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### DEAR RESIDENTS

December already! It really is hard to believe. In this newsletter I have tried to capture as many holiday events as possible, however more are added every day.

The Budget process has started and please know that 5.9% is not where we will end up in April. From now until then we have a lot of work to do – business unit by business unit, some have collective agreements and wage mandates, provincial roads transferred to HRM without funding and a need to begin to fund HalifACT to address climate change to name just a few. There are three options – raise the tax rate, use reserves, acquire debt or as some may say, reduce service. A challenge we will meet.

I've received a few inquiries regarding a recent property acquisition in Waverley; I am in touch with the property owner and happy to connect any resident with questions that may arise with respect to land-use etc. Simply send along an email and I will make the connections in the next week.

This Holiday Season we can thankfully gather and share in the spirit of the season. I wish you the best it has to offer, family, friends, joy, happiness, and good health!

Thanks to 2021 and here's to 2022 - Happy New Year!





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## NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL (NWCC) & REGIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES

- The NWCC met on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and considered Case 20110 which was referred for a VIRTUAL Public Hearing which has been set for December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6PM.
- Written submissions must be received by the Municipal Clerk's office as early as possible and not later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2021.
- Individuals seeking to speak at the hearing should contact the Municipal Clerk's office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 10, 2021 to be added to the speaker's list to speak by telephone.
- Regional Council summaries are posted on my <u>Facebook page</u> the Wednesday after the Regional Council meeting.
- From the November Regional Council meetings, a few District 1 items of note:
  - Motion (approved) to request a staff report on conducting a review of the Noise By-law N-200 to determine a measurable decibel level that is acceptable within a community. https://www.halifax.ca/media/75303
  - Motion (approved ) approve the sale of 5802 Highway 357, Elderbank to the Musquodoboit Valley Ground Search and Rescue Team.
    - https://www.halifax.ca/media/75467
  - Motion (approved) for a staff report on the cost and feasibility of extending the Water Service Boundary along NS Trunk Highway 2 to Howe Avenue, and including all the land between Highway 2 and Highway 102, commonly referred to as Scwartzwald Subdivision.
    - https://www.halifax.ca/media/75487
  - Motion (approved) to consider amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land

Use By -Law to update the range of permissible uses at the Aerotech Business Park.

https://www.halifax.ca/media/75472



# PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR SENIORS-DEADLINE DEC 31, 2021



This program provides a 50% rebate of residential municipal property taxes paid for 2020, up to \$800.

To be eligible you must be 60 (+) and have received, or be eligible to receive, the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or the Allowance in 2021. Your 2020 municipal taxes must be paid in full. The taxes must be in your name or include your name.

### To Apply:

Include a 2020 municipal property tax bill and receipt which shows taxes paid in full. Complete the application in full. An incomplete application may delay your rebate. All applications must be postmarked no later than December 31st, 2021. Applications available <a href="here">here</a>





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### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



December 3<sup>rd</sup> marks International Day of People With Disabilities (IDPWD). The theme of this year's IDPWD is *Fighting for rights in the post-COVID era*. The theme focuses on current societal changes that are happening because of the COVID-19 pandemic and how we can all strive for a more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable world with a focus on equal rights for all. The official IDPWD flag will fly at City Hall on December 3, 2021.

### History of International Day of People with Disabilities

In 1976, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons. The goal was to call for a plan of action for all national, international, and regional levels of government to focus on equal opportunities, rehabilitation for, and prevention of disabilities. The theme of the 1981's event was Full Participation and Equality. The theme encouraged the rights of people with disabilities to take part in all aspects of life and development of their societies, which includes living conditions equal to those of the able-bodied and an equal share in improving conditions resulting from socio-economic development.

