



WELCOME JUNE!



Congratulations graduates! Happy Father’s Day! Welcome summer! There are so many reasons to celebrate this month. Although we are still

dealing with [COVID-19](#), we can enjoy the special moments in our lives - loved ones graduating and moving to the next stage in their lives; sharing a special moment with our father’s/children on Father’s Day, even if, once again, they are virtual celebrations.

As we welcome the arrival of summer, check out the many trails and parks in District 9 for you to enjoy and, an update on HRM’s Bike Week. Keep reading for more updates on the 2021/22 Budget, Halifax & West Community Council and much more!

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JUNE VIRTUAL MEETING DATES

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

Regional Council:

Tuesday, June 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 15th at 10:00 a.m. (If required)

Tuesday, June 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, June 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council:

Tuesday, June 22nd at 6:00 p.m. (If required)

2021/22 BUDGETS APPROVED



After judiciously performing our fiscal responsibility, my Regional Council colleagues and I have approved the 2021/22 Capital and Operating

budgets for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

The key highlights of the budget are shown below along with Council's Strategic Priorities Plan:

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Operating Budget is \$1B and the Capital Budget is \$177.9M. Debt is at \$241.2M with debt charges comprising only 4.7% of total expenditures. Net Reserve Balances are estimated to be a healthy \$311.7M.

The Average Residential and Commercial Tax Bills will rise 1.0%, below the anticipated NS CPI of 1.6%.

The Halifax regional economy is comparatively resilient with capital projects and federal and provincial stimuli shielding it from more severe economic consequences.

The municipality remains in a sound fiscal position with flexibility to borrow for long-term initiatives, strong reserve balances and competitive tax levels.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN

VISION

The Halifax Regional Municipality's vision for the future is to enhance our quality of life by fostering the growth of healthy and vibrant communities, a strong and diverse economy, and a sustainable environment.

MISSION

We take pride in providing high-quality public service to benefit our citizens. *We make a difference.*

VALUES

Respect • Collaboration • Diversity & Inclusion • Integrity • Accountability • Sustainability • Evidence-Based Decision Making

COUNCIL PRIORITY AREAS

PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

COMMUNITIES

INTEGRATED MOBILITY

ENVIRONMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITY AREAS

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATION

OUR PEOPLE

SERVICE EXCELLENCE



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HRM PARKS & TRAILS IN DISTRICT 9

Embrace the outdoors, safely! HRM parks and trails are close to home. Staying close to home doesn't mean we need to hibernate as our weather continues to get more beautiful each day. While adhering to public health restrictions, it's a great time to connect with nature, and explore our local parks and trails.

An [interactive parks and outdoor spaces map](#) is available on our municipal website. You may be surprised to discover just how many parks and trails may not be far from your own neighbourhood. There are [26 municipal trails](#) of varying difficulty and accessibility listed on the HRM website, for you to walk, wheel, or cycle on.

While the [Public Gardens](#) are a renowned gem of our city, there are also opportunities to enjoy (or create) [community gardens](#) throughout other parts of the municipality. Community gardens provide a shared opportunity for residents to grow food and produce floral or landscape displays.

As we've realized even more than ever during the pandemic, spaces such as parks, natural areas and community gardens promote physical, mental, and social health and tangible well-being for all. Learn more about these benefits, and find out more about exploring nature in the municipality [here](#).

COVID-19



Fight COVID-19 with a jab!

Eligible Nova Scotians can book vaccine

appointments across the municipality. The shot just isn't for you; it's to protect your family, your friends, and our community! Many Nova Scotians can book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment online today.

Regular appointments:

<https://novascotia.flow.canimmunize.ca/en/9874123-19-7418965>

Drive-thru appointments:

<https://novascotia.flow.canimmunize.ca/en/8675309>. Or, call **1-833-797-7772** to book by phone (7am- 10pm, 7 days a week).

Stay up to date with the latest updates and restrictions on COVID-19:

www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus

For provincial restrictions, isolation guidance, symptoms and testing information, vaccine information for Nova Scotians, and more.

www.canada.ca/coronavirus

For travel and immigration information, federal financial supports, national virus and vaccine data, and more.



