



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

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

Let me start by saying that my heart and thoughts go out to the family of young Max, who we lost recently in a tragic car accident. My heart breaks for his family and I hope that his grandmother continues to heal from her injuries. I can say, through the outpouring of comments on social media, that our entire community is mourning the loss of this dear, young man. My condolences are offered to his family, friends, loved ones and community. Know that you are all on my mind.

Councillor Tony Mancini and I are meeting with HRP and HRM Traffic Authority to discuss this location and others along Portland Street. We will advocate for change where we can. The Portland Street Functional Plan is underway, and it is my focus to ensure that traffic calming and vehicular/pedestrian/cycling safety is paramount as we move forward.

COVID-19 is still at play in our communities, so I encourage you to stay safe and obey all Public Health safety protocols.

Happy Father's Day to all the dads out there. Enjoy your day, be safe and stay well.

Warmly,





DON'T MISS OUT ON LIBRARY SERVICES!



To-go bags being prepared at Alderney Gate Public Library for Curbside Pick-up across the municipality.

Curbside Pick-Up

Halifax Public Libraries want to stay connected with you. That's why all library branches in the municipality are offering curbside pick-up while following Public Health guidelines. You can pick up any items on hold that have arrived or grab free snack packs, lunch packs, activity packs, and menstrual products. Even if you don't have a book or movie on hold, you can request a title on the spot or ask staff members for a recommendation. No appointment is required for Curbside Pick-up. You can pick up at any time during [service hours](#).

Meet us Online

Halifax Public Libraries has expanded into new gathering spaces online to continue summer events via Zoom. The "What's Up Calendar" on the website shows a range of upcoming events for preschoolers, kids, teens, and adults – you can view the calendar [here](#).

In this work-from-home world, a virtual puppet show may be just what you and your child need on a Monday morning.

An E-Library is also available online; it's a great resource to access many free e-books for all ages. Using your library card, you can sign up on platforms such as Libby, hoopla, and TumbleBooks and start borrowing right away. More information on this service can be found [here](#).

Ask Halifax Public Libraries Anything

Navigating through this pandemic isn't easy as regulations keep changing. If you have any questions or need help finding resources in the community, you can connect with someone by calling the *Ask the Library* phone line (call 902-490-5753 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Saturday). Library staff are thrilled to have helped many community members throughout the pandemic using this service.

COVID-19 Testing

Two locations, Alderney Gate Public Library and Halifax Central Library are currently being used as rapid COVID-19 testing sites. If you are looking to get tested and pick up a book to read, you can stop by during [testing hours](#).

Stay In Touch

If you'd like to stay in the loop on the Library's services and upcoming events, you can follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@hfxpublib). They love hearing from you and seeing the community using their services. The TD Summer Reading Club will soon be underway - you and your kiddos won't want to miss out!



**ENVIRONMENT WEEK:
MAY 30TH – JUNE 5TH**

Halifax Regional Municipality is very much focused on supporting our environment. This includes short-and long-term initiatives, including creating and acting on [HalifACT](#), Halifax’s climate action movement, investing in electric buses and acquiring more park land (in [Budget 2021/22](#)), and much more. A greener Halifax is a better Halifax for us all. With that in mind, Environment Week is something I’d like to highlight!

Established in 1971, Canadian Environment Week celebrates our country’s environmental accomplishments and encourages us all to do our part in conserving and protecting the environment. Canadian Environment Week occurs the first week of June each year to coincide with World Environment Day (June 5). Let’s consider how we can each mark this important week – just like planting one tree, having one conversation can spark big things in time.



FIGHT COVID-19 WITH A JOB!

THE COVID-19 VACCINE
HELPS PROTECT YOU
& YOUR FAMILY.

A safe and effective vaccine to protect against COVID-19 is now available.

Regular and drive-thru appointments are available for eligible Nova Scotians.

