



WELCOME FEBRUARY !



Happy February and Happy Leap Year! We get an extra day this month to enjoy our winter weather! It is also African Heritage Month, I

hope you take some time to check out the multiple events happening throughout the city. February 19th is 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](#).

Keep reading for more information on African Heritage Month events, how to participate in the municipal budget process, and summer recreation jobs.

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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FEBRUARY MEETING DATES

Regional Council:

Tuesday, February 6th at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, February 13th at 6 p.m.

Budget Committee

Friday, February 2nd at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 7th at 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

North West Community Council

Monday, February 26th 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 January 15th, 2024. During the meeting 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 proposal. A public hearing will take place on February 20th, 2023 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](#).

FEBRUARY IS 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



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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 is a very important thing for the operation of our municipality; it funds all costs associated with servicing our municipality each year. That's ensuring we can have our roads plowed during a snowstorm, that we have recreational facilities to enjoy, regular garbage pickup and so much more!

The municipality's 2024/25 Budget and Business Planning process has now started and will continue until into the spring of 2024. Over the winter, municipal business units present plans to Regional Council with their intentions for the upcoming fiscal year and outlining 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 what 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](#).
- To 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.

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ICE THICKNESS TESTING 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](#).

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



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](#).





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HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE 2025 CADET CLASS PROGRAM

The application process is now open for Halifax Regional Police's 2025 cadet class program.

The HRP's Police Science Program prepares cadets to become police officers with Halifax Regional Police. Cadets who successfully complete the program may be offered employment with HRP as either full-time police officers or reserve officers, depending on availability at the time of hiring.

Who should apply?

If you're compassionate, community-minded, service-oriented and willing to contribute every day to the well-being of people in our communities, we hope you apply.

Halifax Regional Police is committed to being reflective of the diverse communities we serve. As a group, Halifax Regional Police includes officers from the community and aims to be diverse in sexual orientations, gender, gender identity and expression, races, experiences, beliefs, ages, and faiths. This is how we can best contribute to all people's well-being and safety. We are recruiting people who reflect and appreciate diversity.

How do I apply?

See Applicant Requirements and Application & Selection Process below for specific details. Please read all the information carefully and thoroughly.

Application deadline

The application deadline closes at 11:59 p.m. on **February 28, 2024**.

Questions?

Prospective applicants who meet our minimum requirements and have questions, either prior to

application or while completing their application, are invited to contact the Halifax Regional Police Recruiting Team by email at hrprecruiting@halifax.ca or on [X](#) and [Instagram](#).

More information can also be found by visiting their [website](#).



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;



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- Inter-departmental and inter-governmental partnerships; and
- Advertising and communications that reflect rural communities.

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



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, Feb. 16, 2024.**

Questions can also be directed to Lindsay Cory, Community Developer – Public Art at lindsay.cory@halifax.ca or 902-456-8384.



HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND ANNOUNCEMENT

As part of the Housing Accelerator Fund, the municipality is collaborating with partners and other levels of government in a national effort to support housing. The municipality is proposing updates to planning policies to enable more density and flexible housing types in residential areas.

To learn more about the Housing Accelerator Fund and the proposed amendments, visit halifax.ca/HAF.



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IN THE COMMUNITY



Gathered with some of my Council Colleagues to discuss policing issues with RCMP

Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre
1583 Beaver Bank Road

FREE

Valentine's Dance

Saturday
February 10th

8PM-12AM | **Admission:** | **19+**
Food donation | Cash bar

Doors open at 7:30

Tickets must be reserved and picked up in advance

Free rides home
within Beaver Bank community limits

Featuring DJ Joey Lala

Tickets: 902-865-5114



Got questions or concerns ? Do not hesitate to reach out to me anytime !

February 2024



Public Information Session on the Expansion of the Beacon House Shelter

Thursday, February 15, 7:00 p.m.
Kinsmen Community Centre, 71 First Lake Drive, Lower Sackville

The Beacon House Shelter on Metropolitan Avenue provides shelter, food, a shower, laundry, and several "wrap-around" services, 24/7, to 30 individuals who would otherwise be unhoused. Our Province recently announced that 19 Pallet shelters would be added to the 6 micro shelters already occupied in the parking lot.

Over the past 2 years, our experienced Shelter staff and trained volunteers have effectively created a compassionate, safe environment for its 30 guests. During the next several weeks of site preparation and Pallet installation, additional staff will be hired and plans to provide care and support for 19 more guests will be completed.

We especially value the understanding, patience, and support of the Lower Sackville community shown over the past 2 years. **Our Leadership Team is committed to having sufficient detailed information to share at a "public information session" detailed above.**

We are looking forward to sharing and discussing the details of our plan for the expansion.

Cheryl Newcombe
Chair, Beacon House Board of Directors

Jim Gunn
Chair, Shelter Leadership Team

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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
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

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Please to help support Sackville Snow Days along with Councillor Paul Russell and Chair of the Sackville Business Association board Ashley Jollimore



Attended the Business is Jammin Golf Tournament in July 2023. Can't wait for warmer weather !

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- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
- Executive Standing Committee
- Grants Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee
- North West Planning Advisory Committee

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
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Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1E5
Telephone: 902-426-2217
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COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN

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Middle/Upper Sackville - Beaver Bank - Lucasville



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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

February 2024

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."