

...Cultural Creativity Continued

- 4. Get out in nature.** Take a walk on one of our many local trails ([novascotiatrials.cioc.ca](http://novascotiatrials.cioc.ca)), or parks ([parks.novascotia.ca](http://parks.novascotia.ca)). Beaches offer inspiring beauty all year round and we have some of the prettiest in the province. Hike, surf, whale watch, paddle or watch the stars. Find new activities to try or new places for favourite activities ([novascotia.com/things-to-do](http://novascotia.com/things-to-do)).

**5. Embrace a Beginner Mindset.** Being willing to play and experiment opens a world of possibilities.
- Adopting a beginner’s mindset encourages exploration without fear of failure. Be compassionate with yourself. Don’t expect perfection. Make it about fun and learning.

**6. Get Started.** Make something. Explore a new location. The most crucial step is to take action, even if you don’t have clear vision of your destination. Go it alone or invite a friend to join you. Whether writing a story, painting a canvas, learning to carve, or experimenting with a new recipe, the act of creation itself breeds creativity. The process itself often leads to unexpected ideas and ignites further inspiration.
- all leads to discovery and confidence. Here’s to a year of adventure!

I welcome your suggestions about Eastern Shore things to try, places to visit, and stories to tell ([keepthestories@gmail.com](mailto:keepthestories@gmail.com)). I will share some of them in the *Cooperator*.



Musquodoboit Harbour & District Lions

**We are Lions!! Hear us ROAR!!**

**Where there’s a need, there’s a Lion**



**Another year has come and gone.** The beginning of a new year is a time to both plan new activities and reflect on our past achievements. In 2023 we provided financial support to the community in the following areas:

**\$19,070.00** to Community Assistance – direct financial support to families in need.

**\$6200.00** to assist families affected by the NS wildfires.

**\$12,060.00** in support for education, health care, sports and service organizations working with youth.

Our success is a reflection of your generosity and the spirit of this wonderful community. **Please accept our heartfelt thanks.**

*Our members also supported several events presenting an opportunity to interact with many of you, and to enjoy the camaraderie of community events. The summer BBQ in support of the Music Festival, the ESDH ‘85-’89 Reunion Charity BBQ and of course the Chili and Chowder offering during the Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade – all wonderful community gatherings.*

We are looking forward to 2024 and the enjoyment of interactions and the joy of working together.

**Upcoming events at the Lions Club, 43 East Petpeswick Road, Musquodoboit Harbour**

**Chili Supper February 10th** – 4-6pm \$10.00 – includes chili, dinner rolls, dessert and tea/coffee. 

**Monthly Breakfast** February 24th, March 23rd, April 27th and May 25th.

**Lions Cribbage** is ongoing every Thursday night at 7:00pm.

Interested in becoming a Lion – we meet the second Monday of every month – feel free to drop in or call the club at 902-889-2725. It is a wonderful way to meet community members and form lasting friendships. Some of our members have been with us for more than 40 years. Speaks volumes about the enjoyment and fulfillment of being a Lion.

Hosting an upcoming event the Lions Club is available for rent.

Please remember that if you, or anyone you know, is in need – we are here to help. Our mission is to serve. Contact us at 902-889-2725 or via Facebook private messenger. 

**Watch Out for Cryptocurrency Scams**

If you’re getting unsolicited phone calls or emails promising instant wealth from investing in cryptocurrency: Beware! Nova Scotians have lost at least \$750,000 to crypto fraud since January 2023, according to the Nova Scotia Securities Commission. One delightfully named scam is called “pig butchering,” where the fraudster persuades the victim to make larger and larger investments, until the fraudster disappears with all the money. There are many fake crypto-trading websites and platforms, and people posing as “crypto traders.” Before you invest a single dollar, check with the Commission: Toll Free: 1-855-424-2499.

