



COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE
DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER
HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

DUTCH VILLAGE ROAD UPDATE

After four months of construction, the sidewalk, bike lane, curbs and other improvements are nearly complete on the west side of Dutch Village Road. Dexter is now targeting **Sept. 19** to switch construction from the west side to the east side of the street, a delay of about three weeks. The main reason for the delay is the high number of abandoned and unmarked storm water pipes in the roadbed. It has made a difficult project much more complicated.

When construction switches sides in September, the current one-way traffic flow will be reversed and all vehicles will travel south on Dutch Village towards Bayers Road. The switchover should improve access for Fairview residents by reopening more residential streets to Dutch Village Road. HRM project managers and Dexter are meeting in the next few days to discuss how to complete paving before the snow flies. Crews may work some weekends this fall to keep the project on track. Despite unanticipated challenges, Dutch Village Road is still expected to be fully functional with two-way traffic sometime in mid-December.

I am meeting with staff on an ongoing basis to get updates about the project. For the most up-to-date

information about the project, please keep an eye on my [Facebook page](#) and the project [website](#).



VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Due to the recent prolonged period of low precipitation, water levels within Halifax Water's supply areas have not been replenished. With no significant precipitation forecasted in the coming weeks, these levels will continue to lower.

To conserve water, Halifax Water is requesting that all customers and those who live or work within a building serviced by Halifax Water, follow voluntary water conservation measures until further notice. By reducing our water usage, we can help ease the demand on our lakes/source water and reduce or delay the need for mandatory water conservation measures. To learn more and find resources and weekly water level updates you can visit the Halifax Water [website](#).



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HALIFAX – BEDFORD BASIN WEST

HALIFAX TRANSIT- CORE SERVICE PLAN

Halifax Transit is inviting residents to provide their feedback on the next chapter of transit planning in the municipality to ensure our transit system evolves with the region's growth and the needs of our diverse communities.

The Core Service Plan outlines efficient and targeted improvements to our core transit services, ensuring we meet the immediate needs of riders.

The Strategic Roadmap is an ongoing strategic planning process to follow the Core Service Plan that will include a range of strategic initiatives including:

- analyzing the factors that impact on service reliability
- opportunities for On-Demand and Microtransit services in the region
- planning the integration of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) within the current network
- developing standards which guide upgrades and expansion of transit infrastructure

Together, the Core Service Plan and Strategic Roadmap will create a clear and actionable plan, helping us deliver a transit system that is both responsive and future ready. See [Strategic Roadmap Overview](#) for more information.

How can you get involved?

There are various ways you can get involved, including:

- Core Service Plan survey: Share your thoughts on specific topics like service frequency for routes you regularly travel on, and new transit options. The Core Service Plan survey will be open from August 14 to September 28, 2025.
- Terminal and on-bus pop-up events: Participate in pop-up events at terminals or on your bus to ask questions

and provide feedback directly to Halifax Transit planners and other members of our team.

- Talk to us directly: Call 311 or email TransitPlanning@halifax.ca to share your thoughts with our team, or to ask questions about this project.
- Learn about other municipal strategies and plans: Our team uses other municipal plans when making transit planning decisions. These strategies and plans include:
 - Regional Plan
 - Integrated Mobility Plan
 - Rapid Transit Strategy

How will we use your feedback?

We'll use your feedback and data we've collected about the system to help inform transit changes. We'll also look at key performance measures such as:

- the number of passengers on services throughout the network
- how many passengers get on or off a bus at a stop
- the number of times the bus is too full to pick up more passengers
- how often the bus arrived on time

From there, we'll present your feedback and this data to Regional Council in a "What We Heard" report. Feedback will also be incorporated when preparing the Core Service Plan 2025–27.





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BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

As summer fades and school resumes, prioritizing traffic safety in residential areas is crucial. When students return to school, keeping them safe on the streets should be a top concern. Here are essential tips and reminders for motorists and parents during this back-to-school season.

Respect Speed Limits:

Obey posted speed limits, especially in school zones. Reduced speed limits during school hours protect children traveling to and from school.

