

Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities

WELCOME MAY

It's National Youth Week! We have some particularly exceptional youth in Dartmouth – when we encourage our youth to care for their communities, we invest in a better future for us all. There are still lots of opportunities to participate and celebrate the contributions of youth in our community below.

May is Asian Heritage Month and Jewish History Month. I'm proud to live in a municipality that celebrates our diversity – and aims to make HRM safe and inclusive for people of all cultural and faith backgrounds.

Please continue to reach out to me with any municipal questions or concerns!

DAY OF AWARENESS - MMIWG

May 5 was the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). According to the National Inquiry into MMIWG, Indigenous women and girls represented 16% of all female homicides in Canada. Service agencies estimate that of the trafficked or exploited women and girls they served, 51% of were Indigenous. In recent years, red dresses have become a symbolic representation of the more than 1,000 MMIWG across Canada. According to tradition, red is the only colour spirits can see, and is a way of calling the spirits of those missing and murdered back to their loved ones. Learn more about this important day here.

BIENVENUE MAI!

C'est la Semaine nationale de la jeunesse! Nous avons des jeunes particulièrement exceptionnels à Dartmouth - lorsque nous encourageons nos jeunes à s'impliquer dans leurs communautés, nous investissons dans un avenir meilleur pour nous tous. Il y a encore beaucoup d'occasions de participer et de célébrer les contributions des jeunes dans notre communauté - Vous trouverez plus de détails peuvent être trouvés ci-dessous!

Mai est le Mois du patrimoine asiatique et le Mois de l'histoire juive. Je suis fier de vivre dans une municipalité qui célèbre notre diversité - et qui vise à rendre la MRH sûre et inclusive pour les personnes de tous les milieux culturels et religieux.

N'hésitez pas à communiquer avec moi si vous avez des questions ou des préoccupations concernant la municipalité!

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

National Youth Week takes place every year May 1–7. Whether it is sport, the arts, volunteerism or leadership, young people are regularly engaged in meaningful activities during their free time. National Youth Week is a time to honour their involvement! Join us in celebrating National Youth Week, check out some of the events this weekend here.

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

WIJE'WINEN CULTURAL CIRCLE AND SHOWCASE

Wije'winen in Mi'kmaq means 'come with us'. From May 3 to 6, the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre (MNFC) invited people to join in their daily program in honour of the 2023 East Coast Music Awards. Halifax's Grand Parade came alive with a variety of activities and performances running daily from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.Thank you to the MNFC for putting on this amazing event!

MOOSEHIDE CAMPAIGN

Moose Hide Campaign Day is May 11, an Indigenous-led grassroots movement of men, boys and all Canadians - standing up to end violence against women and children.

What started 11 years ago with a small gathering of men and boys intent on raising awareness of the crisis of violence against Indigenous woman and children, has now become a national ceremony inviting all Canadians to join together to end violence against all women and children.

More information can be found <u>here</u>.



Celebrating Bangladeshi New Year with Mayor Mike Savage

NORTH GROVE MAY PROGRAMS

The North Grove's May program calendar is here, and it's jam-packed with lots of exciting programs and events! Including a film screening, an acupuncture clinic and a Mother's Day tea! Find out more about the programs they offer here.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2023



I was so pleased to present HRM Volunteer Awards to six amazing volunteers from our community last month. Congratulations to Cindy Fowler, Cheyenne Hardy, Daniel Rice, Colleen Upson and youth volunteers Lauren Hurst and Tarelle Stirling along with the United Dartmouth Football Club who received a group award.

These amazing volunteers spend their time and energy to make our communities a better place, it's a privilege to thank them in some small way and an inspiration to us all to give back. If you'd like to learn more about the awards or opportunities to volunteer, check out our website.

LAKEWATCHERS PROGRAM

Get involved in monitoring the quality of our local lakes! The municipality's LakeWatchers program launched last year and is a great way to help keep our lakes safe and clean.

The program will involve community teams to conduct environmental monitoring in 76 lakes across the municipality, collecting data, such as pH levels, to inform future actions to maintain/improve a lake's health and sharing that data with residents through future staff reports to Regional Council and online.

Interested in getting involved? Learn more here!



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MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROVAL

Regional Council has approved the 2023/24 municipal budget of \$1.2 billion – including an operating budget of \$979.6 million (total municipal expenditures) and provincial mandatory contributions of \$192.2 million – as well as a capital plan of \$333.3 million.

