



# Councillor Janet Steele

TIMBERLEA – BEECHVILLE

CLAYTON PARK – WEDGEWOOD

DISTRICT 12  
NEWSLETTER

## A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEELE

Happy February, District 12!

I hope you are staying warm despite all the cold weather we have been experiencing. We have much to celebrate this month as it is African Heritage Month, I encourage you to check out this year’s events and activities and celebrate the rich culture of people of African descent. More information can be found below in this newsletter.

February 17 is Heritage Day, and this year we will be honouring the accomplishments of Nora Bernard. Finally, we celebrate Valentines Day on February 14, a time to show the people in our life how much we care.

This month we begin budget discussions with business unit presentations. I would like to take this opportunity to remind and encourage everyone to participate. There is an opportunity for public participation at the start of every budget meeting.

If you would like to receive my monthly E-Newsletter straight to your inbox, you can ask to be added to the mailing list by contacting my coordinator, Emily at [smithem@halifax.ca](mailto:smithem@halifax.ca)

## COUNCILLOR DROP-IN

I will be hosting community drop-ins and will advertise the date and location in this monthly E-Newsletter as well as on social media. Please note, there will be no drop-in date for February. Stay tuned for March!

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



On Saturday, January 11, it was a privilege to participate in the Tamil Heritage Month Celebrations at St. Mary's University. Thanks to Valar Kaliaperumal, President, Maritime Tamil Welfare Association, for the invitation.

## AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025

February is African Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich culture, achievements and contributions of African Nova Scotians and communities of African descent in our region and across the nation.



This year's provincial theme, *Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance*, highlights the living legacy of Black Nova Scotians, honouring the impact and perseverance of the long-standing community.

Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back over 400 years.

The Halifax Regional Municipality are committed to fostering safe and inclusive communities for all. Our African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office (ANSAIO) are committed to addressing anti-Black racism in our workplaces and communities with the [Anti-Black Racism Framework](#), the [African Descent Advisory Committee](#) advises Regional Council on the impact of municipal policies, programs and services for People of African Descent and we are sponsors of the [Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities](#), that encourages community efforts and provides a space for realizing future opportunities for all people of African descent.

This month, City Hall will be illuminated in black, green and red and the Pan-African flag will be displayed at some of our municipal buildings in honour of African Heritage Month. Take time to commemorate African Heritage this month by checking out the [Halifax Public Library portal featuring programs that celebrate the African Nova Scotian community](#).

## RESIDENTS INVITED TO LEARN ABOUT NEW MINIMUM PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to learn more about new Minimum Planning Requirements that will affect policies and regulations regarding housing in our region.

Minimum Planning Requirements are provincial regulations that the municipality's land use plans and strategies must meet as required by the province. In August 2024, the province announced [12 new Minimum Planning Requirements](#) to prioritize increasing housing supply.

To comply with the new regulations, the municipality is making changes to the [Regional Plan](#), as well as Community Plans and land use by-laws.

Check out the new requirements and submit your feedback in our online public engagement by Monday, February 24 [here](#).

**Regional Plan**

contact us:  
regionalplan@halifax.ca  
(902) 943-5139

# Minimum planning changes in Halifax

**What's changing?**

The Province of Nova Scotia has introduced new Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations. The Halifax Regional Municipality is updating its land use plans and by-laws to comply with these requirements.

These changes are intended to support the development of more housing supply across the municipality.

Some notable changes affect bedroom unit mix, parking requirements, how building height is measured and ground-floor commercial use requirements.

The public engagement period closes February 24, 2025

For more information:  
[shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/minimum-planning](https://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/minimum-planning)

## COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising eligible registered non-profit and charitable organizations that applications for the [Community Grants Program](#) have opened.



The program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the region. There are project grants (up to \$5,000) or capital grants (up to \$25,000) available in the following categories: community arts; diversity and accessibility; environment and climate change; emergency assistance and neighbourhood safety; community histories; leisure; and recreation.

Check out the [2025/26 Program Guidebook](#) prior to applying and find more information about the program on our [website](#).

## HFX ALERT

hfxALERT is the municipality's mass notification system for informing residents about emergencies and operations updates.

hfxALERT will send urgent and non-urgent notifications from Halifax Regional Police, Halifax Fire & Emergency's Emergency Management Division, as well as municipal winter parking ban notices. [Sign up for notifications](#) or [click here to download the mobile app](#).



## 2025/26 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

This month, Regional Council will be continuing to work with each business unit to direct the 2025/26 budget and business plan and capital plan.

