



COUNCILLOR STEVE CRAIG DISTRICT 15 - LOWER SACKVILLE

LED Streetlight Conversion Project

You may have seen crews working on streetlights across the district lately. This is because HRM is in the middle of our streetlight conversion project. To help make our communities safer and more energy efficient, the Halifax Regional Municipality is replacing the more than 44,000 traditional, high-pressure sodium streetlights in the Halifax region with energy efficient LED technology. LED streetlights are widely popular for their energy efficiency, long lifespans and reduced maintenance requirements. They also produce a much brighter, whiter light that is focused on the ground, improving visibility and safety for all users.

The benefits of LED Technology:

- Outstanding operational lifespan of up to 20 years
- Cuts energy consumption by 50%
- Contains no toxic materials and bulbs are 100% recyclable
- Directs light onto the ground and reduces light pollution
- Extremely durable and resistant to shock, vibrations and impacts
- Can be dimmed according to lighting needs to save energy and costs
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions

For more information on the LED streetlight conversion project, visit www.halifax.ca/traffic/LED.

Shape Your Budget 2017 We want your feedback on the municipal budget.

How does municipal budgeting work? Where are your tax dollars spent?

Try out the Budget Allocator to see where you would allocate resources. That information together with your comments from this site will be shared in a report to Council prior to budget deliberations for 2017/18. Please visit shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/hfxtax2017 for more information.

Halifax Transit Departures Line

As part of Halifax Transit's ongoing \$43-million transit technology upgrade, we have replaced the former GoTime telephone-based bus schedule reporting system with the new Departures Line phone number for passengers to access real-time bus departure information.

Since the Departures Line was launched in mid-May, callers using the old GoTime numbers were automatically redirected to the new Departures Line to access real-time bus departure information. Decommissioning the GoTime system was the final step in this phase of the technology upgrades, in that all calls for real-time bus departure information will come directly through the Departures Line at 902-480-8000.

The Departures Line is one of several passenger information improvements now that the entire Halifax Transit bus fleet has been equipped with real-time location technology.

For more information on how to use the Departures Line, visit www.halifax.ca/transit/departures/index.php



Thanks very much to all the volunteers who helped pack Christmas baskets at Beacon House Food Bank!



DEPUTY MAYOR STEVE CRAIG
COUNCILLOR DISTRICT 15 -
LOWER SACKVILLE



DEAR RESIDENTS

Since my 2016 spring newsletter, I was acclaimed as Councillor District 15, Lower Sackville, and elected as HRM Deputy Mayor by my Halifax Regional

Council colleagues. I will continue to work on your behalf and serve all of HRM's residents. There are six new Councillors this term and I'm very excited to be part of this new team.

This year many capital improvements and recreational additions have been completed. We've had Glendale Drive intersection improvements at Smokey Drive, Rankin Drive, and Riverside Drive that included turning lanes, bus stops, and storm water improvements. Tillock Drive and Tillock Court were reconstructed at the same time as Halifax Water improved water infrastructure. Halifax Water also completed storm water system improvements at Sackville Cross Road and Seawood Avenue.

Due to engineering staff shortages, a couple of projects in Lower Sackville have been delayed. The following are now planned capital work for 2017: a new sidewalk from Metropolitan Avenue to MacDougall Avenue which includes new crosswalk lights at Raymond Drive, Old Sackville Road bridge improvements over Highway 101, as well as street recapitalization for Lydgate Drive and Lynville Drive.

We are now in the process of preparing the 2017-2018 budget. I encourage residents to participate in the process and help shape your budget. The Halifax Budget Allocator is up and running on our website at hfxtax2017.budgetallocator.com/# Check it out.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings, and health and happiness in 2017

Sincerely,
Steve

HOW CAN WE HELP?

CALL CENTRE

Call 311 toll-free from anywhere throughout HRM and our friendly and knowledgeable agents can provide you with a wide variety of municipal information and services in over 150 languages using a telephone interpretation service. Hours of operation: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

CALL MY OFFICE

For assistance with municipal issues, please contact my Constituency Coordinator, Nadine Yuriev by email at Nadine.Yuriev@halifax.ca or by calling 902.490.1577.

CONTACT ME:

Cell: 902.240.0441
Fax: 902.490.4122
Email: Steve.Craig@halifax.ca

STAY CONNECTED

Facebook: [steve craig](https://www.facebook.com/stevecraig4hrm)
LinkedIn: [steve craig](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stevecraig)
Twitter: [@stevecraig4hrm](https://twitter.com/stevecraig4hrm)

The information or opinions on these sites are not necessarily endorsed by the Halifax Regional Municipality

STAY INFORMED

Visit my web page for up-to-date information on HRM related issues at halifax.ca/District15/

Police Non-Emergency 902.490.5020
Fire 902.490.5530
Mayor's Office 902.490.4010
Council Office 902.490.4050



Due to Canada Post distribution areas, some residences which are not in District 15 may receive this newsletter. I apologize for any confusion this may cause and hope you still find the information useful.



