



**COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN**  
 DISTRICT 14 ONLINE NEWS  
 MIDDLE/UPPER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK - LUCASVILLE

**WELCOME FEBRUARY!**

February is a month when we are reminded of what is truly important: family, friends and our communal heritage as Nova Scotians. February is African Heritage month – so many events/activities for everyone to enjoy while experiencing the rich African Nova Scotian heritage and culture; the traditional Groundhog Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> – will Shubenacadie Sam see his shadow or not; Valentine’s Day on the 14th – a little mid-winter fun and time to express love and appreciation to family and friends; Sackville Snow Days Winter Festival from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 18th – family fun events both indoor and outdoor – watch for the new HRM Float in the parade; Heritage Day on the 18th - celebrating 2019 honouree Maud Lewis. Plus, many local community events for everyone to enjoy.

Keep reading for more district and regional updates including ongoing discussions for the 2019/20 municipal budget.

**Please note:** Due to ongoing budget discussions, scheduled for Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at City Hall, I am not able to host my monthly Hub Office hours this month ☐ . See you in March!

**AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH**



*Councillor George H. Diggs - seated 2nd from left in front row – member of the Municipality of County of Halifax Council of 1916.*

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.

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 – Beechville,

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Lucasville, Hammonds Plains, Cherry Brook, East Preston, North Preston to name a few. This is a time for us to celebrate the legacy, achievements, and contributions – past and present – of people of African descent. People like:

- Councillor **Thomas Johnson** – the first African Nova Scotian elected to public office. He was Councillor for District 30 (Preston) from 1899-1908. (unfortunately, there are no known photos of Mr. Johnson)
- Councillor **George H. Diggs**, represented District 30 (Preston) from 1908-1918 and again from 1920-1930. (see image at beginning of this article)
- Councillor **Wayne Adams**, represented District 8 (Preston) from 1979-1994. He became the first black member of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly.



Councillor Wayne Adams 1979-1994

- Councillor **Graham Downey**, represented District 12 (Halifax Downtown) from 1996-2000. He was the first African Nova Scotian Alderman and Deputy Mayor in the City (newly amalgamated HRM).



Councillor Downey 1996-2000 - with Mayor Edmund Morris

- Councillor **Lindell Smith**, represents District 8 (Peninsula North). Elected in 2016.



Councillor Lindell Smith 2016-

**Viola Desmond (1914-1965)** although not a municipal politician, Ms. Desmond was a local entrepreneur who challenged segregation in Nova Scotia in the 1940s. Born and raised in Halifax, Viola Desmond trained as a teacher but soon joined her husband, Jack Desmond, in a combined barbershop / hairdressing salon / beauty parlour on Gottingen Street. After training in Montreal, Atlantic City and New York, she founded her own institution, Halifax's Desmond School of Beauty Culture, selling her own line of hair and skin products across Nova Scotia. But on one business trip in 1946, Ms. Desmond would become famous for another reason.



Viola Desmond in her studio, ca. 1938. Wanda Robson Collection. Beaton Institute, Cape Breton University.



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While expanding her business across the province, Viola went to New Glasgow on November 8, 1946 where she developed car trouble. Waiting for the car to be repaired, she

decided to go to the movies, bought a ticket, entered the theatre and took a seat on the main floor - unaware that tickets sold to African Canadians were for the balcony - the main floor was reserved solely for white patrons.

Theatre staff demanded she go to the balcony - she refused as, being near-sighted, she could see better from the main floor. The police were summoned, she was dragged out - which injured her hip - charged and held overnight in jail; she was not advised of her rights.

The following morning, despite having done nothing wrong, she paid the imposed fine of \$20. She was also charged with defrauding the Government of Nova Scotia of the difference in the tax between a ground floor and a balcony seat, which amounted to one cent. Desmond decided to fight the charges.

The issue was her being African Canadian and a racist seating policy; it was not about tax evasion. In taking the matter to the courts, Viola Desmond's experience helped to galvanize public opinion locally and internationally, and to raise awareness about the reality of Canadian segregation.

In 2010, Nova Scotia gave Ms. Desmond a free pardon. Then Lieutenant-Governor, Ms. Mayann Francis, signed it into law: *"Here I am, 64 years later – a black woman giving freedom to another black woman,"* (Mayann Francis). The pardon, which called Ms. Desmond's case a miscarriage of justice, acknowledges she should never have been charged.



