



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY
 DISTRICT 9 ONLINE NEWS
 HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

WELCOME APRIL!



Happy Passover,
 Happy Easter,
 Ramadan Mubarak
 and welcome to
 spring! The variety
 of religious services
 this time of year
 give us pause to

stop and reflect in gratitude for what we have
 in abundance: our family; friends; and
 opportunities to give back to those less
 fortunate or in need. If COVID-19 has taught us
 anything, it is that we can get through this
 together with compassion and understanding.

That is how I approach finalizing the municipal
 capital and operating budgets – with
 understanding from the perspective of the
 taxpayer and my fiscal responsibility as an
 elected official. Tune in to the budget
 discussions [here](#).

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APRIL VIRTUAL MEETING DATES

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

Budget Committee:

Thursday, April 1st at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency Date)

Wednesday, April 7th at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, April 9th at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency Date)

Wednesday, April 21st at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 22nd at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency Date)

Regional Council:

Tuesday, April 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, April 13th at 6:00 p.m.

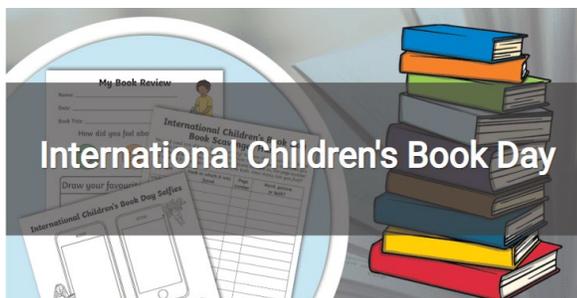
Wednesday, April 14th at 6:00 p.m. (Special joint meeting with North West Community Council)

Regional Centre Community Council:

Tuesday, April 27th at 6:00 p.m. (If required)

DID YOU KNOW.....

April 2nd is [International Children's Book Day](#).



First celebrated in 1967, International Children's Book Day is held on the 2nd of April every year in order to promote children's reading and books. This date was chosen in honour of celebrated author, Hans Christian Anderson, creator of such well-known stories as: The Emperor's New Clothes; The Little Mermaid; The Ugly Duckling and many more; and whose birth date was April 2nd.

According to the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) website, the benefits of taking part in International Children's Book Day are synonymous with the benefits of reading as a whole including:

- **Brain exercise** - reading engages and exercises the brain, helping it to better make neural connections;.
- **Vocabulary improvement** - the amount of terminology that a child uses and possesses can increase with regular reading;.
- **Empathy and imagination** - reading opens children up to new horizons, helping them think outside the box and engage with the outside world in ways they had not done previously; and.
- **Morale improvement** - it should not be forgotten that reading is fun! Taking part in it will boost a child's morale and uplift their mood.

Check the local [public library](#) website to find out what is available. You may wish to look up children's books written by local author [Budge Wilson](#) who, sadly, passed away in March.



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PASSOVER MARCH 27th to April 4th



HAPPY EASTER – APRIL 4TH



RAMADAN MUBARAK



Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, introspection and prayer for Muslims, the

followers of Islam. It is celebrated as the month during which Muhammad received the initial revelations of the Quran, the holy book for Muslims.

Fasting is one of the five fundamental principles of Islam. Each day during Ramadan, Muslims do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset. They are also supposed to avoid impure thoughts and bad behavior. Muslims break their daily fasts by sharing meals with family and friends, and the end of Ramadan is celebrated with a three-day festival known as Eid al-Fitr, one of Islam's major holidays. Ramadan 2021 will begin at sunset on Monday, April 12th and end on Tuesday, May 11th.

SUMMER DAY CAMP REGISTRATION

Detailed information on summer registration and programs will be viewable [online](#) as of Thursday, April 22nd.

Day Camps & Dryland Programs

- Wednesday, May 5th – for July programs
- Wednesday, June 2nd – for August programs
- Registration begins at 10 a.m. each day for all ages.

Indoor & Outdoor Pool and Beach programs
(*Indoor/Outdoor pools include Sackville Sports Stadium, Needham Centre, Captain William Spry indoor pools and Bedford, Cole Harbour outdoor pools*)

- Thursday, June 3rd – for July programs
- Wednesday, July 14th – for August programs
- Registration begins at 10 a.m. each day for all ages.



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Public Health is currently allowing for multiple cohorts of 15 children in day camps. Camp activities can be provided in both an indoor and outdoor settings while maintaining physical distancing protocols. Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) "Return to Day Camp" guidelines follow the Nova Scotia "COVID-19 Return to Day Camp Guidelines" found at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Return-to-Day-Camp-Guidelines.pdf>. Both full-day and half-day camps will be offered throughout this summer.

Inclusion Support (one-to-one support)

If your child requires inclusion support, register your child in course #00027543. During registration, please identify your choice of location and preferred weeks. Program fees will only be charged once support has been confirmed. For more information, [Visit our Inclusion and Accessibility page](#).

CONGRATULATIONS HRM 2020 VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

I am pleased to extend a sincere thank-you to the recipients of the HRM 2020 Volunteer Award for all that you do to contribute to vibrant, active communities.

I have deep appreciation for the District 9 award recipients Yasmin Abd El-Rahaman, Karema Alarabi, Mohamed Nashnoush and Gracie Walker for their proven interest in community and the invaluable services they have provided to our neighbourhoods.

