



WELCOME MAY!



Happy Mother's Day to all moms and those in the role of mom. You

help to shape our future and, for that, I express my thanks and appreciation.

There is a lot of great information in this month's newsletter: the 2023/24 Budget approval; the 2023 HRM Volunteer Award recipients; local bus stop improvement projects; and the opportunity for a guided bird-walking tour to celebrate Bird Week! Keep reading for even more information.

To discuss any municipal program, service, or initiative please reach out:

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MAY MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held on:

Regional Council:

Tuesday, May 9th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, May 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council:

Wednesday, May 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Please confirm dates and times on our [municipal website](#) as they are subject to change.

DID YOU KNOW...

That May is:

- Asian Heritage Month
- Bladder Cancer Awareness Month
- Brain Tumour Awareness Month
- Celiac Awareness Month
- Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month
- Food Allergy Awareness Month
- Foot Health Month
- Melanoma Awareness Month
- Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month
- National Hemochromatosis Awareness Month
- National Physiotherapy Month
- Speech and Hearing Month
- Vision Health Month

May 1st is [May Day](#)

May 3rd is [World Press Freedom](#)

May 4th is [International Firefighters Day](#)

May 4th is [Star Wars Day](#)

May 8th is [Remembrance and Reconciliation – WWII](#)

May 13th is [World Migratory Bird Day](#)

May 13th is [Open City Day](#)

May 14th is [Mother's Day](#)

May 15th is [International Day of Families](#)

May 16th is [International Day of Light](#)

May 16th is [International Day of Peace](#)

May 17th is [International Telecommunications Day](#)

May 18th is [International Museum Day](#)

May 21st is [World Day for Cultural Diversity](#)

May 22nd is [Victoria Day](#)

May 23rd is [World Turtle Day](#)

May 29th is [International Day for UN Peacekeepers](#)

May 31st is [World NO Tobacco Day](#)

BUDGET 2023 / 24

2023/24 Budget at a Glance
OPERATING BUDGET \$979.4M
CAPITAL PLAN \$333.3M
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL TAX BILL INCREASE 5.9%
MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE DECREASE 0.794 TO 0.760

On April 25th, Regional Council ratified the 2023 / 24 Municipal Operating and Capital Budgets. The average residential tax bill is increasing by 5.9 per cent. The average single-family home tax bill will increase by \$128 in 2023/24 to a total of \$2,288. Due to the increase in property assessment values, the municipal residential tax rate will decrease from 0.794 to 0.760.



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A new [commercial taxation policy](#) came into effect on April 1st, changing the way that commercial property taxes are calculated going forward. Geographical tax boundaries for commercial properties will change from the previous urban, suburban and rural areas to one of five new tax areas, which are listed in [Administrative Order 2022-003-ADM, Respecting Commercial Property Taxation in Certain Areas of the Municipality](#). As well, for each tax area, rates will vary by assessed value of the property, within three tiers of assessment. The rates for each tier and tax area will be updated on halifax.ca/taxrates.

We're investing in critical areas such as transportation, public safety, infrastructure management and addressing climate change. By doing so, we're creating a foundation for sustainable growth across our region. We've allocated significant funding towards improving our public transportation system, making it more accessible and efficient for all residents. This budget also includes provisions to develop affordable housing, which will help ensure our residents can access quality, low-cost housing.

Furthermore, we're prioritizing public safety with funds allocated to the creation of a new Community Safety business unit, as well as additional funding for Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency services.

This budget will allow the municipality to deliver services that positively impact the daily lives of residents today and into the future.

HRM'S 2023 VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS



Mayor Mike Savage and I with the District 9 2023 Volunteer Award Recipients.

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2023 HRM Volunteer Awards. Special thanks to District 9 recipients: Lillian Pappas, Michael Tynes Jr., Tia McDougall, Hong Wang, Catherine and Maura Woodman.

Lillian Pappas

YOUTH

Lillian is a grade 11 student at Halifax Grammar School. She began working to promote girls in tennis when she was 12 years old. During the first pandemic lockdown, she wanted to do more to help girls besides just doing odd tennis intro classes. She got some funding and started working very seriously, founding Girls Leading Girls Tennis. Lillian has put in over 200 hours since she began this project, and her passion and drive for this cause has inspired more girls to learn tennis.

Michael Tynes Jr.

Michael takes his role as a youth leader at Needham Recreation Centre very seriously, always asking questions and making sure that he is always on the right track. Everyone around him at the programs enjoys his presence, and the time he takes to engage with those around him. He is always supportive of his fellow youth leaders, and the Needham Centre is lucky to have him.

