



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

## Winter Operations

Last winter we saw above average snowfall, colder than normal temperatures, flash-freezing, multiple-day storms, freezing rain and drifting snow that seriously hampered snow and ice management.

This year, we have invested in more staff, equipment such as graders, backhoes and sidewalk plows, vehicle tracking technology and have made changes to our contractor service areas to stabilize expenditures and improve operations. With more equipment and a smaller area to clear, our crews should be better positioned to improve service delivery in District 10. For more information on the improvements we have made to our services, check out our PSA [here](#).

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the service standards for your area. If your street or sidewalk is not cleared within the designated service standard or if other issues arise with snow clearing, let us know by getting in touch with our Citizen Contact Centres. You can dial 311 or send them an [email](#). Residents are reminded that if they contact 311 about snow removal during a weather event or while we are within the timelines identified in the service standards, their concern will be recorded but not dispatched.

## Winter Parking Ban

Don't forget – it's Winter Parking Ban season. Make sure you have the latest information about the parking ban by signing up to [receive notifications](#) or by checking our [Winter Operations Website](#). Parking can be a huge obstacle for snow clearing, so we are stepping up our efforts with enforcement by ticketing and towing vehicles that don't comply.



## Canadian Tire National Skating Championships

Halifax will play host to the 2016 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships January 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Check out events featuring men's, women's, pair, and ice dance disciplines. This is an excellent opportunity to see some of the best ice skaters in Canada compete! Tickets are available [online](#), by phone at 1-877-425-1221 or at the Scotiabank Centre box office.



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## 2016-17 Budget Deliberations

Regional Council will be reviewing the 2016-17 departmental budgets in a series of Committee of the Whole meetings where each department will be presenting their budgets and plans to Council for their review.

You can have your say on the 2016-17 budget too. Residents are encouraged to attend the meetings and will have the opportunity to provide comments for up to five minutes to Council and staff. You can also tune into the [live stream](#) to watch the proceeding from home or share your ideas with the [Clerks office](#) prior to the sessions. Proceedings begin at 9:30 a.m.

Date	Presenting Department	Date	Presenting Department
13 January 2016	Administration Services Bundle and Auditor General	03 February	Fiscal and Consolidated Accounts
20 January 2016	Halifax Regional Police, Fire & Emergency and Planning and Development	08 March 2016	Full Budget Review
27 January 2016	Transportation and Public Works, Operations Support	22 March 2016	Follow Up Date (if necessary)

## HRM Events Grants

The Halifax Regional Municipality is offering event grants, available for functions that build community, support culture or develop the local economy and tourism industry. More detailed information on the new grant programs can be found [online](#). If you have any questions, you can contact Paul Forrest through [email](#) or at 902-490-6979. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 p.m.

## Heating Assistance Rebate Program

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) provides help to lower-income Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating.

If you pay a heating bill at your current address and meet ONE of the following criteria: live alone with an income of \$27,000 or less; live with others and have a combined income of \$42,000 or less; receive Income Assistance from the Department of Community Services; or, receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement from Service Canada you could qualify for this program.

Please find the HARP 2015-16 application form [here](#). Applications must be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 to receive a rebate.



Open 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (except Christmas Day & New Year's Day)

## Skate Safe

There are many factors that affect ice thickness on our lakes and ponds, make sure you and your family are safe when you choose to go skating outdoors by checking our ice thickness reports and by educating yourself about safe ice conditions. More than 80 lakes are tested by Parks and Recreation staff and are updated weekly [online](#). You can learn more about checking for proper ice thickness by reading this [Red Cross Article](#).

If the lakes in your area aren't ready for skating, why not check out the Emera Oval. The Oval hosts free public skates every day for skaters of all ages. Check out their [online schedule](#) or call 902-490-2347.





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### Hydrant and Catch Basin Map

Quick transitions from snow to ice to rain mean flooding can be an issue over the winter months. If you are able, familiarize yourself with the storm drains in your area now and work with your neighbours to help clear them during snow and ice events.

You can find nearby catch basins as well as fire hydrants by checking out Halifax Water’s new Hydrant and Catch Basin App. The App features a map where you can enter your address and it will show nearby infrastructure. Find out more information on their [website](#).

### Community Grants Program

The Community Grants Program provides project and capital grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities throughout the Municipality. The 2016 Community Grants Program is now open for applications and the deadline to submit is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. You can find the guidebook and application form [online](#), or contact staff for further information at 902-490-7310

### Centre Plan Consultation

The Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to be initiating the next phase of the Centre Plan public consultation process.

The objective of the Centre Plan is to consolidate existing municipal planning strategies and land use by-laws for the Regional Centre into one combined policy and by-law set. These new policies will protect the scale and character of existing neighbourhoods while removing existing barriers to well-designed and appropriately scaled development.

Residents are now invited to engage in this phase of the process by visiting [Shape Your City](#) where you can review the project background and research material, provide feedback through questions and answers and comment in the discussion forums section of the site.

### Halifax and West Community Council

The Halifax and West Community Council meets monthly to discuss issues that directly affect your community. If you would like to get involved in this process, we always welcome public participation and would love to hear from you. Join us at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers for any of the following meetings to get involved. The 2016 meeting schedule has been approved and is listed below:

- January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016
- March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

You can confirm meeting times, agendas and location by checking out our [website](#).

### Contact

Russell Walker, Councillor  
District 10 – Halifax - Bedford Basin West  
P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5  
Phone: 902-497-7215  
Email: [russell.walker@halifax.ca](mailto:russell.walker@halifax.ca)  
HRM website: [halifax.ca/District10/index.php](http://halifax.ca/District10/index.php)



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