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 can be booked [here](#).
Drive-thru appointments can be booked [here](#).
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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COW BAY NATIVE LUKE HENMAN SIGNS NHL CONTRACT



Congratulations to Luke Henman of Cow Bay, on being the first NHL player to be signed to the newest NHL team, the Seattle Kraken. We are so proud of you and can't wait to cheer you on from our homes in Cow Bay and the surrounding area. We, Cow Bay, Eastern Passage, District 3, HRM and certainly Nova Scotia are wishing you great success.

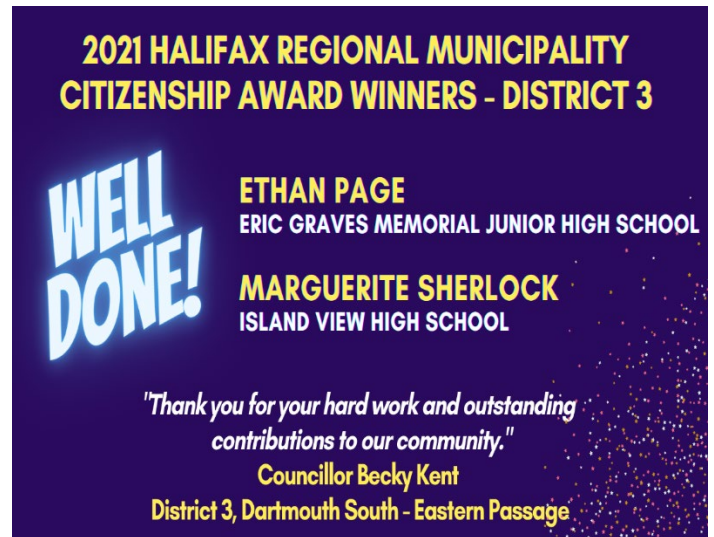
Congratulations as well to Luke's family, as we know that the sacrifices, love, and guidance that you have given Luke have contributed greatly to his success. Well done! Can't wait to see you in action.

2021 CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Each year the Halifax Regional Municipality's Citizenship Award is presented to outstanding Grade 9 students in our municipality. Each school has only one award recipient, and schools choose their award recipient based on leadership qualities, service in the school and community, and academic performance.

Citizenship Award recipients receive a special plaque with the HRM crest, along with their name and the year engraved in it.

I was very pleased to take part in the 2021 Citizenship Awards that took place during the virtual May 18th session of Regional Council. This year, 38 students in total received this award of distinction. I extend my congratulations to each award recipient; your hard work and service to our community is appreciated.



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](#).



DISTRICT 3 TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATES

You will notice that traffic calming projects are happening throughout District 3 in several locations.

We have a very ambitious traffic calming program planned for this year, so I want to share with you a summary of the work planned in District 3. Much of the list was created from traffic reviews done before I was elected, and I am pleased to see them going forward. Many of you have contacted me regarding concern for streets not on this list. Rest assured I have asked for consideration as we go forward for any street that has been brought to my attention. Council is working hard to address the growing concerns on street safety and speeding in our neighborhoods.

Street Name	Limit From	Limit To
Traffic Calming on Corridor		
Portland Hills Dr	Portland St	Portland Estates Blvd
Stuart Harris Dr	Mount Edward Rd	La Pierre Cres
Wildwood Blvd	Mount Edward Rd	Cranberry Cres
Irving St	Pleasant St	Grant St
Eisner Blvd	Portland Estates Blvd West	Portland Lakes Trail
Dorothea Dr	Cole Harbour Rd	Spring Ave
Speed Humps in School Zones		
Windward Ave	Lucien Dr	Selma Dr
Samuel Danial Dr	Melrose Cres	end
Traffic Calming on Corridor – Potential Projects (still under review)		
Collins Grove	Spring Ave	Regal Rd
Cranberry Cres	Mount Edward Rd	Wildwood Blvd

GREEN BIN & BLUE BAG COLLECTION UPDATE

Weekly green cart collection of your organic waste is returning for July, August, and September.

However, **blue bag recyclable collection will occur once every two weeks.** Both changes come into effect on July 2, 2021.

Sign up for weekly collection reminders, get a refresher on what goes where, check out recycling tips and much more, [here](#). You can also download the free *Halifax Recycles* app on your Android or iOS device to have waste info at the palm of your hand. And don't forget to [follow Halifax Recycles](#) on Facebook!



