

Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities

WELCOME FEBRUARY



Winter weather has found us! A big THANK YOU to our winter operations staff and contractors for all your hard work cleaning our roads and sidewalks over the last week, I'm joining you in hoping the worst is over. There's more information

below on snow clearing service standards, the winter parking ban and protecting your property during winter weather.

Despite the cold temperatures, we still have lots to celebrate this month. It's African Heritage Month, a time to commemorate the many contributions and resilient spirits of our African Nova Scotian friends, family and neighbours. We will also get a day to celebrate our heritage on February 19th, honouring the accomplishments of William Hall. Finally, we celebrate Valentines Day on February 14th, a time to show the people in our life how much we care.

Wishing you all a warm and safe February!

BIENVENUE AU MOIS DE FEVRIER

Le temps hivernal nous a trouvés! Un grand MERCI au personnel et aux entrepreneurs de nos opérations hivernales pour tous les efforts que vous avez déployés afin de nettoyer nos routes et nos trottoirs au cours de la dernière semaine, j'espère que le pire est passé. Vous trouverez plus d'information ci-dessous sur les normes du service de déneigement, l'interdiction de stationnement en hiver et la protection de votre propriété pendant la saison hivernale.

Malgré les températures froides, nous avons encore beaucoup de choses à célébrer ce mois-ci. C'est le Mois du patrimoine africain, une occasion de commémorer les nombreuses contributions et la résilience de nos amis, de notre famille et de nos voisins d'origine africaine en Nouvelle-Écosse. Nous aurons également une journée pour célébrer notre patrimoine le 19 février, en l'honneur des réalisations de William Hall. Enfin, nous célébrons la Saint-Valentin le 14 février, l'occasion de montrer aux personnes qui nous entourent à quel point nous tenons à elles.

Nous vous souhaitons un février chaleureux et sécuritaire!



HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

February is African Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich culture, achievements and contributions of African Nova Scotians and communities of African descent in our region and across the nation.

"Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians", the provincial theme for 2024, outlines the spirit of perseverance that people of African descent have demonstrated over the centuries. This year is particularly significant, as it marks the fortieth anniversary of celebrations in Nova Scotia!

For more information, and opportunities to participate see their website.



NORTH GROVE FEBRUARY CALENDAR

The North grove will be celebrating African Heritage Month with a Healing, Heath and Black Excellence event with the Nova Scotia Brotherhood and Sisterhood on February 20. Check out more information about this and all their February programs on their calendar here.

2024/25 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

As many of you know, Regional Council are now in the midst of reviewing budget presentations for each municipal department, working to find efficiencies while maintaining the services that support our growing municipality. I encourage you to consider providing your feedback and participating in this process. At each budget meeting, time is set aside at the beginning of the meeting for anyone to provide their feedback on any budget related item. Presentations can be made virtually or in person. Written correspondence is also welcome. To find out more about participating, please see our website.

We have already reviewed the budget presentations from Corporate Services, Halifax Public Libraries and the Police and RCMP. You can find the schedule for remaining presentations below:

Department	Date (contingency date)
Public Works	Friday, Feb. 9, 2024 (Contingency: Tuesday,
	Feb. 13)
Planning and	Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024
Development	(Contingency:
	Wednesday, Feb. 14)
Parks & Recreation	Wednesday, Feb. 14,
	2024 (Contingency:
	Wednesday, Feb. 28)
Halifax Transit	Wednesday, Feb. 28,
	2024 (Contingency:
	Friday, March 1
Halifax Regional Fire &	Friday, March 1, 2024
Emergency	(Contingency:
	Wednesday, March 6)
Community Safety; Fiscal	Wednesday, March 6,
	2024 (Contingency:
	Friday, March 8

The Budget Adjustment List, or items that have been requested through the process to be added or removed from departmental budgets will be discussed on _ and the final budget approval is expected to be at the _ meeting of Regional Council. For more information on the municipal budget, check out our website.





HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

POET LAUREATE APPLICATIONS

Applications are open for the next municipal Poet Laureate.

The municipal Poet Laureate is a resident poet, storyteller or spoken word artist who 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 a term of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2027.

For more information and to apply, visit <u>our website</u>. Applications will remain open until Tuesday, February 16.

HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE CADET RECRUITMENT

Halifax Regional Police (HRP) has launched their recruitment campaign for its 2025 cadet class, which follows on the success of the last three HRP Police Science Program classes. The next HRP Police Science Program is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2024.

