

Overheated phone charger blamed for Westville blaze

ADAM MACINNIS
THE NEWS

WESTVILLE — Shelley MacInnis has seen warnings online, but says she didn't realize the true risk of having electronics plugged in near a bed until this week when a fire broke out in her Westville home.

"I was actually shocked," MacInnis said after learning

the cause of the blaze. "I mean you see it on Facebook and in the news but I didn't think it would happen to us."

Westville Fire Chief Kenny Dunn said his department responded to the fire at around 8:30 a.m. Thursday, which appears to have been caused by a cellphone charger left on a mattress.

MacInnis was downstairs when she heard a smoke alarm. She went upstairs and

checked her bedroom, but saw nothing. Entering the hallway she could see flames under her son's door. Her son had left just half an hour before, and thankfully was safe.

At that point, her husband, Gordie Duchemin, jumped out of bed and ran downstairs to get a fire extinguisher. With a towel over his face, he sprayed the fire.

"If he wasn't home we would have been homeless

because he usually works days and he worked a night shift the day before," MacInnis said.

Dunn said the fire should be a warning to others of the risks of a charger box or device overheating. He said the blankets on a bed can trap the heat in, which can start a fire.

"It can happen with a laptop or cellphone," he said.

If you do have to charge a device at night, it's best to

place it on a hard surface, he advised.

"Use a night stand or even lay it on the floor but not on the bed, because blankets and stuff trap the heat in and it gets hot quick," Dunn said.

In the meantime, MacInnis is thankful the damage wasn't worse. Her family was able to stay in their home, although they have to replace flooring, repaint the upstairs and get a new mattress.

A break from bleacher butt at Citadel

School to fundraise for new seating

BILL SPURR
THE CHRONICLE HERALD

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Soreness of the glutes, an affliction that affects those who attend too many basketball games, also known as bleacher butt, is not being borne by fans at Citadel High this season.

The bleachers, which were older than the school itself, have been removed and for now seating at Citadel is on stackable plastic chairs instead of hard wood.

"Yearly they do inspections, and they just didn't meet the code so the company that does the inspections said rather than try to repair them, they should probably just be replaced so we made the decision to replace them," Citadel principal Joe Morrison said of the bleachers. "They were just old. They would do yearly repairs, but it had gotten to the point where the repairs were going to start costing more. And we had to consider safety. The recommendation was to replace them."

The bleachers were removed during the summer, but a televised game at Citadel this week drew attention to their absence.

Up to 250 chairs can be set up in the gym, depending on the opponent, and for those up front the vantage point is excellent — less so in the back row. Some fans choose to stand and lean against a wall.

Morrison said he hasn't received any complaints about the arrangement from visiting fans, and that new bleachers will be in place for the start of next season.

"Right now, we're just fundraising to get the money in place so we can order what we want, going through the purchasing that you have to

I have no idea how old they were, but they had some use at St. Pat's ...

Joe Morrison
Principal, Citadel High

do, you have to put it out to tender," he said. "Then they're shipped in from wherever they end up coming from, and then the installation has to work around everybody who has the gym booked."

Morrison said he chose the fundraising route to replace the bleachers because it will be faster.

"I didn't want to go through capital (funding), it could take a while to get capital to pay for that," the principal said. "Schools spend all their money on educational purposes - bleachers in the gym, they're looked at as an add-on. They're installed when a school is built, but the upkeep is up to the school."

The new bleachers are expected to cost \$90,000.

Citadel High School opened in September of 2007, the result of a merger between Queen Elizabeth High and St. Patrick's.

The bleachers installed at Citadel were moved over from St. Patrick's.

"I have no idea how old they were, but they had some use at St. Pat's," Morrison said. "They were trying to be environmentally responsible as possible when Citadel was being built. We were repurposing as much as we could."



Basketball spectators at Citadel High School are sitting on chairs instead of bleachers this season. The school has to raise \$90,000 to replace bleachers that were deemed too expensive to repair. **TIM KROCHAK • THE CHRONICLE HERALD**

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Halifax Regional Municipality Notices will generally appear each Saturday in this section of the newspaper. Readers are still encouraged to look throughout the paper for information which might appear in a different section or on another day.

