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

WELCOME MAY

Welcome to the District 14 May e-newsletter.

As spring arrives across our community, it brings new energy, fresh beginnings, and more opportunities to connect. Longer days and warmer weather are drawing neighbours together—at local events, in parks, and through community initiatives that strengthen our shared sense of belonging. This season is a reminder of how much we value coming together and caring for the places we call home.

Thank you for being part of our District 14 community. Your involvement and care help make our neighbourhoods welcoming, vibrant, and connected. I look forward to continuing to work together in the months ahead.

John

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MAY MEETING DATES

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

Regional Council:
Tuesday, May 12 at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 26 at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council:
Monday, May 11 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:
Appeals Standing Committee

- Thursday, May 14 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday, May 20 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

- Wednesday, May 13 at 9:30 a.m.

DATES TO NOTE

May 10 is Mother's Day
May 12 is International Nurses Day
May 15 is International Day of Families
May 15 is International Climate Protection Day
May 16 is World Fiddle Day
May 17 is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia
May 18 is International AIDS Memorial Day
May 18 is Victoria Day
May 20 is World Bee Day
May 20 is Bike to Work Day
May 24 is Bike Day
May 24 is World Schizophrenia Day
May 28 is World Hunger Day
May 29 is International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
May 30 is World MS Day
May 31 National Accessibility Week starts

ASIAN HERTIGAGE MONTH

May is Asian Heritage Month, a time to honour the rich history, cultures, and contributions of Asian communities in Canada. It's an opportunity to learn, reflect, and celebrate the diversity that strengthens our country.

You can take part by:

- Exploring books, films, and stories that highlight Asian Canadian experiences
- Attending local or virtual events, exhibitions, and cultural festivals
- Supporting Asian-owned businesses in our community

- Starting conversations about the importance of inclusion and cultural understanding

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

WILDFIRE SEASON

Wildfire season runs from March 15 to Oct. 15. While burning restrictions are in effect year-round, additional restrictions are in effect during wildfire season. Always check our Before You Burn website before starting a fire.

If burning is permitted, follow these safety guidelines:

- Never leave your fire unattended - unattended fires can spread quickly and become dangerous.
- Completely extinguish your fire - douse it with water, stir the ashes and repeat until everything is cool to the touch.

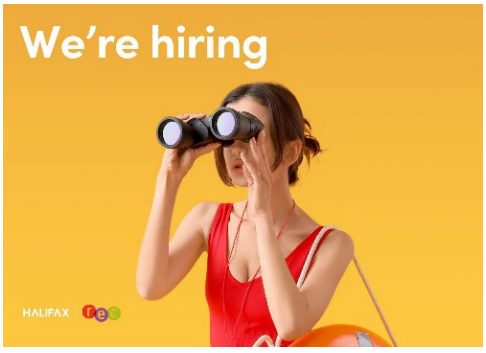
Residents can voluntarily register to receive a wildfire risk assessment for their property using the FireSmart standard. FireSmart is a program that helps people reduce wildfire risk by making homes and neighbourhoods less likely to catch fire from embers. It focuses on straightforward actions like basic home improvements, keeping buildings and yards free of combustible debris and managing nearby vegetation so fires are less likely to spread. To learn more about a FireSmart assessment, visit our website.

For more information about wildfire safety, 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.