The United Nations declared 1983 to 1992 to be the Decade of Disabled Persons. That decade was to give governments and organizations a timeframe in which December 2021

they could organize activities recommended in the World Programme of Action.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was drafted by the UN in 2006, signed by Canada and 19 other countries in 2007. That convention is the 21<sup>st</sup>-century's first human rights treaty adopted by the General Assembly and provides that states signing it should enact laws and other measures to improve the rights of people with disabilities. The convention also abolishes legislation, customs, and practices that discriminates against people with disabilities. Canada signed the Optional Protocol in 2018.

### **IDPWD Holiday Breakfast**

On the morning of December 3, 2021, there will be a holiday breakfast at the Atlantica Hotel in celebration of IDPWD. The breakfast will be hosted by a group of community partners including:

- Halifax Regional Municipality
- The Province of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Disability Employee Network (NSDEN)
- Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission
- Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities (NSLEO)
- March of Dimes
- Tetra Society
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

The event will start at 9:30am and will feature a variety of guest speakers, including Mayor Mike Savage, Deputy Minister Candace Thomas, and keynote speaker Steve Estey. Additionally, we will unveil Nova Scotia's new Access Awareness Week logo as we present the successful artist with a disability with a \$1000 cheque for their submission. Finally, the Claredon Robicheau Lifetime Community Award was created to reflect a commitment and passion to improving quality of life for persons with disabilities and will be presented during the breakfast. Watch the livestream of the local IDPWD Holiday Breakfast, taking place on December 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn more about the event here.





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### WINTER DRIVING

With winter weather arriving, Halifax Regional Police is sharing some winter safety tips to help road users be winter ready.



### Vehicle maintenance

Plan ahead to ensure your vehicle is roadworthy. Check your safety inspection sticker and the tread on your tires. Keep a snowbrush or ice scraper in your vehicle and consider topping up your vehicle with extra windshield washer fluid. It's also a good idea to have a shovel and/or a bag of salt or sand in your vehicle in case you get stuck.

### Driving safely for the road conditions

- Stay up-to-date with the weather conditions.
- Visibility is key. Before you hit the road, clear all snow from the roof, hood, license plate, windows, mirrors, lights, turn signals and cameras of your vehicle. Scrape/defrost your windshield if necessary.
- Be mindful that winter conditions create challenges for pedestrians who may need to walk in the roadway to avoid snow-covered or icy sidewalks.
- Never drive distracted. Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. Watch for other road users, pedestrians and cyclists.
- 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.

### **Parking**

• Think before you park on the street. When and where you park in the winter can have a big

- impact on clearing streets and sidewalks, which, in turn, can affect road safety.
- In Nova Scotia, vehicles can be towed at any time during the day or night on any day of the year if they are interfering with snow clearing operations, as per Section 139 of the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act. In addition, the municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from Dec. 15 to March 31. It will be enforced only during declared weather events and ongoing clearing operations. When enforced, the parking ban is in effect from 1 a.m. until 6 a.m. <a href="throughout the Regional Centre of the municipality">the Regional Centre of the municipality</a>. To learn more, visit:

https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/cycling-walking/service-updates/parking-ban

- To help make a responsible parking choice, ask yourself:
  - Is the overnight parking ban currently being enforced?
  - o Is your vehicle causing a safety issue?
  - Is it making the road impassable?
  - Is it impeding snow operations underway in the area?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, do not park on the street.



### SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Share your thoughts on proposed regulations for Short-Term Rentals (like Airbnb or VRBO) in the municipality by filling out a survey.

The survey will be available until December 17. Click the link to learn about the project and take the survey: <a href="https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/short-term-rentals">https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/short-term-rentals</a>

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### JUST FOOD ACTION PLAN



HRM and the Halifax Food Policy Alliance have teamed up to develop JustFOOD: an action plan for the Halifax region, working towards a more healthy, just, and sustainable food system built on existing strengths and community wisdom.

