



COUNCILLOR PAM LOVELACE

DISTRICT 13 ONLINE NEWS

HAMMONDS PLAINS – ST. MARGARET'S

WELCOME FEBRUARY!

February is African Heritage Month. It is a time to celebrate and recognize the contributions of our African Nova Scotian community.

On February 19, we will celebrate Heritage Day here in Nova Scotia. This year's honouree is William Hall. To learn more about his life and legacy you can click [here](#).

February will also be a busy month for us at Council as we are in the height of budget season. Please keep reading to find out to how to participate in budget meetings and the full budget schedule.

Within this newsletter, you'll also find more information on African Heritage Month events, summer recreation jobs, ice testing updates, and snow clearing standards.

If you have questions regarding a municipal program or service, please contact me at 902.225.4624 or by email at pam.lovelace@halifax.ca.

FEBRUARY MEETING DATES

Regional Council:

Tuesday, February 13 at 6 p.m.

Budget Committee

Friday, February 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m.

North West Community Council

Monday, February 26 at 7 p.m.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change, please confirm on our municipal [website](#).

Email pam.lovelace@halifax.ca to subscribe the District 13 e-newsletter.



Councillor Pam Lovelace

District 13

Hammonds Plains - St. Margarets

Contact Information

Call: 902-225-4624

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NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The North West Community Council met on January 15 where the following items were discussed:

Bedford West Water Quality Status Update

Staff provided members of the committee with an update on the December 2023 report regarding the water quality in Bedford West. This report will be brought to Council at a later date

[Case 2023-01049: Suburban Planning Area Land Use By-law Amendments to Interim Bonus Zoning Requirements for Applicable Plan Amendment Applications](#)

The committee approved first reading of the amendments to Interim Density Bonusing land use regulations outside of the Regional Centre. A public hearing for these changes will take place on February 20 at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

To learn more about the North West Community Council and review up coming meeting dates and agendas please visit our [website](#).

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

February is African Heritage Month. This year's provincial theme, "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians," encapsulates the enduring spirit and resilience demonstrated by people of African descent throughout the centuries in our province. Our smiles tell stories, share our joy, and symbolize our resilience. As we celebrate our heritage and culture, we also align with the final year of the

United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024, aiming to strengthen global cooperation and increase awareness for people of African descent

Nova Scotia boasts 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities, each with a profound and complex history spanning over two centuries. African Heritage Month provides a special opportunity to celebrate the culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of our people, both past and present.

Residents are also encouraged to take part in other events throughout the municipality celebrating African Heritage Month:

- City Hall will be illuminated in black, green, and red in honour of African Heritage Month, from January 25 to February 1 and February 11 to 17.
- Throughout February, the Downtown Halifax Business Commission will project light displays on the former Halifax Memorial Library Building at Grafton Park in celebration of African Heritage Month.
- The Pan-African flag will be displayed at both the Burnside and Ragged Lake Transit Centres, as the weather permits, in honour of African Heritage Month.
- Explore the African Heritage Month [virtual portal](#), featuring programs that celebrate the African Nova Scotian community.

For more information, visit the municipality's African Heritage Month [website](#).



PARTICIPATE IN THE 2024/2025 BUDGET

The annual budget impacts every operation of our municipality, which ensures our roads are plowed during a snowstorm, there are recreational facilities to enjoy, libraries, regular garbage pickup, and so much more!

The municipality's 2024/25 Budget and Business Planning process has underway and will continue into the spring of 2024. Over the winter, each municipal business unit presents their plans to Regional Council with their intentions for the upcoming fiscal year and outlines the required budgets to achieve their goals. During this process, Regional Council will ask questions, discuss, debate, and consider each department's proposed priorities and budget. This can result in revisions to budget plans along the way.

The 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan approval date is scheduled for April 23, 2024, where Regional Council will finalize next year's budget.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE BUDGET PROCESS?

- You can review the proposed schedule of budget presentations, learn about the budget process, and keep up to date on upcoming milestones, as they become available, [here](#).
- Learn more about the current [2021-25 HRM Strategic Priorities Plan](#) that helps inform the budget direction.

- Here are some [common questions](#) and answers regarding the municipal budget, and how it is determined each year.

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE BUDGET:

During every budget meeting, members of the public also have an opportunity to share their views on any aspect of the proposed municipal budget. You can speak directly to me as your Regional Councillor about budget priorities. During each meeting, time will also be set aside for the public to provide insight and comments. If you wish to make any presentations before HRM Council about the municipal budget, then please contact the Municipal Clerks Office at clerks@halifax.ca or call 902.490.4210. Written submissions are also welcomed.

