



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

TIMBERLEA – BEECHVILLE – CLAYTON PARK – WEDGEWOOD

**A MESSAGE FROM
COUNCILLOR STEELE**

Happy December, District 12!

It’s hard to believe the holidays are just around the corner! I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy new year. I hope you are able to spend some time with your loved ones over the season.

Councillor Morse and I are hosting a Holiday Skate at the Centennial Arena on Dec. 27 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. I hope to see you there!

The municipal budget process has begun and I have included the key dates in this newsletter. I encourage you to participate in the budget process by signing up to speak to the budget committee. The list of dates and how to participate can be found below in this newsletter.

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



You're Invited!

**Holiday Skate at
Centennial
Arena**

*Join Councillors Kathryn Morse
& Janet Steele for a free
community holiday skate!*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27
10 A.M. - 12 P.M.
CENTENNIAL ARENA**



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BEECHVILLE, LAKESIDE, TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

Bayview High School Production of Cinderella

Congratulations to Bay View High School on an outstanding musical production of Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. Thank you to everyone that made this enchanted production possible.



I attended the Nov. 29 final night, and it was a very full house with an appreciative audience that included many enthusiastic young Cinderellas.

Lakeside Legion Remembrance Day Service

It was a privilege to attend the Lakeside Legion on Nov. 11 for the annual Remembrance Day Service. We honour those who served and the sacrifice they made for our freedom. We will remember them.



Thanks to the Lakeside Legion for organizing a well-attended successful event.

Beechville Christmas Parade

The annual Beechville Christmas Parade will take place Sunday, Dec. 14 from 6-7:30 p.m. and will begin at Ridgecliff Middle School. I hope to see you there!

Nordic Spa Approval for Brunello Links Development

On Dec. 1, Halifax and West Community Council approved PLANAPP 2024-00458, an application for 120 Brunello Boulevard, Timberlea, to amend the Brunello Links development agreement. This change allows for the addition of a Nordic/Wellness Spa within the golf course area. The proposed spa will include outdoor hot and cold pools, saunas, steam rooms, and quiet relaxation spaces. A minimum six-metre non-disturbance buffer will separate the spa from nearby homes on Tuscany Run, and no changes will be made to residential lot boundaries. Construction will still require a separate building permit.

Any resident, the Provincial Director of Planning, or the Council of any adjoining municipality may appeal this decision to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board within 14 days of this notice being published on the [HRM website](#). The appeal deadline is Dec. 16, 2025.

BLT Christmas Tree Lighting



Hanging out with Santa at the BLT Christmas Tree Lighting!



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CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

Glenbourne Park Update

I'm pleased to advise that the Glenbourne BMX Park and dog park has reopened to the public. Some maintenance work may be required in the spring. I will advise as updates become available.

Ageing As Adventure

Thanks to Timberlea resident John Connely for organizing a well-attended, informative, and engaging workshop with Bill Randall, a NB-based professor and gerontology expert on aging.



I am hopeful we can replicate this amazing workshop so that more residents can benefit from its important insights.

Notary Clinic at Keshen Goodman Library

Many people in Nova Scotia find it challenging to access notary services, due to affordability, lack of availability in their community, or simply not knowing where to go. The Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia is hoping to help address this access to justice issue by providing appointment-based, free notary services at the library.

The next clinic will take place on Dec. 18 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Registration is required. For more information, [click here](#).

Volunteers Needed

The Keshen Goodman Library is seeking volunteer tutors (19+) to help newcomers practice English at the library. No teaching experience required.

Daytime or evening available, 2-3 hours per week. Email ELLKG@halifaxlibrary.ca for information.



With Kathryn and Viktoriia sporting Kathryn's beautiful NS tartan apron creations at the St. Peter's Christmas Craft Fair.



2025
Volunteer
Conference
Luncheon
with Abraham
Amusan.
Abraham is
on the Halifax
Youth
Advisory
Committee



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HIGHWAY 102 SPECIAL PLANNING AREA

We're inviting you to share your thoughts on the proposed Highway 102 West Corridor Lands Special Planning Area (SPA).

Located west of Highway 102, south of Kearney Lake Road and north of Chain Lake Drive, the Highway 102 West Corridor Lands SPA covers approximately 255 hectares and is envisioned as a potential site for new residential and mixed-use development to support the municipality's growing population.

The Highway 102 West Corridor Lands SPA is one of four designated areas identified by the Province of Nova Scotia to address housing needs in the Halifax region. The decision on whether to approve development within the Highway 102 West Corridor Lands SPA lies with the provincial Minister of Growth and Development.

Share your thoughts to help guide how this area could grow by completing the online survey open until December 10.

To stay up to date and complete the survey, [click here](#).

