COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG
DISTRICT 14 NEWSLETTER
Hammonds Plains - Upper Hammonds Plains - Lucasville - Middle & Upper Sackville

WELCOME JULY

As we get ready to mark the 159th anniversary of Confederation, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the values and freedoms we share as Canadians. Our history continues to shape who we are today—resilient, diverse, and proud. As we celebrate, I encourage everyone to take part in local events, connect with neighbours, and enjoy all that our community has to offer.

Read on for more HRM and community news!

John

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JULY MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Northwest Community Council and Standing Committee meetings will be held on:

Regional Council:
Tuesday, July 14th at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council:

- No scheduled meeting for July

Standing Committees:
Appeals Standing Committee

- Thursday, July 16 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- No scheduled meeting for July

Executive Standing Committee

- No scheduled meeting for July

Special Events Advisory Committee

- No scheduled meeting for July

DATES TO NOTE

July 1 is Canada Day
July 7 is World Chocolate Day
July 7 is International Peace & Love Day
July 12 is International Day of Hope
July 18 is Nelson Mandela International Day
July 30 is International Day of Friendship
July 31 is African Women's Day

KANA'TA: CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Join us Wednesday, July 1 for KANA'TA: Canada Day 2026!

KANA'TA: Canada Day honours Mi'kmaw traditions and celebrates pan-Indigenous communities through ceremony, culture, music and storytelling. First introduced in 2022, KANA'TA DAY was developed in collaboration with our Indigenous leaders, Elders, artists and local community members.

Events taking place throughout the municipality include the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, Canada Day Parade, a Mawio'mi featuring cultural celebrations and traditional dance at the Emera Oval, the Halifax Common Family Day, the 10th Annual Canada Day Drumming Celebration, Desi Summer Music Fest: Season 3 and the ANSMA Canada Day Concert.

All programming and Halifax Transit ferry service will be free on July 1. Visit for full event details. All events are free to attend unless otherwise listed.

WILDFIRE SEASON

Wildfire season runs from March 15 to Oct.15. While burning restrictions are in effect year-round, additional restrictions are in effect during wildfire season. Always check our Before You Burn website before starting a fire.

If burning is permitted, follow these safety guidelines:

- Never leave your fire unattended - unattended fires can spread quickly and become dangerous.

- Completely extinguish your fire - douse it with water, stir the ashes and repeat until everything is cool to the touch.

Residents can voluntarily register to receive a wildfire risk assessment for their property using the FireSmart standard. FireSmart is a program that helps people reduce wildfire risk by making homes and neighbourhoods less likely to catch fire from embers. It focuses on straightforward actions like basic home improvements, keeping buildings and yards free of combustible debris and managing nearby vegetation so fires are less likely to spread. To learn more about a FireSmart assessment, visit our website.

For more information about wildfire safety, visit our website.

NATAL DAY PARADE FLOAT REGISTRATION

Parade float registration is open for the 129th Pepsi Natal Day Parade, which will take place on Monday, Aug. 3. This annual event attracts hundreds of residents from across the region. It is a great opportunity to showcase your local business or organization while taking in the festivities.

Don't miss your chance to join the fun. The deadline for registration is July 18. For more information, and to register your organization, visit our website.

WEEKLY GREEN BIN COLLECTION RESUMES

Weekly green cart collection is back from June 29 to Oct. 2, 2026, in all communities to support residents during the warmer months. This enhanced service is designed to manage increased organic waste, reduce odours, and limit wildlife attractions in summer months.

Simple steps—like wrapping food waste, using paper liners, and storing carts in shaded areas—can help keep green carts clean and reduce odours as well.

Residents are asked to place materials curbside before 7 a.m. on collection day and ensure all items are securely contained. You can find customized collection schedules for your community using the Halifax Recycles app or on the municipal website.

SUMMER WATER TESTING

The municipality will begin testing water quality for bacteria levels and monitoring for blue-green algae at all municipally supervised beaches on Wednesday, July 1. Testing will continue until Monday, Aug. 31.

High bacteria levels can be caused by a number of factors, including dogs, birds, wildlife, heavy rainfall and impacts from climate change such as high temperatures, lower water levels and decreased rainfall.

In the event of a recreational water quality advisory due to high bacteria levels, staff will continue testing the water and lift the advisory when the results are within Health Canada guidelines for swimming again. In the event of a closure due to a possible blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) bloom or mat, staff will investigate the bloom and reopen the beach when the risk of high levels of blue-green algae toxins has passed.

For more information, visit our website.

CANOE ’26 – EVENT AND MUNICIPAL SERVICE IMPACTS

The 2026 ICF Masters Canoe Sprint World Championships and ICF Junior & U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships (Canoe ’26) will be taking place on Lake Banook from June 25 to July 5, 2026. The competition is a chance to see some of the best canoe champions in the world in our own backyards.

As we encourage spectators to come out to the races, local residents should be aware that there will be some municipal service changes during this event. Park closures, solid waste collection, road closures and transit routes will be impacted during this time with service delivery details listed on our website.

Residents can also visit the Halifax Transit page for up-to-date schedule and stop changes at halifax.ca/htdisruptionshalifax.ca/htdisruptions

For more information on Canoe ’26, visit their website.

WAVERLY ROAD TRAFFIC DISRUPTION

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents of upcoming traffic disruptions along

Waverley Road between civics 1291 and 1335to facilitate construction of the Waverley Road guiderail and retaining wall project until late summer/early fall 2026. This project will include several coordinated improvements designed to enhance road safety and long-term reliability, including both wall and road repairs.

Some stages of the work will require short-term full road closures within the project area to ensure the safety of residents, road users and construction crews. These closures will be

planned and communicated in advance. Local access will be maintained from both ends of the closures, and emergency access will be maintained at all times.

Drivers should expect delays and are asked to use alternative routes where possible. For more information about this project, visit our website for specific dates and details.

LINK halifax.ca/transportation/transportation-projects/waverley-road

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS

Regional Council has approved funding for 13 community event grants totaling $26,000 during the Regional Council Meeting on June 16. Spread across our municipality, the approved events include:

- Back to School Fun Day – Graystone United Society
- Community Picnic – Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society
- Concert in the Park – Acadia Hall Grand Stage – Woodbridge Community Nova Scotia Non-Profit Society
- East Dartmouth Community BBQ – Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Halifax
- Musquodoboit Harbour Lobster Trap Tree Lighting and Parade – Musquodoboit Harbour Heritage Society
- Night Celebrating 2026 Dartmouth Book Awards – Dartmouth Book Awards Society
- North By Night Market – North End Business Association
- School Farm Day – Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield
- Spring Into Summer Community Block Party – Graystone United Church
- Spryfield Pumpkin Palooza – Family SOS
- Sunset Market – Sackville Business Association
- Mocean Dance 25th Anniversary – Mocean Dance Society
- VANS at 50: Celebrating Artists Helping Artists – Visual Arts Nova Scotia
- North Preston Days – North Preston Community

Funding for these events is part of the municipality's Regional Special Events Grants program. This program supports events that bring people together, celebrate culture and build stronger communities. All approved events met criteria related to community engagement, cultural value and local impact.

These events offer free or low-cost activities for residents of all ages, and they create opportunities for people to connect, support local artists and businesses, and enjoy shared experiences across the region.

For more information, follow our communications channels as events arise or read the staff report.

NEW PLAN APPROVED TO IMPROVE RECRETATION PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

Regional Council has approved the Seniors Recreation Services Plan 2026–2030, a five-year plan that will guide recreation programs and services for residents aged 60 and older. The plan will help Parks and Recreation staff improve and expand services across the municipality.

The plan responds to a growing and changing senior population and was developed with guidance from the Seniors Recreation Advisory Group. More than 2,200 seniors and numerous community groups contributed input, identifying challenges such as limited program options, social isolation, accessibility barriers, transportation and affordability.

The plan focuses on strengthening social connections, offering more inclusive and flexible programs, improving affordability, building internal capacity and enhancing communication. These actions aim to help seniors stay active, connected and engaged in their communities, with improved access to recreation opportunities in both urban and rural areas.

For more information, read the staff report as the program progresses.

REC VAN SUMMER TOUR

The Rec Van is back this summer, visiting rural communities with so many fun ways to play!

Moving throughout the municipality, starting Monday, July 6, the Rec Van will travel to different rural communities from Mondays to Thursdays every week until August 24.

A range of recreation activities will be offered, including basketball, soccer, washer toss, giant checkers, archery, skipping, giant cup stacking and more. Rec Van services are free for residents and open to all ages.

To find out when the van will be in your community, check out our calendar for the latest weekday schedule updates and weather cancellations on halifax.ca/RecVan.

