



## **COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI**

### **DISTRICT 6 ONLINE NEWS**

**HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST**

## **Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities**

### **WELCOME JANUARY**

Happy New Year! I hope you had a chance to connect with family and friends over the holiday season.

As we step into 2024, I recognize that our municipality is facing many opportunities and challenges. We will be closely reviewing each municipal business unit's budget over the next few months as we develop the 2024/25 operating and capital budgets. There is more information about this process, and how you can provide feedback, in this newsletter. I've also included an update on the District Boundary Review, Housing and Homelessness initiatives and much more.

I hope this new year brings every opportunity to appreciate and improve our communities. Thank you for everything you do to make the Halifax Regional Municipality a great place to live, work and play!

### **BIENVENUE JANVIER!**

Bonne année! J'espère que vous avez eu l'occasion de communiquer avec votre famille et vos amis pendant la période des Fêtes.

À l'aube de l'année 2024, je reconnais que notre municipalité fait face à de nombreux défis et possibilités. Nous examinerons de près le budget de chaque unité fonctionnelle municipale au cours des prochains mois à mesure que nous élaborerons les budgets de fonctionnement et d'immobilisations de 2024-2025. Ce bulletin contient de plus amples renseignements sur ce processus et sur la façon de fournir de la rétroaction. J'ai également inclus une mise à jour sur l'examen des frontières du district, les initiatives en matière de logement et d'itinérance et bien plus encore.

J'espère que cette nouvelle année nous donnera toutes les occasions d'apprécier et d'améliorer nos collectivités. Merci pour tout ce que vous faites pour faire de la municipalité régionale de Halifax un très bon endroit à vivre, travailler et jouer!

*happy new year*



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HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

### VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2024/25

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE

The 2024 Volunteer Award Nominations are open for a few more days. If you haven't had a chance to nominate an impactful volunteer in your area or organization, please check out our [website](#) for details.

The volunteers selected for an award will be honoured at a ceremony with the Mayor and Regional Council in April. Nominations are due this Thursday, January 11.

### SQUARE ROOTS PROGRAM

The square roots program is back in 2024. Square Roots offers free 10lb bags of local produce to those in need. You can sign up on my [Facebook page](#) the Monday before the pick up is scheduled. Pick up can be scheduled for the Dartmouth North Library between 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. or the East Dartmouth Community Centre between 9 – 11 a.m. You can find the dates for 2024 now:

January 27	June 8
February 10	September 21
March 23	October 19
April 6	November 23
May 4	December 7

Keep an eye on my Facebook page for any updates as dates are subject to change. You can find out more about the square roots program [here](#).

### HALIFAX FORUM EMERGENCY SHELTER

A new temporary emergency shelter will be opening Monday, January 22 at the Multi-Purpose Centre in the Halifax Forum. It will operate 24-7 until August 31.

In partnership with the province, this shelter will offer 50 beds, increasing to 70 over the coming weeks and adding capacity based on community and weather related needs. You can find out more [here](#).

### ELECTORAL DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) have approved HRM's review and recommendation for the 2024 District Boundary Review. These boundaries will be in effect for the October 2024 municipal election.

The new District 6 will include all of Woodlawn up to Wildwood Boulevard. It will go to Celtic Drive and Peddars Way and extend past Barry's Run and include Craighburn all the way up to Spider Lake. Dartmouth North will become part of District 5. Maps and more details will be released once the UARB final order. You can find out more about the new boundaries [here](#).



### NORTH GROVE JANUARY CALENDAR

The North Grove are hitting the ground running in 2024 with some of your favourite programs. Check out their full January calendar [here](#).

HALIFAX



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### MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The municipality's [2024/25 Budget and Business Planning](#) process has begun and will continue until into the spring of 2024. Over the winter, municipal business units present plans to Regional Council with their intentions for the upcoming fiscal year and outlining the required budgets to achieve their goals. During this process, Regional Council will ask questions, discuss, debate, and consider each department's proposed priorities and budget. This can result in revisions to budget plans along the way.

During every budget meeting, members of the public have an opportunity to share their views on any aspect of the proposed municipal budget. If you wish to make any presentations before HRM Council about the municipal budget, then please contact the Municipal Clerks Office at [clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:clerks@halifax.ca) or call 902-490-4210 to sign up to speak virtually or in person. Written submissions are also welcomed.

