new digital procurement platform, [bids&tenders](#).

This new eProcurement system will modernize the HRM’s bidding process. HRM will achieve better value to residents through more efficient bidding processes and a robust bidders pool. The new system will allow municipal staff to develop, post, review, and manage more compliant bids in less time on a secure and feature-rich online platform while providing suppliers and project staff with an accessible system that is aligned with HRM’s Accessibility Strategy. To learn more, visit our [website](#).

the map will display parking availability by total number within a paid parking zone.

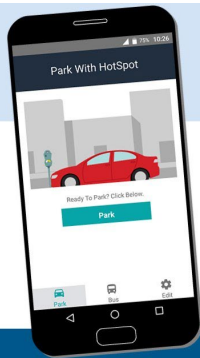
The map can be accessed through the HotSpot app, or by visiting the website [here](#).

NEIGHBOURHOOD AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES



ON STREET PARKING MAPS

Mobile payment for parking



Did you know the municipality has a team of community developers to support your local volunteer efforts?

Our team of community developers are here to support:

- volunteers
- neighbourhood associations
- non-profit organizations
- residents trying to start a community project

Your local community developer will help you reach your goal and make a difference in your community. To learn more about their services, visit [our website](#).

Did you know? The Halifax Regional Municipality’s on-street parking payment service provider, HotSpot, is now providing a new real-time web and mobile application map that will allow drivers to plan ahead for on-street parking options.

This real-time map will help drivers plan their trip by identifying potentially available on-street paid parking locations before they begin their trip, making it easier to get to where they’re going. Rather than displaying individual spots,



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

AFFORDABLE ACCESS PROGRAM

With the Halifax Regional Municipality's Affordable Access Program you only need one application to apply for:

- Affordable Transit Pass (applications open mid-May and processed on a first-come, first-served basis)
- Recreation programming funding (applications are open year-round with no deadline)
- Property tax payment assistance (deadline of August 15 for an exemption on your final tax bill)

To learn more, to see if you qualify, or to apply, call 311 or click [here](#).

ADVENTURE EARTH PROGRAMS THIS SUMMER!



The Adventure Earth Centre is offering a variety of outdoor recreation programming this summer! 🌍 🌲 🏕️

- Overnight Camps at Camp Mockingee
- Day Camps at Shubie Park
- Day Camps at Fleming Park

Visit our [website](#) or [facebook](#) page to learn more about these outdoor, interactive summer programs. Registration is now open! Visit the [website](#) to register.

PARKING FEE CHANGES IN EFFECT



Changes to annual parking permit fees, visitor parking permits, commuter permits, carshare parking and the ability to purchase second permits are now in effect.

- Annual parking permit fees will increase from \$40/year to \$75/year. Residents can purchase a second annual parking permit for \$175/year.
- Annual visitor parking permits will shift to payper-use: One day: \$15, Two days: \$25, Seven days: \$35.
- Carshare vehicles will be able to park at any onstreet paid parking location.
- Commuter permits will see price increases or price decreases, depending on the zone. Student commuter permits will change from a flat rate of \$35/month to \$10/month discount off the regular zone price.
- All permits will shift to a digital format, removing the need for replacement fees.

These changes, supported by amendments to By-law P1200 and approved by Regional Council, will streamline purchases, increase flexibility and create efficiencies in a new digital format. All current parking permits will remain valid until they expire. For more details, visit our website [here](#).



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MMIWG



May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

According to the National Inquiry into MMIWG, Indigenous women and girls represented 16% of all female homicides in Canada. Service agencies estimate that of the trafficked or exploited women and girls they served, 51% of were Indigenous.

In recent years, red dresses have become a symbolic representation of the more than 1,000 MMIWG across Canada. According to tradition, red is the only colour spirits can see, and is a way of calling the spirits of those missing and murdered back to their loved ones. On May 5th, wear red to not only honour the voices of these women and girls, but to show your support of survivors, community members and those affected by the intergenerational trauma of this ongoing issue.

