



COUNCILLOR LORELEI NICOLL

DISTRICT 4 ONLINE NEWS

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL

IN THIS EDITION

This monthly E-newsletter will provide an overview of regional news items that you may find of interest.

In this month's overview, you will find information on African Heritage Month events, Snow Operations information, the municipal budget and much more!

Regards,
Lorelei

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

February is African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, and we welcome you to join us as we celebrate this important event. The provincial theme for the 2019 celebration is Our History is YOUR History. It serves as a reminder that the unique history of African Nova Scotians is an integral part of Nova Scotia's history – our history is incomplete without this history of resilience, hope and courage.

The theme also aligns with the pillar of Recognition, which is one of the three pillars – recognition, justice, and development – of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD). The goal of DPAD, proclaimed for 2015 to 2024, is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent as they continue to work towards full inclusion in all aspects of society.

There are over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long and complex history dating back over 200 years. About a dozen of these communities have deep roots within the Halifax Regional Municipality. African Heritage Month presents us with a tangible opportunity to celebrate the legacy, achievements, and contributions – past and present – of people of African descent as part of our collective Nova Scotian heritage.



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Lighting of City Hall in Pan-African Colours

In honour of African Heritage Month, City Hall will be lit with Pan-African Colours (black, green, and red) during the month of February (excluding Feb. 4 and 5).

Black Cultural Centre Display (pop-up museum)
Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Alderney Ferry Terminal, 88 Alderney Gate

AHM Panel Event

Join us for a panel event on Race Relations, Black Experience and the Future of Municipal Government

Keynote: Raymond Tynes – Former Councillor and Mayoral Candidate from Truro

Panelists: Késa Munroe-Anderson, Manager, Race Relations, Human Rights Commission
Shakira Weatherdon, Equity and Inclusion Consultant, NSCC
Carolann Wright-Parks, Director Community Economic Development and Strategic Engagement (Halifax Partnership)
Wayne Talbot, Councillor, Ward 1, Truro

Moderator: Councillor Lindell Smith, District 8, Halifax Peninsula.

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Halifax Hall, City Hall

Note: Please note that RSVP is required for the Panel Event due to limited space at City Hall. Email ansaio@halifax.ca to reserve your space or for more information

SNOW OPERATIONS INFORMATION

Snow clearing timelines – With each weather event, crews are responsible for approximately 3,844 lane kilometres of streets, almost about 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks and approximately 2,300 bus stops across the Halifax region.

The priority of your street or sidewalk will determine its clearing timeline.

Streets

- Priority 1 streets, Emergency routes to hospitals and streets leading to schools and public buildings should have a plow or salt truck pass through at a minimum of once every three hours and have them clear of snow and ice within 12 hours of the end of a weather event.
- Priority 2 streets, Residential and rural routes with medium to low volume traffic. To start cut-throughs on these streets once accumulations have reached 10 cm and repeated a minimum of every eight (8) hours during extended periods of snow.

Sidewalks

- Priority 1 sidewalks, include those along main arterials and within the downtown core. Crews aim to clear these sidewalks within 12 hours from the end of a weather event.
- Priority 2 sidewalks, include those along transit routes. Crews aim to clear these sidewalks within 18 hours from the end of a weather event.
- Priority 3 sidewalks, include those along residential streets and municipal walkways.



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Crews aim to clear these sidewalks and walkways within 36 hours from the end of a weather event.

The easiest way to stay informed about the status of overnight winter parking bans is to register for automated notifications by signing up online, emailing contact@halifax.ca or calling 311. Find more winter operations info here: halifax.ca/snow

WINTER PARKING BAN THINK BEFORE YOU PARK

Where and when you park during the winter can have a significant impact on snow clearing. The municipality has enhanced its winter parking enforcement, so plan ahead. Learn more about parking bans and how to sign up for notifications at halifax.ca/snow or call 311. The Halifax Parking Ban can be enforced 1 - 6 a.m. December 15 to March 31.

NOVA SCOTIA HERITAGE DAY

Each year, Nova Scotia Heritage Day, on the third Monday in February, honours a notable Nova Scotian. The holiday has a “rolling” honoree. It changes every year. For 2019 we are honouring Maud Lewis. A world famous folk artist, Maud Lewis painted scenes that evoke feelings of innocence and child-like exuberance that is as enduring as the spring times she loved to paint.

HAVE YOUR SAY IN HELPING SHAPE THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Regional Council is now in the midst of public discussions surrounding the upcoming annual operating and capital budgets.

While those deliberations are underway, residents are encouraged to simultaneously highlight their priorities for the upcoming year. The hands-on budget allocator tool lets citizens share their thoughts on where tax dollars should go. By providing a unique glimpse into the experience of balancing the municipality’s budget, this online tool allows residents to simulate adjusting the tax dollars allocated to various services like transit, parks, fire, and policing – and see the potential impact this has on both service delivery and the overall budget.

A report, including results from the Shape Your City portal will be provided to Regional Council prior to the final deliberation and vote on the budget in April.

Citizens will again this year be given an opportunity to speak directly to the mayor and Councillors about specific priorities. Time will be set aside at the end of every business unit budget presentation for the public to provide insight and comments. Comments can be related to any aspect of the budget, not just that days’ discussions.

The following dates have been set aside for business unit budget presentations at City Hall in Council Chambers:



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Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019 (9:30 a.m.)

- Parks, Recreation, & Community Services
- Library
- Planning & Development

Friday, Feb. 8, 2019 (9:30 a.m.)

- Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019 (9:30 a.m.)

- Halifax Regional Police
- Fiscal & Consolidated Accounts

Friday, Feb. 15, 2019 (9:30 a.m.)

- Budget Adjustment List Review

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 (10:00 a.m.)

- Full review of final budget

For more information on the budget process and ways to have your say, go to <https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/hfxtax2019>

ICE THICKNESS

The Halifax Regional Municipality and Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency are urging residents to exercise caution near lakes as there is thin ice and open water in many lakes across the region.

Each winter, the municipality regularly tests ice thickness at more than 80 lakes in the Halifax region, primarily in the urban core. Ice thickness reports for lakes tested by the municipality will be available to the public at Halifax.ca or by calling 902-490-3577. Please note reports will

be updated weekly and are expected to begin in early January, weather depending.

Residents are urged to always assess each situation and its conditions before taking a step onto the ice of any lake or body of water.

The Canadian Red Cross recommends that ice be at least 15 centimetres thick for individual skating, and at least 20 centimetres thick for group skating. Extreme caution is advised in areas where streams flow into and out of the lakes. Ice conditions may vary over the entire surface of the lakes and are subject to change with weather conditions.

For more information on ice factors and safety, visit <https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/skating/ice-thickness>

COLE HARBOUR ALL WEATHER TURF FIELD

I have received inquiries from residents about skating on the turf field when it has been covered in ice. HRM staff do not recommend this activity as it can damage the turf causing a costly repair.