



WELCOME JANUARY !



Happy January! To quote the lyrics of one of my favorite bands, ABBA: “Happy New Year, Happy New Year. May we all have

a vision now and then, of a world where every neighbour is a friend. Happy New Year, Happy New Year. May we all have our hopes, our will to try”

A New Year symbolizes a time for a fresh start for many! It’s a time where we try to accomplish new goals or continue working towards goals set in years past. I hope whatever you have in store for 2024, that it is a successful and joyful year.

Keep reading for more information about roads and winter operations, the latest from HalifACT, and how to participate in budget planning.

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME JANUARY ! 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 1

NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2

ROADS AND WINTER OPERATIONS 2

HALIFACT COMMUNITY UPDATE..... 3

2024-2025 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 4

PARTICIPATE IN THE 2024-25 MUNICIPAL BUDGET 4

DISPOSING OF CHRISTMAS TREES 5

HRM TO JOIN 61 MAJOR CITIES IN A PLEDGE TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY 5

IN THE COMMUNITY 6

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES 6

COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN 7

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY’S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 7



COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN

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JANUARY MEETING DATES

Regional Council:

Tuesday, January 9th at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 23rd at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 30th at 6 p.m. – if required

Budget Committee

Wednesday, January 24th at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, January 26th at 9:30 a.m. – Contingency Meeting

Wednesday, January 31st at 9:30 a.m.

North West Community Council

Monday, January 15th 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 December 11th, 2023.

During the meeting the following the new Chair and Vice Chair for 2024 were elected. Councillor Pam Lovelace from District 13 was elected chair while I was elected Vice Chair.

During the meeting the 2023 annual report was presented and approved. The dates for the 2024 NWCC meetings were also presented and approved during the meeting.

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

ROADS AND WINTER OPERATIONS

Winter 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.

Property owners, never clear snow from your property onto the street or sidewalk. Please ensure the snow is piled on your 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.

Residents are reminded to secure off-street parking for the winter months so that crews can safely and efficiently clear streets and sidewalks. Vehicles obstructing snow clearing equipment may be ticketed or towed anytime, particularly in priority areas like bus routes and streets around hospitals and schools. The municipality can also enforce winter parking bans during snow clearing. Sign up for hfxALERT to be notified when the ban is in effect.



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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 our [website](#) and via [@hfxgov](#) on 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.

We can't control the weather, but if we work together we can all be better prepared for whatever the season may bring.



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

HALIFACT COMMUNITY UPDATE

In our fourth HalifACT community update we offer a look at some of the recent work the municipality and its partners have been doing to accelerate action on environmental protection.

We're inspired by all of the people working tirelessly to make our region a healthier, more sustainable and enjoyable place for people to live. Since we face serious challenges now and into the future, we appreciate that sea change is happening.

Because of their shared love of nature and understanding of the costs of burning fossil fuels, many people are joining the HalifACT movement. We think that is something to celebrate. Acting on climate together is how we will address the climate emergency and keep moving forward.

Find the fourth issue of the HalifACT community update [here](#).





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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 opened January 3rd for the 2024-2025 program. The application deadline is April 1st. Application forms and program guidebooks are available from our [website](#), by visiting one of our [Customer Service Centres](#) contacting [311](#) or emailing nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca.

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



PARTICIPATE IN THE 2024-25 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Regional Council has begun the 2024/25 municipal budget process by reviewing the 2024/25 Budget Direction presentation on November 28th, 2023.

As we gear up for upcoming budget deliberations, the importance of resident participation cannot be overstated. The municipal budget is not just a financial plan; it's a reflection of community priorities, needs, and aspirations. When residents actively engage in the budget process, they contribute to the shaping of policies and the allocation of resources that directly impact their daily lives.

Learn more about the 2024/2025 Municipal Budget [here](#):

Would you like to speak during Public Participation? There are two opportunities to sign up as a speaker for in-person or virtual Public Participation:

Option 1: Register in advance.
Zoom is available as an option for pre-registered speakers only.

- Contact the Municipal Clerk's Office no later than 4:30 p.m. the day before the next Budget Committee meeting:
- Send an email to clerks@halifax.ca If you're signing up via email and you don't receive a response from us within one business day, phone our office at 902.490.4210 to confirm receipt. Please ensure you check your email's junk/spam folder regularly.



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- Phone 902.490.4210 (Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
- Fax 902.490.4208 and include a call back phone number or email.

Option 2: During the meeting

During the meeting, after all the pre-registered speakers have been called, the Chair will call three times to ask if there is anyone else present who would like to speak. If you are present in the meeting room you can indicate your wish to speak at that time.

PLEASE NOTE: All Budget Committee meetings will be audio and/or video recorded for the purpose of creating a record of the proceedings. If you do not wish to be recorded, you can provide a written submission via clerks@halifax.ca.

DISPOSING OF CHRISTMAS TREES

After the holidays, an option for disposing of natural Christmas trees is to place them curbside.

They will be picked up on your regular green cart collection day. Remove all plastic, tinsel, ornaments, metal rings, nails, stands and plastic tree bags.

Did you know? Natural Christmas trees picked up from the curb are processed into mulch for landscaping.

For more on how to manage your waste download the [Halifax Recycles app](#) or visit our [website](#).

HRM TO JOIN 61 MAJOR CITIES IN A PLEDGE TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

Regional Council has approved the motion to direct the Mayor to write a letter of support to the City of Montréal for the Halifax Regional Municipality to become a Signatory City of The Montréal Pledge.

The City of Montréal is the next host of the meeting for the Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations (CBD), which is an international agreement for the conservation of biological diversity, with an objective to encourage actions which will lead to a sustainable future for human life.

The CBD'S governing body is the Conference of the Parties (COP). They will meet next in two years in Montréal (in an event called COP15) to review progress, set priorities and commit to new work plans.

As the host city, the mayor of Montréal issued a challenge to cities across the world to make a commitment to protecting biodiversity, also known as The Montréal Pledge.

The challenge invites cities to commit to 15 tangible actions towards pursuing and accelerating their efforts to preserve ecosystems and biodiversity in their region. Signatory cities of the Montréal Pledge are expected to demonstrate leadership and to act swiftly in order to protect biodiversity.

Pledging to meet the commitments of the Montréal Pledge represents a positive environmental vision for the municipality that will directly and positively impact our local environment now and into the future, building further resilience to the effects of a changing climate.



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You can find the full staff report for more information [here](#).

IN THE COMMUNITY



At Bide Awhile shelter with Kitty Councillor “Lisa” who was adopted to her new home before the holidays!



A pleasure to supporting the Professional Firefighters and Q-104 Toy Drive.

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
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- **MLA Steve Craig** Sackville – Cobequid
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Lower Sackville, NS B4C 2S1.
Phone: 902-864-6271
Fax: 902-864-0483
Steve.Craig@novascotia.ca



Having a bit of fun at the Sackville Business Association Holiday Social.

January 2024

HALIFAX



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- **MLA Brian Wong** Waverley – Fall River
– Beaver Bank
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- **MLA Ben Jessome** Hammonds Plains –
Lucasville
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Federal Representatives in District 14:

- **MP Darrell Samson** Sackville – Preston
- Chezzetcook
2900 Highway 2
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Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Telephone: 902-861-2311
Fax: 902-861-4620
- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** Halifax West
1496 Bedford Highway
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Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1E5
Telephone: 902-426-2217
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COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN

January 2024

COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN
District 14
Middle/Upper Sackville - Beaver Bank - Lucasville



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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.

HALIFAX