



COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

DISTRICT 6 ONLINE NEWS

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities

WELCOME DECEMBER



Winter weather has arrived, just in time for the holiday season! I'm looking forward to celebrating the holidays with family and friends and hope to see many of you at the various events happening around the municipality. I'm especially looking forward to our annual Shubie Park Tree Lighting this Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m., where we will roast marshmallows, visit with Santa, light up the Shubie Park tree and screen some outdoor Christmas movies. Hope to see you all there!

I've included some information about our snow clearing service standards, budget season and much more below. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns about municipal services.

Merry Christmas, Buon Natale, Joyeux Noël

BIENVENUE DÉCEMBRE

La température hivernale est arrivée, juste à temps pour la période des fêtes! J'ai hâte de célébrer le temps des Fêtes avec ma famille et mes amis, et j'espère voir plusieurs d'entre vous aux divers événements qui se déroulent autour de la municipalité. J'ai particulièrement hâte de voir l'événement annuel de l'illumination de l'arbre dans le parc Shubie Park le dimanche, de 16 h à 18 h, où nous ferons rôti des guimauves, nous rendrons visite au Père Noël, nous allumerons l'arbre du parc Shubie et nous visionnerons des films de Noël à l'extérieur. Espérant vous voir tous!

J'ai inclus quelques renseignements sur nos normes de service de déneigement, la saison budgétaire et beaucoup plus en bas de la page. N'hésitez pas à communiquer avec nous si vous avez des questions ou des préoccupations concernant les services municipaux.

Merry Christmas, Buon Natale, Joyeux Noël



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REGISTRATION FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS NOW OPEN!

Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that registration has opened for winter recreation programs and aquatics. Parks & Recreation offers a variety of innovative, cost-effective programming led by local, passionate instructors in a welcoming environment. Programming is offered in a variety of fields – including health, wellness, outdoor and artistic – and is available for residents of all ages and abilities.

Many programs are available at residents' [local community centres](#), limiting travel time, and the [Recreation Affordable Access Program](#) provides discounted recreation opportunities for children, youth and adults in financial need. A full list of all programs can be found on our [website](#). Residents can register through their [MyRec account](#).

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION RESCHEDULE

Curbside collection of solid waste was cancelled on Monday, December 4 due to poor road conditions. Recovery for this collection will occur on Saturday, December 9.

Curbside collection scheduled for Monday, December 11 will continue as planned.

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

On December 7, the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee approved a report recommending that we approve the registration of HRM for participation in the Extended Producer Responsibility program for packaging, paper products and packaging like products by January 1, 2024.

Extended Producer Responsibility is a policy approach which makes the end-of-life management of a product the physical and financial responsibility of the producer of that product and it's something I've been advocating for since I was elected in 2016. If approved through Regional Council, this will begin the process for us to work with Divert NS and producers to approve a strategy that will have packaging producers responsible for the collection and recycling of their materials.

Find out more by checking out the full report [here](#).

TRANSIT CHANGES

As our city grows, so do our transit needs. Starting on November 20, Halifax Transit introduced new service to Burnside, Dartmouth Crossing and Bayers Lake, and is bringing back 55 trips on 26 routes, 12 of which will be returning to full service! You can learn more [here](#).

PLEASANT STREET TRAFFIC DISRUPTION

The area around 585 Pleasant Street will be reduced northbound to one lane to facilitate repairs to underground infrastructure until December 16th. There will be no impacts to sidewalks. Motorists should expect delays and are asked to use alternative routes whenever possible.



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2024/25 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

As many of you know, we are beginning our Budget process for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. The municipality runs on an April 1 until March 31 fiscal year so over the next few months, we will be reviewing each department's budget in preparation for a final budget approval in April.