Yield to Pedestrians:

Always yield to pedestrians, especially near crosswalks and school zones. Children may not accurately judge traffic, so extra caution is necessary.

Eliminate Distractions:

Avoid distractions like cell phones and eating while driving in residential areas. Focus entirely on the road, as children might unexpectedly enter the street.

Stop for School Buses:

When a school bus stops, stop behind or in front of it as per local laws. Failing to do so endangers students and can lead to fines.

Promote Walking and Biking Safely:

Consider walking or biking to school for physical activity and reduced traffic. Use designated paths and wear helmets while biking.

Safe Routes to School:

Work with schools and parents to identify safe routes to school. This can include walking groups, carpooling, and advocating for better signage.

Educate Children:

Teach children road safety, emphasizing looking both ways before crossing, using crosswalks, and wearing reflective clothing in low-light conditions.

Support Traffic Calming Measures:

Advocate for traffic calming measures like speed bumps and narrowing roadways to slow traffic and protect pedestrians and cyclists.

Back to school should be a safe and exciting time for all. By following these tips and fostering responsible driving practices in your community, we can ensure a secure environment for students year-round. Let's make our neighborhoods safer for children during this back-to-school season and beyond.



HERITAGE PRESENTATION

If you live in an older home you may be interested in registering it as a heritage property. Learn the the how and the why at a presentation hosted by the Rockingham Heritage Society and the Nova Scotia Heritage Trust. This free event is taking place at Keshen Goodman Library on Sunday, Sept. 21.

To find out more information about this event, please visit the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia website by clicking [here](#).





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UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF HRM'S REGIONAL PLAN

On Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, the Halifax Regional Municipality received a letter from the Province of Nova Scotia's Minister of Municipal Affairs in response to the municipality's submission of the updated Regional Plan.

In the letter, the Minister indicated that the Regional Plan, as submitted, could not be accepted by the province and therefore could not be approved.

Underway since 2020, the Regional Planning process has incorporated years of extensive public engagement to inform updates to the 2014 Regional Plan – aimed at supporting sustainable growth across our region.

On Thursday, June 19, 2025, Regional Council [passed a motion](#) to repeal the existing 2014 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (also known as the Regional Plan) and adopt the proposed 2025 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy with related amendments to other planning documents including the Regional Subdivision By-Law, Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-Laws.

In accordance with the [Halifax Regional Municipality Charter](#), adoption of the Regional Plan and other planning documents is subject to provincial review and approval.

Over the past several months, municipal Planning & Development staff have been actively working with provincial staff to address feedback that had been previously received from the province. The decision by the province to not approve any of the proposed amendments was not expected, given the ongoing collaboration with provincial counterparts leading up to and following the submission for approval.

Moving forward, this means that the [current 2014 Regional Plan](#), last amended in May 2025, remains in effect, as the new proposed amendments have not been approved by the province. Over the coming weeks, municipal staff will re-engage with the province to determine the next steps on the planning process and ensure the Regional Plan is updated in a way that aligns with provincial interests and fulfills the municipality's obligations under existing legislation.

For more information on the Regional Plan, including a copy of the Aug 8. letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, visit the [website](#).

STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM

The Student Transit Pass Program is being extended for the 2025/26 school year.

All HRCE/CSAP-registered students in grades 7 to 12 will continue to have access to free travel on all Halifax Transit busses and ferries in the fall. Starting in September 2025, registered homeschooled students in grades 7 to 12 who live in the Halifax region will also be eligible to receive a free Student Transit Pass.

HRM Regional Council initiated the Student Transit Pass with a small pilot program in 2021. The expanded program for all junior and senior high school students is funded by HRM and the Province of Nova Scotia. The 2024/25 Student Transit Pass can be used for free transit all summer until Sept. 12, 2025.

To learn more about the program and how to register please visit our [website](#).



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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

In its commitment to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten, the Government of Canada recently passed legislation to make Sept. 30 a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Formerly known as Orange Shirt Day, this day provides an opportunity to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools and provides a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event.