SUMMER RECREATION JOBS

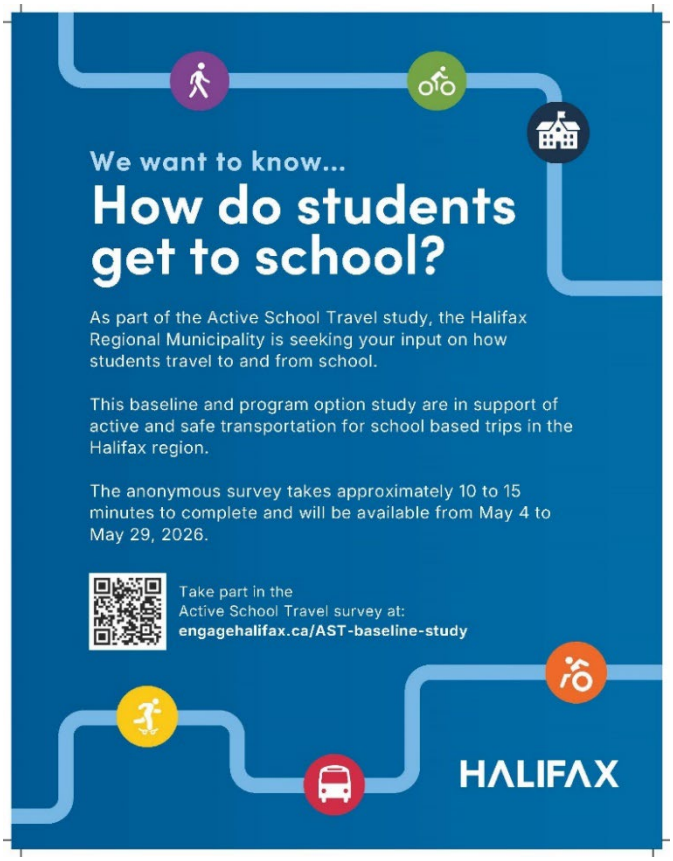


The Halifax Regional Municipality is recruiting applicants for summer positions in aquatics, inclusion and recreation programming across the region.

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

ACTIVE SCHOOL BASELINE STUDY



The Active Transportation team are looking for teachers interested in facilitating in-class activities for our Active School Travel Program Baseline Study.

Active School Travel (AST) refers to any human-powered way to get to or from school, including walking, biking, and rolling with scooters or mobility devices. Every school community and every student can benefit from AST!

The municipality has created several activities for teachers to promote the program in their classrooms. You can also take part in a survey to provide your feedback.

Learn more about the project on our website.

FEDERAL CENUS

The 2026 Federal Census is due to start arriving in early May. This is vital data that helps all levels of government - please take the time to participate to shape plans for the future. Statistics Canada are also still hiring for census jobs. You can learn more on their website.

CENTRE PLAN FEEDBACK

Residents are invited to share feedback on how the design of missing middle housing can better reflect the look and feel of their community.

Missing middle refers to types of housing that is in between single-unit homes and high-density apartment or mixed-use buildings. These are housing types that have seen little recent construction, making them “missing” from our communities.

Examples include: townhouses, two, three, and four-unit dwellings and small multi-unit or cluster housing, typically ranging from four to eight units.

Visit our website to take the online survey, which is available until Sunday, May 31 or join us for an upcoming pop-up information session:

- Thursday, May 7, 4 to 7 p.m., Alderney Ferry Terminal, 88 Alderney Drive
- Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Alderney Landing Market, 2 Ochterloney Street
- Monday, May 11, 4 to 7 p.m., Halifax Central Library, 5440 Spring Garden Road
- Wednesday, May 13, 2 to 5 p.m., Dalhousie Student Union Building, 6136 University Avenue

This feedback, along with input from the development community, will help inform recommendations to Regional Council.

Learn more about the project by visiting our website.

ROAD SAFETY

You can't control traffic, but you can control how you respond to it. Avoid aggressive driving by:

- Letting other drivers merge safely. Keeping a safe following distance.
- Staying focused, distractions like phones and loud music make driving more dangerous.
- Resisting the urge to "teach" other drivers a lesson.

Small choices make a big difference. Drive safely. Learn more on our website.

SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Registration for summer camps started last month and there is still space in some of our summer camp programs. Check out our website to see what's available and to register.

Registration for aquatics at summer pools and beach sessions 1 and 2 will open on Tuesday, June 16, while beach sessions 3 and 4 will open Tuesday, July 21.

COMMUNITY MUSEUM GRANTS PROGRAM

Congratulations to Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum, Army Museum Halifax Citadel, Lake Charlotte Area Heritage Society, Hooked Rug Museum of North America Society and Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society who all received a Community Museum Grant to further their work preserving our unique heritage. Learn more about the program and the projects these grants will support here.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DATA DASHBOARD LAUNCH

The Halifax Regional Municipality's Planning & Development Dashboard is now live! This new interactive tool provides real-time information on permit and construction activities including current and requested permits, metrics on housing and projections of population trends.

Data is updated daily and includes filters that allow users to explore by community and by different permit and structure types.

Explore the dashboard here.

MICROTRANSIT SERVICE PLAN

Regional Council approved Halifax Transit's Microtransit Service Plan in February, and staff will be preparing detailed information on requirements to implement it going into the 2027/28 budget process.

Microtransit is an on-demand, shared-ride transit service primarily geared towards communities outside the conventional transit boundary.

If the project is approved, Lucasville has been selected to be the first community to receive Microtransit as a pilot in the plan's Proof-of-Concept stage.

Microtransit typically uses smaller vehicles and a digital booking system to coordinate rides efficiently over large areas.

