



# COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DISTRICT 3 ONLINE NEWS

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

## MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

It's hard to believe it is December already! The winter season is just around the corner and with that comes Christmas. My most favourite time of the year.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a happy, healthy new year! May the joy and warmth of the season stay with you the entire year. Remember to check in on those who may be alone or struggling. A bit of kindness and a helping hand goes a long way.

It is important to acknowledge that this year has certainly been challenging with the recent wildfires and flooding in various parts of the municipality. This has caused people to pause and consider their safety and the safety of their families. I want you to know that we are aware that as a municipality, we are more vulnerable to extreme weather events and we will continue to work diligently on plans to mitigate extreme weather impacts.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me with any of your municipal questions or concerns.

Warmly,

*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.*





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### QUIGLEY'S CORNER TREE LIGHTING

Head on down to Quigley's Corner on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. for the annual tree lighting event. There will be hot chocolate, cookies, music and festive cheer. I hope to see you there!

### EASTERN PASSAGE COW BAY HOLIDAY PARADE

It's that time of year! The EPCB Holiday parade will be held on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. The parade will start in the Fisherman's Cove parking lot and continue on to the Legion on Main Road.



### VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

We've launched a Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry for those who require more support during emergencies. The VVPR provides essential information to first responders, municipal staff and volunteers to help prioritize responses to residents' needs. Details can be found [here](#).



### WINTER REC REGISTRATION

Get ready to register for Rec programs happening this winter!

To preview upcoming program PDFs, visit our [website](#) to see what's available in your community.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. each day for all ages:

Wednesday, Dec. 6 - All dryland programs

Thursday, Dec. 7 – Skating and aquatics programs

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





## 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 wearing 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.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, police services, shelter and community-based organizations reported an increase in violent acts towards women, girls and gender-diverse people. Communities across Canada and the world began to see a [shadow pandemic](#) of increased violence against women. Due to calls for social justice regarding violence against women of colour, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, there has been an amplified awareness around gender-based violence in recent years.

### How can you help?

Preventing and ending gender-based violence is everyone's responsibility. You can be part of the solution when you:

- Listen to and support survivors of gender-based violence. For example, you can learn about the experiences of Black and Indigenous survivors within our region with Avalon Sexual Assault Centre's recorded [learning event from 2022](#).
- Speak up when you see harmful behaviour and maintain confidentiality if someone in the workplace has experienced gender-based violence.

If you or a loved one is experiencing violence, speak with someone you trust about getting support.

- Call 911 if you or someone you know is in danger.
- To connect with community services including legal aid, counselling, family resource centres, housing, and accessibility support within the municipality, call 211 or [search online for community resources](#).
- See the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women's [Resource Map](#).

Learn more about gender-based violence [here](#) and by visiting [Ending Violence Association of Canada](#).





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### ATLANTIC WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS BANQUET

I had the pleasure recently of attending the AWLE Awards Banquet. What an incredible evening celebrating incredible women. Thank you for everything you do.







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### EASTERN PASSAGE FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY

As Councillor for District 3, I am pleased to support the new non-profit organization, the Eastern Passage Food Security Society, which will be opening a food pantry and fridge behind the Eastern Passage fire station to combat food insecurity and access by providing free food to anyone in need.

Community fridges are large refrigerators and pantries filled with food that are placed in public spaces for anyone to access. The food pantry and fridge will be open to anyone, and will accept donations of perishable and non-perishable items.

The Eastern Passage Food Security Society hope to make the experience meaningful, creating a space where people can come together sharing resources and supporting each other. The food pantry and fridge will also serve as a community bulletin board for education on community events and resources.

The founders, Samantha Galvin and Patrick Sangster, saw the impact that community fridges were having in other communities and wanted to bring that same sense of community and support to our own neighborhood. I am thrilled to see this initiative in our community and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our neighbors in need. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please reach out to Samantha Galvin at 902-430-2387.

### EASTERN PASSAGE COMMON SKATE PARK – DESIGN WORKSHOP #2

Join the design team on December 13<sup>th</sup> for the second design workshop for the Eastern Passage Skate Park replacement project. This workshop will include a presentation of preliminary design options and give attendees an opportunity to provide feedback on the design direction. Can't make the workshop? There will be an [online survey](#) open from December 13<sup>th</sup> to December 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Date:** December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Horizon Recreation Centre Youth Room, 168 Redoubt Way, Eastern Passage, NS



### Eastern Passage Skatepark

<b>Design Workshop #2</b> Wednesday, Dec. 13   6 – 8 p.m. Horizon Recreation Centre, Youth Room, 168 Redoubt Way, Eastern Passage.	<b>Online Survey #2</b> Opens: Dec. 13 Closes: Dec. 27
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 HALIFAX

**NEWLINE SKATEPARKS**

<https://brnw.ch/21wEqUu>



### TRANSIT CHANGES

As our city grows, so do our transit needs. Halifax Transit has introduced new service to Bayers Lake, Burnside, and Dartmouth Crossing and brought back 55 trips on 26 routes, 12 of which will be returning to full service! Learn more [here](#).



