WELCOME MAY !

April brought May flowers. The weather is getting warmer, and we are having longer days filled with sunshine! It's the perfect time to go out to enjoy all of the parks and trails within the municipality.

May 12 is Mother's Day. Thank you to all the moms, stepmoms, mother figures, and grandmothers for what you do every day. Being a mom is one of the hardest jobs and I hope you take a moment to acknowledge and appreciate the mother figures in your life.

Keep reading to learn more about the budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year, Asian Heritage Month, the 2024 Volunteer Awards and more.

If you have questions regarding a municipal program or service, please contact me at 902.579.7164 or by email at Lisa.Blackburn@halifax.ca.

MAY MEETING DATES

Regional Council:
Tuesday, May 7 at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 21 at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 28 at 10 a.m.- if required

North West Community Council
Monday, May 27 at 7 p.m.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change, please confirm on our municipal website.

D14 COMMUNITY MEETING

Join myself and District 13 Councillor Pam Lovelace for a community meeting on Tuesday May 14 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Wallace Lucas Community Centre located at **596 Lucasville Road, Lucasville.** We will be discussing the HRM Councillor position and how to get involved in municipal politics.

MAY IS ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Did you know that it has been 54 years since May was declared Asian Heritage Month? This month provides an opportunity to learn about the history, traditions, and achievements of Asian communities and to appreciate their significant impact on Canadian society.

There are many ways to celebrate Asian Heritage Month, such as:

- Learning about the diverse cultures and histories of Asian Canadians through books, documentaries, and online resources.
- Attending virtual events, festivals, and exhibitions that showcase Asian Canadian art, music, dance, and food.
- Supporting local Asian Canadian businesses and organizations.
- Engaging in meaningful conversations with friends and family about the importance of diversity and inclusion in Canadian society.

By celebrating Asian Heritage Month, we can deepen our understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity that makes Canada a unique and vibrant country.

Stay tuned for more updates on events taking place across the municipality to celebrate Asian Heritage Month on our website.

NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The North West Community Council (NWCC) reviewed the following matter at their April 15 meeting:

PLANAPP 2023-00382: Development Agreement for 1562 Sackville Drive, Middle Sackville (former Case 24327)
WM Fares Architects applied, on behalf of YGE Investments Inc., for a development agreement to allow a six-storey residential building with 98 units at 1562 Sackville Drive in Middle Sackville. NWCC gave first reading for the proposed development agreement. Public hearing scheduled for May 27.

For information on upcoming meetings, or past meetings, click here.

MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN DAY

Moose Hide Campaign Day is on May 16, and is a day of ceremony where all Canadians are called to join together to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for our collective journey of reconciliation. It is an Indigenous-led grassroots movement of men, boys and all Canadians - standing up to end violence against women and children.

You can join the Halifax walk on May 16 starting at noon. The walk will be starting at Peace and Friendship Park in front of the Westin Hotel on Hollis Street. Walking along Barrington Street. What started 11 years ago with a small gathering of men and boys intent on raising awareness of the crisis of violence against Indigenous woman and children, has now become a national ceremony inviting all Canadians to join together to end violence against all women and children. More information can be found by visiting their website.

INTERNATION DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia is recognized annually on May 17 as it was on this day in 1990 that homosexuality was declassified as a mental disorder by the World Health Organization.

Everyone has the right to be wholly themselves and we all share a responsibility to actively promote equity, diversity and inclusion and to stand against the prejudice, discrimination, stigma, hostility and violence experienced by the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

For more information, visit this website.

POTHOLES

HRM crews monitor for potholes on our roads year-round, but it's also important for residents to report potholes so that crews are aware of them and can work on getting them fixed.

Q: How do I report potholes?
A: On municipal roads, please call 311 or email contactus@311.halifax.ca. You can also fill out this online form here.

However, even within the municipality the province is responsible for 100-series highways (and ramps/overpasses associated with these highways). On provincially owned roads, please contact the TIR Operations Contact Centre (OCC): tir-occ@novascotia.ca or call 1-844-696-7737

Q: What if my vehicle is damaged by a pothole?
A: If a vehicle is damaged by a pothole, it would first be important for the driver to determine who is responsible for the stretch of road the pothole is located on. You can do this by calling 311, or by searching our interactive map.

For example: the province is responsible for highways, many rural roads, and highway on-ramps; the municipality is responsible for streets in the urban core.

If your road is managed by the province, call 511 for further details. If the municipality manages your road, it is advised the driver call 311 to begin the claim process. The claim process begins when residents call 311 to report an incident.