Tia McDougall

As a volleyball and running club coach, Tia always makes time to inspire the kids at École Mer et Monde. She inspires students to play confidently, do their best, and to play fairly and respectfully. She is always positive, creative, organized, and finds solutions when something comes up. We are lucky to have her as part of our school community.

Hong Wang

As the co-founder of the Atlantic Canada Ping Pong Association and a senior executive member of the Chinese Benevolent Association of Nova Scotia, Hong has contributed more than 2,000 hours of voluntary service to teaching children and adults Ping Pong and leading the Atlantic Ping Pong Tournament in Halifax for eleven years. She has also provided free food and holiday gifts for the elderly in the community and actively supports many non-profit events. Hong is a person who truly demonstrates the essence of volunteer service.



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Catherine & Maura Woodman

Catherine and Maura co-founded Joan's Table, an initiative in partnership with Shelter Nova Scotia, which provides healthy meals to those who previously experienced long-term homelessness. Through community coordination of Joan's Table, both have motivated and organized a team of more than 180 volunteers who make and deliver over 1000 meals on a routine basis to tenants of The Herring Cove Apartments. Joan's Table builds community, addresses homelessness and forges accessible volunteerism in our city.

A Heartfelt



Thanks

To our volunteers!

WEST END MALL ANNEX DEVELOPMENT



The West End Mall Annex is designated a Future Growth Node (FGN). The planning process will address what is needed for a new complete community through a neighbourhood plan for the entire area. This will include new roads, parks, pathways, mixed

housing, and any other amenities. Policies will be drafted for the municipal plan to guide development which will enable property owners within the FGN to apply for development agreements.

I encourage you to complete the online [survey](#) to ensure your comments are considered by planning staff during this process. **The [survey](#) is open until May 12th.**

ROBIE STREET TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Location: Robie Street (south bound), from Cunard Street to Quinpool Road

Date: Tuesday, May 2nd to Friday, May 12th

Time: 24/7

Work details: This work is related to the installation of underground infrastructure for the development at 6015 Quinpool Road.

Traffic impacts:

- Motorists, cyclists and Halifax Transit will detour via Cunard, North Park, Trollope and Summer streets and Veterans Memorial Lane
- Pedestrians will maintain access via Robie Street sidewalks on the east side of the road (along the Halifax Commons)
- Halifax Transit will be temporarily closing the three south bound bus stops between Cunard Street and Quinpool Road on the west side of Robie Street



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- A temporary bus stop will be placed on the south side of Cunard Street between Robie Street and North Park Street
- Residents should expect delays and are asked to use alternative routes whenever possible.

See more information at the following social media sites:

- [Facebook](#) - Halifax Regional Municipality
- [Twitter](#) - @hfxgov
- [Instagram story](#) - @hfxmoments

[Nicholas Peters](#), Engineering Assistant, HRM Right-of-way Services, is the project lead, if you require any additional information.

BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS - DISTRICT 9



As part of the bus stop improvement program, and to address accessibility at bus stops, construction is

planned at stops within District 9 as outlined in the adjacent table. The work typically includes installation of a concrete pad between the sidewalk and the curb or replacement of the shelter. Please refer to the [municipal website](#) for more information.

Bus Stop Location	Nearest Civic Address	Location of Work	Scope of Work	Status
Kelly St After Halef Ct (2300)	2 Halef Ct	East side of Kelly St adjacent 2 Halef Ct	Consolidation of Alton Dr After Kelly St (8815) and Kelly St Before Halef Ct (9074). New concrete pad between curb and sidewalk.	Pending 2023 construction
Kelly St Before Halef Ct (9074)	33 Kelly St	East side of Kelly St adjacent Civic 33	Discontinued stop - Remove concrete, reinstate sod.	Pending 2024 construction
Alton Dr After Kelly St (8815)	25 Alton Dr	East side of Alton Dr abutting Civic 25	Discontinued stop - Remove concrete, reinstate sod.	Pending 2024 construction
Alton Dr Before Kelly St (8801)	26 Alton Dr	West side of Alton Dr abutting Civic 26.	Discontinued stop - Remove concrete, reinstate sod.	Pending 2024 construction
Oxford St Before Jubilee Rd (2308)	1750/1752 Oxford St	West side of Oxford St abutting Civics 1750 and 1752	Consolidation of Oxford St After Jubilee Rd (7409) and Oxford St Before Norwood St (7419). New concrete pad between curb and sidewalk.	Pending 2023 construction

LITTERATI APP – QUICK START GUIDE



The data that is collected using the Litterati application will be used to see where litter clean ups are taking place, and track trends in the types of litter we are seeing in the community. This data will also be used to help inform and guide our waste education efforts around reducing litter.



