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

WELCOME OCTOBER

As we welcome October, we are surrounded by the vibrant colours of autumn and the refreshing crispness in the air. This month marks not only the changing of the seasons, but also a time for reflection, gratitude, and community.

With Thanksgiving approaching, it is an opportunity to gather with family and friends and to reflect on the many blessings and accomplishments of the past year. I encourage everyone to take a moment amidst the busyness of daily life to appreciate what matters most.

October is also Mi'kmaw History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, culture, and enduring contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. It is an important opportunity to learn, reflect, and honour the heritage that continues to shape our communities.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions regarding municipal programs, services, or community matters.

John

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OCTOBER MEETING DATES

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

Regional Council:
Tuesday, October 20 at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, October 27 at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council:
Monday, Tuesday, October 5 at 6 p.m.
cancelled due to a light agenda

Standing Committees:
Appeals Standing Committee

- Thursday October 8 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday October 21 at 1 p.m.

Executive Standing Committee

- Monday, October 26 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

- Wednesday October 14 at 9:30 a.m.

DATES TO NOTE

October 1 is National Seniors Day
October 5 is World Teachers' Day
October 10 is World Homeless Day
October 10 is World Mental Health Day
October 12 is Thanksgiving
October 31 is Halloween

WEEKLY GREEN CART COLLECTION ENDS OCTOBER 2

Weekly green cart collection ends on Oct. 2.

Visit our website at for a detailed schedule and more information.

HAMMONDS PLAINS ROAD TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS

Residents are advised that traffic disruptions are scheduled through fall 2026 on Hammonds Plains Road between Fox Hollow Drive and St. Margarets Bay Road.

The project includes repairs to the concrete abutments supporting the St. Margarets Bay Area Trail overpass over Hammonds Plains Road. The work will help maintain the safety and long-term condition of the structure.

Traffic impacts are expected throughout construction. Motorists should expect delays and are encouraged to use alternate routes when possible. Access for people walking and rolling along Hammonds Plains Road will be maintained throughout construction. Trail

access across the overpass will remain open for the duration of the project.

Additional details about traffic impacts and construction timelines will be shared as work progresses on our website and on the municipality's Bluesky account.

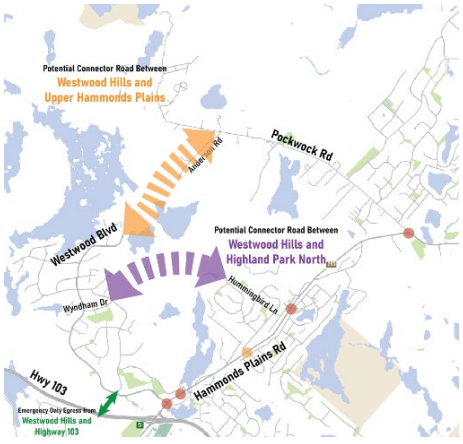
UPPER HAMMONDS PLAINS – UPPER TANTALLON COMMUNITY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Municipal employees are investigating options to build community connector roads between:

- Westwood Hills and Upper Hammonds Plains
- Westwood Hills and Highland Park North

The purpose of these roads would be to improve access and egress in case of emergencies, as well as to increase transportation network connectivity between these three communities.

The consideration of these connector roads is the first piece of a larger study of how to improve transportation efficiency and emergency access for communities surrounding Hammonds Plains Road.