CURBSIDE GIVEAWAY WEEKEND CANCELLED

In following with current Public Health measures related to COVID-19, the [Curbside Giveaway Weekend](#) scheduled for Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6 has been cancelled. Residents are encouraged to hold on to any items they wish to giveaway or donate in the future until donation centres have reopened. If an item is unable to be donated, residents can place it for collection in keeping with curbside collection limits. A decision on the next curbside giveaway weekend will be made at a later date. For more information on municipal services during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [Halifax.ca/coronavirus](https://halifax.ca/coronavirus).



HRM 2021/2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

On May 4, my Halifax Regional Council colleagues and I approved the [2021/2022 municipal Operating Budget](#) at a total of \$1 billion. The budget outlines the priorities for council and the municipality.



Operating a large municipality like ours each year is no small task. Our communities are developed, sustained and improved thanks to the funding contained with each year's budget; it helps our city deliver on many projects, programs and services that will support economic growth, improve our environment, expand our transportation systems, and build on the strengths of our vibrant and diverse communities.

The budget funds and provides a plan for the continuity and improvement of many things that impact our daily lives, including fire services, neighbourhood traffic-calming projects, snow clearing, recreational programming, and much more.

This next year's budget is very much focused on investing in transit (electric buses, Mill Cove ferry service), the environment (HalifACT 2050 for climate action, urban forestry plan), active living (park land acquisition, strategic active transportation projects), and safety (road safety

improvements, traffic-calming projects for neighbourhoods).

HRM remains in a healthy financial position and has weathered the pandemic even better than forecast, thanks to federal and provincial support to households and businesses and on-going public investment projects. Looking to the future, our municipality will have the required flexibility and resiliency to thrive, despite any post-pandemic uncertainties.

For residents, the 2021/2022 budget only results in a minimal residential tax rate increase of 1 per cent, or a \$21 total increase to the average single-family home tax bill. To learn more about the budget process, view a presentation about HRM's budget, and review more details on what is included in the 2021/2022 budget, visit halifax.ca/budget.

JUNE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are three Regional Council meetings scheduled for June, which I look forward to participating in. These are in addition to in addition to several specific committee meetings. Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings [here](#), and I invite you to [join us virtually!](#) Agendas and reports are available by noon on Fridays prior to the meeting date.

Regional Council meetings for June 2021 (subject to change):

- 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.



ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY APPROVED BY COUNCIL



Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is becoming a better place for people of all abilities. Councillors gave the [Accessibility Strategy](#) the green light during the May 18, 2021 Regional Council meeting.

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. The [recommendations](#) to create a more accessible HRM are varied, in order to consider each category of Nova Scotia's [Accessibility Act](#). The *Accessibility Act* recognizes accessibility as a human right and sets a goal of an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. Now that this strategy is in motion, we have the framework we need to achieve this important milestone.

We'll be making accessibility improvements in several key areas outlined in the *Accessibility Act*: built environment, employment, public transportation and infrastructure, information and communication, along with goods and services.

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
- 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



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You can learn more about the Accessibility Strategy's highlights [here](#) (presentation shown to Regional Council on May 18, 2021 by HRM Diversity Manager, Tracey Jones-Grant), and read the full text of the plan [here](#).

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

The five key areas of the Accessibility Act - Built Environment, Employment, Public Transportation and Infrastructure, Information & Communication, and Goods & Services.

EMBRACE THE OUTDOORS, SAFELY! HRM PARKS AND TRAILS

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 municipality's 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 residents to walk, wheel, or cycle on.

And 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](#).



Shore Road reparation along shoreline.

