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

WELCOME SEPTEMBER

As summer draws to a close and we begin looking ahead to fall, another school year is just around the corner. For many families, September brings a sense of excitement as students return to classrooms, reconnect with friends, and embark on new learning experiences.

With the start of school comes an important reminder for all of us to help keep our roads, sidewalks, and neighbourhoods safe. Whether children are walking, cycling, taking the bus, or being driven to school, a little extra patience and attention can make a big difference in ensuring they arrive safely each day.

The **Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) School Calendar** is available online and can be accessed here: 2026-2027-Year-at-a-Glance Calendar.pdf.

In this edition of the newsletter, you'll find helpful back-to-school safety reminders, along with information on municipal programs, services, upcoming events, and community resources available to residents. I encourage you to take a few moments to explore what's happening in our community and share this information with family, friends, and neighbours.

Wishing all students, parents, guardians, teachers, and school staff a safe, successful, and enjoyable school year ahead.

John

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SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES

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

Regional Council:
Tuesday, September 15 at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, September 29 at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council:
Monday, Tuesday, September 14 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:
Appeals Standing Committee

- Thursday Sept. 10 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday Sept. 16 at 1 p.m.

Executive Standing Committee

- Monday, September 28 10 a.m.

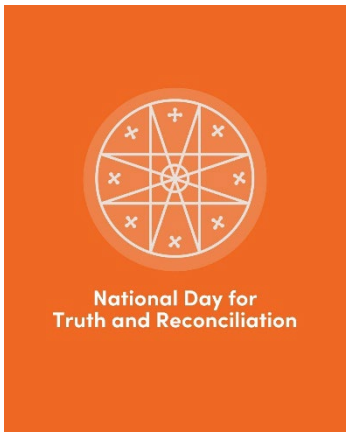
Special Events Advisory Committee

- Wednesday Sept. 9 at 9:30 a.m.

DATES TO NOTE

- Gender Equity Week – Sept. 1 – 27
- Right to Know Week - Sept. 29 – Oct. 4
- September 21 is International Day of Peace

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



On September 30, we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, an opportunity to recognize the tragic history with Residential Schools in Canada and reaffirm our commit to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

This National Day for Truth and Reconciliation take some time to reflect and learn about how we can move forward together. Read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, checking out our library's Mi'kmaw History and Culture portal or visiting the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and Peace and Friendship Park in Halifax. Have conversations with the people in your life about what reconciliation means and why it matters.

For information on commemorating this important day, please check our website.

HAMMONDS PLAINS ROAD TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS

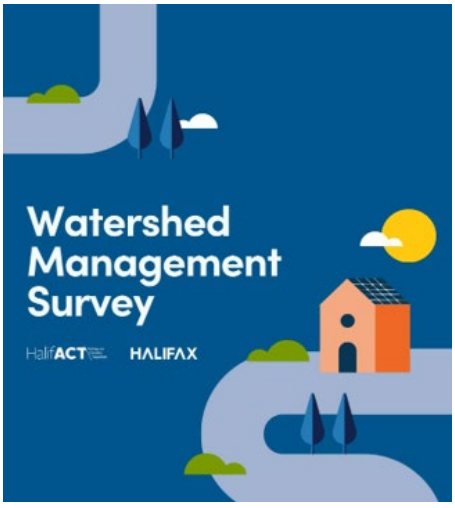
Residents are advised that traffic disruptions are scheduled through fall 2026 on Hammonds Plains Road between Fox Hollow Drive and St. Margarets Bay Road.

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, @hfxgov.bsky.social.

DARTMOUTH LAKES AND NINE MILE RIVER WATERSHED FEEDBACK



As residents, many people have a strong connection to the lakes, rivers and coastlines that shape their communities. The municipality is seeking local knowledge and lived experiences to help ensure future watershed management plans reflect community priorities and values.

Have your say on the watershed management plans for the Dartmouth Lakes and Nine Mile River watersheds by participating in online surveys and other engagement opportunities.

Approved by Regional Council in 2024, the Municipal Watershed Management Framework provides a coordinated approach to watershed planning that brings together residents, Indigenous partners and other key stakeholders to support healthy, resilient watersheds. Managing watersheds as connected systems can improve water quality, support healthy ecosystems and strengthen climate resilience. Watershed management planning also helps identify opportunities to address environmental challenges early, protect natural infrastructure and support the long-term sustainability of local communities.

