

WELCOME APRIL!



Ramadan Mubarak, Happy Easter, Happy Passover, & Happy Spring!

April brings us the end of the municipality's budget season! Regional Council is scheduled to approve this 2023/24 Budget and Business Planning on April 25th, 2023. You can learn more about the budget process <u>here.</u> I would like to thank every resident who participated in the Clayton Park Area Recreation Survey! Your useful feedback will help us understand satisfaction rates and usage trends as well as identify potential gaps in recreation programming, facilities, and parks. I would also like to thank the Halifax District RCMP for hosting the March 15th town hall and all district 12 residents who participated. I will be connecting with our local RCMP to suggest hosting the next community town hall at the Keshen Goodman Public Library.

Please don't hesitate to reach out by phone (902.240.7926) or email (<u>iona.stoddard@halifax.ca</u>) to discuss municipal programs or services.

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April 2023



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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 on the following dates:

Regional Council:

Tuesday, April 4th at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 18th at 10:00 a.m. (Contingency) Tuesday, April 25th at 10:00 a.m. Halifax & West Community Council: Tuesday, April 24th at 6:00 p.m.

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

2023 SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS YOUTH POET LAUREATE PROGRAM



Applications have opened for the inaugural Youth Poet Laureate Program! This is an opportunity for young poets (aged 12-21 at the time of application) to hone their writing skills, receive mentorship, and engage with others on issues that resonate with their peers across the municipality.

The selected Youth Poet Laureate will serve as a literary ambassador and seek to inspire and engage local youth to share their stories through written and spoken word. They will champion community vibrancy and inclusion while engaging young citizens in shaping the region in creative ways.

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on April 1st. Learn more and review the application guidelines <u>here.</u> 2



CHANGES TO ON-STREET PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM



As of April 1st, the municipality made changes to our on-street parking permit program.

This includes the switch to digital permits, a more streamlined way to purchase visitor permits, fee increases, allowing up to two annual permits per residence and allowing carshare vehicles to park at any on-street parking location.

For full details on all changes, please visit our <u>website</u>.



INCLUSION SUPPORT FOR SUMMER CAMPS

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Looking for inclusion support for summer camps? Submit your request <u>here</u> by using the barcode 00068313 between March 1st and April 12th.

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Please note that requests for inclusion support are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to submit your request early for the best chance of securing your preferred location and dates for inclusion support. If you submit a request through the barcode after April 12th you will be placed on a waitlist. If resources become available you will be contacted by the inclusion team.

For more information about inclusion support for recreation programs, visit our <u>website</u>.

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2023 SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS



www.nurturingstrongansf.com

STATISTICS CANADA HEALTH SURVEY COMING TO HALIFAX

Approximately 800 households in Halifax will be randomly selected to voluntarily participate in the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS), a national survey conducted by Statistics Canada.

The data from this survey is used by researchers to further understand the relationship between disease risk factors and risk conditions such as obesity, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and more. It also sheds light on illnesses and enables health professionals to be better prepared for public health challenges.

CHMS is now beginning its 7th cycle. Information about all cycles can be found <u>here.</u>

As a part of this survey, a mobile examination center will be temporarily located in the parking lot of The Halifax Forum (2901 Windsor Street) on April 12th for participants to participate in direct physical measures (i.e., blood pressure, oral health, biospecimen collection, etc.), after they have completed an interview at their home.

We encourage the voluntary participation of all those selected, to help us complete an accurate portrait of the health of Canadians.

For more information, Statistics Canada Media Hotline can be found <u>here</u>.



IN THE COMMUNITY COADY BURKE AND JASON SMITH GOING TO DOMINION DARTS CHAMPIONSHIPS



Huge congratulations to MacDonald Memorial Legion, Branch #156 members Coady Burke and Jason Smith!

They are the 2023 Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command Darts Doubles Champs. They'll be heading off to the Dominion Darts Championships in Aldergrove, BC at the end of April as part of Team Nova Scotia.



B.L.T RAILS TO TRAILS ETIQUETTE AND RULES REMINDER!



With the start of Spring, I am sure that we will see lots of local faces on our 13 kilometers of pure natural beauty!

