



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

WELCOME DECEMBER !



Happy Chanukah! Merry Christmas! Happy Kwanzaa! Happy New Year!

December is always a busy time of year filled with gatherings with family and friends. It is also a time to reflect on the year that was, and this year was certainly one we won't forget for a long time. Despite all the challenges faced, we as a community have come out stronger together. I want to encourage residents of District 14 that if you can this holiday season try to donate to a local charity or volunteer your time with a local community group to help those within our community.

Keep reading for more information on the winter parking ban, the voluntary vulnerable persons registrar, and community updates

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.

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DECEMBER MEETING DATES

Budget Committee and Regional Council:

Tuesday, December 12th at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council

Monday, December 11th at 7 p.m.

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

NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The North West Community Council met on October 16th at 7 p.m.

During the meeting a staff report was presented regarding [Case 24193: Request for Additional Time to Sign the Approved Development Agreement for 57 Sanctuary Court, Fall River](#)

The North West Community Council approved an extension request of 120 days from the original 240 days for the signing of the development agreement to change the existing land use from an equestrian facility to a tree service use within the existing buildings on 57 Sanctuary Court, Fall River.

Functional Plan for Hammonds Plains Road

North West Community Council requested a staff report outlining and prioritizing the steps needed to initiate the planning and consultation process to develop a Functional Plan for Hammonds Plains Road to account for the increase of population and traffic due to large MU (mixed use) as-of-right developments;

To review upcoming or past agendas, click [here](#).

SNOW SEASON IS HERE

With each weather event, snow clearing crews are responsible for approximately 3,844 lane kilometres of streets and about 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks! We can't control Mother Nature or what this winter has in store, but if we work together, we can all be better prepared for whatever the season may bring.

For more information on our municipality's Winter Operations program, and tips to help you prepare for inclement weather, please visit www.halifax.ca/snow.

HRM has service standards for streets, sidewalks, and bus stops and the timing varies depending on the priority level. We prioritize commonly used streets, bus routes and roads that provide access to hospitals and schools. When the snow stops, operators work as quickly and safely to have all the roads cleared by 24 hours and major roads and bus routes within 12 hours.

Before contacting 311 about snow clearing, please ensure the service timelines for your area have expired. You can find detailed information about snow clearing service timelines on the interactive map or in the "when should clearing be complete?" section on the website (www.halifax.ca/snow).

If your street or sidewalk has not been cleared by the indicated time in each chart, please e-mail ContactUs@311.halifax.ca or call 311 so crews can be dispatched to address the issue. If an emergency vehicle needs to access a street, staff dispatch a plow immediately to that street.



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Residents should note that in snowfalls greater than 30 centimeters or in blizzard conditions, more time may be needed to complete clearing. The same exception may apply when there are rapidly changing weather conditions. Crews will continue working until all streets and sidewalks are clear and safe. Of course, some roads are taken care of by the province, depending on where you live. Provincial road information can be found here:

<https://novascotia.ca/tran/winter/losmap.asp>



WINTER PARKING BAN

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect annually from Dec. 15 to Mar. 31. The ban is enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during declared weather events and snow removal operations only. Sign up for hfxALERT notifications to receive important updates from the municipality, including Winter Parking Ban notifications: www.halifax.ca/fire-police/fire/emergency-management/hfxalert

For more information on service standards, winter parking, and winter’s impacts across our municipality, visit: halifax.ca/snow or keep up to

date on clearing operations and municipal service updates via @hfxgov on Twitter (X).

VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

The VVPR provides essential information to first responders and Emergency Management staff and volunteers to help prioritize responses to residents’ needs in situations such as sustained power outages or severe storms.

The VVPR is a voluntary, self-referral list intended for residents without 24-hour support who experience severe difficulty with any of the following:

- mobility
- vision impairment
- hearing impairment
- developmental disabilities
- cognitive impairment
- mental health conditions
- any resident who requires electricity for life-sustaining equipment such as oxygen, dialysis, etc.

Those not eligible include (exceptions may apply):

- residents receiving 24-hour support from a caregiver or home care aide
- residents receiving care or assistance from a long-term care home or supportive housing facility
- residents under the age of 18 who receive parent/guardian support; however, children with intensive needs that require electricity for life sustaining equipment may be considered

Applications can be submitted only by individuals seeking to become part of the VVPR or their representative/legal guardian. All applications will be reviewed by municipal staff to confirm eligibility and verify personal



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information upon submission of the self-referral online application form.

When the VVPR program is activated, a warning will be sent through hfxALERT, the municipality’s mass notification system, to registrants, their representative/legal guardian and emergency contacts. Emergency Management staff will then conduct phone calls if needed, or attempt door-to-door contact through Emergency Management volunteers.