The program will be based at the Halifax Regional Police Training School in Dartmouth, which is a recognized private career college by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education. Successful applicants will become cadets in a 38-week police training program that prepares cadets to become police officers with HRP.

Applications close on February 28. For more information or to apply, visit our website.





Jan 23, 30 Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 March 5, 12, 19, 26 April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Home of the Mobile Food Market 26 Courtney Rd 4:30 PM-7:30 PM



Every Tuesday • Cash, Debit & Credit

See more at https://www.mobilefoodmarket.ca/

Healthy food Good prices Strong communities















Please bring your reusable bags

DUO CORDELIA CONCERT

Dartmouth Community Concert Association (DCCA) presents violin and piano ensemble Duo Cordelia on Friday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Woodlawn United Church.

The concert is presented in collaboration with Debut Atlantic. Tickets are available at the door with cash or cheque only. The two musicians present classical music and improvisation, along with original compositions by Vanessa, who studied composition and violin at the University of Montreal. For more information, please call (902) 433-1680, or visit their website.





HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

DE-DESIGNATION OF EMCAMPMENT SITES

The municipality is closing and de-designating seven of the 11 designated encampment locations to direct residents to safer and better options that now exist. The Province of Nova Scotia and service providers have identified indoor sheltering and supportive housing options; and we will all be working together to support residents in encampments to move indoors.

People in encampments at the Geary Street green space, Saunders Park, Victoria Park, Grand Parade, Beaufort Avenue Park, and Martins Park and the Correctional Centre Park in Lower Sackville, have been notified that these designated locations will be closing effective today and have been de-designated. Those sheltering in these locations have been given direction to vacate by Monday, February 26. Supports, including information about available <u>resources</u>, transportation of people and belongings, continue to be made available.

The municipality remains committed to ensuring those sleeping rough are provided better alternatives, working toward having safer, long-term housing options for everyone who needs them. Indoor facilities are a better option than sleeping rough. They offer much needed supports and provide a warm space, electricity, running water, showers, laundry services, regular meals and a place to store belongings. From a public health and safety perspective, access to safe drinking water, sanitary services, and environments free of rodents, physical, biological and fire hazards is important.

The safety risk to those in and around encampments is a significant concern. In addition to health risks caused by exposure to frostbite and cold-weather injuries, those in encampments can be targets for predatory behaviour that victimizes some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Issues range from gang victimization, and human trafficking to physical and sexual assault, as well as sexual exploitation.

From the outset, the municipality has been clear that the creation of designated locations would be temporary. They were established to address an immediate need to ensure people had a location to go to if they had no other option but to sleep rough.

Encampments can also pose a danger to the community at large. There has been violence arising from encampments, accumulations of human feces, biohazardous waste, weapons and drug paraphernalia surrounding encampments, significant food waste leading to issues with rodents, as well as uncontrolled fires and propane cylinder explosions. In the past year, Halifax Fire & Emergency has responded to more than 110 calls for service related to encampments, including several tent fires.

The municipality is constantly assessing the need for designated locations. As more indoor shelter spaces and supportive housing options become available, more parks will be closed, de-designated and returned to their intended purposes as spaces for everyone.

The municipality is committed to supporting the province in developing long-term housing solutions.

The municipality will continue to treat people experiencing homelessness with dignity while working to find ways to best support them within its capacity and scope. This includes enhanced efforts on the ground, collaborating with Street Navigators, the province and its service providers to actively work with and offer supports to anyone experiencing homelessness in the Halifax region.

The municipality will also continue working with other orders of government, as well as through partnerships with community housing not-for-profits, on initiatives to support the creation of affordable and deeply affordable housing, such as the Affordable Housing Grant Program, the Rapid Housing Initiative and the Housing Accelerator Fund.

For more information, visit our website.

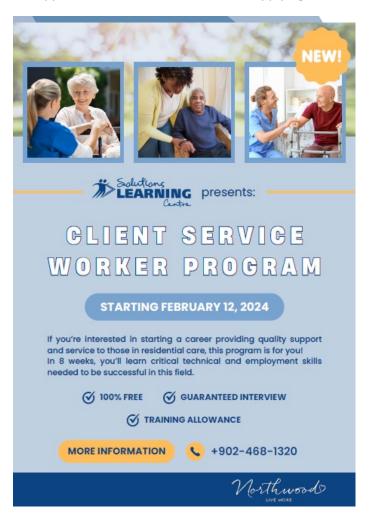




HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

SUMMER RECREATION RECRUITMENT

Recreation is now recruiting students and young adults for our summer recreation program. A variety of exciting opportunities are available with Parks & Recreation in aquatics, inclusion and recreation. You can check out all the opportunities and learn more about applying here.