Lieutenant-Governor Mayann Francis signing into law the pardon of Ms. Viola Desmond

\$10 banknotes commemorating Viola Desmond officially entered circulation in November 2018 - the first time a Canadian woman has been celebrated on the face of her country's currency.





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### AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

The following is a partial list of events:

#### Flag Raising Ceremony-February 1<sup>st</sup>

Join us as we raise the Pan-African Flag with a special presentation by Dr. Afua Cooper, Halifax's Poet Laureate, and a performance by 13 year-old Zoe Tolliver.  
10:00 a.m. Grand Parade

#### 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).

#### AHM Panel Event-February 28<sup>th</sup>

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.**

**February 28<sup>th</sup>** from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. Halifax Hall, City Hall.

**Rhythms of Life**  
 Celebrating African Heritage Month  
 Free Events!  
 Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019  
 Knox United Church, 567 Sackville Drive

3 pm History of African Nova Scotia Music Demonstration  
 7 pm Rhythms of Life / Live Music & Multimedia Show

Sponsored by:

### EAST UNIACKE QUARRY EXPANSION



On December 12, 2018 a public information meeting was held at the Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre regarding the proposed expansion of the Birrette's East Uniacke Quarry owned and operated by Bio Design Earth Products Inc. (BDEP).

BDEP will submit the Environmental Assessment registration document to the provincial Department of Environment in early February 2019. Notification of registration will be advertised in the Chronicle Herald and the Uniacke Newsletter. Public comments relating to the proposed Birrette's East Uniacke Quarry expansion can be made during the Nova Scotia



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Environment's Environmental Assessment review process.

You may contact Gerard Birrette of BDEP by email at: [birrettepg@eastlink.ca](mailto:birrettepg@eastlink.ca) if you have comments or questions regarding the expansion.

Check the provincial Department of Environment website for updates on the Environmental Assessment.

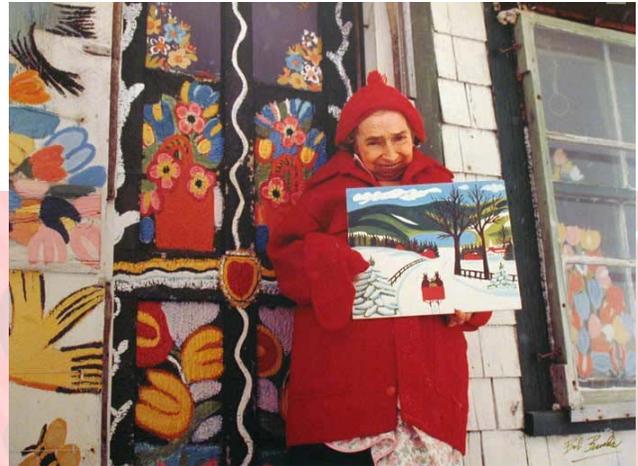
## GROUNDHOG DAY



Groundhog Day, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, is a holiday that focuses on the folklore idea of the groundhog (also known as woodchucks) coming out of its home to "predict" the weather. Legend has it that on this morning, if a groundhog can see its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If it cannot see its shadow, spring is on the way. Historically, Groundhog Day has its roots in the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas Day, when clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal (the hedgehog) as a means of predicting weather.

Regardless of whether Sam sees his shadow or not, it is 100% for certain that spring will arrive six weeks from February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## HERITAGE DAY FEBRUARY 18, 2019 HONOUREE MAUD LEWIS



A world famous folk artist, Maud Kathleen (Dowley) Lewis (1903-1970) painted scenes that evoke feelings of innocence and child-like exuberance that is as enduring as the spring times she loved to paint.



Maud with Fluffy circa 1908





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## Sackville Rivers Association Presents a Talk on **The History and Mystery of the Pisiquid Road – from Halifax to Windsor**

