



## COUNCILLOR PAM LOVELACE

### DISTRICT 13 ONLINE NEWS

#### HAMMONDS PLAINS – ST. MARGARET'S

## WELCOME MARCH!

Happy March! Let's hope the worst winter weather is now behind us and we can look forward to enjoying beautiful spring weather.

March is an important month for Francophones in HRM as it is Francophonie Month. This is a time for us to recognize and celebrate the French language both here and across the world. I am proud to serve as the liaison between Council and HRM's Francophone community.

March will be a busy month at Council as we focus on finalizing the budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. I am also busy planning ahead for my upcoming Election Campaign.

There will be lots of opportunities for community engagement this month. I will be hosting two Town Halls this March: 6:00 pm March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Black Point Community Centre and the St. Margaret's Centre (date TBA). I hope you can come and participate in these discussions.

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](mailto:pam.lovelace@halifax.ca).

## MARCH MEETING DATES

### Regional Council:

Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

### Budget Committee

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.- Contingency

### North West Community Council

Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

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

## EMAIL TO SUBSCRIBE TO E-NEWS!

Email [pam.lovelace@halifax.ca](mailto:pam.lovelace@halifax.ca)

## COMMUNITY MEETING

District 13 | Hammonds Plains - St. Margaret's

**Wednesday, March 20**  
**6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**Black Point & Area**  
**Community Centre**  
8579 St Margaret's Bay Rd, Black Point

Registration is not required.

Questions? Please email [pam.lovelace@halifax.ca](mailto:pam.lovelace@halifax.ca) or call 902.490.4090



## FRANOPHONIE MONTH



March is Francophonie Month, celebrating the French language and diverse Francophone cultures through cultural activities held worldwide.

March 20 has been observed worldwide as International Francophonie Day since 1988. The date commemorates the establishment of the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, the precursor to the [International Organization of La Francophonie](#), the organization representing countries and regions where French is the first or customary language. Today, with 300 million speakers worldwide, French is the fifth most spoken language in the world; La Francophonie has 88 member states and governments.

Visit the [Calendar of the local francophone network Hého](#) to learn more about various events celebrating the rich and diverse Francophone cultures happening in Halifax this month.

## MOIS DE LA FRANCO PHONIE & JOURNEE INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCO PHONIE

Mars est le mois de la Francophonie, qui célèbre la langue française et les diverses cultures francophones à travers des activités culturelles organisées dans le monde entier.

Depuis 1988, le 20 mars est célébré dans le monde entier comme la Journée internationale de la Francophonie. Cette date commémore la



création de l'Agence de coopération culturelle et technique, précurseur de [l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie](#), l'organisation qui représente les pays et les régions où le français est la langue première ou coutumière. Aujourd'hui, avec 300 millions de locuteurs dans le monde, le français est la cinquième langue la plus parlée au monde ; la Francophonie compte 88 États et gouvernements membres.

Visitez [le calendrier du réseau francophone d'Halifax Hého](#) pour en savoir plus sur les différents événements célébrant la richesse et la diversité des cultures francophones qui auront lieu à Halifax en mars 2024.

## NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The North West Community Council met on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 where the following items were discussed:

[Case VAR-2023-01314: Appeal of Variance Approval – Civic 15 Shankel Road, Hubbards](#)  
Halifax Planning staff gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Community Council regarding the appeal of an approval to a variance of the land-use bylaw. This variance would allow an existing deck within the front yard of the property at 15

Shankel Road. The appeal was defeated. Planning staff noted that the property owner would have had the option to appeal the decision to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

[PLANAPP 2023-01145: Amending Development Agreement for 644 Bedford Highway, Halifax](#)

A staff report was presented to the Community Council on the proposed changes to the current development agreement at 644 Bedford Highway to allow for a new development on the property. Community Council approved the motion to consider allowing the conversion of an interior parking area into two additional residential units.

[PLANAPP 2023-00912: Development Agreement to Allow an Expansion to an Existing Recycling Depot at 15 Sackville Cross Road, Lower Sackville](#)

The Community Council was asked to consider the proposed development agreement to allow for the expansion of an existing recycling depot in Lower Sackville. The committee approved the motion and a public hearing will be scheduled for a later date.

**Bedford Land Use By-Law Amendment**

During the meeting Councillor Outhit asked for a review of the Bedford Land Use By-Law to allow for doggy day cares in the light industrial zone. The Community Council has directed the CAO to have staff produce a report.



