



MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

It sure feels like Spring is in the air, and I for one am looking forward to it. With this also comes less COVID-19 restrictions and opportunities for in-person meetings.

My priorities for District 3 are based on feedback and consultation that I had with you throughout the 2020 Election Campaign, and the work I have been doing since then. I want to reaffirm them with you.

I have been able to meet with many of you in person over the last few months, but now that we are opening up, I will be planning some Town Hall meetings to connect with the larger community. I want hear directly from you on what your priorities and concerns are, as well as your projects, initiatives, and celebrations. I am here to work with you. Stay tuned for more details.

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.

PROPERTY TAXES IN HRM

How are they determined?

Taxes are set by Regional Council based on decisions made through the annual budget process.

This process started in November. The final Budget and tax rates for the year are set in April.

In January, Regional Council voted to **reduce** the proposed "average tax bill" increase from 5.9% **down to 4.6%**.

Your **Assessed Property Value** is sent from an independent, not-for-profit called Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) in January each year.

The amount you pay for property taxes =

ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE

X

TAX RATE APPLIED TO ASSESSED VALUE

- The **average** municipal property tax bill in 2022/23 is \$2,144, an increase of \$94 or 4.6% over the previous year.
- How much each property pays will depend on the final tax rates to be set in April and their assessment.
- The municipal property tax rates are expected to **decline** from those used in 2021.
- Property taxes pay for critical services that keep our municipality functioning and make HRM a great place to live. Services range from recreation programming to waste management, emergency services and more.



AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Each April is World Autism Month.

The month is focused on sparking dialogue and action to increase

understanding and acceptance of people with autism and creating a world where all people with autism can reach their potential.

Instead of seeing autism as a disorder, people use the term “neurodiverse” to recognize the rich differences, abilities, and strengths people with autism and other neurodiverse people have.

Let’s be kind, accepting and inclusive all year-round. There is so much to learn from those who see and experience the world differently.



UPDATE: SILVER SANDS BEACH ACCESS

As promised, there is an update to the access to Silver Sands Beach Access that I can now share. HRM has formally put forward legal proceedings to court for the opening of the easement that gives access to the beach from the park where the moose is.

The hearing is scheduled for May. I will share more information as it becomes available.

RAMADAN 2022: A HOLY MONTH OF GRATITUDE

The month-long observance of Ramadan began on April 1, 2022.

I wish a meaningful holy month to all Muslims in the Halifax Regional Municipality, and around the world. It is comforting to know that many Muslims will be able to gather this year to meet and pray together at Masjids during Ramadan without pandemic restrictions.

In practicing the self-restraint and gratitude that Ramadan involves, adult Muslims fast from dawn until dusk at this time and exhibit goodwill through acts of kindness and charity.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon. Ramadan is expected to last from April 1 to May 1 in 2022. However, these dates can vary slightly depending on the crescent moon’s appearance.

Ramadan Mubarak – Blessed Ramadan!





WORLD HEALTH DAY

World Health Day is celebrated annually, and each year draws attention to a specific health topic of concern. April 7 marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948.



This year's theme is focused on the health of our earth and taking action – collectively and individually – to help our polluted planet. Many preventable environmental-related diseases are linked to the health of our planet, including cancer, asthma, heart disease.

On World Health Day 2022, WHO will focus global attention on urgent actions needed to keep humans and the planet healthy and foster a movement to create societies focused on well-being.

More than 13 million deaths around the world each year are due to avoidable environmental causes. This includes the climate crisis which is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. The climate crisis is also a health crisis. To learn more about the municipality's climate action strategy, "HalifACT", a community response to the climate crisis, visit our [website](#).

EASTERN PASSAGE COW BAY LIONS CLUB 50TH CHARTER ANNIVERSARY

It was such a pleasure to join our community at the 50th Charter Anniversary of the EPCB Lions Club. Mayor Savage and I were able to present a framed certificate of



congratulations to King Lion Barb Adams. Lions Club members, local businesses, first responders and residents enjoyed an evening meal and awards. I was particularly impressed with the thoughtful approach of awarding "Citizens of the Year" awards to multiple deserving recipients within our community. Thank you, Lions for the wonderful gathering.





COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

HRM NOW RECRUITING FOR BOARDS, COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONS

HRM is seeking applications for volunteers to serve on a variety of municipal boards, committees, and commissions. Applications are available [online](#) and will be accepted until Tuesday, April 12, 2022 by midnight.

- ✓ Municipal boards, committees, and commissions consist of councillors, residents, and industry representatives.
- ✓ These groups provide recommendations to Regional Council, community council, or standing committees, and serve as an important part of the decision-making process.
- ✓ There are many opportunities available for individuals of all backgrounds and interest areas, and meeting schedules/format vary between committees.

Visit our [website](#), email serve@halifax.ca or call 902-490-4210 to view all opportunities and to learn more..



RESIDENT FEEDBACK: PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW PHASE 3

Residents are invited to participate in a review of Phase 3 of the Regional Plan that's open until Monday, April 18, 2022.

The Regional Plan sets out a common vision, as well as principles and long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining where, when, and how future growth and development should take place between now and 2031.

There are several development requests being considered for Phase 3 of the Regional Plan. If you have comments or questions about them let HRM know!

To learn more about where development requests are being considered for Phase 3, please visit:

Regional Plan Review's Shape Your City [webpage](#).

Requests for Site Specific Amendments to the Regional Plan [map](#).

Phase 3 Site Specific Requests [table](#).

Please submit and feedback or questions by [email](#) () or phone 902.233.2501. For site-specific applications, please reference the case number.

Current development requests for District 3: Birch Hill Mobile Home Park

C079 – Request from Killam Developments to permit an expansion of the Birch Hill Mobile Home Park for an additional 125 to 150 units (estimated at seven to nine units per acre). Please see the project [website](#) for more details.



1ST HEIDI STEVENON DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE) COURSE

I had the honour of participating, as an observer, in the 1st Heidi Stevenson Drug Recognition Expert Course at RCMP Headquarters this past month. This course was named to honour the work that Constable Stevenson did as a Certified Expert and Instructor.

A Drug Recognition Expert is a law enforcement officer trained in a scientifically validated method to identify people whose driving is impaired by drugs other than, and including, alcohol.

It is important for me as an HRM Councillor and Board of Police Commissioner to grow my knowledge of policing services.

Thank you to Inspector Jeremie Landry, for giving my colleagues and I this opportunity.



Instructor Cst. Patrick Foster, RCMP member from Saskatoon.



Coffee chat with District 3 residents, Stu and Gloria

LEARN MORE ABOUT TRAFFIC CALMING EFFORTS IN HRM

Are you wondering what’s behind the different types traffic calming measures installed throughout HRM?

Check out the municipality’s traffic calming [website](#) to learn more. It includes example photos and descriptions of various traffic calming measures, a map of all installed measures, a list of proposed 2022 streets and a “Common Questions” section.

- ✓ Traffic calming is the installation of physical measures intended to slow vehicles and alter driver behaviour – including curb extensions, lane narrowing, speed humps and more.
- ✓ Traffic calming helps make neighbourhoods safer for non-drivers and is an important part of building healthy, walkable communities.



REGIONAL COUNCIL TO PROTECT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS FROM LARGE TAX INCREASES

Regional Council will develop a Commercial Assessment Averaging program to reduce the impact of unexpected spikes in commercial assessment on property owners (and their tenants). Under this initiative, tax bills will be phased-in using a three-year rolling assessment average. The program will be targeted towards properties with assessment growth of more than five percent above the municipal average. The program is intended to support the principles of increasing stability and improving predictability for commercial property owners and will be in effect April 1, 2023.

The staff report can be found [here](#).

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT WITH HRM RECREATION

There are lots of great summer job opportunities with the Halifax Regional Municipality! REC jobs offer a rewarding experience, offer a fun culture, the opportunity to gain valuable career skills, and an environment that promotes health, wellness, and physical activity.

These jobs give you an opportunity to work in areas of interest – with children, at beach and pools and in sports, recreation, and inclusion. Plus, most jobs offer free evenings and weekends!

Check out the current postings on our [website](#).