MUNICIPAL BUDGET UPDATE

Beginning on Wednesday, January 31, municipal business units are presenting their proposed budgets and business plans for the 2024/25 fiscal year. A copy of each presentation will be available on halifax.ca/city-hall before the meeting.

The budget schedule for each business unit is as follows:

- **Wednesday, February 7** (Contingency: Friday, February 9) - Halifax Regional Police; RCMP
- **Friday, February 9** (Contingency: Tuesday, February 13) - Public Works
- **Tuesday, February 13** (Contingency: Wednesday, February 14) - Planning & Development

- **Wednesday, February 14** (*Contingency: Wednesday, February 28*) - Parks & Recreation
- **Wednesday, February 28** (*Contingency: Friday, March 1*) - Halifax Transit
- **Friday, March 1** (*Contingency: Wednesday, March 6*) - Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
- **Wednesday, March 6** (*Contingency: Friday, March 8*) - Community Safety



2024-2025 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Program will begin accepting applications from registered non-profits and charities located within Halifax Regional Municipality. The Program will open January 3, 2024, for the 2024-2025 program. The application deadline is April 1, 2024. Application forms and program guidebooks are available from:

- Our [website](#)
- Visiting one of our Customer Service Centres- their locations can be found [here](#)
- Contacting [311](#)

Organizations considering an application to the Program are encouraged to review the guidebook.

For further information, please email nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca or call 902.497.0479



WINTER OPERATIONS AND SNOW SERVICE STANDARDS

Winter weather is here! With each weather event, crews are responsible for clearing approximately 4,322 lane kilometres of streets. Stretched end to end, that's the same distance as driving from Halifax to Winnipeg. Crews also clear about 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks, six kilometers of protected bike lanes/local street bikeways, 11 kilometers of multi-use pathways and approximately 2,300 bus stops across the municipality.

An important reminder to all property owners: Never clear snow from your property onto the street or sidewalk. Property owners must ensure the snow they clear is piled on their own property. It is against By-Law S-300 to throw or pile snow in the street or on the sidewalk. This is a serious problem that can cause safety issues for pedestrians and other users as it complicates clearing for crews. When this happens, crews are often forced to double back, delaying service on the rest of their routes. The municipality has enhanced enforcement in place to address non-compliance with the by-law.

The Winter Parking Ban can be enforced during declared weather events from 1 – 6 a.m. Regardless of the status of an overnight winter parking ban, vehicles can be towed any time during the day or night if they are interfering with snow-clearing operations, as per Section 139 of the *Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act*.

For minor (0 to 5cm accumulation) and average (5 to 15 cm accumulation) winter events, snow

clearing updates will be posted three times a day: 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. on halifax.ca/snow and via [@hfxgov](https://twitter.com/hfxgov) on X (Twitter). For major events (15 cm or greater of accumulation), updates will be posted four times a day: 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Please note: Additional updates may be posted outside of these times as required.

For more information on our Winter Operations Program and tips to help you prepare for the winter, please visit our [website](#).

Roads and On-street Bikeways				
Priority Level	Type of Road	Service Standard for clearing (starts after end of event)	Minimum Accumulation	What surface should look like
1	Main arterial roads, emergency routes, Halifax Transit routes and roads with steep grades	12 hours	2 cm of snowfall	Bare
2	Residential streets, gravel roads and private lanes	24 hours	10 cm of snowfall	Snow covered but passable

Sidewalks and Protected Bike Lanes				
Priority Level	Priority Level Location/type of sidewalk or bike lane	Service Standard for clearing (starts after end of event)	Minimum Accumulation	What surface should look like
1	Downtown Halifax and Dartmouth	12 hours	5 cm of snowfall	Bare
1	Main arterials and school drop-off zones	12 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Bare
2	Halifax Transit routes	18 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Mostly bare with salt for traction
3	Residential streets and walkways	36 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Mostly bare with salt for traction

When to contact 311
 Once the service timelines have expired, you can report any snow or ice removal issues on municipal streets, sidewalks or bike lanes by emailing ContactUs@311.halifax.ca or by calling 311.

Please note, clearing timelines may be exceeded during exceptional weather conditions.

HALIFAX

COUNCIL APPROVES NEW RURAL RECREATION STRATEGY

Regional Council has approved the proposed Rural Recreation Strategy, which provides an analysis of current and future needs for Parks & Recreation services and assets in rural areas of HRM.

With this approval, the municipality will carry out the actions contained in the Rural Recreation Strategy as part of the multi-year budgeting and business planning process. These actions were shaped around six key themes:

- Equitable access to indoor facilities;
- Access to outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Volunteer support;
- Programming that meets rural needs;
- Inter-departmental and inter-governmental partnerships; and
- Advertising and communications that reflect rural communities.