Regional Council have already reviewed the [2024/25 budget direction report](#), which recommended a 9.7 per cent increase to the average property's taxes in order to maintain municipal services and continue with important initiatives. I understand this is concerning, and we will be closely scrutinizing the budget over the next five months to find efficiencies. The municipality is currently facing many pressures that have been unprecedented in recent history including the housing crisis, climate change and community safety concerns. We are committed to keeping taxes as low as possible while maintaining the services we all rely on.

This month, we will review the Capital Update and Advanced Tenders Report. In January we will begin reviewing each municipal business unit's budget projections. You can find the full schedule as it becomes available [here](#).

We welcome public feedback throughout this process. You can get involved by participating in the Public Participation portion included in each meeting or by [submitting correspondence](#) to the Clerk's Office. For more information, on the budget process check out our [website](#).

PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS VENUE STUDY

The municipality is seeking public input on the Performing & Visual Arts Venues Study. The study will help improve the municipality's understanding of professional art venue operations, identify challenges facing existing art venues, identify the needs of the local arts and culture community and inform the municipality's long-term approach to supporting professional arts venues. The [surveys](#) will remain open until Friday, December 15.

HALIFAX EXPLOSION MEMORIAL



On December 6, 1917, when the SS Imo collided with the explosive laden SS Mont Blanc, the cities, towns and villages around Halifax Harbour were changed forever. I was pleased to attend a wonderful gathering at the Dartmouth North Mont Blanc Cannon site for the annual Halifax Explosion ceremony.

DECEMBER ROAD SAFETY THEME

The road safety theme for the month of December is Impaired Driving. As we approach the holiday season, it is crucial to think before getting behind the wheel. Never drive impaired. Always plan ahead. Have a designated driver, take public transportation or stayover. If you see an impaired driver, call 911. Impaired Driving is one of the seven emphasis areas in the Strategic Road Safety Framework, indicating that it is a priority area to focus resources to have the greatest impact on reducing fatal and injury collisions. Impaired Driving includes collisions where the driver is impaired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

ONGOING RECRUITMENT FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

We are looking for volunteers to sit on various boards, committees and commissions. Positions are available across a variety of topics like accessibility, heritage preservation, grants, policing, parks and watershed protection. See what's available and find a board that interests you [here](#).



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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 municipality's public-facing dashboard with key performance indicators aligned to the Strategic Priorities Plan, has been updated with data for 2022/23.

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, see our [website](#).

HISTORICAL PHOTO SCAN-A-THON

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to participate in a Historical Photo Scan-a-thon on Sunday, December 10. This is a drop-in event from noon to 4 p.m. at the RBC Room (3rd Floor) of the Halifax Central Library (5440 Spring Garden Road) inviting residents to bring photographs, slides or negatives of their neighbourhood to be carefully scanned and reviewed by municipal archivists.

The Municipal Archives include a [guide](#) of buildings and properties, [historical Council minutes](#) from 1841 to 1996 and over [4,000 historical images](#) of downtown Halifax before massive renewal projects of the 1960s – and much more.

The Municipal Archives are available for all residents to explore the region's history. In addition to online services, residents can request an appointment at the Municipal Archives (81 Ilsley Avenue, Unit 11). Archivists are available to respond to your requests on Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact archives@halifax.ca or phone (902) 490-4643. For more information about the Municipal Archives, visit [our website](#). You can click [here](#) for more details about the event!



386 Windmill Rd. Dartmouth

NEW DOG DAYCARE SPECIALIZING IN SMALL DOG CARE!

Woofingtons is a small dog daycare specialising in companionship. We limit size (30lbs) and attendance (30 dogs) to ensure we can provide each dog with an exceptional level of care and attention. Our dedicated staff team bring a combination of over 40 years of working with animals as well as being dog owners themselves.

As part of the LakeCity Works non-profit, Woofingtons creates employment and volunteer opportunities for individuals living with mental illness.

DETAILS & TO BOOK YOUR SPOT
lakecityworks.ca/woof

A venture by: **LakeCity Works**

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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 starting January 3, 2024.

Application forms and program guidebooks are available [here](#) or by visiting one of our customer service centres. You can also call 311 or email our [grants](#) team to receive an application.