To learn more about this important day, visit [their website](#).

MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN DAY

MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN DAY
TAKE ACTION ♦ **MAY 11, 2023**



Moose Hide Campaign Day is on May 11th, and is an Indigenous-led grassroots movement of men, boys and all Canadians - standing up to end violence against women and children. Moose Hide Campaign Day is a day of ceremony. It's a day where all Canadians are called to join together to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for our collective journey of reconciliation.

What started 11 years ago with a small gathering of men and boys intent on raising awareness of the crisis of violence against Indigenous woman and children, has now become a national ceremony inviting all Canadians to join together to end violence against all women and children.

More information can be found by visiting their [website](#).



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

SPRING JOB FAIR

We're hiring. Join our team at the **Halifax Regional Municipality.**

The municipality is proud to be recognized as one of Atlantic Canada's Top Employers, Nova Scotia's Top Employers, and Canada's Top Employers for Young People for 2023.
canadastop100.com/ns | canadastop100.com/atlantic | canadastop100.com/young_people

Searching for your next opportunity? 🔍 Find it at the Hospitality Hiring Fair:

Visit our booth at the Spring Job Fair hosted by Nova Scotia Works to learn about the various services provided by Halifax Regional Municipality and discuss opportunities for employment.

When: May 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Dalplex, 6260 South Street, Halifax

Find out more [here](#).

For a list of all open positions and information on the benefits of working for the municipality, visit our website. New opportunities are posted on a weekly basis [here](#).

2023/24 BUDGET RATIFICATION

On April 25th, Regional Council approved the 2023/24 municipal budget of \$1.2 billion. During the meeting, we heard your concerns and are happy to have reversed paid Saturday parking! Read the report [here](#).

The average residential tax bill will increase by 5.9 per cent, meaning that the average single-family home tax bill will increase by \$128 in 2023/24 to a total of \$2,288. Due to the increase in property assessment values, the municipal residential tax rate will decrease from 0.794 to 0.760.

The Property Tax Exemption and Deferral Program, part of the Affordable Access Program, offers homeowners assistance with paying property taxes. Residents can apply for a property tax exemption, rebate, deferral of current year property tax and deferral of local improvement charges. There are also payment plan options that can assist taxpayers with personal budgeting. Learn more [here](#).

Overall, the 2023/24 budget invests in critical areas such as transportation, public safety, infrastructure management and addressing climate change. By doing so, the municipality is creating a foundation for sustainable growth and development in our region. This includes HalifACT projects, arts grants funding, park land development, Halifax Public Libraries' collections, and community action planning for African Nova Scotian communities. For more detailed information on the municipal 2023/24 Budget, visit our [website](#).



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK RESOURCES

Mental Health week is May 1st – 7th. What do you need to support your mental wellness? Your Community Health Team is here to support you! Check out the free wellness programs and navigation services below.

Group wellness programs are open to all residents of NS age 18 or older with a valid Nova Scotia health card. To find out more about a program and to register, simply right click on the program name below!

FREE MAY IN-PERSON WELLNESS PROGRAMS

- [Introduction to Self-Compassion](#)
- [Introduction to Take Charge of Your Stress](#)
- [Take Charge of Your Stress Series](#)
- [Exploring Emotions Series](#)
- [Discover Your Strengths](#)
- [Screen Time & Your Family](#)
- [My Child is Anxious. Should I Worry?](#)
- [Parenting Your Teen](#)
- [Ideas Into Action. Small Steps, big success!](#)
- [Keeping it Going with your Health Goals](#)
- [Explore the Mediterranean Diet](#)
- [Beginners Guide to Plant Based Eating](#)
- [Ready, Set, Move Series](#)
- [Mindful Movement](#)

FREE MAY ONLINE WELLNESS PROGRAMS

- [Food and Mood](#)
- [Introduction to Beyond Weight Series](#)
- [Ready, Set, Move – Strengthening](#)
- [Free Time and You](#)
- [Keep it Going with your Health Goals](#)

COMMUNITY IMPACT SECTOR DAY OF RECOGNITION



On May 12th, the Bhayana Family Foundation is hosting the May 12th Community Impact Sector Day of Recognition event in celebration of the 20,000 Nova Scotians workers in the charitable and non-profit sector.