By Archeologist COLIN HICKS



7:00 PM – Thursday, February 7, 2019

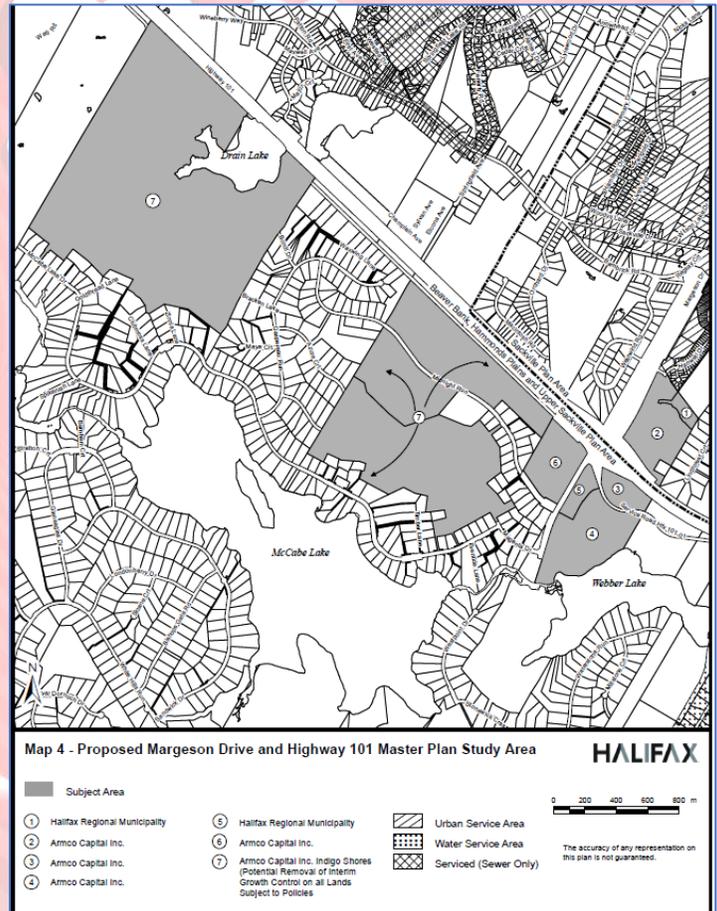
Sackville Heights Community Centre  
45 Connolly Rd  
Middle Sackville, NS

Further Information: (902) 865-9238

- shown on Maps 1-4 of the staff report dated October 26, 2018; and
- Follow the public participation program as set out in Attachment D of the staff report dated October 26, 2018.

The MOTION was PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A copy of the staff initiation report is available [here](#).



## CASE 21639 - MARGESON DRIVE MASTER PLAN - MARGESON DRIVE AND THE HIGHWAY #101 INTERCHANGE, MIDDLE SACKVILLE

At the December 4, 2018 Regional Council session, I put forward the following motion:  
THAT Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:

- Initiate a process to consider amendments to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy, the Regional Subdivision By-law, the Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws for Sackville and Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Upper Sackville to enable mixed use residential, commercial, institutional and recreational development on lands surrounding the Highway 101 Interchange at Margeson Drive, Middle Sackville as

## 2019/20 ONGOING BUDGET DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULE

February 1: [Proposed 2019-20 Multi-Year Capital Program Budget \(Supplementary Report\)](#)



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### February 6:

Parks & Recreation  
Halifax Public Libraries  
Planning & Development

### February 8:

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency

### February 13:

Fiscal & Consolidated Accounts  
Halifax Regional Police

### February 15:

Budget Adjustment List (BAL) review

### April 2:

#### Regional Council - Budget Approval

10 a.m., located in Council Chambers, City Hall.  
Regional Council will review and approve the 2019-2020 budget.

Check our municipal website for [more information](#).

## TOUR OF HMCS HALIFAX



Councillor Blackburn with Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Mancini and Councillors Craig and Austin touring HMCS Halifax where local street names, such as Sackville Drive, adorn passageways throughout the ship.

## SACKVILLE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTRE WINTRY TEA AND A TALE



On February 17<sup>th</sup> join in the fun of Sackville Snow Days and enjoy a winter afternoon tea at Sackville Heights Community Centre with family and friends. There will be wintry crafts for children and a special visit from Princess Belle of "Little Princess Parties" who will share a story with the kids.

There are more activities available at the Sackville Heights Community Centre such as:

### Free Parent/Tot Dance and Play

Tuesday mornings 9:30-11:30  
Ages 3 and under

### Chair Yoga coming to SHCC in February

Fridays at 10am  
\$45 for 8 weeks

### Drop in Pickleball

Fridays 1-3pm

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For more info call Heather at 902 864-6751



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**TO ALL WHO WORK AROUND  
THE CLOCK TO KEEP THE  
ROADS CLEAR, THANK YOU!**



### DE-ICING TREATMENT

Treatment for gravel roads involves a sand mixture material of +/- 7% salt ratio to prevent the sand from freezing into solid clumps when being applied. The material is applied at a rate of +/- 700kg/km. Due to gravel roads being highly susceptible for icing, due to the effect that the frozen sub-terrain presents, multiple applications of the sand mixture may be required.

