



## COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

## A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEELE

Happy February, District 12!

I hope you are staying warm despite all the cold weather and winter storms 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 16 is Heritage Day, and this year we will be honouring the accomplishments of Joseph William Comeau. Finally, we celebrate Valentines Day on February 14, a time to show the people in our life how much we care.

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

## 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.



**HALIFAX**

halifax.ca | 311 | [contactus@311.halifax.ca](mailto:contactus@311.halifax.ca)



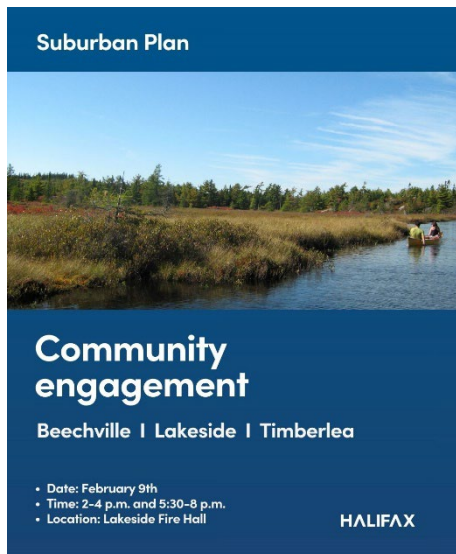
# COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

## BEECHVILLE, LAKESIDE, TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

### Suburban Plan Engagement

The Halifax Regional Municipality is currently working on creating the Suburban Plan, a new guiding document and regulations for development and land use in our suburban communities. This plan will help shape where and how our communities grow!



The Beechville, Lakeside Timberlea community engagement on the Suburban Plan will take place on Monday, February 9. The sessions will be held 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Firehall. If you are unable to attend, you can complete the questionnaire [online here](#). I hope to see you there!

### BLT Community Centre Update

Work on the new recreation centre continues to move forward. I am pleased to share that a full season of activities is planned for the Spring. There will be fitness, dance and art classes along with sports programming including pickleball!

The classes and programs will be posted on the HRM Parks and Recreation [webpage](#) on February 24 with registration opening on March 10. I will continue to share updates as they become available. Stay tuned for the official grand opening!

### Mayflower Curling Club Infrastructure Announcement

On January 14, I attended a federal infrastructure announcement at Timberlea's new Mayflower Curling Club. Minister Lena Metlege Diab announced a \$4 million investment in energy efficiency and accessibility for the new facility. It was inspiring to see each of the six ice surfaces being fully used and the overall buzzing ambiance at this new community asset.



### BLT Community Market



LAKESIDE LEGION #156  
231 GREENHEAD ROAD

SUNDAY FEB. 8, 2026

GOURMET POP@RN TOYS & GIFTS  
WOOD DECOR custom hats  
*baked goods* homemade cat toys  
WINE GLASS CHARMS CRAFTS  
FROZEN ENTREES Custom Jewelry  
HANDCRAFTED GREETING CARDS  
*pins & beads* SOY CANDLES + MELTS  
UPCYCLED WOOL MITTENS ART

Check out the BLT Community Market on Sunday February 8 at the Lakeside Legion! Doors open at 9 a.m.



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## CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

### Clayton Park Suburban Plan Engagement



HRM's Suburban Plan team is hosting public engagement events to hear from residents about what they value in their communities, what could improve,

and what they hope to see in the future. Last week, the team held a Kick Off Open House at the Canada Games Centre, where residents heard a presentation, learned about the project, and shared their feedback.

If you couldn't make it to the Suburban Plan open house at the Canada Games Centre, there are still many ways to participate! Events and activities for this first phase of public

engagement will be running until June 2026. Open Houses are continuing to be hosted in suburban communities across HRM and are open to all residents. In Clayton Park, the team will be back on February 21 at the Keshen Goodman Library from 10 – 12:30 p.m. You can also participate in an online survey on the [project website](#), which is regularly updated with event information, project updates and online tools for providing feedback.

