



COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN

DISTRICT 14 ONLINE NEWS

MIDDLE/UPPER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK - LUCASVILLE

WELCOME MARCH !

Happy March and Welcome Spring! I would like to thank our winter road operations crews for all their hard work in February!

March is a busy month with the start of Ramadan, St Patrick's Day, and Easter all being celebrated this month. Daylight Savings time ends on March 10th which means longer sunshine filled days are ahead. March break is also happening this month!

International Women's Day is also celebrated on March 8th. I hope you take some time to acknowledge an awesome woman in your life.

Keep reading for more information on March Break activities, Francophonie month, and some budget 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.

MARCH MEETING DATES

Regional Council:

Tuesday, March 5th at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19th at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 26th at 10 a.m.

Budget Committee

Wednesday, March 6th at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 8th at 9:30 a.m.- Contingency

North West Community Council

Monday, March 18th at 7 p.m.

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



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The North West Community Council met on February 26th. 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 to 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 at 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.

MARCH IS FRANCOPHONIE 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.



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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 FRANCOPHONIE & JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

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.



MARCH BREAK IN HRM

Looking for fun things to do over March Break?

Halifax Public Libraries have plenty of activities planned! Check out their What's On Calendar for free events and activities for the whole family to enjoy—at-home and in-person! Visit their [website](#) to explore and register.

Halifax Rec also has an awesome lineup of March Break programs at the Power House Youth Centre! Most workshops are free, but space is limited so be sure to register to save your spot. Visit their [website](#) for a full list of events and registration info.

Check out Discover Halifax [website](#) for more ideas and announcements!

RAMADAN



The evening of March 10th will mark the first night of Ramadan, a month-long sacred observance for Muslims around the world and here at home. Ramadan 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 8th.

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 9th and continue for three days. To all those celebrating, Ramadan Kareem!



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8th 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.

Learn more about upcoming events in celebration of International Women's Day at Halifax.ca as details become finalized. Visit their [website](#).



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, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) Headquarters and Station 1, active transportation, sidewalk recapitalization, HRFE fleet replacement, Burnside & City of Lakes Industrial Park, electric bus procurement and municipal building retrofits as part of HalifACT.

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





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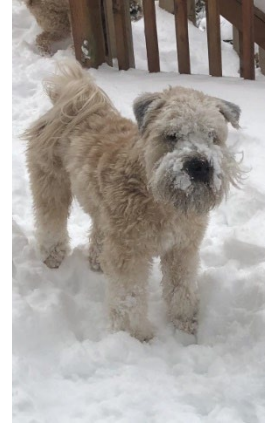
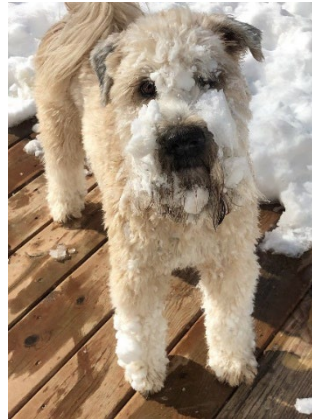
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HALIFAX POLICE REMIND CITIZENS TO LOOK OUT FOR THEIR FURRY FRIENDS

With the temperature continuing to be well below freezing, Halifax Regional Police is sharing a few tips to help pet people take extra care of their pets. Below are some tips to help keep Fluffy and Fido safe this cold weather season:

- Never leave your pet in a cold car. It can hold in the cold just like a refrigerator.
- Keep your pets indoors, during the day and night. Cold temperatures can still harm your pets even though they have fur.
- If you leave your pets outside, give them a draft-free shelter large enough to stand and turn around in, but small enough to retain body heat. Use something to protect them against the cold like a layer of straw or a blanket. Turn the entrance away from wind and snow.
- Stay with your pets when taking them out for a bathroom break; if it's too cold for you, it is too cold for them, and you should head inside.
- Use extra caution around lakes, ponds and rivers as the ice may not be thick enough to hold you and/or your pet.

Police remind citizens that if you see an animal in distress call 902-490-5020 and take direction from the call taker.



SOCIAL VALUE CATERING

The municipality is seeking applications from catering businesses who meet Social Value Guidelines for inclusion on a Social Value Catering List.

We are looking for businesses who are owned, operated by:

- women
- African Nova Scotians / People of African Descent
- Indigenous peoples
- Veterans
- Recent Immigrants
- People with Disabilities
- Social Enterprises

To learn more and to apply please visit our [website](#).

APPLY TO THE NEW

Social Value Catering List

The municipality is seeking applications from catering businesses who meet Social Value Guidelines through ownership or operation for inclusion on a Social Value Catering List.

This list will be available to municipal staff across every district, who are seeking catering services. We are looking for businesses who are owned, operated by or employing:

- women
- Indigenous Peoples
- recent immigrants
- African Nova Scotians /
- people with disabilities
- social enterprises
- African Descent
- veterans

Learn more and complete the intake form at halifax.ca/SocialValueCatering.

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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 is now open and the application deadline is April 1st, 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 or call 902.497.0479

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.

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.


6

2024-2025

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM
APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

This program provides cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities.

HALIFAX



Community Garden Application

The deadline to submit a Community Garden Application is March 30.

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TRANSIT OPERATOR AND WORKER APPRECIATION DAY

On March 18th, 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 – from our operators and workers, your professionalism and dedication to our residents and public transit system does not go unnoticed!

STEP UP TO SPRING

Join our Neighbourhood & Volunteer Services team for their Step up to Leadership course this spring! The course was developed by volunteers, for volunteers and covers a wide range of topics to help participants develop leadership skills and build strong communities.

Learn more about the spring 2024 sessions please visit our [website](#).



REC FEES ARE CHANGING

Parks and Recreation fees are changing on April 1st.

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 1st.

Please see the full list of changes [here](#).



HONOURING RICK HOWE

It was an honour to pay tribute to talk show titan Rick Howe who passed away earlier this year. We dressed in signature Rick fashion of a baseball cap and Hawaiian shirt. To watch full tribute please click [here](#).





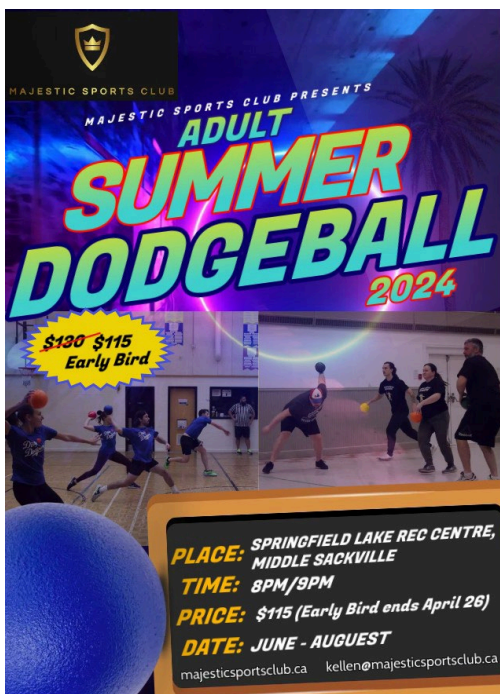
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IN THE COMMUNITY



Dropping the puck at the Halifax Girls All Star Hockey Tournament in Sackville



Discussing the future of parkland in HRM with the Sackville Rivers Association



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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



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
Telephone: 902-426-2217
Fax: 902-426-8339



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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

10

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