



## COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DISTRICT 3 ONLINE NEWS

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

### MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends. Looking ahead, I hope 2024 will bring you great success and inspirations of positivity.

I am overjoyed to announce that I will be a first-time grandma in April! This is something I am very much looking forward to this year on a personal level.

Budget debates are in full swing, and I encourage you all to participate in the budget discussions. There are a few ways to participate including registering to speak during Budget Committee, submitting your feedback to the Clerk's Office and reaching out to me directly. More information can be found on how to participate, including the meeting schedule below in this newsletter.

A friendly reminder that this time of year can be challenging for some folks, so I encourage you to check in on your loved ones and look after yourselves as well.

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

### 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. All versions of the forms can be found [here](#). Please select the appropriate form and return to [volunteerhelp@halifax.ca](mailto:volunteerhelp@halifax.ca) by **January 11**.

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](#).



### 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](mailto:nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca)

Organizations considering an application to the Program are encouraged to review the guidebook.

For further information, please email [nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca](mailto:nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca) or call 902.497.0479

HALIFAX





## PARTICIPATE IN THE 2024/25 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Regional Council has begun the 2024/25 municipal budget process by reviewing the [2024/25 Budget Direction](#) on November 28, 2023.



As the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) gears up for its 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.

As a resident, you possess valuable insights into the unique challenges and opportunities within your neighborhoods. By participating in budget discussions, you can help provide decision-makers with grassroots understanding that complements statistical data. Your voice matters!

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 2023 meeting:
- Send an email to [clerks@halifax.ca](mailto: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.*
- 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.



Taking part in Christmas festivities. Getting a Christmas tree!



## COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

### EMERA OVAL – OPEN FOR THE 2024 WINTER SEASON

HRM is advising residents that the Emera Oval, located on the Halifax Commons, is now open for the winter season.

Every year, the Emera Oval is transformed into the largest outdoor, artificially refrigerated ice surface east of Quebec City. The skating surface is equal to three NHL hockey rinks, and the facility includes an accessible washroom, street parking on Cogswell Street and wheelchair access to the ice surface.

Free equipment rentals, including skates and helmets, will be available. Valid ID is required for all rentals. CSA-approved multi-impact hockey helmets are mandatory for children 12 years of age and younger. However, all skaters are encouraged to wear a helmet for their own safety.

A full schedule of public skate times can be found on our [website](#).



New Year's Levee with Lieutenant Governor LeBlanc and Mrs. Leblanc

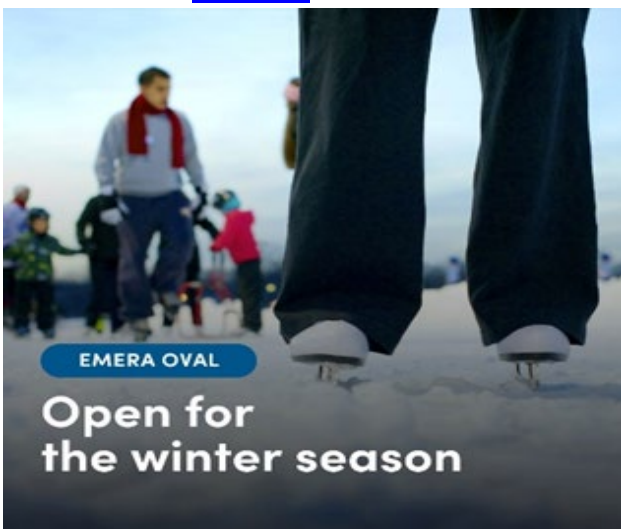
### STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PILOT PROGRAM EXTENDED

The [Student Transit Pass Pilot Program](#) has been extended to June of next year. The program is currently available to approximately 4,300 students from four high schools and six junior high schools, and hopes to expand far beyond that pending further funding opportunities.



Thousands of students have taken part in the program to date, which has increased Halifax Transit ridership in select areas, and reduced the number of vehicles on the road to support our environment.

For more details on the expansion and success of the program, please refer to the [staff report](#).







## COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

### ROADS AND WINTER OPERATIONS – SNOW CLEARING

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.

We can't control the weather, but if we work together we can all be better prepared for whatever the season may bring. For more information on our Winter Operations Program and tips to help you prepare for the winter, please visit our [website](#).

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](mailto:ContactUs@311.halifax.ca) or by calling 311.

Please note, clearing timelines may be exceeded during exceptional weather conditions.

**HALIFAX**

5



Christmas at the Lion's Club!



New Year Levee

**HALIFAX**



## MUNICIPALITY RELEASES 2022/23 STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE REPORT



The Halifax Regional Municipality has released the [2022/23 Strategic Performance Report](#) – the second annual report providing updates of the [Strategic Priorities Plan 2021-25](#) - The [Strategic Performance Snapshot](#),

The annual Strategic Performance Report highlights the municipality's progress on delivering Regional Council's priorities and the priorities of the administration in the governance and management of municipal services, staff and finances.