Prior to launch, Halifax Transit would work in collaboration with community leaders to determine potential service hours, stop locations and ways to communicate with residents about the service. Regular engagement and feedback on the service would occur throughout the proof-of-concept stage.

For more information, check out the staff report.

GENDER-BASED, INTIMATE PARTNER AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY

The Province of Nova Scotia, and Halifax Regional Municipaity have declared gender-based violence an epidemic. The Transition House Association of Nova Scotia has reported a 182% increase in the number of women and children seeking help from women's shelters in Nova Scotia since 2019 and 44% of the Canadian population 15 years of age and older have reported being physically or sexually assaulted since the age of 15.

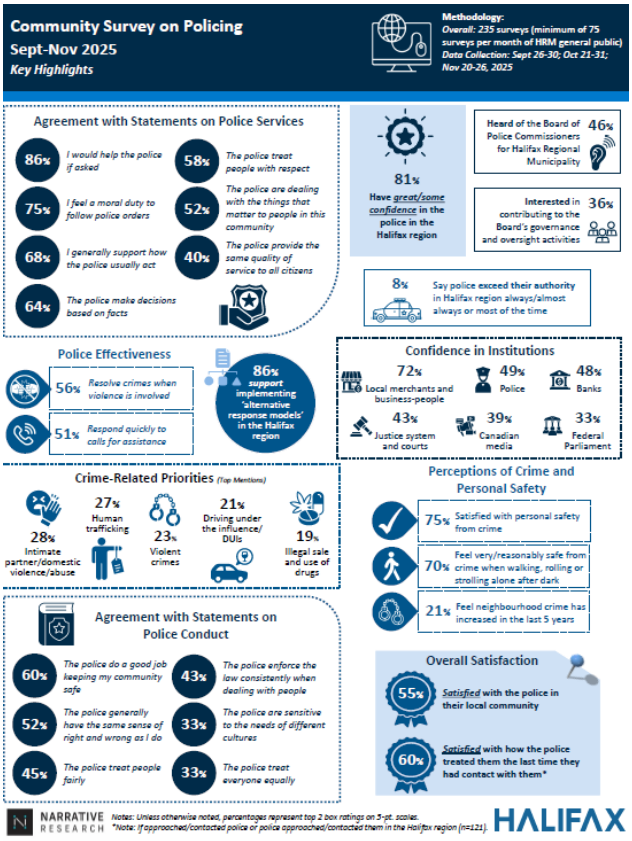
Our public safety team made a presentation to Regional Council on April 28 about how the municipality can be involved in the prevention of gender-based, intimate partner and domestic violence and Regional Council approved incorporating a focus area on Gender-based Violence, Intimate Partner Violence and Domestic Violence to our Public Safety Strategy when it's renewed.

You can find the presentation here.

MOBILE HOUSEHOLD WASTE DEPOTS

Bring special household waste like batteries, leftover paint, corrosive cleaners, pesticides, gasoline and much more to a Household Special Waste Mobile Depot near you to be handled and disposed of by experts. The depots will operate rain or shine from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Click here for a list of accepted items and more details about upcoming dates. You can also dispose of special household waste at the HSW Depot at 20 Horseshow Lake Drive.

POLICING FEEDBACK



The Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC) are looking for your feedback on policing in the municipality.

The BoPC is conducting a survey on your perceptions on community policing including police effectiveness, what the most important crime related priorities should be and much more. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. The first quarterly results are now available, and results will be reported quarterly with a final report and presentation in the fall.

You can find more information on our website.

HALIFAX MOOSEHEADS EXPANSION PROPOSAL

Site Plan

Regional Council approved negotiating and executing a market rate lease agreement with the Halifax Mooseheads for the existing exclusive use space and the expanded building envelope at RBC Centre in Dartmouth at the April 28 Regional Council meeting.

The team will be paying for the expansion and renovations to create a state-of-the-art training facility that will include benefits for other recreation users. The new space will allow for a larger gym with new equipment, a sauna and cold plunge and a barrier-free washroom that will be accessible to the public. You can find out more here.

MICROMOBILITY PILOT PRGORAM

The municipality's shared micromobility e-scooter and e-bike pilot program resumed on March 16.

This pilot provides residents with low-emission transportation options that support short distance travel and help reduce traffic congestion. E-scooters and e-bikes will be available at designated parking locations throughout the municipality. Riders can locate, unlock and pay for devices through the Bird Canada mobile app.

Since the pilot program began in May 2025, there have been over 122,000 rides taken on these shared e-scooters and e-bikes.