Resources

- Read the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report](#) and think about how you can implement the Calls to Action in your own life.
- Watch 215 Reflections to learn more about the intergenerational impacts of the residential school system, presented by Cheryl Copage-Gehue, Indigenous Community Engagement Advisor.
- Read *Out of the Depths: The experiences of Mi'kmaw children at the Indian Residential School at Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia* by Isabelle Knockwood, and other memoirs by survivors.
- Watch *We Were Children* (available on Amazon Prime), *Indian Horse* (available on Netflix), and *Little Bird* (available on Crave).
- Watch Gord Downie's [Secret Path](#).
- Learn about the Mi'kmaw communities whose land you live on and visit the three First Nations in Halifax Regional Municipality.
- Visit Indigenous cultural heritage sites to learn about the traditions, culture, and resilience of your local communities.

- Visit the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, and Peace and Friendship Park in Halifax.
- Have conversations with the people in your life about what reconciliation means and why it's important.
- Support Indigenous artists, drummers, singers, dancers, language learners and small business owners. They are helping communities heal.

LEAF AND YARD WASTE REMOVAL

Leaf and yard waste that doesn't fit into the green cart belongs in paper yard waste bags.

Did you know that each household that receives curbside collection can place up to twenty yard waste bags out on collection day? This makes disposing of leaf and yard waste easy.

Reminder that leaf and yard waste

- Can only go out on green cart day
- Belongs in paper yard waste bags (no plastic is accepted)
- Cannot contain grass clippings

For more information about leaf and yard waste please visit our [website](#)





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SETON RIDGE UPDATE

After months of rock breaking and rock moving, the Seton Road/Lacewood Drive intersection is starting to take shape. Lacewood Drive will be the second access point for the Seton Ridge development.

Developer Southwest plans to have the Lacewood end of Seton Road paved by the end of 2025. Once paved, it will be used mainly by construction vehicles for the next few years. It will also ensure the Sisters of Charity residence has a second entrance and exit during construction. Traffic lights are planned for this intersection.

Meanwhile, blasting continues for Seton Ridge's underground utilities and side roads. Blasting will also be done for the underground parking garages for 13 mixed use buildings (shown in white). These buildings will be mainly multiunit housing with ground floor retail and commercial, ranging from 6-16 storeys (as shown in the diagram). Blasting for these buildings will continue until late 2026. Construction of the multiunit housing is expected to start in 2027.

These buildings will be surrounded by 175 single family homes and townhouses (shown in purple in the diagram) for a total count of about 2,400 housing units. The projected population is 6,500-7,000. This is one of the largest housing projects in HRM and is expected to take 10 years to complete. To find out more information please visit the Southwest Properties [website](#).



HURRICANE READY

In an emergency like a hurricane, it may take emergency workers some time to get to you. Have an emergency kit ready and be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for at least 72 hours. That includes your pets! Don't forget items they'll need to stay safe and healthy.

Find hurricane preparedness information [here](#).

HALIFAX FIT WITH FIRE INFORMATION SESSION

Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency has added a third Fit with Fire information session.

This session is for women and gender-diverse folks and is a great opportunity to break a sweat in a workout led by real firefighters, speak with recruiters and see if firefighting could be your future career.

Date: Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025

Time: 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Location: 45 Knightsbridge Dr., Halifax

You don't need to be a fitness pro – all levels are welcome. Spots are limited, so sign up is required. Please register using this [link](#).





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HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land Acknowledgement

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.

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. The municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement:

"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."

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Federal Representatives in District 10:

- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** Halifax West
401-3845 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, NS, B3L 4H9
Phone: 902-426-2217
lenametlege.diab@parl.gc.ca

Provincial Representatives in District 10:

- **MLA Lina Hamid** Fairview-Clayton Park
203-3845 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, NS B3L 4G2
Phone: 902-404-3220
linahamid@nsmla.ca

- **MLA Adegoke Fadare** Clayton Park
West 120-287 Lacewood Drive
Halifax, NS B3M 3Y7
Phone: 902-457-0364
adegoke@adegokefadare.ca

COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

Councillor Morse currently serves on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Canadian Capital Cities Organization
- Halifax Chain of Lakes Trails
- Halifax Harbour Bridges Commission



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