PROFESSIONAL ARTS GRANTS

The 2024/25 intake for the Grants to Professional Arts Organizations program is now open. This program supports the operating and artistic capacity of Halifax-based professional arts organizations to develop and present artistic work as well as strengthen their capacity. There are two streams of funding: operating assistance and project assistance. Applications close on March 31. You can find out more information here.

WINTER OPERATIONS



If there was ever any doubt, the last two weeks has certainly confirmed that winter is here. Our crews work as quickly and effectively as possible to get streets, sidewalks, bus stops and bike lanes cleared during

weather events. Each area is prioritized based on traffic volumes, slope and other factors. You can find the service standards for your street here.

We can't control the weather or what this winter has in store, but if we work together we can all be better prepared. You can help by being aware of the overnight winter parking ban and thinking before you park anytime during a storm. The overnight winter parking ban is in effect during declared weather events from 1 to 6 a.m. Overnight winter parking bans will be communicated via public service announcements, https://doi.org/10.10/ Never park on the sidewalk. When parked in a driveway, make sure your vehicle isn't hanging over into the sidewalk or street creating a dangerous obstacles for crews and prevent proper clearing of sidewalks.

Preparing your property for winter is essential for crews to properly clear streets and sidewalks of snow and ice when needed. Make sure to remove any potential obstacles from the edge of your property or mark permanent structures. If you do incur property damage because of snow clearing this season, report it as soon as you can to 311 so it can be addressed when the weather improves. Please do not clear snow from your property onto the street or sidewalk. It is against By-Law S-300 to throw or pile snow in the street or on the sidewalk. This is a serious problem that can cause safety issues for pedestrians and other users as it complicates clearing for crews.

You can find out more about our service standards, get updates on snow clearing and more on our website.





HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants
Program are now accepting applications from registered
non-profits and charities until April 1. Project and capital
grants are available for funding categories of Affordable
Housing, Community Arts, Community Histories,
Diversity and Inclusion, Emergency Assistance and Public
Safety, Environment and Climate Change, Leisure and
Recreation. To learn more and apply visit our website.



Took a tour of Dartmouth North with Minister Boudreau, and Minister Halman. MLA Leblanc joined us when we visited the Mobile Food Market.

HALIFACT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Regional Council has received the annual report for <u>HalifACT</u>: Acting on <u>Climate Together</u>. HalifACT is the municipality's long-term climate action plan to reduce emissions and enhance resiliency to a changing climate, while also promoting social equity and economic development. It was approved unanimously by Regional Council on June 23, 2020, and is one of Canada's most ambitious climate action plans.

HalifACT contains three themes of action:

- 1. Decarbonized and Resilient Infrastructure
- 2. Prepared and Connected Communities
- 3. Governance and Leadership

Since the baseline year of 2016, corporate and community emissions have decreased approximately 22.7% and 10.7% respectively. 36% of the recommended actions from the plan are on track, not including the percentage that are future year actions not yet started. Read the highlights and find out more detailed information in the staff report.



The Downtown
Dartmouth Ice
festival was a huge
success, great to
run into the folks
from the Port of
Halifax with
Councillor Sam
Austin!

HERITAGE PRIORITIES PLAN

Regional Council has endorsed the proposed direction in the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan.

Sharing our Stories: Halifax Regional Municipality's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan is a comprehensive strategy aimed at promoting and preserving our diverse, cultural heritage. The plan outlines a set of 44 actions that will help to build a more inclusive, diverse, and vibrant cultural community through focused investment, program development, service delivery and ongoing community engagement. The plan's actions will provide high-level guidance in budget and business planning across municipal departments in the areas of culture and heritage programming and will directly inform the review of the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy.

For more information, read the staff report.

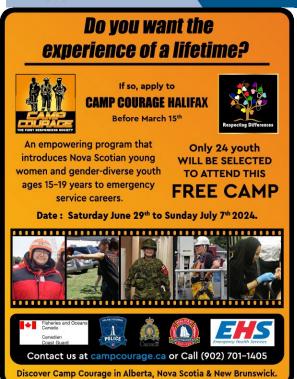


Sledge hockey at the RBC Centre!





HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST



FEBRUARY ROAD SAFETY FOCUS

Distracted driving puts you and everyone on the road at risk. It is one of the leading causes of fatal and serious injury collisions in the municipality. From phones to loud music and other passengers (including pets), there are many distractions that can compete for a driver's attention and affect their ability to drive safely.

Quickly checking your phone may seem harmless but when you find yourself needing to stop suddenly to avoid a collision, every second counts. Stay alert! Learn more here.

RURAL RECREATION STRATEGY

Last month, Regional Council approved the Rural Recreation Strategy. This strategy will provide more equitable access to indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities, assist with volunteer support, provide more programming specifically for rural needs and more. You can find out more here.



RIP Rick Howe. Always firm but always fair. We shared our love of HRM and the Habs.

ICE THICKNESS TESTING DISCONTINUED

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that it will no longer conduct the <u>ice thickness testing</u> <u>program</u>.

Over the last number of years, there has been a decline in the number of days available for skating. Based on these changed climate patterns, including rapidly fluctuating temperatures, ice thickness testing is no longer feasible.

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.

For more information, visit our website.

Have a great season U15 AAA Inferno!







HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND

As part of the Housing Accelerator Fund, the municipality is collaborating with partners and other levels of government in a national effort to support more 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, check out our website.

OFF LEASH DOG PARK



The new off leash dog park at Don Bayer Park (next to Leon's in Burnside) is now open!

There are two off leash areas one for large dogs and one for small dogs. Each section has agility tools, lights and a picnic shelter. There is also an on-leash trail that surrounds

the field. Parking is on Troop Ave.

RECREATION FEE CHANGES

On April 1, Parks & Recreation fees will be increasing. There will be new user categories based on age group and type of organization, subsidization will be standardized across fee categories and an overall standardization, consistency and transparency of fees across the municipality.

Residents have the opportunity to enroll in the Recreation Funding Access Program that provides rec opportunities for those in financial need.



Signs now have been installed at Morash Park stating fireworks are prohibited in this park.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM

The application period for new community gardens is now open.

Community gardens are one way to support the local food system. Many community gardens in Halifax are operated by residents on land owned by the municipal government. These are small-scale sites operated by non-profit societies Growing produce for personal consumption, donation or to reinvest in the garden, production of a floral or landscape display or instructional programming.

Community gardens can include vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers, native and/or ornamental plants established and operated within existing municipal regulations, bylaws and assessments.

A community garden must have a "common area" with shared upkeep and may include individual garden plots. Community gardening differs from urban agriculture (urban farms), which is an industry that produces agricultural products for distribution to local markets.

To start a community garden, applicants must be a non-profit group and submit an application before the March 30 deadline. This ensures there is enough time for staff to review and work with applicants on the request. You can find out more here.



HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

WAVERELY UTILITY CORRIDOR



A new utility corridor (water, wastewater and gas) will be installed on Waverley Road travelling down Waverley Rd, Jaybe Dr, John Brenton Dr,

through Shubie Campground parking lot, down the hill past the beach, over the Shubie Canal and across the 111 Highway to Dartmouth Crossing.

This project will provide increased water distribution, system reliability and improve wastewater service by renewing the existing 390 Waverly Road wastewater pumping station and reducing the wastewater flows going to the 192 Waverley Road wastewater pumping station. The expansion of the utility corridor will also allow natural gas service to the area.

Once this project is completed there will also be a new multi-use trail, a bridge, and improved access to Shubie Beach that will include accessibility features. These upgrades will improve the level of service to existing Halifax Water customers while supporting the Municipality's projected growth within the Regional Plan. My understanding construction on Waverley Rd may start late summer 2024. Work in the park would only happen in the winter, most in likely 2025.

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission and HRM Parks continue to be consulted, and initial public consultation was held. There will be more public consultation sessions as we move forward, so I'll continue to share as soon as we know more.



IMPAIRED DRIVING STATISTICS

Halifax Regional Police charged 44 drivers with impaired related offences during the month of January. Of the 44 drivers, 28 were charged with impaired operation of a conveyance by alcohol, eight were charged with impaired operation of a conveyance by a drug.