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



SUMMER RECREATION JOBS

Are you a student or young adult looking for a summer job that offers more than minimum wage? Check out the variety of opportunities available with Parks & Recreation. We offer:

- Fun work culture
- Wage ranges from \$17-\$20 per hour
- Free evenings and weekends (for specific jobs)
- Interesting jobs in aquatics, inclusion and recreation
- Limited travel with jobs available in urban, suburban and rural communities
- Opportunity to work outdoors and in an environment that promotes health, wellness and physical activity

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



AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIA ROAD TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY INFORMATION REPORT

An information report has been provided to Regional Council outlining key activities of the Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities from September 2022 to September 2023.

The report outlines activities around the Strategic Priorities, including:

- Build unity and capacity among African Nova Scotians
- Establish land ownership, develop infrastructure, and attract investment
- Increase participation in education, employment and entrepreneurship

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



HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND ANNOUNCEMENT

HRM is facing significant challenges related to housing affordability and availability. Unprecedented population growth has led to a rising demand for housing that the current rate of residential construction cannot meet. As of 2023, the municipality's housing shortage is estimated at almost 20,000 units – and the shortage is growing. The Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) is a federal program that works with municipalities to remove local barriers to residential development and fast-track the creation of homes across Canada.

As part of the federal Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) agreement, the municipality is proposing allowing a minimum of four units in all residential zones within the Urban Service Area among other land use planning changes to enable more housing development.

Regional Council has directed the CAO to expedite amendments to planning documents in the Regional Centre and Suburban Area to allow more dense housing development as-of-right.

Residents can provide questions or feedback on the amendments until Friday, February 16 to haf@halifax.ca

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE NEXT MUNICIPAL POET LAUREATE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that applications have been opened for the next municipal Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate's term will begin on April 1, 2024, and will end on March 31, 2027.

The municipal Poet Laureate is a resident poet, storyteller or spoken word artist who achieved excellence among their peers and whose work demonstrates connection with and relevance to the municipality's citizens. Acting as an ambassador for poetry, literature and the arts – the Poet Laureate attends events across the region to promote and attract people to the literary world while representing the municipality. The position is intended to broadly reflect the interests, issues and perspectives of the varied communities and individuals of the Halifax region.

The Poet Laureate will receive an honorarium of \$5,000 per year for their three-year mandate.

For more information and to apply, visit our [website](#). Applications will remain open until Tuesday, February 16.

Questions can also be directed to Lindsay Cory, Community Developer – Public Art at lindsay.cory@halifax.ca or 902.456.8384.



ICE THICKNESS TESTING PROGRAM NO LONGER BEING CONDUCTED

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that it will no longer conduct the [ice thickness testing program](#).

Residents are reminded that the Canadian Red Cross recommends that ice be at least 15 cm thick for individual skating, and at least 20 cm thick for group skating. Extreme caution is advised in areas where streams flow into and out of lakes. It is also important to note that ice conditions may vary over the entire surface of lakes and are subject to change with weather conditions.

See a complete list of guidelines from the Canadian Red Cross regarding ice safety [here](#).

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES



Provincial Representatives in District 13:

- **MLA Ben Jessome** Hammonds Plains – Lucasville
2120 Hammonds Plains Road, Unit 3
Hammonds Plains, NS B4B 1P3
Phone: 902.404.9900
Fax: 902.404.8415
jessomeben@gmail.com
- **MLA Iain Rankin** Timberlea-Prospect
1268 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Suite 100
Beechville, NS B3T 1A7.
Phone: 902.404.7036
Fax: 902.404.7056
info@iainrankin.ca
- **MLA Danielle Barkhouse** Chester- St. Margaret's
4080 Highway 3, Office Suite 3
Chester, NS B0J 1J0
Phone: 902.275.2501
barkhousemla@gmail.com



Federal Representatives in District 13:

- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** Halifax West
1496 Bedford Highway
Suite 222
Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1E5
Telephone: 902.426.2217
Fax: 902.426.8339
- **MP Rick Perkins** South Shore- St. Margarets
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Bridgewater, Nova Scotia B4V 1B3
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COUNCILLOR PAM LOVELACE



Councillor Pam Lovelace
District 13
Hammonds Plains - St. Margarets

Contact Information
Call: 902-225-4624
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Email: pam.lovelace@halifax.ca

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Pam currently serves on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council and the North West Community Council:

- Chair, North West Community Council
- Chair, Transportation Standing Committee
- Vice Chair, Transit Management Board, Canadian Urban Transit Association
- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Special Events Advisory Committee
- Official Liaison between Halifax Council and the Acadian and Francophone Community in HRM

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land Acknowledgement

The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. The municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement:

"The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People."