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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Behind you,
all your memories.
Before you,
all your dreams.
Around you,
all who love you.
Within you,
all you need.

DID YOU KNOW.....

June 3rd is World Bicycle Day.



On April 12th, 2018, the UN General Assembly declared June 3rd as [World Bicycle Day](#). The unanimous decision was supported by all 193 members for reasons such as: "...the impact of the bicycle on society is quite transformative — even the poorest people get access to basic transport with the bicycle."

Interesting facts:

- The first bicycle was invented in Germany in 1818 by Karl Drais. There were no pedals; you powered the bicycle with your feet running on the ground and then coasting.
- The first pedal bicycle was created in 1839 by Scotsman, Kirkpatrick MacMillan.



In 1839 a blacksmith, Kirkpatrick Macmillan, fitted pedal operated cranks to a hobby horse to create the first bicycle.



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June 5th is World Environment Day.



The [World Environment Day](#)'s website states that: "Above all, World Environment Day offers a global platform for inspiring positive change. It pushes for individuals to think about the way they consume; for businesses to develop greener models; for farmers and manufacturers to produce more sustainably; for governments to invest in repairing the environment; for educators to inspire students to take action; and for youth to build a greener future.

Everybody living on this planet, in this moment in time can be a part of #GenerationRestoration.

June 8th is World Ocean Day



In 1992, Canada suggested a [World Oceans Day](#) at the Earth Summit. By 2002, it had become a global initiative leading to over 23 events in 15 countries by 2003.

HRM BIKE WEEK TRANSITIONS TO GET THERE BY BIKE (GTBB)



With the Halifax cycling network continuously growing and with goals to get more people cycling, we're exploring ways we could better support community groups to celebrate cycling, not just for ten days in June, but all year long.

With that in mind, we're transitioning Bike Week to the [Get There By Bike \(GTBB\) Community Events program](#), which aims to support sustained promotion and education for cycling throughout the year, as well as incorporate community events within our broader cycling promotion initiatives.

Extending and expanding Bike Week events and activities over the entire calendar year benefits all GTBB partners by:

- acknowledging that cycling can be a year-round form of transportation.
- ensuring that each event is as accessible to as many people as possible.
- providing greater flexibility for event organizers; and,
- ensuring that we have adequate staff capacity to best support organizers.



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BIKE SAFETY



According to the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act, cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists. When

cyclists and motorists follow these rules, the chance of a collision is greatly reduced. In Nova Scotia, the one-metre rule requires drivers to leave one metre of space between their vehicle and a cyclist at all times. Motorists could receive a fine of \$295 under the Motor Vehicle Act for not doing so.

Here are a few tips to help keep everyone be safe when using the road:

- Wear a properly fitted helmet. It's the law and it can reduce the risk of brain injury, the leading type of fatal or disabling injury to cyclists
- Wear a reflective vest or bright clothing so others can see you
- Have a bell or horn on your bike
- Obey the traffic laws
- Use proper hand signals when turning and stopping
- Be alert and make an effort to watch for cyclists, especially at intersections
- Make room for cyclists and share the road
- When parking or leaving a parking space, look for cyclists before opening your door or pulling out

- Be patient and keep in mind bicycles are much more vulnerable on the roads

Remember, respecting the rules of the road goes a long way towards keeping everyone safe. For additional safety information, visit <https://novascotia.ca/tran/publications/novascotiabicyclesafety.pdf>.

WONDERING ABOUT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY?



If you want to stay up to date on what is happening with our local economy, follow the [Halifax Partnership's Economic Dashboard](#).

CURBSIDE GIVEAWAY JUNE 2021 CANCELLED



Due to COVID-19, the June 2021 Curbside

Giveaway event has been cancelled. Please check our [website](#) for future updates on a fall 2021 event.



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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACEMAKING SEED KITS

SEED KITS

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACEMAKING

While regular Neighbourhood Placemaking projects are on hold we're offering a series of Together Apart kits!

These kits provide ways to bring neighbours together through shared activities while remaining safely on their own properties. You can choose from vegetable seeds or flower seeds as well as full sun or partial shade seeds.

All you have to do is get your gardening tools ready and apply for a kit by filling out an application form on our website!

