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

WELCOME JUNE

June has arrived, bringing warmer weather, brighter days, and plenty of reasons to go outside and enjoy everything our community has to offer.

It's also the month when we celebrate Father's Day — a time to recognize the dads, stepdads, grandfathers, and mentors who make a lasting difference in our lives. Whether through big gestures or everyday moments, their care and commitment help build strong families and vibrant communities.

John

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JUNE MEETING DATES

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

Regional Council:
Tuesday, June 6 at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, June 23 at 10 a.m.

North West Community Council:
Monday, June 8 at 6 p.m.

Standing Committees:
Appeals Standing Committee

- Thursday, June 11 at 10 a.m.

Audit & Finance Standing Committee

- Wednesday, June 17 at 10 a.m.

Executive Standing Committee

- Monday, June 22 at 10 a.m.

Special Events Advisory Committee

- Wednesday, June 10 at 9:30 a.m.

DATES TO NOTE

June 3rd - World Bicycle Day
June 5th - World Environment Day
June 8th – World Oceans Day
June 14th – Blood Donour Day
June 19th – Father's Day
June 21st - Summer Solstice

PRIDE MONTH

The Halifax Regional Municipality is proud to recognize Pride month in June each year.

Pride Month is a time to celebrate and demonstrate our continued allyship and support for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

While Pride is a time for celebration, we must also recognize the barriers still that community members continue to face.

Residents are encouraged to celebrate Pride 2026 by exploring the following resources:

- Explore the Halifax Public Library Pride Portal, a virtual collection of 2SLGBTQIA+ content created and sourced by Halifax Public Libraries employees.
- The Youth Project Youth Project
- Name Change Resource: Halifax Central Library Pride-Name-change-clinic-steps-letter.pdf
- Egale Canada Home - Egale Canada - Egale Canada
- Pride at Work Home - Pride At Work Canada
- PFLAG Canada For all Families - pflag Canada
- Intersex Canada Intersex Canada
- T.R.A.N.S (Transgender / Non-Binary Rights Advocacy Nova Scotia) T.R.A.N.S.
- Halifax Rainbow Encyclopedia Halifax Rainbow Encyclopedia: Front Page

Pride Health prideHealth | Nova Scotia Health

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.

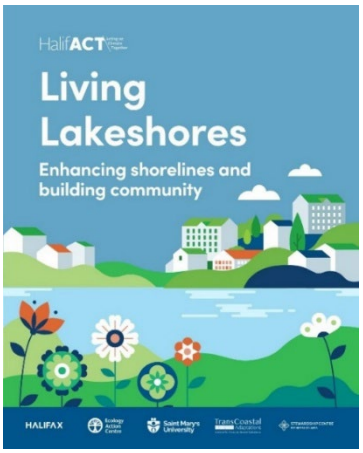
CURBSIDE GIVE AWAY – JUNE 6-7

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 coming up **June 6 and 7.**

Click here for more information on how to participate.

LIVING LAKESHORES INFORMATION SESSION



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.

Lake Echo Beach
June 11, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Lake Echo Community Recreation Centre, 3168 Nova Scotia Trunk 7, Lake Echo

Naturalization improves lake health, reduces erosion, enhances biodiversity and increases climate resilience, helping us avoid costly infrastructure repairs. Visit our website for more information.

FIFA WORLD CUP CELEBRATION

Halifax has been selected as the East Coast launch location for Canada Celebrates, a national coast-to-coast celebration tour for the FIFA World Cup 2026. Canada Celebrates is a series of free, public events designed to bring the excitement of the FIFA World Cup into communities across Canada. Each stop will transform a public space into a vibrant gathering place where fans of all ages can come together to celebrate the beautiful game.

Don't miss it – find more details here!

NEIGHBOUR WEEK

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to start planning and take part in Neighbour Week from June 21 to 27, 2026.

Neighbour Week is an opportunity to build strong connections through community-led events and simple acts of neighbourly kindness. Residents are invited to organize and participate in activities of all sizes that help bring neighbours together. Check out the Neighbour

Week Community Event Map to explore what's happening nearby and find inspiration.

Small gestures matter. Saying hello, introducing yourself or checking in on a neighbour helps build stronger connections and more welcoming, supportive and safe communities.

For more information, ideas and resources, or to register an event, visit 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 WINNERS

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.

COMMUNITY LITTER CLEAN-UPS

As the warm weather arrives, you may be noticing more litter in your community. Why not organize a litter pick up with family, friends, neighbours or your local community organizations by registering with the Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up?

