



DEPUTY MAYOR LISA BLACKBURN
 DISTRICT 14 ONLINE NEWS
 MIDDLE/UPPER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK - LUCASVILLE



WELCOME AUGUST!

Happy birthday Halifax! Due to COVID-19, celebrations will be vastly changed this year, however; with the lifting of more restrictions by public health, we are able to celebrate with family and friends to enjoy all that makes our city, region and neighbourhood(s) our home and a phenomenal place to visit.

Hope you are enjoying your summer with the reopening of pools, splashpads, parks, trails and beaches! Don't forget to continue practicing social distancing, wearing of face masks and frequent handwashing to keep COVID-19 under control.

There are many updates on municipal programs and services under COVID-19 Updates in this newsletter and, many other topics of interest.

The monthly Beaver Bank Hub office hours are cancelled until further notice. Please contact me via email at: LISA.BLACKBURN@HALIFAX.CA or by phone: 902.579.7164.

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HAPPY NATAL DAY!



Once again, COVID-19 is impacting our ability to celebrate this summer. Although all traditional Natal Day celebrations had to be cancelled, there are two initiatives to mark the holiday weekend:

On Friday morning July 31st, 2 large Nova Scotian flags will fly on both the Halifax & Dartmouth waterfronts for 5 days over the Natal Day weekend. This will provide an opportunity to pay tribute to Nova Scotia, especially with the challenging spring we experienced. This will also be the first time that large Nova Scotian flags have flown on the Halifax and Dartmouth waterfronts since the poles were put in place back in 1999 and 2000. Throughout the Natal Day weekend the public will be invited to do selfies at the two flag poles, while being reminded to ensure they social distance properly.

On Monday, August 3, the HRM sandcastle float, fully decked out for Natal Day, will be sent to all districts starting in District 6. It will largely follow the same route as Canada Day and will be led by HRP and the RCMP for the duration of the 8-hour, 180 km route.

However you celebrate Natal Day 2020, be vigilant and continue to social distance, wash your hands frequently and wear a mask, if you can, when in public areas.

AUGUST REGIONAL COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING DATES

Tune in to the virtual Regional Council meetings on:

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

To watch the Council session, click the [video link on the meeting agenda](#) to “watch on web” and enter the webcast by selecting ‘join anonymously’.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Halifax Transit:

In keeping with Public Health order, **masks are now mandatory on all Halifax Transit buses and ferries as of Friday, July 24, 2020.**

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

As part of a public mask awareness campaign, Halifax Transit staff will be distributing masks at Pop-Up events at select locations across the Municipality. Times and locations will be announced in advance via municipal social media channels.

Fare Collection - Saturday, August 1, 2020

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

Polycarbonate shields will create a physical barrier between Operators and passengers, allowing for the safe reintroduction of fare collection.

March and April passes will be honoured until August 31, 2020. As retailers still have April



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passes in stock, these can still be purchased and used until the end of August.

Capacity Restrictions on Buses, Access-a-Bus and Ferries will be lifted on - Saturday, August 1, 2020

The mandatory use of masks and the Polycarbonate shields, which are currently being installed, will allow for the safe increase in capacity.

2020/21 Low Income Transit Pass applications are available [online](#). The 2019/20 program has been extended, and previously approved participants may continue to purchase passes at Municipal Contact Centres beginning August 4, 2020 for the months of August and September. We encourage both existing, past and new participants to apply to the 20/21 program as soon as possible, as applications are approved on a first come, first served basis.

For all other information regarding transit passes, including updated expiry dates, please visit our [Fares, Tickets, and Passes page](#).

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

August 2020

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.

Free Menstrual Products at HRM Facilities:

As HRM facilities re-open, free menstrual products will be available for people who menstruate.

Parks & Recreation

Indoor pools are 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 re-opening 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



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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.

High bacteria levels can be caused by a number of factors, including dogs, birds, wildlife, and high temperatures. 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.

DISCUSSING THE ENVIRONMENT



Meeting with MLA Steve Craig and Walter Regan, Sackville Rivers Association, discussing environmental issues in the district.



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OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES | DIRT BIKES | ATVS | SNOWMOBILES



I have received numerous complaints concerning Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) disturbing residential areas. The issues include noise, reckless disregard for private property and damage to the environment. To all who enjoy off-roading, please respect the OHV rules and regulations including the [OHV Handbook](#) and the [provincial OHV Rules and Regulations](#).

Be respectful of your neighbours and the environment by adhering to the rules and regulations for your safety and to ensure shared enjoyment of the natural environment.

CANADA DAY FLAG RAISING AT THE FULTZ HOUSE



I was thrilled to attend the virtual Canada Day Flag Raising event at the Fultz House Museum along with other elected officials and volunteers: (LtoR) MP Darrell Samson, MLA Steve Craig, MLA Brad Johns, Town Crier Craig Fenwick, Elmer Grove (Fultz House), Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn and Councillor Paul Russell.

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PICNIC IN THE PARK – AUGUST 8TH





BOATING SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE

Everyone enjoys the refreshing experience of being on or near a lake during hot summer days. Here are some tips from [Transport Canada's Save Boating Guide](#) to help provide the safest environment when participating in water activities or simply enjoying the beauty of nature.



Avoid Dangerous Behaviours

Never try to spray swimmers, cut in front of or try to jump the wake of other vessels. Some of the worst boating incidents happen when operators misjudge speed or distance.

Operate at a Safe Speed

Remember that you may have to stop or turn suddenly to avoid a collision, so operate at a safe speed.

A boat's wake can damage other vessels, docks and the shoreline. It can also be a risk for swimmers, divers and people on small boats that might capsize. Be aware of how your boat's wake might affect others when choosing your speed. You will be responsible for any damages or harm you cause.