NOVA SCOTIA POWER SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLY NOW
2022 SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Fostering education, diversity and inclusion to support strong, healthy communities of tomorrow

THE 2022 SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY PROGRAM:

- AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN SCHOLARSHIPS
- EMERGING LEADER SCHOLARSHIPS
- MI'KMAQ BURSARIES
- NOVA SCOTIA POWER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIPS
- WOMEN IN TRADES, ENGINEERING, & TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

ALSO:

- THE CHRIS HUSKILSON EMERA SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline for applications: **APRIL 20, 2022**

Visit nspower.ca/scholarships to apply



Nova Scotia Power has announced several scholarships that are available for the 2022 academic year to help high school students - or those entering another year of post-secondary school - to further their education.

Note that the deadline for these scholarships is April 20, 2022. Click [here](#) to apply.

ROAD NARROWING FOR SAFETY

Median islands and curb extensions like these make our streets safer for all road users.





MORRIS LAKE EXPANSION

Earlier this year, the Province formed the Halifax Regional Municipality Housing Task Force without consultation with HRM. HRM has been able to appoint several representatives to this task force to ensure that the planning department is a voice for our residents and can provide direction from the the planning policies that have been developed to ensure smart growth in HRM. More recently, the Province announced the designation of nine special planning areas in the municipality; an investment of \$2.3 million to enable the municipality for studies needed to inform future planning and development decisions; and a call for an independent third-party review of the municipal and provincial planning processes to identify barriers to development was issued.

Recommendations to the Minister were provided by the Halifax Regional Municipality Housing Task Force. It is led by former cabinet minister Geoff MacLellan. Members include Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing; Stephen MacIsaac, CEO of Housing Nova Scotia; Kelly Denty, Executive Director of Planning and Development, Halifax Regional Municipality; and Peter Duncan, Director of Infrastructure Planning, Halifax Regional Municipality.

Mayor and Council are supportive of the measures being announced **but will continue to express that public engagement needs to remain an important tenet of planning decisions going forward.**

We reinforce that we want to work constructively with the Province as much as possible to advance the supply of market, attainable, affordable and crisis housing options for

residents. Morris Lake West has been considered as a potential growth area under the Regional Plan Review.

Council has approved funding this year to allow for environmental scans and reviews of wetlands and watercourses to be done before any consideration of development would take place. I believe strongly that this type of review is needed in any new land development. This area is outside of the current service boundary, so there is much to consider before any application is further considered by Planning and Development. There is still public engagement that will happen in relation to Regional Planning and growth, so I encourage you to engage in this as it unfolds. See below for more information.

Special Planning Areas

Based upon recommendations from the Halifax Regional Municipality Housing Task Force, Minister Lohr has designated nine special planning areas across the municipality, where up to 22,600 new residential units will be possible:

These areas are:

1. Former Penhorn Mall area – 950 units;
2. Southdale/Mount Hope – 1,200 units;
3. Bedford West 10 – 1,300 units;
4. Bedford West 12 – 2,500 units;
5. Port Wallace – up to 4,900 units;
6. Indigo Shores – 150 building lots
7. Morris Lake expansion – 3,100 units;
8. Dartmouth Crossing – 2,500 units; and
9. Sandy Lake – 6,000 units.



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

Developers will continue to work with municipal planning but designating a special planning area allows the minister to assume authority for approving development agreements, amending or repealing land-use bylaws or municipal planning strategies in that area.

It is important to note that these projects are subject to all required federal, provincial, municipal permits, environmental and regulatory requirements. As well, there are conditions and targets in place for each, and designations may be removed if the deadlines are not met.

We are pleased to see the Province is also investing \$2.3 million to enable the municipality to conduct critical environmental, land use suitability, transportation and infrastructure studies needed to inform future planning and development decisions at some of these sites, as well as some in the future.

The provincial funding is a one-time grant to HRM of \$2.3 million to support the watershed, land suitability assessments, transportation, and water and wastewater studies for four “Tier 2” sites identified by HRM as requiring further analysis prior to any consideration of planning and/or development approvals by either Regional Council or the Minister.

Completion of those studies does not pre-determine development will happen. Rather, the information derived from the studies will inform decisions by the Province, HRM and developers in relation to the future use of those lands.