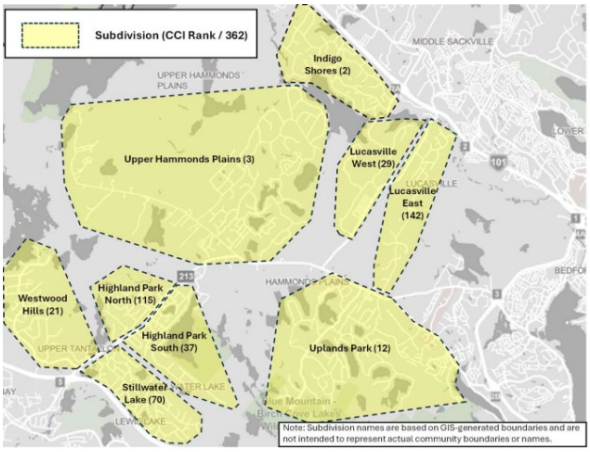
Regional Connectivity Study (subdivision egress review)

A methodology was developed to identify and prioritize risk in communities with limited connectivity and emergency access/egress across the municipality. Additional details on this study can be found in the linked **Council Report** from July 14, 2026.

A GIS tool was created to assess the road network and subdivisions based on:

- road network connectivity;
- geophysical factors influencing hazard exposure; and
- social factors influencing mobility.

The study found that multiple communities surrounding Hammonds Plains Road had relatively high Community Connectivity Index (CCI) in comparison to other subdivisions across the municipality. In particular, Upper Hammonds Plains ranked third highest for vulnerability, whereas Westwood Hills ranked 21st and Highland Park North rated 115 out of 362 communities.



Hammonds Plains Road Corridor Study

As a result of the Regional Connectivity Study (see above), Council has directed municipal employees to undertake a larger assessment of the Hammonds Plains Road including how to improve transportation efficiency now and into the future. The study will also look at the surrounding communities and how to improve road network connectivity (including emergency access/egress) between them.

This larger study of Hammonds Plains Road is expected to get underway in late 2026 and be completed in 2027. The project will include community engagement, which is expected to take place in the winter/spring.

Where Council has separately directed the municipality to assess community connectivity options between Westwood Hills, Upper Hammonds Plains and Highland Park North, this study will proceed separately in advance of the wider road network review.

Public Engagement Opportunities

Engagement is now underway to gather feedback from community members. Your input is valuable and will help staff and council understand your perspectives on these potential roadway connections.

An **online survey** will be open from October 5 through October 23 -- see below for details and to fill out the survey.

In addition, **two open house sessions** will be held in the community where residents can learn about the project and speak with municipal employees. These will be drop-in sessions (no formal agenda or presentation), and we encourage residents to visit at a time that works for you. Project information, materials and feedback questions will be the same between both sessions and the project website.

Open House #1

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Upper Hammonds Plains Community Centre

711 Pockwock Rd, Upper Hammonds Plains

Open House #2

Thursday, Oct.15, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Tantallon Public Library

3646 Hammonds Plains Rd, Upper Tantallon

SACKVILLE SPORTS STADIUM REVITALIZATION SURVEY

Residents are invited to share their feedback through the Sackville Sports Stadium Revitalization Survey. Over the last several years, the municipality has gathered input from residents, user groups and community organizations about the future of the facility, with previous public engagement taking place in 2018 and 2022.

As the project moves into the next stage of planning and design, the survey will help confirm whether previously identified priorities remain important, gather feedback on potential upgrades and new features, identify current recreation needs and challenges, and help inform future design decisions.

The survey is now available online until Oct. 23. Residents are encouraged to participate and help shape the future of the Sackville Sports Stadium.

STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM TO CONTINUE FOR 2026/2027

The Student Transit Pass Program will continue for the 2026/27 school year. Eligible students in grades 7 through 12 will receive a free annual transit pass for the 2026/27 school year, providing unlimited travel on all Halifax Transit services, including bus, Access-A-

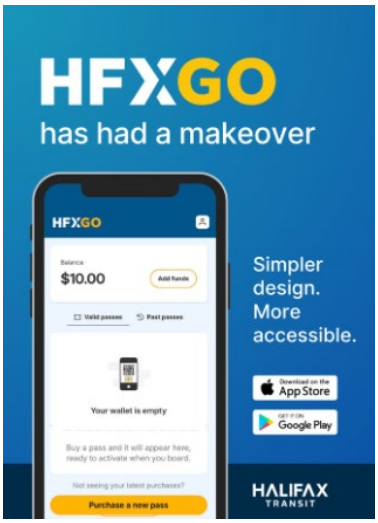
Bus, and ferry. Passes are valid from Sept. 1, 2026, to Aug. 31, 2027.

