



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEELE

Happy January, District 12!

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you had a lovely and restful holiday season with friends and family.

As we move into January, Regional Council will begin the 2026/27 budget discussions. Further details on this process can be found below in this newsletter.

HRM is developing a Suburban Plan to guide growth and change in suburban areas. Two open houses are scheduled for District 12 - an excellent chance to share feedback and learn about the planning process. Find more details 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!

2026 Community Grants Program

The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting applications for the 2026 Community Grants Program. Applications opened Jan. 2 and close Mar. 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.



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halifax.ca | 311 | contactus@311.halifax.ca



BEECHVILLE, LAKESIDE, TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

BLT Community Centre Update

Work continues to progress on the new recreation centre and is currently on track to reach substantial completion by the end of February. Once the building reaches this stage, it will be handed over to our Parks and Recreation staff to begin preparing for opening and programming. I will continue to provide updates as they become available. Stay tuned for the official opening date!

Beechville Christmas Parade – December 14

The snow did not deter the many residents who came out for the Beechville Estates Christmas Parade in support of the food bank. Thanks to Sheila and Michael Beals for organizing the event and to the Halifax Regional Detachment of the RCMP and Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency for “bookending” the parade.



With Parade Organizer Sheila Beals and RCMP Staff Sergeant Major Deepak Prasad.

Trinity United Church Luncheon – December 16

I had the pleasure of attending Trinity United’s December luncheon which was a big hit with corn and seafood chowder options. And the chocolate cake was delicious!

Seasonal Parking Restrictions

This winter, some residential streets have shifted to one-side-only parking to help snow crews clear safely and efficiently. In past seasons, legally parked cars often blocked curb-to-curb clearing. The overnight Winter Parking Ban wasn’t enough, so all-day restrictions were added on select streets:

- Higgins Avenue (full length)
- Grosse Street (full length)
- Flatrock Crescent (full length)
- Beech Tree Run (full length)
- States Lane (full length)
- Sheppards Run (full length)
- Maple Grove Avenue (full length)
- Brentwood Avenue (transit route)
- Eisener Street (transit route)
- Maplewood Drive (transit route)
- Forestglen Drive (transit route)
- James Street (transit route)
- Charles Road (transit route)
- Honeygold Drive (full length)

To balance operations with residents’ needs, the permitted side alternates so some on-street parking remains year-round. “No Parking” zones still allow quick loading and drop-offs.

These changes were installed before the first snowfall using existing poles to reduce costs. Staff will review results at season’s end and adjust if needed.



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CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

Parkland Drive and Regency Park Drive Bike Lanes

The "[What We Heard](#)" report for the proposed bicycle lanes on Parkland Drive and Regency Park Drive is now available on Engage Halifax. Community feedback reflected a range of perspectives. Many participants expressed support for safer cycling connections within the neighbourhood and recognized the traffic-calming benefits the bicycle lanes would provide. Residents also raised important considerations related to maintaining on-street parking and ensuring accessibility. Other feedback touched on preferred modes of transportation, pedestrian safety, and transit along these streets.

These insights will help inform the next steps in the functional planning process. Visit [Engage Halifax](#) to read the full report and see how community input is shaping the project.



At the Veteran's Corner Tree Lighting with Ranjeev Chopra

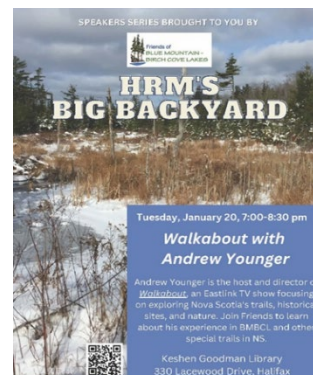
Halifax Northwest Trails Association New Trail Opening

HNWTA will be having an opening ceremony for the new length of trail built in the Mainland Common. Board members and community leaders will be there to lead a guided walk and answer your questions.

The ceremony will be held Sunday, Jan. 18, at 1:30 p.m. It will begin at the trailhead at 210 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax adjacent to the BMO Soccer Centre parking lot.

HRM's Big Backyard

Join Andrew Younger on Jan. 20 from 7–8:30 p.m. at the Keshen Goodman Library for a stunning "bird's eye view" of local natural spaces, including Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area. Enjoy stories about history, habitats, and filming with *Whalesong* across all seasons, as seen on Eastlink.



Presented by Friends of Blue Mountain–Birch Cove Lakes Society. For more details, visit their [website](#).



St. Peter's Ladies Guild Book Sale
Saturday, January 17th
9am – 12 noon
St. Peter's Anglican Church,
(Corner of Bedford Hwy & Kearney Lake Road)
3 Dakin Drive, Birch Cove
Please use Dakin Hall Entrance
Kindly bring a bag for your convenience.