PARKING BAN

The overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from Dec. 15 until Mar. 31; however, it is only enforced during declared weather events and clearing operations. When the ban is enforced, it restricts any on-street parking between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Vehicles in violation of the ban will be ticketed and/or towed.



Remember to stay informed about the status of the parking ban and please think before you park.

WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE LANE REALIGNMENT

Significant transit detours and traffic changes are now in effect as part of preparation work for the Windsor Street Exchange Redevelopment Project.

Transit Impacts

On Dec. 8, routes 135, 136, 137 and 138 went on a long-term detour (PM trips only) due to preparation work for the Windsor Street Exchange Redevelopment Project. This detour will be in place for approximately two years.

Express Routes 135 and 138 will detour using Gottingen St., Novalea Dr., Duffus St., and Lady Hammond Rd. Service to 2 bus stops will be impacted.

Express Routes 136 and 137 will detour using Barrington St, Devonshire Ave, Duffus St, and Lady Hammond Rd. Service to 4 bus stops will be impacted.

Route 39 to Lacewood Terminal will detour using the Barrington St. Ramp, Barrington St., Duffus St., and Lady Hammond Rd. No bus stop service will be impacted.

Traffic Impacts

Highway 111 is being realigned between the Windsor Street Exchange and Massachusetts Avenue, and the continuous lane from the outbound Massachusetts Avenue ramp is being removed. Drivers from this ramp will now need to merge with traffic from the MacKay Bridge and Barrington Street. Expect delays in this area and consider alternate routes where possible.

Learn more [here](#).





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IMPACTS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA CAPPED ASSESSMENT PROGRAM ON THE HRM HOUSING MARKET

At the Dec. 2 Regional Council meeting, I requested a staff report on the impacts of the Nova Scotia Capped Assessment Program on HRM's housing market. Council supported the motion 16-1.

I brought this forward after hearing from new homeowners concerned about how the cap affects property taxes. In some cases, residents pay double the taxes of neighbours in similar homes. I also know from speaking with residents and from research that the residential property tax cap discourages homeowners from downsizing and prevents young families from upsizing. It also shifts more tax burden to commercial properties and multi-unit buildings, indirectly raising rents and impacting small businesses.

The report is expected in late 2026. Staff will consult with seniors' advocates, tenant groups, developers, builders, rental operators, realtors, and economists.

Two key points:

I did not request this report so that HRM could implement an immediate change to the cap. Any recommended changes would have to be introduced gradually over a number of years. I should emphasize that any recommendations in the staff report and approved by Council would need to obtain provincial approval.

If the Province supports changes, tax rates could decrease since HRM's overall budget would remain the same. The goal is fairness, not more revenue. The report will also improve transparency on how property tax is distributed across residential and commercial categories.

HRM already offers [affordability programs](#) to help low-income residents stay in their homes. This motion aligns with our affordable housing strategy, also due in late 2026. The full motion can be found [here](#).

VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Nominations for the 2026 Volunteer Awards are open!

Every year, the municipality recognizes the extraordinary contributions of outstanding individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services

and programs in their communities. The annual Volunteer Awards put a spotlight on the residents who make a meaningful difference in our region.

There are three categories open for applications: Youth, Adult and Group. The award recipients will be announced at the 2026 Volunteer Awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 22, which coincides with National Volunteer Week.

For more information, click [here](#).



It was great to see everyone enjoying the 2025 Parade of Lights!



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EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY REGULATIONS

As of Dec. 1, Nova Scotia has transitioned to an enhanced recycling system managed by Circular Materials, a not-for-profit organization that is committed to growing an efficient and effective recycling system. What does this mean?



Learn more about Nova Scotia's enhanced recycling system: circularmaterials.ca/NS

- Your curbside collection day/schedule and requirements for placement (i.e. blue bags) will stay the same.
- You'll be able to recycle the same materials, no matter where you live across the province.
- You'll be able to recycle more materials than ever before, including hot and cold beverage cups, deodorant, toothpaste tubes, frozen juice containers and ice cream tubs, to name a few!
- Recycling and collection questions will continue to be addressed by the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Learn more [here](#) or on our [website](#).

SNOW CLEARING

Snow clearing in our municipality is a big job and if stretched into a straight line, it would reach from Halifax to Winnipeg. Streets and sidewalks are prioritized based on commuter usage and access to key infrastructure.



Learn more [here](#).

DISTRICT 12 CAPITAL FUNDS

Since November 2024, \$163,478.82 in District 12 capital funds have supported several groups with various projects across the district and HRM. Some of the groups include Beechville Baptist Church, The Beechville Walkets, Friends of Clayton Park Society, Beechville Blissful Blast, BLT Residents Association, Saint Benedict Parish, Trinity United Church, St. Margaret's Sailing Club, Halifax Christian Church, Mayflower Curling Club, Halifax West High School, MacDonald Memorial Legion, St. Andrew's Church, Rockingham Heritage Society, and many more.