Province-Wide Shoreline Speed Limits

Inland waters of Nova Scotia have a speed limit of 10 km/h within 30 m (98'5") of shore. This limit is in effect whether it is posted or not.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), provincial and municipal police forces and other authorized local authorities enforce the laws that apply to boats. They may inspect your boat and monitor your boating activities to make sure that you meet requirements that apply.

Personal Watercraft (PWC)



PWC operators must be at least 16 years old and have proof of competency and proof of age on board.

- Always wear a Canadian-approved lifejacket or PFD (inflatable PFDs are not allowed)
- Respect speed limits and other vessel operation restrictions.
- Be cautious, courteous and respect your neighbours. Many people dislike the noise a PWC makes when it is operated for long periods of time at high speed in one place, especially when it is used to jump waves.
- Be aware of the impact your PWC can have on the environment. Avoid high speeds near shore.



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- Stay alert! At high speeds, it is hard to see swimmers, water skiers, divers and other PWCs in time to avoid them.
- Do not operate your PWC after dark or when visibility is poor.
- Make sure your PWC is properly licensed and marked.

Keep signaling devices within easy reach in case of emergency. Sea kayakers should be aware of water temperatures, tides, currents, wind and maritime traffic.

Help Keep Out The Invaders



Waterskiing and Other Recreational Towing Activities



The rules that govern waterskiing also apply to other recreational towing activities like barefoot skiing, tubing, kneeboarding and parasailing.

Rinsing or cleaning your hull after use or before entering new waters helps to remove spores and other invasive organisms. Dumping live bait, such as fish bait or crayfish in a lake is one way you risk bringing invaders into an area where they do not belong and could cause serious harm to the food chain and local ecosystem.

Kayaking:



Choose a bright colour such as red, yellow or orange for your lifejacket or PFD so that other boat operators can see you.

Carry in, Carry out!

Do not litter! Do not throw anything into the water including organic material. In addition to potentially choking, suffocating, disabling aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles and birds, litter decreases oxygen levels in the water when it decays.

You brought it in, you take it out!



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HALIFAX WATER EXTENDING SUPPORT



Halifax Water has extended the following assistance measures to August 31st:

- Defer payments of overdue accounts from March 13th to August 31st.
- No interest will be charged on overdue accounts and, dishonoured payment fees will be waived from March 13th to August 31st.
- Disconnection of service is suspended until August 31st

31ST ANNUAL GHOST WRITING CONTEST



For over 30 years, Halifax Public Libraries have been hosting a Ghost Story Writing Contest in partnership with [the Helen Creighton Folklore Society](#).

We challenge youths aged 7 to 15 to get creative and submit their best campfire story in one of the following age categories: 7-9, 10-12, and 13-15.

[Click to download the entry form](#)

The contest runs until Monday, September 7, 2020. For more information, please visit your Library's Info Desk or call Ask the Library at 902-490-5753.

JULY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

July 7, 2020:

Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Motion passed to authorize 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.

Community Grant Awards

Approval of various community grants through the Community Grants Program.

Secondary Suites & Backyard Suites

First Reading given to consider the proposed amendments to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy and all land use by-laws, with the exception of the Regional Centre Land Use By-law (Package A), to allow secondary suites and backyard suites accessory to single-unit, two-unit or townhouse dwellings, and schedule a public hearing.



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Day of Peace

Motion passed declaring August 6th, 2020 a Day of Peace, and support for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Appeal for the banning of all nuclear weapons.

July 21, 2020:

District Energy

First Reading given of proposed By-law D-500, Respecting District Energy.

Regional special events grants and Marketing levy grants approved.

Halifax Transit Electronic Fare

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.

International Decade for People of African Descent

Motion passed to 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 to develop an anti-Black racism action plan in support of the Proclamation and return to Regional Council for its endorsement.

Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis

Motion passed to:

- accept the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis report and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History

- approve the proposed HRM responses to the recommendations of the Task Force report, 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.
- direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to Council annually to report on progress addressing the recommendations.

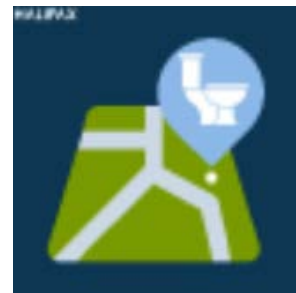
Contribution to Nova Scotia Nature Trust – Land Acquisition

Motion passed authorizing and approving:

- the withdrawal of up to \$750,000 from the Parkland Development Reserve to negotiate a contribution agreement to a maximum of \$750,000 with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust for its acquisition of the subject lands.
- CAO to execute the resulting agreement on behalf of the Municipality and that the purchase of the lands be completed in accordance with the July 31, 2020 deadline.

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PUBLIC WASHROOM MAP



There is now a map to help locate public washrooms with information on whether it is:

- Accessible
- gendered or universal /single stall
- open year-round or seasonal



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The list for the Sackville area includes:

- Metropolitan Ave Park - 94 Metropolitan Ave, Lower Sackville (universal washroom)
- Sackville Public Library - 636 Sackville Dr, Lower Sackville (accessible stalls, universal & gendered washrooms)
- Sackville Transit Terminal - 7 Walker Ave, Lower Sackville (accessible stall, universal washroom)

Visit bit.ly/hfxwashroom to access the map.

DEPUTY MAYOR / COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN DISTRICT 14

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HALIFAX

I currently serve on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council and the NorthWest Community Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Board of Police Commissioners
- Discover Halifax
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Halifax Regional Library Board
- North West Planning Advisory Committee
- Special Events Advisory Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee

