



COUNCILLOR MATT WHITMAN
DISTRICT 13 ONLINE NEWS
HAMMONDS PLAINS - ST. MARGARETS

WINTER OPERATIONS

Last winter was one of the worst in decades with above average snowfall, colder than normal temperatures, flash-freezing, multiple-day storms, freezing rain and drifting snow. This year, HRM have invested in more staff, equipment, vehicle tracking technology and have made changes to our contractor areas to stabilize expenditures and improve operations. 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. Our [Street Directory](#) tool can show you whether your street is serviced by the province, HRM or if it's a private road.

If your HRM maintained street 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 Centre. 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

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 please think before you park. We will be stepping up our efforts with enforcement by ticketing and towing vehicles that don't comply.

HAMMONDS PLAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

The [Hammonds Plains Historical Society](#) is committed to documenting and sharing the rich history of Hammonds Plains.

They will be holding an open house on Sunday February 7th at the [Hammonds Plains Community Center](#) from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. to showcase displays about the history of the Hammonds Plains area. Drop in next weekend to view the exhibits and enjoy a traditional dessert.



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CAREER FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT

Our Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) Firefighters are committed to servicing our communities and keeping residents safe.

If you think you have what it takes to be a member or this highly skilled professional team, check out the HRFE [website](#). The HRFE is now accepting applications for permanent full time career firefighters.

Our career firefighters are responsible for firefighting, rescue, emergency medical, and other related services. The firefighter also participates in fire prevention and public safety education programs.

Apply [online](#) by January 30th to get started. Applicants who meet the required criteria will have to submit to an aptitude test, physical abilities testing and panel interview before being added to the hiring pool.

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.

The deadline to submit an application is Friday, January 29th, at 12:00 p.m.

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.

2016-17 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

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

You can have your say on the 2016-17 budgets too. Residents are encouraged to attend the meetings and 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 preceding from home or share your ideas with the [Clerks office](#) prior to the sessions. Proceedings begin at 9:30 a.m. The remaining sessions are:

Date	Presenting Department
03 Feb 2016	Fiscal and Consolidated Accounts
08 March 2016	Full Budget Review

You can find previous presentations and discussion by checking out our meeting archives [here](#).

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Property Valuation Services Corporation annually assesses every property in Nova Scotia and will mail you your assessment this month.

If you have questions or concerns about your assessment, you can contact the PVSC at 902-720-7872 or submit an inquiry through their [website](#).

You have 31 days after your assessment has been mailed to make a formal appeal by mailing or faxing a written notice to Park Place Two, 238-A Brownlow Avenue, Suite 200, Dartmouth, NS, B3B 2B4 or Fax: 902-720-7873.



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AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Celebrate African Heritage Month with Halifax Public Libraries. African Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the extraordinary culture and heritage of African Nova Scotians.

The Halifax Public Libraries are celebrating with special guests, art, music and discussion of social issues. Check out some of the events near you to get involved and learn something new this month:

Rhythms of Burundi

Saturday February 6th, 2:30 p.m.

Tantallon Public Library

Super Saturdays African Heritage Month Read-In

Saturday February 20th, 10:30a.m.

Tantallon Public Library

Storytime – African Animals

Friday February 26th, 11:00 a.m.

J.D. Shatford Memorial Public Library

Capoeira Demonstration from Dende Do Recife

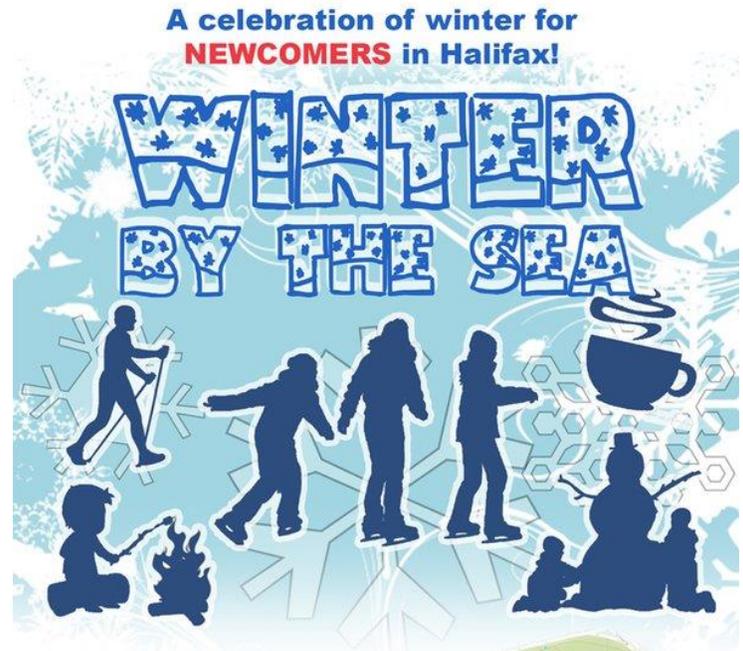
Saturday February 27th, 2:30

Tantallon Public Library

Opening night ceremonies will be held at the [Halifax North Memorial Library](#) on January 28th at 7:00 p.m. featuring musical entertainment and special community guests. Check out their [website](#) for more details and a full list of events.



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



FREE EVENT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30th, 1-4pm

Meet at the small brick building across the street from the Emera Oval at 5816 Cogswell Street.

82, 6, 20, 7, 42, 80, 81

Event Information / Cancellation
ISANS (902) 423-3607



COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Community Grants Program provides project and capital grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Municipality.

The 2016 Community Grants Program opened for applications on Monday, January 4th, 2016 and the deadline to submit is March 31st, 2016.

You can find the guidebook and application form [online](#), or contact staff for further information at 902.490.7310



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ELECTRONICS RECYCLING NOW AVAILABLE AT YOUTH LIVE DEPOT

The Youth Live Enviro Depot is now accepting electronics recycling.

Youth Live is a program for youth age 16 – 24 who have barriers to employment. The program provides opportunities to develop life and job skills through learning sessions and by assisting with business operations at the enviro depot.

Drop by 947 Mitchell Street Monday – Saturday 9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or check out their [website](#) for more details.

THE ORDER OF NOVA SCOTIA

The Order of Nova Scotia is awarded annually to individuals who have made an impact with outstanding contributions to fields such as academics, culture, leadership, human rights, industry, justice, entrepreneurship and Sports. It is the highest honour of the Province of Nova Scotia.

The province is now asking for submissions for the 2016 Order of Nova Scotia program. Please go to the [Protocol Office website](#) to download a [nomination form](#). The closing date for submissions is Friday, March 18th, 2016.

FUNDRAISING DANCE

Support the [LeBlanc Taekwon Do](#) student trip by attending an adult dance (19+) at the Hammonds Plains Community Centre on Saturday February 13th.

Tickets are \$10 and a cash bar, photo booth and 50/50 tickets will be available. Musical entertainment will be provided by Mike Messervey.

SKATE SAFE

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. Parks and Recreation staff test more than 80 lakes each week. Updates can be found [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.

BRAIN WAR TEAMS

Registration is now open for the Discovery Centre's 2016 Brain War. The Brain War puts teams of four against each other in a series of intellectual challenges in categories like music, engineering, art, technology, science and mathematics. The Brain War will take place on Friday, February 19, 2016 at the Saint Mary's University McNally Theatre and Conference Hall from 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Check out their [website](#) for more details and to register your high school, university, or corporate team.

DEPUTY MAYOR MATT WHITMAN COUNCILLOR DISTRICT 13 HAMMONDS PLAINS – ST. MARGARET'S

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