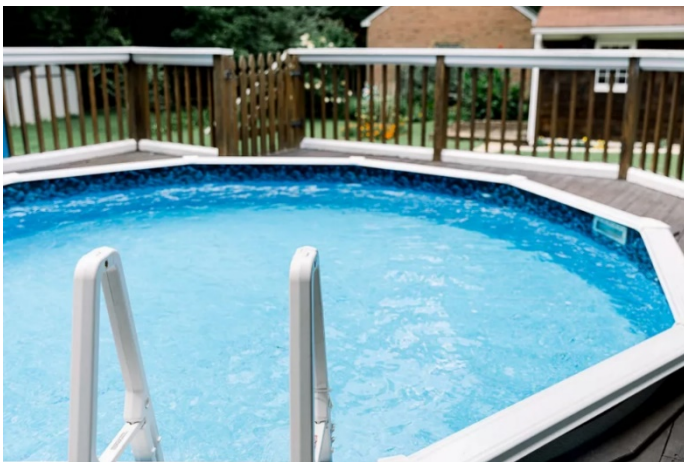




LOT GRADING PERMITS: DO I NEED ONE FOR MY NEW POOL OR OUTBUILDING?

Installing a new pool or shed this summer? Before taking the plunge, it's important to first learn what plans or permits the municipality may require for your new installation.

Halifax Regional Municipality's Lot Grading By-law (L-400) was updated in 2020 to require a Lot Grading Permit for some pools and accessory buildings. A Lot Grading Permit applies to residential properties in the urban service area only. This means if your home is not serviced by the municipal sewer system, you do not apply for a Lot Grading Permit.



An above-ground pool, with a deck and fencing (photo credit: TheSpruce.com)

If you need to apply for a Lot Grading Permit, you can do so when applying for the required permit to construct a swimming pool or accessory building. It's possible that multiple permits are required when constructing a swimming pool: a permit to construct the pool, a permit to construct a fence and/or deck, and a

Lot Grading Permit, if applicable to you. To apply, and to learn more about permits, visit Halifax.ca and click on "[Submit a Permit Application](#)."

The information below will help you determine if you need to apply for a Lot Grading Permit for your new addition:

Seasonal pools

Lot Grading Permits = Not required.

These are pools that are purchased at Walmart or Canadian Tire (for example) that are set up by property owners at the beginning of the pool season and then dismantled for winter.

Above ground/on-ground pools

Lot Grading Permits = Required, but most do not require a Lot Grading Plan.

If you believe lot grading and existing drainage patterns on your property will **not** be impacted by your pool installation, then a Lot Grading Plan is not required when you apply for your Lot Grading Permit. However, in this case you must still submit a Site Plan stating (a) there will be no changes to the lot grading, and (b) the size and location of the new structure to be installed.

Engineering staff will review this and confirm that lot grading and drainage patterns will not be impacted. This most likely requires a site visit by Engineering staff to confirm. If Engineering staff determine that a Lot Grading Plan prepared by a Professional Engineer is required, you will be contacted.

A Lot Grading Plan prepared by a Professional



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Engineer may be required if constructing your pool will involve altering surface grades or if the pool will block a drainage path on your property. However, basic levelling of an area on the yard to accommodate a pool does not usually require a Lot Grading Plan.

In-ground pools

Lot Grading Permit = Required, along with a Lot Grading Plan prepared by a Professional Engineer with your permit application.

Most people planning an in-ground pool will have landscaping plans prepared that can be easily converted to a grading plan.

Small sheds

Lot Grading Permits = Not required.

These are small sheds that can be purchased at departments stores, under 215 sq. ft. These structures are typically quite basic and do not necessarily require a concrete pad.

Larger sheds/garages

Lot Grading Permits = Required, but not all require a Lot Grading Plan.

If you believe the lot grading and existing drainage patterns on the property will not be impacted, then a Lot Grading Plan is not required at the time of application. Similar to the process for above-ground/on-ground pools, as stated above, even you determine a Lot Grading Plan is not required, you must submit a Site Plan stating there will be no changes to the lot grading. This site plan must also identify the size and location of the new structure.

However, a Lot Grading Plan prepared by a Professional Engineer may be required for any

accessory building which requires a Building Permit that will create a change to the lot grading and drainage patterns, either due to altering surface grades or if the structure blocks a drainage path.

Halifax Regional Municipality has communicated the above information to the Pool association, and pool retailers in the area, so that they are also aware of these by-law changes.

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.

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](#).