

COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

FALL 2021



DEAR RESIDENT,

With 2021 wrapping up soon, we have a lot to be thankful for, but we are also reflecting on another challenging year. We've had to bear up under pandemic restrictions and health concerns for another year. Throughout all of this,

I'd like to thank the health care workers, first responders, and everyone who put their own health at risk to see that we as a municipality and province functioned to the best of our ability. I'd also like to thank residents for your patience with the renovation of the Dartmouth North Public Library, the road construction in the Mt. Edward Road and Woodlawn areas, and the use of Gray Arena as a temporary shelter for the homeless.

I hope you have a memorable holiday season and Happy New Year 2022!

SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT POSTPONED

Due to the significant development plans in the Ocean Breeze Village, we will not be proceeding with the sidewalk replacement on Princess Margaret Boulevard and Kilkee Gate. As such, the sidewalk infrastructure will be significantly affected. When the development is completed, the municipality will revisit the sidewalk replacement project, possibly expanding or contracting the scope. Exact timing for this is not yet confirmed.

HOW TO CONTACT ME

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Follow me on Twitter and Facebook, and e-mail my Coordinator, Stephanie Brown at

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ONGOING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN OUR REGION

Tragically, the number of people sleeping rough in HRM has more than doubled in the past year. As of August 10, 2021, there were 400 homeless people within HRM. The homelessness situation is dynamic and continues to change frequently.

Treating people with dignity, while working to find ways to best support them within our capacity and scope as a municipality, is a top priority. Ultimately, long term solutions from all orders of government are needed now.

On November 9, 2021, Regional Council approved allocating \$3.2 million dollars towards the purchase, installation and maintenance of modular units, at two sites, to accommodate unhoused individuals in our region. This is in addition to the \$500,000 approved by Regional Council for emergency accommodations during the August 31st meeting.

The municipality will provide all typical municipal services at the modular housing sites in Dartmouth and Halifax, such as garbage pick-up, and will cover the cost of utilities and maintenance on site.

The estimated costs to purchase, install and maintain the modular units is \$1,410,000 (with operating costs of \$20,000) for the Dartmouth site and \$1,690,000 (with operating costs of \$20,000) for the Halifax site.

The Dartmouth site is on Alderney Drive, near Church Street. Four modular units are being installed and are expected to be ready in late December.

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Exact timing for occupancy is dependent upon the Province of Nova Scotia, which is responsible for determining placement of individuals and providing wrap-around services onsite through its service provider (Out of the Cold). Occupants of Gray Arena will not be asked to vacate until alternate accommodations are available and have been offered.

Once the modular units are installed at a Halifax site, the service providers working with the municipality and the province will be able to accommodate many of the people living in tents and temporary shelters, including those currently at Meagher Park.

While the province is responsible to lead addressing homelessness in all regions of the province, the municipality also has an important role to play, and is committed to applying resources to support efforts aimed at helping to address homelessness in the Halifax region.

For more information and the latest updates on the municipality's approach to homelessness and initiatives to support affordable housing, visit: www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/helping-address-homelessness.

THE KEEPING OF EGG-LAYING FOWL

Following a public hearing in October, Regional Council voted unanimously to allow households to keep and raise egg-laying fowl in residential areas for personal use only. This is not about farming; it is about allowing people living on residentially zoned lands, whether in the city, suburbs or rural areas, to keep a small number of domesticated birds to provide eggs for the household's own use.

Changes to the Land Use By-laws are as follows:

The inclusion of provisions for the keeping of egg-laying hens including limits to the number of hens permitted on a lot, the location of hens on a lot, setbacks from watercourses and lot lines, requirements for accessory buildings and prohibitions on slaughtering, euthanizing, and the sale of eggs, meat, or hens. For more information, please contact 311.

RENOVATION PROJECTS

The Dartmouth North Public Library's \$1,350,000 renovation project is finished, and the library is now open.

It is exciting to see the improvements to our library, and I hope you'll have the opportunity to stop in to see the renovations.

Now, the \$2,293,250 Dartmouth North Community Centre Renovation Project has begun. The Centre is located in an underserved and high needs area with many seniors, new immigrants, people living alone on fixed incomes, and single parent families. Renovation plans include:

- Main entry of the Dartmouth North Community Centre will move to Pinecrest Drive and feature an entry vestibule
- New reception desk and lobby
- Universal washrooms
- Larger programming rooms including a "maker space and active space"
- Energy efficient HVAC System
- Converting the buildings heat source to natural gas

Where do I access recreation programs during these renovations?

The Dartmouth North Community Centre is offering recreation programs while renovations are occurring. Programs will be located at satellite locations. Free drop-in programming is currently being offered:

- Family Open Gym – Thursday 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
John Martin Jr High
- Youth Basketball – Friday 7:00pm – 9:00pm
John Martin Jr High

BACKYARD SUITES

All Land Use By-laws have been updated to include developing a secondary or backyard suite.

- **Secondary suites** - are separate dwelling units that are completely contained within a home. They are often referred to as in-law suites or basement apartments.
- **Backyard suites** - are separate free-standing buildings, either built overtop an accessory structure like a garage, or simply on their own. They are often referred to as granny suites, carriage flats and could be in the form of a tiny house.

