COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG
DISTRICT 14 NEWSLETTER
Hammonds Plains - Upper Hammonds Plains - Lucasville - Middle & Upper Sackville

WELCOME MARCH

As we move through the season, I'm pleased to share a few updates and highlights from around HRM. Our team continues to work closely with residents, community partners, and staff to support local initiatives, address ongoing concerns, and celebrate the many positive things happening in our neighbourhoods.

Thank you for staying connected and engaged—your input and involvement help strengthen our community every day.

John

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MARCH MEETING DATES

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

Budget Committee:
Wednesday, March 4 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, March 5 at 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 31 at 10 a.m.

Regional Council:
Tuesday, March 10 at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council:

Monday, March 9 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:
Appeals Standing Committee
- Thursday. March 10 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Wednesday, March 25 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee
- Wednesday, March 11 at 9:30 a.m.

North West Community Council:
- Monday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:
Appeals Standing Committee
- Thursday, Feb. 26 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m.

Executive Standing Committee
- Monday, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee
- Tuesday Feb. 3 (**meeting cancelled)**

DATES TO NOTE

Employee Appreciation Day - March 7
International Women's Day - March 8
National Day of Observance for COVID-19 – March 11
Commonwealth Day –
International Day to Combat Islamophobia - March 15
Transit Operator and Worker Appreciation Week - March 18 to 24
International Francophonie Day - March 20
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 21
International Transgender Day of Visibility – March 31
National Indigenous Languages Day – March 31

RAMADAN 2026

From Feb. 17 to Mar. 19, Muslim families across the municipality will be observing Ramadan, a month of fasting, communal prayer, reflection and community. Find out more about Ramadan here.

SUMMER RECREATION JOBS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is recruiting applicants for summer positions in aquatics, inclusion and recreation programming across the region.

These are ideal job opportunities for teenagers and students with wages ranging between $17.75 and $24.75 per hour.

Visit our website for more information on dates and locations, as well as a list of job openings.

MILL COVE PLANNING PROJECT

The Halifax Regional Municipality are looking at the Mill Cove land use planning project.

The future Mill Cove Ferry Terminal, along with a commitment to co-locate a new public library, present a unique opportunity to support the development of a mixed-use and transit-oriented community in the area.

Residents were asked to share their feedback last month through a survey or you can attend a community workshop to share your feedback. Check out our website for more details here.

WINTER OPERATIONS REMINDERS

We made it through another winter storm! For timely updates on winter operations and more information on service standards for road and sidewalk clearing in your area, please check out our website. Don't forget to sign up for alerts when the winter parking ban is being enforced, ensure your property and sidewalks are clear of any obstructions and stay safe!

HRM BUDGET 2026/27 - UPDATE

This month, Regional Council has reviewed each business unit's budget and business plan and provided feedback to shape the final 2026/27 municipal operating and capital budgets.

Members of Council had the opportunity to hear feedback from residents, ask questions of staff from each department and move any changes to the draft budget to the Budget Adjustment List (BAL) that will be debated beginning March 3.

Residents can attend any budget meeting to tune in to the debate. If you would like to provide your feedback on the budget, you can do so by pre-registering to speak during the public participation portion of the meeting. Residents must pre-register by 4:30 p.m. on the business day prior to the meeting or you can show up and elect to step forward when the chair calls for public participation. Virtual participation is also available.

For more the full schedule and more information on the 2026/27 municipal budget process, visit our website.

REPORTING POTHOLES

Our road operations crews are always on the lookout for potholes, but we also reply heavily on residents to report any problematic potholes and sinkholes so they can be assessed and fixed as soon as possible. To report a pothole in your area, just call 311 or you can report online. Depending on the location and depth of the pothole, the repair will be planned and prioritized. You can find out more about pothole repairs here.

MARCH IS FRANCOPHONE MONTH

March is Francophonie Month, celebrating the French language and diverse Francophone cultures through cultural activities held worldwide.

