

#### **WELCOME APRIL!**



April brings the finalization of the 2022/23 municipal operating and capital budgets. Thank you to all residents who participated in the budget process, your

comments and input were appreciated as we make challenging decisions to continue funding municipal programs and services important to you.



A warm welcome to all new businesses to the District 12 area!

To discuss municipal programs or services, you can reach me at **902.240.7926** or email lona.Stoddard@halifax.ca.

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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:**

On April 5, 2022 Regional Council met virtually

#### **Budget Committee:**

Tuesday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 26 at 10:00 a.m. (if required)

### Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, April 19 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 March 8 meeting of HWCC we passed the first reading to rezone part of 7 McIntosh Street from Institutional and Park zones to high density residential and multiple dwelling zones. A public hearing on this case will take place Tuesday April 12 at 6:00 p.m. You can find the full case report and more details about how to provide your feedback here.

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

#### **APRIL COMMEMORATIVE DATES**

- Daffodil Month (Cancer awareness/support)
- Sikh Heritage Month
- Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- National Poetry Month

April 7	World Health Day
April 9	Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge
April 11	World Parkinson's Day
April 15	Good Friday
April 17	Easter
	World Hemophilia Day
April 21	Administrative Professional's Day
April 22	Earth Day
April 27	Daffodil Day ( <u>Canadian Cancer</u>
	Society)
April 28	National Day of Mourning

#### PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR SENIORS



The Property Tax
Rebate for Seniors
helps low-income
seniors with the cost
of municipal
residential property
taxes. Rebates are

50% of what you paid on last year's property taxes, up to a maximum of \$800.

The program is open for applications from July 1 to December 31. Applications may be obtained from Access Nova Scotia or local MLA offices closer to the program opening of July 1.

Senior's must meet the following criteria to qualify for the rebate:

- municipal residential property taxes are paid in full
- lived at the property as your primary residence in 2021
- receive or are eligible to receive the <u>Guaranteed Income Supplement</u> (GIS) or the <u>Allowance</u> from Service Canada

If you are not currently receiving the GIS or Allowance, check with <u>Service Canada</u> to see if you are eligible.

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#### **SENIORS CARE GRANT**



The provincial department of Service Nova Scotia & Internal Services is offering 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 things such 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 or by paper applications available at MLA offices and Access Nova Scotia Offices.

Applicants have until May 31 to apply for the grant. For more information please visit their website or call 1.800.670.4357.

#### **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. <a href="www.New in Halifax">New in Halifax</a> 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 community partners including the Halifax Regional Municipality and is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). HIP works with many different sectors to ensure that Halifax is a welcoming place for all newcomers to live and thrive, a place where 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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#### THE HEAT FUND



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

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.:

# RECRUITMENT FOR MUNICIPAL BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS



The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking applications for volunteers to serve on a variety of municipal boards, committees, and commissions. Applications are available at <a href="https://halifax.ca/serve">halifax.ca/serve</a> and will be accepted until Tuesday, April 12at 11:59 p.m.

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.

The municipality is seeking board, committee and commission members that are reflective and inclusive of residents from the Halifax Regional Municipality. Meeting schedules and formats will vary between committees, please consult our website for details on each committee.

The following committees, boards and commissions are seeking new members:

- Board of Police Commissioners
- Community Liaison Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee
- Grants Committee
- Halifax Harbour Bridges Board of Commissioners
- Halifax Regional Library Board
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority
- North West Planning Advisory Committee
- Regional Watersheds Advisory Board
- Shubenacadie Canal Commission
- Western Common Advisory Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee

We encourage applications from African Nova Scotians, racially visible persons, women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous persons, and persons of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Applicants are encouraged to self-identify.

For more information or to apply, click <a href="here">here</a>. For questions about the Public Appointment Policy, application process, concerns about computer or internet access or to request another accommodation to the recruitment process, please contact <a href="mailto:serve@halifax.ca">serve@halifax.ca</a> or call 902-490-4210.



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#### **PARKS AND RECREATION FEE CHANGES**



The Halifax Regional Municipality has adjusted user fees for municipal-owned and operated facilities, as well as facilities operated by Nustadia Recreation Inc. (HRM 4-Pad & RBC Centre) and outdoor recreation assets including fields, diamonds, parks, etc.. This is the first user fees adjustment in over ten years. A list of municipal-owned and operated facilities can be found <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

The purpose of the new fee structure is to provide a standardized structure based on the cost of providing a service, with an appropriate subsidy. This promotes participation, increases transparency and consistency, while also being fair and equitable to all users.

As a result, some fees are increasing in cost while others are staying the same or decreasing. A full list of fees can be found <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

For more information, visit our website.

#### 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 <a href="here">here</a>.

You can also visit our <u>website</u> and enter your address to get a custom calendar.



# MUNICIPAL FUNDING FOR UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF



During the March 22 Regional Council Meeting, Council approved a motion brought forward by Mayor Savage to commit up to \$50,000 in support of humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine as a result of the invasion by Russia.

Passing this motion provides direction for municipal staff to research, and prepare a staff report to identify a source for these funds and a receiving relief organization based on engagement with local representatives of the Ukrainian community.



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#### IN THE COMMUNITY

Speed radars installed at St. Margaret's Bay Road on March 10, 2022

Speed radars installed on Parkland Drive on March 10, 2022

#### **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 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

contactus@311.halifax.ca

#### **COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD**



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

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee, Vice-Chair
- Women's Advisory Committee