On November 28 we raised the flag and read the proclamation in Grand Parade in recognition of #GivingTuesdayCA. Thank you to all of the volunteers and charity workers who make a difference in the lives of so many everyday!

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 and Emergency Management staff and volunteers to help prioritize responses to residents' needs in situations such as sustained power outages or severe storms.

Find out more [here](#)

E-SCOOTERS ON MUNICIPAL TRAILS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that e-scooters are now permitted on select municipal trails. The operation of e-scooters (also known as electric kick scooters) is guided by *By-law M-300, the Micromobility By-law*. It is also guided by the Province of Nova Scotia's *Motor Vehicle Act (MVA)*.

Municipal staff have determined that e-scooters can now be used on the following trails (see each link for a map): [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)

Residents are reminded that, in accordance with the Micromobility By-law, e-scooters cannot be used at a speed in excess of 25km/h on a roadway or bike lane, at a speed in excess of 15km/h on a multi-use pathway or on a sidewalk.

PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY IN COUNCIL CHAMBER MEETINGS

We've introduced virtual public participation for in-person meetings held in Council Chamber as of November 14!

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.

In order to participate virtually, you 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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VOLUNTEER AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is currently seeking nominations for the 2024 Volunteer Awards. This annual event puts a spotlight on residents that have made a difference in their community by donating their time and skills to various programs and services. Nominating an individual or volunteer group is a great opportunity to show appreciation for the work that volunteers do to help build stronger, healthier and more supportive communities. Nominations must be submitted in one of three award categories: adult, youth (ages 13-19) and community group.

For detailed nomination criteria and online applications, visit our [website](#) and submit your nomination by January 11. Successful nominees will be notified in March and will be invited to attend the annual Volunteer Award Ceremony which will take place on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 during National Volunteer Week.

DARTMOUTH NORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE RENOVATIONS

The renovations to the North Dartmouth Community Centre are now complete! Renovations include moving the main entryway to Pinecrest with a new reception area, universal washrooms, larger programming rooms, and installing energy efficient technology like an HVAC system and converting the heat source to natural gas. Thank you to everyone who made this project a success. Keep an eye out for updates on our grand opening celebration in February.



Thank you, Crime Stoppers!

HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

The Halifax Regional Municipality's priority has been, and continues to be, treating those experiencing homelessness with dignity – and continuing to work with community partners to find ways to provide support to them within our organization's capacity and scope. Over the past few months, several new initiatives and partnerships are adding more options for people experiencing homelessness going into the winter season.

New Emergency Shelter

The former St Paul's Church is now a 24/7 shelter for up to 50 people ages 16 and up. The shelter will offer privacy cubicles, showers and storage and can also accommodate pets. They will add an additional 50 beds in the near future. The province provided funding and HRM will be covering property maintenance support, including regular garbage pick-up and snow clearing. Thank you to 902 Man Up for taking care of the folks at St. Paul's! For more information, see the Province of Nova Scotia's [news release](#).

Grand Parade

In [October 2023](#), Regional Council designated Grand Parade as an outdoor sheltering location with a proposed occupancy of no more than eight tents. Given the opening of the Province of Nova Scotia's [emergency shelter](#) and the safety concerns regarding snow clearing in Grand Parade, the municipality's objective is to reduce the number of tents currently on site to a maximum of eight, especially with winter approaching. Municipal outreach workers and street navigators are engaging with those currently sheltering in Grand Parade to offer assistance, as required. There are multiple alternative locations for those currently sheltering outside, including the provincial emergency shelter and the municipality's [designated outdoor sheltering locations](#).

As other alternative locations and options become available, the municipality will reassess Grand Parade as a designated location. For more information, visit [our website](#).