Participating is easy!

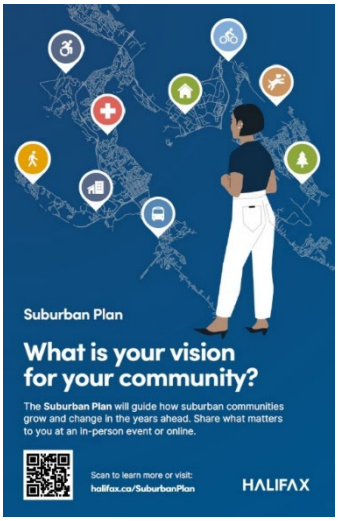
Select an area within the municipality where you would like to run a clean-up event and register your team a minimum of two weeks prior to your event. (Residents who are conducting clean-ups

on roads maintained by the province should register with the Adopt-A-Highway program.)

Once registered, team coordinators will receive a confirmation email containing important details, including where to pick up supplies for their event and how to dispose of their waste after the event.

This program (along with NS Adopt-A-Highway) is administered by Coastal Action and is supported in-kind by Halifax Regional Municipality. You can learn more about litter clean up events on our website.

SUBURBAN PLAN FEEDBACK



The municipality is developing a Suburban Plan, a new planning document that will guide growth and change in our suburban areas, and we're looking for your feedback.

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.

You can provide your feedback by taking our online survey!

This questionnaire will take approximately 5-7 minutes to complete and will ask you about your experiences and priorities when it comes to your suburban community. Your input is critical and will help to shape the suburban planning process. Responses are confidential and anonymous.

This questionnaire will be open until **June 15th, 2026**.

Find more details about the plan and the link for the survey here.

YOUTH SERVICES PLAN

Every three years, Parks & Recreation develops a Youth Services Plan to identify issues relevant to youth aged 13-24 and to respond to the changing needs, values and priorities of youth across the municipality. A new plan is currently being developed for 2026–2029.

The municipality is inviting young people (ages 13-24) to participate in an online survey to help guide future youth-focused programs and services, particularly in recreation.

Complete this survey by June 30 to be entered into a prize draw for a Nintendo Switch, Apple Watch or AirPods. To enter, participants must provide their name and phone number. The prize draw is on July 8, 2026.

Fun in-person feedback sessions will also be held in different recreation spaces.
Visit **halifax.ca/ysp** for more information.

SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION FUNDING AGREEMENT RATIFICAITON

The Halifax Regional Municipality and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) have finalized a new five-year supplementary education funding agreement, reinforcing a shared commitment to student learning across the municipality.

Supplementary funding will continue to support enhanced music and fine arts programming for HRCE and CSAP students, returning the focus to the original intent of this funding. As part of this shift, funding for social work and library support will gradually transition out over the next five years, with full implementation by Aug. 31, 2031.

The agreement also strengthens accountability and transparency. HRCE will continue to provide public updates on how supplementary funding is used and will now deliver an annual presentation to Regional Council.

Overall, this renewed agreement maintains strong support for enhanced educational programming while balancing long-term affordability for the municipality. It ensures students continue to benefit from enriched arts opportunities beyond provincially funded core programming. HRM remains the only municipality in Nova Scotia that provides this additional funding beyond mandatory provincial education contributions.

The agreement takes effect immediately and will guide supplementary education funding through March 31, 2031.

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES MOTIONS TO REDUCE COSTS AND CUT RED TAPE FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Regional Council has approved two motions aimed at reducing costs, cutting red tape, and making it easier for small businesses to operate across the municipality.

Council has directed the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare staff reports with options in two key areas:

- Creating a red tape feedback portal or engagement tool so businesses can directly identify barriers they encounter; and
- Reviewing sidewalk patio permit fees, including options to reduce or eliminate these fees in the 2027/2028 fiscal year.

Small businesses across the region continue to face rising costs and broader economic pressures. While many of these challenges fall outside municipal control, the municipality plays an important role in shaping a supportive local business environment.

