



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT
DISTRICT 3 ONLINE NEWS
DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

I hope you are all coping well with the winter season, continued COVID-19 restrictions and life in general. February is already here and a few snow events are under our belts, with more to come. Please use caution when you are out on the walkways in icy conditions. Our snow teams are working hard to address the changing conditions as the snow/ice melt. If you feel that there is an area that needs particular attention, please contact 311 through phone or email. Feel free to copy me on the emails to the Contact Centre so that I am aware.

Much of 2022 has been focused on budget deliberation. I continue to work to lessen the impact on property tax bills while considering all of the Regional Council initiatives that are important to HRM and in particular, District 3. Deliberations will go on for several months, with a decision in April on the final tax rate and budget. A friendly reminder that at any budget debate session, you can share your opinion by signing up to present to Council by registering with the Clerks office.

If you find my newsletters helpful and think you have neighbors and friends who would like to receive these updates, please tell a friend how easy it is to sign up for receipt each month.

Stay well and be safe.

Warmly,

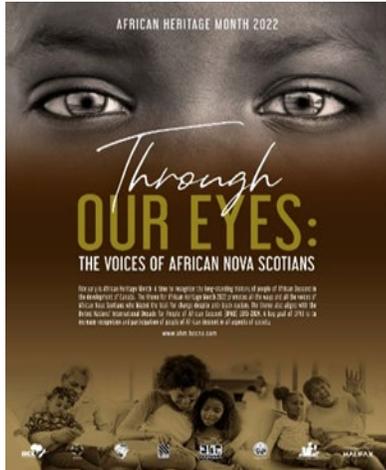
The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.





BLACK HISTORY & AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

I invite you to recognize Canada's Black History Month and Nova Scotia's African Heritage Month with me throughout February.



As we commemorate this important month, please take time to celebrate and learn more about the rich culture, achievements and contributions of African Nova Scotians and communities of African descent in our region and across the nation.

This year's African Heritage Month theme, Through Our Eyes: The Voices of African Nova Scotians, recognizes the long-standing history of people of African descent in the development of Canada.

The municipality is holding a variety of events to celebrate the legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent as part of our collective Nova Scotia heritage.

For more information, visit the municipality's African Heritage Month [website](#).

Explore the Halifax Public Libraries African Heritage Month [virtual portal](#), featuring programs that celebrate the African Nova Scotian community.

SKATING ON OUR FROZEN LAKES & PONDS

HRM Parks staff have now started ice testing on various lakes across the municipality. Most of the lakes are now ice covered, however some lakes have not formed ice to the recommended thickness of 15 cm required for safe use. The Canadian Red Cross recommends that ice be at least 15 centimeters thick for individual skating, and at least 20 centimeters thick for group skating.

Parks staff will continue to monitor, test and update the ice thickness table as conditions permit. Be sure to check the updates for your local lake [here](#) before heading out.

Please note that only measurements over 15cm will be posted, and not all of the lakes have been tested.



Dalyce Mallion, President of the Portland Estates & Hills Resident's Association



2022-23 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PROCESS

Each of the municipality's business units will present their proposed business plan and budget. Then, Regional Council will debate budget changes and refer them for final decision on Wednesday, March 23. Full approval of the budget will be on Tuesday, April 12. Below is the schedule for February. Dates are subject to change; the most up to date info and more background on the budget process can be found [here](#).

Wednesday, February 2:

- Corporate & Customer Services
- Chief Administrative Office
- Auditor General

Friday February 4:

- Legal & Legislative Services
- Finance & Asset Management
- Human Resources & Corporate Communications
- IT

Wednesday, February 9:

- Transportation & Public Works

Wednesday, February 16:

- Halifax Transit
- Parks & Recreation

Friday, February 18:

- Planning & Development

Wednesday, February 23:

- Halifax Regional Police
- RCMP

You can speak directly to me as your Councillor about budget priorities. During each meeting, time will be set aside for the public to provide insight and comments.

To be added to the speakers list for virtual meetings, pre-registration is 4:30 p.m. the business day before the meeting. Registration information will be included on the [meeting agenda](#) page for each meeting.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS DURING SNOW EVENTS



During winter storms, Halifax Transit passengers are reminded that several bus routes are put on 'snow plan' to maintain service levels in a snow event by re-routing buses around hills and tricky areas. Follow @hfxtransitalert on Twitter and check your route's snow plan [here](#).

There are also currently some service disruptions to our ferries and bus service due to staffing challenges related to COVID-19. Please check [here](#) to see if this impacts you.



OVERNIGHT WINTER PARKING BAN NEW ZONES

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect annually from December 15 to March 31. The ban is enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during declared weather events and snow removal operations only, including this weekend.