If your group has a project that you feel would be a benefit to the community, please reach out to me and I will review to see if it fits our capital funding criteria. For more information, including the form to apply, [click here!](#)

JOIN HRP 2027 CADET CLASS

Join the Halifax Regional Municipality as a Cadet with the Training division of Halifax Regional Police. There are full-time student positions available.



The Halifax Police Program teaches the knowledge, skills and discipline needed to serve and protect communities with integrity. Cadets will be trained in law, ethics, communication, defensive tactics and crisis management. Training also emphasizes teamwork, resilience and community engagement. All the tools to prepare you as an Officer who upholds justice, maintains public safety and builds trust with the people you serve.

Apply by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, 2026.

Learn more [here](#).



KEY DATES FOR THE 2026/27 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PROCESS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents of key dates for the 2026/27 municipal budget process.

The municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing a growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations, priority initiatives approved by Regional Council and capital investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace assets.

There are several key dates in the annual municipal budget process. Residents will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the budget process. During each week of meetings, time will be set aside for the public to provide comments and feedback.

Below are the key dates for the 2026/27 municipal budget process:

- Dec. 9, 2025 – Capital Program Update and Advanced Tenders Report
- Jan. 27, 2026 – Special evening public participation session (6 p.m., following Regional Council)
- Jan. 28 and 30, 2026 – Capital Plan Recommendation (Reserve Withdrawals, Multi-Year Projects)
- Feb. 4 to 6, 2026 – Operations Budget Presentations
 - Major Projects Office
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Planning & Development
 - Public Works
 - Strategic Infrastructure & Transportation Planning
 - Halifax Transit

- Property, Fleet & Environment
- Feb. 11 to 13, 2026 – Public Safety Budget Presentations
 - Community Safety
 - Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
 - Halifax Regional Police
 - RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment
- Feb. 18 and 19, 2026 – Corporate Services & Other Budget Presentations
 - CAO's Office
 - Finance & Asset Management
 - Human Resources
 - Information Technology
 - Legal Services
 - Auditor General
 - Halifax Public Library
 - Fiscal Services
 - Mayor's Office
- March 4 and 6, 2026 – Budget Adjustment List debate
- March 31, 2026 – 2026/27 Municipal Budget and Business Plan approval

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

Residents will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the process. Pre-registration is required by 4:30 p.m. on the business day prior to the meeting. Virtual participation will also be available.

For meeting details and agendas, visit our [website](#).

For more information on the 2026/27 municipal budget process, [click here](#).



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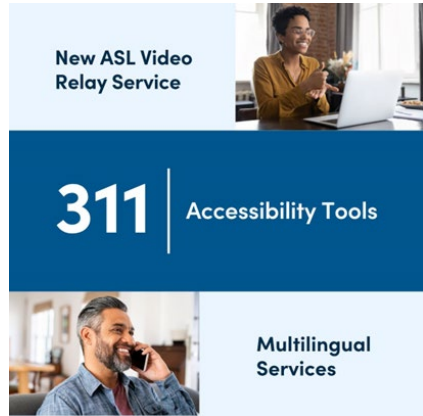
311 OFFERS MULTILINGUAL AND ACCESSIBLE SUPPORT

Did you know 311 provides accessible support for municipal services and information over the phone at in-person at our contact centres?

NEW ASL Video Relay Service: Deaf and hard of hearing residents who contact 311 can now request real-time sign language interpretation through SRV Canada VRS.

Multilingual Services: When calling 311 or visiting a centre, residents who need to communicate in languages other than English can request interpretation services in over 300 languages.

Learn more [here](#).



TAX RELIEF FOR NONPROFIT AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

The 2026/27 Tax Relief Program is now OPEN for applications. Because the Jan. 31, 2026, deadline falls on a weekend the application deadline has been extended to Monday, Feb. 2, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

HRM's [website](#) has an overview of the program and the Application Form for those organizations seeking to add a property to the program next fiscal year.

For those organizations already accepted into the program ("Renewals") the [webpage](#) also has the annual Confirmation Form. This form must be completed and submitted by the stated deadline to avoid a 50% reduction in level of tax relief up to a maximum of \$5,000 per property. Any deduction for non-compliance with the program's reporting requirements will be apportioned between the interim and final tax bills.

Inquiries should be directed to 311 or Contactus@311.halifax.ca



Tour of the Halifax Forum with my Council colleagues



2026

Please join **Mayor Andy Fillmore** and members of the Regional Council in celebrating the arrival of 2026 at the New Year's Levee.