Since 2015/16, the municipality's population growth rate has increased significantly, transforming its economic position. The municipality's fiscal approach must continue to adjust to both population growth and other financial realities. That said, as the municipality's overall fiscal position is still very strong, the municipality is well positioned to withstand economic pressures.

The average residential tax bill is increasing by 5.9%. The average single-family home tax bill will increase by \$128 in 2023/24 to a total of \$2,288. Due to the increase in property assessment values, the municipal residential tax rate will decrease from 0.794 to 0.760.

A new commercial taxation policy came into effect on April 1, 2023, changing the way that commercial property taxes are calculated going forward. Geographical tax boundaries for commercial properties will change from the previous urban, suburban and rural areas to one of five new tax areas, which are listed in Administrative Order 2022-003-ADM, Respecting Commercial Property Taxation in Certain Areas of the Municipality. As well, for each tax area, rates will vary by assessed value of the property, within three tiers of assessment. The rates for each tier and tax area can be found here. Municipal tax-supported debt will remain stable at approximately \$194.5 million in 2023/24, with tax supported debt servicing costs under five per cent of revenues, which is well below provincial guidelines for debt management.

The annual municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing a growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations, capital priority initiatives, as

well as capital projects and investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace municipal assets.

Key programs and capital projects Halifax Transit

- Electric bus procurement and Ragged Lake
 Transit Centre expansion \$40.7 million
- Burnside Transit Centre eco-rebuild design phase – \$20.8 million

Environment

- HalifACT projects (for building retrofits, adaptation, etc.) – \$20.7 million
- HalifACT seven new staff positions \$412,000

Community safety

- 15 additional rural fire fighters \$137,000
- New Community Safety business unit created
 \$400,000
- Framework for Addressing Homelessness \$1.1 million
- New Navigator position \$125,000
- Bedford West fire station \$16 million

Transportation

- Cogswell District project \$35.6 million
- Integrated Mobility Plan projects \$45.8 million

Recreation and community

- Affordable access to recreation programming – \$500,000
- Community action planning for African Nova Scotian communities – \$300,000
- Arts grants funding increase \$100,000
- Halifax Public Libraries' collections \$300,000
- Park recapitalization \$6.8 million
- Park land development \$1.4 million

The Property Tax Exemption and Deferral Program, part of the Affordable Access Program, offers homeowners assistance with paying property taxes. Through the program, residents can apply for a property tax exemption, rebate, deferral of current year property tax and deferral of local improvement charges. There are also payment plan options that can assist taxpayers with personal budgeting. For more detailed information on the 2023/24 municipal budget, visit our website.



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COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

May is Asian Heritage Month! This month provides an opportunity to learn about the history, traditions, and achievements of Asian communities and to appreciate their significant impact on Canadian society. The theme this year is Stories of Determination.

There are many ways to celebrate Asian Heritage Month:

- Learning about the diverse cultures and histories of Asian Canadians through books, documentaries, and online resources.
- Attending virtual events, festivals, and exhibitions that showcase Asian Canadian art, music, dance, and food.
- Supporting local Asian Canadian businesses and organizations.
- Engaging in meaningful conversations with friends and family about the importance of diversity and inclusion in Canadian society.

By celebrating Asian Heritage Month, we can deepen our understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity that makes Canada a unique and vibrant country!

This year, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Halifax Public Libraries, the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 and community members have worked together to create a variety of activities in the Halifax region. Stay tuned by visiting our website.



HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE DEPOT



Residents wishing to dispose of household special waste not acceptable for curbside collection such as corrosive cleaners, gasoline, propane tanks, paint and thinners, CFL and fluorescent

bulbs and more may bring their materials to the following upcoming mobile household special waste depot events:

When: Saturday, May 20

Where: Mic Mac Mall, 21 Micmac Boulevard, Dartmouth

The mobile drop-off depots will be in operation from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will take place rain or shine. The municipality also operates a permanent Household Special Waste Depot at 20 Horseshoe Lake Drive. Drop-off times are on most Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The household special waste drop-off depots are open only to residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Business waste is not permitted. For more information on Halifax's solid waste program including updates on future depot events, please visit our website.

JEWISH HISTORY MONTH

Jewish History Month is celebrated annually in Canada during May, providing an opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of Jewish Canadians to our country's social, cultural, and economic fabric, an occasion to remember the hardships and triumphs of Jewish communities throughout history.

