

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

Changes to Solid Waste Collection Coming August 1st



Halifax has become a global leader in solid waste management but there is still room for improvement. Waste audits conducted in 2013 found that over 30% of items in

residential garbage bags arriving at the landfill should have been composted or recycled. Upcoming changes to residential waste collection will have a significant, positive impact on the environment and reduce what is sent to the landfill. In an effort to divert recyclable and organic material from the landfill, the following changes will be implemented as of August 1, 2015:

- Clear bags are required for garbage. One dark privacy bag is allowed each collection.
- Excess leaf and yard waste must be in kraft paper bags. Plastic bags will not be accepted.
- Boxboard will now go in the paper recycling. It can still be used to contain wet food scraps in the green cart.

- Grass clippings will no longer be collected curbside. Residents should backyard compost their clippings or “grasscycle”.

Non-compliant bags will be tagged with a rejection sticker and residents will be responsible for properly sorting and bagging the waste for their next collection day.

Clear bag programs in other municipalities have resulted in decreased amounts of recyclable and organic material being sent to the landfill. Recycling more of our waste material will reduce the amount of taxpayers’ dollars required to construct new landfill cells, as well as foster conservation and public stewardship of the solid waste program.

The Solid Waste Division has education staff available to speak with residents, review their current waste management practices and provide advice on how to follow the new rules. Call 311 or [email them](#) to arrange a session or find more information [online](#).



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Grass-Cycling

As of August 1, 2015 grass clippings will no longer be accepted at the curb as part of organics collection.

Composting grass clippings contributes to the production of leachate and increased costs. Grasscycling is a great alternative to composting your grass – not only does it return important nutrients to the lawn, it saves time, energy and money otherwise spent on bagging.

By leaving clippings on the lawn, valuable nutrients (nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus) are returned to the soil, reducing fertilizer requirements.

- Raise the wheels on your mower so the clippings are shorter and will fall and absorb into the soil easier. Though it can require an extra pass or two after a heavy rain, there is no extra work to rake or bag. A mulch mower or mulching blade for a mower can also assist in managing grass clippings, but is not required.
- When increased precipitation spurs growth, you will have to raise the wheels on your mower – or mow your lawn more frequently – so the clippings don't get too long. Typically during summer months, mowing once a week should be enough.

Grass clippings can also be used as mulch under bushes and in vegetable and flower gardens or in your backyard composter. For more information, see our [website](#).

Natal Day 2015



Celebrate our heritage with the Bell Aliant Natal Day Festival from June 30th – August 3rd.

To commemorate our 120th Natal Day, there will be live shows, tournaments, fitness, family activities, a parade, fireworks and much more.

Check out the [full schedule](#) - there is something for everyone!

Billet Homes Needed



The Canadian Student Leadership Conference is being held at Halifax West this

September and billet homes are needed for out of province student delegates.

Students will be participating in community service initiatives, educational tours, an immigration simulation, entertainment, cultural moments, workshops and hearing from keynote speakers.

Billet homes would need to host at least two students, provide transportation to and from Halifax West and some meals.

For more details check out their [website](#).



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Fairview Community Association Barbeque and Fun Day



The Fairview Community Association will be hosting their free Barbeque and Fair on Saturday August 15th from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Titus Smith Memorial Park.

Bring the whole family to enjoy bouncy castles, face painting, games and much more!

Lacewood Transit Terminal



The new Lacewood Transit Terminal will officially open on August 24th, 2015. Located next

to Canada Games Centre on Lacewood Drive, the new terminal will have 12-14 individual bus bays, interior passenger waiting areas, a small retail space, public washrooms, bus shelters, bike racks and will be fully accessible.

Keep checking [Halifax Transit](#) for new schedule information.



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

Free Swimming Lesson Registration

Register for the last two sessions of free swimming lessons today! Session three begins on July 27th and the final session begins on August 10th. These free outdoor classes are available at all municipal beaches and the Halifax Common outdoor pool. To sign up, residents can call 902-490-6666, visit any municipally operated community recreation centre or visit page 84 of our [Summer Program Guide](#) to learn more.

LED Street Lights Coming Soon

The Municipality recently awarded the tender to design, supply, and install LED streetlights throughout the Municipality. Converting conventional streetlights to LED technology will provide the Municipality with significant operational savings due to their energy efficiency and reduced required maintenance. It is anticipated that LED maintenance will cost approximately 10% of existing maintenance on a per light basis. Lights will be replaced as necessary over the next 24 months. Call our citizen contact centre, 311, if you notice a light that needs to be replaced.

Road Construction Updates

Construction season is upon us. Plan your commute and get the most up to date information about upcoming construction projects across the municipality at the [HRM Media Room](#). You can also find out about upcoming Capital Projects in our district by checking out our [district map](#).



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Fairview Community Gathering



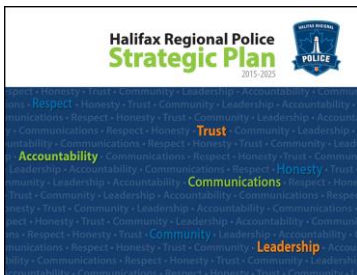
Action for Neighbourhood Change invites you to join in the discussion at a Fairview Community Gathering on September 19th,

2015 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Mosaic Church.

Discuss ideas and solutions to issues that matter to our community. Together, our diverse community can make our dreams for Fairview a reality. Lunch is provided.

Contact [Kendall O'Connor](#) to RSVP.

Police Strategic Plan



Halifax Regional Police (HRP) began the strategic planning process in May 2013.

They reached out to staff, community members and various

stakeholders to create their goals and strategies for the next 10 years. Last month, this Strategic Plan was presented to the Board of Police Commissioners and the Halifax and West Community Council.

Our Halifax Regional Police are committed to work with all stakeholders to make ongoing and meaningful contributions to the well-being and safety of our communities.

To view the full plan, see their [website](#).

R.E.C. Van brings Recreation to Residents

A new municipal mobile recreation centre has been travelling through the municipality this summer, bringing free sports and outdoor activities to residents of all ages.

The R.E.C. Van is stacked with equipment for more than 50 different activities and sports, including baseball, basketball, soccer, washer toss, giant checkers, archery, skipping and much more!

The R.E.C. Van will spend the summer visiting public parks, municipal beaches, spray pads and playgrounds throughout the Halifax region to encourage physical activity and ensure more people have access to the equipment and support they need to be active, stay fit and have fun.

Check out the [schedule](#) to visit a R.E.C. Van site near you!

Contact

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