

Bedford – Wentworth News  
By Councillor Tim Outhit

Regional Council has begun discussions around the 2014-2015 budget. Presentations by each Business Unit will be taking place over the next month. This will be done in Committee of the Whole meetings, which includes a public participation segment. All residents are welcome to attend and to comment on departmental budgets. All meetings are held at City Hall and begin at 10:00 am. Check out the HRM website at [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca) for upcoming dates.

I'm sure you have noticed that pothole season has begun early this year, given the recent wet weather and extreme freezing and thawing. Potholes are formed during weather cycles such as snow, rain, freezing rain and freeze-thaw cycles. When moisture seeps below asphalt, then freezes and thaws, a gap is created under the asphalt that is compromised by vehicle traffic. When vehicles drive over the asphalt, the asphalt collapses into the gap to form a pothole. In HRM, pothole patching is a year-round effort and locations are identified during road patrols by HRM staff and through calls from residents. HRM has service standards for timelines for repairing potholes. Priority is placed on arterials and other streets with significant potholes. To report a pothole, please call #311, or fill out the on-line form at: <https://apps.halifax.ca/311>.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2014-2015 Community Grants Program. The program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities in our Municipality. There are two types of grants available - a project grant of up to \$5,000 and a capital grant of up to \$25,000. Grants are one time and for specific types of projects in the following categories: Environment, Recreation & Leisure, Affordable & Supportive Housing, Emergency Assistance, Neighborhood Safety, Community History, Community Diversity and Arts & Crafts. You will find application forms and program guidebooks on-line at [www.halifax.ca/grants](http://www.halifax.ca/grants) or you can call 311, or contact one of HRM's Citizen Contact Centres. Deadline for applying is March 31st.

The Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre is now open. Located at 202 Innovation Drive, next to CPA and the all-weather sports field, the new centre is a spacious, fully-accessible, and security-monitored recreation facility. It features many amenities including a full-size gymnasium, with capacity for 224 spectators, dance room, featuring hardwood floors, barres, and mirrored wall, locker room facilities, kitchenette (available to sport teams during tournaments), fitness room, dedicated youth and senior program room, dedicated pre-school program room, arts & crafts room, community meeting room, dedicated parking spaces, performance art venue and a full-size FIFA and CFL artificial turf facility. If you have an opportunity check out this wonderful addition to our community. For program information call the Centre at 490-4238.

As always, I encourage you to contact me with your concerns, feedback, and ideas!