April 2021



Photo courtesy of Nael Abd El-Rahaman

Councillor Cleary presenting HRM 2020 Volunteer Award to Yasmin Abd El-Rahaman..

EARTH DAY - APRIL 22ND



A massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969 prompted the first Earth Day, held on April 22nd, 1970. The goal was to address an

emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution. The EARTHDAY.ORG website explains that: "Groups that had been fighting



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individually against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife united on Earth Day around these shared common values."

In 1990, Earth Day went global - mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage."

The COVID-19 pandemic has once again impacted usual Earth Day events such as group community cleanups, however, we can continue to be more aware of our impact on the environment and try changing our habits by practicing the 3 r's: reduce, reuse, recycle. Try walking, cycling or using public transit more often to help reduce our carbon footprint. Each small act is a huge helping hand to our environment.

REPORT A POTHOLE OR SINKHOLE

Report a pothole or sinkhole on a municipally-owned street or sidewalk by calling 311 or visit our municipal [website to log the location](#).

Potholes are caused when the asphalt on the surface of a road has deteriorated from the top, but you can still see asphalt underneath.

Sinkholes are caused by erosion from underneath, and when you look into the hole you cannot see any pavement.

To report potholes on a 100-series highway including ramps leading to and from the highway and overpasses, please contact Nova

Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal: TPWPAFF@novascotia.ca. This includes ramps leading to and from the highway, as well as overpasses above 100-series highways.

To learn more about the municipal roadway and sidewalk maintenance program, [click here](#).

NEW SIGNAGE IN SIR SANDFORD FLEMING PARK



This summer, you will notice new signage in Sir Sandford Fleming Park advising that BBQs using briquettes or coals are not permitted. Briquettes or wood burning devices contravene the [Parks By-Law 600](#) and is considered an [open fire](#) under By-Law O-109.



CHANGES TO ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS (APS) AND PEDESTRIAN PUSH-BUTTONS



Over the next three months, updates are expected to be completed to Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at 76 signalized intersections across the region.

APS are devices installed at some signalized intersections that assist individuals who are blind or visually impaired to cross the street by providing an audible tone that indicates when the pedestrian signal is activated. Historically, the push-button had to be pressed and held for three seconds to activate the audible tone where APS buttons are present.

At the Feb. 25, 2021 meeting of the [Transportation Standing Committee](#), the committee voted in favour of adopting a single press of the button to activate the APS.

Later this spring, staff will begin making adjustments to traffic signal programming at many locations to remove the requirement for pedestrians to press a button to activate the pedestrian signal between the hours of 6 am and midnight. The push requirement will remain in place between midnight and 6 a.m.

This work is being done based on resident feedback to improve accessibility, including for

those using mobility aids or have other mobility limitations.

A full list of affected locations can be found in the Transportation Standing Committee [staff report](#).

ARMDALE ROUNDABOUT CROSSINGS

Installation of pedestrian-activated rectangular rapid-flashing beacons (RRFBs), the same as those installed at the Larry Uteck Roundabout, are scheduled to be installed here in the 2022/2023 construction season.



RRFBs are pedestrian activated crosswalk systems which consist of two rapidly and alternately flashing rectangular amber beacons mounted above the side mounted pedestrian crossing signs. RRFBs can enhance safety at unsignalized intersections and mid-block pedestrian crossings by increasing driver awareness of potential pedestrian conflicts and by improving driver yielding behavior.



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DISTRICT 9 DISTRICT CAPITAL



Lovely thank-you message from the St. Agnes Junior High School Student Advisory Committee for the District 9 District Capital Fund (2019/20) donation toward the new electronic sign. School news and community messaging will appear at this strategic location on busy Mumford Road.

Each fiscal year, all districts are allocated District Funds to designate for community benefit. District Funds are comprised of both Capital and Activity funding.

District Capital Funds provide grants to any non-profit organization / charity or assists with HRM projects in the HRM departmental operating, capital budget or proposed by the Councillor.

District Activity Funds provide small grants to non-profit organizations and registered charities for local initiatives.

District 9 Capital Projects awarded funding in 2020/21 were:

Armdale Yacht Club	\$2,000	Kayaks
City Kdds Escape Society	\$2,000	Soil & mulch for garden
Easter Seals Nova Scotia	\$3,000	Wheelchair for <i>Learn to Wheel</i> program
Heartwood Centre for Community Youth Development	\$1,000	HeART in a box program
Maritime Sikh Society	\$5,000	New kitchen construction
Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association	\$7,363.30	Planters – beautification and social distancing
Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association	\$2,196.70	Pedal operated hand sanitizers
Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association	\$440	Q stencils – new branding / social distancing
Spryfield Community Market Society	\$2,365	Portable handwashing stations.
Theatre Arts Group (TAG)	\$4,965	Oasis garden
Total:	\$30,330	



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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:

- Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee (Chair)
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Community Design Advisory Committee
- Halifax Chain of Lakes Trails Association
- Halifax Partnership

Family enjoying Iftar meal in celebration of the end of Ramadan.



Happy Easter!



Happy Passover!



*All the flowers
of all the tomorrows
are in the seeds of today.*

Chinese Proverb

