



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY
DISTRICT 9 ONLINE NEWS
HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

WELCOME NOVEMBER!

November is a time to remember the brave members of the [Canadian Armed Forces](#) (Air Force, Army, Navy) who serve to protect especially, those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. I encourage you to participate in a Remembrance Day service at a local cenotaph or Royal Canadian Legion.

November is also [MOVEMBER](#) – an initiative to bring attention to the issue of men’s mental health, suicide prevention, prostate, and testicular cancer.

On Sunday, November 5th, Daylight Saving ends at 2:00 a.m. Turn your clocks back one hour!

If you have a question concerning a municipal program or service, contact me at: Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca or call 902.579.6746.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| WELCOME NOVEMBER! | 1 |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | 1 |
| NOVEMBER MEETING DATES..... | 2 |
| DID YOU KNOW | 2 |
| INDIGENOUS DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH | 2 |
| HRP WELCOMES EQUESTRIAN OFFICER – JEWELZ | 3 |
| HRP WELCOMES POLICE SERVICE DOGS (PSDS) CAIN & KRON..... | 4 |
| HRP SERVICE DOG RETIRES | 4 |
| ELECTRIC VEHICLE TEST DRIVES .. | 4 |
| HFXGO - HALIFAX TRANSIT'S MOBILE FARE PAYMENT APP..... | 5 |
| WINTER ROAD SAFETY | 5 |
| 2024 VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS... | 7 |
| MARKETING LEVY - SHORT TERM RENTALS . | 7 |
| HRM'S APPROACH TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS | 8 |
| HALIFAX RECYCLES APP..... | 10 |
| FALL YARD CLEANUP | 10 |
| TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM..... | 11 |
| SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM..... | 11 |
| COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY | 12 |



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

NOVEMBER MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held on:

Regional Council:

Tuesday, November 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, November 28th at 10:00 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, November 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council:

Wednesday, November 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Please confirm dates and times on our [municipal website](#) as they are subject to change.

DID YOU KNOW...

That November is [MOVEMBER](#) – an initiative/fundraiser to help support and bring awareness to men’s mental health issues, prostate and testicular cancer, by encouraging men to grow a moustache during the month of November. Growing a Mo is like wearing a symbol representing healthier men and a healthier world, all Movember long. It tells everyone you walk past that a healthier world matters.

November 1st - [World Vegan Day](#)

November 5th – [Daylight Saving Ends](#)

November 5th - [World Tsunami Awareness Day](#)

November 8th – [World Urbanism Day](#)

November 10th – [World Science Day for Peace & Development](#)

November 10th – [World Accounting Day](#)

November 11th – [Remembrance Day](#)

November 12th – [World Pneumonia Day](#)

November 13th – [World Kindness Day](#)

November 13th – [Diwali](#)

November 14th – [World Diabetes Day](#)

November 16th – [International Day for Tolerance](#)

November 17th – [International Students’ Day](#)

November 19th – [World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims](#)

November 19th – [World Toilet Day](#)

November 19th – [International Men’s Day](#)

November 20th – [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#)

November 20th – [Universal Children’s Day](#)

November 21st – [World Hello Day](#)

November 25th – [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)

INDIGENOUS DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH



In Canada, the month of November holds special significance as it marks [Indigenous Disability Awareness Month](#), a time to recognize and celebrate the strength, resilience, and unique challenges faced by



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

Indigenous people living with disabilities. This month serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of inclusivity, awareness, and support for a community that often faces disparities in healthcare, education, and social services.

Indigenous communities in Canada have a rich and diverse history, and they are composed of various nations, each with its own distinct culture and traditions. Many Indigenous people are living with disabilities, which may result from a variety of factors, including historical trauma, limited access to healthcare, and systemic barriers. It's essential to understand the intersection of Indigenous and disability identities to provide culturally sensitive support and advocacy.

