

COUNCILLOR PAUL RUSSELL

LOWER SACKVILLE DISTRICT 15 NEWSLETTER



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WINTER 2020



GREETINGS FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS,

Thank you for electing me as your Councillor for Lower Sackville. I am working hard to represent you, our community, and our city, in that order.

My first few months on the job have been challenging, but they have also been very rewarding. Seeing how the various departments of the municipality operate has been an incredible learning experience.

In many cases we've been able to move an issue to completion; in some cases, I have been able to get an issue started or raise awareness; and in some cases, I've found that it takes an awful lot of effort to move an inch forward. We've had some very big decisions to work through, and I've learned from it all.

I am committed to raising the awareness of speeding on neighbourhood streets, helping to improve life for some of our homeless, and bringing forward the requests from the community on the need for new infrastructure.

I've also been working with staff to find the best way to improve the safety of the intersections on the Beaver Bank Connector and Old Sackville Road.

There is much more work to be done, and I'm looking forward to the challenges and successes that come with it.

Sincerely,

Paul

HOW CAN WE HELP?

CALL CENTRE

Call 311 toll-free from anywhere throughout HRM and our friendly and knowledgeable agents can provide you with a wide variety of municipal information and services in over 150 languages using a telephone interpretation service. Hours of operation: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

CALL MY OFFICE

For assistance with municipal issues, please contact my Constituency Coordinator, Linda Johnson by email at Johnsol@halifax.ca or by calling 902.490.4086.

CONTACT ME

Cell: 902.240.0441

Fax: 902.490.4122

Email: Paul.Russell@halifax.ca

STAY CONNECTED

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PaulRussellCPC>

Twitter: @PaulRussellCPC

The information or opinions on these sites are not necessarily endorsed by the Halifax Regional Municipality

STAY INFORMED

Visit my web page for up-to-date information on HRM related issues at halifax.ca/District15/

Police Non-Emergency 902.490.5020

Fire 902.490.5530

Mayor's Office 902.490.4010

Council Office 902.490.4050

HALIFAX



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WINTER OPERATIONS

Winter can be unpredictable. Both staff and residents must be ready for any type of weather we receive. Each year, with your feedback, we continue to make improvements to enhance our winter operations efforts. Most important to note, is the priority that we place on the safety for both residents and our crews. Safety is a shared responsibility, and some of the ways you can help is to adhere to the parking ban when implemented, removing obstacles like vehicles, green bins, garbage containers, and basketball/hockey nets from the roadways and sidewalks to allow crews to properly clear snow and ice. Also, we encourage you to report any obstacles you see that could impede snow removal by contacting 311.

Our municipal staff work hard to keep the streets and sidewalks clear of snow and ice. With each weather event, crews are responsible for approximately 3,844 lane kilometers of streets, about 1,000 kilometers of sidewalks and approximately 2,300 bus stops across the Halifax region. This is a huge job that requires a coordinated, strategic approach. To do this, we prioritized our streets and sidewalks based on several criteria. You can find the street and sidewalk clearing timeline charts at the back of this newsletter.

For minor (0-5 cm) and average (5-15cm) events, snow clearing updates will be posted three times a day: 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. on the service updates page and via @hfxgov on Twitter. For major events (15+ cm accumulation), updates will be posted four times a day: at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 8 p.m.

You can read more on our snow operations at <http://www.halifax.ca/snow>

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK

The overnight winter parking ban is in effect until March 31, 2020. The ban will be enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. only during declared snow and ice events and when required for continued snow clearing operations.

Although we issue news releases about when the parking ban is in place, these releases may not make it to your local newscast. Please be sure to check the HRM web site if you are not sure or, to be safe, please try to find off street parking through the winter.

Stay informed by calling 311, or by following us on Twitter @hfxgov or on our website at www.halifax.ca/snow

TOWN HALL

Please join me for a Town Hall in the Sackville Library where we can talk about municipal issues. The purpose of this town hall is for us to connect, and give you an opportunity to share your questions, concerns, and ideas about our community and the municipality.

All are welcome to attend. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sackville Public Library—636 Sackville Drive, Fenerty Room
Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 7–9 pm

SACKVILLE AREA WARMING CENTRE— CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Gateway Community Church (Entrance at the back door)
10 Beaver Bank Road
9:30pm–5:45am — Wednesday through Saturday nights.

The Sackville Area Warming Centre started as a one-year pilot project. After learning from that year, and refining its operations, it has now started its second year in operation.

The warming centre provides a warm space to be on a cold night, whether you have an address or not.

The single biggest need is volunteers through the night. The second biggest need is financial. If you would like to help by donating time, talent, or treasures, or if you would like more information, please contact SAWCconnect@gmail.com

We appreciate everything they do to show how much they care about the less fortunate in our community.

MY OFFICE HOURS

Although the role of Councillor requires me to attend various board and committee meetings, and meeting with staff, I am never too busy to meet with constituents. I post my daily schedule on Twitter and Facebook, and when I am not in Council related meetings, I am available to meet to have conversations with you about what we can do to make Sackville and the municipality a better place to live, work and play. I also have a “Timmys” schedule that I post on my web site, so that you if you want to stop in and chat, you’ll know I’m there!