NOTICE OF APPROVAL DOWNTOWN DARTMOUTH

TAKE NOTICE THAT Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council did, on Thursday, February 6, 2020 approve the following application:

Case 21296 - Application by Fares & Co. Development Inc to discharge existing Development Agreements and enter a new Development Agreement to permit a mixed-use development to be comprised of residential units, commercial, hotel, marina, parks/ open space, and new streets on the lands commonly known as King's Wharf, Dartmouth (PIDs, 00130278, 41471848, 00130286, 41164278, 41391798, 41379736, 41374018, 41405259, and 41421926).

Any aggrieved person, the Provincial Director of Planning, or the Council of any adjoining municipality may, within fourteen days of the publishing of this notice, appeal to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (902-424-4448) in accordance with the provisions of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*.

ACC# CPC02310

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING HALIFAX MAINLAND / HALIFAX PENINSULA

Halifax and West Community Council intends to consider and, if deemed advisable, approve the following applications:

Case 21952 - Application by WM Fares Architects to discharge an existing development agreement and enter in to a new development agreement on two residential properties located at Civic 50, 60 and 70 Armstrong Court, Halifax to allow a 7-storey addition to an existing multi-unit residential building at 60-70 Armstrong Court.

Case 22177 - Application by W.M. Fares Architects to enter into a development agreement to allow an 8-storey mixed use building on lands at 6160 Almon Street and 2760 Gladstone Street, Halifax.

The public hearings will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Halifax City Hall (Council Chamber), 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax, NS. All oral and written submissions will be considered at that time. Written submissions may be forwarded to the Municipal Clerk by mail, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5; by fax, 902-490-4208; or by e-mail, clerks@halifax.ca. Written submissions should be received by the Municipal Clerk's office as early as possible and not later than 3:00 p.m. on February 18, 2020. **For any written submissions exceeding three standard letter sized pages in length, ten copies must be supplied to the Municipal Clerk's office.**

A copy of the staff report may be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902-490-4210. Alternatively, the staff report is available on-line at the following location: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/agendas-meetings-reports>.

Further details regarding the application can be found at the following location: www.halifax.ca/planning (Scroll down to Case 21952 or Case 22177)

ACC# CPC02310

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING BEDFORD

A public information meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the BMO - Multipurpose Room, 61 Gary Martin Drive, Bedford, NS, to discuss the following application:

Case 22704 - Application by Lydon Lynch Architects requesting substantive amendments to increase the unit count and change the schedules to an existing development agreement that allows a multi-use building on lands at Fourth Street (PID 41457979), Bedford

The purpose of the meeting is to receive feedback regarding the above-noted application. The applicant will be present to discuss the proposal. Planning staff will be present to discuss the process and the application with respect to the provisions of the Bedford Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law.

The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend to seek information about the proposal and/or express any comments they may have.

For further information about the application, please contact Halifax Planning and Development at 902-490-4472, or visit the following website address: <http://www.halifax.ca/planning>

ACC #CPC02310

2020-2021 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Please note the deadline for applying to Halifax Regional Municipality's 2020-2021 Community Grants Program is March 31, 2020. Application forms and program guidebooks are available from:

- <https://www.halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/community-grants>
- Visiting one of our Customer Service Centres:
 - o Alderney Gate, 40 Alderney Drive, - Dartmouth, 1st floor
 - o Acadia Centre, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville
 - o Musquodoboit Harbour Strip Mall, Corner of Hwy #7 & East Petpeswick Road
 - o Bayers Road, 7071 Bayers Road, 2nd floor
 - o Scotia Square Mall, 5201 Duke Street, Halifax
- Calling 311
- E-mail - Nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

For further information, please call 902.490.7310.

Act # A811 - 6912

PLEASE SEE SECTION 158 - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SATURDAY'S PAPER AND SECTION 258 - TENDERS IN CLASSIFIEDS FOR ALL TENDERS AND REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS ADVERTISEMENTS IN SATURDAY AND WEDNESDAY'S EDITIONS

HALIFAX

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MUNICIPAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS VISIT WWW.HALIFAX.CA/CALENDAR BOX 1749, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 3A5

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