Anita Wintzer

Associate Broker

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# HALIFAX

## DISTRICT 2 COUNCILLOR'S COMMUNIQUE

JANUARY 2024 — ISSUE #314 — HAPPY NEW YEAR

### NEW MUNICIPAL AUDITOR GENERAL

HRM welcomes Andrew Atherton as its new Auditor General. He is an accomplished audit professional and leader with over 25 years of experience in performance auditing and over 15 years in leadership roles within legislative audit and public service. Recently he was the Executive Director of Municipal Affairs with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, a key role helping to connect all 49 municipalities province-wide with the provincial government. Previously, Mr. Atherton spent over 20 years with the Nova Scotia Office of the Auditor General where, most recently, he served as Audit Principal in 2007-2016 and then as Assistant Auditor General from 2016-2022. Mr. Atherton graduated from Acadia University in 1997 with a BBA and obtained his Chartered Accountant designation in 2000. Mr. Atherton officially joined on December 5, 2023. For more information about the HRM Office of the Auditor General, please visit: [www.hrmauditorgeneral.ca](http://www.hrmauditorgeneral.ca).

### HRM GETS 'A' GRADE FROM CDP

HRM received an 'A' grade from the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) for our commitment to climate action and environmental protection. CDP is a global, non-profit charity that runs the world's disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to assess their environmental impact. Only 13 per cent of cities got an 'A' for their efforts in 2023. Being in CDP's top tier means that our ambitious climate action plan HalifACT is being recognized internationally for its emphasis on transparency and its bold climate leadership. CDP reporting is a commitment that we are going to keep working to sharply reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as a way of protecting our residents from the effects of climate change and ensuring the health of our economy. Getting an 'A' from an organization like CDP is an important sign that we are on the right track. To learn more about HalifACT [www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/energy-environment/halifact-2050-acting-climate-together](http://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/energy-environment/halifact-2050-acting-climate-together). Be sure to read the Plan, its Special Projects, Awards, and Community Updates.

### PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Property Assessment Notices will be mailed out in mid-January. Then there is a 31-day official Appeal Period from that date whereby property owners can review and perhaps refute their appraisals. You can now access your property file online. Your Notice will provide you with an AAN – Assessment Account Number with a PIN to view your data. If you feel it is not assessed properly, then you should contact the NS Municipality Agency - Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) and speak with an Assessment representative. PVSC Assessment Office is located at Park Place Two, 238-A Brownlow Avenue, Suite 200, Dartmouth, NS, B3B 2B4. Toll-free phone: 1-800-380-7775 or by fax: 1-888-339-4555. Their offices are not open to the public. They are available to answer questions and discuss assessments Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-800-380-7775 or [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca).

Property owners are encouraged to call and talk to an Assessor, prior to appealing an assessment. Perhaps this approach may answer and clear up some questions that you may have, hopefully avoiding the time and expense of an appeal. If not, you have the right to make a formal appeal, (in writing) either by letter or fax which must be received by their office on, or before the deadline

date. For more info, refer to your notice or go to: [www.pvsc.ca/pvsc-forms-and-guides](http://www.pvsc.ca/pvsc-forms-and-guides). If you should have any further enquiries about property valuation, please refer to their website at: [www.PVSC.ca](http://www.PVSC.ca) for more details.

### LOCAL AREA RATE FOR SIDEWALKS

HRM staff are conducting a couple of community engagement sessions to determine residents' position on adding an area rate to communities around and including Porter's Lake and Musquodoboit Harbour. The area rate will make these areas eligible for a new sidewalk or multi-use pathway on their Main Street portion of Hwy #7, helping improve walkability and create additional safe, sustainable, and accessible connections within these communities. Information received from residents will be compiled into a report for HRM Regional Council who will make the final decision on implementing the area rate and setting the boundaries. If approved by HRM Council, the sidewalk or multi-use pathway will then enter planning and design phases, followed by construction. Residents can expect more communications, and a Shape Your City survey on its webpage portal: [www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/shape-your-city-halifax](http://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/shape-your-city-halifax), that will begin in early January prior to, and to help promote the engagement events.