Indigenous Disability Awareness Month encourages all Canadians to reflect on the challenges faced by Indigenous individuals with disabilities and to work toward creating a more inclusive society. By fostering cultural sensitivity, we can ensure that services and support systems are tailored to the unique needs of Indigenous communities. This approach promotes a more equitable and just society, respecting the principles of reconciliation and self-determination.

This month provides an opportunity to amplify Indigenous voices and share their stories, experiences, and insights.

There are various ways to get involved during Indigenous Disability Awareness Month. You can start by educating yourself about the

challenges faced by Indigenous individuals with disabilities, attending events, or supporting organizations and initiatives that aim to make a positive impact. Remember that raising awareness and advocating for change is an ongoing process, and your involvement can make a significant difference.

By fostering cultural sensitivity, promoting inclusivity, and amplifying Indigenous voices, we can work together to create a more equitable and just society that respects the rights and dignity of all its citizens. In the spirit of reconciliation and solidarity, let's join hands to make a positive change for Indigenous people with disabilities in Canada.

HRP WELCOMES EQUESTRIAN OFFICER – JEWELZ



On October 13th, Halifax Regional Police officially swore in Police Horse Jewelz – named after six of our fallen officers - the only police horse serving with the HRP. An 8-year-old Percheron Thoroughbred gelding, Jewelz is a gentle horse that

loves people and is great at navigating traffic.



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

HRP WELCOMES PSD CAIN & KRON



Cain, 13-months old, served his first shift on September 20th with his handler Cst. Joey Malcom, after completing challenging general service dog training,

Kron, 3 years-old, completed his general service dog training during winter 2022 and has been serving the community since April 2022 with his handler, Cst. Andrew Joudrey.

Kron and Cain are trained in tracking, obedience, evidence searching, building searching and criminal apprehension.

HRP SERVICE DOG RETIRES



Halifax Regional Police celebrated the remarkable seven-year career of Police Service Dog Casey, as she

officially retired from the K-9 Unit this week. Casey was born May 10, 2014, in Slovakia. She arrived in Halifax during September 2015 and was paired with her handler Cst. Joey Malcolm.

Casey has had many notable achievements throughout her career with Halifax Regional Police's K-9 Unit, including successfully locating several missing people and finding important pieces of evidence. As a career highlight, Casey tracked down and apprehended a suspect involved in the stabbing of one of our Halifax Regional Police members.

Casey will now enjoy her days at home with Cst. Malcolm as a family pet.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE TEST DRIVES



From May to July 2023, the municipality partnered with Next Ride to host events where residents could test drive electric vehicles (EVs), with the goal of increasing EV education and awareness, in alignment with the [Municipal Electric Vehicle Strategy](#). In total 19 events were held, resulting in 260 EV test drives, 30 electric bike test rides and 561 meaningful engagements. Events were held in each municipal voting district, with multiple events taking place in the two largest districts. Together with Next Ride and One North End, we capped off the series of events by participating in the North Preston Day Parade with our fully electric Ford E-Transit.



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

Participation was high, with most events fully booked in advance for test drives. Feedback gathered by Next Ride shows that most participants found the events informative, fun, and would recommend them to others.

Thank you for participating and helping to make this series of events a success!

HFXGO - HALIFAX TRANSIT'S MOBILE FARE PAYMENT APP



Halifax Transit has launched a new mobile fare payment app, allowing customers to purchase and use tickets and passes from the convenience of their smartphones. [HFXGO](#) will launch for iOS and Android devices in the coming weeks.

HFXGO is a secure, easy to use mobile fare payment app that allows Halifax Transit customers to purchase tickets and passes directly from their smartphones, or via the web portal.

Provided by Masabi mobile ticketing and fare payment solutions, HFXGO is a Halifax Transit

branded version of Masabi's [JustRide app](#), which has been implemented in over 75 transit agencies worldwide.

Users of the app simply need to purchase their desired ticket or pass, activate the ticket, and show it to the Operator or Ferry Security Staff just prior to boarding.

