



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

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

September is upon us which means we are back to the hustle and bustle of school days, busier schedules, and community activities, which I am hopeful will continue to come back with the lifting of restrictions. I encourage you all to talk to each other in your neighborhoods about safe driving practices, student safety traveling to and from local schools, and continue to use precautions to protect yourself and those you love from the COVID-19 risks still at play.

I too, am looking forward to the return of more community activities and events. Please let me know what is happening in your neighborhoods so I can attend and meet you personally.

I have taken some much-needed personal time over the summer and feel refreshed for the important work that we must do for District 3. I will be reaching out to you all in the coming months with a paper newsletter, as to ensure that all residents have news and contact from

me. If you have friends/neighbors who you think would enjoy getting this online e-news please encourage them to sign up. It has been a challenge to connect with folks in the South Woodside and Woodlawn area so they will be a priority for me once the restrictions allow for in person townhall meetings, but stay tuned for a future list of those in your area.

I have been receiving a lot of emails from all over District 3. I am working my way through site visits, resident calls and concerns, staff reports and meetings for the betterment of District 3. Working with you is the best way forward in my opinion. Can't wait to hear from you and better yet, see you soon.

Warmly,

The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

As I am sure you are aware, there continues to be a housing and homeless crisis in our city and across our province and country. We are at an all-time low for housing stock and access to affordable housing. With the increase of costs in most elements of our necessities, it is most likely that this is just the tip of the iceberg, creating rental increases and vulnerability to homelessness. I am committed to working to find solutions.

As your Councillor, I supported a plan that offered services and supports for those tenting and living in makeshift shelters in our municipal parks. The unintended consequences of that plan escalated into a violent and disturbing situation between protestors, media, and the police. For that, I am sorry and say we can do better. I am learning from it and continues to pursue sustainable solutions that support immediate housing needs with supports to transition back to safe and secure housing options for all involved.

Each situation has unique circumstances and a cookie cutter solution may not work for everyone. I am reaching out to my former colleagues with community agencies who work in this field every day, in hopes of gaining valuable knowledge and suggestions for HRM to make a difference on this issue.

The Province of Nova Scotia has the mandate for affordable and supportive housing and I ask you all to reach out to your newly elected MLA and our new Premier to ask for their attention to be put to this subject. Our vulnerable neighbors need our help more than ever. Many of our

friends are living with the fear that it might be them next. If you have suggestions or would like to discuss this issue, I encourage you to reach out to me. I look forward to discussing this serious concern that we all have.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



Earlier this year, the Government of Canada designated September 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Previously known as Orange Shirt Day, the new holiday provides an opportunity to commemorate and recognize the tragic legacy of residential schools and to ensure that Indigenous history is never forgotten.



Cultural Event at Peace and Friendship Park



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RECOGNIZE AN OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OR GROUP IN OUR COMMUNITY

Do you know an outstanding volunteer who gives back to your community? You can nominate an adult, youth, or group for the 2022 HRM Volunteer Awards until Dec. 15, 2021. [Nomination forms](#) are available now.

HRM honours our community volunteers every spring during National Volunteer Week. Successful nominees will be invited to attend a ceremony and reception to receive their award with the Mayor and members of Regional Council.

For this year, the recipients for District 3 were Amit Batra, Shelly Bhardwaj, Allan Carrington, Gloria Mannette, Layla McFadden, Doug Pickrem and Theresa Trider. Congratulations, and thank you for contributing your time, talent, and energy to help build our amazing community!



CROSSWALK GUARD OPPORTUNITIES

Crosswalk Guards provide a **safe and secure** crosswalk for elementary children at designated school crosswalks.

Opportunities are available for **Halifax, Dartmouth, Sackville, Bedford and Tantallon.**

- Send resume to richart@halifax.ca.
- Enquiries can be made by leaving a message at **902-490-5168**.



NOW OPEN: COVID-19 EVENTS RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Halifax Regional Municipality has developed a dedicated grant program - The COVID-19 Events Recovery Program for Non-Profit Organizations to support our nonprofit community and cultural event organizations to maintain or restart in-person events and increase activity that benefits residents and visitors to the municipality under the public health guidelines. The one-time grant is to assist with COVID-19 adaptation expenses incurred directly related to deliver in-person (live) events.

The total budget for the COVID-19 Events Recovery Fund is \$150,000. This rolling intake grant program will remain open until the stated deadline or until such time as program funds have been fully allocated. Applications will be accepted no earlier than 30 days before the date of the event.

Details of the program including applicant eligibility, program criteria and the application, can be found [here](#).



2021 RESIDENT SURVEY

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to participate in the 2021 Resident Survey. It is an invitation-based survey being sent to a random selection of households across the municipality, with an option to complete online, by mail, or by telephone.

The municipality is interested in hearing from as many voices and perspectives as possible and encourage members of all communities to complete the survey if they receive an invitation to participate. The more responses that are received, the better municipal staff can understand community-specific needs and preferences and work toward improving and building services and programs to meet them.

