



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY
DISTRICT 9 ONLINE NEWS
HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

WELCOME AUGUST!

We are now into the dog days of summer. I hope you are finally getting to enjoy some time with family and friends, safely, of course.

We are on the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq (in Mi'kma'ki) but, as we know, the French arrived in the 1600's and the British settled Halifax in 1749. Natal Day acknowledges the birth of Halifax, but those celebrations didn't begin until 1895 to coincide with the opening of the new railway line in August of that year. Since then, annual celebrations have been held until this year. Due to COVID-19, this year's celebrations will be different. The precautions we take to ensure the safety of others is a celebration of how much we value each other and our chosen home.

As soon as public health permits, I look forward to chatting with you at a Community Drop-In session at the Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME AUGUST!	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
HAPPY NATAL DAY!	2
AUGUST MEETINGS	2
COVID-19 UPDATES	2
WE WANT YOUR INPUT	5
MOBI MATT AND CHAIR AVAILABLE AT CHOCOLATE LAKE	5
ALNAAS COMMUNITY & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (ACYDA) DONATES FACEMASKS	6
ARE YOU ON THE VOTERS LIST?	6
ART OF DISABILITY FESTIVAL NEWS	7
31ST ANNUAL GHOST STORY WRITING CONTEST	7
JULY REGIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES	8
COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY	10
ENJOYING SUMMER 2020	10



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

HAPPY NATAL DAY!



Mayors Garden Party at the Public Gardens

Due to COVID-19, the [Halifax-Dartmouth Natal Day Committee](#) made the difficult decision to cancel this year's events in the interest of public safety. The message on their website is:

PLEASE NOTE

**THE ANNUAL PEPSI NATAL DAY PARADE,
THE DARTMOUTH NATAL DAY ROAD
RACE, THE PUBLIC GARDENS &
SULLIVAN'S POND NATAL DAY PARTY,
COMEDY GALA & THE THREE NATAL DAY
FIREWORKS SHOWS ARE NOW CANCELED
AND
POSTPONED UNTIL NATAL DAY 2021.**

Celebrate this Natal Day with friends and family while adhering to public health guidelines to physical distance, wash your hands and wear a mask, if you can, when in crowded public places.

AUGUST MEETINGS

All meetings have been cancelled or changed to virtual meetings for the month of August in the interest of public health.

Virtual Halifax Regional Council sessions will be held on:

Tuesday, August 4th (cancelled)

Tuesday, August 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Click the [video link on the meeting agenda](#) to "watch on web" and enter the webcast by selecting 'join anonymously'.

COVID-19 UPDATES



As of Friday, July 24th, in keeping with the public health order, masks will be mandatory on all

Halifax Transit buses and ferries. Children under two and those with a medical reason for not wearing a mask are exempt.

Transit riders are responsible for bringing their own masks.

As part of a mask awareness campaign, Halifax Transit staff will continue to hand out masks periodically, through pop-up events at select locations across the municipality. Times and locations will be announced in advance via [@hfxtransit](#) on Twitter.

Those who are feeling ill are reminded not use any transit service until their health returns to normal.



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

Capacity Increase – Saturday, August 1

The mandatory use of masks and the installation of [Polycarbonate shields](#) will provide appropriate mitigation of risk associated with the spread of COVID-19. All capacity restrictions on buses, Access-a-Buses and ferries will be lifted as of Saturday, August 1st.

Fare collection – Saturday, August 1

Fare collection on buses and ferries will resume on Saturday, August 1 and passengers will once again be permitted to enter buses through the front doors.

March and April passes will be honoured until August 31. Some retailers may also still have April passes for sale, which can continue to be purchased and used until the end of August. For all information regarding transit passes, including updated expiry dates, please visit [our website](#).

Buses and ferries continue to operate on a [reduced schedule](#).

For more information on municipal services during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit halifax.ca/coronavirus.

HRM Customer Service Centres

On Tuesday, August 4th, the Customer Service Centres at Alderney Gate and Bayers Road will be reopening to the public with regular hours of operation.

Note: As part of the [2020/21 recast budget discussion](#), the Customer Service Centres and

drop-boxes at Acadia Centre (Sackville) and Scotia Square will remain permanently closed effective Friday, July 17.

Planning & Development service counters will remain closed until further notice.

A number of services offered by 311 & the Customer Service Centres remain available online, including the [payment of parking tickets](#), [zoning confirmation applications](#) and [applications for all permit and subdivision applications](#).

Residents are reminded to follow all public health protocols while onsite, including physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) at all times.

Parks & Recreation

Indoor pools, including the Captain William Spry Centre, will open for lane swims and aquafit classes only. It will not be possible to offer open swims at this time. To ensure all restrictions on group gathering sizes and physical distancing are maintained, all activities in the pool will be [booked online](#). More details will be provided closer to the opening dates. We continue to explore options for further recreation opportunities as restrictions are eased by the province.