Stay up to date on the winter parking ban by signing up for [hfxALERT](#) - hfxALERT will send municipal winter parking ban notices along with urgent and non-urgent notifications from Halifax Regional Police, Halifax Fire & Emergency's Emergency Management Division.

NEW: Halifax recently introduced two zones for the overnight winter parking ban:
Zone 1 - Central
Zone 2 - Non-Central. Find out what zone you're in using this [interactive map](#).

For more information about the winter parking ban, and when/how it applies please visit [halifax.ca/snow](#) or call 311.

Note: Even if isolating due to COVID-19, residents are responsible to make arrangements to move their vehicle off municipal streets in advance of the storm.



EASTERN PASSAGE COMMONS SKATEPARK UPDATE



The EP Commons Skatepark community committee continues to meet to work toward this project on a community level. To date, we have met to get an overview of what has been approved by Council for a Master Plan for the Commons, to discuss community fundraising to contribute to the project, local goals for design and steps forward. Since then, I have met with staff and have updated them on community goals for this element, and to assign a planner to this project so community and planning can work together on this. The next step will be a site visit and meeting between HRM planning staff and the community committee members. I want to thank all of you who have stepped up to serve on this committee and encourage others to join in. If you have an interest, please let me know by email so we can put you on our email distribution/communications list.



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DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

2022-23 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Program is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 program. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2022.

Application forms and program guidebooks will be available on our [website](#) as well as from:

- [HRM Customer Service Centres](#)
- Contacting [311](#)
- Or by e-mail - Nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

For further information, please call 902.490.7310.

The Program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region. There are two types of grants: a project grant of up to \$5,000 and a capital grant of up to \$25,000. The

COVID-19 SUPPORTS

Individuals, families and businesses continue to experience many challenges relating to COVID-19. Help is available for many types of situations, and ranges from financial to social support:

- Provincial COVID-19 financial help and social supports are available [here](#).
- Federal COVID-19 financial help and social supports [here](#).

For municipal updates relating to COVID-19, visit our [website](#).

UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for February:

- Tuesday, February 8 (10am)
- Tuesday, February 15 (10am, if required)

Visit our [website](#) to see a full list of upcoming meetings including Standing Committees and Community Councils.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, all meetings are virtual again, and I encourage you to view online if you are interested. Agendas and links to watch virtual meetings are provided on the webpage I referenced above – I hope you can join us, virtually!

RCMP Road Safety Stats
December Summary - District 3 Eastern Passage

- 281 calls for service in Dec. 2021**
Up 39.8% from Dec. 2020
- 12 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 11 in Dec. 2020)**
 - 2 aggressive driving, 9 other MVA (i.e. unregistered vehicle, no inspection sticker, etc.), 1 speeding
- 119 Proactive Assignments (vs. 22 in Dec. 2020)**
- 26 Cellphone/Impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding checkpoints**
- 43 Traffic Stops (vs. 52 in December 2020)**
- 1 Impaired Driving Charge (same as Dec. 2020)**
- 2 Impaired Suspensions (vs. 1 in Dec. 2020)**
- 2 Motor Vehicle Accidents (vs. 8 in Dec. 2020)**
 - Of these, none resulted in injuries

Please Drive Safely!



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NOVA SCOTIA HERITAGE DAY

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is on February 21, 2022. The 2022 Nova Scotia Heritage Day Honouree is “The Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site.”

As we enjoy this holiday in Nova Scotia, please take time to reflect on the [historical significance](#) of Grand-Pré.



EXPLORE HRM

Explore your municipality from the comfort of your own home.

ExploreHRM is a [user-friendly interactive map](#) of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Find addresses, streets, bus stops, property information and much more.

It’s an all-in-one tool to help people explore a variety information about Halifax Regional Municipality. This interactive web-map has been developed using Esri’s ArcGIS Online platform and is powered by Halifax’s Open Data. Check it out [here](#).

You can also access other municipal maps, including printable versions, [here](#).

Happy exploring!

CASE 23928: 386 COW BAY ROAD – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

ROMS KAIG Spryfield Ltd. applied for a development agreement on the lands at 386 Cow Bay Road, Eastern Passage, to allow a 2-storey residential building with 12 units. Details regarding the application can be found [here](#).

The application is currently in the **public consultation stage**. Staff are inviting questions and comments on the proposal. Following public consultation, HRM staff will prepare the proposed development agreement and write a staff report for review by the Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council. Should Community Council wish to consider the proposal, a public hearing will be scheduled.

Planning staff invite you to provide feedback and share any comments you may have about this planning application. If you would like to provide feedback on this proposal, please contact Darrell Joudrey, Planner at joudred@halifax.ca or 902-225-8630.