Residents are encouraged to tune in or attend these budget sessions, where we will hear from each business unit and discuss their budget and plan for the next fiscal year and there will be time set aside for public feedback:

Department	Date (contingency date)
<b>Public Safety</b> Community Safety; Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency; Halifax Regional Police; and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment	<b>Wednesday, February 12</b> (Contingency: Friday, February 14)
<b>Operations</b> Halifax Transit; Parks & Recreation; Planning & Development; Property, Fleet & Environment; and Public Works	<b>Wednesday, February 19 and Thursday February 20</b> (Contingency: Friday, February 21)
<b>Corporate Services</b> Chief Administrative Office; Finance & Asset Management; Human Resources; Information Technology; and Legal & Legislative Services	<b>Wednesday, February 26</b> (Contingency: Friday, February 28)

Next month, Regional Council will review all of the add-ons (“overs”) and subtractions (“unders”) on the Budget Adjustment List then final budget approval is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8. Visit our [website](#) to tune in or confirm the schedule and details.

## BEECHVILLE, LAKESIDE, TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

### New Traffic Lights at Higgins Avenue in Beechville

Residents have asked questions about the recent installation of new traffic lights at Higgins Avenue in Beechville. The Lovett Lake developer was able to finish this installation in January as the civil work was completed a few years ago. The



installation of traffic signals at the corner of the St. Margaret's Bay Road and the Timberlea Parkway is scheduled to take place in spring 2025. This project was postponed in 2024 due to delays with utility relocations.

### RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment (HRD): Community Policing Office in Beechville

The RCMP HRD are seeking HRM funding for 14 new positions, with six of these new positions to be located at a new community policing office in Beechville. The rationale for these new positions is to respond to the increased number of calls for service, the growing population in the area and to provide service enhancements. The site of the office is to be determined. I welcome your feedback on this proposal. The funding request that went to the Board of Police Commissioners on January 15 can be viewed [here](#).

### Townhall Update

Thanks to all the residents that came out on a cold night for the January 30 townhall at Trinity United Church. A big thanks to the Trinity United Church for hosting the event and Barb Charteris for moderating the townhall.

It was a privilege to partner with MLA Iain Rankin and Member of Parliament Lina Metlege Diab on this opportunity for residents to ask questions of their representatives. A special thank you to the RCMP (Inspector Jeff Mitchell, Superintendent Don Moser and Sergeant Lynden Morrison) for being there to speak to the proposed BLT community policing satellite office.

Some of the key municipal issues that came up were sidewalks for the Timberlea Parkway, traffic signals close to Exit 3, affordability, winter operations, speeding and opportunities to have community space at the new school in the BLT.



## CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

### Windsor Street Exchange Council Update

At the January 28 Regional Council meeting, we considered a staff proposal on the Windsor Street Exchange Redevelopment Project. The staff report can be viewed [here](#).

I voted to support the staff proposal as I stated in Council that I feel we need to move forward to address the major congestion being experienced at this intersection. I also feel that while only one dedicated bus lane and a multiuse path do not fulfill all our future growth needs, they will provide significant improvement while other options are being explored. In addition, I recognized the importance of badly needed repaving, the integration with the needs of both Halifax Water and the Port of Halifax and the money that has already been spent on the design. I am also concerned about losing access to the committed \$23 million in federal dollars related to Port of Halifax upgrades. Finally, I am concerned that efforts to obtain more land on either side of the road may take many years and I believe residents would like some relief in the shorter term.

The proposal was defeated, but the report may be debated again at a future Regional Council meeting as three Councillors were missing from the original discussion. Please let me know your position on this proposed project.

### Thomas Raddall Drive Shelter Village Update

The Shelter Village, a project of the Province of Nova Scotia, is being managed by the Atlantic Community Shelters Society (ACSS). Currently, there are 20 people living at the site with staff and security on site 24 hours/day. There is space for another 20 but those units will not be filled until the Community Building is completed.

HRM is supporting the site through the provision of land, snow clearing and garbage removal. HRM and community outreach staff are providing regular referrals to ACSS for clients who might be a good fit for the site and their wrap around services. While not quite ready yet, the Village will be seeking help from the general community in the future for donations of clothes and other supplies. At this time, they do not have roles for volunteers, but they do plan to make use of volunteers in the future.

### Washmill Lake Drive & Grand Haven Estates Safety Concerns

I wanted to provide an update on this as I have received many resident inquiries concerning this intersection.