They are seeking input from community members to help shape actions for positive change in the food system! I encourage you to head over to <a href="http://justfoodhalifax.ca">http://justfoodhalifax.ca</a> to have your say by completing their Action Survey. #justfoodhfx



### 2022 VOLUNTEER AWARDS -NOMINATE UNTIL DECEMBER 15

Do you know an outstanding volunteer who gives back to your community? The deadline to nominate an adult, youth, or group for the 2022 Volunteer Awards is Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Successful nominees will be invited to attend a ceremony and reception in the spring to receive their

award with the Mayor and members of Regional Council.

To find out more information about the awards, nomination criteria and to nominate someone in your community, go to: <a href="www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/volunteering/volunteer-awards">www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/volunteering/volunteer-awards</a>



### DEAN COMMUNITY MEETING



I was pleased to arrange a meeting with community members of Dean at the Lemmon Hill Community Centre.

Thanks so much to our Hon. <u>Sean Fraser</u>, Central Nova and our MLA <u>Larry Harrison - Politician for Colchester Musquodoboit Valley.</u>

We talked about the lack of ... internet, health care, roads, recreational services, fire and emergency services and funding opportunities for supporting rural - we did not solve all the issues of the night however the community was heard by all levels of government.

We are so thankful for all who attended and shared what is important to them.

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### RURAL RECREATION STRATEGY



### There will be Pop Up Engagement Sessions:

	-88
Teen Lunch Crew	Dec 6th
	Noon-1:00pm
George's Store Upper	Dec 6th
	1:30-3:30pm
Festival of Lights	Dec 10th
	6:00-8:00pm
Sewing Club Carroll's	Dec 13th
Corner	11:30-12:30pm
Meagher's Grant	Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>
· ·	2001.
Christmas Dinner	6:00-8:00pm

### **Rural Parks** & Recreation Strategy (RPRS)

### Where is Rural HRM?



### What is Rural Parks & Recreation?











### **Project Purpose**

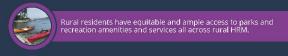


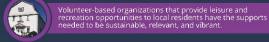


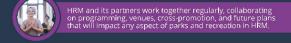


Beaches

### **Rural Parks & Recreation Proposed Vision**











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# MUNICIPALITY COLLABORATING WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Municipal updates will be issued on a weekly basis to provide progress reports on efforts to establish emergency accommodations sites in Dartmouth and Halifax. These updates will be provided until modular units have been installed at both sites by the municipality and the Province of Nova Scotia has begun to place individuals at the sites and provide wrap around services. Depending upon the status of progress, frequency of updates may vary.

### Dartmouth site

- Preparatory work continues at the Dartmouth site to build structural cribbing for the modular units.
- Four modular units are expected to arrive in the coming days and will be stored nearby until Friday, Dec. 3 when installation is scheduled to begin.
- Based on the current rate of progress, installation of the modular units is expected to be completed by Dec. 20. Exact timing for occupancy is dependent upon the Province of Nova Scotia, which is responsible for determining placement of individuals and providing wrap-around services onsite through its service provider (Out of the Cold).



December 2021

### Halifax site

- Nine (9) modular units are being secured to provide capacity for 44 individuals.
- Based on current projections, installation of the modular units is expected to be completed by late January 2022. Exact timing for occupancy is dependent upon the province, which is responsible for determining placement of individuals and providing wrap-around services onsite through its service provider (Out of the Cold).

### **Community efforts**

- Temporary shelters are being built by the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth and placed on church property. Recognizing the urgent need for safe emergency temporary shelters, the municipality has placed a priority on facilitating permitting for the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. All permitting will require adherence to established regulations to ensure municipal building standards are being met. More information about this initiative by the Archdiocese is provided on its website. Structural cribbing being installed at Dartmouth site Municipal Update: Emergency Accommodations For the period of Nov. 22-28, 2021 Communications efforts
- Information continues to be updated on the halifax.ca website, shared via social media and posted to the municipal digital screen network at numerous municipal facilities (including bus and ferry terminals, recreation centres, etc.).
- Councillors continue to host meetings with constituents and share information through their communications networks, including social media.