Halifax Regional Police charged 47 drivers with impaired driving-related offences during the month of December. Of the 47 drivers, 20 were charged with impaired operation of a conveyance by alcohol, four were charged with impaired operation of a conveyance by drug.

Of the 91 drivers, 30 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.

Here are some signs of an impaired driver:

- Driving unreasonably fast, slow or at an inconsistent speed
- Drifting in and out of lanes
- Tailgating and changing lanes frequently
- Making exceptionally wide turns
- Changing lanes or passing without sufficient clearance
- Overshooting or stopping well before stop signs or stop lights
- Disregarding signals and lights
- Approaching signals or leaving intersections too quickly or slowly
- Driving without headlights, failing to lower high beams, or leaving turn signals on
- Driving with windows open in cold or inclement weather

If you see a potential impaired driver, call 911 immediately and give the call taker your location along with a description of the vehicle, including the licence plate number, colour, make and model, the direction of travel for the vehicle and a description of the driver.





HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW

The municipality has completed the District Boundary Review and unveiled new electoral district boundaries that will be in effect for the 2024 municipal election. You can see the changes to District 6 and more information here.



I attend the United in Poverty Report breakfast and Sara Napier CEO of the United Way used The North Grove as an example of an organization making a difference in our community.

AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN ROAD TO PROSPERITY REPORT

An information report has been provided to Regional Council outlining key activities of the Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities. The report outlines activities around the Strategic Priorities, including:

- Build unity and capacity among African Nova Scotians
- Establish land ownership, develop infrastructure, and attract investment
- Increase participation in education, employment and entrepreneurship

For more information, read the staff report.



Minister Boudreau & Minister Halman joined me on a visit to The North Grove in Dartmouth North

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY

Drivers should practice safe commuting during the winter months, especially around crosswalks and intersections.

Ensure your tires, windshield wipers, lights, brakes, etc. are in working order before hitting the road. Drivers are required to remove all snow and ice from your vehicle before each trip. Clear all windows and mirrors of frost and fog.

Stay up to date on the weather conditions and if you have to travel, make sure you're alert, well rested and sober behind the wheel. Adjust your speed to the conditions, leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you and remember not to accelerate or brake too quickly when the roads are slippery. It can take up to 12 times further to stop on snow and ice than on dry pavement. Don't make any abrupt turns or stops when driving. Doing so will often cause your vehicle to lose control and skid. Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

Never assume that because the temperature is above zero that the roads are safe. Road salt doesn't work miracles, and it is not as effective below -10 degrees Celsius.



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COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

WINTER SAFETY FOR PETS

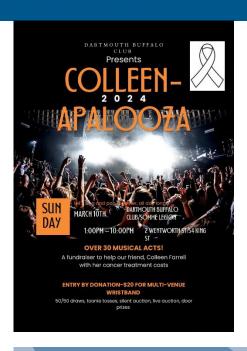
With the temperature continuing to be well below freezing, Halifax Regional Police is sharing a few tips to help pet people take extra care of their pets. Here are some tips to help keep Fluffy and Fido safe this cold weather season:

- Never leave your pet in a cold car. It can hold in the cold just like a refrigerator.
- Keep your pets indoors, during the day and night.
 Cold temperatures can still harm your pets even though they have fur.
- If you leave your pets outside, give them a draft-free shelter large enough to stand and turn around in, but small enough to retain body heat. Use something to protect them against the cold like a layer of straw or a blanket. Turn the entrance away from wind and snow.
- Stay with your pets when taking them out for a bathroom break; if it's too cold for you, it is too cold for them, and you should head inside.
- Use extra caution around lakes, ponds and rivers as the ice may not be thick enough to hold you and/or your pet.

Police remind citizens that if you see an animal in distress call 902-490-5020 and take direction from the call taker.



Thank you Todd Veinotte for the chance to discuss municipal issues on the Hot Seat. Enjoy the album!



COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

DISTRICT 6 HARBOURVIEW – BURNSIDE –
DARTMOUTH EAST
(902)–292-4823
Tony.Mancini@halifax.ca

PO BOX 1749
HALIFAX, NS B3J 3A5

www.halifax.ca

Currently serving on:

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

Halifax Regional Library Board

Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council

Nova Scotia Solid Waste Resource Management

Regional Chairs Committee

Regional Centre Community Council

Shubenacadie Canal Commission

Special Events Advisory Committee

Executive Standing Committee

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.