Jan. 1, 2026 | 9:30-11 a.m.
Halifax City Hall (Halifax Hall)
1841 Argyle Street, Halifax



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ONLINE PROPERTY TAX MANAGEMENT

Did you know that you can manage your property taxes easily 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.

**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 at [here](#).

TRAILBLAZERS

Olivia 2018

Samantha 2009

Olivia 2017

Kayla 2006

Jessica 2015

Emzie 2025

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF COURAGE 2006 - 2026

CAMP COURAGE
THE FIRST RESPONDERS SOCIETY

An empowering FREE program introducing Nova Scotian females and gender diverse youth ages 15-19 years to emergency service careers.

Camp Dates : July 4th to 12th
Application Deadline : February 7th

Contact:
campcourage.ca
902-701-1405

STEP UP TODAY

Logos for Halifax Regional Municipality, Police, EMS, and Fire & Emergency Services.

We're hiring fleet maintenance roles

Learn more at halifax.ca/transit

HALIFAX TRANSIT

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.

hfxALERT
Notifications when you need to know.

HALIFAX

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

2025/26 FIRESMART VEGETATIVE DEBRIS MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Halifax Regional Council has directed the CAO to allocate \$20,000 to support yard waste and debris disposal during municipal FireSmart events. FireSmart™ Canada promotes wildfire resilience through education and mitigation. Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) adopted FireSmart in 2022 and expanded efforts after the May 2023 Upper Tantallon wildfire, which destroyed over 150 homes.

HalifACT will provide up to \$20,000 from the Small Projects Bundle to help HRFE manage vegetative debris through:

- Curbside collection for eligible properties
- Mobile chipping via private contractors
- Temporary drop-off sites on HRM property
- On-site processing with air curtain burners or grinders
- Hauling and recycling at local facilities

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



FIREWORKS

Whether celebrating Canada Day, New Year's Eve, Natal Day, or a recognized religious holiday, Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) encourages residents to prioritize safety and community well-being when considering fireworks.

Attend Professional Displays

Residents are strongly encouraged to attend professional fireworks displays rather than using consumer fireworks. These events are planned with safety and community impact in mind.

Burn Restrictions & Fireworks Ban

Burn restrictions are updated daily at 2 p.m. and can be checked on the [Nova Scotia Burn Safe Map](#). If a burn ban is in effect, all fireworks are prohibited, even on designated holidays. Violating the ban can result in a \$25,000 fine.

Permitted Dates for Consumer Fireworks:

Canada Day (July 1)

Natal Day

New Year's Eve (Dec. 31/Jan. 1)

Recognized religious holidays

Outside of these dates a [noise exemption](#) must be requested.

Reporting Issues

For immediate safety concerns (e.g., fireworks during a fire ban or causing fire risk), call 911

For noise complaints in progress, call Halifax Regional Police at 902-490-5020

For non-urgent concerns, contact 311 by phone or email contactus@311.halifax.ca

For full guidelines, visit the [HRM Fireworks Safety Page](#).

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.

WINTER GARBAGE COLLECTION

As the snow season approaches, please remember to place waste for curbside collection in a spot that won't interfere with sidewalk or road clearing. To help our crews keep pathways safe and accessible, place waste at the edge of your driveway, not on the sidewalk or road.

MUNICIPALITY SUPPORTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Regional Council has approved a one-time grant of \$150,000 through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) to support the purchase of a six-unit building to be used for affordable housing.

Dartmouth Non-profit Housing Society, under the business name Rooted: Community Development Partners a registered non-profit, is planning to acquire a six-unit building in Spryfield for use as affordable housing.

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



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REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- Dec. 9
- Dec. 11 (special meeting)

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 Jan. 20, 2026.

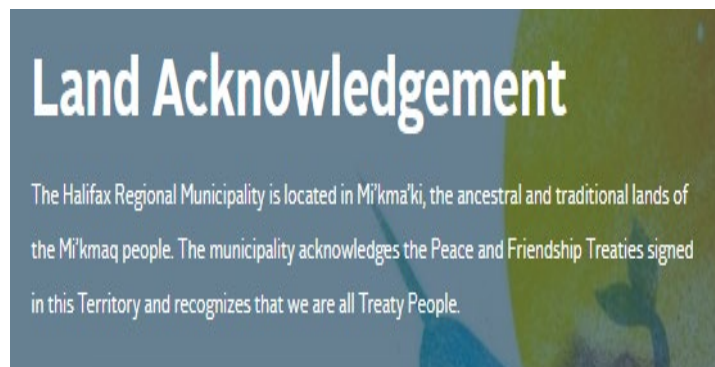
Currently serving on:

- 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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