



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT
DISTRICT 3 ONLINE NEWS
DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful spring days and saying goodbye to winter like I am. I encourage you to continue to stay the course on your COVID-19 efforts to remain safe by following all Public Health guidelines. While situations are escalating in other provinces, we can be proud of our efforts here in NS and HRM. As always, I look forward to hearing from you via email, phone or through a chance meeting in the neighborhood. Here's hoping for a speedy return to community events and meetings post COVID-19 vaccines.

I continue to get sign-ups for my online newsletter. Please contact me at becky.kent@halifax.ca to sign up for your copy. Each month, you will receive the latest version. If you would like copies of the previous months, I would be happy to send them along. My newsletters can also be viewed on my Councillor [webpage](#).

I also want to acknowledge and honour the loss of so many amazing Nova Scotians last year in catastrophic circumstances. Portapique,

HMCS Fredericton, and the Snow Birds all lost extraordinary people. This is a loss for our entire province and communities who hold them dear as family and friends. My thoughts are with them all as they revisit and feel the pain one year later. We are strong and we are behind you all.

Stay well and stay safe.

Warmly,





SUMMER REGISTRATION FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that summer recreation programs have been planned in accordance with public health guidelines.

Currently, Public Health is allowing for multiple cohorts of 15 children in day camps. Full-day and half-day camps are planned to be offered for this summer. If there are changes to COVID-19 guidelines, staff will work with Public Health to assess and adjust programs as needed to balance the safety of all participants and staff. Registration is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. each of the following days for all ages:

Day camps and dryland programs

- Wednesday, May 5 – July programs (Postponed)
- Wednesday, June 2 – August programs

Indoor/outdoor pool and beach programs

- Thursday, June 3 – July programs
- Wednesday, July 14 – August programs

Please be advised that program registration for May 5th has been postponed due to current COVID-19 restrictions. A new registration date is expected to be announced later in May, following updates from Public Health.

Information on registration and programs can be viewed [online](#).

Participants are encouraged to register by phone at (902)-490-6666, online or in-person at their [local recreation centre](#). If registering for programs at municipal partner recreation facilities, please contact those facilities directly.

Residents are reminded they may continue to use [REC at Home](#) which offers a variety of activities that you can enjoy with your family - from arts and crafts, to at-home fitness workouts.

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

During the first week of May, we celebrate National Youth Week. It is a week dedicated to the celebration of youth and their active participation in their community. Whether it is recreation, drama sport dance, civic engagement, art, volunteerism, or leadership, everyday young people are involved in meaningful activities during their free time. National Youth Week is a time to honour their involvement!

Please visit our [webpage](#) for more information on scheduled events.



National Youth Week

OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS

Recent results of the Eastern Passage Off-Leash Dog Park have been released identifying the location of the Shearwater Flyer as the number one location. Further consideration is still in progress. I have received additional requests for off-leash parks in other areas and continue to bring them forward for review. Thanks to everyone who took the time to engage in the survey on this.



STUART HARRIS DRIVE & DONALD COURT STREET RECAPITALIZATION

The Halifax Regional Municipality will be carrying out construction work on Stuart Harris Drive from Owen Drive to LaPierre Crescent and on Donald Court from Stuart Harris Drive to the end. The work generally consists of milling, full depth asphalt removal, placement of new asphalt, full curb renewal on Stuart Harris and sidewalk spot repairs, repairs to manholes/catch basins, driveway reinstatement as required, as well as landscaping, pavement markings and associated reinstatement. This work also includes installation of traffic calming systems.

The work is anticipated to be completed by June 21st, 2021. Please contact HRM Inspector Kevin MacDonald at 902-476-4091 for any inquiries related to this project.

HRM PARK & TRAIL SAFETY TIPS

For everyone's enjoyment and safety, follow park/trail regulations and COVID-19 public health directives related to social distancing and gathering limits.

- Ensure your vehicle is always locked, take your wallet/purse with you and don't leave valuables in your vehicle. If it's necessary to leave items in your vehicle, lock them in the trunk out of plain view before you arrive at the park/trail.
- Take your cell phone with you so you can call for help if you need it.
- Tell a trusted family member or friend where you're going and when you plan to return, particularly if you're not familiar with the area.