Canada is home to an estimated 400,000 people of Jewish heritage, making it the fourth-largest Jewish community in the world. In Canada, Jewish Canadians have played an integral role in shaping our society, from arts and literature to business and politics. This month is a time to learn about the unique contributions of Jewish Canadians and to celebrate their diverse and rich culture. You can start by checking out this <u>recommended reading list</u> from the library.





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2023 BUM RUN

The 2023 Bum Run for Colon Cancer will be hosted in Dartmouth this Sunday, May 7. There will be traffic delays around Sullivan's Pond, Ochterloney Street, Crichton Ave, Glen Manor Drive, Micmac Boulevard, Brookdale Cres, Prince Albert Road, Nowlan Street and Hawthorne Street. The event will be traffic controlled. Residents should expect delays and are asked to use alternative routes whenever possible.



SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK

Formerly known as NAOSH Week, the goal of Safety and Health Week is to encourage employers, employees, partners and the public to focus on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home and in the community.

Together, we can create safer workplaces and communities. Here are a few quick reminders to ensure your health and safety stays top of mind as you go about your daily life:

- Follow safety guidelines and regulations when using equipment and machinery.
- Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms in your home and ensure they are functioning correctly.
- Regularly check your vehicle's safety features, including seat belts, airbags, and brakes.
- Be cautious when walking or cycling on busy roads and wear clothing that increases visibility.

By following these community safety tips, we can protect ourselves and those around us from potential harm and ensure a safer environment for everyone. Stay safe!

STORMWATER RIGHT OF WAY CHARGES

In a 2013 rate hearing decision, the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) directed that the portion of stormwater costs related to the stormwater running of our streets should be billed to the Halifax Regional Municipality.

For the most part, the charge has been included on resident's Halifax Water bill. However on January 10, Regional Council approved moving the charge onto the property tax bill.

The Right-of-Way charge applies to all properties within the municipal stormwater service boundary and is calculated as an area rate on the assessed value of the property. This change became effective April 1, and the charge will first appear on the municipality's October 2023 final property tax bill as a separate line item.



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MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Mental Health Week

It's Mental Health Week, an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of mental health for Canadians. Mental health is an essential part of overall health and wellbeing, and it is crucial to take care of our mental health just as we take care of our physical health.

In Canada, mental health issues affect a significant number of individuals, with 1 in 5 Canadians experiencing a mental health problem or illness each year. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these issues, with increased levels of anxiety, depression, and stress reported across the country.

Taking care of our mental health involves adopting healthy habits such as practicing mindfulness, staying physically active, connecting with others, and seeking help when needed. It is also essential to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and to promote understanding and empathy towards those who are struggling.

During Mental Health Week, Canadians are encouraged to prioritize their mental health and to seek support if needed. By doing so, we can promote a healthier and more resilient society.

The Canadian Mental Health Association has a great list of resources on Mental Health. Check them out by downloading one of their helpful and informative toolkits here.

Hope For Mental Health is offering several student scholarships for individuals living with mental Illness.

<u>Yes2Me Scholarship</u> -Two \$1000 scholarships are available.

- The deadline is June 1.
- Available to residents of Nova Scotia.

<u>Janine Williams Memorial Bursary</u> - Two \$1000 scholarships available.

- The deadline is June 1.
- Available to residents of the Central Health Zone, NS.

For more information click the application forms on their website.



Cooking for Newcomers

Join us for this free program in international cuisine and food tasting. In this 4-week series, we will cook and share our favourite recipes from all over the world. All supplies are provided.

Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16 & 23 Time: 5:00-7:00PM Dartmouth North Library

To register, contact Tatjana at samardt@halifax.ca or (902)817



ROAD CLOSURES PINEHILL ROAD AND FREDERICK STREET

Pinehill Road (between Albro Lake Road and Woodland Avenue) and Frederick Street (between Woodland Avenue and Birchwood Terrace), will be closed until Wednesday, July 5 between 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays – Fridays. A signed detour route will be in place, and local street access will be maintained. The sidewalks will remain open at all times. Motorists should expect delays and are advised to use alternative routes whenever possible.



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HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

MOUNTAIN BIKE HALIFAX AGM

Mountain Bike Halifax are hosting their Annual General Meeting and movie night, Monday May 8 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Good Robot at 2736 Robie St. You can find out more here.