Grandhaven Blvd is a private road and HRM does not install infrastructure for private property owners. For developments like this, the need for traffic signals is determined during the development planning stage as part of a traffic impact study that is required to be completed by the developer. At that time, the projected volumes for the area and the proposed development indicated that traffic signals would not be warranted at Grandhaven Blvd. Based on the many requests received for signals here, HRM did reassess the traffic conditions in 2022. The assessment considered the traffic conditions and collision history at Grandhaven Blvd. and affirmed that of the seven property-damage-only collisions that occurred at the location, only one was of a nature that could potentially be addressed by installing traffic signals.

Overall, based on both traffic volume and collision experience, traffic signals are not warranted at Grandhaven Blvd. however considering the many traffic safety concerns brought to my attention, I asked HRM staff to reassess the traffic conditions with updated traffic data again this year.



On Sunday, January 26, the Association officially opened its new Mainland Common Loop Connector Trail and provided a guided walk on the new trail and its adjacent trails and pathways. Congratulations to the many volunteers that worked on this trail and to the volunteer Board of Directors including Chair Jessica Boyd who are overseeing the evolution of the trail plan.

## CAMP COURAGE

Camp Courage is a free, award-winning program that inspires young women and gender-diverse youth to discover careers in emergency services. This life-changing experience builds confidence, leadership, and resilience while igniting a passion to make a difference.

This program has had a profound impact on youth who have participated in this program. Do you know someone in our community who could benefit from stepping into a world of inspiration, mentorship, and possibility?

Together, we can empower the next generation of first responders and leaders. Let's change a life today! For more information, visit their [website](#).

Deadline to apply is February 15, 2025.



Applications for the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage's (CCTH) Community Infrastructure, Active Transportation, and Access-Ability grants for the fiscal year 2025-26 are now open until February 14. This is an important opportunity for local organizations and entities to enhance and improve community facilities and help to support a more accessible and vibrant future for everyone.

There are grants available for renovations to community halls, recreation facilities, rinks and legions, accessibility improvements for businesses and community centres, and active transportation projects that link communities.

To apply, groups must be registered non-profit societies, Mi'kmaw Band Councils, municipalities and villages and schools with facilities available for community recreational use.

Potential applicants can discuss their projects with a CCTH regional manager or program officer before submitting an application to ensure that you are best positioned to succeed in securing the support you need. To learn more about the available categories and appropriate contacts, check out their [website](#).

## SIGN UP FOR SHAPE YOUR CITY

Shape Your City is HRM's engagement hub. This online hub complements community consultation activities such as open houses and town halls. It makes engagement programs like these more inclusive, accessible and makes it easier for you to share your opinions through tools like discussion forums, quick polls and surveys. I encourage you to sign up at the link [here](#).

## INCLUSION SUPPORT ADVISORY GROUP



We are looking for 8-12 people to make up the Inclusion Support Advisory Group, a volunteer team of residents from all over the region that will be responsible for leading the development of the Inclusion Support Analysis and Evaluation in Parks & Recreation ensuring that key priorities reflect the needs of the disability community.

The advisory group will consist of a mixed group of persons with disabilities, parents of persons with disabilities and service providers of persons with disabilities. This group will help in the following:

- the creation of a municipality-wide survey
- analyzing of data to determine key issues
- providing recommendations that will make up the final plan

Applications are open until Monday, March 3, 2025. Any questions about the inclusion support analysis or the advisory committee, please contact [inclusion@halifax.ca](mailto:inclusion@halifax.ca). To learn more or apply, visit our [website](#).

## 2024 RESIDENT SURVEY

2,029 residents responded to the 2024 Resident Survey in the fall and results were presented to Regional Council last month.

These surveys help to inform where Regional Council can focus our priorities to better serve our residents. Residents provided their feedback on what the top issues facing our municipality are, satisfaction with services and much more. You can check out the presentation [here](#) or the full staff report [here](#).

## HELP WITH TAX RETURNS

If you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, volunteers from the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program may be able to do your taxes for free!

**Remember to bring your tax slips, receipts and valid photo ID.**

A tax situation is considered simple if an individual does not have self-employment income or employment expenses, declared bankruptcy in the tax year (or the year before), rental income and expenses, foreign property or foreign income.

Free clinics will be held at Branch 156 Lakeside Legion - 231 Greenhead Road:

Wednesday, March 12, 19 and 26 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 23 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
No appointments needed, this is a first come first served basis.

Clinics are also being held at the Keshen Goodman Library by appointment. Contact the library after March 1 for more information or to book your appointment.

