



COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN
DISTRICT 14 ONLINE NEWS
MIDDLE/UPPER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK - LUCASVILLE

WELCOME APRIL !

Happy April and Welcome Spring! With warmer weather around the corner, we can leave snow season behind and welcome road work and pot hole season. If you see potholes in your community, please call 3-1-1 to report them.

The 54th celebration of Earth Day will be taking place on April 22. The theme for Earth Day Canada this year is “Earth Day is Leg Day”. Individuals are encouraged to skip driving their car and instead walk or bike to their destinations on April 22!

Keep reading for more information on the Lucsaville Bridge Construction, Mill Cove Ferry Announcement and Bridging the Gap program.

If you have questions regarding a municipal program or service, please contact me at 902.579.7164 or by email at Lisa.Blackburn@halifax.ca.

APRIL MEETING DATES

Regional Council:

- Tuesday, April 9 at 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 23 at 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 30 at 10 a.m.- if required

Budget Committee

- Tuesday, April 2 at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m.- Contingency
- Tuesday April 23 at 9:30 a.m.

North West Community Council

- Monday, April 15 at 7 p.m.

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





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NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The North West Community Council met on March 18, where the following items were discussed:

[PLANAPP 2023-01145: 644 Bedford Highway, Halifax](#)

A public hearing for 644 Bedford Highway was held during the committee meeting for amendments to their development agreement to add two additional units instead of interior parking spaces. A presentation about the development was given by HRM Planning staff and the applicant addressed the Community Council. After the public hearing the North West Community Council voted and approved the application to amend the existing development agreement. Six interior parking spaces will be converted into two residential units increasing the number of residential units in the building from 52 to 54 units.

[PLANAPP 2023-00912: 15 Sackville Cross Road, Lower Sackville](#)

A public hearing was held during the committee meeting for the recycling depot on Sackville Drive. A presentation about the development was given by HRM Planning staff and the applicant addressed the Community Council. After the public hearing the North West Community Council voted and approved a development agreement to permit an addition to the existing recycling facility at 15 Sackville Cross Road.

April 2024

EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22

Did you know that it has been 54 years since April 22 was declared as Earth Day? In 1970, it mobilized millions of citizens to lobby for the protection of the planet. The first Earth Day is accredited with launching the modern environmental movement and is now recognized as the planet’s largest civic event.

The 2024 international campaign theme is “Planet vs. Plastics” demonstrating their unwavering commitment to end plastic production for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60 per cent reduction by 2040. What will you do to reduce the amount of plastics in your home and community?

Did you know that 43% of greenhouse gas emissions originate from the transportation sector and a rise in car usage?

You can take part in helping to make a difference this Earth Day (and every day!) by:

- Using active transportation (walking, cycling, running...)
- Trying out a new public transportation mode (bus, subway, train...)
- Suggest carpooling or opt for it!

Learn more about Earth Day 2024 by visiting the official Earth Day [website](#).





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APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, bringing awareness to the urgent issues of sexual assault, to the creation of spaces free of sexual and gender-based violence, and to amplify conversations about consent and support for survivors.

Sexual Violence occurs when someone forces or manipulates someone else into any unwanted act of sexual nature either physical or non-physical without their consent. Sexual violence includes but is not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation.

Sexualized and gender-based violence can happen to anyone, however some women are at a higher-risk because of age, income, ability, race, sexuality and/or gender expression. Sexualized violence can happen anywhere, including at work, online and in public spaces. **It is never okay.**

We each have a role to play in creating spaces where everyone feels safe and respected.



LUCASVILLE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

As part of the municipality's 2024/2025 Capital Plan, the Lucasville Bridge will undergo repair and upgrades beginning mid-April 2024. The work is expected to be completed by January 2025.

This work is necessary to ensure the continued use of the bridge and the modernization of some features in alignment with current construction standards.

Traffic will be impacted as a result of the construction. The bridge will not be closed during the period of construction but it will require reducing to one lane through construction. Crossing of the bridge will be facilitated through signal lights that will be operating 24 hours-a-day, seven-days a week during the project.

