

### **WELCOME JANUARY!**



As we enter another year of COVID-19 and its variants - Delta/Omicron - restrictions, let's keep each other safe as we work this out together with caring and

love for one another. I heard a great song, by Canadian <u>Tim McMorris</u>, that I found so motivational that I have to share some of the lyrics:

"It's a new day, and a new year
Shout it out loud, sing with the crowd
Celebrate 'cause good things are coming
New opportunities are at the door...
Fun and excitement, it fills the air
And there's more than enough for us to share"

This is how I hope we all enter the new year, with fun and excitement and assurance that good things are coming! Good things like the Outdoor Community Rink Program and the opening of the 2022 HRM Community Grant Program! Keep reading for more updates on municipal programs and services.

To discuss municipal programs or services, you can reach me at **902.240.7926** or email <a href="mailto:lona.Stoddard@halifax.ca">lona.Stoddard@halifax.ca</a>.

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# HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meetings of Halifax Regional Council, and Halifax & West Community Council will take place virtually on the following dates:

### **Regional Council:**

Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

### **Budget Committee:**

Friday, January 28th at 9:30 a.m.

### Halifax & West Community Council:

Wednesday, January 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Please confirm meeting dates and times on our website as they are subject to change.

## HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

At the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Halifax & West Community Council, consideration was given to the following:

### **TABLING OF 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

Motion passed to accept the annual report.

## CASE 22879: AMENDING DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR LOVETT LAKE ESTATES, BEECHVILLE

The public hearing was held and closed.

Motion passed that Halifax and West Community Council:

 Approve the proposed amending development agreement, which shall be

- substantially of the same form as set out in the October 19, 2021 report;
- 2. Require the agreement be signed by the property owner within 240 days, or any extension thereof granted by Council;
- 3. Request the Development Officer investigate the opportunity to include the phase 2 property along St. Margaret's Bay Road to be incorporated as HRM parkland for future trail head parking lot access to serve as a gateway access with interpretive panels to the heritage significance of the area; and
- 4. Recommend that Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to consider street and park names that are reflective of Beechville's heritage.

### **2022 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Date	
January 18, 2022	
February 22, 2022	
March 8, 2022	
April 19, 2022	
May 10, 2022	
June 21, 2022	
July 19, 2022	
* If required	
August 30, 2022	
* If required	
September 20, 2022	
October 11, 2022	
November 15, 2022	
December 6, 2022	

For more information on the Halifax & West Community Council or to view the full meeting agenda or video, click <a href="here">here</a>.



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### BLUE MOUNTAIN BIRCH COVE LAKES – FUTURE NATIONAL PARK



Nature Nova Scotia will be having a virtual NATURE TALK on **January 4th** to discuss the Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes future National Park.

### Register at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qde2hpjMtGdAGF207YOxgRMATjEMDLEFn.

## DISTRICT 12 VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to all 2021 Volunteer Award recipients and thank you for all you do for our communities.



District 12 was honoured to award three deserving residents with the 2021 Volunteer Awards: Colleen Rollings, Jerjis Kapra and Jacquelyn Stevenson.



Mayor Savage and I congratulating Colleen Rollings as we present her with the 2021 Volunteer Award.

Thank you

Colleen for your time and talents in providing excellent leadership to the Rockingham United Church's Building & Property Committee overseeing large projects, such as LED light conversion, roof replacement, installation of solar panels - which will have a huge environmental impact. Dedicated, hardworking and inspirational to others, Colleen plays an active role in making our community a better place!!

Mayor Savage and I congratulating Jerjis Kapra, a District 12 Volunteer Award Recipient, and presenting him with the 2021 Volunteer Award.



Thank you Jerjis for your dedication in volunteering and sharing your skills with others. A volunteer spirit that started at an early age with Scouts, youth leader with the Citadel Community Center and Chess Instructor with the Canada Games Centre. When in-person chess tournaments were cancelled due to the pandemic, Jerjis, did not let that stop him nor his passion for Chess. He organized virtual tournaments, hosting 16 free tournaments for players of all ages bringing together over 260 players - creating a sense of community at a time of great stress and uncertainty.