Passengers can still purchase paper tickets and passes at a retail partner, or use cash fare.

Getting started on HFXGO is easy:

- Download the app on Google Play or the Apple App Store.
- Choose to create an account to store your payment information, or simply make a one-time purchase.
- Select "Buy Tickets and Passes"
- Choose the ticket type and quantity you wish to buy.
- Enter your Visa, MasterCard or debit card payment information and confirm your transaction.
- Purchases will be electronically delivered to the app's Ticket Wallet, and a receipt will automatically be sent to your email address.

To learn more, click [here](#).

WINTER ROAD SAFETY

Let's work together to [stay safe this winter](#).

Crews work hard to keep the streets and sidewalks clear of snow and ice, but drivers also have a responsibility to adjust their driving according to the conditions.



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HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

Winter Road Safety Tips:

- Get your vehicle ready for winter and beat the rush. Ensure tires, windshield wipers, lights, brakes, etc. are in working order before hitting the road.
- Stay up-to-date with the weather conditions.
- If at all possible, don't drive during a storm. It's much safer to stay at home and wait until conditions improve.
- Drivers are required to remove all snow and ice from your vehicle before each trip. Clear all windows and mirrors of frost and fog.
- Be alert, well rested, and sober behind the wheel. Slow down and wear your seatbelt.
- Adjust your speed to the conditions. Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you so that you can safely slow down and/or stop. 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.
- Turn on your lights to increase visibility to other motorists.
- Never drive distracted. Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road.

Watch for other road users, pedestrians and cyclists.

- Be mindful that winter conditions can create challenges for pedestrians who may need to walk in the roadway to avoid snow-covered or icy sidewalks.
- Watch out for ice, especially on bridges, overpasses and in shaded areas.
- 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.

Daylight Saving ends on November 5th

Reduced daylight hours mean reduced visibility, making it difficult to see people and objects on the road. Collisions increase this time of year, but they don't have to. Reduce your speed and watch for other road users.

Fall Cycling Safety

Safety tips for cyclists during the fall season:

- Remember to charge your bike lights
- You are legally required to have a light at the front of your bike (or e-scooter) and a red reflector or red light at the back
- Use your lights after dark and 30 minutes before dawn + dusk
- Reduced daylight hours mean reduced visibility. Consider wearing brighter or reflective clothing and be extra aware of other road users around you
- Fall is a great time for cycling, keep up the good habits with some extra preparation



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

Learn more about cycling in the Halifax region [here](#).

Road safety is everyone's responsibility whether you're walking, rolling, cycling, or driving.

Interested in learning more about road safety in HRM and the progress we are making? The [Road Safety Dashboard](#) provides an overview of collision data and allows users to track progress the municipality is making on a number of different road safety initiatives as we work together to accomplish our Towards Zero goals. Collision details are also available on the [Open Data](#) Catalogue.

2024 VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS



Each year the Mayor and Halifax Regional Council recognize the extraordinary

contributions of outstanding individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in our communities. This annual event puts a spotlight on amazing people who give of their time in our Municipality.

There are three categories in which to nominate deserving volunteers: Youth, Adult, or Group. You can download the form or nominate online. Please select the appropriate form and return by January 11th to: volunteerhelp@halifax.ca.

[2024 Volunteer Award Nomination ADULT](#)
[2024 Volunteer Award Nomination ADULT](#)
[2024 Volunteer Award Nomination GROUP](#)
[2024 Volunteer Award Nomination GROUP](#)
[2024 Volunteer Award Nomination YOUTH](#)
[2024 Volunteer Award Nomination YOUTH](#)

This is a scored process. Please provide as much information on your nominee as possible. If you require any clarification or to find out if nominees have received the award in the past, please contact Darren Hirtle at 902-476-1184.

Learn more by clicking [here](#).