#### Porter's Lake Engagement:

Date: Monday, January 22, 2024  
With Open house format and presentation  
Session One: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Session Two: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Porter's Lake Community Centre (Bingo Hall)  
4693 Highway #7, Porters Lake.

#### Musquodoboit Harbour Engagement:

Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024  
With Open house format and Presentation  
Session One: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Session Two: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Old School Community Gathering Place  
7962 Highway #7, Musquodoboit Harbour.

To learn more about the role sidewalks and multi-use pathways play in the municipality's transportation network, visit: [www.halifax.ca/integratedmobility](http://www.halifax.ca/integratedmobility).

For more detailed information about HRM Rural Active Transportation Infrastructure Priorities: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/230207rc1511.pdf>.

### FEDERAL ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS

The Federal Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) has a Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage (BCAH) Program. Does your community organize a local festival? There are three intake period deadlines for applications under the Local Festivals component of the BCAH program: January 31, April 30, and October 15, 2023. Is there a significant local anniversary in our municipality or in your community in 2024? If the anniversary marks a 100th anniversary or greater, in increments of 25 years (e.g., 125th, 150th) and it commemorates a significant local historical event or pays tribute to a significant local historical personality, consider applying to the Community Anniversaries component of BCAH by visiting: [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/building-communities/festivals](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/building-communities/festivals).

The deadline is January 31 for festivals starting between September 1 and December 31 of the same calendar year, April 30 for festivals starting between January 1 and June 30 of the next calendar year, and October 15 for festivals starting between July 1 and August 31 of the next calendar year. For details, please contact them via email at: [pch.enligne-online.pch@canada.ca](mailto:pch.enligne-online.pch@canada.ca) or call toll-free 1-866-811-0055 or TTY 1-888-997-3123.

The Legacy Fund component which provides funding for community capital projects that commemorate significant anniversaries and involve the restoration, renovation, or transformation of existing buildings and/or exterior spaces with local community significance; encourage arts and heritage activities in your community; and are intended for and accessible to the general public. For more details about the Legacy Program, visit: [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/building-communities/legacy-fund.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/building-communities/legacy-fund.html), email them at: [PCH.bcah-dcap.PCH@canada.ca](mailto:PCH.bcah-dcap.PCH@canada.ca) or call them at the same phone numbers listed above. There is no established deadline date to submit a funding application under Legacy Fund component, as applications are accepted on a continuous basis. However, you must submit your application no later than the date of the anniversary being celebrated. You are encouraged to submit your application at least 12 months prior to the proposed start date for your project (or six months prior for smaller projects with total costs of 200K or less).

### MORE OPEN DATASETS AVAILABLE

As part of HRM's commitment to improving citizen engagement and enhancing transparency and accountability to its residents, the municipality is pleased to provide public access to its data. Open Data is a permanent service provided to citizens and businesses access to data for download, while still respecting privacy and sensitivity concerns. A wide range of data can be sourced for free through the catalogue, such as transit routes and schedule data, solid waste collection schedules, building applications, development permits, land-use applications and area rates. New data releases occur several times throughout the year. For more information on the municipality's Open Data program, and to access all the data sets, visit: [www.halifax.ca/opendata](http://www.halifax.ca/opendata) or contact them via email at: [opendata@halifax.ca](mailto:opendata@halifax.ca).

### HRM VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

The deadline to nominate a deserving volunteer in our communities is January 11, 2024. Nominate an individual or an organization to show appreciation for the work that they do.

Nominations must be submitted in one of three award categories: adult, youth (ages 13-19) and community group. For more details and online applications, visit [www.halifax.ca/volunteerawards](http://www.halifax.ca/volunteerawards).



Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor—Counciller municipal—Comhairlaiche—Wunaqapeme'  
District 2: Preston—Chezzetcook—Eastern Shore

Railway Museum – #7895 Highway #7  
P.O. Box 2, Musquodoboit Harbour, NS, B0J 2L0

1841 Argyle Street, Councillor's Support, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5

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# HALIFAX

## DISTRICT 2 COUNCILLOR'S COMMUNIQUE FEBRUARY 2024 — ISSUE #315 — HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

### 40th NS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme: "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians" outlines the spirit of perseverance that people of African Descent have demonstrated over the centuries in our province and country. The theme also aligns with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal of DPAD is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness and the passage towards presence in all aspects of society. Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back over 200 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of our people – past and present. For a list of African Heritage Month events and municipal proclamations across the province, go to [www.ahm.bccnsweb.com](http://www.ahm.bccnsweb.com).

### 8TH ANNUAL HBFF24 : FEB. 23– 26

The Halifax Black Film Festival (HBFF) is a dynamic, refreshing and audacious festival whose ambition is to encourage the development of the independent film industry and to promote more films on the reality of Black people from around the Globe. The HBFF is glad to celebrate diversity within the Black communities through films that matter. For more details, visit: [www.halifaxblackfilm.com](http://www.halifaxblackfilm.com). #HBFF24

### NATIONAL FLAG DAY & HERITAGE DAY

The Federal Government has proclaimed February 15 as National Flag of Canada Day. In 1965, fifty-nine years ago, the old Red Ensign Flag with the British Union Jack was replaced with the Red Maple Leaf. To know more facts about our nation's flag and/or other official national symbols of Canada: [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/official-symbols-canada.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/official-symbols-canada.html).

And be sure to wave our own provincial and municipal flags too! Heritage Day is the third Monday in February each year is set aside as an annual reminder of our storied past and an opportunity to honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province's unique heritage. This year's date is February 19. Please enjoy the day! More info at: <https://heritageday.novascotia.ca/>. Heritage Day 2024 will honour Victoria Cross recipient William Hall. More details about him: at <https://heritageday.novascotia.ca/content/2024-honouree-william-hall>.

### ICE THICKNESS SAFETY REPORTS

HRM has an ice thickness testing program during the winter season. Throughout the winter months, ice thickness reports for lakes tested by the municipality will be available to the public at any time by calling 902-490-3577 or 311 for the HRM Contact Centre. Reports are updated weekly on this site pending weather conditions: [www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/programs-activities/skating/ice-thickness](http://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/programs-activities/skating/ice-thickness).

More than 70 lakes, mostly in the urban core, are tested regularly by HRM Parks and Recreation staff. There are eight tested sites in or near our district area. They are: Lake Loon, Lake Major, Long Lake in North Preston, Nelson Lake in East Preston, Lake Echo by the Community Centre and McCoy's Pond by Churchlake Drive in Lake Echo, Porters Lake and Middle Porters Lake. The municipality reminds all citizens to ensure ice conditions are safe, and to

exercise extreme caution when walking, skating or participating in other outdoor events on frozen lakes this winter season.

For more information and tips about ice safety, please visit the Canadian Red Cross website: [www.redcross.ca/blog/2019/12/ice-safety-know-when-it-s-safe-to-play](http://www.redcross.ca/blog/2019/12/ice-safety-know-when-it-s-safe-to-play).

### RURAL RECREATION STRATEGY

The latest HRM's Rural Recreation Strategy (RRS) provides an analysis of current and future needs for Parks & Recreation services and assets in rural areas of HRM. The strategy has been developed through a collaborative approach that encompasses the recreation needs of rural residents, including opportunities for innovative service delivery and equitable access to indoor and outdoor recreation assets for lifelong participation in vibrant and healthy communities.