**Suburban Plan**

**Pop Up Community Engagement**

Clayton Park

- Date: February 21<sup>st</sup>
- Time: 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Location: Keshen Goodman Public Library

HALIFAX

### Halifax Northwest Trails Association (HNWTA) Trail Opening

It was fantastic to attend the January 18 Mainland Common Loop Trail ceremony along with my Council colleague, Kathryn Morse, MLAs Adegoke Fadare and Lina Hamid and MP and federal Cabinet Minister Lena Metlege Diab. The event recognized the completion and official opening of the phase two section of the trail that was constructed in 2025. Congratulations to the HNWTA Chair Jessica Boyd, Maintenance Manager Tony Cranford and their entire Association for their ongoing dedication to community building and making our natural spaces accessible for all to enjoy. This trail work was funded by an HRM grant.



With Board Chair Jessica Boyd, Maintenance Manager, Tony Cranford, Councillor Morse and I.

### 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 February 26 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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



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### FEBRUARY IS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



February is the 30<sup>th</sup> celebration of African Heritage Month!

Each year, African Heritage Month honours the experiences, achievements and enduring contributions of Black communities in Nova Scotia, while deepening our collective understanding of their history and impact on our society. Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back over 400 years.

This year's provincial theme is *"Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress."* Unity is not passive, it is an active force that strengthens our communities, advances justice, and creates pathways for opportunity and growth.

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. Keep an eye on our [website](#) for more details about how you can commemorate African Heritage Month and what we're working on to build strong relationships, partnerships, and alliances with African Nova Scotian communities across the municipality.

### PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

At the January 13 meeting of Regional Council, the Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) presented the 2026 assessment roll to Council.

The PVSC is a non-profit governed by a board of directors who completes property assessments for the entire province.

The report is an important part of our budget process, as municipal tax rates are charged on assessed values.

To discuss your property assessment or lodge an appeal, please contact PVSC 1-800-380-7775 or [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca). Appeals must be received by February 12. You can find more information about PVSC and assessments on their [website](#) or view the presentation to Council [here](#).

### HALIFAX TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY

The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking feedback from passengers about accessibility on Halifax Transit's conventional bus, Access-A-Bus and ferry services.

Feedback from the public will help ensure continued improvements, making transit more inclusive and accessible for everyone. Complete the survey [here](#).





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## 2025 ANTI-BLACK RACISM GRANT AWARDS

Halifax Regional Council has approved 16 project-based grants totaling \$100,000 through the Anti-Black Racism Grants Program, following a recommendation from the Grants Committee.



The approved projects support community-led initiatives that address systemic anti-Black racism across the municipality, including efforts focused on historic omission, racial segregation, lack of recognition, systemic expropriation and negative portrayals in media and literature. Funded initiatives align with Regional Council priorities and are intended to strengthen community capacity, equity and inclusion.

The Anti-Black Racism Grants Program provides one-time funding of up to \$10,000 per project to eligible non-profit organizations and charities.

Successful applicants will be required to report on project outcomes by October 31, 2026.

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

## WINTER OPERATIONS REMINDERS



We made it through another winter storm! For timely updates on winter operations and more information on service standards for road and sidewalk clearing in your area, please

check out our [website](#). Don't forget to sign up for alerts when the winter parking ban is being enforced, ensure your property and sidewalks are clear of any obstructions and stay safe!

## TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH OPENING CEREMONY

In January, I had the privilege to represent Mayor Fillmore and Regional Council at the January 9 Opening Ceremony for Tamil Heritage Month at the Central Library.



Congratulations to the many volunteers that made this celebration special for the Tamil community and for all Nova Scotians.

## “ONE MEMBERSHIP” RECREATION ACCESS

Regional Council has directed staff to 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](#).



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## HRM BUDGET 2026/27

Over the next few months, Regional Council will be reviewing each business unit's budget and business plan and providing feedback to shape the final 2026/27 municipal operating and capital budgets and I'd like you to be part of it!



You can attend any budget meeting and take part in the public participation section of the meeting. You can pre-register by 4:30 p.m. on the business day prior to the meeting or show up and elect to step forward when the Chair calls for public participation. Virtual participation is also available - a convenient option if you'd prefer not to travel to City Hall.

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

- **February 4–6:** Operations (Parks & Recreation, Planning & Development, Public Works, Halifax Transit, etc.)
- **February 11–13:** Public Safety (Community Safety, Fire & Emergency, Police, RCMP)
- **February 18–19:** Corporate Services & Other (CAO's Office, Finance, HR, IT, Libraries, Mayor's Office, etc.)