## Ramadhan

March 10 to April 8

### RAMADHAN- MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> TO APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>

The evening of March 10<sup>th</sup> will mark the first night of Ramadhan, a month-long sacred observance for Muslims around the world and here at home.

Ramadhan is a month of fasting, reflection and prayer and charity. Throughout this time, observants will undertake a spiritual journey of prayer and fasting every day from dawn until sunset, ending the evening of April 8<sup>th</sup>.

The celebration of Eid al-Fitr, also referred to as Eid and translates to “Holiday of Breaking to Fast,” is one of the most important days of the Islamic year and will start on April 9 and continue for three days.

**To everyone celebrating, I wish you Ramadhan Kareem!**



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8 is International Women's Day, a time to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of women, girls, gender diverse and non-binary people, while raising awareness that gender inequality still exists in institutional biases, stereotypes and discrimination.

This year, the Government of Canada's theme for International Women's Day (IWD) 2024 is **Invest in women: Accelerate progress**. It's a call to action and a reminder that gender equality is one of the most effective ways to build healthier, more prosperous, and more inclusive communities.

We all have a role to play in building a future where everyone can reach their full potential.

To learn more about upcoming events in celebration of International Women's Day, visit the Government of Canada's [website](#).



March 2024

## 2024-2025 BUDGET AND MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN APPROVED BY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Regional Council has approved the 2024/25 Capital Budget and the 2024/25 Multi-Year Capital Plan, which are the basis for staff's planning and resourcing preparations required to implement capital projects within the current year and next three years. The Operational budget is still under review, as we examine each departments proposed operations budget.

Some key projects in the Capital budget include the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Recreation Centre recapitalization, new Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) Headquarters and Fire Station on Hammonds Plains Road, active transportation and sidewalk recapitalization, HRFE fleet replacement, electric bus procurement and municipal building retrofits as part of HalifACT.

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



## SIDEWALKS AND MULTI-USE PATHWAYS IN HUBBARDS AND UPPER TANTALLON

HRM is conducting community engagement sessions on the potential implementation of sidewalks or multi-use pathways around the community centres of Hubbards and Upper Tantallon. Sidewalks and multi-use pathways (MUPs) provide users with a safe place to walk, cycle, roll and access amenities in the community. They contribute to the community's growth and to its residents' wellbeing.

The purpose of these public engagement events is for staff to:

- Determine support for sidewalks or multi-use pathways around rural community centres;
- Determine community perspectives on the potential addition of an area rate tax to become eligible for sidewalks or multi-use pathways;
- Learn how communities identified in the preliminary area rate boundary for public feedback are using the community centres of Hubbards and Upper Tantallon.

Property owners, business and residents located within preliminary area rate boundaries identified for community feedback in Hubbards area and Upper Tantallon area are invited to participate in one of the following ways:

1. Attend one of the in-person public engagement sessions. A full list of dates and times for these sessions can be found [here](#).

2. Provide feedback by filling out an online survey found on the Shape Your City [website](#). The online survey for Hubbards is now open and feedback can be provided until April 15, 2024. The online survey for Upper Tantallon will open on March 1, 2024 and feedback can be provided until April 21, 2024.
3. Pick up a paper copy of the survey at one of the in-person engagement sessions or contact Emma Martin, Project Manager to request a paper copy of the survey by calling 902-490-4920 or by emailing [martinem@halifax.ca](mailto:martinem@halifax.ca). Return the completed survey to a public library or Halifax Recreation Centre to be included in the internal mail or send by Canada Post before April 15, 2024.

Feedback received from public engagement will be included in a final report for Halifax Regional Council to decide on the implementation of sidewalks or multi-use pathways in rural communities. If supported by communities, and approved by Regional Council, planning and design phases would begin to determine a priority list.

To learn more about the role sidewalks and multi-use pathways play in the municipality's transportation network, visit our [website](#). You can also visit the Shape Your City to learn more about the Sidewalks and Multi-Use Pathways around Rural Community Centres project by clicking [here](#).

## RURAL TRANSIT SUPPORTS INCREASED BY REGIONAL COUNCIL

For nearly a decade, Halifax Regional Municipality has been supporting rural transit through the Rural Transit Funding Program. The following four service providers currently receive grants under this program: BayRides, East Hants Community Rider, MusGo Musquodoboit and MusGo Valley-Sheet Harbour.

I am so pleased to support amendments to Administrative Order 2014-012-ADM to allow for a one-time increase in the 2024/25 fiscal year in response to increases in operating costs for these rural transit service providers. Staff have also been directed to amend this Order to account for inflation by increasing funding annually based on the five year average for inflation. For more information, click [here](#).