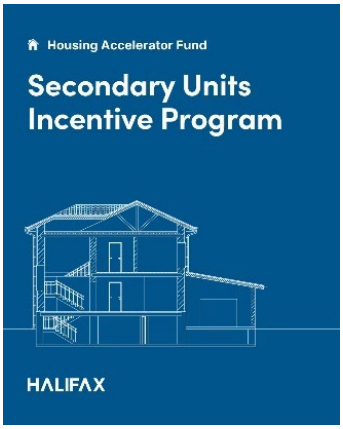
These initiatives are intended to reduce barriers, streamline processes, and help ensure municipal systems work effectively to support housing, infrastructure, and economic growth. More updates will be shared as they become available.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Our Neighbourhood and Volunteer Services Team will be offering a wide selection of FREE 101-level workshops for residents who want to be more involved in their community or better serve the community organizations they're working with.

Check out the training catalogue and the spring 2026 workshop schedule on our website for details.

SECONDARY UNITS INCENTIVE PROGRAM EXTENSION



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.

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.

ONE MEMBERSHIP RECREATION ACCESS

Members at any participating HRM or multidistrict facility can now receive a 75 per cent discounted day pass to access other facilities on a pay-per-use basis.

The approach responds to strong public feedback favouring flexibility without fee increases and reflects the municipality's goal of equitable access under the Community Facility Master Plan.

Staff will monitor usage, financial impacts and member experience throughout the pilot and return to Regional Council with results and long-term recommendations following the Multi-District Facility governance review.

For more information, read the staff report.

ALDERNEY FERRY SERVICE REDUCTION

The Vincent Coleman ferry was successfully repaired and returned to service on May 19 following testing and sea trials, however repairs are now required on the Christopher Stannix vessel and further service reductions are required.

The Alderney Ferry service will run every 30 minutes instead of every 15 minutes. This reduced schedule will apply on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. until further notice.

The Craig Blake ferry remains out of service for scheduled inspections and a major repair and is expected to return later this year. We'll continue to share updates as they become available.

Thank you for your patience as Halifax Transit completes this important work to keep our ferry service safe and reliable. For real time alerts on all Halifax Transit services you can visit our website here

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREE REMEDIATION

Work has begun in select municipal parks to protect eastern hemlock trees from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, an invasive insect threatening forests across our region. The first potential treatment day is Sunday, May 24 at Hemlock Ravine depending on weather conditions.

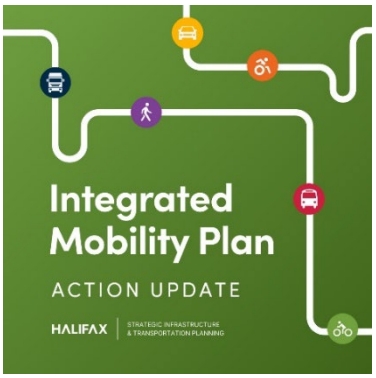
Staff, volunteers, and contractors will be assessing and marking hemlock trees in areas like Hemlock Ravine and Sandy Lake Regional Park. Marked trees will have brightly coloured flagging tape, and signs will be posted to explain the work. Please don't remove any tape or markings.

The municipality uses an injection-only treatment method, which places a small amount of regulated insecticide directly into the tree.

This keeps the product contained and means parks can remain open — no spraying or misting is being used.

More information, including treatment locations and volunteer opportunities, is available on our website by clicking here

INTEGRATED MOBILITY PLAN – 2026 ACTION PLAN UPDATE



The Halifax Regional Municipality has updated its Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) to better respond to the transportation challenges our fast-growing city is facing.

The IMP is a nationally recognized roadmap that guides how we build safe, healthy, connected, and affordable ways for people to move around Halifax. It focuses on moving people—not just vehicles—and supports the creation of livable, complete communities.

Originally approved by Regional Council in 2017, the IMP has already seen major progress, with about 75% of its original actions completed or incorporated into everyday municipal practice. The 2026 Action Update reflects this progress and aligns the plan with newer strategies, including HalifACT 2050, the Rapid Transit Strategy, and the realities of Halifax's significant population growth. The update also introduces a new fifth pillar—Equity—to help guide decision-making and ensure mobility improvements benefit all residents.

Key themes in the updated plan include expanding transit priority and preparing for future bus rapid transit, completing the all-ages-and-abilities bike network, filling critical sidewalk gaps, using technology to improve traffic flow, strengthening data and monitoring, and collaborating with regional partners on shared priorities.

Learn more about the IMP and the 2026 Action Update here

IN THE COMMUNITY

2026 Citizenship Awards – Colin McGuigan, Mayor Fillmore, and Councillor Young

Cheque presentation to Ikenna Okpala

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”

“Until the lion learns to write,

every story will glorify the hunter”

African Proverb