If you receive an invitation to fill out the 2021 Resident Survey in the next few days (invitations were sent out on August 31) please do so. The survey runs from September 1 to September 24 and is available in French and English.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

PHOTO RADAR ENFORCEMENT IN HRM: FEASIBILITY STUDY COMING



HRM's Strategic Road Safety Plan focuses on reducing transportation-related fatalities and injuries on our roadways. As part of this, HRM is currently looking for a consultant to conduct a study for a possible photo enforcement program (red light camera and electronic speed detection) to understand if it is a feasible and beneficial option for the municipality.

Regional Council would vote on this matter only after the report is complete, and staff would make recommendations to Council based on the report's findings. I look forward to learning the outcome of this report and continuing to work towards safer roadways in HRM.



Eastern Passage litter clean up!

Fall Registration
September 8 - Preschool, Child, Youth & Adult
September 9 - Aquatics & Skating





NATURALIZATION PILOT PROJECT

It is no secret that parks are highly valued spaces in our region. This has become particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, as more people have relied on outdoor spaces to support their health and wellness needs.

Thanks to a naturalization pilot project, residents will notice that a few green spaces across the region are returning to their roots, with newly planted trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers.

Naturalization is an approach to landscape management that seeks to enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience in the urban landscape. It uses native or non-invasive plants to preserve and celebrate the natural species found in our region.

Merv Sullivan Park, Leighton Dillman Park (within the Dartmouth Commons), and Sime Court right-of-way are three pilot sites underway as part of the project. The naturalized areas aim to improve habitats for birds and pollinators and may also create new community gathering spaces.

The pilot project stems from a 2019 Regional Council decision to expand naturalization efforts in parks and right-of-way areas. As we work towards a low-carbon future, naturalization is well-aligned with the municipality's [2021-25 Strategic Priorities Plan](#), specifically around building healthy, vibrant communities and a protected and sustainable environment.

Implementing successful naturalization programs requires a team of dedicated volunteers and staff. When public health restrictions made it challenging to accommodate volunteers, employees from Parks & Recreation and Transportation & Public Works pitched in to advance the project. The small but mighty team worked together to plant pollinator-friendly species and restore the areas to a natural state.

[Learn more about the benefits of naturalization and view a map of naturalized areas in our region.](#)

WEEKLY GREEN BIN COLLECTION ENDS ON SEPTEMBER 30TH



This is a reminder that weekly green bin collection ends on September 30th. Check the municipal website to confirm collection schedules or download the free Halifax Recycles app on your Android or iOS device to have waste info at the palm of your hand!



Lunch with Luke Henman, first player signed to the NHL's Seattle Kraken!



AFFORDABLE ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS

Halifax Regional Municipality's Affordable Access Program allows qualified residents to apply for municipal subsidized programs.

Simply apply once and have that application considered for multiple programs. The Affordable Access Program 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](#)

Affordable Access Program

If you qualify, you only need one application to apply for:

- Affordable Access Transit Pass**
Save 50% off the cost of your monthly transit pass
- Recreation programming funding**
Save 50% or the full cost of recreation programming for you and your family
- Property tax payment assistance**
Receive assistance or deferral when paying your property taxes

HALIFAX
HALIFAX
TRANSIT

BILINGUAL STOP SIGNS ON HRM OWNED STREETS



Regional Council voted in favour of requesting a staff report to outline the implementation options, along with cost implications, operational constraints, and timelines, to replace unilingual signs with bilingual (English/French) stop signs on all HRM owned streets.

The Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie and the Department of Transportation and Active Transit are in the process of making changes to the Traffic Signs Regulation to allow bilingual French/English stop signs in Nova Scotia. This change will enable the replacement of English stop signs with bilingual ones. The Province is taking the opportunity to support the preservation of the language in Acadian communities that want to promote their linguistic and cultural heritage on provincially owned roads.

The municipality could share in the endeavor by implementing bilingual stop signs on HRM owned streets. Once the changes to the Traffic Signs Regulations are in effect, that municipal staff implement a phased-in installation of bilingual stop signs on all HRM owned streets with potential priority for historic French communities and near French schools in the HRM.



PARKS AND RECREATION USER FEE UPDATE

A new standardized fee structure has been approved for recreation bookings, including arenas, sport fields, sport courts, all-weather fields, ball diamonds, facility rooms, gymnasiums, registered programs, memberships, drop ins and vouchers.

This new structure will eliminate the inconsistencies and inequities that exist in Parks & Recreation's current user fee structure. It will also ensure that fees for municipal programs and services are appropriate relative to other service providers. It is important that the municipality's fees do not compete with, or undercut, not-for-profit organizations.

Staff engaged multiple stakeholders, including provincial sport organizations, rental groups, and partner facilities, in developing this proposal. Input was also gathered from community organizations that provide recreation opportunities to residents. Additionally, staff have regularly collected feedback from residents and organizations as part of their day to day operations, as well as through other developed strategies and plans.

