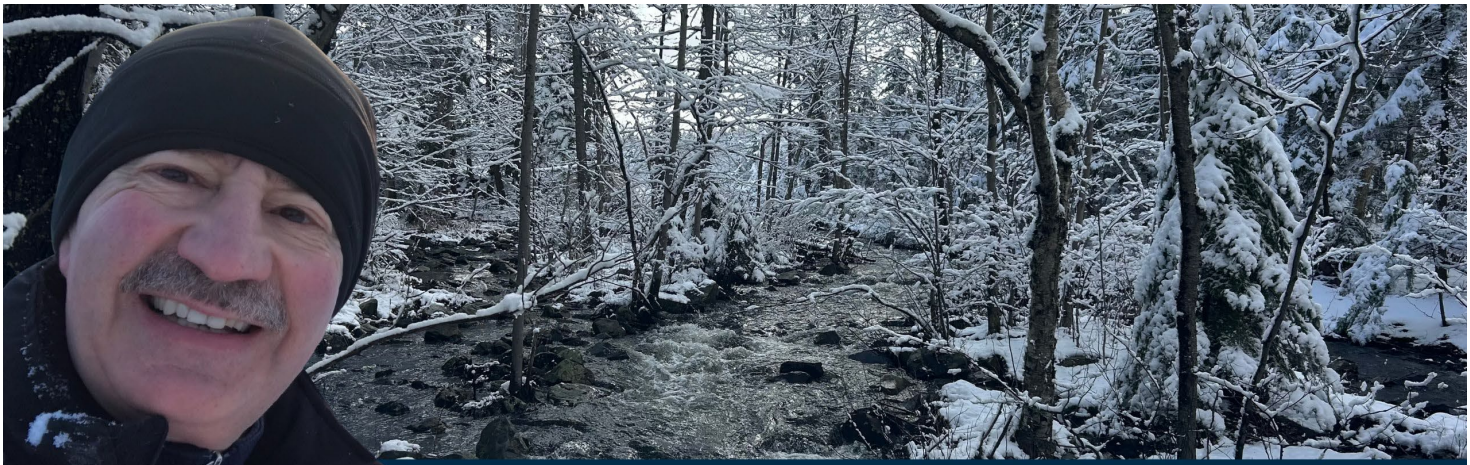


COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI
DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER
DARTMOUTH EAST - BURNSIDE

Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities

WELCOME FEBRUARY

Winter is in full swing but despite the cold temperatures, we still have lots to celebrate this month. It's African Heritage Month, a time to commemorate the many contributions and resilient spirits of African Nova Scotian friends, family and neighbours. February 16 is Heritage Day and this year we will be honouring the accomplishments of Joseph William Comeau.

On Feb. 7, I will be hosting the 2nd Shubie Winterfest at Shubie Park from 4 - 6 p.m. This will be a fun filled event with a bonfire, marshmallows, hot chocolate, mascot dance off, activities, live music and much more. I hope to see you there!

As always, please reach out with any of your municipal questions or concerns. I'm always happy to hear from you!

Wishing you a safe and warm February!

BIENVENUE EN FÉVRIER

L'hiver est bien installé, mais malgré les températures froides, nous avons encore beaucoup à célébrer ce mois-ci. C'est le Mois du patrimoine africain, un moment pour commémorer les nombreuses contributions et les esprits résilients de nos amis, familles et voisins afro-néo-écossais. Le 16 février est la Journée du patrimoine et cette année, nous rendrons hommage aux réalisations de Joseph William Comeau.

Le 7 février, j'organiserai le deuxième festival d'hiver de Shubie, au parc Shubie, de 16 h à 18 h. Ce sera un événement festif et divertissant où il y aura un feu de joie, des guimauves, du chocolat chaud, un concours de danse de mascottes, des activités, un spectacle musical et bien plus encore. J'espère vous y rencontrer!

Comme toujours, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec moi pour toute question ou préoccupation municipale. C'est toujours un plaisir de vous entendre!

Je vous souhaite un mois de février sûr et chaleureux!

FEBRUARY IS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

February is the 30th celebration of African Heritage Month!

Each year, African Heritage Month honours the experiences, achievements and enduring contributions of Black communities in Nova Scotia, while deepening our collective understanding of their history and impact on our society. Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back over 400 years.

This year's provincial theme is *"Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress."* Unity is not passive, it is an active force that strengthens our communities, advances justice, and creates pathways for opportunity and growth.