Allan Carrington, P.E.C Scout Group Commissioner



MODULAR HOUSING UPDATES

[Municipal updates](#) are issued on a weekly basis to keep us all informed about the status of the emergency accommodations that the municipality is helping to provide for unhoused individuals. There will be two modular housing unit sites: Church Street (downtown Dartmouth) and Cogswell Street (Centennial Pool parking lot in Halifax).

Exact timing for occupancy at both the emergency accommodations sites is dependent upon the Province of Nova Scotia, which is responsible for determining placement of individuals and providing wrap-around services onsite through a service provider.

At the Dartmouth modular site, occupancy was approved for the four modular bedroom units (total capacity 24 persons) on January 13; the provincial service provider (Out of the Cold) facilitated placement of individuals on January 16. Most individuals who have been accommodated at the Gray Arena have moved to the Dartmouth modular site. Alternate accommodations have been provided by the province to those individuals at the arena who did not relocate to the modular units.

With the Dartmouth site now occupied, the design and construction team has shifted focus to completing the **Halifax modular unit site**. Nine units will be installed on a portion of the Centennial Pool parking lot accessed from Cogswell Street. This site will be able to accommodate 38 individuals. It is anticipated the civil site work for the modular units will begin the week of February 7.

Crisis Accommodations Funding

- The municipality has provided some of the crisis accommodation funding approved by Regional Council to a coalition of 11 community service providers for hotel stays to support those experiencing homelessness. In conjunction with service providers, the municipality is also directly covering the cost of hotels rooms for some individuals. Between September and the first week of January, 109 people accessed hotel rooms via this funding, for a total of 2,496 nights.

During cold weather events, the municipality has been continuing to support Nova Scotia's Department of Community Service to address homelessness by providing access to municipal facilities as emergency shelters such as the George Dixon Centre in Halifax. There are also community-run warming centres located at St. Matthew's Church (Barrington Street) and the Sackville Area Warming Centre (located at Gateway Community Church).

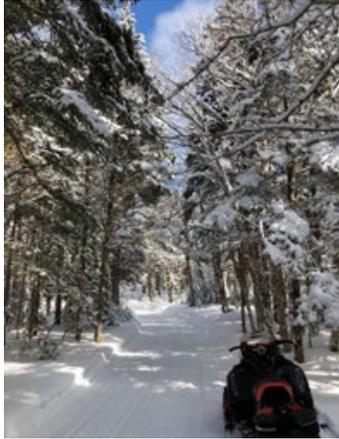
The Province announced it will be working with HRM and the Government of Canada to create 65 additional supportive housing options. The former Travelodge hotel in Dartmouth is being converted to supportive housing units for people who are chronically unhoused. This is in addition to both modular housing sites that the municipality has already funded (Dartmouth and Halifax). More information can be found [here](#).

*If you see an individual in need of shelter during extreme weather and they have requested help, please **call 311 or 211** to connect them with service providers and ensure help is on the way. But if their life is in danger, please **call 911**.*



RCMP TALK SNOW MOBILE SAFETY

The Nova Scotia RCMP would like to remind snowmobile enthusiasts about the importance of safety when on the trails this season.



Here are some tips to keep in mind before you head out on the trails:

- Always check the weather conditions before you leave.
- Never ride alone.
- Take a cell phone in case of emergency.
- Have a map and take note of shelters available along the way.
- Let someone know your plans, where you are going, the route you plan on taking and the time you expect to return.
- Always wear protective clothing, including a helmet, gloves and eye protection. Wear layers of clothing to keep warm and dry.
- When possible, avoid crossing bodies of water. If you are crossing bodies of water, never ride in single file and wear a life jacket over your outer clothing.
- Ride at a reasonable rate of speed. Know your riding partner's driving limitations as well as your own and operate only at a speed that allows you both to remain in total control of your snowmobiles.
- Ride sober. Don't drink or consume drugs before or while snowmobiling.
- When venturing into remote areas, snowmobilers should be alert and take all precautions necessary, as help could be several hours away.

CITIZENS ON PATROL

The RCMP has shared that its community-based crime prevention initiative, Citizens on Patrol, is seeking new volunteers province-wide to help keep



communities safe. This successful program has been running for decades.

The Citizens on Patrol Program is a partnership between police and volunteers that helps ensure the safety of homes and communities. COP volunteers are trained by the RCMP and are the eyes and ears of their communities.

Volunteers contribute a minimum of four volunteer hours each month. COP members make observations and take notes of areas visited throughout their communities and should suspicious or unlawful activity be observed, RCMP dispatch is contacted and details of the suspicious or unlawful activity is reported for appropriate police response.