New this year, the Student Transit Pass will be delivered through Halifax Transit's mobile fare payment app, HFXGO.

For the 2026/27 school year, the Halifax Regional Centre for Education is funding transit passes for students attending five Halifax schools where public transit is more practical than school buses.

For more information about the Student Transit Pass Program, including eligibility and how to access a pass, visit our website.

HALIFAX TRANSIT LAUNCHES NEW HFXGO FEATURES



Halifax Transit has launched new features in the HFXGO mobile fare payment app that will make paying for transit easier and help riders receive the lowest fare possible.

HFXGO users who add funds to their verified account can now use the new Tap & Ride barcode feature to pay their fare when boarding Halifax Transit buses and ferries

The update has also introduced fare capping, which automatically tracks trips made using the

Tap & Ride barcode and ensures riders never pay more thandaily or monthly rates..

This new Tap & Ride barcode feature brings Halifax Transit closer to launching tap to pay later this year, which will allow the option for contactless fare payment with credit and debit cards.

For more information about HFXGO, fare capping and frequently asked questions, click here.

REGISTER FOR THE 2026 VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

Are you a passionate volunteer who wants to learn more about community volunteerism? The 26th annual Volunteer Conference brings together volunteers from across the municipality to connect, celebrate their contributions and develop skills that strengthen volunteer capacity in our communities. Participants will enjoy workshops, networking opportunities, a keynote presentation and a seated meal.

The conference will take place on Monday, Nov. 23, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Delta Marriott in Dartmouth.

Registration is open until Nov. 16. Early bird registration is $40 until Oct. 25. To find out more, visit our website.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL REMINDER

The municipality is reminding residents about the proper disposal of hazardous materials after a petroleum-based substance was found in a catch basin in Middle Sackville this week.

Halifax Water crews flushed additional water through the sewer system to isolate the material for proper disposal, and the issue has been resolved.

Residents and businesses are reminded that

hazardous materials, including petroleum-based substances such as gasoline, diesel fuel, oil and solvents, should never be discharged into the wastewater system. Hazardous waste disposal services are available to dispose of these materials. To find more information on household special waste disposal, visit our website.

BURNSIDE INTERSECTION IMPROVMENTS

Residents are advised of upcoming traffic delays at the intersection of Burnside Drive, Commodore Drive and Ronald Smith Avenue. The project includes intersection upgrades and active transportation improvements to enhance safety, accessibility and traffic operations.

Work is expected to continue until late fall or early winter 2026. Most work will take place overnight and on weekends to reduce impacts on daytime traffic. Drivers should expect delays and are encouraged to use alternative routes where possible. Access to the multi-use path along Burnside Drive may be temporarily affected during construction.

Halifax Transit users can visit our website for transit service updates related to this project.

LARRY UTECK BOULEVARD TRAFFIC DELAYS

Residents are advised of traffic delays on Larry Uteck Boulevard between the north and south Broad Street roundabouts. Work is taking place on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and is expected to be completed in mid-November 2026.

The work includes road infrastructure upgrades and an extension of the multi-use path between the two roundabouts. The road shoulder in this area is commonly used by people walking and rolling. A new multi-use path connection will link the existing pathways at either end of the corridor.

Due to limited space within the construction zone, people walking and rolling will need to use alternate routes around the project area. Signage will be in place to direct travelers to available detours. Local traffic, Halifax Transit

and emergency vehicle access will be maintained.

Two transit stops on Larry Uteck Boulevard near the north Broad Street roundabout will be temporarily closed during construction. Visit our website for current information on Halifax Transit route and bus stop impacts as well as our news section for more project details.