If you would like to meet privately, we can set up an appointment to meet at City Hall or the Sackville Library. You can contact me over the phone at 902-240-0441 or, better yet, over e-mail at paul.russell@halifax.ca.



UPCOMING EVENTS—SACKVILLE SNOW DAYS AND SANDWICH WEEK

We have three weeks of fun coming up, and I hope that you can get out and enjoy them.

Sackville Snow Days runs from **February 14–17, 2020** and has plenty of events, from movies and costume parties, to sledding and winter sports, to fireworks and a parade. 2020 marks the 6th year of Sackville Snow Days, and we're getting bigger and better every year.

Sackville Sandwich Week runs from **March 7–14, 2020** and is still in the early planning stages. You can pick up your sandwich passport at various restaurants around Sackville as you try them out. At the end of it a portion of the proceeds go to a worthwhile charity. In 2019, over \$2,000 was given to Sackville Public Library's community kitchen!

PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY SIGNS



The single biggest issue that I have heard about is speed on neighbourhood streets.

While the posted speed limits are enforceable by law, we all know that speeding still happens.

The most effective way to try to combat speeding on residential streets is to report it to the Police Non-Emergency number at

902-490-5020. By reporting it, the Police can track the complaints, and adjust their patrols accordingly. Second, we can set up speed sentrys. This enables Police to monitor the actual speed on certain streets over a period. This serves to let drivers know their speed and gives the Police useful information.

In 2018, Halifax Council implemented the Traffic Calming Policy. Traffic calming helps make neighbourhoods safer

for non-drivers. That means slowing down cars, trucks, and motorcycles by altering driver behaviour. Studies have shown that reducing the posted speed limit in an area typically has no significant impact on how fast people drive. Physical measures are more effective and could include: speed humps, raised intersections and crosswalks, curb extensions, traffic circles or mini roundabouts, on-street parking and raised median islands.

If your street is owned and maintained by the municipality, it may be considered for traffic calming if it meets certain criteria. You may initiate a review of traffic calming for your street by contacting 3-1-1. When calling 3-1-1, you should prepare the details of your request, including the street name and street limits to be assessed.

I am also offering signs for private property use, asking people to "Please Drive Slowly".

If you would like a sign, like the one shown here, then please get in touch with me and I can drop one off.

RA-5 CROSSWALKS ON GLENDALE

Due to unforeseen issues with the design process of RA-5 crosswalks this past fall, municipal staff had to postpone the installation of the new RA-5 crosswalks on Glendale Drive at Smokey Drive and Rankin Drive. They will be installed in the spring of 2020. I have written a more full explanation on my web site: <http://www.paulrussell.ca>

HFX ALERT—NOTIFICATIONS WHEN YOU NEED TO KNOW

hfxAlert is the new system that HRM uses to notify residents about significant events that relate to the parking ban, fire, and police.

You will need to sign up for hfxAlert to receive the notifications, and it is recommended that you complete this sign up through the web site. You can receive notifications based on your home and work location and you also download the app to your smart phone, to receive notifications based on your immediate location.

The biggest benefit to using this app is that you will be notified when the winter parking ban is in effect.

You can find out more by visiting <https://www.halifax.ca/hfxalert>



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STREET CLEARING TIMELINES

Note: Exceptional weather conditions may require more time for clearing than indicated in the chart below.

Street type	When clearing begins	When clearing should be completed	What clearing should look like
Main arterials (Priority 1)	After 2 cm of snowfall	12 hours from end of weather event to full driving lanes	Bare pavement driving lanes
Halifax Transit routes and collector roads (Priority 1)	After 2 cm of snowfall	12 hours from end of weather event to 3 metres centerline bare	3 metres centerline bare
Residential streets with greater than 10% slope that serve as snow routes for Halifax Transit (Priority 1)	After 4 cm of snowfall	12 hours from end of weather event to centerline bare and 2 lane width	Centerline bare
Residential streets (Priority 2)	After 10 cm of snowfall	Cut-throughs completed within first 6 hours and repeated every 8 hours during extended periods of snow	Cut-through
	After 10 cm of snowfall	24 hours from end of weather event to 2 lane widths	Snow-covered, passable
Gravel roads and private lanes (Priority 2)	After 10 cm of snowfall	24 hours from end of weather event to snow-covered, passable state	Snow-covered, passable

SIDEWALK CLEARING TIMELINES

Note: Exceptional weather conditions may require more time for clearing than indicated in the chart below.

Sidewalk type	When clearing begins	When clearing should be completed
Downtown Halifax and Dartmouth (Priority 1)	After 5 cm of snowfall	12 hours from end of weather event
Main arterials (Priority 1)	After 15 cm of snowfall	12 hours from end of weather event
School drop-off zones and Halifax Transit routes (Priority 2)	After 15 cm of snowfall	18 hours from end of weather event
Residential streets/walkways (Priority 3)	After 15 cm of snowfall	36 hours from end of weather event
Intersections/bus stops	After sidewalks are completed	48 hours from end of weather event



Please recycle.

Delivery Note:

Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.