This month, City Hall will be illuminated in black, green and red and the Pan-African flag will be displayed at some of our municipal buildings in honour of African Heritage Month. Keep an eye on our website for more details about how you can commemorate African Heritage Month and what we're working on to build strong relationships, partnerships, and alliances with African Nova Scotian communities across the municipality.

Shubie Winterfest is back for another year this weekend! I hope you can join us on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 4 - 6 p.m. at Shubie Park for a fun-filled evening. There will be a bonfire, live music, hot chocolate, timbits and donuts, a mascot dance off, activities and so much more. I hope to see you there!

Having a blast at the Ice Festival in Downtown Dartmouth!

2026 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMS APPLICATIONS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting applications for the 2026 Community Grants Program.

The Community Grants Program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the region. The program ensures organizations across the municipality have equal opportunities to seek funding for projects that help make their community a great place to live and work for all residents.

There are two types of grants available: a project grant of up to $5,000 and a capital grant of up to $25,000. Funding is available for projects in the following categories:

- Community arts
- Diversity and accessibility
- Environment and climate change
- Emergency assistance and public safety
- Community histories
- Leisure
- Recreation

Applicants are encouraged to review the Program Guidebook before applying. First-time applicants should contact staff for guidance prior to submission. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

For more information, including how to apply, visit our website.

CONGRATULATIONS DON MACMILLAN

Congratulations to Don MacMillian on reaching 100 years of age. We had the pleasure of meeting Don and his wife Mary through Scouting, where they selflessly dedicated many years to the youth of our community. We celebrated this remarkable achievement with Don's family and friends, fondly reminiscing about his tales of pet porcupines, fishing, sailing and Scouting.

CAPTAIN TURPLE

District 6 resident Firefighter James Turple has been promoted to Captain. Captain Turple transitioned from A Platoon to E Platoon on January 19, 2026.

Thank you for your service, Captain. Our community and the Halifax Fire Services are fortunate to have your leadership.

SUBURBAN PLAN

We need your feedback on the development of our Suburban Plan.

The Halifax Regional Municipality is developing a Suburban Plan, a new planning document that will guide growth and change in our suburban areas.

Residents will have opportunities to share their ideas and help influence the Suburban Plan throughout the planning process at open houses and through an online survey.

The open house for our area will be held at the following date and time:

Cole Harbour, Dartmouth, Westphal and Lake Loon

- Date: Feb. 11
- Time: 2-4 p.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.
- Location: Cole Harbour Place

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.
The survey will remain available until June 15, 2026.
Learn more and fill out the survey by visiting 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.

HRM BUDGET 2026/27

Over the next few months, Regional Council will be reviewing each business unit's budget and business plan and providing feedback to shape the final 2026/27 municipal operating and capital budgets.

You can attend any budget meeting and take part in the public participation section of the meeting. You can pre-register by 4:30 p.m. on the business day prior to the meeting or show up and elect to step forward when the Mayor calls for public participation. Virtual participation is also available.

Below are the key dates for the 2026/27 municipal budget process:

- **Feb. 4–6:** Operations (Parks & Recreation, Planning & Development, Public Works, Halifax Transit, etc.)
- **Feb. 11–13:** Public Safety (Community Safety, Fire & Emergency, Police, RCMP)
- **Feb. 18–19:** Corporate Services & Other (CAO's Office, Finance, HR, IT, Libraries, Mayor's Office, etc.)

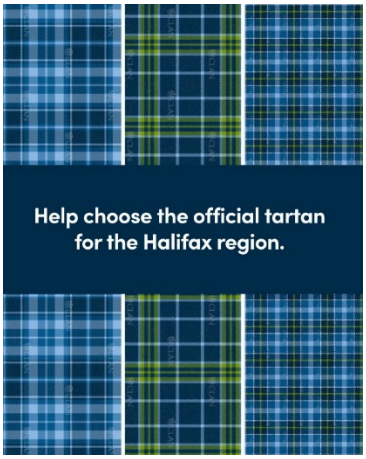
In March, we will be reviewing the Budget Adjustment List (BAL) where Council will consider additional items beyond proposed budgets, including add-ons ("overs") and subtractions ("unders") and provide final budget approval.

*These dates are subject to change.

For more information on the 2026/27 municipal budget process, visit our website.

MUNICIPAL TARTAN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to share their thoughts on three proposed tartan designs to help select an official tartan for our region. Tartan is a widely recognized symbol of heritage and identity, and nearly 200,000 residents in the municipality identify as having Scottish or Irish heritage.



Input from residents will inform a recommendation to Regional Council in early 2026, when the final design will be selected and submitted to the Scottish Tartans Authority, the global authority for tartan registration managing the Scottish Register of Tartans. Once selected and registered, the official Halifax Regional Municipality tartan will be used in branding, ceremonial events and other municipal applications to celebrate and represent this part of our identity.