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP REMINDERS

Due to an increase in responsible dog ownership concerns, the municipality is reminding dog owners of the important requirements under By-Law A-700, Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet

Ownership, to help keep our parks, neighbourhoods and public spaces safe for both people and pets.

Following responsible dog ownership practices include obtaining proper licenses for your pet, following posted signage for leash requirements, picking up after your dog and preventing your pet from harming others.

Violations of the by-law may result in a warning, a Summary Offence Ticket starting at $237.50, prosecution, or seizure of the dog by Animal Services.

If there is an issue with a dog in your neighbourhood, speaking with the owner is often the most effective first step. If the problem continues, residents can contact 311 to register a complaint.

We encourage all dog owners to help maintain safe, respectful and enjoyable shared spaces for everyone. For more information, please visit our website.

LIVING LAKE SHORES TRAINING AND INFORMATION SESSION

Living Lakeshores is a multi-faceted project that focuses on restoring sensitive shoreline ecosystems through community training and participation, while building a broader understanding of naturalization and climate adaptation.

To support this work, the municipality is offering free Green Shores training sessions at Levels 1 and 2. Anyone may participate, with lakeshore residents especially encouraged to enroll. Training is free, but registration is required and each session is limited to 20 participants. The next Level 1 session will be held July 11, 2026, at the Fairbanks Centre in Dartmouth from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to training, Living Lakeshores will apply Green Shores restoration principles at select municipal park shorelines to improve climate resilience and biodiversity. The next public information session on this naturalization project will take place July 8 at the Lake Echo Community Recreation Centre.

Living Lakeshores reflects the municipality's commitment to climate resilience and provides meaningful opportunities for residents to learn, participate and contribute to healthier freshwater ecosystems. To get involved and learn more about the project, visit our website.

CROSSWALK PAINTING

The Progressive pride and Pan-African crosswalk graphics are back! We'll be painting

and repainting crosswalks throughout the municipality this summer to recognize the symbolic importance of these designs and their role in celebrating diversity, inclusion and community identity in public spaces. This project is proudly supported by both municipal and district capital funding.

Pan-African designs are located within historically African Nova Scotian communities, with community engagement supported through the municipality's Office of Diversity and Inclusion/African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office (ANSAIO).

For the list of sidewalks being painted this summer, find more details on our website.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW FIRE CHIEF

After a nationwide search, we are pleased to welcome Deryn Rizzi as the new Chief of Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency. She will begin her role on Aug. 17.

Chief Rizzi brings extensive experience in fire and emergency leadership, along with a strong commitment to firefighter safety, training and community service. As our region continues to grow, her leadership will help support HRFE's ongoing work to keep residents safe.

HRFE is Canada's oldest fire department, serving more than 500,000 residents with 51 stations and over 1,000 career and volunteer firefighters.

Chief Rizzi has been recognized nationally for her contributions to public service and holds advanced degrees in disaster and emergency management, along with executive training from leading business schools.

We look forward to welcoming her to the municipality later this summer. For the full news release and biography of the new chief, visit our website.

SUMMER SEASON AT OUTDOOR POOLS AND SPLASH PADS

Summer has arrived! Many outdoor pools and splash pads around the municipality are now open. For the month of July, splash pads will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Summer memberships for the Bedford and Cole Harbour outdoor pools are also now available for purchase at the LeBrun Recreation Centre

and Cole Harbour Place, respectively.

For more information on this and other summer fun, visit our website.

NEW AND PROPOSED EXPANSION OF PROTECTED LANDS

The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change has recently announced the expansion of several protected areas across the province, including additions within the Halifax Regional Municipality.

These areas include an expanded 7 hectares at the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area and an expansion of 41 hectares at the Toadfish Lakes Wilderness Area.

In addition, the Province has launched public consultation on several proposed new protected areas and expansions to existing sites, including four locations within the municipality:

- Proposed Herring Cove Backlands Wilderness Area
- Expansion of Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area
- Expansion of Tangier Grand Lake Wilderness Area
- Expansion of Sackville River Wilderness Area

Public consultation is open until July 28 and feedback can be provided through the Provincial Protected Areas website.

AFFORDABLE ACCESS TRANSIT ENROLMENT

The Affordable Access Transit Pass program is now accepting applications. The Affordable Access Transit Pass allows approved applicants to purchase adult Halifax Transit monthly passes for 50 per cent off the regular price for one year.

Starting with the 2026/27 program year, eligibility will include a household income of less than $59,000.