Motorist should expect delays and are asked to take alternative routes whenever possible.





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HRM TAX BILL DUE APRIL 30

The Halifax Regional Municipality sends out its tax bills to all property owners twice a year. The Interim bill was mailed mid-March and is due on Tuesday, April 30. The final bill will be due October 31. If you have any inquiries about your tax bill, please call the HRM Contact Centre at 311 or reach out online by visiting our [website](#).

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL REGISTRY

In June 2023, HRM passed By-law R-400 that required property owners to register their residential rental properties by April 1, 2024.

Only rental properties that are located within HRM need to be registered. The Residential Rental Registry will provide a clearer picture of the rental landscape in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Currently, the accuracy and detail of available building information is limited. A complete record of rental properties is expected to provide significant benefits for residents occupying these buildings by enhancing the municipality’s ability to provide services where needed.

Over time, the registry will help the municipality proactively identify maintenance issues, reduce complaints and non-compliance, and improve the safety and overall living conditions for renters across the region. More details can be found on our [website](#).

MILL COVE FERRY ANNOUNCEMENT

On March 4, there was a funding announcement for the new high-speed ferry that will travel between Mill Cove in Bedford and Downtown Halifax.



This project is a joint partnership between the Federal Government, the Province and the Municipality. The project will include the purchase of two new electric ferries along with the construction of two new net-zero ferry terminals.

This project is expected to be completed in the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

FINAL STAGES OF LATEST ECONOMIC STRATEGY APPROVED

The municipality will continue to work closely with the Halifax Partnership to drive inclusive economic growth in our region. The action plan for years three-to-five of People. Planet. Prosperity: Halifax’s Inclusive Economic Strategy has been approved by Regional Council.

The strategy is a shared roadmap for economic development and will continue to build on promoting and maximizing sustainable growth, attracting and retaining talent, and making Halifax a better place to live and work.

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



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ZEBRA CROSS WALKS/ ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FUND

Have you noticed zebra crosswalks popping up at more intersections?

Zebra crosswalks are a series of horizontal lines instead of two parallel lines.

In an effort to improve visibility of pedestrians at signalized intersections, we've added zebra crosswalks to twelve locations as part of pilot projects in 2022 and 2023. Our most recent project to examine the effectiveness of the markings has been funded through the Federal Active Transportation Fund. Results will be shared this spring, stay tuned!

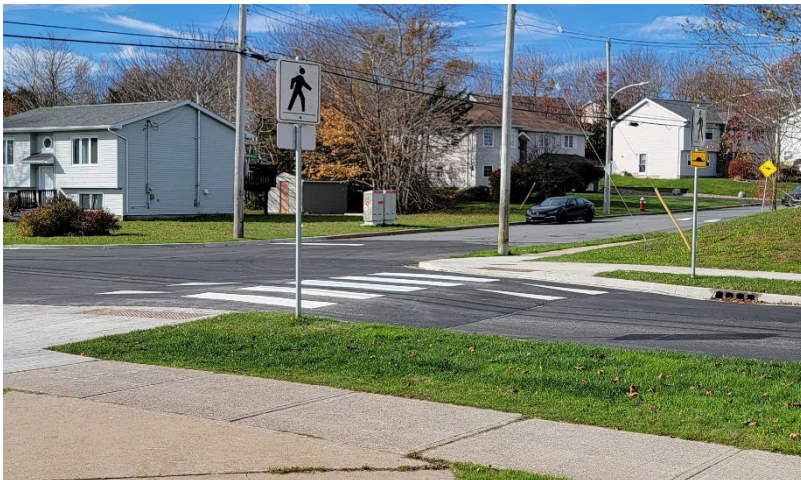
To learn more about the project and the Active Transportation Fund please visit our [website](#).

BRIDGING THE GAP -2024 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The municipality is offering paid 18-month internships for new graduates interested in a career in municipal public service. The Bridging the Gap program provides training and development opportunities to candidates who have graduated from a recognized post-secondary institution within the last 24 months including those who are scheduled to graduate before the internship start date.

