WELCOME JANUARY

Welcome to the January edition of the District 14 e-newsletter. As we step into 2026, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a year filled with health, happiness, and new opportunities.

This month's newsletter brings you updates on community initiatives, upcoming events, and important information to keep you connected and informed. Thank you for your continued engagement and support in making District 14 a vibrant and welcoming place for all.

Let's make this year one of collaboration and progress—together!

John

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JANUARY MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Northwest Community Council and Standing Committee meetings will be held on:

Regional Council:

- Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 10 a.m.

Budget Committee Meeting:

- Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 9:30 a.m.
- Friday, Jan. 30 at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

North West Community Council:

- Monday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Appeals Standing Committee

- Thursday, Jan. 15 at 10 a.m.

African Descent Advisory Committee

- Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. (virtual)

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

- Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 10 a.m.

DATES TO NOTE

January is Alzheimer's Awareness month

January 11 is Sir John A. MacDonald Day

January 21 is National Hugging Day

January 24 is International Day of Education

January 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day

VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year the Mayor and Halifax Regional Council recognize the warmth and generosity of volunteers with an awards ceremony celebrating the invaluable contributions of these individuals, who give their time and skills in our community.

Please consider nominating an outstanding youth or adult volunteer or a community group in your community for a volunteer award. Selected award recipients will receive their award from the Mayor and their Councillor during a ceremony and reception during April 2026.

This is your chance to nominate exceptional volunteers by filling out a nomination form at Volunteer Awards | Volunteering | Halifax to recognize an adult, youth or group.

Award nominations close Jan. 8.

HRM BUDGET 2026/27 - KEY DATES

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents of key dates for the 2026/27 municipal budget process.

The municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing a growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations, priority initiatives approved by Regional Council and capital investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace assets.

There are several key dates in the annual municipal budget process. Residents will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the budget process. During each week of meetings, time will be set aside for the public to provide comments and feedback.

Below are the key dates for the 2026/27 municipal budget process:

Jan. 27: Special evening public participation session (6 p.m., following Regional Council)

Jan. 28 & 30: Capital Plan Recommendation (Reserve Withdrawals, Multi-Year Projects)

Feb. 4-6: Operations Budget Presentations

- Major Projects Office
- Parks & Recreation
- Planning & Development
- Public Works
- Strategic Infrastructure & Transportation Planning
- Halifax Transit
- Property, Fleet & Environment

Feb. 11-13: Public Safety Budget Presentations

- Community Safety
- Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
- Halifax Regional Police
- RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment

Feb. 18-19: Corporate Services & Other Budget Presentations

- CAO's Office
- Finance & Asset Management
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Legal Services
- Auditor General
- Halifax Public Library
- Fiscal Services
- Mayor's Office

March 4 & 6: Budget Adjustment List debate

March 31: 2026/27 Municipal Budget and Business Plan approval

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

Residents will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the process. Pre-registration is required by 4:30 p.m. on the business day prior to the meeting. Virtual participation will also be available.

For meeting details and agendas, visit halifax.ca/city-hall.

For more information on the 2026/27 municipal budget process, visit halifax.ca/budget.

2026 – 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to introduce the *2026–2030 Strategic Plan.* This plan is the municipality's overarching guide for everything we do. It defines our purpose, articulates our vision, mission and values, and sets priorities that will shape projects, initiatives and service delivery over the next four years.

The Strategic Plan establishes five priority areas:

- **Enabling Prosperity** focuses on building inclusive, sustainable communities and a resilient economy.
- **Strengthening Communities** focuses on the quality of life of residents, and

promoting safety, belonging and the protection of the natural environment.

- **Moving Better** focuses on creating a transportation system that safely, reliably, and efficiently connects residents throughout the region.
- **Responsible Administration** focuses on delivering quality services through a commitment to fiscal responsibility, environmental sustainability, and community engagement.
- **Our People** focuses on making the organization a place where employees feel engaged, safe, and proud of their work.

Accompanying the Strategic Plan is the *Action Plan* that outlines the major projects and initiatives the municipality will undertake to achieve the goals identified in the Strategic Plan.

