



Hello District 3 Residents,

Winter is in full force with lots of chilly days and snow ahead. That said, Shubenacadie Sam did not see her shadow predicting that we will see the early arrival of spring!

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to attend the upcoming community engagement session regarding the Shore Road mitigation project on February 8. Further details can be found on the next page.

February is African Heritage Month. I encourage you to check out this year's events and activities and celebrate the rich culture of people of African descent. More information can be found below in this newsletter.

While Council is in the midst of budget discussions, I would like to take this opportunity to remind and encourage everyone to participate. There is an opportunity for public participation at the start of every budget meeting.

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.





COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

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.

Celebrate the rich culture of people of African descent by participating in this year's events and activities. A list of events and details can be found [here](#).



SHORE ROAD: BUILDING WITH NATURE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to a public information meeting to learn more about the upcoming Shore Road: Building with Nature project. We're using a nature-based approach to protect this vulnerable coastal road between Norman's Lane and Oceanlea Drive in Eastern Passage.



Join municipal staff on **Thursday, February 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Fisherman's Cove** for a presentation and an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback!

Learn more [here](#).

MUNICIPALLY OPERATED FITNESS CENTRE MEMBERSHIPS!

This winter, enjoy great prices and membership benefits at a municipally operated fitness centre near you. Our fitness

centres offer low-cost memberships, no commitment or long-term contracts and a variety of group fitness programs and activities to choose from!



Learn more [here](#).



PARTICIPATE IN THE 2024/25 BUDGET

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.

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE BUDGET

During every budget meeting, members of the public also have an opportunity to share their views on any aspect of the proposed municipal budget. You can speak directly to me as your Regional Councillor about budget priorities. During each meeting, time will also be set aside for the public to provide insight and comments. If you wish to make any presentations before HRM Council about the municipal budget, then please contact the Municipal Clerks Office at clerks@halifax.ca or call 902-490-4210. Written submissions are also welcomed.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF BUDGET PRESENTATIONS FOR 2023/24:

Business Unit	Budget Committee Date/(Contingency Date)
HRP RCMP	Wednesday February 7 (Friday February 9)
Public Works	Friday February 9 (Tuesday February 13)
Planning and Development	Tuesday February 13 (Wednesday February 14)
Parks and Recreation	Wednesday February 14 (Wednesday February 28)
Halifax Transit	Wednesday February 28 (Friday March 1)
Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency	Friday March 1 (Wednesday March 6)
Community Safety Fiscal	Wednesday March 6 (Friday March 8)
Budget Adjustment List (BAL)	Tuesday April 2 (Wednesday April 3)

3

RCMP Impaired Driving Stats

Nova Scotia Statistics for December 2023 on drivers charged for driving impaired by drugs or alcohol

For the month of December, Nova Scotia RCMP charged 125 drivers with impaired related offences.

- 155 charged with Impaired Operation of a Conveyance by Alcohol
- 7 charged with Impaired Operation of a Conveyance by Drug
- 14 charged with Refusal of a Demand Made by a Peace Officer
- 49 issued driving suspensions for Operating a Conveyance While Having Consumed Alcohol.

Please drive safely.
Don't drink and drive.



AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN ROAD TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY INFORMATION REPORT



An information report has been provided to Regional Council outlining key activities of the Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities from September 2022 to September 2023.

The report outlines activities around the Strategic Priorities, including:

- Build unity and capacity among African Nova Scotians
 - Through the guidance of the Advisory Committee, the outcome of this priority requires effective and culturally specific information sharing, collaboration with partners and establishment of a framework for supporting community capacity building efforts.

- Establish land ownership, develop infrastructure, and attract investment
 - This priority addresses historic and current issues related to land ownership and environmental racism, strengthens the revitalization of African Nova Scotian communities through investment and development, and supports the exploration of international economic and cultural opportunities.
- Increase participation in education, employment and entrepreneurship
 - The Advisory Committee continues to collaborate with its partners and stakeholders around opportunities to advance this action.

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



Camille Toulany and I. Camille is the former owner of the iconic Pizza Time on Pleasant Street



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

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'll 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.

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 ([@JoinHRP](#)) and Instagram ([@JoinHRP](#)).

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



NEW SIDEWALKS COMING TO THE HALIFAX REGION

Regional Council has directed municipal staff to proceed with a proposed plan to construct approximately 55 kilometres of new sidewalk on high need streets within the urban tax boundary over the next 10 years. This work will be funded through the existing budget plan and other potential cost-sharing opportunities.

Staff will also continue to use an evaluation tool to identify streets with the highest need for new sidewalks, including a greater focus on stand-alone projects on major roads.

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



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND ANNOUNCEMENT

Urgent changes to
planning documents for housing



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 our [website](#).

PVSC CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE

1-800-380-7775 (within North America)
1-902-893-5800 (outside North America)

MAIL

15 Arlington Place, Suite #6
Truro, NS, B2N 0G9

WEBSITE AND EMAIL

pvsc.ca
inquiry@pvsc.ca



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 has 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, February 16. Questions can also be directed to Lindsay Cory, Community Developer – Public Art at lindsay.cory@halifax.ca or 902-456-8384.

2024 - 2027

Poet Laureate

Nomination period now open

The municipality is seeking nominations for the position of Poet Laureate for a three-year term, 2024-2027. The Poet Laureate will receive an honorarium of \$5,000 per year for the three-year term of their mandate.

Applications close at 4 p.m. on February 16, 2024.

halifax.ca/PoetLaureate

HALIFAX

HALIFAX



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DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

ICE THICKNESS TESTING PROGRAM 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](#).



District 3 | Dartmouth South - Eastern Passage

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Join Councillor Becky Kent

to discuss community matters related to Bell Lake Parkland

Woodlawn Public Library

Tuesday, May 14 from 6 to 8 p.m.

To register, please contact Emily at 902-490-7177 or smithem@halifax.ca



311

HALIFAX

2024/25 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

2024-2025

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

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

HALIFAX

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 3, for the 2024-2025 program. The application deadline is April 1, 2024. Application forms and program guidebooks are available from:

- Our [website](#)
- Visiting one of our [Customer Service Centres](#)
- Alderney Gate, 40 Alderney Drive, - Dartmouth, 1st floor
- Musquodoboit Harbour Strip Mall, Corner of Hwy #7 & East Petpeswick Road
- Bayers Road, 7071 Bayers Road, 2nd floor
- [Contacting 311](#)
- E-mail - 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

HALIFAX



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DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for February. **Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:**

- February 6
- February 13 (special meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m.)

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 March 7.

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 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.

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