The following are some key highlights from the 2022/23 Strategic Performance Report:

- The creation of the Community Safety business unit, allowing the consolidation of programs and activities in the areas of social policy, housing and homelessness, public safety and emergency management.
- The implementation of the [Framework for Addressing Homelessness](#), which builds on continued work with the Province of Nova Scotia and service providers to better coordinate resources and assistance to persons experiencing homelessness – including the creating of [designated outdoor sheltering locations](#).

- The continued commitment to key climate action deliverables, including transitioning municipal vehicles to electric, retrofitting municipal buildings to align with [HalifACT guidelines](#) and progressing towards decarbonizing the public transit fleet, with electric buses scheduled to be in service in Fall 2024.
- The [Cogswell District Project](#) has entered its second phase of construction and will be complete by the end of 2025.
- The development of the [Draft Regional Plan](#) – the municipality's long-range region-wide plan for growth and development, which was presented for Regional Council review and public feedback.

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

6

**RCMP Impaired Driving Stats**  
Nova Scotia Statistics for October and November 2023  
on drivers charged for driving impaired by drugs or alcohol

For the months of October and November, Nova Scotia RCMP charged 254 drivers with impaired related offences.

- 131 charged with Impaired Operation of a Conveyance by Alcohol
- 12 charged with Impaired Operation of a Conveyance by Drug
- 24 charged with Refusal of a Demand Made by a Peace Officer
- 87 issued driving suspensions for Operating a Conveyance While Having Consumed Alcohol.

Please drive safely.  
Don't drink and drive.





## COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

### REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-003- ADM RESPECTING THE MUNICIPAL REGISTRY OF VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDERS



A municipal Registry of Emergency Services Providers is an administrative function that aids in the identification and coordination of nonprofit and charitable organizations that officially collaborate with municipal staff in training and the deployment of personnel and equipment.

In 2018, a recommendation report to the HRM Grants Committee and Regional Council proposed an evaluation of the Grants to Volunteer Search and Rescue/EMO Organizations Program to initiate this Municipal Registry of Emergency Service Providers as permitted under Section 306 of the [HRM Charter](#).

All three levels of government have fostered the role of volunteers to enhance a coordinated response to natural or human-induced disasters, evacuations and refuge, searches, communications, and aid to those citizens adversely impacted. A municipal registry affords the municipality the opportunity to identify non-profit service providers, the type of service(s) they have the capacity to deliver, reduces the potential for overlap or duplication, and mandates that liability insurance is appropriate and sufficient.

Legislation also expands the type of assistance the municipality may provide to organizations accepted into the registry. This enhanced authority exceeds that of a conventional municipal grant program. The establishment of a registry in advance of Council's consideration of replacing an annual grants program with a Municipal Service Agreement model is recommended within the [report](#), to enable the integration of these new funding options.

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

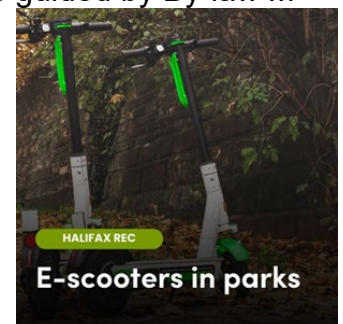
### E-SCOOTERS PERMITTED ON SELECT MUNICIPAL TRAILS

The operation of e-scooters is now being permitted on the following municipal trails:

- Mainland Linear Trail
- Chain of Lakes Trail
- Halifax Common pathways
- McIntosh Run Trail
- AT Trail around Lake Banook (between Star Park and Brookdale Crescent)
- Dartmouth Waterfront Active Transportation Trail (between Alderney and Woodside ferry terminals)
- Portland Lakes Trail (between Baker Drive and Freshwater Trail to Waterside Terrace)

The use of e-scooters is guided by By-law M-300, the Micromobility By-law and the Province of Nova Scotia's Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) .

Learn more [here](#).





## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ROUTES TO SCHOOL FOR KIDS

Children in the municipality may soon be inspired to get creative about how they travel to school each day. The initial steps to implement active school travel program have been approved by Regional Council.

Active school travel programs are designed to encourage and help students use active modes of transportation such as walking, skateboarding, scootering or cycling to get to school each day. The program helps to promote physical activity, and also focuses on determining the safest and most accessible routes.

Active school travel programs in cities can result in several benefits, including reducing car congestion around schools, promoting physical fitness among students, improving air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and fostering a stronger sense of community. These initiatives align with the broader goals of making urban areas more livable and sustainable while prioritizing the well-being of young people. The [Safe School Streets program](#) also supports to municipality's initiatives and goals around climate change by reducing traffic congestion and encouraging alternate modes of transportation.

Read more details about the benefits of active school travel programming [here](#).



## 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](#).

### PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY IN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



HALIFAX





## COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

### UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- January 9
- January 23

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 January 11.

### 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](#).