



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEELE

Happy April, District 12!



Spring has sprung! I am sure we are all looking forward to warmer and brighter days ahead.

There are lots of exciting events happening this month such as the grand opening of the new BLT Community Centre, a community discussion on the BLT Rails to Trails, the Wellbeing Expo at the CGC, the BLT Community Market and much more! Details can be found below in this newsletter.

I also want to remind folks that the deadline for the 2026 Community Grants Program is March 31. The program guidebook and link to apply is on page 4 of 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

COUNCILLOR DROP IN
Councillor Janet Steele
Timberlea - Beechville - Clayton Park - Wedgewood

Drop in to discuss municipal programs and services or concerns impacting your community

When:
Friday, April 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Where:
BLT Community Centre, Program Room 2
1492 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Lakeside

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I will be hosting my first drop-in session in the BLT community on Friday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the new BLT Community Centre. Drop-in sessions are an opportunity for me to connect with residents in a one-on-one format.

ENGAGE HALIFAX

Want to stay up to date on municipal projects and opportunities to provide feedback? Visit [Engage Halifax](https://engage.halifax.ca), 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.



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BEECHVILLE, LAKESIDE, TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

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. Community 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. Come out to the new community centre to discuss the future of the BLT Trail. We are seeking to identify potential new board and association members.

BLT Community Centre Update

Spring programs at BLTCC and other locations will begin April 1 onward. [Click here](#) to register.

The grand opening is scheduled for April 17 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Come see the new facility, try the programs, and celebrate the community.

This is an exciting addition to our district and I can't wait for you to enjoy it. I hope to see you at the grand opening on April 17!



Megan Clattenburg and I moving recreation equipment into the new BLTCC!

Suburban Plan Main Street Visioning Workshop in BLT

The municipality is developing a new Suburban Plan to guide growth and change in suburban communities, and residents are invited to help shape the future of their local main streets.

BLT community members are encouraged to take part in the St. Margaret's Bay Road (Timberlea) Main Street Visioning Workshop, where participants will share ideas on building design, public spaces, local services, accessibility, and more.

Date: April 13
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Location: Lakeside Fire Hall

The two-hour session will include a short presentation and interactive group activities. Residents may attend for the full workshop or drop in. Registration details are available through our [website](#).

I hope to see you there!



BLT Community Market

Check out the BLT Community Market on Saturday April 11 at the Lakeside Fire Station. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. The market will feature handcrafted treasures, homemade goodies and live local music.



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CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

Regency Links Public Hearing

A public hearing has been scheduled for the proposed Regency Links development (PLANAPP 2023-00408), planned for lands off Washmill Lake Drive and Regency Park Drive.

Halifax and West Community Council will hold the public hearing on April 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Halifax City Hall, giving residents the opportunity to learn more about the proposal and share their views before a decision is made.

The application proposes a large mixed-use development of up to 3,830 residential units across 18 buildings, with ground-floor commercial space, new streets, municipal parkland, trails, landscaped open space, and the extension of Regency Park Drive to Washmill Lake Drive.

The planning application, staff report and details on how to share your feedback can be found [here](#).

Suburban Plan Main Street Visioning Workshop in Clayton Park

The municipality is developing a new Suburban Plan to guide growth and change in suburban communities, and residents are invited to help shape the future of their local main streets.



Clayton Park and Wedgewood community members are encouraged to take part in the Lacewood Drive (Dunbrack Street to Highway 102) Main Street Visioning Workshop, where participants will share ideas on building design, public spaces, local services, accessibility, and more.

Date: March 31
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Location: Canada Games Centre, Boardroom

The two-hour session will include a short presentation and interactive group activities. Residents may attend for the full workshop or drop in. Registration details are available through our [website](#).



Join us at Canada Games Centre to learn about organizations and services in your community!

Date & Time:
April 18 10 am - 1 pm

Location:
Canada Games Centre
26 Thomas Raddall Drive

- Highlights:
- Free Snacks
 - Free Activities
 - Door Prizes
 - Free Entry for all



I will have a table at the 2026 Wellbeing Expo at the CGC. I hope to see you there!

Chebucto Health Board Wellness Fund

If you live in Clayton Park, you're part of Chebucto West, where the volunteer-led Chebucto West Community Health Board works to improve community health by addressing factors like food access, safe spaces, transportation, income, and social connection, and by supporting local initiatives through its Wellness Fund. Applications for the 2026 Community Health Board Wellness Fund, previously used to support projects like walking groups, youth programs, and community gardens, are now open and must be submitted by **April 15 at 5 p.m.** More information and how to apply can be found [here](#).



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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.

REPORTING POTHoles

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. The repair will be planned and prioritized depending on the location and depth of the pothole. You can find out more about pothole repairs [here](#).

