



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

## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

With the start of the school year, police ask that we all do our part to keep streets safe for students as they head back to the classroom. Motorists are asked to drive with caution and allow additional time to accommodate for the extra vehicle and pedestrian traffic that a school year brings.

The speed limit in school zones is reduced to 30 km/h in 50 km/h zones (50 km/h in higher speed zones) when children are present. By reducing your speed, you'll have more time to react and avoid an incident. Slower is safer, as children are sometimes distracted and may forget to watch for cars.

Remember, passing a school bus in either direction when the red lights are flashing not only puts people in danger, but is illegal and carries substantial fines.

HRP school officers and community officers, as well as the HRP/RCMP Integrated Traffic Unit, will be on patrol in school zones throughout the municipality during the month of September to educate motorists, enforce motor vehicle regulations and ensure a safe start to the school year. For more tips and information, see our [website](#).

## PROGRAM REGISTRATION



Fall program registration has begun!

Make sure to check out some of the great programs offered at your local recreation centre [here](#).

## “WHY DO YOU VOTE?” CONTEST

Tell us why you vote for a chance to win! Voter turnout in our last municipal election was below 40%. The Halifax Regional Municipality wants to remind us all why this civic right and duty is so important.

Residents are invited to submit videos and images sharing their thoughts on why they vote in municipal and school board elections. The contest began on Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup> and runs until Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>. We will do a random draw each week to select weekly prize winners and a grand prize draw will be announced on Monday October 17<sup>th</sup>. The grand prize winner will receive a tablet, and weekly prizes including event tickets, gift certificates, transit passes and other promotional items.

To submit your entry, participants must use “#halifaxvotesbecause” and “#contest” in a post via Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. All entrants must be 19 years or older and a resident of the Halifax Regional Municipality. For more details, visit our [website](#).



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### BURNING BANS

Forest Fire risk season runs from March 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> yearly. Before you light those backyard bonfires, make sure to check the burning restrictions for our area.

The province publishes a burning restrictions colour coded map every day at 2:00 p.m. [here](#). The HRFE can increase or add to these restrictions if necessary. Make sure you check their [Twitter](#) or our [Media Releases](#) for details about any additional restrictions that may be in effect.

### ELECTION PREPARATIONS

The next municipal election will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Make sure you are ready to have your say on who will represent you, making decisions about important issues like property taxes, snow removal, solid waste and development, by ensuring your information is up to date on our voters list.

You can search for your voter information [here](#). If you are not on the list, simply call 902.490.VOTE (8683) to update your information. Revisions to the voters list can be made until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>. You must be 18 years old and have resided in the province for at least six months immediately preceding the first advance polling day to vote.

Our Elections team is still looking for various Polling Location staff to assist voters on Election Day. If you are interested in getting involved check out our [Election Workers page](#).

I encourage each of you to take advantage of your right to vote this October. E-Voting will begin on October 4<sup>th</sup> and advance in-person voting begins on October 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information about the upcoming election, see our [website](#).

### ST. MARGARET'S BAY ROAD

#### CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that road construction on the St. Margaret's Bay Road will continue until the middle of October.

The work is taking place from Beech Tree Run to Lakeland Boulevard daily from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

During this work there will be lane drops in place. Motorists should expect delays in the area and are asked to use alternative routes whenever possible.

The municipality apologizes for any inconvenience this road work may cause.

### WELCOME BBQ



The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Welcome BBQ was postponed due to weather and will now be held on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to

2:00 pm at the South Commons in Halifax.

The Welcome Barbeque brings newcomers and current residents together for free family events with entertainment, games, music and food (while supplies last).

### DONATIONS FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES

The St. Margaret's Bay Refugee Project will be welcoming two more Syrian families into our community soon. They have secured rental units for these families but are requesting donations of 'gently used' or new furniture, toys and other household items. To donate, check out their [website wish list](#) and fill out a donation form.



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## FARES FOR FIREARMS

A new gun amnesty campaign is now underway in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Fares for Firearms will offer participants 50 Halifax Transit tickets in return for each firearm turned in during the two-week program from Sept. 12 to 23. If participants have no use for transit tickets, the municipality is encouraging them to re-distribute the tickets to those in need; a friend or family member, or a local community group.

Unregistered, unwanted and unsecured guns have the potential to cause serious harm or death. Fares for Firearms is a public awareness campaign being held to promote the opportunity for citizens to turn these weapons in. Every gun that is turned over to police for disposal can help to reduce such incidents. Residents can turn in firearms and ammunition to police at any time during the year. In 2015, 194 firearms were turned in to police for disposal within the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Program participants are directed to call 902-490-5020 to request firearm pick-up, and an officer will contact you to confirm details, as well as provide information on how to request the campaign incentive. For more information, see their [website](#).

## CURBSIDE GIVEAWAY

Free up some space and get some free stuff! HRM’s next Curbside Give Away Weekend will be October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The aim of the Curbside Giveaway event is to reduce the amount of garbage ending up in our landfill by diverting unwanted items to be re-used.

Simply place re-usable household items at the curb in front of your home on Friday evening with a “Free” sign. On Sunday evening, any unclaimed items should be removed from the curb. You can donate them to local charitable organizations or save them for your next waste pick up day.

Like us on [Facebook](#) for more reminders and events.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN DISTRICT 13

### Crossroad Artists Annual Art Show & Sale

Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> & Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Church 5374 St. Margarets Bay Rd.

### Hammonds Plains Historical Society General Meeting and Presentation “Barrels and Boxes – A glimpse into the past”

Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

Hammonds Plains Community Centre 2041 Hammonds Plains Rd.



Our 311 Call Centre is open 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (except Christmas Day & New Year’s Day). You can also email

your questions through the link [here](#).

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

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