Business Unit	Date
Assessment/Budget Direction Update and Capital Plan	Wednesday, January 24
Corporate Services	Wednesday, January 31
Auditor General	
Property, Fleet and Environment	
Halifax Public Libraries	Friday, February 2
Halifax Regional Police RCMP	Wednesday February 7
Public Works	Friday, February 9
Planning and Development	Tuesday, February 13
Parks and Recreation	Wednesday, February 14
Halifax Transit	Wednesday, February 28
Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency	Friday, March 1
Community Safety, Fiscal	Wednesday, March 6
Budget Adjustment List (BAL) Review	Tuesday, April 2
Final Budget Approval	Tuesday, April 23

The 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan approval date is scheduled for April 23, 2024, where Regional Council will finalize what next year's budget.

You can review the schedule of budget presentations, learn about the budget process, and keep up to date on upcoming milestones, as they become available, [here](#).

### HALIFACT COMMUNITY UPDATE

The Halifax Regional Municipalities climate action plan, HalifACT is well underway.

In our fourth HalifACT community update, we offer a look at some of the recent work the municipality and its partners have been doing to accelerate action on climate and commit to environmental protection.

You can find the full issue [here](#).



The upgrades to the Caledonia Skatepark are now complete!

### JANUARY ROAD SAFETY FOCUS

January is [#IntersectionSafetyMonth](#). Intersections can be congested spaces with moving traffic, pedestrians, cyclists & lights. Be sure to check your immediate path of travel & be aware of all road users.

Always think before you move - stay alert & avoid distractions.





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### WINTER OPERATIONS

Winter is here. We do our best to prepare for upcoming weather events, and have roads cleared as quickly as possible. With each weather event, crews are responsible for approximately 4,322 lane kilometres of streets. Crews also clear about 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks, 6 kilometers of protected bike lanes/local street bikeways, 11 kilometers of multi-use pathways and approximately 2,300 bus across the region.

For minor (0 to 5cm accumulation) and average (5 to 15 cm accumulation) winter events, snow clearing updates will be posted three times a day: 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. on our [website](#) and via [@hfxgov](#) on Twitter. For major events (15 cm or greater of accumulation), updates will be posted four times a day: 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

You can help us get the streets cleared by thinking before you park. The overnight winter parking ban is in effect until March 31. The overnight parking ban may be enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. only during declared snow and ice events and when required for continued snow clearing operations. Overnight winter parking bans will continue to be communicated to residents via [public service announcements](#), [hfxALERT](#), [halifax.ca](#) and [@hfxgov](#) on X.

We can't control the weather or what this winter has in store, but if we work together we can all be better prepared for whatever the season may bring.

### COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Program are now accepting applications from registered non-profits and charities for capital and operating grants for the 2024/25 year. Application forms and program guidebooks are available on our [website](#), by reaching out to [our customer service centres](#) or emailing [nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca](mailto:nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca).

Applications are due by April 1! For further information, please email [nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca](mailto:nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca) or call 902.497.0479

### MUNICIPAL REGISTRY OF VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS

A municipal Registry of Emergency Services Providers will be created to aid 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 during an emergency.

This legislation also expands the type of assistance the municipality may provide to organizations accepted into the registry, beyond a 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](#).

### CAMP COURAGE

Camp courage is a program to introduce young women and gender-diverse youth aged 15- 18 to careers as first responders; primarily paramedics, police officers, and firefighters. The ultimate goal is that the youth will leave with a sense of empowerment and the confidence to believe that they can achieve any goal, career or dream they desire.

The deadline to apply for Halifax's Camp Courage is March 15, and applications are now open. You can find out more about this amazing organization [here](#).



Flag raising for Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers. Thank you for all you do!



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### HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

Homelessness continues to be a major challenge for our municipality, especially as we experience colder temperatures and inclement weather. The municipality is continuing to work with the province and other partners for long-term solutions for people experiencing homelessness.

#### Pallet Shelters



Pallet, the Province and HRM are assessing a number of potential locations in Dartmouth to determine their suitability and viability as a site for a pallet village. Pallet shelters are set up in groups of 15 – 30 shelters. Each village is fenced and has a 24/7 service provider on site to support the residents. As well as the residential units each village includes indoor washroom and shower facilities along with a support space for the service provider.