SILVER SANDS BEACH ACCESS

I am pleased to share that the motion that I put forward for a positive recommendation to Council to direct staff to proceed with exploring of an alternative access to Silver Sands was approved on April 20, 2021 and it PASSED with UNANIMOUS consent. The staff report can be found [here](#).

"That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to explore the acquisition of lands for an improved or alternative access to Silver Sands Beach, pursuant to Real Property Transactions Policy Administrative Order, 2018-004-ADM"

This motion gives staff the authority to explore and purchase such land to accommodate an alternate access. Silver Sands Beach is an important ocean access point in the community of Cow Bay and for District 3. This beach is important culturally, historically and locally on so many levels. Many people have put a great deal of time and energy to protect this beach and access has been difficult in recent years. It is my hope that alternative access that is exclusively owned by HRM will offer new excitement and opportunities for this beautiful parkland and special place in our District.





POLICING SERVICES

Council has recently approved a couple of motions that will look at policing services within HRM:

1. *That Halifax Regional Council direct the CAO to prepare a report, based on a review of the current model of delivering policing services in Halifax Regional Municipality, to provide an evaluation of and make recommendations with respect to the effectiveness along with community safety standards of the current division of policing responsibilities in HRM between the Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP in their capacity as Nova Scotia Provincial Police.*

This review would provide a comprehensive evaluation that will allow Councillors to better understand the strengths and areas of possible improvement for the current system.

Outcome Sought: Staff report reviewing the current model of delivering policing services to assist in determining how to improve policing in HRM

2. That Halifax Regional Council endorse the approach as outlined in the staff report dated March 15, 2021 for the review and enforcement delivery and role of police agencies in HRM.

This motion came from a direction that Council took on August 17th, 2020 through resolution: THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the CAO to outline a process and timeline for a broad review of policing and public safety, which shall examine the potential for shifting or creating programs for civilian delivery of non-core functions. This review shall include but not be

limited to traffic enforcement, public safety, community standards, mental health, and municipal enforcement functions and will include a plan for engaging with the public, stakeholders, subject matter experts and subject to their agreement, participation of the Board of Police Commissioners.

As your Councillor and a member of the Board of Police Commissioners, I am encouraged to move this forward to see where we can do better. I hope you take the time to read this report and offer your comments or perspective on it. I will keep you updated on engagement opportunities. The staff report can be viewed [here](#).

MOUNT EDWARD ROAD STREET RECAPITALIZATION

The Halifax Regional Municipality's advance funded 2021/22 Capital Budget provides for the recapitalization of Mount Edward Road between Woodlawn Road and Belle Vista Drive and new sidewalk installation between Woodlawn Road and John Cross Drive. The recapitalization work includes asphalt renewal, full curb replacement and partial sidewalk repair between Woodlawn Road and Spring Avenue and milling & paving between Spring Avenue and Belle Vista Drive. It is expected that some street trees will be removed within the city right-of-way to make room for the new sidewalk.

This work is planned for the 2021 construction season.

Please contact Philip Nickerson, P. Eng. at 902-476-0836 if you have any questions, or if you are aware of any problems (i.e., drainage or sewer lateral issues).



NEW NOVA SCOTIA POWER MOUNT HOPE SUBSTATION

I have received the following update on the project at the end of Mount Hope Avenue in Russell Lake area. I will continue to update as information comes forward.

From Nova Scotia Power:

We recognize the challenges outages bring and the impact it has on our customers. Our customers expect and deserve reliable, affordable energy and we are committed to delivering that.

- This is an innovative way to improve reliability in the Cole Harbour area, while we build a permanent substation.
- The temporary equipment will be installed following all safety standards.
- It will be a quiet, compact structure, with a small footprint.
- We invest over \$100 million each year in projects across Nova Scotia – installing protective devices, upgrading lines, replacing poles and transformers. We also clear trees and branches from about 1000km of power line each year.
- Our focus is not only on improving the power system for today, we are building a grid for the future.
- We remain committed to finding innovative and affordable ways to meet and exceed the expectations of our customers.

Why is it being built?

- This is a temporary solution to improve reliability to customers in the Cole Harbour area. The new substation will help reduce pressure on the power system until a permanent substation is built.