The program is designed to provide experiential learning and maximum professional exposure to interns in their chosen field of study, while exploring the benefits of working for the municipality. Candidates will learn about government policy, operations, administration, services and planning.

Additional Information about the Bridging the Gap program can be found on our [website](#). All available roles have been posted to our employment [website](#).



Bridging the Gap program

We are hiring recent graduates for paid internship roles



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WILDFIRE SEASON HAS BEGUN

Wildfire season began on March 15. During wildfire risk season no domestic brush burning or campfires are allowed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. The provincial website is update daily at 2 p.m. to let resident know whether or not it is safe to burn that day.

Remember prevention is the best way to reduce the risk of wildfires. For more information on safe burning practices please click [here](#).



HFX ALERT NOTIFICATIONS

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

hfxALERT will send urgent and non-urgent notifications as well as municipal winter parking ban notices.

Residents can sign up for notifications via the [website](#).



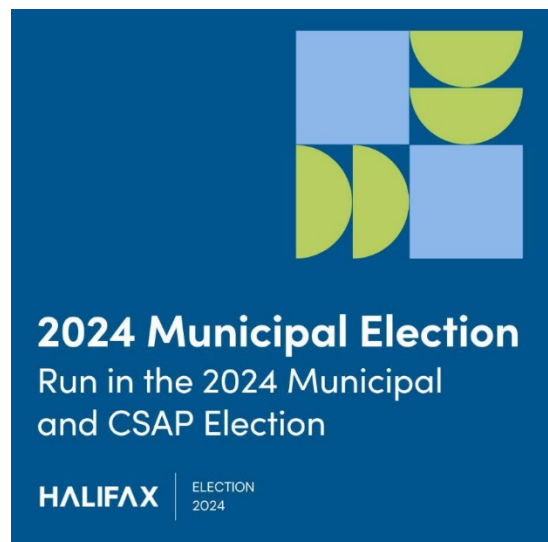
2024 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Municipalities play a critical role in our day-to-day lives. With the Halifax Regional Municipality being home to **over 480,000 residents** spanning **over 5,400 square kilometres**, the role of municipal government has a direct impact on the lives of those who live, work and invest in the municipality. From recreation to transportation, and development to waste collection — and beyond.

Running for public office at the municipal level provides a platform to amplify the voices of those within your community and **advocate for issues that matter the most to you and your neighbours**.

Every four years, the municipality holds an election for Regional Council and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) Members. The 2024 election will be taking place on Saturday October 19, 2024.

To learn more about becoming a candidate in the next election please visit our [website](#).





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IN THE COMMUNITY

<https://TurfFieldFundRaiserSpringDance.eventbrite.ca>



Great to host the Sackville Business Association Meet and Greet with Ken from the Sackville Library

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April 2024



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Thanks to the Easter Bunny for coming to visit the kids at the recent breakfast in Beaver Bank.

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES



Provincial Representatives in District 14:

- **MLA Brad Johns** Sackville – Uniacke
Unit 103, 1710 Sackville Drive
Middle Sackville, NS B4E 3A9.
Phone: 902-865-6467
mlabradjohns@gmail.com
- **MLA Steve Craig** Sackville – Cobequid
Unit 104, 445 Sackville Drive
Lower Sackville, NS B4C 2S1.

- **MLA Brian Wong** Waverley – Fall River – Beaver Bank
Suite 101, 1265 Fall River Road
Fall River, NS B2T 1E6.
Phone: 902-576-3411
Fax: 902-576-3413
brianwongmla@gmail.com
- **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



Federal Representatives in District 14:

- **MP Darrell Samson** Sackville – Preston - Chezzetcook
2900 Highway 2
Suite 2nd Floor
Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Telephone: 902-861-2311
Fax: 902-861-4620
- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** Halifax West
1496 Bedford Highway
Suite 222
Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1E5
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HALIFAX

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

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Board of Police Commissioners
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
- Executive Standing Committee
- Grants Committee
- Women’s Advisory Committee
- North West Planning Advisory Committee

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,

April 2024