To apply: halifax.ca/placemaking

ON-STREET PARKING CHANGES



The following changes for on-street parking are now in effect: adjustments to parking rates; removal of the four-hour parking time cap; addition of Commuter Parking Zone 15.

Parking rate adjustments:

The new hourly rates reflect actual time-of day demand based on data collected from the

[Integrated Parking Technology Solution](#). Rate changes can be found [here](#).

Removal of four-hour parking time cap:

Drivers are no longer limited to four hours per zone per day.

Commuter parking zone 15 (between Acadia Street and Mount Hope Avenue):

Permits are sold online starting the 15th of the month prior to the month in which you require the permit (starting May 15 for the month of June). You can purchase and manage parking permits using the new online [parking permit portal](#).

Based on feedback received from parking system users and stakeholders, these [changes](#) were recently approved by Regional Council in an effort to make improvements to the parking system.

SPEED DISPLAY SIGNS



Great news! HRM has 17 Speed Display Signs (SDS) for use on high volume residential streets to monitor speed. Also known as driver feedback signs, speed

display signs are devices designed to reduce speeding by alerting motorists of their speed. By providing the information in real time, the



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signs provide motorists the opportunity to alter their behaviour regarding compliance to posted speed limits.

The data collected through the sign equipment will be evaluated to determine if they are still effective. Locations that have become ineffective after a period of time will be considered for removal and those signs will be relocated to another site. Locations waiting for installation will be prioritized by those with increased collisions and speeding.

Currently, there are approximately 40 locations pending assessment for potential addition to the list for placement of a SDS.

DISTRICT 9 DISTRICT CAPITAL FUNDS

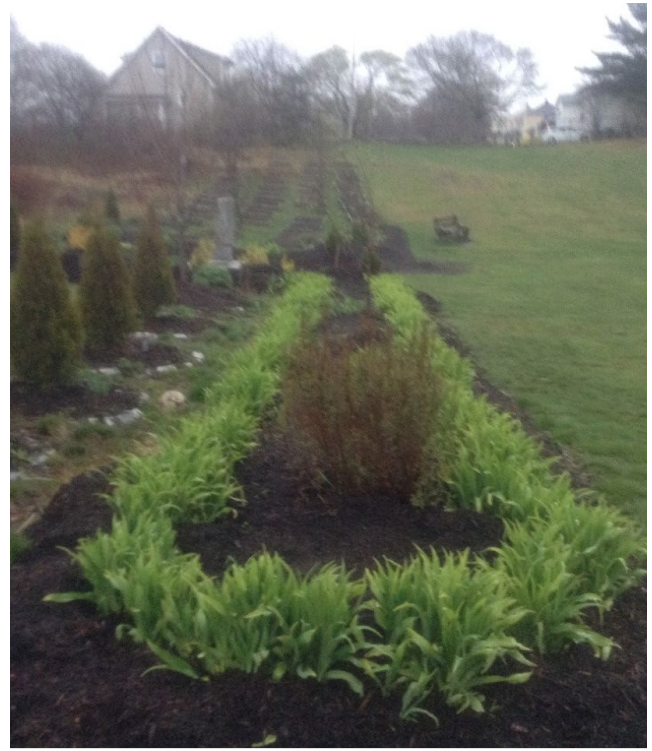


City Kidds Community Garden

Each municipal district received \$94,000 for this fiscal year (2021/22) to use for district capital projects. These funds are available for

non-profit groups/organizations for projects that will benefit the greater community.

An example would be the City Kidds Escape Society 2020 garden project. City Kidds requested \$2000 for soil and mulch in the front garden beds, tribute gardens, common-wealth gardens and around fruit trees. A beautiful addition to the surrounding community.



City Kidds Community Garden



City Kidds Community Garden

For more information on the District 9 District Capital Fund and to apply for funding, visit [the municipal website](#).



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BUSINESS SATISFACTION SURVEY



The Halifax Regional Municipality is conducting a survey to collect information on how and where regulatory red tape is impacting businesses, whether that be through administrative or compliance obligations that may add unnecessary cost or burden to business owners. Input from this survey will help improve public policy delivery and regulatory quality.

If you are a business owner, I encourage you to take this survey and to share it with business owners in your network.