March 20 has been observed worldwide as International Francophonie Day since 1988. The date commemorates the establishment of the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, the precursor to the International Organization of La Francophonie, representing countries and regions where French is the first or customary language. Today, with 321 million speakers worldwide, French is the fifth most spoken language in the world.

Visit the Calendar of the local francophone network Hého to learn more about various events celebrating the rich and diverse Francophone cultures happening in Halifax.

PARKING BAN

The overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from Dec. 15 until Mar. 31; however, it is only enforced during 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.

INTERCHANGE PUBLIC ART GALLERY

The Halifax Regional Municipality and IOTA Studios are issuing an open call for expressions of interest to participate in the interCHANGE public art program within the newly redeveloped Cogswell District.

The installations include vinyl murals on the Granville Park Gallery Walkway, a banner program and vinyl wraps at the transit terminal shelters.

This is the 2nd year we will be hosting this temporary public art program. Artists must be based in Canada and will be required to provide a vector-based digital file of their artwork. The deadline is March 11, 11:59 p.m.

For more information on the types of projects, and artist fees and application process, visit their website.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Sunday, March 8 is the start of Daylight Saving Time, which begins at 2:00 A.M. Don't forget to "spring forward" and set the clocks one hour ahead!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8, we celebrate International Women's Day, honouring the achievements of women across social, economic, cultural and political aspects of life and advocating for gender equality.

This International Women's Day, celebrate the women and girls in your life and share their stories. You can learn more and find out how to get involved here.

CURBSIDE GARBAGE CANCELLATION

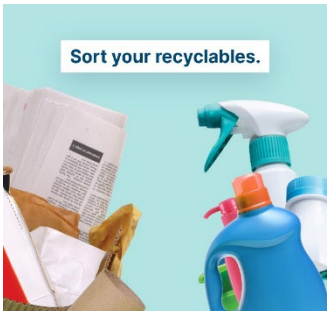
Hopefully the worst of our winter weather is behind us, but in the event of significant snow falls curbside waste collection can sometimes be affected. We aim to make cancellation decisions before 6 p.m. the evening prior so residents can be notified before placing material at the curb. Timing depends on projected snowfall accumulation and when the snowfall is expected to end. The forecast does not always provide a clear answer, and because we want to avoid cancelling service unnecessarily, the final decision sometimes must wait until the morning. In that case service alerts are sent through the app around 5:30 a.m. with social

media and website updates shortly thereafter. Usually cancelled collection days are rescheduled for the following Saturday.

During snow events, we encourage residents to delay placing material curbside until the morning. Early placement interferes with snow removal operations and often results in bags and carts being buried under snowbanks, regardless of whether collection proceeds.

Information for residents on how to manage excess waste, relaxed limits and schedule info is being shared on the Halifax Recycles app, Halifax Recycles Facebook page and on our website.

RECYCLING 101 BOOTHS

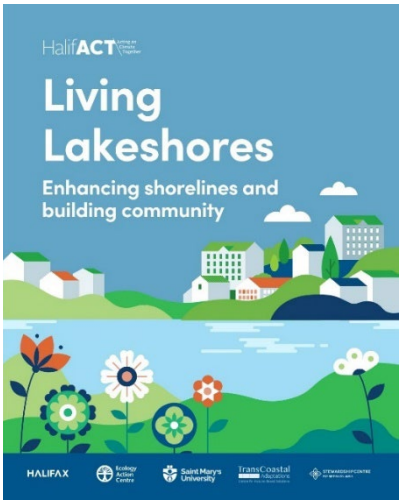


Learn more about new recycling rules by popping by one of HRM Solid Waste's Recycling 101 Booths.

On December 1, the provincial Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging, Paper Products and Packaging Like Products Regulations came into effect, meaning you'll be able to recycle more materials than ever before.

Find a booth near you and more information about these changes on our website.

LIVING LAKESHORES



The Living Lakeshores project aims to increase the resilience of freshwater shorelines and build community understanding of natural restoration approaches in sensitive ecosystems by working with community and partners to restore selected shorelines in municipal parks and offer free Green Shores® training.