HRM BUDGET 2026/27



Budget Committee has completed their review of each business unit's budget and business plans and have reviewed the final capital and operating budgets.

Early estimations predicted a 10.5% average property tax bill increase for the 2026/27 fiscal year. After some difficult discussions aiming to reduce the tax burden while maintaining essential services, the final budget increase is estimated to be closer to a 7.5% total tax bill increase.

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](#).

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](#). **Survey closes on April 10th**. Popups are being held around the region and I encourage you to attend.



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With budget discussions mostly complete, it is fantastic to have the flexibility to be out and about hearing from residents and enjoying the businesses available in the community. Thanks, Reg Rankin, for a productive luncheon discussion at North Brewing in Timberlea.

WILDFIRE SEASON

Wildfire season runs from March 15 to Oct. 15. While burning restrictions are in effect year-round, additional restrictions are in effect during wildfire season. Always check our [Before You Burn](#) website before starting a fire.



If burning is permitted, follow these safety guidelines:

- Never leave your fire unattended - unattended fires can spread quickly and become dangerous.
- Completely extinguish your fire - douse it with water, stir the ashes and repeat until everything is cool to the touch.

Residents can voluntarily register to receive a wildfire risk assessment for their property using the FireSmart standard. FireSmart is a program that helps people reduce wildfire risk by making homes and neighbourhoods less likely to catch fire from embers. It focuses on straightforward actions like basic home improvements, keeping buildings and yards free of combustible debris and managing nearby vegetation so fires are less likely to spread. To learn more about a FireSmart assessment, visit our [website](#).

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

You're Invited



District 12 Town Hall with Councillor Janet Steele

Join your local councillor for an evening of conversation, community, and connection.

📍 BLT Community Centre, Multipurpose Room
1492 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Lakeside
📅 Thursday, May 7
🕒 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Please register in advance by emailing Emily Simonov at smithem@halifax.ca

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HALIFAX

NEW REC PROGRAM PROPOSAL PROCESS

Looking for ways to share your talents and skills with your community? Recreation is now accepting applications for new program ideas from residents interested in leading their proposed classes.

Proposals are accepted year-round and reviewed regularly. Learn more and apply [here](#).

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HALIFAX WATER CUSTOMER PORTAL PRIVACY INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Halifax Water is continuing to respond to a privacy incident involving its Customer Connect Portal. Protecting customer information is a top priority, and the utility is committed to transparency as more information is confirmed.

The Customer Connect Portal remains offline while Halifax Water and the external vendor that owns and operates the platform complete a comprehensive investigation and verification process.

The investigation is ongoing and is focused on determining what information was accessible and to what extent. This privacy incident is limited to the online customer portal and is not impacting their day-to-day operations.

Customers are reminded to be cautious of unsolicited calls, emails, or text messages claiming to be from Halifax Water. Halifax Water is not contacting customers regarding this incident. If you receive a call and are unsure, hang up and call back using the phone number listed on the official Halifax Water website. Customers with questions or concerns can contact Halifax Water's Customer Care Team at 902-420-9287, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. You can find out more [here](#).



At the February 9 BLT Suburban Plan engagement at the Lakeside Firehall.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP GARBAGE DISPOSAL

As spring begins, I know many groups are eager to organize community cleanups.

I want to remind folks that when you are planning the clean ups, please ensure you coordinate how the garbage will be disposed of. There are a few options:

- Garbage and recycling can be disposed of by dividing it between participants and placing it curbside with your household waste. This material will count towards the limit of six garbage bags per single unit household and sorting rules still apply. There is no limit for the amount of recyclables you can put out for collection.
- Participants may also deliver collected garbage directly to the Otter Lake Waste Facility. If your event is registered in the [Pick-Me-Up program](#), your tipping fees will be waived. Please email Solid Waste staff at wasteless@halifax.ca two weeks prior to your event to make drop off arrangements.
- If neither of these options can be accommodated by your group, please contact 3-1-1 two weeks prior to your event to arrange collection by HRM staff.
- For more information on community clean ups, please visit our [website](#).

DISTRICT CAPITAL FUND

Each councillor has a small fund that can be used to support non-profits to undertake activities that will benefit the community. To apply, we require a letter of request, including the name and address of the non - profit group, and explanation of how the funds will be used and a completed [Capital Request Form](#)



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“ONE MEMBERSHIP” RECREATION ACCESS

Starting April 1, staff will launch a pilot project to improve access to municipally operated and multi-district recreation facilities through a “One Membership” model.