## TRANSIT OPERATOR AND WORKER APPRECIATION DAY

On March 18, we are celebrating **Transit Operator and Worker Appreciation Day!** It's a day to recognize the commitments to keeping our communities moving and appreciate our heroes behind the wheel. Thank you to all of those who help us reach our destinations safely – our operators and workers, your professionalism and dedication to our residents and public transit system does not go unnoticed!

## ZERO EMISSION BUS PROJECT PREVIEW

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, I joined councillors, HRM staff, contractors, and the project team at Colliers to tour the new electric buses that will be added to Halifax's Transit Fleet.

Halifax Transit is working towards transitioning to a fully zero emissions fleet and this project will result in the addition more than 200 electric buses to the Halifax Transit Fleet. We also toured the Ragged Lake Transit facility to see the expansion project underway.

The Zero Emission Bus Project Aligns with municipal, provincial, and federal climate targets and will help to achieve the goals and actions outlined in HRM's HalifACT plan.





## 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's application deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 prior to submitting an application.

For further information, please email [nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca](mailto:nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca) or call 902.497.0479



March 2024

## REC FEES ARE CHANGING

Parks and Recreation fees are changing on April 1, 2024. In 2022, changes to the Parks & Recreation fee structure for recreation programs, services, rentals, drop-ins and membership fees were announced. In accordance with the five-year fee structure changes, Parks & Recreation fees, including membership fees, will be increasing effective April 1, 2024.



## PEER ART JURY ROSTER

Are you a community member with a passion for arts and culture? We are currently seeking applications for the Professional Arts Jury Roster. The deadline for applications is March 31. To learn more, visit our [website](#).



## BEGINNER CHICKEN KEEPING SESSION

Crack open the secrets of chicken keeping at J. D. Shatford Memorial Public Library! Learn about coop requirements, chicken care, and more in this beginner-friendly session at 7pm March 6<sup>th</sup> - perfect for anyone interested in sustainable living and home farming. To sign up visit the library [website](#).



## COMMUNITY GARDEN APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

The average distance that food travels to get to Nova Scotia is 4,000km. This makes the municipality's food system particularly vulnerable to climate change. If there is an unexpected event or emergency that causes widespread instability, we may not have the local resources to meet the needs of our residents. Community gardens are one way to support the local food system.

Many community gardens in Halifax are operated by residents on land owned by the municipal government. These are small-scale

sites operated by non-profit societies for one or more of the following purposes:

1. Growing produce
2. Production of a floral or landscape display
3. Demonstration gardening or other related instructional programming

Community gardens can include vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers, native and/or ornamental plants established and operated within existing municipal regulations, bylaws and assessments.

### Thinking about starting a community garden?

**To start a community garden, you must be a non-profit group and submit an application before the March 30 deadline.**

For more information, check out the [Community Garden Handbook](#). If you're ready to apply, fill out the [application forms](#) and submit to Jasmine Du, Community Developer, at 902.471.3417 or [Jasmine.Du@halifax.ca](mailto:Jasmine.Du@halifax.ca).





## IN THE COMMUNITY



***Proud to donate funds to support the  
St. Margaret's Bay Navy League!***

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 & Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.**

## PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

### 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  
517 King St  
Bridgewater, Nova Scotia B4V 1B3  
Telephone: 902-527-5655  
Fax: 902-527-5656

### 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](mailto:jessomeben@gmail.com)

**MLA Iain Rankin** Timberlea-Prospect  
1268 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Suite 100  
Beechville, NS B3T 1A7  
Phone: 902-404-7036  
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**MLA Danielle Barkhouse** Chester- St. Margaret's  
4080 Highway 3, Office Suite 3  
Chester, NS B0J 1J0  
Phone: 902-275-2501  
[barkhousemla@gmail.com](mailto:barkhousemla@gmail.com)

## COUNCILLOR PAM LOVELACE

Pam currently serves on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional 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



In February, Pam gave a presentation on the federal government's *Housing Accelerator Fund* and potential changes to land use in urban and suburban HRM.

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## FAST ELECTRIC FERRY COMING TO BEDFORD

The municipality has worked for many, many years to advance new mass transportation solutions including light rail, Park & Rides, Express bus routes, Bus Rapid Transit, and the expansion of Ferry services.

The studies have been done, the province and federal government are partnering with HRM, and we can finally move forward on what could be one of many more mass transportation options for Nova Scotia's Capital Region.



Rendering of the new ferry terminal in Mill Cove, Bedford.