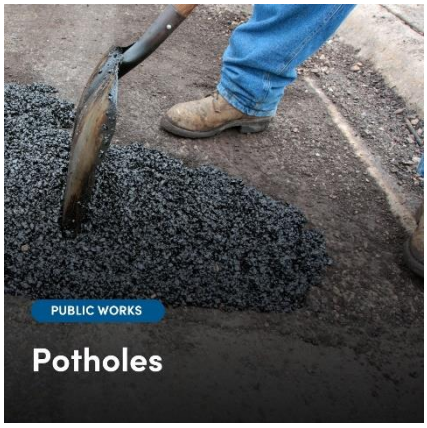
Once the 311 call is logged, the appropriate business units are notified and staff will connect in a timely manner (typically within 10 business days) to carry on the process.

Q: How long will it take to repair potholes?
A: The time to fix a pothole can range anywhere from 7 business days to 30 business days depending on the pothole and if it is considered a priority. Crews aim to repair priority potholes on main arterial and major collector roads within 7 business days.

Q: How does the municipality decide which potholes are a priority?
Pothole priorities are determined by width and size. Priority 1 potholes are at least 25 centimeters in diameter and 8 centimeters in depth. All other potholes are considered Priority 2.

Priority 1 potholes will be addressed before Priority 2 potholes. In some circumstances, this might mean one pothole is addressed on your street before another pothole. This is done to ensure the more serious potholes throughout municipal roadways are addressed as soon as possible with service standards.

For more information, please visit our website.



NOVA SCOTIA WALK DAY

Nova Scotia walk day is a chance to celebrate walking and how it connects us to our communities and to each other! Visit Hike Nova Scotia's website to find the list of walks happening across our province on May 8.

The NSWalks team welcomes community organizations, workplaces, or schools to join in and host a group walk any time on May 8. They will provide hosts a poster to help promote your walk, a host package & prize draw!

Visit the NSWalks Join a Walking Group page by clicking HERE!

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Mental Health Week, which runs from May 6 to 10, is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of mental health for Canadians. Mental health is an essential part of overall health and well-being, and it is crucial to take care of our mental health just as we take care of our physical health.

In Canada, mental health issues affect a significant number of individuals, with 1 in 5 Canadians experiencing a mental health problem or illness each year.

Taking care of our mental health involves adopting healthy habits such as practicing mindfulness, staying physically active, connecting with others, and seeking help when needed. It is also essential to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and to promote understanding and empathy towards those who are struggling.

During Mental Health Week, Canadians are encouraged to prioritize their mental health and to seek support if needed. By doing so, we can promote a healthier and more resilient society.

The Canadian Mental Health Association has a great list of resources on Mental Health. Check them out by downloading one of their helpful and informative toolkits on their website.

NEW POET LAUREATE- ANNA QUON

The municipality is pleased to announce that Anna Quon has been named the municipality's ninth poet laureate.

The municipal poet laureate is a resident poet, storyteller or spoken word artist who has achieved excellence among their peers and whose work demonstrates connection with and relevance to the municipality's citizens. Anna will serve as the municipality's poet laureate until 2027.

Learn more here.

2024/2025 BUDGET APPROVAL

The annual municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing the growing region – including municipal operations, Regional Council-approved priority initiatives and investments to purchase, construct and rehabilitate municipal assets.

The 2024/25 municipal budget includes an operating budget of $1.04 billion and a capital budget of $306.5 million.

Below are select highlights from the 2024/25 municipal budget, grouped in Regional Council-approved priorities from the Strategic Priorities Plan 2021-25.

Communities

- $2 million for a 24/7 fire station conversion in Hammonds Plains
- Funding for 22 new Halifax Regional Police positions and six new Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers
- $2.3 million in continued Community Safety programs and new positions
- Funding for 10 new crossing guard positions

Prosperous Economy

- $7.5 million in budgeted tax relief for non-profit and charitable organizations

Environment

- $18.6 million for capital projects as part of *HalifACT: Acting on Climate Together*

Integrated Mobility

- $271 million for the Mill Cove Ferry Terminal project
- $2.4 million for funding of the *Integrated Mobility Plan*

The tax bill is the collection of all necessary levies – including the general property taxes, area charges and provincial contributions. For more information on how to read the tax bill, visit our website.

Effective the 2024/25 fiscal year, the municipality will no longer be required to collect and remit taxes to the Province of Nova Scotia for Housing and Corrections. Previously, these charges were included in the “provincial rate” section of residents’ tax bill.

While this change has no effect on the municipality’s budget, it will lower the total tax bill – which includes the portion the municipality collects on the province’s behalf.

The average residential tax bill (including provincial contributions and mandatory tax) will increase by 6.3 per cent – or approximately $214. This is based on the average single family home assessment value of $323,300.

The municipal portion of the average residential tax bill is increasing by 8.2 per cent – or approximately $188. This is based on the average single family home assessment value of $323,300.