#### Access to heat and power

As temperatures have gotten colder, there has been an increase of fires in tents where people are sheltering outside. This poses a significant fire and carbon monoxide risk, the municipality is looking at other opportunities for heat and power. In the interim, extra funds have been provided to street navigators with the Business Improvement Districts to provide winter supplies such as winter grade sleeping bags.

#### Wellness checks

Municipal staff and Street Navigators will continue to visit the designated outdoor sheltering locations and various encampment locations to ensure support is provided to those who need it.

#### Support for Volunteers

Several groups of volunteers have formed in different locations over the past several months to assist those experiencing homelessness. In addition, the provincial 211 and municipal 311 call centres have received daily calls from residents looking to help their unhoused neighbours.

To assist with coordinating the support of these groups of volunteers, the municipality has assigned a Community Developer to provide support to the volunteer groups. This staff person will be a liaison between the municipality and the groups of volunteers, helping them to coordinate their efforts in ways that are beneficial, meaningful, and aligned with shared objectives.

#### Temporary emergency shelters

The Province of Nova Scotia activates temporary emergency shelters for overnight accommodation when temperatures are -10 degrees Celsius or below (accounting for wind chill) and/or snowfall amounts are 15 cm or greater.

The municipality supports the province by providing access to municipal facilities, for their use as temporary emergency shelters, as well as operational support.

Temporary emergency shelters often operate in tandem with warming centres, which are coordinated by community organizations, so those experiencing homelessness have accommodations both overnight and during the day.

For more information visit the municipality's Emergency Accommodations [webpage](#).

You can find information about the municipalities ongoing efforts, including a new video series addressing frequently asked questions [here](#).



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### ROOFTOP SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION

The Environment & Climate Change team 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 as to not impact regular operations at each site. 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 and is financed through the municipality.

### STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PILOT PROGRAM

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](#).



Saying hello to Councillor Tony Mancini – the cat version.

### SAFE SCHOOL STREETS PROGRAM

Regional Council has approved a two year pilot program to encourage safer streets around our schools. The [Safe School Streets program](#) will include two schools and provide road closures for 40 minutes in the morning and afternoon.

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 programming helps to promote physical activity, and also focuses on determining the safest and most accessible routes.

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





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### MUNICIPAL POET LAUREATE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that applications have been opened for the next municipal Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate's term will begin on April 1, 2024, and will end on March 31, 2027.

The municipal Poet Laureate is a resident poet, storyteller or spoken word artist who achieved excellence among their peers and whose work demonstrates connection with and relevance to the municipality's citizens. Acting as an ambassador for poetry, literature and the arts – the Poet Laureate attends events across the region to promote and attract people to the literary world while representing the municipality. The position is intended to broadly reflect the interests, issues and perspectives of the varied communities and individuals of the Halifax region.

The Poet Laureate will receive an honorarium of \$5,000 per year for their three-year mandate.

For more information and to apply, visit [our website](#). Applications will remain open until Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Questions can also be directed to Lindsay Cory, Community Developer – Public Art at [lindsay.cory@halifax.ca](mailto:lindsay.cory@halifax.ca) or 902-456-8384.

### MONTREAL PLEDGE

Regional Council has approved the motion to direct the Mayor to write a letter of support to the City of Montréal for the Halifax Regional Municipality to become a Signatory City of The Montréal Pledge.

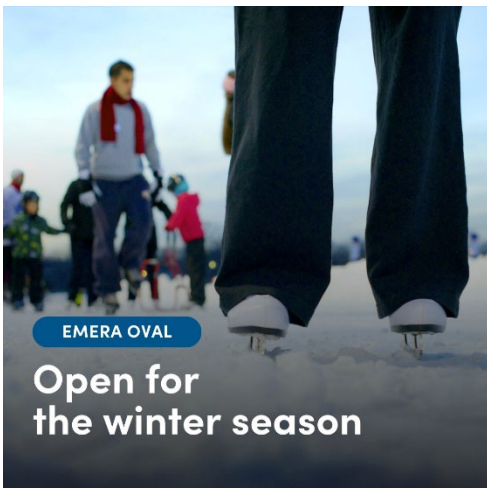
The City of Montréal is the next host of the meeting for the [Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations](#) (CBD), which is an international agreement for the conservation of biological diversity, with an objective to encourage actions which will lead to a sustainable future for human life. The CBD'S governing body is the Conference of the Parties (COP) and will meet next in two years in Montréal (in an event called [COP15](#)) to review progress, set priorities and commit to new work plans. As the host City, the mayor of Montréal issued a challenge to cities across the world to make a commitment to protecting biodiversity, also known as The Montréal Pledge.