In March, we will be reviewing the Budget Adjustment List (BAL) where Council will consider additional items beyond proposed budgets, including add-ons ("overs") and subtractions ("unders") and provide final budget approval.

\*These dates are subject to change.

For more information on the 2026/27 municipal budget process, visit our [website](#).

## AFFORDABLE ACCESS PROGRAM

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

- Affordable Transit Passes (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 visit our [website](#).

## POLICING FEEDBACK

The Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC) has engaged Narrative Research to conduct a community survey on Policing.

The survey covers topics such as your perception of police effectiveness, what the most important crime related priorities should be and much more and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

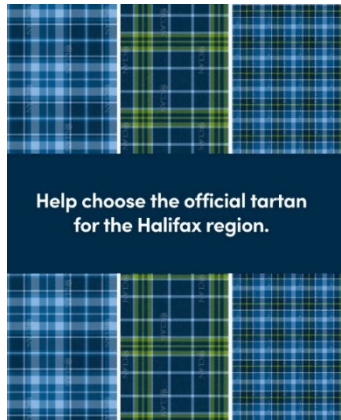
The results of the survey will be reported quarterly, and there will be a final report and presentation in the fall. Check out the survey [here](#).

The BoPC are also collecting feedback on the Use of Force and the Code of Conduct Complaints policies. You can find more information on our [website](#) and submit policy feedback to [bopc@halifax.ca](mailto:bopc@halifax.ca).

Please take the time to participate and provide your feedback for these two important community safety initiatives!



## MUNICIPAL TARTAN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to share their thoughts on three proposed tartan designs to help select an official tartan for our region. Tartan is a widely recognized symbol of heritage and identity, and nearly 200,000 residents in the

municipality identify as having Scottish or Irish heritage.

Input from residents will inform a recommendation to Regional Council in early 2026, when the final design will be selected and submitted to the Scottish Tartans Authority, the global authority for tartan registration managing the Scottish Register of Tartans. Once selected and registered, the official Halifax Regional Municipality tartan will be used in branding, ceremonial events and other municipal applications to celebrate and represent this part of our identity.

Visit [this webpage](#) by Feb. 11 to review the three proposed designs and provide your feedback.

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

## WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE LANE REALIGNMENT

Regional Council received its biannual update on the Windsor Street Exchange project, a major transportation and trade infrastructure initiative aimed at improving safety, reliability and connectivity on the Halifax peninsula. The project is using a progressive design-build approach, allowing design and construction planning to advance together while managing risk and refining costs.

Phase 1 is underway, focusing on early work such as detour road preparation, retaining walls, underground utilities, site preparation and foundation work. These activities help keep the project on schedule and meet federal requirements tied to \$23.5 million in National Trade Corridors Fund support.

Details for Phase 2 - featuring major structural work including new overpasses - are expected to come to Regional Council in March 2026. The project remains on schedule, with federally funded work to be completed by the end of 2027 and full construction finishing in 2028.

The Highway 111 ramp between the Massachusetts Avenue ramps and the Windsor Street Exchange will remain closed until the new overpass is completed in 2027. A marked detour is in place, and access from Massachusetts Avenue toward the MacKay Bridge remains open.

For details on bus detours and maps, visit the Halifax Transit service disruptions [page](#).

To ensure safety, the speed limit in the Highway 111 construction zone is reduced to 50 km/h, with doubled fines. Rumble strips are being installed to alert drivers to slow down and navigate the realigned lanes safely.

Learn more about this project and other traffic impacts that may occur [here](#).



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## HERITAGE DAY



Every year, on the third Monday in February, Nova Scotians celebrate Heritage Day. This is an opportunity to enjoy time off with friends and family, celebrate an important piece of our Nova Scotia's storied past and diverse culture, and learn more about our history in the process.

This year, we will honour Senator

Joseph Willie Comeau (1876–1966). Comeau was an Acadian educator, entrepreneur, legislator and Senator from Digby County, Nova Scotia. He is recognized for his long-standing advocacy for Acadian language, culture and education in Nova Scotia. His efforts included:

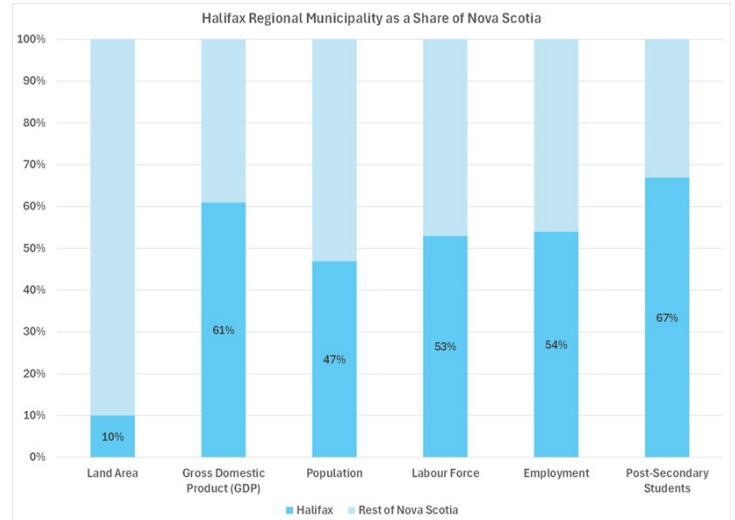
- supporting the development of a French-Canadian history textbook for schools in Acadian regions
- encouraging French-language training for teachers through Université Sainte-Anne

He was elected nine times, reflecting sustained confidence in his leadership and commitment to his constituents.

There will be a Community Celebration in Church Point, NS to commemorate his life and legacy on Feb. 21 from 1 – 3 at the Université Sainte-Anne featuring a presentation by Comeau's family, video premiere of a short documentary about Comeau and a reception with refreshments. You can find more information [here](#).

## DID YOU KNOW?

Halifax contributes 61% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is responsible for 54% of employment in Nova Scotia!



**TRAILBLAZERS**

**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF COURAGE 2006 - 2026**

Olivia 2018

Samantha 2009

Olivia 2017

Kayla 2008

Jessica 2015

Emzie 2025

**CAMP COURAGE**  
THE FIRST RESPONDER SOCIETY

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

**Camp Dates : July 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Application Deadline : February 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Contact:**  
campcourage.ca  
902-701-1405

STEP UP TODAY

Logos for Nova Scotia Police, EHS, and other emergency services.



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## RIDESHARE OVERSIGHT



At the January 27 meeting of Regional Council, Council considered amendments to By-law T-1008 and Administrative Order 39 to modernize fare regulations for taxis, accessible taxis, and limousines and the licensing of

Transportation Network Company (TNC) drivers.

Halifax Regional Council voted down by-law changes and instead supported a motion to prepare a staff report with input from a temporary working committee composed of representatives from the Halifax Regional Municipality TNC Operators, and Taxi industry to review the Municipality's public policy objectives against the best practices from across Canada, with a particular focus on training, audit, approaches to licensure, and compliance models used by municipal and provincial regulators.

Council did approve changes in the regulations for fares, meter technology requirements, online applications.

You can find the staff report [here](#).

## 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.

\*\*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 [here](#).

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto: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.





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## REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- February 10
- February 24

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 March 3.

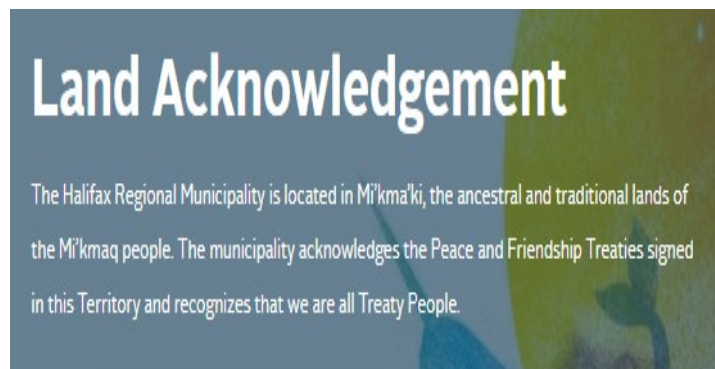
### Currently serving on:

- 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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