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Quick Start Guide

1. Download the Litterati app from the [Apple App Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#) and claim your account
2. Sign up for an HRM clean up [challenge](#)
Join code: CLEANHRM or 542071
3. Clean up & take photos.
4. Upload your photos via wi-fi.
5. Tag your photos in the gallery after uploading.

This year, the municipality has launched challenges in each electoral district to see which district's residents can pick up the most pieces of litter. The challenge for your district can be found on the Litterati App by searching **HRM District [your district #] Cleanup** (e.g., HRM District 1 Cleanup) or by using the join code: HRM[*your district #*] (e.g., HRM1). Be one of the top three litter collectors in your district in May 2023 or from April 1, 2023- September 30, 2023, and win a Zero Waste Prize Pack! So, get out there and make Every Litter Bit Count with Litterati!

OPEN CITY – MAY 13th



Open City is an annual celebration of entrepreneurs and small

business of Halifax peninsula and Downtown Dartmouth that make our community so special, vibrant, exciting, and welcoming.

May 2023

From Back Door Takeout being served from some of the city's top restaurants, deals at local boutiques, opportunities to make and enjoy art, music on the corner – you never know what to expect at Open City.

One thing is certain though, it's always an amazing opportunity to get out and meet the folks between Halifax and Dartmouth's local shops and restaurants. Find participating businesses [here](#).

BIRD FRIENDLY HALIFAX COALITION – GUIDED BIRD WALK



HRM is in the process of becoming a Bird Friendly City, and recently achieved entry level status under the Bird Friendly City framework. To celebrate this achievement, and enjoy the company of our fine feathered friends, Bird

Friendly Halifax Coalition is hosting a bird watching walk during Bird Week (May 13th to 20th). The date for [the District 9 Bird Walk](#) is May 17th starting at Frog Pond parking lot.. Click [here](#) to register.



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Going for a walk and looking for birds is a great way to connect with the bird species that live in HRM. It helps us to realize that there are birds around us, every day, and that we can all take actions to support birds and their habitats in HRM.

Bird Week

Guided Bird Walk
Frog Pond, Sir Sandford Fleming Park,
District 9, Halifax

Wed. May 17th
9:30am-11:00am
Please register online

BIRD FRIENDLY CITY
HALIFAX, NS

recruiting participants for a study investigating child emotional development and family dynamics. Knowledge generated from this study will inform their understanding of how children develop the ability to regulate their emotions, which is an essential aspect to many developmental outcomes, including emotional adjustment, social skills and competence, friendship quality and peer acceptance, early school readiness, and later academic achievement.

This is a paid study (up to \$100), open to two-caregiver families with a child between 4-6 years old. Here is the [link](#) for more information.

SEEKING RESEARCH PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

devpsychbio.lab@gmail.com

ARE YOU A FAMILY OF TWO CAREGIVERS WITH A CHILD BETWEEN 4 AND 6 YEARS OLD?

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY INVESTIGATING FAMILY DYNAMICS AND CHILD EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COMPENSATION PROVIDED (UP TO \$100)

MSVU REB Approval #2022-020

A research lab at Mount Saint Vincent University, led by Dr. Jennifer Khoury, studying early childhood development (the [DPRC](#)) is

CN RAIL BRIDGE – JUBILEE ROAD

Jubilee Road CN Bridge Closure Detour
For additional project details, including updates on closure timelines, visit halifax.ca/cnbridgesrehab

- Motor Vehicle Detour
- Local Traffic Only
- Closed
- Pedestrian / Bicycle Detour

HALIFAX

Work on Jubilee Road began in April 2023.

The work includes the rehabilitation of the arch bridge structure, as well as the full replacement of the paved surface, railing and the sidewalks, as well as water and sewer work by Halifax Water. The municipality continues to work



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closely with CN and Halifax Water to ensure proper planning and coordination.

The nature of the work requires that a small section of Jubilee Road be closed to all vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. Access to the neighbourhood, including the St. Mary's Boat Club, is available from Quinpool Road via Prince Arthur Street. A detailed map of the closure and detours is [available for download](#) and is shown above.

COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

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I am a member of Halifax Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council, Regional Centre Community Council and the following boards & committees:

- Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Community Design Advisory Committee
- Halifax Chain of Lakes Trails Association
- Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation and Impact Fund
- Investment Policy Advisory Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land Acknowledgement

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.

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. Another way the municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement:

"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."

Historically, a Land Acknowledgment is a traditional practice shared amongst Indigenous groups to recognize the Indigenous land and territory they are visiting. Making a respectful Land Acknowledgement now, remains a way to express gratitude and respect to Indigenous peoples for being stewards of the land we live and work on. It is an important step in reconciliation.

In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.