The challenge invites cities to commit to [15 tangible actions](#) towards pursuing and accelerating their efforts to preserve ecosystems and biodiversity in their region. Signatory cities of the Montréal Pledge are expected to demonstrate leadership and to act swiftly in order to protect biodiversity. Currently, 61 major cities from across the world have already committed to the Montréal Pledge, and Halifax is the first city in Nova Scotia to participate.

Pledging to meet the commitments of the Montréal Pledge represents a positive environmental vision for the municipality that will directly and positively impact our local environment now and into the future, building further resilience to the effects of a changing climate. For more details, read the [staff report](#).

### CANADIAN DENTAL CARE PLAN

The Government of Canada has announced the implementation of the new Canadian Dental Care Plan. The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) aims at reducing the costs of dental care for Canadian residents who have a family net income of less than \$90,000 per year. You can find more details [here](#).



The Emera Oval is now open – don't forget we have free equipment rentals, public washrooms, first aid and accessibility measures. Find out more [here](#).



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### HOLIDAY CHECK POINTS AND IMPAIRED DRIVING STATISTICS

Last month, members of the HRP Traffic Unit, along with patrol members, participated in the 2023 Operation Christmas campaign. This annual initiative aims to make the roadways safer by reducing impaired driving and encouraging motorists to practice safe winter driving. Throughout the month, officers conducted numerous checkpoints across the region in an effort to remove impaired drivers from our roads and remind drivers of the dangers and consequences of impaired driving.

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 and 23 drivers were issued a driving suspension for operating a conveyance while having consumed alcohol.

We continue to be encouraged by the number of citizens helping to play a role in community safety. Of the 47 drivers we received 15 calls from citizens who suspected impaired driving. We thank citizens for calling in suspected impaired drivers and encourage citizens to call 911 immediately if you suspect someone is driving impaired.

### FIREWORKS IN HRM

I've received some concerns about fireworks over the last few weeks. Unfortunately, HRM does not have the legal authority to ban the sale or use of consumer fireworks. The sale, purchase, use and storage of fireworks was restricted in Nova Scotia at one time. The province repealed its Fireworks Act in 2002 and never replaced it. You can find an explanation of the rules around consumer fireworks on the HRM website [here](#). Consumer fireworks are predominantly a Federal jurisdiction, enabled under the [Explosives Act](#) and regulated under [Part 16 of the Explosives Regulations](#).

The municipality does require permits to set off fireworks on municipally owned property. Consumer fireworks do not require a permit on private property. However, residents must abide by the burning and noise by-laws, which means fireworks may only be used during certain days and times.

If you have concerns regarding the use of fireworks including issues with permits or for animals, please contact 311. It is critical that this issue be reported and documented via the 311 process so that it may be investigated. If you witness something that is a safety concern in real time call 911 so that the safety issue can be address promptly.

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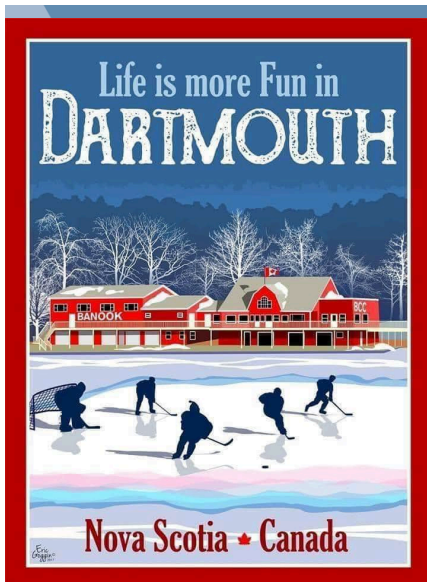
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HALIFAX, NS B3J 3A5

[www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca)

### 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.



HALIFAX