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Unfortunately no photo was available for Jacquelyn Stevesnon.

Jacquelyn Stevenson grew up in a military family and is now a parent of a military member. Jacquelyn has been affected by the uniqueness of military life and has chosen to give back to her community as Chair of the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre Board of Directors. Jacquelyn is a tireless volunteer who is genuine in her approach to military family support that goes beyond the local level to the national level where she advocates for all Canadian Military Families. Thank you Jacquelyn for all you do for our military families.

OUTDOOR COMMUNITY RINK PROGRAM



HRM has initiated an Outdoor Community Rink
Program for interested organizations wishing
to obtain permission to build and operate a
community rink on Municipal property. The
Municipality will support up to 5
organizations with insurance costs for

approved community rinks on Municipal Property. Community rinks not on Municipal property are excluded from the program.

To apply for this season, please complete the <u>Outdoor Community Rink Program</u>. You may also request an application and submit to Darren Hirtle at hirtled@halifax.ca.

Deadline for submissions for the 2022 season is 4:00 p.m. on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

# SENIORS & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM



Removing snow around your property can be a challenging – or even impossible – task for many people. There is help available: the Halifax Regional Municipality provides an annual contribution of \$400,000 in support of the YMCA for its Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.

### Program eligibility:

 Seniors (65 years of age or older) and persons with disabilities in HRM

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- Residential properties only commercial properties are ineligible
- Participants must reside in a single dwelling home which is owned or rented
- The total gross household income of all people living on premises must not exceed \$32,000
- The program is NOT available to landlords

The program does **NOT** apply to driveway clearing, but helps clear snow from steps and walkways, including:

- Front and back steps
- Walkways
- Ramps
- Access to fuel tanks

The program operates on a first-come, first-served basis as the funding allows the YMCA to serve about 450 households.

To find out more about this program and to apply, please call the YMCA at 902.483.3678 or visit the YMCA online:

https://ymcahfx.ca/community-initiatives/ymcasenior-snow-removal/.

### **SENIORS CARE GRANT**

Beginning Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Service Nova Scotia & Internal Services will deliver a new grant program on behalf of the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care.

The Seniors Care Grant will be an annual reimbursement program of up to \$500 to help cover the costs of household services. It can be used to reimburse costs for such things as snow removal, home repairs, lawn care, grocery

delivery, and more. It is available to homeowners and renters.

The applicant must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the program:

- They must still reside in their home
- The property or lease agreement must be in their name or include their name
- They are 65 years of age or over
- They have an annual household net income of \$37,500 or less

Applicants can submit online at <a href="https://www.novascotia.ca/seniorscaregrant">www.novascotia.ca/seniorscaregrant</a> or by paper. Paper applications will be available at MLA offices as well as Access Nova Scotia Offices starting on December 1st.

Applicants have until May 31, 2022, to apply for the grant. For more information please visit <a href="https://www.novascotia.ca/seniorscaregrant">www.novascotia.ca/seniorscaregrant</a> or call 1.800.670.4357.

### THE HEAT FUND



# Helping Nova Scotians in need with home heating costs.

The Home Energy Assistance Top-Up (HEAT) Fund provides up to \$400 for these income thresholds:

\$29,000 for a 1-person household \$47,703 for a 2-4 person household \$67,937 for househoulds with 5+ people

Apply online or by phone:

www.SalvationArmy.ca/Maritime/Heat 902-422-3435

The Fund is proudly administered by The Salvation Army.

The Home Energy Assistance Top-up (HEAT) Fund supports Nova Scotians in need with home heating cost during the winter months.



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The deadline for all 2021 applications has been extended indefinitely, meaning those who received funds in 2020, may also apply in 2021.

The HEAT Fund offers a maximum assistance in the amount of \$400 for individuals and families. You can download an application here: https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/home/program s/heat/

SHORT TERM RENTAL - PUBLIC SURVEY CLOSES JANUARY 31st



To build on the information collected from the 2019 survey, a follow-up survey has been prepared to gather feedback on proposed approaches to regulating short term rentals in HRM.