The treatment material for paved streets is a low 90kg/km application rate. The traditional sand mixture is utilized as a reactive treatment which is applied after the ice has formed. Salt applications are identified as a proactive treatment to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the surface; resulting in the requirement for less de-icing applications. With the reduction of required applications, the amount of actual sodium chloride is reduced and a superior safer surface is provided for the motoring public.

HRM Winter Operations have implemented many practices from the **Manual of Best Management Practices for Road Salt in Winter Maintenance** and improvements in salt technology through the Science and the Environment of the Salt Institute. These are advances in technology and operating procedures to provide a superior safer surface while reducing salt consumption to the environment.

Historically rock salt used to be liberally poured out of the back of a truck with the majority of it landing in or on areas other than the actual road that it was applied to. i.e.: ditches, shoulders, lawns etc. With new technology and best practices being implemented we are now using such advancements to apply reduced amounts of sodium chloride and having the majority remain on the actual surface it was intended for.

These technologies dramatically reduce the amount of total sodium chloride entered into the environment. By following the Best Practices as identified above, we are continuing to introduce industry best practices and new technologies which will provide a safer service but at a much-reduced sodium chloride application rate than in the past, even in comparison to areas that received a sand mixture.





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### SACKVILLE SNOW DAYS FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> -18<sup>TH</sup>, 2019



Sackville Snow Days is an annual winter festival that runs during the February long weekend. Led by the Sackville Business Association, countless community groups, organizations, businesses and volunteers come together to create a weekend filled with winter fun for the whole family.

Subject to change. Please note some events are weather dependent. [Schedule of Events 2019](#)



### SACKVILLE WINTER CARNIVAL



# REUNION DANCE

FEBRUARY 9TH, 8-11PM  
TICKETS \$10ea

DJ, PRIZES, SURPRISES

Tickets Available Are Available Through  
Chad Lindsay 221-5484, Harold Irving 865-4795  
and Mabel MacEachern 233-4861

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Cobequid Community Health Centre Foundation

ARE YOU LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY THIS YEAR?

All funds will go toward providing priority medical equipment to the Health Centre

For more information contact Stacey-  
stacey.chapman@nshealth.ca  
or call (902) 869-6111

Date: October 27th, 2019

**WALK/RUN COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Join us and help shape this years event!

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## BEAVER BANK KINSAC COMMUNITY CENTRE CASINO NIGHT

**7th Annual CASINO NIGHT!**  
**BBK Community Center**  
**BEAVER BANK**  
*Dress As Your Favourite Star*  
**Saturday, February 23, 2019**  
 A Mock Casino Fundraiser  
 Hosted by the Beaver Bank Community/Awareness Association  
 In support of the **Bulletin** and the BKSA Keeners seniors group  
 7:00PM - 11:00pm Mock Casino / Balloon Pop / Auction  
 864-4112  
**\$15 GETS YOU \$150**  
 Advance Tickets Available at the Community Center  
**BALLOON POP**  
 BLACKJACK • LIVE AUCTION ITEMS • PRIZES!  
 support CASINO Where Friends Play!  
 Helping You Help Your Community. Thanks to the...  
 15+

**NETWORKING with Rotary**  
 Club of Sackville & Area  
 5:30 P.M. February 27, 2019  
 Freeman's Little New York  
 552 Sackville Dr. Lr. Sackville NS  
 Proceeds for Rotary projects in our community  
 Keynote speaker Debbie Adams of **PeopleCar**  
 See what we do in our event description below

## CHASE THE ACE - ALS FUNDRAISER



Councillor Blackburn with Council colleagues Matt Whitman and Lindell Smith at the ALS fundraiser

**WE PUT THE FUN!**  
**IN FUNDRAISING**





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## NEW YEAR'S DAY FISH CHOWDER LUNCH WITH SACKVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



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**HALIFAX** halifax.ca 311



I currently serve on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council and the North-West Community Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Special Events Advisory Committee
- Halifax Regional Library Board
- North West Planning Advisory Committee
- Discover Halifax
- Halifax Water Commission



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