Please help us keep the B.L.T Rails to Trails safe by keeping in mind that there is a speed limit of 20 kilometers an hour by any mode of transportation. Only ATVs, 4 wheelers, snowmobiles, or other Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) subject to the <u>Off-Highway Vehicle</u> <u>Act</u> are allowed on the trail. OHVs must be less than 54 inches wide as this is the size of the opening at each gate. Remember to obey all posted signage, that all dogs must be on leash, and that the trail is closed between 11:00p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

If you see anyone abusing their trail privileges, please report them to:

- Department of Natural resources: 1-800-565-2224
 - o Waverley Office: Monday to Friday
 - Phone: 902-861-2560
 - Email: <u>waverleyoffice@gov.ns.ca</u>
- RCMP Tantallon Detachment: 902-826-3100
- RCMP non-emergency line: 1-800-803-7267

The B.L.T. Rails to Trails is 100% managed by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer with our trail association more information can be found <u>here.</u>

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CAPE BRETON DANCE AT THE FAIRVIEW LEGION

The Cape Breton Charitable Association Of Halifax and The Fairview Legion Present a Cape Breton Dance

SATURDAY APRIL 15, 2023 - 8PM-11PM RCL BRANCH 142 50 HILLCREST STREET, HALIFAX INFO - 902-233-6374 OR 902-443-7256

SQUARE DANCE MUSIC PROVIDED BY WENDY MACISAAC & KOLTEN MACDONELL AND FRIENDS KYLE, ED, ANGUS, KEVIN, TONY

> ADMISSION \$10/PERSON ALL 19+ ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND DOORS OPEN AT 7:15PM CASH BAR AND 50/50 DRAW



Visiting St. Benedicts Church



SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

To minimize potential damage to municipal roads, HRM has introduced its annual spring weight restrictions on March 5th.

These restrictions are for heavy vehicles travelling on municipally maintained roads. Residents can view which roads are exempt from spring weight restrictions on a <u>map</u>, or by reviewing the attached list. Regular weight tolerances apply on exempt roads.

The weight restrictions are expected to remain in place into the spring, at which time the municipality will advise when the restrictions are lifted.

The municipality's spring weight restrictions are consistent with those of the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works. More details of vehicle restrictions can be found <u>online</u>.



NEW DATASETS NOW AVAILABLE

HRM has launched an improved and revised Open Data website – the <u>Halifax Data</u>, <u>Mapping & Analytics Hub</u>. This centralized resource improves user experience and continues the municipality's commitment to provide public access to data and visualizations of its uses.

The municipality has released six new datasets, as part of an ongoing commitment to provide public access to data created and managed by the municipality. The newly released datasets are:

- <u>Census 2021 Population Age Ranges</u>
- <u>Census 2021 Population Ages</u>
- <u>Census 2021 Population Marital Status</u> <u>Ages</u>
- <u>Census 2021 Population Marital Status</u> <u>Sex</u>
- <u>Traffic Calming Assessments</u>
- Tax Rates

There was a need to make some modifications to existing tax data. The current municipal tax rates have been archived and renamed to \underline{Tax} Rates 2021 and a new dataset created for \underline{Tax} Rates for tax year 2022 going forward.

The following tax area rate boundaries have been modified to include a new area rate code that is associated to the new Tax Rates dataset:

- BID Area Rates
- <u>Community Facilities and Services Area</u> <u>Rates</u>
- Fire Protection Area Rates
- Private Road Area Rates
- Transit Area Rates
- <u>Transportation Area Rates</u>
- Tax Designation

A wide range of data can be sourced for free through the catalogue, such as transit routes and schedule data, solid waste collection schedules, and area rates. New data releases occur several times throughout the year, with the most recent release on <u>February 15, 2023</u>.

The Open Data initiative was launched in early 2014 to help improve resident engagement and enhance transparency on municipal data. The program was formalized by Regional Council later that year through the adoption of <u>Administrative Order 2014-006-ADM</u> <u>Respecting Open Data</u>.

For more information on the municipality's Open Data program, and to access all the data sets, visit: <u>Open Data Catalogue</u>.

COMMUNITY HEATH TEAM FREE APRIL WELLNESS PROGRAMS

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Group wellness programs are open to all residents of NS age 18 or older with a valid Nova Scotia health card. Wellness programs are offered in-person and online. Some of the programs offered include: mindful movement, making the most of your food dollar, building better sleep, your heart matters series and much more!

To view the complete list of free programs and to register, visit their <u>website</u>. If a program is full, try checking back later as seats sometimes become available.



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
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Western Common Community Council
- CMC (Community Monitoring Committee)
 for Otter Lake Landfill
- African Descent Advisory Committee

MAILING LIST

If you would like to have e-newsletters sent directly to your inbox, please contact Eric Bowdridge at eric.bowdridge@halifax.ca