### Status of encampments

The municipality is currently aware of nine (9) encampments within the municipality. Staff from the municipality and partner organizations are visiting each of these sites daily. Due to the transitory nature



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of the occupants of homeless encampments the number of individuals onsite can vary on a daily basis.

As of Sunday, Nov. 28, there were 22 individuals, 49 tents, and six (6) shelters at various homeless encampment locations throughout the municipality. In consultation with professional service providers, it has been determined that the specific locations of the encampments will not be shared publicly to protect the privacy and safety of encampment occupants. Number of individuals transitioned from living rough to alternative accommodations (Nov. 22-28): 11



### OUT AND ABOUT IN NOVEMBER

\*(unless otherwise stated, meetings were in person)

- ✓ Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Center
- ✓ Cogswell Project Launch
- ✓ RCMP Headquarters Tour
- ✓ Halifax Fire District 1 Tour (part 1)
- ✓ NS Federation of Municipalities Conference (virtual)
- ✓ Carrolls' Corner Community Hall Board Meeting
- ✓ NWCC Social in District1
- ✓ Musquodoboit Mustangs Soccer Final Win!
- ✓ Accessibility Town Hall
- Remembrance Day Ceremony Upper Musquodoboit
- ✓ LWF Hall AGM
- ✓ Dean Community Meeting @Lemmon Hill
- ✓ Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee Mtg
- ✓ 2021 Volunteer Conference luncheon
- ✓ Tim Halman Chat
- ✓ RCMP Ride A Along
- ✓ FRABA Tree Lighting
- ✓ HRM North Suburban Turf Field Committee

### DECEMBER MEETING DATES

### **Budget Committee & Regional Council:** In Person at City Hall

- Tuesday, December 7th at 10AM
- Tuesday, December 14th at 10 AM Contingency for budget
- Friday December 17th at 9:30AM

### **North West Community Council**

- Monday December 13th at 6PM

### **North West Planning Advisory Committee**

- Wednesday December 8th at 7PM

### **Grants Committee (if required)**

- Monday December 13th at 10AM

### **Advisory Committee on Accessibility**

- Monday December 13th at 4PM

### **Audit and Finance Standing Committee**

- Wednesday December 15th at 10AM

### **Environment & Sustainability Committee**

- Thursday December 2nd at 1PM

### **Halifax Water Commission**

**Facility Tour** 

- Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12 PM Governance /Strategic
- Thursday December 9th at 9AM

Meeting dates/times are subject to change, please confirm on our municipal website



### **CURRENTLY SERVING ON:**

Regional Council, North West Community Council and the following boards and committees:

- Environment and Sustainability Committee
- Audit and Finance Committee (Vice Chair)
- Grants Committee (Chair)
- Halifax Water Commission
- North West Planning Advisory Committee
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Community Committees
- Halifax International Airport Authority
- Goffs Quarry Community Liaison

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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Cathy Deagle Gammon, Councillor District 1 – Waverley – Fall River – Musquodoboit Valley PO. Box 1749, Halifax NS, B3J 3A5

Phone: 902-717-2718

Email: Cathy.deaglegammon@halifax.ca

Website: <a href="https://www.halifax.ca/city-">https://www.halifax.ca/city-</a>

hall/districts-councillors/district-1/councillor-

cathy-deagle-gammon

**Council Constituency Coordinator:** 

Stephanie Brown Phone: 902-490-4090 Email: browns@halifax.ca



### 311 CONTACT CENTRE

More than a telephone number, 311 is your direct connection to municipal services. Call 311 and speak to our helpful operators for information about anything HRM-related: property taxes, illegally parked vehicles, recreation services, pet licenses, by-law concerns, litter and more: Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### SIGN UP TO MY E-NEWSLETTER

Or email: ContactUs@311.halifax.ca

I'll be regularly sending out e-newsletters to community members. If you'd like to keep up to date with my Councillor news, please get in touch with Stephanie Brown, my Council Constituent Coordinator: <a href="mailto:browns@halifax.ca">browns@halifax.ca</a> or 902-490-4090.