The residential tax rate will increase from 0.76 to 0.77.

For more information on the 2024/25 municipal budget, visit our website.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SESSIONS

Interested in running in the 2024 Municipal and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) Election? You're invited to attend an upcoming candidate information session.

The sessions will take place on the following dates:
- Wed. May 1 | 6 p.m. | Wallace Lucas Community Centre
- Mon. May 13 | 2 and 6 p.m. | Halifax Central Library
- Wed. May 29 | 6 p.m. | Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre
- Wed. June 5 | 6 p.m. | Virtual session on Zoom (register to elections@halifax.ca by June 4)
- Thu. June 20 | 2 and 6 p.m. | Dartmouth North Community Centre
- Wed. July 10 | 6 p.m. | Prospect Road Community Centre
- Mon. August 12 | 6 p.m. | Henry G. Bauld Centre

Learn more here.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Residents considering running in the 2024 Municipal and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) Election are invited to learn more about becoming a candidate.

Municipal government plays an important role in delivering essential services and addressing the unique needs of our community. By running for a position on Regional Council, you'll have the opportunity to lead, advocate for your community and contribute to the growth of the municipality.

The 2024 Municipal Election will take place on Saturday, Oct. 19.

All the information you need to know can be found on our website.

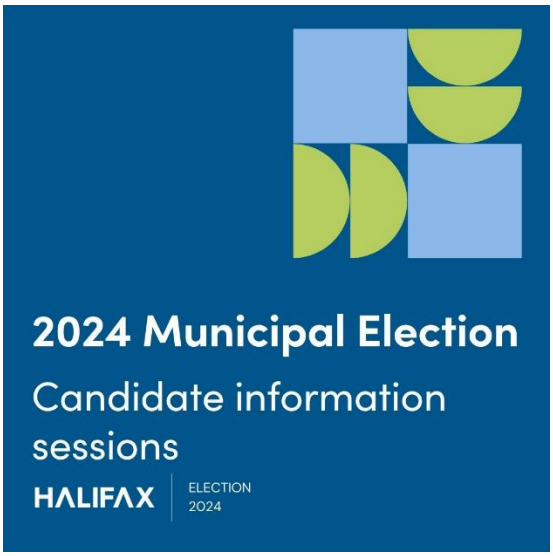
THE ELECTION OFFICE IS HIRING ELECTION OFFICERS

The Election Office is currently recruiting for eight full-time, temporary Election Area Officers!

Are you passionate about democracy and eager to play an important role in your community? Join the municipality's Election Office, where you'll have the opportunity to play a direct role in ensuring a fair, accessible and efficient 2024 Municipal and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) Election.

Read the job description and apply here.

More information about the upcoming election can be found by visiting our website.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Thanks to FX 101.9 and Pet Valu for hosting a pet food drive!

Attended the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force at 12 Wing Shearwater. My Dad served in the RCAF from 1961-1964 and joined me at the event.

Congratulations to Springfield Lake Rec Centre on the installation of the new digital sign !

Great to see Stacey Moore on Opening night of her new musical Meet Me at the Roxy!

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Provincial Representatives in District 14:

- **MLA Brad Johns** Sackville – Uniacke
  Unit 103, 1710 Sackville Drive
  Middle Sackville, NS B4E 3A9.
  Phone: 902-865-6467
  mlabradjohns@gmail.com

- **MLA Steve Craig** Sackville – Cobequid
  Unit 104, 445 Sackville Drive
  Lower Sackville, NS B4C 2S1.
  Phone: 902-864-6271
  Fax: 902-864-0483
  Steve.Craig@novascotia.ca

- **MLA Brian Wong** Waverley – Fall River – Beaver Bank
  Suite 101, 1265 Fall River Road
  Fall River, NS B2T 1E6.
  Phone: 902-576-3411
  Fax: 902-576-3413
  brianwongmla@gmail.com

- **MLA Ben Jessome** Hammonds Plains **–** Lucasville
  2120 Hammonds Plains Road, Unit 3
  Hammonds Plains, NS B4B 1P3
  Phone: 902-404-9900
  Fax: 902-404-8415
  jessomeben@gmail.com

Federal Representatives in District 14:

- **MP Darrell Samson** Sackville – Preston - Chezzetcook
  2900 Highway 2
  Suite 2nd Floor
  Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
  Telephone: 902-861-2311
  Fax: 902-861-4620

- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** Halifax West
  1496 Bedford Highway
  Suite 222
  Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1E5
  Telephone: 902-426-2217
  Fax: 902-426-8339

COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN

I currently serve on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council and the North West Community Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Board of Police Commissioners
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
- Executive Standing Committee
- Grants Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee
- North West Planning Advisory Committee

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. The municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement.