



## COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

### DISTRICT 4 ONLINE NEWS

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

## DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy January District 4!

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you all had a fantastic holiday season and were able to get some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Looking at the year ahead, I hope that all your aspirations and dreams come true. Let's make this year a great one!

Budget debates are in full swing and I encourage you to participate in the budget discussions. There are several ways to participate including registering to speak at a budget committee meeting, submitting your feedback to the Clerk's Office and more. More information can be found below in this newsletter.

Drop-in dates have returned for January. Please see below in this newsletter for this month's dates and times. I hope to see you there.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with your municipal questions or concerns. I love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

*Trish Purdy*





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### 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.

### COUNCILLOR DROP-IN

The following Community Drop-In sessions are planned for the month of January. Please feel free to drop by to discuss any municipal concerns or questions, I would love to see you!

#### Tim Hortons, Forest Hills Parkway

Friday, January 19, 10 to 11 a.m.

#### Opus Café, Wilfred Jackson Way

Friday, January 19, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.





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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. All 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](#).



### 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 has begun accepting applications from registered non-profits and charities located within Halifax Regional Municipality. 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



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### ROOFTOP SOLAR PANEL SYSTEMS INSTALLED ON VARIOUS MUNICIPAL SITES

HRM has begun the installation of rooftop solar panel systems at nine municipal sites across the region. These efforts support the goal to decarbonize corporate buildings by 2030 as part of the municipality's transformational [HalifACT](#) plan.

The Sackville Transit Terminal was the first site to receive a rooftop solar panel system earlier this fall, with installations expected to be completed at the following sites by the end of 2024, pending a structural analysis for some:

- Keshen Goodman Library
- Ragged Lake Transit Centre
- East Preston Community Centre
- North Preston Community Centre
- Carroll's Corner Community Centre
- Cole Harbour Place
- Sackville Sports Stadium
- Wallace Lucas Community Centre

Installation work will take place outside of regular business hours so operations at each site will not be impacted. These rooftop solar panel systems are in addition to those installed at five other municipal sites between fall 2022 and summer 2023, which included the Acadia Centre, Dartmouth North Community Centre, Halifax Commons Aquatics Facility, Kiwanis Grahams Grove Community Building and Mackintosh Depot.

Altogether, the rooftop solar panel installations are expected to produce more than three million kWh of renewable energy annually, which will save more than \$350,000 in electricity costs each year.

Residents are encouraged to learn more and participate in the [Solar City program](#), which offers property owners access to innovative solar energy options financed through the municipality. For more information on solar energy systems at municipal sites, 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**



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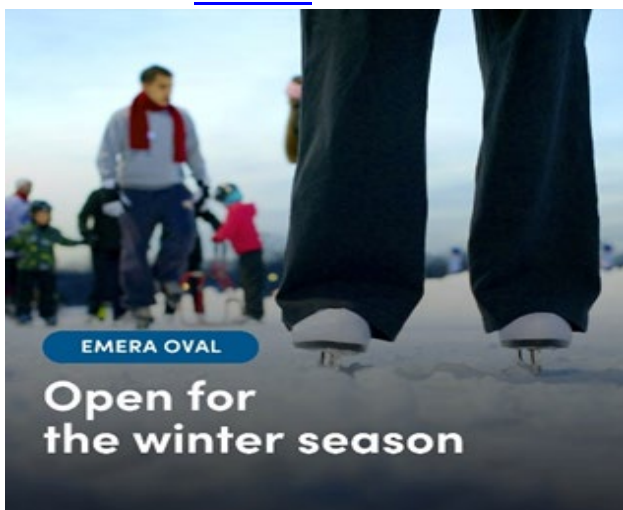
### EMERA OVAL – OPEN FOR THE 2024 WINTER SEASON

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](#).



### VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

We've launched a Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) 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](#).



### 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.





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### 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](#).



January 2023

### 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](#).

### 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](#).



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### SNOW SEASON IS HERE

With each weather event, snow clearing crews are responsible for approximately 3,844 lane kilometres of streets and about 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks! We can't control Mother Nature or what this winter has in store, but if we work together, we can all be better prepared for whatever the season may bring.

For more information on our municipality's Winter Operations program, and tips to help you prepare for inclement weather, please visit our [website](#).

#### **SERVICE STANDARDS:**

HRM has service standards for streets, sidewalks, and bus stops and the timing varies depending on the priority level. We prioritize commonly used streets, bus routes and roads that provide access to hospitals and schools. When the snow stops, operators work as quickly and safely as possible to have all the roads cleared within 24 hours and major roads and bus routes within 12 hours.

Before contacting 311 about snow clearing, please ensure the service timelines for your area have expired. You can find detailed information about snow clearing service timelines on the interactive map or in the "when should clearing be complete?" section on the [website](#).

If your street or sidewalk has not been cleared by the indicated time in each chart, please e-mail [ContactUs@311.halifax.ca](mailto:ContactUs@311.halifax.ca) or call 311 so crews can be dispatched to address the issue.

If an emergency vehicle needs to access a street, staff dispatch a plow immediately to that street.

Residents should note that in snowfalls greater than 30 centimeters or in blizzard conditions, more time may be needed to complete clearing. The same exception may apply when there are rapidly changing weather conditions. Crews will continue working until all streets and sidewalks are clear and safe. Of course, some roads are taken care of by the province, depending on where you live. Provincial road information can be found [here](#).

#### **WINTER PARKING:**

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect annually from December 15 to March 31. The ban is enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during declared weather events and snow removal operations only. Sign up for [hfxALERT](#) notifications to receive important updates from the municipality, including Winter Parking Ban notifications.

For more information on service standards, winter parking, and winter's impacts across our municipality, visit our [website](#) or keep up to date on clearing operations and municipal service updates via [@hfxgov on Twitter \(X\)](#).





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### 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 ("registry") 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.

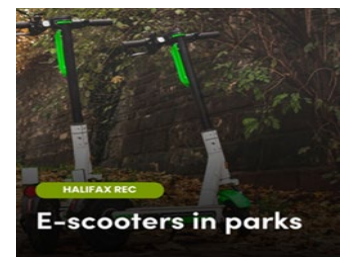
For more information, read the [staff report](#).

### 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](#).







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### JANUARY MEETING DATES



#### **Regional Council:**

Tuesday, January 9 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 23 at 10 a.m.

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

#### **Budget Committee**

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

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

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

### COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

As Councillor, I am also a Commissioner of Oaths. While in office, I may administer oaths and take and receive affidavits, declarations and affirmations within the Province for use within the Province.

If you require a Commissioner of Oaths, please contact me.

### 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.

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](#).





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### COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council normally meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 6 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.

### CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **trish.purdy@halifax.ca** or **902-240-3067**.

For routine municipal matters, please call our **Citizen Contact Centre at 311**.

To reach my office, please call Emily Simonov at **902-490-7177**.

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