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### IMPROVEMENTS, AMENDMENTS AND ADVANCEMENTS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE MUNICIPALITY

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Regional Council passed a [series of motions](#) to amend, improve, and advance affordable housing in the municipality. A full overview of the motions and background information can be found in the [staff report](#).



At the November 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Council Meeting, the motion was advanced that the [Administrative Order Number 2020-007-ADM Respecting Incentive or Bonus Zoning Public Benefits](#) and [Administrative Order Number 2020-008-ADM Respecting Grants for Affordable Housing](#) both be amended, so that money collected through the [Interim Density Bonus Program](#) can be used to fund eligible public benefits, including affordable housing, in the Suburban Area (outside the Regional Centre). This will ensure that the Halifax Regional Municipality can fund affordable housing projects throughout the entire municipality to ultimately support more residents in need.

Staff also recommend expanding eligible partnerships between private businesses and Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), by allowing eligible NPOs to lease privately owned property or housing and maintain their eligibility for Affordable Housing Grants Program funding.

Additionally, on November 14<sup>th</sup>, in light of [Bill 329](#) and the Interim Density Bonus Program, staff also recommend that, for the 2023/2024 Grant year, \$200,000 be allocated from the Housing Accelerator Fund to support suburban and rural affordable housing projects.

Finally, at the meeting, the motion was advanced for a review of the Affordable Housing Grant Program to be undertaken before the 2024/25 grant year to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of this program. For more information, read the full [staff report](#).



I had the pleasure of attending a beautiful Remembrance Day ceremony at the Caen Legion here in District 3.





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### PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY IN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

We've introduced virtual public participation for in-person meetings held in Council Chamber.

This option is now available for any meetings taking place in Council Chamber where there is an opportunity for the public to speak, including meetings of Budget Committee. This is in addition to a livestream of all meetings, which is available on the municipality's [YouTube channel](#).

In August 2023, Regional Council passed amendments to [Administrative Order One – Respecting the Procedures of the Council](#) to enable virtual participation. These amendments provided the necessary legislative changes to accommodate virtual participants.

Those who wish to participate virtually must register in advance by 4:30 p.m. the business day before the meeting. For more information, visit [our website](#).



Beautiful new art installation at Quigley's Corner!

7

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## 2024 VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Each year the Mayor and Halifax Regional Council recognize the extraordinary contributions of outstanding individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in our communities. This annual event puts a spotlight on amazing people who give of their time in our Municipality.

There are three categories in which to nominate deserving volunteers: Youth, Adult, or Group. You can download the form or nominate online. Both versions of the forms can be found [here](#). Please select the appropriate form and returned to [volunteerhelp@halifax.ca](mailto:volunteerhelp@halifax.ca) by **January 11, 2024**.

This is a scored process. Please provide as much information on your nominee as possible. If you require any clarification or to find out if nominees have received the award in the past, please contact Darren Hirtle at 902-476-1184. Learn more [here](#).



## UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There is one Regional Council meeting scheduled for December. **Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:**

- December 12

I look forward to participating in these meetings, and I hope you can join us – in person or by tuning in on YouTube! Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings – including committees [here](#).

Meeting agendas (including the specific start time of 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.) and a link to watch the video are generally available by the Friday prior to the meeting. Reports on the items that councillors vote on are available and are linked throughout the meeting agenda.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council normally meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

The HEMDCC webcast will be live on HRM's [YouTube channel](#) and [agenda postings](#). Stay tuned for the video link to be shared closer to the next HEMDCC meeting, scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>.





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### PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY SIGNS AVAILABLE

If you are interested in a slow down sign for your lawn/personal property, please email me. These signs are made of plastic and come with the lawn stakes for installation. Please be informed that the District 3 "Please Drive Slowly" signs are NOT a traffic calming measure, and they have no authority to direct or slow down traffic or make children safer on the streets.



### CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at [becky.kent@halifax.ca](mailto:becky.kent@halifax.ca) or 902-478-5368. For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at 311. To reach my office, please call Emily Simonov at 902-490-7177.

To sign up for my monthly e-newsletter, please e-mail Emily at [smithem@halifax.ca](mailto:smithem@halifax.ca).

For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).