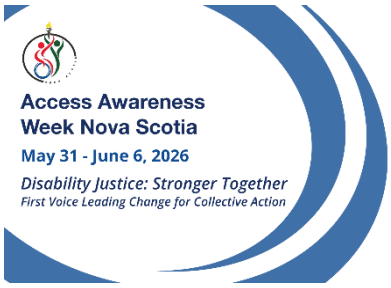
For more information on the program, including parking maps, user guidelines and pilot background, visit our website.

CURBSIDE GIVE AWAY WEEKEND

Free yourself of clutter and find some great free items of your own during Curbside Give Away Weekend. This event takes place rain or shine, twice a year all across the municipality.

The next event is June 6 and 7. Click here for more information.

ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK



Access Awareness Week is from May 31 – June 6 and is a time to reflect on how we can build a more inclusive, accessible community for all.

There's been progress, but there's still work to do to reach a barrier-free Nova Scotia by 2030. Let's use this week to listen, learn, and continue moving toward full inclusion and equity. Learn more here.

TICK SEASON

Tick season has begun - As temperatures rise, ticks become more active.

Nova Scotia is home to several kinds of ticks, but only blacklegged tick bites can cause illnesses like Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Powassan virus.

Reduce your risk of getting a tick-borne illnesses by educating yourself, staying safe and performing tick checks after being outdoors. Learn more here.

SPRING CLEANUP

The municipality's multi-week spring cleanup program includes street, sidewalk and bicycle lane sweeping, removal of debris and litter, emptying of garbage cans and other general spring maintenance.

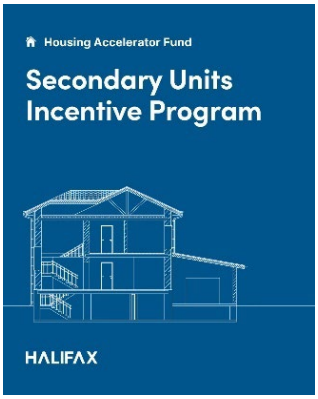
Street and sidewalk cleaning.

A substantial street cleaning program takes place every year between April and November to ensure streets are kept reasonably clear of debris for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. The program also helps decrease the amount of debris and sediment entering the storm drain system.

Eight municipal vacuum street sweepers and two tandem broom trucks are used for an initial cleaning of approximately 1,500 kilometres of roadway and 3,000 kilometres of curb in the core areas of Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford.

To learn more about our spring clean up programs, visit our website.

SECONDARY UNITS INCENTIVE PROGRAM



The Halifax Regional Municipality has decided to expand the Secondary Suite Incentive Grant Program eligibility and timelines to support the creation of more small-scale housing options across the region.

Under new changes to the program, more than one secondary unit per property may now be eligible for funding (subject to land use requirements). Non-profit organizations and housing co-operatives are also now eligible to apply for funding.

The program offers eligible residents up to $13,000 per unit to help reduce building expenses related to water and wastewater. The Secondary Units Incentive Program offers non-repayable grants to help offset certain costs associated with building new secondary units, including backyard suites and internal conversions.

The application deadline has been extended from June 1, 2026, to Oct. 11, 2026, and the construction completion deadline has been extended from Oct. 11, 2026, to April 1, 2027.

For more details on the program and how to apply, visit our website.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Mental Health Week, which takes place from May 4 - 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, 1 in 5 people experience a mental health problem or illness each year. The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is inviting people across Canada to Come Together. It's a call to spark small, everyday actions of connection, and to recognize the role we all play in supporting mental health through connection.

Together, we can strengthen mental health, build healthier communities, and help more people feel connected.

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.

SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that spring weight restrictions have been lifted on roads maintained by the municipality.

The municipality's spring weight restrictions are consistent with those of the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works, which have also been lifted on roads in the municipality that are maintained by the province. More details of vehicle restrictions can be found on the provincial website.

CHAMPION OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Divert NS is offering up to $40,500 in scholarships to Nova Scotia Grade 12 students with a keen interest in the environment.

Nine scholarships of $3,500 and nine scholarships of $1,000 are available. To apply, students need to review the application package, write or record a summary of their recent environment activities and obtain a letter of reference from their school or community. The deadline to submit an application is May 10.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Sackville Business Association cheque presentation for May 2026

Lucasville Community Association (LCA) Health Fair cheque presentation

History of Lucasville 1827-1970 Book Launch

History of Lucasville 1827-1970 Book Launch with Minister Twila Grosse and MLA Rick Burns

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"

"When spider webs unite,

they can tie up a lion."

(Community Working Together)

African Proverb