Municipal partner recreation facilities (i.e. Canada Games Centre, Cole Harbour Place, Zatzman Sportsplex, etc.) have started the first phase of reopening. Please contact each facility directly for information about pool reopening dates and protocols.



Outdoor Pools

Due to the time required to recruit and train lifeguards, the maintenance required to open pools and the restrictions of social distancing which drastically reduces the number of swimmers allowed in the pool at once, the Halifax Common, Bedford and Cole Harbour outdoor pools will **not** be opening for the 2020 season.

Splashpads, Beaches and Water Testing

The following splashpads are now open:

- Halifax Common
- George Dixon Centre
- Isleville Street
- Westmount
- Bayers – Westwood
- Sackville (Kinsman)

All municipal beaches are open with lifeguards onsite until August 31.

Municipal staff regularly test the water quality at all supervised beaches during the summer months. Please note that there will no longer be water testing taking place at Black Rock beach, Dingle beach, Kinsmen beach and Government Wharf. Water quality testing will continue at Malay Falls beach even though it is unsupervised. Staff will continue testing the water until bacteria levels return to safe levels. The municipality will advise residents when beaches close and reopen.

More information and updates on beaches, pools and splashpads can be found on halifax.ca/summeraquatics.

Parking

As municipal parking enforcement has resumed with the lifting of some public health restrictions, **all residential and monthly parking permits that expired in March through to July will no longer be valid after Monday, August 31.**

Parking restrictions related to monthly and annual residential permits will be enforced effective Tuesday, September 1.

Residents can renew monthly and annual residential parking permits at one of the municipality's customer service centres, which will reopen to the public as follows:

- Alderney Gate and Bayers Road – Tuesday, August 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.
- Musquodoboit Harbour Recreation Centre & Library – Tuesday, August 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays.
- As part of the [2020/21 recast budget discussion](#), the customer service centres and drop-boxes at Acadia Centre (Sackville) and Scotia Square will remain permanently closed.

For more information about parking permits, please visit halifax.ca/parking.



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

WE WANT YOUR INPUT



We are encouraging your feedback on potential changes to existing municipal regulations relating to grading and construction noise in residential areas. Participant feedback will be used to inform recommendation reports to Regional Council.

The [Grade Alteration and Stormwater Management By-Law Online Survey](#) proposes condensing three existing grade alteration regulations related to grading, excavation and topsoil removal—including the Topsoil By-Law 40, Bedford Grade Alteration By-Law and Pits Gravel Pits & Excavations By-Law 41—into one new Grade Alteration By-Law. New stormwater management standards are also proposed. **This survey closes on August 18th.**

The [Construction Noise Survey](#) seeks to determine whether changes should be made to the Noise By-Law (N-200), including construction hours of operation in residential areas. **This survey closes on August 31st.**

Share your thoughts now:
www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/by-law-changes

MOBI MATT AND CHAIR AVAILABLE AT CHOCOLATE LAKE



A mobi matt and chair are now available at Chocolate Lake Beach.

Although Lifeguards will be on hand to assist, individuals are to be accompanied with their own support person and life vest.

To learn more about our adapted equipment and accessibility and inclusion services, visit halifax.ca/recinclusion.





COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

ALNAAS COMMUNITY & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (ACYDA) DONATES FACEMASKS



Alnaas Community & Youth Development Association (ACYDA) is a local non-profit community group that has been busy sewing face masks.

The masks are then donated to [Chebucto Links](#) for distribution to local seniors free of charge.

ARE YOU ON THE VOTERS LIST?

Make sure you are on the voters list!

You can check your status by calling the Voter Helpline at (902)-490-VOTE (8683) or through the Voters List search tool available at halifax.ca/election.



You might not be on the list of electors if you recently:

- moved to or within the municipality
- turned 18.

If you are not on the elector list, you may still vote if you:

- have been a resident of Nova Scotia for at least six months prior to October 6, 2020
- are a current resident of the municipality as of October 6, 2020
- are 18 years or older by October 6, 2020, and
- are a Canadian citizen by October 6, 2020

Call the voter helpline at (902)-490-VOTE (8683) to be added to the list of electors.





COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

ART OF DISABILITY FESTIVAL NEWS



Independent Living Nova Scotia (ILNS) is excited about the opportunity to grow the Art of Disability Festival in unique ways.

This year, ILNS will be launching an online catalogue for artists located on their website. Vendors will be able to submit photos, biographies, personal website or sales information and share online events including a live paint-a-long and webinar.

For more information go to:

<https://ilns.ca/events/art-of-disability-festival>.

31ST ANNUAL GHOST STORY WRITING CONTEST



Halifax Public Libraries have been hosting a Ghost Story Writing Contest in partnership with [the Helen Creighton Folklore Society](#) for over 30 years. Youth aged 7 to 15 are invited to

get creative and submit their best campfire story.