The 2026 program will focus on Kinsmen First Lake Beach in Sackville and Lake Echo Beach. Residents are welcome to attend public information meetings about these projects and learn more about Living Lakeshores. These meetings are open to all and do not require you to register in advance.

Kinsmen First Lake Beach
March 7, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Sackawa Canoe Club, 159 First Lake Dr.

Naturalization improves lake health, reduces erosion, enhances biodiversity and increases climate resilience, helping us avoid costly infrastructure repairs.

Visit our website for more information.

2026 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting applications for the 2026 Community Grants Program.

The Community Grants Program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the region. The program ensures organizations across the municipality have equal opportunities to seek funding for projects that help make their community a great place to live and work for all residents.

There are two types of grants available: a project grant of up to $5,000 and a capital grant of up to $25,000. Funding is available for projects in the following categories:

- Community arts
- Diversity and accessibility
- Environment and climate change
- Emergency assistance and public safety
- Community histories
- Leisure
- Recreation

Applicants are encouraged to review the Program Guidebook before applying. First-time applicants should contact staff for guidance prior to submission. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

For more information, including how to apply, visit our website.

GREEN NETWORK PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

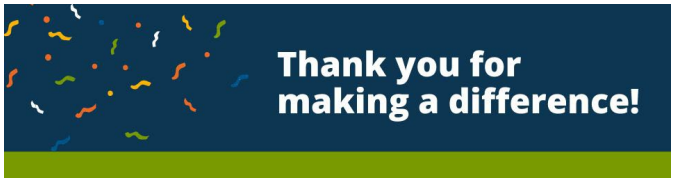
The municipality is continuing to implement the Green Network Plan, land management and community design direction to protect ecologically and culturally important lands, promotes sustainable use of open spaces and guides the planning of parks and green corridors across the region.

At the Tuesday, Feb. 10 meeting, Regional Council received an information report on progress implementing the Halifax Green Network Plan, the municipality's strategy for open space.

Implementation to date has focused on integrating the plan into municipal programs and projects, with actions at varying stages of completion. Next steps include adopting a program charter to guide governance and progress tracking, developing detailed workplans and success measures for each objective, evaluating the impacts of implementation to date and establishing a timetable for future plan review.

For more information, read the information report.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATIOUN DAY



The Halifax Regional Municipality employs over 5,000 employees, including full-time, part-time, casual, student, and seasonal workers.

On March 6, we celebrate Employee Appreciation Day, a day dedicated to recognizing and expressing gratitude for the hard work, dedication, and contributions of our employees!

Thank you to those serving our municipality - your hard work to make our communities thrive and a better place to live, work and play does not go unnoticed!

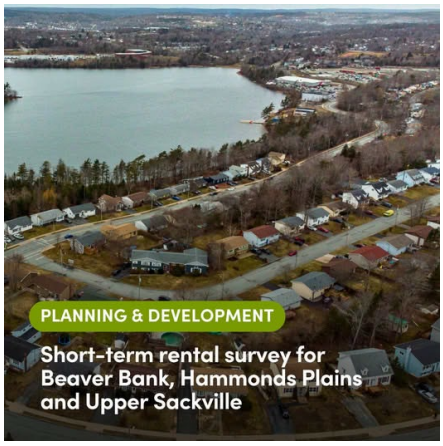
TRANSIT CORE SERVICE PLAN

At the Feb. 9 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, Halifax Transit presented their new Strategic Roadmap and Core Service Plan.

As ridership is increasing across our transit network, especially in developing communities and in suburban communities, Transit is working to meet the needs of our growing community. The Core Service Plan aims to invest in increasing service where ridership demand exceeds service levels, a more reliable network and strategically supporting growth.

The report will now go to Regional Council for review and approval. You can find details here.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL SURVEY



If you live or own property in Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Upper Sackville, the Halifax Regional Municipality is looking to collect feedback on short-term rental regulations from community members. Complete a short online survey by March 13 to provide your feedback.

Learn more about rural short term rental amendments by visiting our website.

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 driveway, not on the sidewalk or road.

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"

"He who does not know one thing knows another."
(Never Stop Learning)

African Proverb