### **DECEMBER MENTIONS**

To name just a few.....

"Hauliday Toy Drive"

https://thelaker.ca/hauliday-toy-drive-underway-at-local-businesses/

"The Anderson's Christmas Lights Display" Could be fun! Check it out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/1040267606730954/

### Doris Mason Trio Christmas Concert:

www.facebook.com/events/420328772896335?ref=newsfeed

### FRABA Christmas Party:

https://form.jotform.com/200299380745258

### Bicentennial Theatre Craft Sale:

www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=101660138818707 17&set=gm.1874890086024000

### **Gunning and Cormier Christmas 2021:**

<u>www.facebook.com/events/257689143005310?ref=</u> newsfeed

Schools Plus, School of Social Work and Musquodoboit Valley Family Resource Ctr Donations:

www.facebook.com/MVFRC/photos/a.19045177098 2064/5240051279355396/

### Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting:

www.facebook.com/musquievalley/photos/a.62978 6057058859/4498511190186307/

### Halifax Public Gardens Holiday Lights:

www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/events/halifaxpublic-gardens-holiday-lights

### Walk through Bethlehem

https://www.sjucfr.ca/walk-through-bethlehem-dec-12th-at-sjuc



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### HRP~SAFE HOLIDAY SHOPPING



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

### **Online shopping**

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

- postal tracking numbers in a safe accessible place.
- If you are at an online store that you are unfamiliar with, read and understand the online shop's policies. It's always a good idea to check a site's reviews before making a purchase.

### In-store shopping

When shopping in-person, make sure you are up to date on COVID-19 provincial directives by visiting: https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/phase-five/

- We encourage you to lock your vehicle and park in well-lit and busy areas if they are available.
- Would be thieves will look for shoppers storing valuables in their vehicles. If you're going to drop off your purchases and return to the stores, consider locking your packages in the trunk and move your vehicle to another location in the parking lot.
- Thieves sometimes watch shoppers exiting a store. You may want to shop strategically; wait until the end of your shopping trip to make high-end purchases or make a special trip to take high-end items home and then return to continue shopping.
- Protect your PIN when using bank and debit machines. Cover the keypad to prevent someone from observing your key strokes or from recording your PIN. It's a good idea to change your PIN frequently.
- After a day of shopping, we recommend removing parcels and valuables and locking the vehicle upon returning home. Even an empty shopping bag can create the appearance that there's something in your car worth stealing.

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





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### DID YOU KNOW?

### The Icelandic Memorial Society of NS - Markland Settlement



The Markland settlement is situated between the villages of Caribou Gold Mines and Moose River Gold Mines.

Thirty-two Icelandic families lived here from 1875-1882. The memorial cairn at the entrance is built with stones from the old homesteads and capstone from Iceland.

Settlers lots have interpretive signage and cleared pathways to the original foundations. A log cabin replica built on Lot 3 is where the first Icelandic child was born in Nova Scotia.

Markland Settlement address: 380 Caribou Road, Long Lake, NS

### IN THE COMMUNITY

Halifax Fire Station Training Night 42, 43, 44, 45, and 47!



RCMP Ride A Along - oh what a night!







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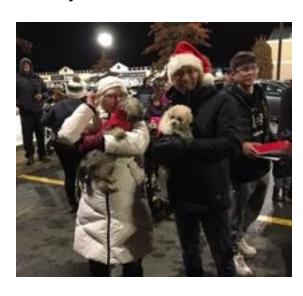
### Thanks for the chat Hon. Tim Halman MLA Dartmouth East



FRABA Tree Lighting with MP Darrell Samson Sackville Preston Chezzetcook



FRABA Tree lighting with Hon. Brian Wong MLA Waverley Fall River Beaver Bank



My first Soccer Game - Go Mustangs! NS Division 3 Soccer Provincial Champions!