The plan was developed by Regional Council, municipal employees and strategic partners, and was informed by the 2024 Resident Survey and existing municipal plans and strategies.

To learn more and access resources, including the Strategic Plan video, full document and summary, click here.

MUNCIPALITY SUPPORTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Regional Council has approved a one-time grant of $150,000 through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) to support the purchase of a six-unit building to be used for affordable housing.

Dartmouth Non-profit Housing Society, under the business name Rooted: Community Development Partners a registered non-profit, is planning to acquire a six-unit building in Spryfield for use as affordable housing.

For more information, read the staff report.

HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND DRIVING PROGRESS

The municipality is making strong progress under the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), a federal program that supports faster housing development across Canada.

Since signing its agreement in October 2023, Halifax Regional Municipality has:

- Achieved 77.5 per cent of its three-year housing target and is expected to surpass the goal before October 2026.
- Completed 10 of 11 initiatives outlined in its HAF Action Plan.
- Received $39 million in funding so far, with another $19.8 million expected by late December 2025.

The federal program, administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, provides funding to municipalities that remove barriers and accelerate housing supply. The municipality's Action Plan sets a target of 15,467 new housing units over three years, an increase of more than 20 per cent compared to historical growth. This includes about 2,600 net new units over the life of the project.

The program runs until 2026 and rewards municipalities for meeting critical milestones. HRM's success means more housing options for residents and continued federal investment in the region.

For more information, read the information report.

HRFE APPLICATIONS OPENING

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) will accept applications for career firefighters from Jan. 6 - 20.

Becoming a firefighter with HRFE is serious commitment that requires unwavering dedication and extensive preparation at every stage of the recruitment process.

As a candidate, you will face rigorous evaluations designed to ensure you are physically and mentally prepared to tackle the challenges of this demanding profession. This process will test your resilience and determination, and it is essential to approach every aspect with seriousness and focus.

We seek individuals who demonstrate professionalism and integrity in all areas, as these qualities are crucial not only during training, but also in the field. Your commitment to these standards will set you apart as a candidate ready to serve and protect our community.

For full details see our website.

SLED SAFETY

Sled safely this winter. Remember – municipal parks aren't set up, inspected or maintained for sledding, and obstacles can be hiding beneath the snow. Sledding in parks is at your own risk.

No matter where you sled, be sure to wear a helmet and watch for hazards like trees, rocks, fences, benches, and play equipment.

RECREATION ACCESS PROGRAM

Effective this month, multi-district facilities (MDFs) will be included in the Recreation Access Program.

Previously, these facilities operated their own affordable access programs. MDFs now included in the program:

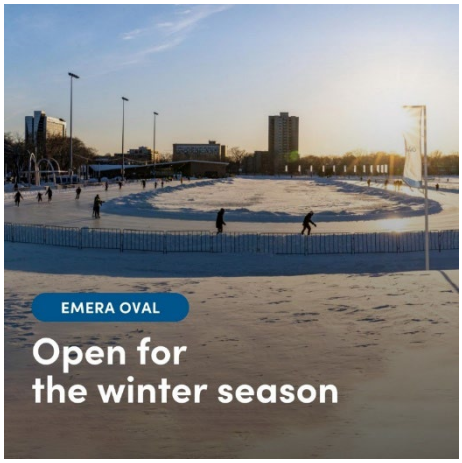
- Canada Games Centre
- Cole Harbour Place
- St. Margarets Centre
- Zatzman Sportsplex

Are you a member of one of these facilities looking for affordable access? Learn more and apply in 2026 at **halifax.ca/recreation-access**.

SNOW CLEARING

Snow clearing in our municipality is a big job and if stretched into a straight line, it would reach from Halifax to Winnipeg. Streets and sidewalks are prioritized based on commuter usage and access to key infrastructure. Learn more: halifax.ca/snow

OVAL OPENS FOR THE SEASON

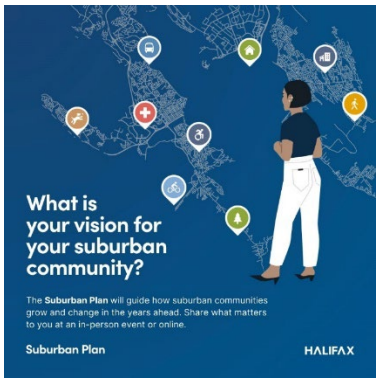


It's time! 🎶

The Emera Oval opened for the winter season on Monday, Dec. 15.