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Waverley Inn Shelter

The former Waverley Inn in Halifax's south end is set to host a new temporary supportive housing facility for women and gender-diverse people experiencing homelessness. The shelter is planned to open next month. YWCA Halifax will provide 24-hour on-site support for up to 32 residents, including referrals to mental health and addictions counselling, employment services and skills training. The municipality will be providing in-kind property maintenance support for the shelter site, including required inspections and any work required to bring the site to compliance. The municipality will also be providing regular garbage pickup and snow clearing.

Tiny Home Community

The municipality is working with the Province of Nova Scotia to build a tiny home community. This pilot community will have 52 units, providing housing for about 62 people. The community will be built on surplus municipal land in Lower Sackville. This surplus land is currently being used as a designated outdoor sheltering location. It is anticipated that 30 units will be complete by next spring and people will be in them next summer. The remaining 22 units are expected to be complete by next fall. If successful, similar communities may be created in other areas of the municipality and across the province.

Rent will be linked to income, which means that rent will be no more than 30 per cent of a person's income. Community residents will be selected from the *HRM By Name List* and will receive the wraparound support they need to help them connect to employment and more permanent housing. The municipality is providing the land at no cost and will also be providing regular garbage pickup, snow clearing and general property maintenance. For more information, see the Province of Nova Scotia's [news release](#).

Pallet Shelters

In partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia and service providers, 100 pallet shelters will be installed in the municipality. The provincial funding will also provide bed frames, mattresses and desks, as well as support operations for the pallet shelter village. Pallet is a North American leader in rapid-response shelter villages

designed by people with lived experience. These communities will include single occupancy rooms, plus bathroom and laundry units and on-site supports by local service providers. The Province of Nova Scotia will provide two parcels of provincial land in the municipality to host the pallet shelter villages. The municipality is providing additional land, land servicing and preparation support, as well as operational oversight of the 100 units. For more information, see the Province of Nova Scotia's [news release](#).

Informational video series via social media

The municipality are releasing a series of informational videos addressing commonly asked questions about the current homelessness situation in the region. Each video will feature municipal staff – including Max Chauvin, Director of Housing & Homelessness – as well as community partners and will be posted on the municipality's [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter \(X\)](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) accounts. Residents will be encouraged to leave their questions in the comments, where they will be answered and potentially form the topics of future videos. This initiative supports one of the four roles within the mandate of the municipality identified in the *Framework for Addressing Homelessness*: supporting public education efforts. You can find the first videos [here](#).

For more information about ongoing efforts by the municipality to help address homelessness in our region visit our [website](#).

The Halifax Regional Municipality is proud to be recognized as one of **Nova Scotia's Top Employers for 2024**.



HALIFAX



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SNOW CLEARING

As we gear up for the winter season, it's important to ensure we're all prepared for whatever Mother Nature has in store for us. Our snow clearing crews are poised and ready, responsible for over 3,844 lane kilometers of streets and about 1,000 kilometers of sidewalks. While we can't control the weather, by working together, we can certainly be better prepared.

Effective December 15 to March 31, the municipal overnight winter parking ban is enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during weather events and snow removal operations. You can sign up for hfxALERT to receive crucial updates, including Winter Parking Ban [notifications](#).

Our Winter Operations program is in full swing, equipped with service standards to ensure timely snow and ice removal. Priority is given to essential areas like commonly used streets, bus routes, and roads leading to hospitals and schools. Our goal is to have all roads cleared within 24 hours after snowfall ceases, and major roads and bus routes within 12 hours.

Before reaching out to 311 about snow clearing, please make sure the service timelines for your area have expired. Detailed information about snow clearing service timelines can be found on our [website](#).

Should you find your street or sidewalk uncleared after the indicated time, please contact us via email at ContactUs@311.halifax.ca or call 311. In emergency situations where an ambulance or fire truck needs access, our teams prioritize clearing those routes immediately.

Keep in mind, during heavy snowfalls or blizzard conditions, clearing may take longer. Crews will persist until all streets and sidewalks are safe for travel. Remember, some roads fall under provincial jurisdiction, and information regarding those roads can be found [here](#).

Let's work together to ensure a safe and smooth winter season for everyone in our community. Stay warm and stay safe!



Seeking financial donations for a new winter coat drive.

Charitable donations (with tax receipts) can be made online at:
www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/75872

SCAN ME



Brought to you by:



HFX GO TRANSIT APP

Don't forget to download our new HFXGO app for secure, easy to use mobile fare payments that allow Halifax Transit customers to purchase tickets and passes directly from their smartphones, or via the web portal. Search it in the app store or learn more [here](#).

SQUARE ROOTS PROGRAM

Our revamped Square Roots program for Dartmouth has been running monthly since November. The program provides free 10lb bags of produce for pick up once a month. Pick up locations are the Dartmouth North Public Library or the East Dartmouth Community Centre. You can check out upcoming dates and sign up using the link on my [Facebook page](#) the Monday before each pickup.

Thanks to the amazing staff at the Dartmouth North Library, East Dartmouth Community Centre and all the volunteers who make this program possible!

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DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY IN STAFF REPORTS

Regional Council has approved the decision to incorporate new standards for diversity and inclusion to all staff reports presented to Regional Council moving forward.

Staff reports are the primary method through which staff communicate to Halifax Regional Council about projects, decisions, and programs. Applying a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) lens during the preparation of staff reports is an important process for ensuring transparency and highlighting how DEIA was considered during the project. For this lens to be genuine and effective, consideration of DEIA must occur at every step of the process, from scoping onwards.

The guidelines adopt an approach focusing on the needs of underrepresented groups and serve as a resource for report authors and collaborators to inform the direction of municipal services, programs, and projects to better meet these needs. They are designed to help report authors and collaborators inform the direction of municipal services, programs, and projects with a clearer focus and intersectional perspective. This approach ensures that inclusion and participation of all residents can be achieved and that the insights from groups who face systemic barriers and inequities are sought and reflected in reports, recommendations, and outcomes.

The checklist provides a resource that delineates multiple ways to ensure diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are taken into consideration when planning, designing, and managing projects related to municipal policies, services, and programs that may result in the preparation of a council report.

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



MOBILE YOUTH SUPPORT TEAM



The Mobile Youth Support Team works across municipal recreation centres to provide drop-in and by appointment support to youth seeking advice or assistance in navigating challenges within their daily lives, with a focus on reducing the risk of gun and gang violence within our communities.

The Mobile Youth Support Team will also mobilize to offer debrief opportunities within municipal recreation centres, specifically for youth when crisis occurs in a community and youth are impacted.

The Mobile Youth Support Team will engage with various community stakeholders to address concerns and be involved in community initiatives to reduce risk and harm to youth in areas of our community with higher rates of gun and gang violence.

Contact us:
DM on Instagram: @hfxnextgen
Email: youth@halifax.ca

Text/call:
Youth Counsellor: 902.476.2595
Youth Outreach: 902.476.1668

IMPAIRED DRIVER STATISTICS

Halifax Regional Police charged 38 drivers with impaired related offences during the month of November.

Of the 38 drivers, 26 were charged with impaired operation of a conveyance by alcohol, four were charged with impaired operation of a conveyance by a drug and eight drivers were issued a driving suspension for operating a conveyance while having consumed alcohol. Of the 38 drivers, 19 calls were received from people who suspected impaired driving. We thank the public for reporting suspected impaired drivers and encourage anyone to call 911 immediately if they suspect someone is driving impaired.

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.



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OPEN DATA PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality has released five new datasets on [Open Data](#), as part of an ongoing commitment to provide public access to data created and managed by the municipality.

The five new datasets include:

- [311 Call Details](#)
- [Commercial General Rates](#)
- [HREF Fire Cause and Origin](#)
- [Permitting Planning Licensing & Compliance \(PPL&C\) Residential Standards Violations](#)
- [Right-Of-Way \(ROW\) Charge Boundary](#)

The addition of these datasets brings the total number of Open Data datasets to 232.