Visit this webpage by Feb. 11 to review the three proposed designs and provide your feedback.

WINTER OPERATIONS REMINDERS

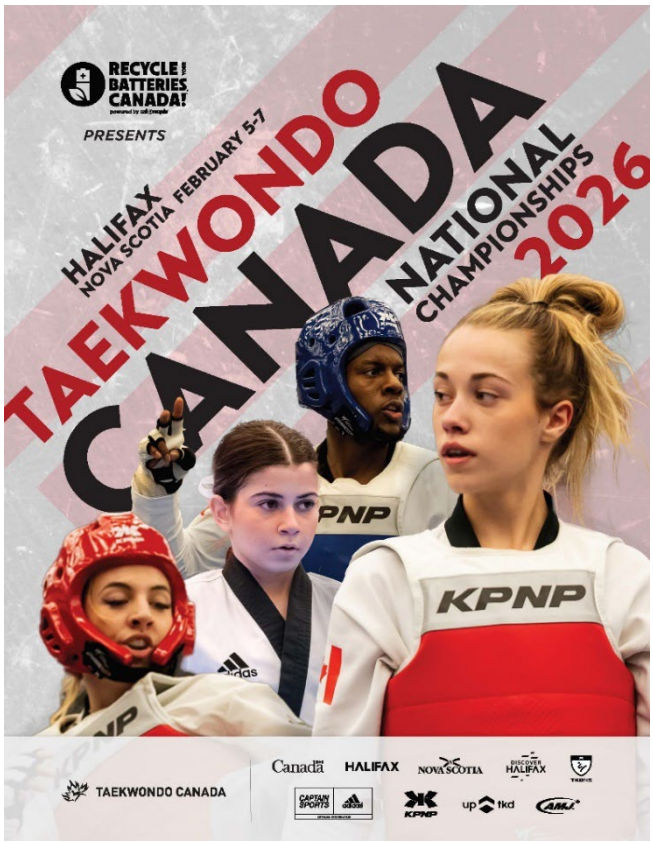
We made it through another winter storm! For timely updates on winter operations and more information on service standards for road and sidewalk clearing in your area, please check out our website. Don't forget to sign up for alerts when the winter parking ban is being enforced, ensure your property and sidewalks are clear of any obstructions and stay safe!

HALIFAX TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY

The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking feedback from passengers about accessibility on Halifax Transit's conventional bus, Access-A-Bus and ferry services.

Feedback from the public will help ensure continued improvements, making transit more inclusive and accessible for everyone.

Complete the survey here.



February 5 – 7 at the Halifax Convention Centre

Congratulations to all the nominees of the 2026 Halifax Business Awards. A special congratulations to the Stanfield International Airport for winning the Business of the Year.

HERITAGE DAY

Every year, on the third Monday in February, Nova Scotians celebrate Heritage Day. This is an opportunity to enjoy time off with friends and family, celebrate an important piece of our Nova Scotia's storied past and diverse culture, and learn more about our history in the process.

This year, we will honour Senator Joseph Willie Comeau (1876–1966). Comeau was an Acadian educator, entrepreneur, legislator and Senator from Digby County, Nova Scotia. He is recognized for his long-standing advocacy for Acadian language, culture and education in Nova Scotia. His efforts included:

- supporting the development of a French-Canadian history textbook for schools in Acadian regions
- encouraging French-language training for teachers through Université Sainte-Anne

He was elected nine times, reflecting sustained confidence in his leadership and commitment to his constituents.

There will be a Community Celebration in Church Point, NS to commemorate his life and legacy on Feb. 21 from 1 – 3 at the Université Sainte-Anne featuring a presentation by Comeau's family, video premiere of a short documentary about Comeau and a reception with refreshments.

You can find more information here.

