



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

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy September! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. It is hard to believe we are entering a new season already. Summer seems to have flown by! As we enter this new season, I would like to remind us all of a few important things to note.

As back-to-school is quickly approaching, there will be more traffic on the streets including school buses. I know we are very aware of the speeding problems on many streets, so this is just a friendly reminder to keep our speed down and our focus on the road in front of us. Kids will be crossing streets and walking to school so let's be diligent to be vigilant! As always, it is a pleasure to hear from you. I welcome you to reach out to me anytime with questions or concerns, or just to say HI!

Sincerely,

COMMUNITY LITTER CLEAN UP!

In August, our community clean up was in Cherry Brook. We were a group of small but mighty volunteers! Thank you to these folks who volunteered their time to help keep our community clean. Keep on the lookout for our next community litter clean up location. If you have a location you know needs a good clean, kindly let me know!





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REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES \$500K FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING

It has been a very difficult time in HRM with the issue of homelessness taking a prominent position. While there are no easy or simple solutions, Regional Council is committed to providing practical help in the form of funding and collaboration with community partners to see immediate solutions achieved.

The municipality will be investing up to \$500,000 towards a range of emergency accommodations for those experiencing homelessness.

Immediate steps are being taken to identify underutilized or surplus municipally owned properties and facilities that can be retrofitted into safe short-term accommodations for people who are unhoused. The goal is to increase the inventory of temporary accommodations as soon as possible.

Building upon collaboration efforts to date, the municipality will work closely with community-based service providers and the Province of Nova Scotia to advance these efforts and ensure social services are available as part of a holistic approach to addressing homelessness. The funding commitment will also be used to leverage those opportunities that can have the most immediate impact — including funding new positions within the service delivery organizations to make things happen on the ground and equipping community outreach workers with the financial resources required to

secure temporary accommodations within hotels that will accept requests.

Further information on the status of efforts will be provided in September, with regular public updates provided moving forward.

For more information visit the [Homelessness and Homeless Encampments webpage](#)

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.

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**.





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RAPID HOUSING INITIATIVE



Congratulations to Akoma, who was one of the recipients of the RHI for Affordable Housing!

The Halifax Regional Municipality will enter into the Rapid Housing Initiative Agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to receive nearly \$13 million dollars to create a minimum of 43 units of new permanent, affordable housing.

This is the second round of the federal government program, as well as the second time the municipality has been identified for immediate funding. Similar to the first round in October 2020 when the program was first launched, the funds will be directed to areas where chronic homelessness is most prevalent. **Note: this motion will be final when the meeting minutes are approved by Regional Council.*

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!

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.



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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.



Community litter clean up!

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](#).





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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](#).



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 4 were John Brant, Michael Cutcliffe, Judie & Jim Edgar, Sean Francios, Michael Klenavic, Philip Love, Jeff Aucoin and Change is Brewing. Congratulations, and thank you for contributing your time, talent, and energy to help build our amazing community!



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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.

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





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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.

AFFORDABLE ACCESS TRANSIT PASS

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 TRANSIT

Could you or someone you know benefit from the Affordable Access Transit Pass? With the municipality’s Affordable Access Program, qualified participants get 50% off their monthly transit pass.

Applications are now open for up to 2,000 program spots. Find more information [here](#).



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael McFadden who recently stepped down from the position of Chair of the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association. Thank you for your years of service to excellence in this position! We have all benefited from the meticulous care and attention to detail you and your Board have shown in taking such amazing care of our trails and Heritage Park. This Board is an amazing group of volunteers. We are beyond lucky to have them serving our community in this incredibly important way. Thank you!



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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](#).

Fall Registration

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



COLE HARBOUR BOUNDARY REPORT

The two remaining Cole Harbour Community Boundaries were ratified by Regional Council on August 31st. Since amalgamation in 1996, community boundaries have been researched and ratified all across HRM. Did you know that HRM has 200 community boundaries? Not only does the boundary ratification process attempt to identify historical communities throughout HRM, but it also serves to tighten up the addresses for Canada Post and the provincial 911 system. The staff report can be found [here](#). I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you!

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**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.

Community Health Team
In PARTNERSHIP with
Mental Health First Aid Canada
Prevention advice on social media



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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](#).

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](#).