RURAL SHORT-TERM RENTALS PUBLIC HEARING

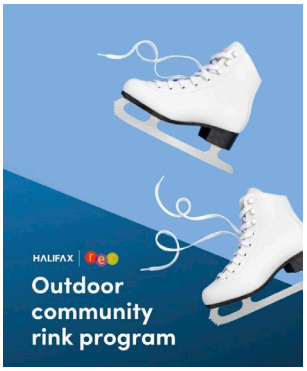
The municipality is considering how short-term rentals should be regulated in Eastern Passage/Cow Bay, North Preston, Lake Major, Lake Loon, Cherry Brook and East Preston.

Short-term rentals are temporary overnight accommodations rented for short stays, often through online booking platforms. While they can support tourism and the local economy, they may also affect neighbourhoods and long-term housing availability.

Residents are invited to attend a public hearing with Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council on Oct. 1, 2026, at 6 p.m. at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth.

To find more information, visit our website.

OUTDOOR COMMUNITY RINK PROGRAM



Applications are open for the Outdoor Community Rink Program, which provides non-profit organizations with an opportunity to operate community rinks on municipally owned property. The municipality offers grants of up to $1,000 to help cover insurance costs for up to 10 organizations each year.

Applications for the 2026/27 season are open now and close Sunday, Oct. 11. For more information and to apply, visit our website.

YOUTHWORX APPLICATIONS AND INFO SESSIONS

Looking for work experience? Struggling to find meaningful employment? If you're between 16 and 24 years old, you may be eligible to participate in the youthworx program. Youthworx is a professional development and skill-building program that helps youth facing employment barriers gain valuable work experience through 24 weeks of paid, full-time employment.

Benefits of working for youthworx include no formal interview, free training and certification that are transferable to other jobs and

opportunities to build confidence, life skills and job readiness. Participants will have a Monday to Friday work schedule with weekends off. Participants who complete the full 24-week program may also earn a Grade 11 elective personal development credit toward high school graduation.

The municipality will be hosting information sessions throughout September and October with the application deadline of Oct. 9.

To find out more and apply, visit our website.

HERITAGE GRANTS FOR 2026/2027

Regional Council approved grants for 20 heritage property projects through the 2026/2027 Heritage Incentives. The funding will support conservation work on residential, commercial and institutional heritage properties across the municipality. Council also approved a standby list so any unused funds can be redirected to other eligible projects.

The grants help property owners protect and restore heritage buildings that contribute to the municipality's history and character. This year, 49 eligible applications were received, with requests far exceeding the available funding. Projects were reviewed and ranked based on criteria such as the type of conservation work proposed, visibility to the public and previous grant history.

The approved funding will help preserve historic buildings, support ongoing maintenance and encourage investment in heritage properties. It also includes support for institutional heritage properties owned by non-profit organizations during the transition to a new heritage grant program. By helping conserve these places, the program protects important community landmarks and helps maintain the unique character of neighbourhoods across the municipality.

For more information, read the staff report

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2029

Regional Council approved a new Emergency Management Strategic Plan for 2026-2029, which will guide the municipality's emergency management work over the next three years and set priorities for planning, preparedness, response and recovery. It also supports work on public alerts, emergency communications, training, community partnerships and evacuation planning.

The plan was developed after a review of the municipality's emergency management program identified the need for a long-term strategy. Municipal business units, emergency services and key partners helped shape the plan through a collaborative planning process. The plan will help the municipality strengthen its ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. It also support better coordination across municipal emergency response teams and partner agencies, helping protect residents, property and the environment during emergencies.

For more information, read the staff report.

COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG

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

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

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact 311 by phone, email (contactus@311.halifax.ca) or online at halifax.ca/home/311. I can also be reached at any time using the contact information provided.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

Words to Live By

"Examine what is said,

not who is speaking."

African Proverb