Contest Rules:

- Age categories: 7-9, 10-12, and 13-15.
- **The contest runs until Monday, September 7, 2020.**
- The story must be your own work: either an original piece, or a retelling (in your own words) of a ghost story that you've heard.
- Judges will pick the two ghostliest stories in each age category to receive book prizes.
- Winners will be announced and all entrants honoured at an awards ceremony in Fall 2020.
- Limit of one story per writer. Individual entries only; group or class submissions will not be accepted.

Click To Download The Entry Form

Entries can be submitted by dropping them off at any branch of Halifax Public Libraries or:

- Emailing hplcontest@halifax.ca
- Mailing to:
Ghost Story Contest
Alderney Gate Public Library
60 Alderney Dr.
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4P8

For more information, please visit your Library's Info Desk or call Ask the Library at 902-490-5753.





COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

JULY REGIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES

TASK FORCE REPORT ON THE COMMEMORATION OF CORNWALLIS AND INDIGENOUS HISTORY

On July 21st, I was proud to have brought forward this motion: **MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini THAT** Halifax Regional Council:

1. Accept the attached report of the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History (Attachment 1 of the staff report dated June 30, 2020),
 2. Approve the proposed HRM responses to the recommendations of the Task Force report (Attachment 2 of the staff report dated June 30, 2020), with amending recommendation (5) to direct the establishment of a process to engage community and stakeholders regarding the street name change and not the direct renaming of Cornwallis Street, and
 3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to Council annually to report on progress addressing the recommendations. **MOTION PASSED.**
-

INITIATIVE TO HELP LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS DURING COVID-19

I was also happy to bring forward a motion that will allow the Armview Restaurant & Lounge to use a portion of Rotary Park as an outdoor patio space until the end of October (full wording of motion below).



MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Whitman THAT, in accordance with section 7 of Administrative Order 53, Halifax Regional Council grant permission to the Armview Restaurant and Lounge for serving Alcohol in a section of Rotary Park, inside of regular park hours, until October 31, 2020. Location to be determined by parks staff. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECONDARY & BACKYARD SUITES

First reading was given to consider the proposed amendments to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy and all land use by-laws, with the exception of the Regional



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

Centre Land Use By-law (Package A), to allow secondary suites and backyard suites accessory to single-unit, two-unit or townhouse dwellings.

A Public Hearing will be scheduled in the coming months with more than the usual amount of advanced notice due to the effects of the pandemic.

I submitted a petition to Council containing 158 signatures from Westmount residents who are opposed to HRM changes to Secondary Suites and Backyard Suites (Item 11.1.11 - Case 21162).

Allowing secondary and backyard suites was a key recommendation of the Poverty Solutions Task Force, co-chaired by the Mayor and the United Way's Sarah Napier. I was a member of that task force and support its recommendations on housing, transportation, food security, employment, income supports, etc.

PROGRESS ON BLUE MOUNTAIN-BIRCH COVE LAKES WILDERNESS

I was very happy to vote to help the Nova Scotia Nature Trust purchase a key piece of land, which is identified by our new Green Network Plan as an important corridor.

Motion passed that Halifax Regional Council authorize and approve the withdrawal of up to \$750,000 from the Parkland Development Reserve Q611 and direct the Chief

Administrative Officer to negotiate a contribution agreement to a maximum of \$750,000 with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust for its acquisition of the subject lands. Also, that under the new Covid-19 Administrative Order, Council may authorize this withdrawal without a recommendation from the Audit and Finance Standing Committee, and that the purchase of the lands be completed in accordance with the July 31, 2020 deadline.

Other items from the July 7th & 21st sessions include:

- Motion passed that Halifax Regional Council authorize the Mayor, on Regional Council's behalf, to proclaim the years 2015-2024 as the ***International Decade for People of African Descent*** and sign the proclamation and, 2. direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop an anti-Black racism action plan in support of the Proclamation and return to Regional Council for its endorsement.
- Motion passed to procure an **electronic fare solution for Halifax Transit** in accordance with the phased strategy beginning with the procurement of a ***mobile ticketing application***



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

- Motion passed that Halifax Regional Council **defer the decision on Case Hoo482 – Substantial Alteration to 2438 Gottingen Street**, Halifax and direct staff to explore design revisions with the applicant that would address the concerns related to Standard 11 of the Standards and Guidelines, and return to Heritage Advisory Committee and Halifax Regional Council with a supplementary report no later than six (6) months.
- Motion passed that Halifax Regional Council approve a **Temporary Borrowing Resolution** for an amount not to exceed \$130,000,000 from Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation (MFC), for a term not to exceed five years and an interest rate not to exceed 1.3%, to assist with liquidity resulting from COVID-19.

COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

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

- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Community Design Advisory Committee
- Halifax Partnership
- Halifax Chain of Lakes Trails Association
- Halifax Partnership



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