Short-Term Rentals (STRs) are temporary overnight accommodations rented out for a few nights or weeks at a time. In recent years, the prevalence and popularity of STRs has grown through online platforms like Airbnb, VRBO and HomeAway. While STRs provide a unique form of a tourist accommodation and can have benefits for the local economy, their recent popularity raises concerns about their impact on

residential neighborhoods and the availability of properties for long-term rental.

Should you have any questions regarding the content of the survey or wish to further discuss potential STR regulation, please contact Jamy-Ellen Klenavic at klenavj@halifax.ca.

**Take Survey** 

HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE DISRUPTIONS



Due to crew availability, starting Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, both Alderney and Woodside ferry service will be reduced to 30-minute service until further notice.

Also, additional Halifax Transit conventional bus trips will be cancelled due to current staffing levels. These cancellations will remain in effect until further notice.

Halifax Transit has switched to an automated method for delivering service alerts. To facilitate this new functionality, a new Halifax Transit Twitter account has been created.



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## **Halifax Transit Alerts**

Automated Tweets with information on:

- Current detours
- Current stop closures
- Current service cancellations

If the below account shows no tweets, there are currently no detours, stop closures, or cancellations.

This account is automated and not monitored.
For questions, visit halifax.ca/transit or follow @hfxtransit

ΗΛLIFΛΧ

The new account, <a href="mailto:@hfxtransitalert">@hfxtransitalert</a>, is fully automated and linked to the CAD/AVL solution in use at Halifax Transit (the same system that powers our <a href="mailto:GTFS">GTFS</a> real-time feed).

### **NEW TO HALIFAX?**



A new website has launched to assist newcomers as they settle into life in the municipality. *New in Halifax* provides important information and resources for new residents. The website was designed as a dedicated, user-friendly experience tailored to the needs of newcomers in our communities.

Previously, the municipality provided a variety of information for newcomers on <a href="www.Halifax.ca">www.Halifax.ca</a>, including details on assistance for refugees, transportation, education, health and safety, employment, income and taxes, and much more. New in Halifax is now the centralized hub for this type of information, so it's all readily

available in one place.

The website is part of the Halifax Immigration Partnership (HIP) initiative, which was established in 2013 by the community partners including the Halifax Regional Municipality and is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). HIP works with partners from many different sectors to ensure that Halifax is a welcoming place for all newcomers to live and thrive, a place in which all belong and can call home.

Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) strengthen the community's ability to welcome newcomers into a place that values and embraces diversity. Today, there are more than 70 LIPs across the country.

New in Halifax will offer the ability for service providers in the HIP network to share information, resources and best practices with each other to further expand offerings to newcomers in Canada.







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### **SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

HRM's solid waste collection schedule will not be mailed out this year.

To get a calendar, you can use the free Halifax Recycles app, call 311 to have a schedule mailed to you, visit your local library, or customer service centre, or print a copy here.

You can also visit

http://halifax.ca/whatgoeswhere and enter your address to get a custom calendar.



### IN THE COMMUNITY

Here are the winners of the 2021 House **Decorating Contest:** 

1st Place: Lisa & Shawn Drysdale, James

Street

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Cheryl Bolivar, Meadowvale

Crescent

3rd Place: Sarah Hare & Jonathan Roode,

Sprucevale









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The Beechville – Lakeside – Timberlea Food Drive was a huge success! Such an outpouring of wonderful support and a lot of love. I am thankful to have experienced it.

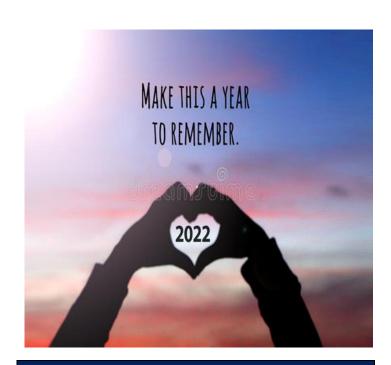






I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council and the Halifax & West Community Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Community Design Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee



May this year bring
new happiness,
new goals,
new achievements,
and a lot of new inspirations.
Wishing you a year fully loaded with
happiness.
Happy New Year!