The identified sites are:

- Morris Lake Expansion
- Highway 102 Corridor
- Sandy Lake
- AKOMA Lands

Should the provincially funded studies determine that development can occur in some manner, the time necessary to obtain consequential planning approvals for these sites will be significantly shortened, consistent with the HRM Housing Task Force’s goal of rapidly addressing housing supply challenges in HRM.

HRM’s Committee-of-the-Whole recommended funding for some of these studies at its meeting last week, so this funding from the Province is appreciated, for these important next steps.

In terms of what the three elements of this announcement means for the municipality – as mentioned, the planning and development process for the sites will continue with developers and municipal staff will ultimately bring forward plans for approval to Regional Council, or the Minister through the Housing Task Force, as appropriate.



A map of the Morris Lake Extension special development area. - Province of Nova Scotia



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE



Presenting a District 3 Capital donation to Sarah Shea, Principal at EPEC for their outdoor school security camera project.

TRAFFIC CALMING IN DARTMOUTH SOUTH

Eisener Boulevard: HRM will be installing additional tactical multiuse pathway (MUP) corridors on the west side of Eisener Blvd, from Russell Lake Drive to the existing Portland Lake Trail, and curb extensions near the Portland Lake Trail ingress/egress point (Atlantic Superstore Entrance). This is a continuation of the existing temporary MUP currently on the west side of Eisener Blvd. Feedback from last year's installation was a lack of connection between Rusell Lake Dr to the trail. This improvement is meant to create safe and accessible corridors and contribute to traffic calming on a high traffic street in this area.

Impaired Driving Statistics

From Halifax Regional Police

- In **February 2022**, 12 drivers were charged with impaired-related offences.
- 11 were alcohol-related, 1 was drug-related.
- 5 of these drivers - who provided breath samples - were at least twice the legal limit.
- Police received 2 calls in February from citizens who suspected impaired drivers.



If you see a potential impaired driver:

Call 911 immediately. Give the call taker your location, a description of the vehicle, including the license plate number, colour, make and model, the direction of travel for the vehicle and a description of the driver.



RCMP Road Safety Stats

District 3 - February 2022
Eastern Passage

- 204 calls for service in February 2022
Down .5% from February 2021
- 10 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 16 in Feb. 2021)
1 aggressive driving, 3 cell phone, 2 unregistered vehicle, 4 other MVA
- 66 Proactive Assignments (vs. 34 in Feb. 2021)
- 16 Cellphone/Impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding checkpoints
- 44 Traffic Stops (vs. 43 conducted in Feb. 2021)
- 4 Impaired Driving Charge (vs. 5 in Feb. 2021)
- 2 Impaired Suspensions (vs. 5 in Feb. 2021)
- 7 Motor Vehicle Accidents (vs. 2 in Feb. 2021)
 - 1 of these accidents resulted in injuries

Please Drive Safely!



UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for April:

- Tuesday, April 5 at 10am
- Tuesday, April 12 at 10am

While COVID-19 is still at play, some Regional Council meetings may be moved to a virtual setting on short notice. You can always view Regional Council meetings [online](#).

PLEASE REMOVE BIRD FEEDERS

HRM staff are encouraging residents to remove bird feeders from their property to help stop the spread of avian flu and protect our local bird population.



Nova Scotia is dealing with a deadly strain of avian flu in bird populations, and backyard bird feeders can facilitate the spread of it amongst wild birds.

If you encounter a sick or dead bird in Nova Scotia, do not touch it. Please report it to the provincial Natural Resources Department at 1-800-565-2224. While there is a very low risk of humans getting sick from avian flu, it's common sense not to handle sick or dead birds at any time.

HALIFAX REC: SPRING REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Halifax REC Spring programming! Check out all REC spring programming and registration information on our [website](#).

Please Note: Registration times for the Canada Games Centre, Cole Harbour Place, Zatzman Sportsplex and St. Margaret's Centre take place at different dates and times. Please visit their websites directly for their registration information.

If you need help or have any questions, Rec staff are happy to assist you, or troubleshoot any registration issue. Just call 902-490-6666 to connect with a staff member.

Be sure to follow Halifax Parks & Recreation for updates – you can also connect with them online if on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) if you have any questions.





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. The next Community Council meeting will take place on April 7th. 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 Simonov (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](#).