COUNCILLOR STEVE CRAIG

DISTRICT 15 - LOWER SACKVILLE

District Capital Funds

Councillors receive a \$94,000 annual budget to use in their District for community development and infrastructure projects. This taxpayer funded budget is used to assist organizations and results in benefits to both the group and the community they serve. Providing the requests meet the criteria stated in the district capital fund policy, I make the final decision on fund distribution in Lower Sackville. These contributions could be the only way a group could achieve their goals, or complete a project. Being involved in so many organizations before being a Councillor, I understand the challenges and use the money to help many organizations and volunteers. These funds assist projects like main street beautification, signage, seasonal community decorations, path & trail maintenance and enhancements, community gardens, pedestrian safety, and playgrounds such as the Sycamore Lane Elementary School playground. Please check www.halifax.ca/councillors/councillor-funds.php to get information on the criteria and procedure to make a request.

Heating Assistance Rebate Program

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) helps with the cost of home heating for low-income Nova Scotians who pay for their own heat.

Rebates range from \$100 to \$200. You can apply between now and March 31, 2017. To qualify for the rebate, you must pay for your own heat and meet one of the following criteria: a net income of \$27,000 or less and live alone with no kids or dependents; have a combined net income of \$42,000 or less and live with kids, dependents, or other adults; receive income assistance from the Department of Community Services; receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement or the Allowance from Service Canada.

If your personal or financial situation has changed since last year, you may still qualify. Examples of changes include becoming widowed, getting divorced or legally separated, losing your job, or having the custody of your children change. Contact Service Nova Scotia to find out if you qualify.

For more information visit novascotia.ca/programs/heating-assistance-rebate-program/

Integrated Mobility



The Integrated Mobility Plan will create a long-term vision for regional transportation that will move people and goods more efficiently across the region, and help to direct future investment in transit, active transportation and roadways to manage demands on the network, and better connect residents and their communities. The Integrated Mobility Plan stems from municipal policy direction on public transit and transportation, land use and growth centres, contained within the Regional Plan, including the following:

- Implement a sustainable transportation strategy by providing a choice of integrated and connected travel options emphasizing public and community based transit, active transportation, carpooling and other viable alternatives to the single occupant vehicle;
- Promote land settlement patterns and urban design approaches that support fiscally and environmentally sustainable transportation modes;
- Forecast the municipality's need for mobility and provide service and infrastructure to meet this demand while influencing choice towards transportation sustainability; and
- Design complete streets for all ages, abilities and travel options.

I encourage you to stay tuned to www.halifax.ca/integratedmobility over the next several months and participate in our future engagement opportunities; your feedback will help shape the way we move people around the region for years to come.

Slow down signs

I would like to thank everyone who requested to have the "Slow Down For Us" signs on your lawns in Lower Sackville. The interest and demand was so high, I will be ordering more next spring. If you would like one for your lawn please contact me directly. Please be informed that the District 15 "Slow Down For Us" signs are NOT a traffic calming measure, and they have no authority to direct or slow down traffic, or make children safer on the streets, they are simply a reminder to slow down.

COUNCILLOR STEVE CRAIG

DISTRICT 15 - LOWER SACKVILLE



Snow Operations

Winter weather is already upon us and with it the need for snow clearing programs to kick in to gear. The Halifax Regional Municipality's Winter Operations program is fully prepared and ready to deal with snow clearing of our almost 3,800 kilometres of streets, 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks and 2,295 bus stops. Our crews consist of both in-house and contracted operators and equipment. This year the municipality has expanded the geographic area to be covered by fixed cost contractors and secured access to more equipment, which will better position our in-house staff to improve service in the areas they are responsible for. Monitoring and measuring also plays an important part in improving service delivery.

Vehicle tracking technology will be used this season to provide real time information on winter maintenance operations. This technology has been adopted in other jurisdictions in Canada and was also recommended in an independent review of the Winter Operations program. Information is also available on street and sidewalk clearing schedules that is tailored to individual communities and areas. As well, residents may call 311 for more detailed information as we have winter operations plugged into the 311 system for the first time this year. As in previous years, the HRM Parking Ban period is December 15 through March 15, 2017, but is only activated and enforced when declared by staff during inclement weather. The ban is in place over night between 1 AM and 6 AM. Visit www.halifax.ca/snow/ParkingBan/Notifications.php to sign up for parking ban notifications.

For more information on our Winter Snow Operations, like vehicle tracking, parking ban information, and service updates, please visit www.halifax.ca/snow/index.php



Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

Due to high demand for this service, Regional Council put an additional \$200,000 into the Seniors Snow Removal Program. This extra funding opens up approximately 230 more spaces for a total of over 600 eligible properties throughout the municipality.

- The snow removal program is available to seniors (65 years of age or older) and persons with disabilities in the Halifax region who also meet the criteria below.
- The program applies to residential properties only - commercial properties are ineligible.
- The program is NOT available to landlords.
- You must reside in a single dwelling home that you own or rent.
- The total gross household income of all people living on the premises must not exceed \$32,000.

The program offers assistance to clear snow from steps and walkways, including:
 Front and back steps
 Walkways
 Ramps
 Access to fuel tanks

The 2016/17 YMCA Senior Snow Removal Program is now open and operates on a first-come, first-served basis. When it reaches maximum capacity, the program will come to a close and individuals will be placed on a wait list. Please note that the YMCA only considers applications which include proper documentation. For more about this program, please call the YMCA at 902.483.3678.