The event is from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Cedar Event Centre. To register and learn about the activities, performances, and awards, click [here](#).

WATER SERVICE ADVISORY, WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FLUSHING

As started on Sunday April 30th, Halifax Water crews will be conducting their annual water distribution system flush. This will continue on a five-day cycle from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. This five-day flushing cycle will continue for approximately two months as crews move throughout the distribution system.

Customers may experience temporary changes in water pressure or discoloured water while work is conducted. It is recommended that customers with discoloured water run the cold water at one faucet until the water runs clear. Learn more about discoloured water [here](#).

More information on the system flush can be read [here](#).



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

IN THE COMMUNITY



It was my pleasure to attend the 10th Annual Halifax Celtic Cultural Festival, Flag Raising and Opening Reception



In attendance were Mayor Mike Savage, Former Lieutenant Governor Mayan Francis, Councillor Paul Russell, Eleanor “Elle” Michael, Marcie MacQuarrie, Rick Grant and other dignitaries and guests.



April 19th - Double Tree Dartmouth Volunteer awards celebration 2023.



Well done Taquiddin Hashmi, Helen Burchell, and Jessica Quillan (Not Pictured) District 12’s three volunteer award winners!



Myself, Councillor Trish Purdy, Councillor Lindell Smith, Starr Cunningham (Dobson), and Councillor Lisa Blackburn.



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TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

KESHEN GOODMAN LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT



The Keshen Goodman Public Library is hosting some unique and free events this May!

- Learn to Walk Well
 - **May 2nd, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- Intro to Nova Scotia Gaels' Language, Culture, and Identity
 - **May 3rd, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- Mini-Con: DIY Nerdy Pins & Keychains (Ages 5+)
 - **May 6th, 2:30-4:00 p.m.**
- Walking Poles Workshop
 - **May 9th, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- Crochet 101
 - **May 15th, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**
- SuperNOVA ATLAS Science Booth
 - **May 20th, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- SuperNOVA ATLAS Terra Mapping Workshop
 - **May 20, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Learn more [here](#).

MAINLAND NORTH JEM MEETINGS

The Mainland North Joint Emergency Management (JEM) team is looking for new members!

JEM is a concept developed by HRM's Emergency Management Division (EMD) of Halifax Fire & Emergency to allow community organizations to prepare for, and respond quickly to, a wide range of emergencies. JEM teams are the community volunteers of EMD who conduct comfort centers in times of crisis and hold public education events to inform

April 2023

residents on how to prepare their family and household to understand risks and be prepared to evacuate or shelter in place for 72 hours in the event of an emergency.

Our JEM meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Canada Games Centre located at 26 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax. Their next meeting is May 24th!

For further information or to join the meetings, please email daalders292@gmail.com.

GUIDED BIRD WALK BELCHERS MARSH

Bird Week

Guided Bird Walk
Belcher's Marsh,
District 12, Clayton Park

Thur. May 18th
8:30am - 9:30am
Please register online

Please join in on the May 18th guided bird walk hosted by the Bird Friendly Halifax Coalition at Belchers Marsh from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Walk participants will meet on the corner of Langbrae & Parkland. Going for a walk and looking for birds is a great way to connect with our native bird species. It helps us to realize that we can take actions to support birds and their habitats.

If you cannot make May 18th, don't worry! The Ecology Action Centre is hosting guided bird walks in neighboring HRM communities throughout Bird Week (May 13th-20th).

Registration for all 15 walks can be found [here](#).



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

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HALIFAX

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311



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

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Western Common Community Council
- CMC (Community Monitoring Committee) for Otter Lake Landfill
- African Descent Advisory Committee

MAILING LIST

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