Residents can learn more about watershed management planning, complete a survey and find upcoming engagement opportunities by visiting our website.

LIVING LAKESHORES LEARING OPPORTUNITIES

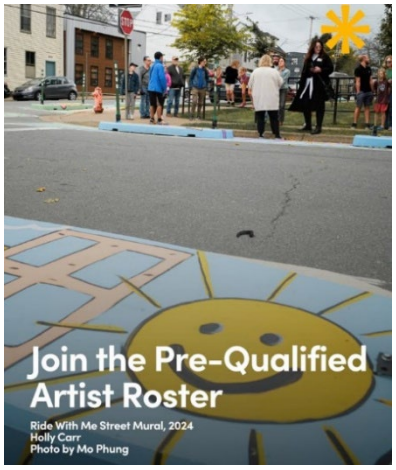
We're hosting two Living Lakeshores restoration events in September and October and we want you to get involved!

If you're curious about the science of water quality and biodiversity, please join us at First Lake Beach in Lower Sackville from September 15 - 19 and/or in Lake Echo from October 6 - 10 for a hands-on training experience in shoreline naturalization. Most events will run from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., with some half-days.

Naturalization is important for maintaining healthy shorelines as it helps restore the natural flow of water and the movement of sediment, preserves natural habitats and biodiversity along the shoreline and reduces the pollutants getting into our water systems.

We'll be using Green Shores® practices to naturalize shorelines at First Lake and Lake Echo. These lakes and the communities that surround them will see long-term benefits from improved shade, reduced flood risk and enhanced biodiversity. To learn more, visit our website for program details and registration.

PRE-QUALIFIED ARTIST ROSTER



Local visual artists are invited to apply to the municipality's new Artist Roster. The roster will pre-qualify artists for smaller-scale public art opportunities and urban infrastructure projects to create vibrant, inclusive and engaging community spaces.

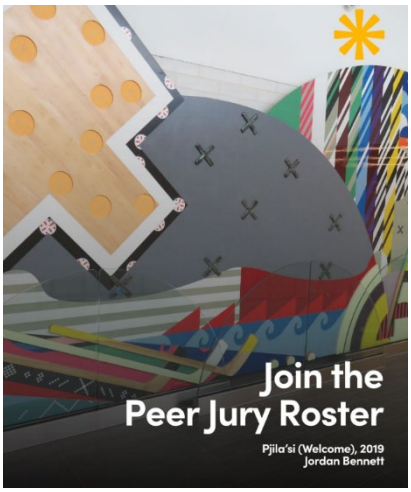
Qualifying artists on the roster may be invited to collaborate with municipal teams on a variety of projects connected to infrastructure renewal, upgrades and maintenance.

The roster is open to all professional artists, working individually or in collaboration. We welcome applications from artists with a range of backgrounds, experiences and artistic practices, including those who may be newer to public art. Artists selected for these paid opportunities will be compensated according to national artist fee guidelines.

To apply, complete the online application form and submit all required documents to artgrants@halifax.ca by **Sept. 15**. For more

information and application details, visit our website.

HELP SHAPE PUBLIC ART IN OUR COMMUNITY



Do you have an interest in local arts and culture? The municipality is seeking new peer evaluators for its Grants to Professional Arts Organizations funding program and public art selection juries.

The municipality is looking for artists and members of the art community who can provide objective assessments, respect diverse perspectives and work collaboratively. Applicants should represent a range of artistic practices, specializations and cultural backgrounds. The peer jury process supports fair, transparent and accountable decision-making by drawing on a diverse range of perspectives.

Applicants must be residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Individuals selected to serve on a public art jury will receive a fee in accordance with CARFAC's professional jury rate. Applications close Sept. 15.

To learn more about the opportunity and apply, visit our website.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

The fall 2026 Community Development Training Catalogue is now available. Check out a variety of free leadership and community training programs hosted by our Neighbourhood and Volunteer Services team.

Each workshop provides foundational knowledge and practical tools for individuals or groups interested in community development, board governance and related topics.