CARE COMMUNITY CRISIS SERVICE NOW 24-7

CARE
Crisis Assistance and Response

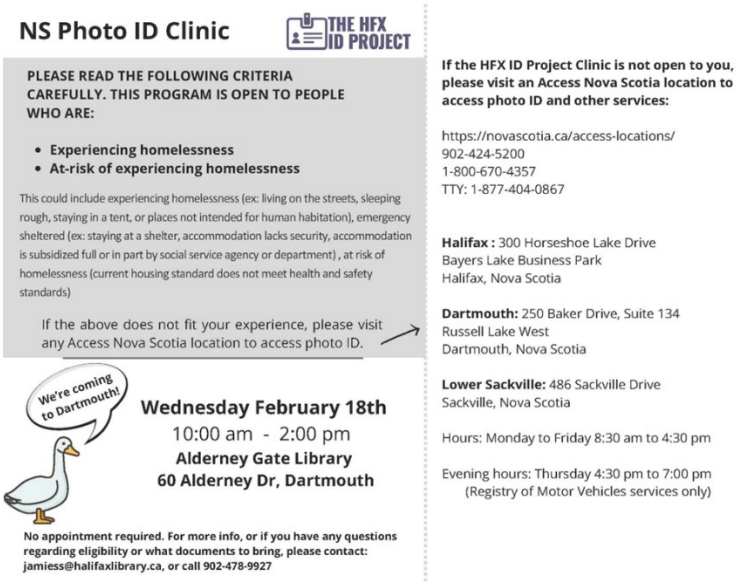
Residents in Dartmouth (within the Highway 111 boundary), Woodlawn and Cole Harbour will now have 24-7 access to the CARE – Crisis Assistance and Response program.

CARE is a pilot program that provides in-person support for people 16 years and older experiencing non-emergency, non-violent crises related to mental health, substance use and personal well-being. Launched in October 2025, the CARE program was initially offered between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m., Monday to Friday. The service offers a safe, trauma-informed alternative to calling police or other first responders when they may not be the best fit.

CARE staff are specially trained in trauma-informed care, harm reduction, mental health first aid, suicide prevention and cultural humility. They are prepared to respond respectfully and effectively to people from diverse communities, including African Nova Scotians, Indigenous Peoples, 2SLGBTQIA+ and neurodiverse residents. The team provides in-person support and will help to connect people to other community supports after the crisis.

To access CARE, call 211. A trained navigator will assess the situation and, if it qualifies for CARE, dispatch the CARE mobile team. The CARE Mobile Team will then come in-person to provide support.

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



POLICING FEEDBACK

The Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC) has engaged Narrative Research to conduct a community survey on Policing.

The survey covers topics such as your perception of police effectiveness, what the most important crime related priorities should be and much more and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

The results of the survey will be reported quarterly, and there will be a final report and presentation in the fall. Check out the survey here.

The BoPC are also collecting feedback on the Use of Force and the Code of Conduct Complaints policies. You can find more information on our website and submit policy feedback to bopc@halifax.ca.

Please take the time to participate and provide your feedback for these two important community safety initiatives!

"ONE MEMBERSHIP" RECREATION ACCESS

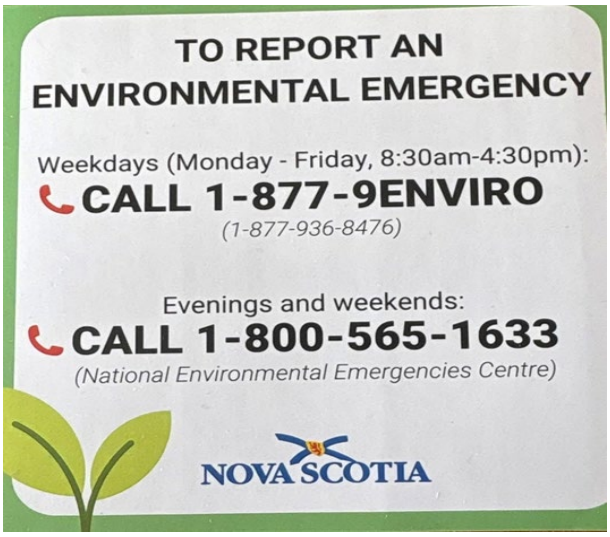
Regional Council has directed staff to launch a pilot project to improve access to municipally operated and multi-district recreation facilities through a "One Membership" model.

The pilot will introduce a 75 per cent discounted day pass for residents who hold an active membership at any participating HRM or multi-district facility, allowing them 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.



It is always great to attend the monthly Kinsmen Brunch at the East Dartmouth Community Centre!

EVENTS EAST ANNOUNCES NEW CEO AND PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors for Event East Group, the organization responsible for operating the Halifax Convention Centre and Scotiabank Centre, is pleased to announce that Suzanne Fougere has been selected as the new President & CEO.

DANGEROUS ANIMAL POLICIES

On Jan. 27, Regional Council unanimously supported a motion to request Provincial action on strengthening animal control policies. The motion was brought forward in response to a presentation from a local family who survived a severe dog attack in November.

