



COUNCILLOR RUSSELL WALKER
DISTRICT 10 ONLINE NEWS
HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

Community Grants Program 2019-2020

The Community Grants awards project-specific cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located within the Halifax Regional Municipality. The Program is open for 2018 applications from January 4 to March 31, 2019.

For more information, the Community Grants Program Guidebook is available online at www.halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/community-grants.

For general inquiries or assistance with completing an application please contact the Grants & Contributions Office at 902-490-7310 or email nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca.



YOU'RE ON THIN ICE!

ICE THICKNESS

Please note that thin ice and open water have been seen in multiple lakes throughout 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 on a weekly basis, beginning in January. 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. Ice thickness should be:

- 15 cm for walking or skating alone
- 20 cm for skating parties or games
- 25 cm for snowmobiles

Be safe. Avoid going out on ice at night and always check conditions before venturing out.

Many factors affect ice thickness including:

- Water depth and size of body of water
- Currents, tides and other moving water
- Chemicals including salt
- Fluctuations in water levels
- Logs, rocks and docks absorbing heat from the sun
- Changing air temperature
- Shock waves from vehicles traveling on the ice

For more information on ice thickness in your area, please go to:

<https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/skating/ice-thickness>



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Open 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday to Friday and 9:00 am to 5:30 pm Saturday and Sunday (closed Christmas Day & New Year's Day)

Free Skating Lessons in Halifax

Ice skating lessons

Children, youth, families, adults and seniors can learn to skate at the Emera Oval for free in a fun and enjoyable atmosphere with friendly and enthusiastic staff.

You have to register online at halifax.ca/myREC before attending a Learn to Skate class. Skates and helmets are required, but you can borrow these on-site.

Borrow helmets and skates

All skaters participating in lessons must wear a CSA approved multi-impact helmet. Hockey helmets with a face mask offer the best protection against injury. Bicycle helmets are *not* permitted.

If you don't have your own helmet, you can borrow a helmet at the Emera Oval for free.

You can also borrow skates on-site (also for free!). The Emera Oval has both speed skates and standard ice skates available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Photo ID is required to borrow either skates or a helmet. If you need to borrow equipment, it is best to turn up an hour or so before your scheduled lesson in order to find the right fit and to ensure that sizes are still available.

Skating lesson checklist

Make sure you have the following equipment and clothing:

- helmet
- sharpened skates that fit properly
- mittens or gloves
- socks
- pants that repel water (and fit tight at the bottom for speed skating lessons)
- warm jacket
- knee pads (for speed skating)

Parents and guardians need to stay onsite when children are participating in lessons. If you are signing up for the family class, a parent/guardian must be on the ice wearing skates and a helmet at all times with the child.

Go to the Halifax website for more info:

<https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/skating/free-skating-lessons>





Get Fit For Less!

Halifax Rec Fitness Centres

Looking for a way to stay active for less? The municipality is pleased to offer fitness centres in many of our facilities with low membership costs. Go to the Halifax website to check out the fitness facility nearest to you:

<https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/fitness-centres>



Mobile Payment for Parking



All municipal meters now offer a mobile payment option.

HotSpot, the municipality's current service provider, offers

users a mobile app at a monthly/annual fee. Mobile payment is a new option that enhances convenience. For more information on the mobile payment option, visit <https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/parking/street-parking>

Winter Snow Clearing

Do your part

Below are some simple steps to help protect your property and ensure snow clearing goes as safely and smoothly as possible this winter season.

1. Remove planters, lawn decorations and any other portable objects near the sidewalk before the winter.
2. When bad weather is in the forecast, safely store items that may still be used during the winter (e.g. sports equipment).
3. Mark any permanent structures or objects with a reflector that will be visible above the snow. This helps crews identify obstacles.
4. Trim any tree branches and shrubs that originate from your property. These can obstruct access and visibility for snow-clearing equipment.
5. Never park on the sidewalk and when parked in a driveway, make sure your vehicle isn't hanging over into the right-of-way. These vehicles are dangerous obstacles for crews and prevent proper clearing of sidewalks.

Businesses

In addition to the tips above, business owners should refrain from placing sandwich boards and other portable signs on the sidewalk during the winter months. These are obstacles for clearing equipment and can significantly hamper operations.

Never clear snow from your property onto the street or sidewalk.

It is against By-Law S-300 to throw or pile snow in the street or on the sidewalk. This is a serious



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problem that can cause safety issues for pedestrians and other users as it complicates clearing for crews. When this happens, crews are often forced to double back, delaying service on the rest of their routes.

Property owners must ensure the snow they clear is piled on their own property. The municipality has enhanced enforcement in place to address non-compliance with the By-Law:

- If a property owner is found to be non-compliant, municipal staff will affix an Order at their civic address.
- The *24-hour Order to Remove Snow and Ice from the Right of Way* indicates that a failure to comply will result in the municipality removing the snow and ice. The cost of the removal will constitute a lien against the property and be collected in the same manner as property taxes.
- Violations of By-law S-300 may also result in a summary offense ticket of no less than \$100.00.

Residents or businesses can [email contact@halifax.ca](mailto:emailcontact@halifax.ca) or [call 311](tel:311) to report violations.

Parking

The overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from Dec. 15 until Mar. 31; however, it is only enforced during declared weather events and clearing operations. When the ban is enforced, it restricts any on-street parking between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Vehicles in violation of the ban will be ticketed and/or towed.

Remember to stay informed about the [status of the parking ban](#) and please [think before you park](#).

Curbside garbage/recycling & green cart collection

- Please keep green carts and garbage/recycling bags out of the path of snow clearing equipment.
- Material must be accessible to the hauler – not on top of/behind snow banks. This may require clearing a spot curbside to place material. Garbage boxes must be cleared of snow as well.
- To help avoid frozen material from building up in your green cart, place all food waste in boxboard (i.e. cereal or cracker boxes) or wrap in a single sheet of newspaper. Place your cart curbside each cart collection day – even if it's not full.
- Download the Halifax Recycles app on your smartphone or tablet to stay informed about weather related collection cancellations. You can sign up for email notifications on our website: www.halifax.ca/whatgoeswhere

Winter safety tips

- If possible, don't drive during a storm. It's much safer to stay at home and wait until conditions improve.
- During a storm, major arterial routes are cleared first and salted more frequently than residential side streets and sidewalks.
- Watch for ice, especially on bridges, overpasses and in shaded areas of the roadway and sidewalks.
- Even if roads appear to be salted, remember that salt becomes much less effective in melting snow at temperatures below -10 degrees Celsius.



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- Adjust your speed. Wet roads can freeze even if the air temperature is above zero.
- Follow at a safe distance. It can take up to 12 times longer to stop on snow and ice than on dry pavement.
- Never pass a plow when it is clearing snow from the road. Whiteout conditions are often created in the front of plows which reduces visibility and increases the chance of an accident.
- Keep your vehicle in top working order.
- Have a winter survival kit in your vehicle.
- Never plow or shovel snow from your driveway onto the street or sidewalk. This can cause problems for pedestrians, particularly those with mobility issues.
- Children should not play in the snow along the side of the road or anywhere a snow plow is likely to operate.

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Email: russell.walker@halifax.ca

Website: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/districts-councillors/district-10>

Newsletter Participation

Calling all community groups! Do you have an event coming up that you'd like advertised in Councillor Walkers newsletter? Get in touch today. Contact:

Stephanie Brown, Coordinator for Councillor Walker D10

902-490-4090

browns@halifax.ca

Contact

Russell Walker, Councillor

District 10 – Halifax - Bedford Basin West

HALIFAX