The fees are proposed to be phased in over a three-year period to lessen the impact, beginning April 1, 2022. This will ensure that the fees are fair and equitable, and that the adjustments are reasonable to the user to avoid the impact of a significant fee change. For more information, and to view the new user fees, read the [staff report](#).



Celebrating Halifax Pride

UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



There are two Halifax Regional Council meetings scheduled for September. **Regional Council meetings begin at 10am, and are held on Tuesdays:**

- September 14
- September 28

I look forward to participating in these meetings, and I hope you can to [join us virtually!](#) Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings - including committees - [here](#). Meeting agendas are generally available by the Friday prior to the meeting. Reports are available for many meetings and are linked within the agendas. Due to COVID-19, meetings are still being held virtually. Live and archived [video is available](#).



HALIFAX REGIONAL PLAN: RESIDENT FEEDBACK AND NEXT STEPS

The Halifax Regional Municipality invited residents to provide feedback to inform the Regional Plan Review and help decide how HRM will grow over the next 10 years. The Regional Plan sets out a common vision, principles, and long-range, region-wide planning policies that outline where, when, and how future growth and development should take place between now and 2031. This includes topics such as affordable housing, identification of wilderness areas, impact of COVID-19, population growth and more.

Recently, as part of Phase 2 of the Regional Plan engagement process, public feedback was sought on Themes and Directions that were established for the Plan. This public engagement period was ongoing until July 16, 2021.

Now, using this feedback, municipal staff are putting together a “What We Heard” report that will provide an overview of the feedback received, and how these comments and requests will be considered as staff move forward with the Review.

The Report will also include a summary of the resources that will be required to complete the work that has been identified for the next phase of the Review. It is anticipated that this report will be brought to Community Planning and Economic Development and Regional Council in the Fall.

FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID SUPPORTING YOUTH - VIRTUAL PROGRAM

10 hour certification program

COURSE OVERVIEW
Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is the help provided to a person who is showing signs of declining mental well-being or crisis. “MHFA – Supporting Youth” is a course designed for members of the public who have frequent contact with young people (ages 12 to 24).

PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN HOW TO:

- recognize signs that a young person may be experiencing a decline in their mental well-being or a mental health or substance use crisis
- initiate conversations that encourage a young person to talk about a mental health or substance use problem
- discuss professional and other supports that could help with recovery to improved mental well-being
- assist in a mental health or substance use crisis situation
- check in with one’s own mental well-being and take action as needed

Participants must be 16 years of age, have access to high speed internet and a webcam and be able to attend all of the online sessions below to receive their certification. Seats are limited, so please consider this before registering.

Orientation session: Wednesday October 13: 9-10am
Module 1: 2 hours of self-directed learning completed between October 13-19
Module 2 & 3: Wednesday October 20 & 27: 9am-1pm

Please call (902)460-4560 to register. Please read program requirements outlined in accompany email prior to calling to register.







UPCOMING EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

There are many exciting events to attend in September. The following are a small sampling of what is available:

- [Patio Lanterns Festival](#)
running to October 11th
- [Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo](#)
(virtual) September 1st
- [Halifax Urban Folk Festival \(HUFF\)](#)
August 29th to September 5th
- [Halifax Fringe Festival](#)
September 2nd to 12th
- [FIN Atlantic International Film Festival](#)
September 16th to 23rd



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.

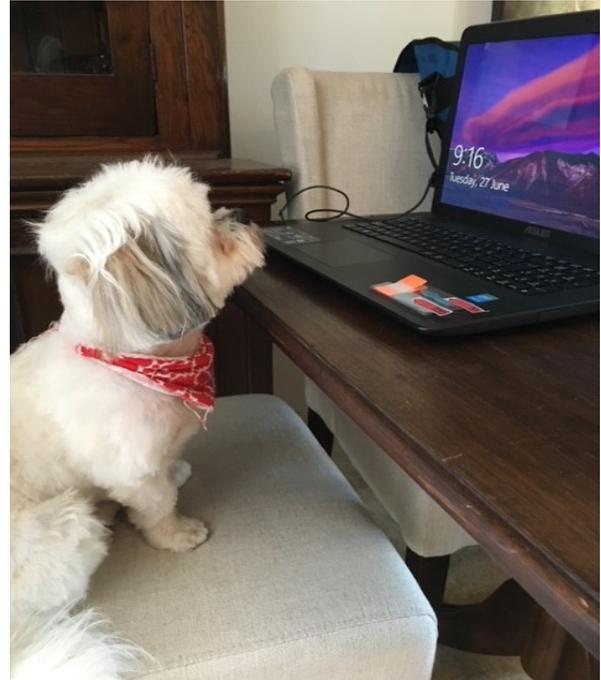
You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

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**.

To sign up for my monthly E-Newsletter, please e-mail Emily at smithem@halifax.ca. For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).