For more information, visit their [website](#) or call 1-866-837-1531.



## CLIMATE BADGE



The municipality's Environment & Climate Change team and the Ecology Action Centre worked with local artists to create the

Climate Commitment Badges to inspire residents to set achievable goals for climate action.

Climate 101, Home Energy and Getting Around are the first of several badges that residents can earn by getting informed about the issue, choosing cleaner methods of transportation and exploring how we can make our homes more efficient and less reliant on fossil fuels.

Find out how to get involved [here](#)

## PARK LIGHTING STRATEGY

Regional Council has approved a new Park Lighting Strategy to add lighting in parks to increase safety and accessibility at night and minimizes environmental impact.

Park lighting plays an important role in improving accessibility, visibility, safety and active living in municipal green spaces across the region. Regional Council identified the need for a strategy address nighttime safety, enhance the use of facilities like sport courts and installations of public art.

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

## SUMMER JOB RECRUITMENT

Applications are now open for our summer casual positions in aquatics, inclusion and recreation programming. These positions are ideal for teenagers and students with a fun work college, competitive wages and opportunities to work outdoors in an environment that promotes health, wellness and physical activity.

For more information on dates and locations, as well as a list of job openings, visit our [website](#).

## WEAR RED DAY

Heart disease is the number one killer of women worldwide and the leading cause of premature death in Canadian women. Wear Red Canada Day (WRCD) is celebrated annually on February 13 to raise awareness about women's cardiovascular. I hope you will join me and wear red on February 13 for this significant day of awareness.

This national movement first WRDC occurred here in Halifax in 2018, sponsored by our Women's Heart Health Clinic. WRCD is organized by the Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance (CWHHA), a volunteer group of clinicians, scientists, allied health care providers, and women with lived experience with heart disease from across Canada.

Visit their [website](#) to learn more.

## HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE REQUEST FOR AN ARMoured RESCUE VEHICLE

Halifax Regional Police (HRP) are seeking funding for an Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV) to support officer safety and to serve as a rescue vehicle for citizens in emergency situations. Use of this vehicle would be strictly controlled and only permitted in prescribed situations. Regional Council will vote on this purchase during budget discussions in February. Pictured below is the Fredericton ARV which is similar to what the HRP have requested. The motion that was presented to the Board of Police Commissioners on January 15 can be viewed [here](#).





## COUNCILLOR 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](#).

## 2023/24 STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Halifax Regional Municipality has released the [2023/24 Strategic Performance Report](#). This annual report uses strategic key performance indicators to provide a high-level analysis of advancement towards the municipality's priorities and outcomes in the [2021-2025 Strategic Priorities Plan](#).

The [Strategic Performance Snapshot](#) dashboard has also been updated with data for 2023/24.

## HERITAGE DAY

Celebrated the third Monday in February, Nova Scotia Heritage Day is an annual reminder of our storied past and an opportunity to honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province's unique heritage.

This year's honouree is Nora Bernard, a Mi'kmaq activist for her community and First Nations across the country who was instrumental in ensuring justice, recognition and compensation for the survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. Learn more about Nora [here](#).

## FEBRUARY IS REGISTRATION MONTH IN HRCE

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on Monday, February 3. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!



Trying a sledge made me appreciate the high level of athleticism and skill required for both sledge speed skating and sledge hockey. Along with Mayor Fillmore and Councillor Cuttell, it was a privilege to be there to accept the award from Speed Skating Canada to the Halifax Regional Municipality as its

Partner of the Year, in recognition of the support that speed skating and speed sledge programs have received from HRM.



## SENIOR CITIZEN SCAM

Police are advising citizens to be cautious of a scam that targets seniors that is continuing to occur throughout our region.

In each incident, the victim received a call from someone pretending to be a family member who indicated that they have been arrested, they are in jail and need bail money.

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 all recent incidents, a suspect made arrangements to pick up the money in person by attending the victim's residence or meeting in a public place. Recently, the scammers have been asking victims to forward their cash to an address via registered mail or a courier service such FedEx.

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.

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.

For more information and scam prevention tips, visit the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) and [Halifax Regional Police fraud prevention websites](#).

## PINK SHIRT DAY

Wear a pink shirt on February 26 to promote a more kind, inclusive world and raise awareness and funds for anti-bullying initiatives. You can find out more about Pink Shirt Day [here](#).

## REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are three Regional Council meetings scheduled for February. Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:

- February 4 (Special Meeting)
- February 11
- February 25

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 6:00 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 February 18.

### Currently serving on:

Environment and Sustainability 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