The RRS considers all areas outside the urban and suburban tax boundaries as rural. Further, rural HRM is divided into four distinct areas: Commuter West, Commuter East, Musquodoboit Valley, and Eastern Shore. After extensive research and public engagement, the RRS is now complete and will provide the direction required to guide municipal decisions related to the provision of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities and assets, and to increase recreational opportunities in the rural areas of HRM. Rural communities have an abundance of outdoor wilderness areas, beaches, coastlines, long-standing cultural traditions and events, community-led programming, and local stewardship of community facilities and outdoor sites. The RRS demonstrates that there are unique challenges and barriers to providing recreation opportunities in rural communities across the municipality. There are six key themes and objectives of the RRS:

- 1) Equitable access to indoor facilities;
- 2) Access to outdoor recreation opportunities;
- 3) Volunteer support;
- 4) Programming that meets rural needs;
- 5) Inter-departmental and inter-governmental partnerships; and
- 6) Advertising and communications that reflect rural communities.

Learn more: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/231214cped81.pdf>.

### HRM CULTURAL & HERITAGE PLAN

"Sharing our Stories": HRM's Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (CHPP) is a comprehensive strategy aimed at promoting and preserving the diverse, cultural heritage of the Halifax Region. The CHPP outlines a set of 44 actions that will help to build a more inclusive, diverse, and vibrant cultural community through focused investment, program development, service delivery and ongoing community engagement. The CHPP actions will provide high-level guidance in budget and business planning over the next decade across municipal departments in the areas of culture and heritage programming and will directly inform the latest review of the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy.

The CHPP was completed in four phases:  
Phase 1 - Cultural Asset Inventory;  
Phase 2 - Review of Research and Past Engagement Activities  
Phase 3 - Initial Targeted Engagement

Phase 4 - Targeted Engagement to Refine Plan Content

All completed studies and reports are found on the project website at the following link: [www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/sharingourstories](http://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/sharingourstories).

The CHPP is intended to enhance more than just the development and implementation of cultural programming. It will improve the emphasis on culture, heritage diversity, and inclusion within each and every area of municipal jurisdiction, from planning and development, to events planning, to service delivery and transportation. Over its 10-year implementation, HRM will be helping to share the stories, histories, and experiences of a much larger and more diverse portion of its population and enriching the lives of all of its residents. For more information of the CHPP, go to: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/231214cped1311.pdf>.

### ICE & SNOW WINTER MAINTENANCE

As The Nova Scotia Department of Public Works (NSDPW) does most of the snow removal, ice control and winter road maintenance services in District 2. Our local NS Highway Depots are in West Chezzetcook and Spry Bay. You can e-mail any roadway concerns to the attention of the NSDPW Operations Contact Centre, to: [DPW-OCC@novascotia.ca](mailto:DPW-OCC@novascotia.ca) or call 1-844-696-7737. The NSDPW will log it, assign a service ticket number and send it to the appropriate local supervisor. The Province as an online "plowtracker" tool that citizens can track snowploughs on a provincial zoom in map: <http://novascotia.ca/tran/winter/plowtracker.asp>. Or you can see current highway conditions by going online to the roadside camera website: <https://novascotia.ca/tran/cameras/>. Drivers can also get up-to-date road conditions across Nova Scotia by calling the SNOW-line: 1-800-307- SNOW (7669) or 511 or 1-888-432-3233, or visit: <http://novascotia.ca/tran/winter>.

The SNOW-line is updated regularly at 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. or more frequently in case of a major storm event. You can also follow them on Twitter: @NS\_PublicWorks. If you have any concerns or complaints about snow removal service in your area that is served by NSDPW, then please contact your Eastern Shore MLA office: [kent.smith@novascotia.ca](mailto:kent.smith@novascotia.ca) or call 902-989-3772.

With respect to the communities of North Preston, Westphal, East Preston, Lake Echo, Mineville and all of the Lawrencetown subdivision streets west of the Mineville Road, these areas are being done under the auspices of HRM with a Performance Base Contracted Out Service provider: Ocean Contractors. If you have any concerns about our Snow and Ice Control winter road maintenance, please call the HRM Contact Centre at 311 or reach out to me. For information about HRM Winter Road Maintenance, please go to: [www.halifax.ca/transportation/winter-operations](http://www.halifax.ca/transportation/winter-operations).



Councillor David Hendsbee  
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District 2: Preston—Chezzetcook—Eastern Shore

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