Check out the options on our website.

UPCOMING MOBILE HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE DEPOT EVENTS

If you have fuel, paint products, batteries or other special household waste to dispose of, stop by one of our mobile special household waste events.

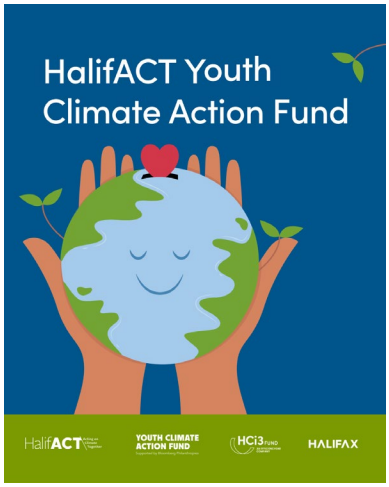
- Eastern Shore Community Centre – Saturday, Sept. 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Sackville Transit Terminal – Saturday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- NSCC Leeds Street Campus – Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you can't make it to a mobile event, our Household Special Waste Depot at 20 Horseshoe Lake Drive is open for drop-off most Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

You can find more information on what qualifies as special waste and information about these and any upcoming events on our website.

NEW FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR THE YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND



Youth across the municipality can now secure funding for local climate action projects through the Youth Climate Action Fund (YCAF).

For the third time, the Halifax Regional Municipality has received funding through this global program, which supports youth-led climate initiatives in communities around the world. This year, we are the only Canadian municipality selected to receive funding.

The municipality is partnering with the Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation and Impact Fund (HCi3) to provide grants of up to $5,000 US to teams of young innovators working on climate-related projects.

Applications must be submitted by Sept. 21, 2026.
For more information on the program, visit our website.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY REMINDERS

Students have returned to public schools across the municipality. As the back-to-school season gets underway, residents are reminded of important road safety measures to help keep everyone safe.

Drivers should watch for school buses, crossing guards and increased pedestrian activity. By law, motorists must stop when a school bus has its red lights flashing to allow students to safely enter or exit the bus, regardless of their direction of travel.

Motorists are reminded to obey school zone speed limits whenever children are present, not just during school hours. Drivers should always reduce their speed when approaching and travelling through school zones.

Most fatal and injury-causing traffic collisions occur near intersections. Crosswalks exist at all intersections, whether marked or unmarked. Drivers are required by law to stop for pedestrians at both types of intersections.

Additionally, to help manage increased traffic congestion during the back-to-school period, the municipality will increase parking enforcement efforts near schools to ensure on-street parking resources are used appropriately.

Everyone has a role to play in keeping roads safe during the back-to-school season. To learn more about municipal road safety programs and initiatives on our website.

WEEKLY GREEN CART COLLECTION REMINDER

As a reminder weekly green cart collection is continuing until Oct. 2 to manage organic waste, reduce odour and limit wildlife attraction in the summer months.

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

HURRICANE READY

Hurricane season officially runs from June through November when the waters of the Atlantic Ocean are warm enough to form tropical cyclones.

In an emergency like a hurricane, it may take emergency workers some time to get to you. Have an emergency kit ready and be prepared to take care of yourself, your family and pets for at least 72 hrs.

Find hurricane preparedness information on our website.

HALIFAX WATER CUSTOMER PRIVACY REVIEW

Halifax Water has released the results and an overview of an independent forensic investigation into the Customer Connect portal privacy incident identified in March 2026.

The investigation confirmed that information linked to 16 customer accounts was accessed through a vulnerability in the third-party platform that supports the online portal. Halifax Water says the incident was not a cyberattack on its own systems and did not affect water or wastewater operations. No financial, credit card or banking information was accessible or exposed.

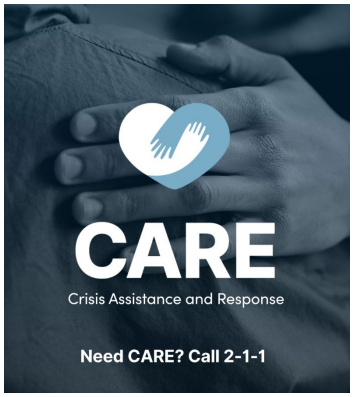
The Customer Connect portal remains offline while additional security testing and remediation work continues. No date has been set for restoring the service. In the meantime, customer bills continue to be delivered by mail.