Check out **halifax.ca/EmeraOval** for daily programming schedules, last-minute weather cancellations, and planned event closure notices.

SUBURBAN PLAN



The Halifax Regional Municipality is developing a Suburban Plan, a new planning document that will guide growth and change in our suburban areas.

Residents will have opportunities to share their ideas and help influence the Suburban Plan throughout the planning process, including an initial online survey. Learn more and fill out the survey by visiting: engagehalifax.ca/suburban-plan.

The survey is open and will remain available until June 15, 2026.

Open houses:

Members of the public are invited to seven kick-off open houses to learn about the Suburban Planning process and provide initial feedback on key issues and opportunities.

The same information will be available in each session, but with opportunities to discuss the local community in more detail:

- **Cole Harbour, Dartmouth, Westphal and Lake Loon:** Monday, Jan. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Cole Harbour Place, 51 Forest Hills Parkway, Dartmouth
- **Eastern Passage:** Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Horizon Recreation Centre, 168 Redoubt Way, Eastern Passage
- **Bedford:** Monday, Jan. 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Royal Canadian Legion Branch 54 (Bedford Legion), 26 Dartmouth Road, Bedford
- **Clayton Park and Fairview:** Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Canada Games Centre, 26 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax
- **Spryfield, Herring Cove and Armdale:** Thursday, Jan. 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Captain William Spry Library, 16 Sussex Street, Halifax
- **Beechville, Lakeside and Timberlea:** Monday, Feb. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Lakeside Fire Hall, 26 Myra Road, Timberlea

- **Sackville and Beaver Bank:** Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m. | Sackville Sports Stadium, 409 Glendale Drive, Lower Sackville

Residents, businesses and community-based organizations will have opportunities to share feedback and ask questions at each phase of the planning process.

The goal of the suburban planning process is to update land use policies under one plan while respecting each community's unique history, characteristics and aspirations.

Questions about the Suburban Plan can be sent to suburbanplan@halifax.ca

Learn more about the project by visiting: halifax.ca/suburbanplan

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

After the holidays, an option for disposing of natural Christmas trees is to place them curbside. They will be picked up on your regular green cart collection day. Remove all plastic, tinsel, ornaments, metal rings, nails, stands and plastic tree bags.

Did you know? Some no profit groups actively seek out natural Christmas trees for repurposing, such as for animal feed. Consider this disposal option before putting your tree to the curb.

For more on how to manage your waste download the Halifax Recycles app or click here.

NEW REC PROGRAM PROPOSAL PROCESS

Looking for ways to share your talents and skills with your community? Recreation is now accepting applications for new program ideas from residents interested in leading their proposed classes.

Proposals are accepted year-round and reviewed regularly.

Learn more and apply here.

PARKING BAN

The overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from Dec. 15 until Mar. 31; however, it is only enforced during declared weather events and clearing operations. When the ban is enforced, it restricts any on-street parking between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Vehicles in violation of the ban will be ticketed and/or towed.

Remember to stay informed about the status of the parking ban and please think before you park.

WINTER GARBAGE COLLECTION

As the snow season approaches, please remember to place waste for curbside collection in a spot that won't interfere with sidewalk or road clearing. To help our crews keep pathways safe and accessible, place waste at the edge of your drive way, not on the sidewalk or road.

IN THE COMMUNITY

January 1, 2026 – New Years Day Levee at City Hall

January 4, 2026, Lucasville Cemetery Restoration Cheque Presentation to Debra Emmerson and Debra Lucas

COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG

I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council

- Northwest Community Council
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Active Transportation Standing Committee
- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
- African Descent Advisory Committee

I encourage you to reach out to 3-1-1 or me at any time with municipal questions or concerns.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

"Words to Live By"

Examine what is said,

Not who is speaking"

African Proverb