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SUBURBAN PLAN

HRM is developing a Suburban Plan, a new planning document that will guide growth and change in our suburban areas.

Residents will have opportunities to share their ideas and help influence the Suburban Plan throughout the planning process, including an initial online survey. Learn more and fill out the survey by visiting our [website](#). The survey is open and will remain available until June 15, 2026.

Open houses:

Members of the public are invited to seven kick-off open houses to learn about the Suburban Planning process and provide initial feedback on key issues and opportunities.

The same information will be available in each session, but with opportunities to discuss the local community in more detail. The sessions for District 12 are as follows:

- **Clayton Park and Fairview:** Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Canada Games Centre, 26 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax
- **Beechville, Lakeside and Timberlea:** Monday, Feb. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Lakeside Fire Hall, 26 Myra Road, Timberlea

Residents, businesses and community-based organizations will have opportunities to share feedback and ask questions at each phase of the planning process.

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.

Questions about the Suburban Plan can be sent to suburbanplan@halifax.ca

Learn more about the project by visiting our [website](#).

TRAILBLAZERS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF COURAGE 2006 - 2026

Olivia 2018
Samantha 2009
Olivia 2017
Kayla 2006
Jessica 2015
Emzie 2025

CAMP COURAGE
THE FIRST EMPOWERING 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: Nova Scotia Police, EMS, Fire Department, Coast Guard

RECREATION ACCESS PROGRAM

Effective January 2026, multi-district facilities (MDFs) will be included in the Recreation Access Program.

Previously, these facilities operated their own affordable access programs.

MDFs now included in the program:

- Canada Games Centre
- Cole Harbour Place
- St. Margarets Centre
- Zatzman Sportsplex

Are you a member of one of these facilities looking for affordable access? Learn more and apply [here](#).

Changes to the Recreation Access Program
Including multi-district facilities

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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](#).

DECEMBER 27 HOLIDAY SKATE

We had a fantastic turnout at Councillors' Morse and Steele's Holiday Skate at Centennial Arena. It was a privilege to have some entire and extended families at the rink and on the ice.

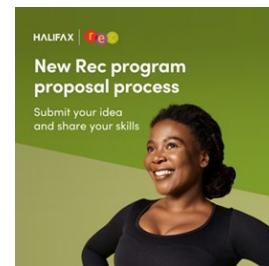
Thanks to HRM staff for being there to handle skate rentals and a shout out to Clayton Park West MLA Adegoke Fadare for joining us.

Many families with young children joined us for the skate and hot chocolate but for privacy reasons they are not included in the photos. Stay tuned for December 2026!



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](#).



With Beechville resident, Carston Jackson at the New Years Levee.



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WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE PROJECT UPDATE

Starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026, the ramp from Massachusetts Avenue to Highway 111 toward the Windsor Street Exchange and Bedford Highway will close 24/7 until the new overpass is complete in late 2027.



Traffic Impacts: The ramp will remain closed with a marked detour in place. Access from Massachusetts Avenue to the MacKay Bridge will stay open.

Transit Impacts: Halifax Transit routes 135, 136, 137, and 138 will continue using detour routes. For bus stop impacts and maps, visit the Halifax Transit service disruptions [page](#).

The speed limit in the construction zone is reduced to 50 km/h, with doubled fines. Rumble strips have been installed to alert drivers to lane changes and guide traffic safely through the area.



Wishing Noelle Murphy a Happy 85th Birthday.



With Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon and Brendon Smithson, Director Regional Recreation Services at the Events East Panel on the Business of Women's Sport at the Halifax Convention Centre.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

After the holidays, an option for disposing of natural Christmas trees is to place them curbside. They will be picked up on your regular green cart collection day. Remove all plastic, tinsel, ornaments, metal rings, nails, stands and plastic tree bags.



Did you know? Some no profit groups actively seek out natural Christmas trees for repurposing, such as for animal feed. Consider this disposal option before putting your tree to the curb.

For more on how to manage your waste download the Halifax Recycles app or click [here](#).



HRM BUDGET 2026/27 KEY DATES

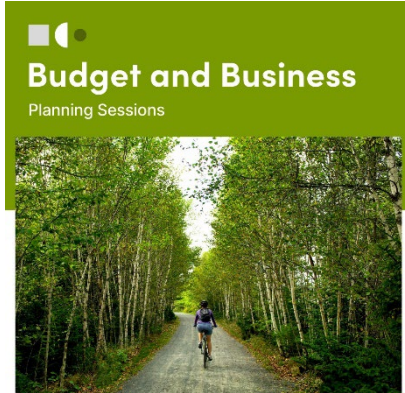
We have picked the dates for the upcoming 2026/27 municipal budget process and I'd like for you to be part of it!