When and where will a permanent substation be built?

- A new substation is being built in the Eastern Passage area. A lot of design work has been done already, but we're a few years out (about 4-5 years).

What will it look like and will it impact customers view?

- The temporary equipment is compact and has a small footprint compared to a typical substation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please visit Nova Scotia Power's [website](#).

OSCAR AND ETHEL: THE RUSSELL LAKE OSPREY FAMILY

I am so pleased to share that Oscar and Ethel have safely landed in their new homes on Russell Lake Trail. Our osprey are very special in all communities in District 3 and we are lucky to have them. What is also so wonderful is the local community stewardship and protective measures that people have displayed in recent days to ensure that Oscar and Ethel were supported. Nova Scotia Power successfully worked with us to encourage them to attach to their new nest location.





PORTLAND STREET/COLE HARBOUR FUNCTIONAL PLAN UPDATE

Halifax's Integrated Mobility Plan calls for the municipality to study existing roads that are important for regional vehicle flow, transit, goods movement and active transportation. The Portland Street/Cole Harbour Road corridor is one of these corridors. A Functional Plan studies how people move along a corridor and how development plays a role in shaping this movement. The study will make recommendations about the future design of the corridor, and how to improve mobility for all users.

During the first round of public engagement (online survey), over 250 residents participated in the virtual meeting where the project team presented the project background, objectives, and received feedback from the public about how they currently use Portland Street and Cole Harbour Road and what improvements could be made to the corridor. The feedback received from the first round of engagement will influence draft designs. The project team will return for a second round of engagement later this spring and present draft designs for public feedback. More information and the video of the meeting presentation can be found [here](#).

SPEEDING AND SAFE STREETS

I continue to work on traffic calming in our District. We are expecting an amendment to the Administrative Order that sets out the current traffic calming framework. Preliminary report has been reviewed at the Transportation Standing Committee, which I am on as Vice Chair. We are hoping this report will come with good recommendations in late spring.

ORGANIZING VOLUNTEER LITTER CLEAN-UP EVENTS – NOVA SCOTIA PICK ME UP

I want to start by thanking all the amazing leaders and volunteers in District 3 who have organized community clean-ups over the last few months and weeks. Your leadership and stewardship of the environment is greatly appreciated and has not gone unnoticed. Individuals and community groups who would like to organize a neighbourhood litter clean-up event are invited to register for the **Nova Scotia Pick-Me Up**. This program is administered by NS Adopt-A-Highway and is supported in-kind by Halifax Regional Municipality. Information for residents can also be found at www.halifax.ca/litter.

Participating is easy!

- Select an area within the municipality where you would like to run a clean-up event. Teams or individuals should [register](#) a minimum of two weeks prior to the anticipated date.

Questions may be directed to Shannon Betts, Diversion Policy Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources at betts@halifax.ca.





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OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE

With warmer weather approaching, the Nova Scotia RCMP is reminding all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) enthusiasts to make safety a priority when on the trails this season.

Each year, the Nova Scotia RCMP responds to ATV collisions, some resulting in fatality or serious injury. The majority of these collisions are a result of speed, impaired driving and not wearing a helmet. Since 2018, there were 38 ATV collisions that resulted in fatality or serious injury in areas policed by the Nova Scotia RCMP.

Here are some tips to ensure everyone's safety when out on the trails:

- Start with safety training. This will prepare you to confidently and safely enjoy your ATV.
- Stay on marked trails except where travel across a roadway is necessary.
- Obey the rules of the road/trail and respect posted signs, as well as the rights of other riders.
- Ride sober. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a criminal offence and can lead to serious injuries or even death for riders, passengers and others.
- Always wear protective clothing, including a helmet, gloves and eye protection. Helmets are required, even if you are driving in a side-by-side.
- Tell someone when you are leaving and when you will be back. Avoid riding alone and carry a first aid kit, tow rope, overnight bag in case you need it.
- Do a pre-ride inspection every time you drive your ATV. Check the tires for wear and rims for damage. Look over your controls and make sure all cables and connections are intact.

It is important to know that the Nova Scotia Off-highway Vehicles Act has specific requirements for youth. All ATV operators under 16 years of age must complete an approved safety training course and be supervised by someone who is at least 19 years old.