MARKETING LEVY - SHORT TERM RENTALS



On October 1st, changes to municipal [By-law M-400, Respecting Marketing Levy](#), came into effect. Hotels collecting the levy saw the levy increase from two per cent to three per cent. Short term rentals are now required to collect the three per cent marketing levy. The first remittance will be due November 15th.

Learn more [here](#).



HRM'S APPROACH TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS



On Tuesday, October 17th, Halifax Regional Council endorsed the approaches outlined in the [staff report](#), dated October 17, 2023, to address the growing concern on homelessness. The following is an excerpt from the staff report.

The solution to the homelessness and housing crisis is the creation of deeply affordable, supportive housing in various configurations. The impact of experiencing homelessness, especially sleeping rough, is devastating to the physical and mental health of the individual. Each day can be a struggle to obtain food, use the bathroom, access clean water, stay warm and dry, access the services they need, and take advantage of the few housing opportunities they can find. Encampments, by their very nature, also create challenges for the surrounding community. Communities around encampments struggle with the garbage and waste that is produced when people are forced to live outside, the loss of parks and other community spaces, the impact of panhandling,

and the increased level of community disruption that can come with encampments. This disruption is associated with a range of factors, including issues associated with extreme poverty, people taking advantage of the most marginalized in our society, and issues associated with a higher incidence of co-morbidities that are difficult to address in such circumstances.

HRM has over 30 different encampment locations throughout the municipality with only five of those being designated encampment sites, the majority are not. Several of these sites are also critically overcrowded. Grand Parade, Victoria Park, the Correctional Ball Field, and Geary Street are significantly over the proposed capacity. The overcrowding in all these spaces needs to be addressed.

In September 2023 Regional Council directed the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) to look at various land options for supporting persons experiencing homelessness, designate further encampment locations, and look to support initiatives such as temporary housing options and tiny homes.

With the continuing and dramatic increase in those experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough, overcrowded encampments, and even with an expected winter shelter run by the Province of Nova Scotia, new designated locations are urgently needed. After consultation with the applicable Councillors, staff intended to designate the following locations for encampments:



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

- Grand Parade with a proposed occupancy of 8 or fewer tents
- Victoria Park with a proposed occupancy of 12 or fewer tents
- The berms on University Avenue with a proposed occupancy of 6 or fewer tents
- Martins Park with a proposed occupancy of 4 or fewer tents
- Beaufort Park with a proposed occupancy of 4 or fewer tents
- Saunders Park with a proposed occupancy of 8 or fewer tents (if required)

With continued encampment sites, one option to reduce their larger negative impacts is placing support services and security directly within them. These types of services are provided in many of the existing indoor shelter options and have proven effective at addressing a number of problematic issues, both for residents of the shelter and the surrounding community. Staff continue to discuss these options with Provincial colleagues and will bring forward recommendations in the near future around these options.

It is also important to recognize that as the number of people experiencing homelessness continues to grow, and even with an expanded number of locations, the designated encampment site approach will not be able to provide sufficient space for all of those forced to sleep rough. Alternative sheltering options to support this growing population will be required. That said, for the foreseeable future,

there will always be a segment of the homeless population that will be forced to sleep rough, and designated locations will have a role in the overall response to homelessness. One of those alternative options is the purchase of large, prefabricated structures for mass sheltering solutions. Staff will return to Regional Council in the coming months with a variety of options for consideration.

Designated locations require weekly garbage service and water delivery. These costs can exceed \$30,000/year for a large encampment location. The increased distribution of homeless encampments throughout the municipality will increase these costs. Adding power requires an investment of \$50,000 - \$100,000 and ongoing utility costs. With the increased time required to do the regular serving of parks and anticipated revenue loss, there is also increased pressure on Parks & Recreation's budget.