The municipal budget covers everything that keeps our city running and growing—from daily services to major projects approved by Regional Council, as well as investments in infrastructure and community assets.

Each year, residents have the chance to share their thoughts directly with the Budget Committee. During scheduled meetings, time is set aside for public feedback, and you can participate in person or virtually.

Here are the key dates for this year's process:

- **Jan. 27:** Special evening public participation session (6 p.m., following Regional Council)
- **Jan. 28 & 30:** Capital Plan Recommendation (Reserve Withdrawals, Multi-Year Projects)
- **Feb. 4–6:** Operations Budget Presentations
 - Major Projects Office
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Planning & Development
 - Public Works
 - Strategic Infrastructure & Transportation Planning
 - Halifax Transit
 - Property, Fleet & Environment



- **Feb. 11–13:** Public Safety Budget Presentations
 - Community Safety
 - Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
 - Halifax Regional Police
 - RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment
- **Feb. 18–19:** 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 & 6:** Budget Adjustment List debate
- **March 31:** Final approval of the 2026/27 Municipal Budget and Business Plan

Please note, dates are to subject change.

If you'd like to speak to the Budget Committee, pre-registration is required by 4:30 p.m. the business day before the meeting. Virtual participation is also available—a convenient option if you'd prefer not to travel to City Hall.

For meeting details and agendas, [click here](#). For more information on the budget process, visit our [website](#).



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From the roof of IKEA Halifax. You can see all the solar panels in the background

HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND UPDATE

The municipality is making progress under the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), a federal program that supports faster housing development across Canada.

Since signing its agreement in October 2023, Halifax Regional Municipality has:

- Achieved 77.5 per cent of its three-year housing target and is expected to surpass the goal before October 2026.
- Completed 10 of 11 initiatives outlined in its HAF Action Plan.
- Received \$39 million in funding so far, with another \$19.8 million expected by late December 2025.

The federal program, administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, provides funding to municipalities that remove barriers and accelerate housing supply. The municipality's Action Plan sets a target of 15,467 new housing units over three years, an increase of more than 20 per cent compared to historical growth. This includes about 2,600 net new units over the life of the project.

The program runs until 2026 and rewards municipalities for meeting critical milestones. HRM's success means more housing options for residents and continued federal investment in the region.

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

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

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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PARKING BAN

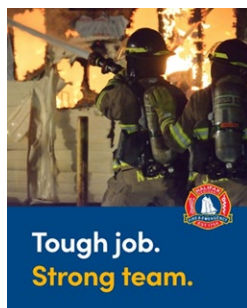
The overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from Dec. 15 until Mar. 31; however, it is only enforced during declared weather events and clearing operations. When the ban is enforced, it restricts any on-street parking between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Vehicles in violation of the ban will be ticketed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



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

HRFE APPLICATIONS OPEN

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) is accepting applications for career firefighters until Jan. 20.



Becoming a firefighter with HRFE is serious commitment that requires unwavering dedication and extensive preparation at every stage of the recruitment process.

As a candidate, you will face rigorous evaluations designed to ensure you are physically and mentally prepared to tackle the challenges of this demanding profession. This process will test your resilience and determination, and it is essential to approach every aspect with seriousness and focus.

We seek individuals who demonstrate professionalism and integrity in all areas, as these qualities are crucial not only during training, but also in the field. Your commitment to these standards will set you apart as a candidate ready to serve and protect our community.

For full details, [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, 2025.

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](#).



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REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- Jan. 13
- Jan. 27

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.

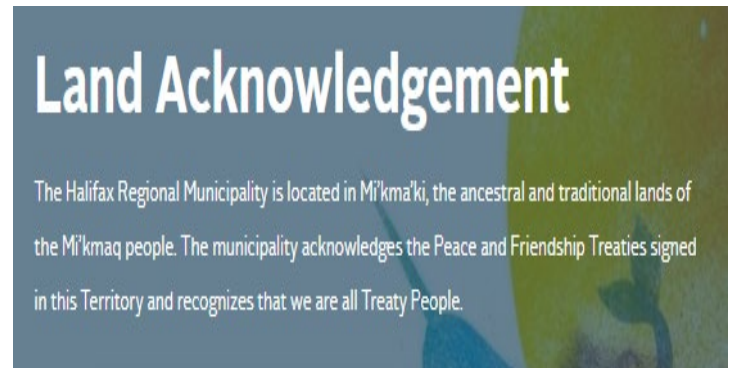
Currently serving on:

- 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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