



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

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy August folks! It is hard to believe the summer is at the halfway point! I hope everyone is taking time to enjoy family and friends this season. I hope you can take in some exciting events this Natal Day weekend, taking special notice of Emancipation Day on August 1st.

I wish you all the very best rest of your summer, and as always, feel free to reach out anytime with questions, concerns, or suggestions. I am always happy to hear from you!

Sincerely,

DISTRICT 4 LITTER CLEAN UP

A BIG thank you to our volunteers who came out to clean up litter in our community in July. (We are missing an awesome mom and daughter duo who missed the picture) THANK YOU! It is people like you who make our communities better in every way.





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FIRST EMANCIPTATION DAY AUGUST 1, 2021



Emancipation Day is the day when the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 became law across the British Empire, including Canada on August 1, 1834. On this day, the practice of slavery officially ended for millions of African people and their descendants in Canada and around the world.

On March 24, 2021, members of parliament unanimously voted to designate August 1st as Emancipation Day in Canada. On April 13, 2021, the Province of Nova Scotia followed the federal declaration by officially introducing [legislation](#) to annually recognize August 1st as Emancipation Day, the anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the British Empire, in Nova Scotia.

Why Celebrate Emancipation Day?

- Residents of our Municipality are encouraged to observe Emancipation Day as an opportunity to learn more about the history of African Nova Scotian people and communities, and to continue to address and eradicate systemic anti-Black racism.
- The day will also allow us, as a community, to reflect and acknowledge our shared history of

the enslavement of people of African descent in Canada.

- Celebrating Emancipation Day will also provide us with an opportunity to maintain ongoing meaningful dialogue around race relations and inclusive society.
- Most importantly, the day should allow every citizen to begin to take action.

Commemorating Emancipation Day - 2021 Events

As this year marks the inaugural Emancipation Day in Halifax, the municipality will be joining others across our region to observe this special and important day.

Enjoy an evening variety show to celebrate Emancipation Day hosted by Civic Events in Partnership with ANSAIO and GameChangers902 on Sunday August 1st from 6:00-9:00pm in Grand Parade.

How can you recognize Emancipation Day?

- Attend and participate in events around the province.
- Engage in conversation around the history of enslavement and its impacts on our region and across the nation.
- Recognize and embrace the history of African Nova Scotians as part of our collective history.
- Find meaningful and respectful ways to remember the many souls lost during the transatlantic slave trade.

Resources for Emancipation Day:

- [African Nova Scotian Affairs](#)
- [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#)
- [Africville Museum](#)
- [Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia](#)



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GET CREATIVE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD THIS SUMMER

Sidewalk chalk offers summer fun and can be a creative outlet for kids of all ages. HRM's Neighbourhood Placemaking is currently offering free chalk through its neighbourhood **"Together Apart Kits."** These kits provide ways to bring neighbours together through shared community-focused activities while remaining physically distant.

Each sidewalk chalk kit contains 48 pieces of sidewalk chalk for sharing amongst all the households on the block, street, or even an entire neighbourhood. Tell HRM's Placemaking team how you and at least one other neighbour would like to bring your community together using their sidewalk chalk kits!

Want to apply for a sidewalk chalk kit with your neighbours? [Contact your area Community Developer](#) or fill out the [application form](#). Applications are accepted between July 12th and August 13th on a first-come-first-serve basis.

HRM's full Neighbourhood Placemaking program is scheduled to resume in October 2021. Meanwhile, these kits are being offered. Throughout the summer, these kits will feature other fun activities; for example, the spring kits included veggie and flower seeds.

What is Neighbourhood Placemaking?

The purpose of Neighbourhood Placemaking is to celebrate and explore a neighbourhood's unique identity while connecting neighbours and creating a place people are drawn to. The result? Welcoming and livable communities where neighbours have more opportunities to get to know one another.

Projects are resident-led and may include painting on municipal street intersections, building a mini library, building a neighbourhood bench and so much more. Check out the amazing placemaking projects from past years [here](#).



UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are several Halifax Regional Council meetings coming up - I invite you to [join us virtually](#) from the comfort of your own home, or cottage!

Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings [here](#). Agendas and reports are generally available on Fridays prior to the meeting.

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

- Tuesday, August 17th at 10:00am
- Tuesday, August 31st at 10:00am



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YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

District 4 resident Dawson held a food drive for Feed Nova Scotia to celebrate his 9th birthday. Dawson donated a staggering 1,719.6 pounds of food items! Way to go, Dawson!



MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR HALIFAX

\$13 million has been announced under the Rapid Housing Initiative to build 43 new affordable homes in Halifax. These housing units will support individuals who are in uncertain housing situations, experiencing or at risk of homelessness, or living in temporary shelters because of the pandemic. This is a significant step forward as we work with all levels of government to try and end the housing crisis and resulting homelessness that far too many individuals are facing.

The announcement was made on July 14 at City Hall by the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Andy Fillmore, Member of Parliament for Halifax, and Mayor Mike Savage.

As Mayor Savage said, "safe, supportive, affordable housing is a pressing need in Halifax. [this] announcement, in addition to the three projects already approved under the Rapid Housing Initiative, will allow us to work quickly with community partners to help more people find a lasting home."

We know there is more work to be done on the complex issue of chronic homelessness, however, steps like this funding through the Rapid Housing Initiative will provide significant help to the most vulnerable individuals. View the news release [here](#).



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FIRST ELECTRIC FLEET IN ATLANTIC CANADA: GREENER BUSES COMING

Halifax Regional Municipality will be getting 60 new battery-operated, electric buses by 2024 thanks to combined funding totaling \$112 million from all three levels of government. The electric fleet will be the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada.

This is significant news for Halifax - once in service, these buses are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 3,800 tonnes annually by 2030. They will also reduce operating costs for Halifax Transit.

Mayor Savage said that this investment brings us much closer to the modernization of a public transit service that will reliably and sustainably meet the needs of a growing community and make taking transit a better choice for more people.

The fleet will expand our existing public transit service and will help Nova Scotia achieve its ambitious climate change goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

Funding will also be used to purchase related charging equipment and expand the Ragged Lake Transit Centre to accommodate the new fleet. The facility will also undergo a deep energy retrofit to achieve a net-zero standard.

Click [here](#) to Learn more about how Halifax is transforming transit and creating a more convenient, cost-effective and environmentally responsible transit system, including added ferry routes.

HRM'S AFFORDABLE ACCESS PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS

The Affordable Access Program allows qualified residents to apply for municipal subsidized programs. This new intake process will allow you to apply once and have that application considered for multiple programs. It includes:

[Low Income Transit Pass](#)

Allows participants to purchase a monthly adult transit pass for 50% of the regular price for one year.

[Recreation Access Program](#)

Provides either partial (50%) or full (100%) payment for Recreation programs for children, youth, and adults in financial need.

[Property Tax Exemption and Deferral Program](#)

Helps homeowners pay their property tax through a payment plan, a deferral of property tax (payment is delayed to a later date), or a deferral of local improvement charges.

Learn more about this program:

- [Application Deadlines](#)
- [Apply for the Affordable Access Program](#)
- [Affordable Access Program Qualifications](#)





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GROWING ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION: SHARE YOUR INPUT ON THE TAXI-STYLE SERVICE COMING TO HRM

For many years, the municipality has heard from residents and visitors about the lack of accessible vehicles for hire (i.e. taxis), making spontaneous travel a challenge for people requiring these vehicles. Past efforts to grow accessible taxi services in Halifax have been unsuccessful, largely due to the high cost of providing these services.



On February 23, 2021, Regional Council gave approval to contract an accessible taxi-style service.

Under this new program, the municipality will pay a fee to the contracted company to provide an accessible taxi-style service, while users will pay the standard taxi rate for trips.

The accessible taxi-style service will be required to meet specific standards, and Halifax Regional Municipality is currently looking for your thoughts on what these standards should be, how many vehicles should be available, how should customers be able to book a trip, and more. To share your ideas, please complete the [online survey](#).

The service is expected to be in operation this year. Your feedback, along with existing policy and best practices, will be used to create a framework for how this service will operate.

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](#).

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 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](#).