After the event, Emergency Management staff will provide check-in communications through hfxALERT to registrants, their representative/legal guardian and emergency contacts. Prioritization checks will be conducted based on personal information included in the registration form, with door-to-door contact, as necessary.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is recognized annually on December 6. This day was chosen in memory of the fourteen women who tragically lost their lives in the École Polytechnique massacre on December 6, 1989. This act of violent misogyny led the federal government to formally recognize this day, with a goal to increase awareness around violence against women.

On December 6, honour the 14 women who lost their lives at Polytechnique Montréal by observing a moment of silence at 11 a.m. and wear a white ribbon if possible.

It is important to remember that violence can affect women from all backgrounds regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, immigration status, ethnicity, education, or income.





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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10 to commemorate the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This year commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The UDHR is a milestone document, which consists of a preamble and 30 articles that sets out a broad range of fundamental human rights and freedoms to which all of us, everywhere around the world, are entitled. It guarantees our rights regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world.

In its preamble, the UDHR also highlights the “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

To learn more about the 75th anniversary of the UDHR and Human Rights Day, visit <https://www.ohchr.org/en/human-rights-75>.



December 2023

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

Holiday shopping season is in full swing. Whether you're going to stores or shopping online, Halifax Regional Police has a few simple tips for you to consider to keep the bah-humbug away from your holiday purchases.

Online shopping

- It is best to shop from your personal device at home on a trusted network.
- Consider using different user ID and passwords for different accounts and updating your passwords frequently.
- Verify secure connections and make sure you are on a secure website. Look for the padlock icon in the address bar and check for the valid certificate by clicking on the padlock icon.
- Unlike secure order forms on a websites, email and text messages are not private. Don't send confidential personal or financial information by email or text.
- Be cautious if an online deal looks too good to be true, then it probably is.
- Watch out for email scams. Be wary of clicking on links in an email message, even if the deal seems great.
- After making purchases it can be helpful to keep the receipt, confirmation number and postal tracking numbers in a safe accessible place.
- If you are at an online store that you are unfamiliar with, read and understand the online shop's policies. It's always a good idea to check a site's reviews before making a purchase.

In-store shopping



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- Lock your vehicle and park in well-lit and busy areas if they are available.
- Would-be thieves will look for shoppers storing valuables in their vehicles. If you're going to drop off your purchases and return to the stores, consider locking your packages in the trunk and move your vehicle to another location in the parking lot.
- Thieves sometimes watch shoppers exiting a store. You may want to shop strategically and wait until the end of your shopping trip to make high-end purchases or make a special trip to take high-end items home and then return to continue shopping.
- Protect your PIN when using bank and debit machines. Cover the keypad to prevent someone from observing your keystrokes or from recording your PIN. It's a good idea to change your PIN frequently.
- After a day of shopping, we recommend removing parcels and valuables and locking the vehicle upon returning home. Even an empty shopping bag can create the appearance that there's something in your car worth stealing.

No matter whether you shop in-person or online, we encourage you to monitor your bank and credit card statements closely and

immediately report any discrepancies to your bank or to the company that issued the credit card.

ANNUAL FALL CLEAN-UP

The annual fall leaf clean-up program will begin on November 20 and conclude on December 8. During this time, crews will collect and remove fallen leaves in the heavily-treed streets of the Halifax peninsula and urban core.

The municipality is asking for the cooperation of residents to efficiently complete this work. Temporary 'No Parking' signs will be posted in neighbourhoods prior to cleanup. In order to facilitate proper cleanup, residents are asked to abide by posted signage and not park on the street. Residents are also asked to respect municipal by-laws which prohibit the sweeping or depositing of leaves along the gutter of the street or in the roadway.

Minimizing fallen leaves not only ensures the good operation of stormwater systems, it also contributes to safer roads for all road users. The potential for street flooding increases greatly when catch basins are clogged with debris.

Cleanup on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. Leaves and yard waste are collected during regular green cart (organics) collection weeks. This waste is permitted in the green cart and any excess must be placed in large paper bags.

For details on the scheduled cleanup, visit: halifax.ca/fallcleanup.





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IN THE COMMUNITY



Along with Councillor Paul Russell, I was pleased to help the Sackville Business Association purchase holiday lights to add a glow to Sackville Drive



Proud to attend the Remembrance Day service at Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Center with retired RCAF member Mike Blackburn.



Great to hang out with the Beaver Bank Lions Club and serve hot chocolate after the community Parade of Lights.

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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.
Phone: 902-864-6271
Fax: 902-864-0483
Steve.Craig@novascotia.ca
- **MLA Brian Wong** Waverley – Fall River
– Beaver Bank
Suite 101, 1265 Fall River Road
Fall River, NS B2T 1E6.
Phone: 902-576-3411
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brianwongmla@gmail.com
- **MLA Ben Jessome** Hammonds Plains –
Lucasville
2120 Hammonds Plains Road, Unit 3
Hammonds Plains, NS B4B 1P3
Phone: 902-404-9900
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jessomeben@gmail.com

Federal Representatives in District 14:

- **MP Darrell Samson** Sackville – Preston
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- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** Halifax West
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HALIFAX

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.”

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