HRM has agreed to be a partner in the temporary housing and tiny homes pilot projects. The Province is going to invest \$16.9 million to purchase the pallet shelters, as well as construct the tiny homes. They will then provide almost \$1 million/year to provide support to the tiny homes pilot. In addition, there will be further funding to provide support to the various temporary housing villages. HRM has agreed to provide the surplus ball field on Cobequid Road as a site for the tiny homes pilot and general site maintenance services such as snow clearing and grounds care. The 100 pallet shelters will be distributed



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

to various sites throughout HRM, some on HRM land and some on Provincial land. HRM will help prepare the sites for the installation of the pallet shelters, as well as provide maintenance services such as snow clearing and grounds care.

As part of this overall partnership with the Province, HRM has also agreed to facilitate the intake and selection process for people moving into the Pallet Shelters and the Tiny Homes. While each site will have a service provider, HRM will ensure that suitable sleeping rough candidates are prioritized for housing. This will also provide a consistent link between the many service providers supporting residents in various locations so that people are effectively supported and housed.

A full-time housing coordinator position will cost approximately \$110,000 annually, including salary and benefits. As this position would be filled for only part of this fiscal year, costs for 2023 – 2024 would not exceed \$33,000. The costs for 2024 – 2025 will be included in the upcoming Community Safety budget presentation.

It is impossible at this time to estimate the exact costs of supporting temporary housing villages or tiny homes communities. The scope of our commitments, as determined by potential future negotiations with the Province of Nova Scotia, will determine these costs. Staff will return to Regional Council at a future date with more information.

Should the municipality be forced to designate a recreation facility space for use as a winter homelessness shelter, there will be significant impacts on Parks & Recreation revenues and significant costs and disruption borne by volunteers, community groups, and businesses.

HALIFAX RECYCLES APP



The [Halifax Recycles app](#) will assist you to: search the name of a material to find out

where it goes in the waste stream; get a custom collection calendar and; set up collection notifications. No smartphone? No problem! Use the web browser and access [collection schedules](#), waste wizard, and more!

FALL YARD CLEANUP



Any [leaf and yard waste](#) that doesn't fit in your green cart belongs in large paper bags. Large paper bags

go to the curb the same day as your green cart.

Reminder! Grass clippings do not belong in the green bin. Lower the blade on your mower and try mulch mowing. Mulch mowing finely chops grass clippings and leaves and spread the material on the lawn. This lets clippings break down quickly. Pile leaves around plants and



trees for moisture conservation, weed control and insulation.

TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM



The municipality is pleased to announce that the [Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program](#) is now accepting applications for 2024-2025.

Organizations applying for acceptance into the program (or the addition of another property) must **submit a complete application on or before Thursday, November 30th**.

The Tax Relief Program for Non-Profit Organizations application form is available online on the Program's [website](#).

SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM



There's no denying it – winter is on its way. There is a snow removal program available for seniors (ages 65 and older) and

persons with disabilities to help ensure safe access to your home.

The Senior Snow Removal is a YMCA program provided in partnership with Halifax Regional Municipality, and oversees the clearing of front and back steps, walkways, ramps, and access to fuel tanks. Please note that the program does not include driveway clearing.

Those 65+ or persons with disabilities must also meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The participant must reside in a single dwelling home which is owned or rented;
- The participant, also including all individuals who live on the premises aged eighteen or older, must not exceed a total gross household income of \$32,000, and;
- The participant may not be a landlord.

The Senior Snow Removal operates on a first-come, first-serve basis. When maximum capacity is reached, the program will come to a



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HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

close and individuals will be placed on a waitlist.

Call 902-483-3678 for more information. You can download the 2023/2024 application package online by clicking [here](#).

Completed applications may be faxed to 902-423-8530 or can be mailed or dropped off in person to: **Attention: YMCA Senior Snow Removal**, Community YMCA, 2269 Gottingen Street, Halifax, NS B3K 3B7

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I am a member of Halifax Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council, Regional Centre Community Council and the following boards & committees:

- Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Community Design Advisory Committee
- Halifax Chain of Lakes Trails Association
- Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation and Impact Fund Advisory Board
- Investment Policy Advisory Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. One way the municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement. In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.