In order to become a COP volunteer, you must:

- Be at least 19 years of age.
- Possess a valid driver's license and maintain a good driving record.
- Complete an interview.
- Pass the security screening required by the RCMP.

If Citizens on Patrol is just the opportunity you're looking for, contact the RCMP at hdiv.volunteer@rcmp-grc.gc.ca with your name, address, phone number and nearest detachment. We'll provide you with more info.



CASE 22651: LAND USE BY-LAW AMENDMENT FOR LANDS FRONTING ON HINES ROAD EASTERN PASSAGE

Zzap Consulting Inc. is applying on behalf of the property owner (Armco Capital Inc.) to rezone portions of four properties fronting Hines Road, Eastern Passage. The lands include PIDs 40103806, 40103780, 40103772, and 40103798.

The applicant proposes to rezone portions these properties from Single Family Dwelling (R-1 Zone) to Light Industry (I-1 Zone) under the [Eastern Passage/ Cow Bay Land Use By-Law](#). A staff report that provides more context on this proposal can be viewed [here](#).

On May 20, 2021, Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council held a public hearing and refused the proposed amendment to the Land Use By-law to change the zoning of these properties. However, the property owner, Armco Capital Inc. appealed the refusal.

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) then reviewed the appeal and granted the appeal on December 1, 2021, directing that Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council approve the Land Use By-law amendment for these lands fronting Hines Road. You can view the NSUARB decision report [here](#).

As Councillor for this area, I still believe that HEMDCC made the right decision, however when the UARB issues orders to approve it, we must. Last month, Community Council revisited the previous decision and as ordered, approved it. This is unfortunate, and I expect disheartening to the residents of this area and surrounding community.

I will continue to champion for less invasive development for this area where I can. I believe that residential is a far better way forward and would consider any applications that come forward from that lens.

PARKS & REC FEE CHANGES COMING

On April 1, 2022 the Parks and Recreation Fee structure will be changing. These changes will affect all recreation services, programs, rentals, drop ins, voucher, and memberships fees.

This does not mean prices are going up across the board; as a result of the fee structure changes that was approved by regional council, some fees are increasing in cost while others are staying the same or decreasing. Please see the full list of fee structure changes [here](#).

The updated fee structure will reflect the actual cost of providing recreation services to residents.

Learn more, and explore a list of FAQs on our [website](#).





REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW – THEME & DIRECTIONS WHAT WE HEARD



The Committee of the Whole has reviewed an overview of feedback received from community engagement sessions as part of the [Regional Plan Review](#) and directed staff to follow a revised work plan.

The Regional Plan is a strategic document that provides a region-wide policy vision for how the municipality should grow in our urban, suburban, and rural areas. It outlines where, when and how future growth and development should take place between 2006 and 2031.

The Themes and Directions Report was the first major deliverable of the Regional Plan Review. The purpose of the document was to explain the scope of the Regional Plan Review to the public, stakeholders and Council, and to seek feedback.

This review was initiated by Regional Council in February 2020 and was guided by a Public Participation Program. Public engagement began in May 2021 and ran until July 2021. Themes & Directions engagement activities included a Shape Your City page, six virtual Q&A sessions, an online survey, Board and Committee meetings, and stakeholder meetings. This engagement was widely advertised through social media, online advertising, regional and local newspaper advertising, and newsletters distributed through the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and Community Developers.

Examples of overall feedback included concerns for increased housing availability and affordability, a desire to direct new development into existing urban and suburban communities and to design complete communities, and planning for clustered rural growth centres, such as village or town-like communities, and increased reflection of rural community characteristics. An overview of the What We Heard Report is in the [staff report](#).

Staff will return to Regional Council in May 2022 with recommended amendments and adjustments to the Regional Plan that align with Regional Council's goals. They will also return to Council in December 2022 with the remaining policy framework, and then create a work plan and begin analysis of additional lands to be considered for expansion in anticipation of continued growth to be brought forward for Regional Council's consideration in 2023/24.

In addition, I am pleased to announce that Regional Council has approved a motion for a staff report on the process and implications of including industrial and waterfront lands in Eastern Passage (known as former Texaco Refinery/Valero Lands) for future growth and municipal interest areas.





COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council normally meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth. Please be advised that the Community Council on February 3rd has been cancelled due to a light agenda. The next meeting of Community Council will take place on March 3rd. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **becky.kent@halifax.ca** or **902-478-5368**. For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at 311. To reach my office, please call Emily Smith at **902-490-7177**.

To sign up for my monthly E-Newsletter, please e-mail Emily at smithem@halifax.ca
For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).