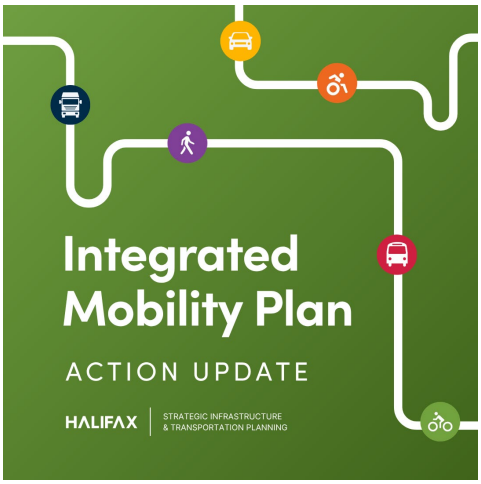
If approved, you can choose to buy your monthly pass:

• in person at a municipal Customer Service Centre, or
• on HFXGO, Halifax Transit's mobile fare payment app

Applications are now open and will continue to be accepted all year.

This program is part of the Affordable Access Program. To learn more about this and other supports, visit halifax.ca/affordableaccess.

INTEGRATED MOBILITY PLAN – 2026 ACTION PLAN UPDATE



TheHalifax Regional Municipality has updated its Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) to better respond to the transportation challenges our fast-growing city is facing.

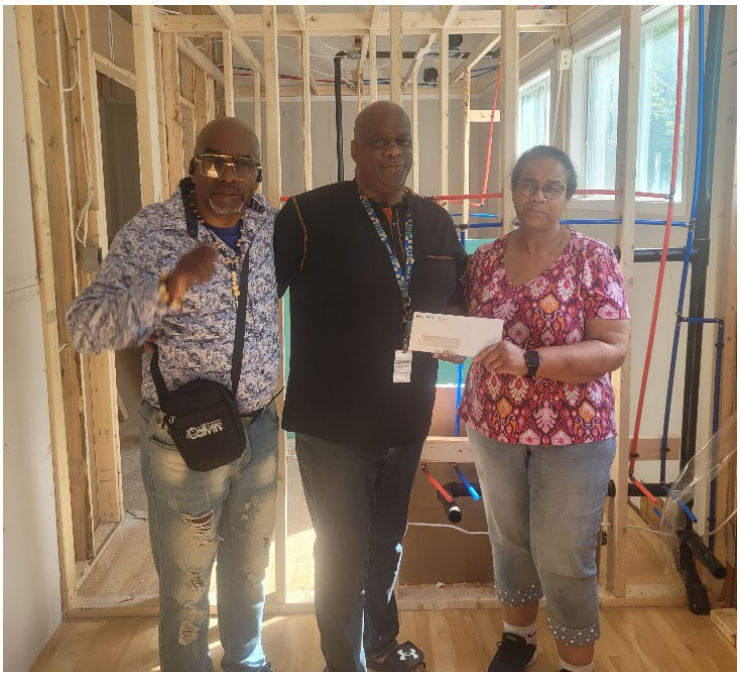
The IMP is a nationally recognized roadmap that guides how we build safe, healthy, connected, and affordable ways for people to move around Halifax. It focuses on moving people—not just vehicles—and supports the creation of livable, complete communities.

Originally approved by Regional Council in 2017, the IMP has already seen major progress, with about 75 per cent of its original actions completed or incorporated into everyday municipal practice. The 2026 Action Update reflects this progress and aligns the plan with newer strategies, including HalifACT 2050, the Rapid Transit Strategy, and the realities of Halifax's significant population growth. The update also introduces a new fifth pillar—Equity—to help guide decision-making and ensure mobility improvements benefit all residents.

Key themes in the updated plan include expanding transit priority and preparing for future bus rapid transit, completing the all-ages-and-abilities bike network, filling critical sidewalk gaps, using technology to improve traffic flow, strengthening data and monitoring, and collaborating with regional partners on shared priorities.

Learn more about the IMP and the 2026 Action Update.

IN THE COMMUNITY



June 2026 LUBC Church Renovation Cheque Presentation

COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG

I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council

- Northwest Community Council
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Active Transportation Standing Committee
- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
- African Descent Advisory Committee

I encourage you to reach out to 3-1-1 or me at any time with municipal questions or concerns.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

"Words to Live By"

(Focus on the root cause rather than its outcome)

"Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped.""

African Proverb