A wide range of data can be sourced for free through the catalogue, such as transit routes and schedule data, solid waste collection schedules, and area rates.

For more information on the municipality's Open Data program, and to access all the datasets, visit our [website](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COAST BEST OF WINNERS!

Best Lake



GOLD WINNER

Lake Banook

SILVER WINNER

Long Lake Provincial Park

BRONZE WINNER

Chocolate Lake

Best Bus Driver



GOLD WINNER

Susan Boutilier

SILVER WINNER

Janet Boutilier

BRONZE WINNER

Matt Faulkner

If you spend any time in Shubie Park, you know Pat Ferguson. Pat received the CAO Award of Excellence and the Long Service Award for 30 years of service. Thank you, Pat, for all that you do for the municipality and especially Shubie Park



DRIVING IN WINTER CONDITIONS

Police are reminding motorists to exercise caution and prioritize safety when navigating roads in winter conditions. Driving in snow and ice demands attention and preparedness.

Below are a few key winter driving tips:

- **Reduce speed:** Take your time and allow for increased braking distances.
- **Maintain a safe following distance:** Keep a safe distance between you and vehicle in front of you, allowing for sudden stops.
- **Ensure visibility:** Remove all snow and ice from your vehicle (including the roof, windows, lights and mirrors) before driving.
- **Prepare an emergency kit:** Add an emergency kit to your vehicle; include things like a blanket, salt/sand, whistle, wind-up flashlight, non-perishable food items, a tow rope and extra clothing.
- **Ensure your tires are in good condition:** If at all possible, equip your vehicle with winter tires.
- **Check weather and road conditions:** Before you venture out, check weather and road conditions and adjust your expected arrival time accordingly.

Cooperation and attention from all motorists is essential to preventing weather-related incidents on the roads.



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CARBON DISCLOSURE PROJECT GIVES HRM A GRADE

The Halifax Regional Municipality has received an A grade from the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) for our commitment to climate action and environmental protection. CDP is a global, non-profit charity that runs the world's disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to assess their environmental impact. Only 13 per cent of cities got an A for their efforts in 2023. Being in CDP's top tier means that our ambitious climate action plan HalifACT is being recognized internationally for its emphasis on transparency and its bold climate leadership.

CYCLICAL TREE PRUNING

The Halifax Regional Municipality's cyclical tree pruning program is now underway. Proactive tree pruning activities, as outlined in the [Urban Forest Master Plan](#), improve the health of the urban canopy of street trees, ensuring longer lived trees, while reducing damage to trees and local infrastructure due to weather events.

Crews will complete the tree pruning program according to best practices regarding tree health and infrastructure clearances (e.g. considerations relating to roads, sidewalks, power lines and signage). Municipal trees are assessed for maintenance and removal on an individual basis. If removal is deemed necessary, a new tree will be planted in its place.

To learn when tree pruning may take place in your area, visit our [website](#) to view detailed schedules and maps. Work schedules are approximate and weather dependent. The tree pruning program is expected to be completed in March 2024. There may be temporary street and sidewalk closures while work is underway. For more information, visit our [website](#).

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES

On November 14, Regional Council amended [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](#) so that money collected through the [Interim Density Bonus Program](#) could 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 (NPO), by allowing eligible NPOs to lease privately owned property or housing and maintain their eligibility for Affordable Housing Grants Program funding and 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, a 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](#).



Congratulations to Councillor Cathy Deagle-Gammon as Halifax Regional Council's new Deputy Mayor. Cape Breton is taking over!



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SAFE SCHOOL STREET CLOSURE PILOT

The Transportation Standing Committee has recommended that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to formalize the process for a Safe School Streets Pilot Program within the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Safe School Streets road closures are strategies aimed at creating safer and more vibrant environments for students, pedestrians, and communities by temporarily limiting vehicle access to certain streets near schools. These initiatives prioritize the well-being and recreational needs of residents, especially children, by repurposing roads for activities such as walking, biking, playing, and socializing.