Those who violate the Off-highway Vehicles Act could face a penalty of over \$400 for a first offence and have their vehicle seized. Please help protect everyone by riding safely and responsibly. More information on off-highway vehicle use can be found [here](#).



COUNCILLOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS

I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to attend my virtual meetings around community issues and town hall open forums. We have successfully had them on Litter/Waste Disposal, Silver Sands Beach, Eastern Passage and Cow Bay Town Hall Forum. I will be announcing dates for the Russell Lake and Woodlawn areas of District 3 very soon. I intend to continue these in the future, while COVID-19 prevents us from gathering in person. Stay tuned for more dates.



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PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY SIGNS AVAILABLE



If you are interested in a slow down sign for your lawn/personal property, please email me. These signs are made of plastic and come with the lawn stakes for installation. Please be informed that the District 3

“Please Drive Slowly” signs are NOT a traffic calming measure, and they have no authority to direct or slow down traffic or make children safer on the streets.

COMMEMORATIVE NAMING

The Halifax region has almost 6,000 streets, many of which are rich in history and paint a picture of our past. As the municipality continues to grow, new streets, parks, sports fields, and buildings all require names. You can help to keep the tradition of commemorative naming alive and play an important role in building the municipality by submitting names of notable people or groups, historic events, geographic features, or native flora and fauna. Your submission could end up on a street sign or at a new park in your community.

To nominate someone, or see a list of approved names available for streets and parks, please visit our [website](#).

NEW TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE ROAD SAFETY

The Halifax District RCMP Traffic Unit will be using new traffic surveyors to increase road safety in Halifax Regional Municipality. The equipment surveys the speed of each vehicle that passes, as well as the date, time and direction of travel. The traffic surveyors do not collect images or any identifying information about vehicles or occupants. The Halifax District Traffic Unit will analyze the data collected by the surveyors and use it to deploy resources where they are most needed, in order to best serve our communities.

In the RCMP coverage areas with Halifax Regional Municipality, there are approximately 2,000 motor vehicle collisions each year, which result in 300 injuries and 16 fatalities. Analyzing traffic patterns and behaviours is an important first step in addressing this.

The Halifax District RCMP Traffic Unit consists of five members and is designed to enhance and focus operations related to Traffic Safety, Education, and Enforcement throughout the District. The priority of the unit is, but not limited to, the four causal factors of serious injuries and fatalities on our highways which are aggressive driving, occupancy restraints, impaired driving and distracted driving.





SPRING ROAD SAFETY

With Spring in full bloom, our neighborhood streets are busy with people out and about enjoying the warm, sunny weather. Halifax Regional Police is encouraging everyone to do their part to safely share our roadways.

Motorists:

- Avoid distractions and focus on driving.
- Drive within the posted speed limit and for the conditions.
- Keep an eye out for pedestrians, particularly near crosswalks, traffic lights and intersections.
- Keep an eye out for cyclists and ensure you allow for 1-meter clearance when passing them.
- Yield to pedestrians who are in a crosswalk. Remember that not all crosswalks are marked, and any intersection of a street is considered to be a crosswalk.
- Only pass cyclists if it's safe to do so.
- Always park your vehicle so it doesn't cause a safety issue, block in other vehicles or make roads impassable for traffic or emergency vehicles. Never block driveways, or park on private property or in no parking zones.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle is wearing their seatbelts.

Cyclists:

- Check your bike to make sure brakes, reflectors and lights are in working order.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Ride on the right side of the road, in the same direction as traffic.
- Ride in single file.
- Obey all road signs and traffic signals.

- Signal your intentions before turning or stopping.
- Be visible and stay alert for vehicles and cyclists.

Pedestrians:

- Stay alert for vehicles and cyclists, particularly when no sidewalk is available.
- Use crosswalk lights when available and obey traffic light signals.
- Always look both ways before crossing the road. Make eye contact with vehicle driver and make sure the vehicle has come to a stop before crossing.
- Wear reflective bright clothing to be more visible.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council normally meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Community Council is meeting virtually. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change.

You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **becky.kent@halifax.ca** or **902-478-5368**. For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at 311.

To reach my office, please call Emily Smith at **902-490-7177**.

For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).