



**COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY**  
DISTRICT 4 ONLINE NEWS  
COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

## DEAR RESIDENT,

Hello, and Happy June, District 4!

It is with a little sense of relief we enter June! The weather is getting warmer, the leaves are green and beautiful, and we have a little glimpse of hope for a future reopening! We have a significant celebration this month for our district. The Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children (now named Akoma) celebrates its centennial anniversary on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Due to Public Health restrictions, the celebration will be virtual, and I hope as many of you as can watch will join me in being part of the celebration.

I would like to take this opportunity to send congratulations to all our 2021 graduates. Congratulations on this milestone as you begin the next chapter of your lives.

I would also like to take the time to encourage all drivers to please slow down on our residential streets. It is so encouraging to see so many of our children playing outside, riding

bikes and scooters on the roads. Please be extra careful as you navigate through busy roads with cars, kids, strollers, etc. We want everyone to be safe this summer!

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with questions and/or concerns. It is my pleasure to hear from you!

Sincerely,

1



June 2021

**HALIFAX**



## COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

### IN HONOUR OF THE 215 CHILDREN



On Monday, May 31, flags were lowered to half-mast on municipal properties to honour the 215 children found buried in Kamloops and to recognize all those who lost their lives in the residential school system. The flags will remain at half-mast for 215 hours, until sunset on June 8. City Hall will also be illuminated in orange each evening through June 7.

We mourn these children as we remember the tragic history and enduring impact of Canada's residential school system. Every child matters. For immediate assistance to those who may need it, the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day at 1-866-925-4419.

### AKOMA PRESENTS: 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE NOVA SCOTIA HOME FOR COLORED CHILDREN

June 6<sup>th</sup> will mark 100 years since the opening of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children. Akoma invites you to join them to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this history. There will be music, a panel, and a sneak peek inside the home as they start the refurbishment. You can take part in this event on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).

### ENVIRONMENT WEEK: MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> – JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>

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.





# COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

## A LOCAL HERO!



Terry is our local Walmart greeter. I had the privilege of getting to know him a little better last week and just had to include his story in our June newsletter. He inspired me and I hope he does the same for you!

I have always loved Terry's joyous welcome at our local Walmart. Last week, Terry proudly showed me the medal he received from Walmart Canada. He received the Shining Star Award, which is a yearly award given to an outstanding and valued employee from Walmart Canada. His certificate was signed by the President and CEO of Walmart Canada. Terry is 80 years young and just completed his Master of Ongoing Education at the Mount. He is already enrolled at Dalhousie for September, looking to get another Bachelor of Arts. He will be majoring in languages, especially Portuguese. And, if this isn't enough, Terry teaches English as a second language 3 times a week for the Woodlawn library.

I asked him where he got his amazing attitude and energy from, and he whipped out his workbook by Stephen Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, a classic!

He never stops learning and growing. I left Walmart completely inspired. The sky is the limit when we decide we are capable of anything we put our mind to. I hope Terry inspires you as well!

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

3

**2021 HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
CITIZENSHIP AWARD WINNERS - DISTRICT 4**

**WELL DONE!**

**GABRIELLE CLARKE**  
SIR ROBERT BORDEN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

**GAVIN JOHNSTON**  
HALIFAX CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**EMMA TOOPE**  
ASTRAL DRIVE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

*"Thank you for your hard work and outstanding contributions to our community."*  
Councillor Trish Purdy  
District 4, Cole Harbour - Westphal - Lake Loon - Cherry Brook



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### FIGHT COVID-19 WITH A JAB!

**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](http://www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus)  
 For provincial restrictions, isolation guidance, symptoms and testing information, vaccine information for Nova Scotians, and more.

[www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)  
 For travel and immigration information, federal financial supports, national virus and vaccine data, and more.

### 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 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](http://Halifax.ca/coronavirus).



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### TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN PROGRAM

TNR 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 been working to address these concerns over the last four years. This year, more than ever, we need you to let us know about a cat colony in your area. You can email us directly at [catcolony@spcans.ca](mailto:catcolony@spcans.ca) with information or your questions or reach out to us by phone at 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 them stress. This is because they have spent most of their lives outside with little to no human interaction. Feral cats are much happier continuing to live outside so they are humanely trapped, spayed/neutered, ear-tipped and returned to their local colony.

Through TNR interventions we have fewer feral cats in HRM. Thousands of stray and feral cats have been reported across Nova Scotia. Fixing 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.

We are so thankful to the amazing team and volunteers who spend their evenings and weekends dedicated to TNR. Because of their hard work, less kittens are born into harsh conditions where they are at risk of food scarcity, disease and predators. Feral cats can live happy, healthy lives no longer in constant distress.



### 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 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. **(If required)**
- Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.



# COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

## 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](http://halifax.ca/budget).

## SHAPE YOUR CITY HALIFAX

Have your say and [Shape Your City!](#) Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is committed to getting residents' thoughts, ideas, and feedback on decision-making, planning, and policy formation.

Hearing from the diverse populations that make up HRM across all 16 districts helps us build a better municipality for all. There are active projects currently open for your feedback, including a Food Action Plan, Municipal Planning Applications, and more.

Visit [shapeyourcityhalifax.ca](http://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca) to start engaging today, and to follow up on the results of past projects. As always, you can contact me directly to chat about any municipal project you're concerned about or have general feedback that you'd like to share.



## 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



## COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

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](#).

## 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](#).



-  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.**

## 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](#).





## 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](http://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**



## COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

a Professional Engineer is required, you will be contacted.

A Lot Grading Plan prepared by a Professional 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. Like 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.

## COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

As Councillor, I am also a Commissioner of Oaths. While in office, I may administer oaths and take and receive affidavits, declarations and affirmations within the Province for use within the Province. If you require a Commissioner of Oaths, please contact me.

## CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **[trish.purdy@halifax.ca](mailto:trish.purdy@halifax.ca) or 902-240-3067**. 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](#).