The survey is available from Wednesday, May 12 to Friday, June 11.

TAKE SURVEY

ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY



Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is becoming a better place for people of all abilities. On May 18th, Council gave the [Accessibility Strategy](#) the green light. This strategy will make Halifax a more accessible place to live, work and play. 31 key items are outlined in the strategy, which will be actioned over the next nine years, by 2030.

Accessibility is a broad term that impacts us all in some ways. It's an issue that concerns Nova Scotians of all ages, from those with disabilities to parents travelling with their children in strollers to seniors in our communities.

Here are some of the highlights of HRM's Accessibility Strategy I look forward to seeing implemented:

- Improving Access-a-bus service and identifying how to increase the number of accessible taxis
- Using Rick Hansen Gold Certification standards for current and future infrastructure
- Improving accessible recreational offerings so that more people can participate



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- Developing an accessibility “audit” (review) system for public facilities, playgrounds, and other infrastructure around the municipality
- Thorough employment equity reporting and data on employees with disabilities
- Training hiring managers on workplace accessibility and accommodating for abilities/disabilities
- Improving public awareness around snow removal
- Incorporating accessible recreation services, signage, walkways and equipment (i.e. playgrounds)
- Having clear standards for municipal communications by developing an accessibility guide for municipal informational/promotional materials

The five key areas of the Accessibility Act:

-  **Built Environment**
-  **Employment**
-  **Public Transportation & Infrastructure**
-  **Information & Communication**
-  **Goods & Services**
-  **Education**

FORT NEEDHAM PUBLIC WASHROOMS

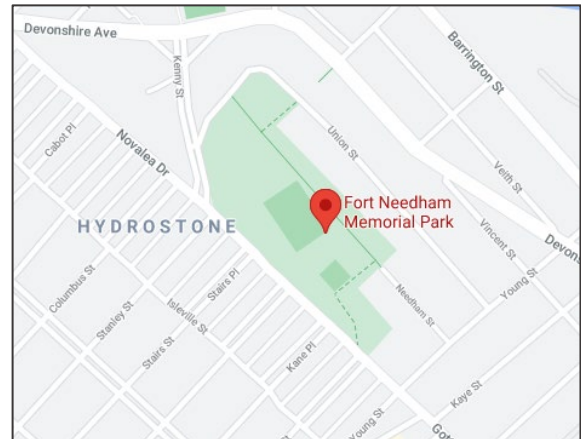


Image courtesy of Anne Sinclair, Architect

Construction is underway for the Fort Needham Memorial Park public washrooms. Once constructed, the washrooms will achieve a net-zero standard - now required for our corporate buildings under [HalifACT](#).

The facility will feature:

- increased levels of envelope insulation
- a hybrid heat pump hot water heater
- infloor heating
- a programmable heat recovery ventilation system
- LED lighting
- 8.5 kW net metered solar electric system





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RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP



As a responsible dog owner, I am sure you want nothing more than for your Fido to be safe and happy. Here's what you need to know about [Halifax's Animal By-Law A-700](#).

- license your dog within 20 days of getting it
- license your dog within 20 days of moving to the Municipality
- [renew your dog's licence each year \(or purchase a lifetime licence\)](#)
- make sure your dog is wearing its licence at all times
- remove defecation immediately from public and private property that is not your own (unless you have a service dog)
- obey signs for dogs (off leash but under control, on leash, or all dogs prohibited)
- keep your dogs on leash in public areas where [no signs are posted indicating otherwise](#)

Prevent your dog from:

- attacking a person or another animal
- running at large
- damaging public or private property
- making excessive noise

- BE SURE to keep unsprayed female dogs confined within a dog-proof enclosure while in heat.

Dog owners found to be in violation of the by-law may face one or more of the following penalties:

- be issued a warning notice by a Compliance Officer
- be issued a Summary Offense Ticket of \$237.50 or greater by a Compliance Officer
- face prosecution in a court of law
- have your dog seized by Animal Services

Troubles with a dog in your neighbourhood?

If you're experiencing a problem or issue with a dog in your neighbourhood, the first step is to talk to the owner, who may not be aware that their pet is being disruptive.