LITTERATI ELECTORAL DISTRICT CHALLENGE

The Halifax Solid Waste Resources team will be issuing a Litterati challenge in each municipal electoral district to see which district's residents can pick up the most pieces of litter! Does our district have what it takes? Join the challenge by first downloading the app and searching District 6 Cleanup. Residents can also join using the code "HRM" with their district number (e.g., HRM6). Alternatively, residents can join the municipality's ongoing CLEANHRM challenge using the join code CLEANHRM.

In June 2023, zero waste prize kits will be awarded to the top three litter collectors in each district for the month of May. In October 2023, a second round of prizes will be awarded for the top three litter collectors in each district for the timeframe of April to September. Information on municipal electoral districts can be found by visiting our website.

Using the Litterati mobile app and joining a HRM challenge will enable the municipality to collect information on litter hot spots and will help inform future initiatives to mitigate litter in our communities! Over 26,061 pieces of litter were collected through HRM's Litterati challenges.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS

Did you know the municipality has a team of community developers to support your local volunteer efforts? Our team of community developers are here to support volunteers, neighbourhood associations, non-profit organizations and residents trying to start a community project. Our community developer is Darren Hirtle, Darren can help you reach your goal and make a difference in our community! To learn more about their services, visit our website.

MAY ROAD SAFETY FOCUS – MOTORCYCLE SAFETY



Spring signals the start of motorcycling season in Nova Scotia. The monthly road safety theme for May is **Motorcycle Safety.** Motorcycle safety is a shared responsibility. Watch out for each other. 2022 saw an increase in serious motorcycle collisions in HRM. Drive safely. Operating your motorcycle safely can help protect you and other road users. Some tips to keep in mind are:

- Take an approved motorcycle training.
- Always drive defensively.
- Travel at a safe speed.
- Only ride when sober, focused and wellrested.
- Check your blind spot before changing lanes.
- Focus on where you need to go rather than looking at what you want to avoid
- Ride within your experience and skill level.
- Go with an experienced rider the first time you explore a new area.

All motorists can help reduce motorcycle collisions. Those who share the road with motorcycles should:

- Keep their eyes on the road.
- Check their blind spots and mirrors before changing lanes.
- Give motorcycles space just like any other vehicle.



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HALIFAX PLAYING FIELD STRATEGY

The Halifax Playing Field Strategy has been approved, enhancing the municipality's service delivery and strengthening the vision of fostering healthy and vibrant communities.

The Halifax Playing Field Strategy is the municipality's first comprehensive examination of the full range of playing field types, field conditions and maintenance, field classifications, as well as scheduling and field allocations. The Halifax Playing Field Strategy builds on the themes identified in the Community Facility Master Plan 2 from 2017, while identifying current challenges, opportunities, and future approaches. The purpose of the strategy is to enable informed decisions and provide guidance for improvements to municipal playing fields over the next 15 years.

The Halifax Playing Field Strategy was informed by focus sessions with various stakeholder groups, as well as a public survey with input from over 2,500 respondents. You can read the report here.

ADVENTURE EARTH PROGRAMS

The Adventure Earth Centre is offering a variety of outdoor recreation programming this summer including overnight camps, day camps, canoe/kayak programs and paddleboarding.

You can find out more <u>here</u>.

SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Youth 15-30 can now apply for the federal government's Canada Summer Jobs program, as the hiring period for 2023 has launched. This is your chance to gain experience and put your skills to use to help your community!Canada Summer Jobs aims to help younger Canadians develop the skills and experience to transition successfully into the labour market. Keep an eye out here for the many opportunities that will be posted here.

UNISON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Canada's 2SLGBTQIA+ choral festival, **Unison/Unisson** is coming to Halifax and needs your help. The Festival, held every four years in a different city, happens on the Victoria Day weekend at the Halifax Convention Centre. If you love contributing to events, want to support your 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and enjoy meeting lots of friendly folk, then the festival is looking for you. Volunteers are needed for shifts from Friday, May 19 to Monday, May 22 at the Halifax Convention Centre. You must be at least 16 years of age and are requested to work a minimum of two shifts. In-person and online training is offered, and volunteers will receive a festival concert pass in recognition of their contribution. For more information about the festival and volunteer opportunities, see their website.



Congratulations to Dartmouth's Kim Conrad for receiving HRM's Volunteer Award. Kim and his family have been a champion for the Dartmouth General Hospital for more than 45 years. Thank you Kim!