Even though there is no evidence that customer accounts were accessed directly or that other information is involved, Halifax Water encourages all Customer Connect portal users to use unique passwords, enable multi-factor authentication where available and remain vigilant against phishing attempts.

Halifax Water is also reviewing its vendor contract, security standards, oversight protocols, and any related insurance or contractual matters to ensure customers' interests are protected. They will provide further public updates on the structural changes made as a result of this incident.

To learn more about this report, visit their website.

CARE PROGRAM EXPANDS ACROSS THE HALIFAX PENINSULA



More residents will now have access to the municipality's Crisis Assistance and Response (CARE) program following a recent service expansion. CARE is now available throughout the Halifax peninsula, Dartmouth within the Highway 111 boundary, Woodlawn and Cole Harbour.

CARE is a community-based mobile crisis response service that supports people experiencing non-emergency, non-violent crises related to mental health, substance use and personal well-being. The service offers a trauma-informed alternative response when police, fire or Emergency Health Services may not be the most appropriate resource.

The program provides 24-hour support for people aged 16 and older through specially trained mobile response teams. CARE can provide in-person assistance during a crisis, including de-escalation support, safety planning, transportation to a safe location and connections to community services and supports.

CARE is a consent-based service and does not respond to emergencies involving violence or weapons. In an emergency, call 911.

The program is delivered in partnership with 211 Nova Scotia, Souls Harbour Rescue Mission and the Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Safety team. Residents can access CARE by calling 211.

For more information about the CARE program, visit our website.

DISMANTLING RACISM AND HATE STRATEGY

Dismantling Racism & Hate Strategy

Regional Council has approved the Dismantling Racism and Hate Strategy and directed the Chief Administrative Officer to provide annual updates on its progress.

The strategy sets out how the municipality will identify and address systemic racism, discrimination and hate in its policies, programs and services.

The strategy comes from direction from the provincial government, requiring municipalities to create plans that address inequity and systemic barriers. The strategy builds on existing work in areas such as accessibility, diversity and inclusion and reconciliation. It also reflects ongoing input from communities and aims to improve accountability through regular reporting, clear goals and continued engagement.

This work will help create more inclusive municipal services and spaces. It focuses on improving access to programs, strengthening community safety and supporting fair and respectful treatment for all residents. The strategy is designed to evolve over time, with a full review planned in three years to ensure it remains effective and responsive to community needs. Check out the report for more information.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY

Regional Council has endorsed a new strategy that will guide how the municipality supports affordable housing over the next 10 years. Funding for the strategy will be included in the 2027-28 budget deliberations and Council has asked for regular updates on the progress of the strategy targets.

The Affordable Housing Strategy focuses on actions the municipality can take within its role, including planning, partnerships, data collection and support programs for non-profit housing providers and was developed in response to growing housing need across the municipality and increasing pressure on residents who are having trouble finding affordable places to live. It builds on existing municipal programs that support affordable housing and helps clarify how the municipality will work with community organizations, the Province of Nova Scotia and federal partners to increase housing options.

For more information, read the staff report.

SACKVILLE SENIORS WALKING CLUB

Sackville Senior Walking Club: This program offers relaxed, guided walks along a smooth crusher dust trail. Each session includes a 1 hour walk at an easy pace, allowing participants to take in the scenery while staying active. Following the walk, participants are invited to stay for a social gathering with tea and coffee provided.

Information about the program:

When: Tuesdays 9:00 - 12:00 September 15 - Nov 3

Where: Sackville Sports Stadium

Cost: Free

Ages 60+ (we welcome anyone identifying as senior aged)

UPCOMING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

I will be hosting a **Community Town Hall** at the **Springfield Lake Recreation Centre** in late October 2026. The date and time are still being finalized and will be shared on my social media channels and in my October e-newsletter.

There will also be a **Community Connectivity/Egress Open House** at the **Upper Hammonds Plains Community Centre** in early October 2026. The date and time will be announced on my social media channels once confirmed.

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

Community and Togetherness

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”

African Proverb