If the issue persists, you can [register a complaint](#) by contacting [311](#).

JUNE 21ST FIRST DAY OF SUMMER





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TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN (TNR)



TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) benefits the whole community. It improves the lives of feral cats, decreases the size of colonies over time, and eliminates neighbourhood nuisance.

HRM, in collaboration with Spay Day Halifax and the Nova Scotia SPCA, has worked to address these concerns over the last four years.

This year, more than ever, we need your assistance in locating cat colonies. You can email the information directly to: catcolony@spcans.ca or call 902-468-7877.

Through TNR, young kittens and friendly cats are taken to SPCA shelters where they will be cared for until they're ready to find a forever home. Feral cats, or wild cats, are much different. What would cause your cuddly pet cat to purr, would cause a feral, born-in-the-wild cat, stress due to their limited human interaction. Feral cats are much happier continuing to live outside. They are humanely trapped, spayed/neutered, ear-tipped and returned to their local colony.

Through TNR interventions, there are fewer feral cats in HRM. Neutering/spaying one stray or feral cat can prevent as many as 180 kittens from being born. The Nova Scotia SPCA vet team is specialized and equipped to do spays and neuters for all of HRM.

One of the colony caretakers reported that: *"Having our feral colony neutered has been amazing! We don't have to look at rounded tummies and wonder where and when the new litter would be. Rounded tummies are now just well-fed kitties. I can't stress enough the burden and stress lifted from our shoulders. We are so very grateful!"*

Feral/stray cats impact the entire community and, requires a community to help solve the problem. Thank you to the amazing team and volunteers who spend their evenings and weekends dedicated to TNR. Because of their hard work, fewer kittens are born into harsh conditions at risk of food scarcity, disease and predators. Feral cats can live happy, healthy lives no longer in constant distress.





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COMMUNITY GARDENS & NATURALIZATION SPACES



Many [community gardens](#) in Halifax are operated by residents on land owned by the municipal government. These are small-scale sites operated by non-profit societies for one or more of the following purposes:

1. Growing produce for:
 - personal consumption
 - donating to local food causes
 - generating revenue to reinvest in the community garden
2. Production of a floral or landscape display
3. Demonstration gardening or other related instructional programming.

Community gardens can include vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers, native and/or ornamental plants established and operated within existing municipal regulations, bylaws and assessments.

To start a community garden, you must be a non-profit group and submit an application before the March 30 deadline. This ensures

there is enough time for staff to review and work with you on your request. For more information, check out the [community garden handbook](#).

If you're ready to apply, fill out the [application form](#) and send it to **Darren Hirtle**, Community Developer, at 902.490.4865 or hirtled@halifax.ca.

NATURALIZATION SPACES



[Naturalization](#) is an ecologically based approach to landscape management that seeks to enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience in the urban landscape using native or non-invasive-adapted plant species including flowering perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees.

In January 2019, Regional Council provided direction to expand naturalization efforts in parks and right of ways. On March 23, 2021, Regional Council [approved a report](#) providing updates and requesting an extension on the current pilot projects.



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PORT OF HALIFAX SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY



The Halifax Port Authority is creating a sustainability strategy that will guide future port planning and operations. As a part of the process, they are looking for public feedback and input to ensure the framework is reflective of the larger community and its values. The Port wants to know what matters most to members of the community in which they operate.

To engage people in the conversation, everyone is invited to complete this short [survey](#). The answers will help lay the foundation for future Port of Halifax initiatives. The survey is expected to take approximately ten minutes to complete and individual results will be kept confidential.

To learn more, check out the latest Port City Question video on sustainability:

<https://youtu.be/4zippufDgn4>.

URBAN DESIGN AWARDS



Urban design plays an important role in enhancing the quality of life for residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). Urban design helps build better communities by improving the functionality, sustainability and overall appearance of the public and private spaces. Done well, design makes a lasting positive impact for residents now and in the future.

I invite, and encourage, you to join our virtual celebration of great urban design in the HRM! We received fantastic submissions in urban architecture, civic design, urban elements, community connections and initiatives, heritage restoration & adaptive re-use and student projects.

[Join us](#) on Wednesday, June 9th at 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. to see which projects the jury selected as winners.



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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