A Safe School Street is a car-free block beside a school open to walking, biking, and wheeling during pick-up and drop-off. Typically, no motor vehicles are permitted to enter or exit the block when the Safe School Street closure is in effect (unless a valid pass is provided), but parked vehicles may remain.

The programs have appeared in other countries worldwide and have shown several positive impacts, including: decreased levels of vehicular traffic, improved road safety, reduced traffic congestion in and around the schools, opportunities for kids to be active, encouraging active travel to school, benefits to mental health and focus on school, improved air quality at and around schools, and a sense of community.

The Safe School Streets approach aligns with HRM's broader transportation policies and strategic priorities such as the [Integrated Mobility Plan](#), to enhance public safety through active transportation and a focus on pedestrian access. The initiative typically requires strong support and leadership from the school community and surrounding neighbourhood. A Safe School Streets program also aligns with the municipality's [Road Safety](#) and [Vision Zero](#) strategies.

The pilot program in the municipality will roll out to two schools and will be open for a two-year period.

To read more about the pilot program and the requirements of implementing it within the municipality read the full [staff report](#).



The International Security Forum Builder Award recognizes individuals or groups who have been instrumental to the success of Halifax and are tireless advocates for global security. This year, the 2023 Builder Award was awarded to Halifax Mayor Savage. Thank you Mayor Savage for everything that you do in the name of democracy!

HAZARD, RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

Emergency Management is conducting a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) for all HRM communities.

If you didn't have a chance to participate in one of the public meetings, please take a moment to complete this [survey](#) that will help provide staff with information about potential risks and hazards in your community.

This information will help to inform a HRVA profile for district 6 and create recommendations for action to help mitigate any concerns.



COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

Holiday shopping season is in full swing. Whether you're going to stores or shopping online, Halifax Regional Police has a few simple tips for you to consider to keep the bah-humbug away from your holiday purchases.

Online shopping

- It is best to shop from your personal device at home on a trusted network.
- Consider using different user ID and passwords for different accounts and updating your passwords frequently.
- Verify secure connections and make sure you are on a secure website. Look for the padlock icon in the address bar and check for the valid certificate by clicking on the padlock icon.
- Unlike secure order forms on a websites, email and text messages are not private. Don't send confidential personal or financial information by email or text.
- Be cautious if an online deal looks too good to be true, then it probably is.
- Watch out for email scams. Be wary of clicking on links in an email message, even if the deal seems great.
- After making purchases it can be helpful to keep the receipt, confirmation number and postal tracking numbers in a safe accessible place.
- If you are at an online store that you are unfamiliar with, read and understand the online shop's policies. It's always a good idea to check a site's reviews before making a purchase.

In-store shopping

- Lock your vehicle and park in well-lit and busy areas if they are available.
- Would-be thieves will look for shoppers storing valuables in their vehicles. If you're going to drop off your purchases and return to the stores, consider locking your packages in the trunk and move your vehicle to another location in the parking lot.
- Thieves sometimes watch shoppers exiting a store. You may want to shop strategically and wait until the end of your shopping trip to make high-end purchases or make a special trip to take

high-end items home and then return to continue shopping.

- Protect your PIN when using bank and debit machines. Cover the keypad to prevent someone from observing your keystrokes or from recording your PIN. It's a good idea to change your PIN frequently.
- After a day of shopping, we recommend removing parcels and valuables and locking the vehicle upon returning home. Even an empty shopping bag can create the appearance that there's something in your car worth stealing.

No matter whether you shop in-person or online, we encourage you to monitor your bank and credit card statements closely and immediately report any discrepancies to your bank or to the company that issued the credit card.

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Currently serving on:

Environment and Sustainability Standing
Committee

Halifax Regional Library Board

Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council

Solid Waste Regional Chairs Committee

Regional Centre Community Council

Shubenacadie Canal Commission

Special Events Advisory Committee