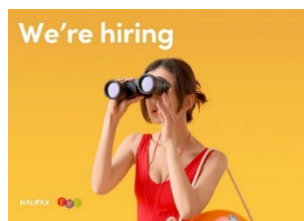
The pilot will introduce a 75 per cent discounted day pass for residents who hold an **active membership** at any participating HRM or multi-district facility, allowing them to access other facilities on a pay-per-use basis.

The approach responds to strong public feedback favouring flexibility without fee increases and reflects the municipality’s goal of equitable access under the Community Facility Master Plan.

Staff will monitor usage, financial impacts and member experience throughout the pilot and return to Regional Council with results and long-term recommendations following the Multi-District Facility governance review.

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

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.

MARCH 14 IFTAR GATHERING AT CITY SHAWARMA



Thanks to Nuthaila Rihani, President of the Jordanian Community in Halifax for organizing a Ramadan Iftar gathering at City Shawarma restaurant on Farnham Gate Road. It was beautiful celebration with the Muslim community, the Nashama Jordanian community in HRM and other invited community members.

ONLINE PROPERTY TAX MANAGEMENT



Did you know that you can manage your property taxes easily online with e-billing and pre-authorized payments? Opt in for email notifications for a copy of your latest tax bill, overdue notices, charges against your property, by-law infraction bills or other charges or text notifications for pre-authorized payments and overdue tax bills.

Please note, if you opt in to receive a copy of your tax bill via email, you will not receive a copy in the mail.

Learn more and sign up [online](#).



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DUNBRACK STREET AND MAIN AVENUE SIGNAL OPERATIONS CHANGE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents of changes to signal operations at the intersection of Dunbrack Street and Main Avenue.

The intersection will now operate with fully protected left turns from the Dunbrack Street approaches, meaning drivers can no longer turn left without the flashing green left arrow. On the green arrow, drivers will be given the right-of-way to complete left turns free of any other traffic or pedestrian conflicts. The amber arrow warns drivers that the left-turn phase is ending. Once the red ball is displayed on the left turn signal heads, drivers waiting to execute the left-turn movement must wait for the green arrow display during the next cycle.

This change resulted from in-service safety assessments of the intersection which recommended fully protected left turn phasing as an option to address potential left turn conflict with pedestrians and with other vehicles. For more information about the Road Safety Strategy and other road safety countermeasures, visit [our website](#).

CHAMPION OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Divert NS is offering up to \$40,500 in scholarships to Nova Scotia Grade 12 students with a keen interest in the environment.



Nine scholarships of \$3,500 and nine scholarships of \$1,000 scholarships are available. To apply, students need to review the [application package](#), write or record a summary of their recent environment activities and obtain a letter of reference from their school or community.

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.

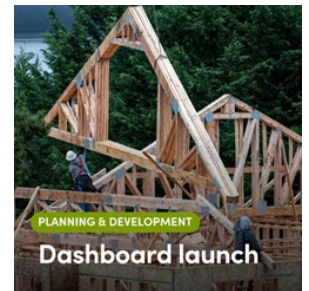
The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and will be open until April 30.

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](#).

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DASHBOARD

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.

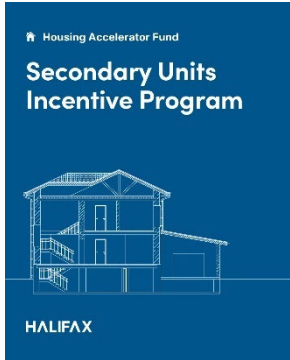
Explore the dashboard [here](#).



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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](#).

HFX ALERT

Get notified when it matters most.

Sign up for hfxALERT, the Halifax Regional Municipality's mass notification system, to receive critical and non-urgent alerts, as well as municipal winter parking ban notices.



To find out more and to register, visit our [website](#).

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.



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.



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REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- April 14
- April 28

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 April 21.

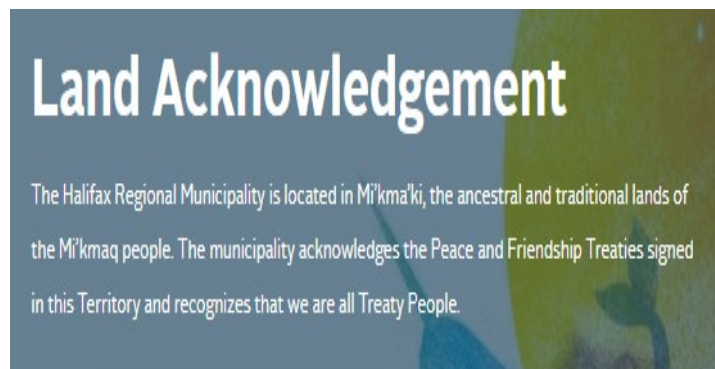
Currently serving on:

- 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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