The Mayor will be writing a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs urging consideration of strengthened policies for dangerous animals, including:

1. Transferring dangerous dog legislation to the provincial level or mandating inter-jurisdictional communication on animal control to prevent relocation of dangerous dogs between municipalities.
2. Providing authority for immediate seizure of animals following a serious attack to ensure public safety during investigations.
3. Implementing stronger preventative measures, including higher penalties for owners who fail to control their dogs.

For more information, check out the motion here.

PARKING BAN

The overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from Dec. 15 until Mar. 31; however, it is only enforced during declared weather events and clearing operations. When the ban is enforced, it restricts any on-street parking between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Vehicles in violation of the ban will be ticketed and/or towed.

Remember to stay informed about the status of the parking ban and please think before you park.

RIDESHARE OVERSIGHT

At the Jan. 27 meeting of Regional Council, Council considered amendments to By-law T-1008 and Administrative Order 39 to modernize fare regulations for taxis, accessible taxis, and limousines and the licensing of Transportation Network Company (TNC) drivers.

Halifax Regional Council voted down by-law changes and instead supported a motion to prepare a staff report with input from a temporary working committee composed of representatives from the Halifax Regional Municipality TNC Operators, and Taxi industry to review the Municipality's public policy objectives against the best practices from across Canada, with a particular focus on training, audit, approaches to licensure, and compliance models used by municipal and provincial regulators.

Council did approve changes in the regulations for fares, meter technology requirements, online applications.

You can find the staff report here.

OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS

Winter playing fields can now be used as off-leash dog parks!

For a list of approved off-leash areas throughout the municipality, visit our website.

DID YOU KNOW?

Dartmouth has its own tartan!

It was officially registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in 2017 and is listed as the “Dartmouth, City of Lakes” tartan.

What do the colours in the tartan represent?

- **Yellow** represents 3 rowing clubs on Lake Banook
- **Red** is for red clay identifies the rich history of the Shubanacadie Canal and the 3 main lakes it feeds into
- **Blue** represents the harbour which separates the two adjoining cities
- **Grey** represents the tragedy of the Halifax explosion in 1917, lives lost, people injured and thousands left homeless on that grey day in history, the Starr Manufacturing Company known for its production of metal ice skates and also identifies the oil stacks of Woodside where the flame no longer burns.

HFX ALERT

Get notified when it matters most.

Sign up for hfxALERT, the Halifax Regional Municipality’s mass notification system, to receive critical and non-urgent alerts, as well as municipal winter parking ban notices.

To find out more and to register, visit our website.

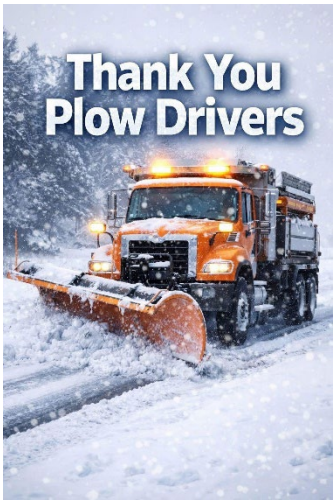
SCAN: SAFER COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS ACT

The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act (SCAN) helps residents address properties being used for illegal activities such as drugs, alcohol, prostitution or gaming. The Act allows citizens to report problem buildings and gives authorities the power to investigate, hold property owners accountable, and, if needed, shut down locations tied to ongoing criminal activity.

To report a problem property or ask questions, call **1-877-357-2337** (Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.). Messages left after hours will be returned. For emergencies, always call **911**, and you may also report concerns to your local police.

Remember - It's Your Neighbourhood. Your Call.

Learn more here.



A big thank you to all our snow plow operators for keeping our roads safe!

UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meeting scheduled for February. Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:

- Feb. 10
- Feb. 24

Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings – including committees here. Meeting agendas (including the specific start time of 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.) and a link to watch the video are generally available by the Friday prior to the meeting. Reports on the items that councillors vote on are available and are linked throughout the meeting agenda.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council normally meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes online.

The HEMDCC webcast will be live on HRM's YouTube channel and agenda postings. Stay tuned for the video link to be shared closer to the next HEMDCC meeting, scheduled for Monday, Feb. 9, 2026.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'Kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

We also acknowledge the histories and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities that have been here for more than 400 years.

The Acadians founded the first permanent settlement in North America on this land that would later become Nova Scotia. The Acadian people have contributed to the economic, cultural and social vitality of our province for more than 400 years. We recognize that the identity of the Acadian people is defined by its history, its language, its culture, its customs.

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Currently serving on:
Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council
Regional Centre Community Council
Board of Police Commissioners
Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee
Executive Standing Committee
Halifax Regional Library Board
Shubenacadie Canal Commission
Woodlawn High School Advisory Committee