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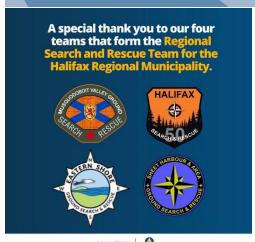
SCAM TARGETING SENIORS

Police are advising citizens to be cautious of a scam targeting seniors that is continuing to occur throughout our region.

Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District RCMP have received a number of reports this week in relation to a scam intended to defraud seniors of their money. In each incident, the victim received a call from someone pretending to be a family member who indicated that they have been arrested and are in jail. Another person representing themselves to be from the legal system becomes involved in the call and informs the victim that they need to pay money to have their loved one released from custody. In one case, a suspect made arrangements to pick up the money in person.

If you receive a call like this, do not provide or confirm any personal or financial information and hang up the phone. In Canada, law enforcement and court officials will not attend a residence to collect money in relation to bail.

Call police at <u>902-490-5020</u> if you've lost money or your identity has been compromised as the result of a scam. You can report a scam where you haven't been a victim to the <u>Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre</u>, or call 1-888-495-8501. For more information and scam prevention tips, visit the <u>Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre</u> or <u>Halifax Regional Police fraud prevention</u>.



HALIFAX

CAMPAGNE DE COLLECTE DE FONDS VERT DE L'ALLIANCE FRANCIASE HALIFAX



Dans le cadre de nos activités vertes, et suite à l'engouement de notre événement du Jour de la Terre du 22 avril dernier avec une trentaine de participants et participantes, l'Alliance Française d'Halifax (AFH) lance une campagne de collecte de fonds vert.

La campagne est ouverte du samedi 22 avril, Jour de la Terre au samedi 13 mai 2023, jour de la vente de plantes annuelle de l'AFH. Les dons et fonds récoltés serviront à développer encore davantage de projets liés à l'environnement, à l'éducation sur des sujets liés à la science, au changement climatique et à la nature. Ces fonds permettront aussi de faire de l'Alliance Française d'Halifax un lieu plus vert au sein de la communauté locale.

Pour l'occasion un sac en tissu avec un logo spécial "120 ans vert le futur" sera offert pour les 45 premiers dons au-delà de 30 \$! Pour faire un don rendez-vous sur www.afhalifax.ca

Pour les **prochaines activités vertes**, le 13 mai se tiendra la vente de plante annuelle de l'Open City de 9h - 14h rendue possible grâce aux soins et dons de boutures d'une belle équipe de bénévoles de l'AFH. Le 26 mai à 19h, une soirée film-documentaire bilingue autour du film "Marcher sur l'eau" d'Aïssa Maïga (2021) suivi d'une discussion avec des invité(e)s permettra d'être sensibilisé aux enjeux du changement climatique et de l'accès à l'eau. En juin il y aura une semaine pour célébrer l'océan et pour en apprendre plus sur les alternatives qui existent pour diminuer la pollution plastique.



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ALLIANCE FRANCAISE HALIFAX GREEN FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Following the success of its Earth Day event on April 22 with about 30 participants and as part of our green activities and initiatives, Alliance Française Halifax (AFH) is launching a green fundraising campaign. The campaign is open from Saturday, April 22, Earth Day to Saturday, May 13, the day of our annual plant sale for Open City 2023.

Donations and funds raised will be used to develop even more projects related to the environment, to education on topics related to science, climate change and nature. These funds will also help make Alliance Française Halifax a greener and more engaged place in the local community.

For the occasion, a **special edition tote-bag** with a fresh "120 ans *vert* le futur" logo will be offered for the first 45 donations over \$30! To make a donation go to www.afhalifax.ca

In these **upcoming green activities**, our Open City plant sale will be held on May 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This has been made possible over the past number of years thanks to transplants and cuttings gifted by our great team of volunteers. On May 26 at 7 p.m., a bilingual film-documentary evening around the film "Marcher sur l'eau" (2021) by Aïssa Maïga, followed by a discussion with guests, will raise awareness on issues of climate change and access to water. In June there will be a week to celebrate the ocean, let's learn more about the alternatives that exist to reduce plastic pollution.



Pump track expansion has begun!

It's a four week project.



Join us on a bird walk at Shubie Park Tuesday May 16 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Going for a walk and looking for birds is a great way to connect with our native bird species. It helps us to realize that we can take actions to support birds and their habitats. If you're interested, register for this free event here.

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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