Secondary and Backyard suites can be used by aging parents or adult children or can be used as rental units for the general public. Please visit halifax.ca or call 311 for more information on applying for a construction permit.



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HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES

Halifax Transit is implementing the Moving Forward Together Plan with a simplified transfer-based system. Transfers make transit routes shorter and more efficient. While trips won't look exactly the same, most trips are possible using the new routes but may require a transfer. Visit [Halifax.ca/servicechanges](https://halifax.ca/servicechanges) or call 311 for more information.

Route #53 (Highfield):

Local service from Highfield Terminal to Alderney Gate, 7 days a week. It will no longer travel along Victoria Rd or continue to Halifax during peak hours, but will go to Alderney Gate for a new connection to Halifax.

Route #54 (Montebello):

With minor routing adjustments, it will follow similar routing from Montebello to Alderney Gate as the former Route 54, but will continue on to provide a new connection to the Bridge Terminal, 7 days/week.

Route #55 (Port Wallace):

Similar routing as former 55 Port Wallace between Craighburn Drive to Ochterloney Street (Dartmouth) but adjusted to service Alderney Gate and Bridge Terminal. Due to low ridership, Route 55 will no longer provide service along Waverley Road between Montague Road and the Portobello turning loop; Route 55 Port Wallace will travel Waverley Road to Charles Keating Drive and along a portion of Craighburn Drive.

HRM VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNER

Dee Vipond was deservedly awarded with a 2021 HRM Volunteer Award for District 6. Volunteering has been consistent with the name Dee Vipond for many years. Dee has organized many events, celebrations, and union activities since she joined the City of Halifax in 1989. Playing key roles for NSUPE Local 13, she organized employee activities, coordinated entertainment for the 2018 Federation of Canadian Municipalities and much more. Dee is an example of just how much someone can give of themselves to benefit others.

MONTEBELLO PROJECT: THE BELLO

The proposed development at the corner of Waverley Road and Montebello Drive has been approved. The development is called The Bello. There will be 42 units

with 40 parking spots. The building will be set back to allow for a right hand turn off Waverley Road onto Montebello Drive. The owner is looking at incorporating visitor parking on-site, along with designated parking across the street at the strip mall. Landscaping and trees will be added to the site. Once construction begins the developer has said it should take 10 to 12 months to complete the building.

MONTEBELLO DRIVE TRAFFIC CALMING

We have been testing traffic calming on Montebello Drive using green bollards to narrow the street and intersections. The testing period is over and the green bollards will be removed during the month of December.

The green bollards were used as a first, and temporary step to review the effectiveness of the traffic calming initiative while allowing flexibility to adjust if there were any negative impacts. In addition to roadway narrowing at three intersections, a speed display sign was installed to reduce speed.

A review of vehicle speeds during the implementation has determined that elevated speeds have continued. Therefore, staff have reviewed alternate options to encourage slower driving on Montebello Drive.

In the spring of 2022 permanent traffic calming tools will be installed. Curb extensions and speed tables (similar to speed humps) will be installed and the electronic speed sign will remain.

Residents will receive notifications before work begins. In addition to Montebello Drive, the neighbourhood including Micmac Drive, Bonita Drive and Rossi Drive will also receive speed tables in 2022.



An example of a speed table recently installed in HRM.



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ECONOMIC UPDATE FOR HALIFAX

Halifax's Chief Administrative Officer Jacques Dubé and the Halifax Partnership provided Regional Council with an economic update this fall. Compared to other major Canadian cities, we fared well through the pandemic.

Here are some highlights:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rebound coming:

Halifax's GDP contracted by 1.9% in 2020 – but that's the lowest among major Canadian cities. Projections show a strong GDP rebound is coming. Halifax's GDP is expected to grow by 5.7% by the end of 2021, and then return to a "more normal" range (about 2% over the next few years).

Strong employment numbers:

Halifax led Canadian cities in employment growth in early 2021. Long before the end of 2020, Halifax regained the jobs it lost at the beginning of the pandemic. Unemployment went up during the third wave in the spring but has begun to drop again (7.4% in August).

Population growth:

We attracted new residents thanks to immigration and inter-provincial moves. Plus, we hit the 2nd highest level of population growth ever in 2019 to 2020.

SENIORS CARE GRANT

The Province is now delivering a new grant program of up to \$500 to help seniors cover the costs of household services. It can be used to reimburse costs for such things as snow removal, home repairs, lawn care, grocery delivery, and more. It is available to homeowners and renters.

To be eligible, individuals must...

- still reside in their home
- have the property or lease agreement in their name or include their name
- be 65 years of age or over
- have an annual household net income of \$37,500 or less

Applicants can submit online at www.novascotia.ca/seniorscaregrant or by paper. Paper applications are available at MLA offices as well as Access Nova Scotia.

MOBILE FOOD MARKET FOR DARTMOUTH NORTH

The Square Roots program is now engaging with the Mobile Food Market and Dartmouth East Rotary Club to provide service to residents of Dartmouth North.

The vision of the program is to offer home delivery of healthy food at an affordable rate to our residents, who face the some of the highest rates of food insecurity.

I was happy to help with this initiative for food security with a donation of \$3000 from District 6 Capital Funds. This has secured a total of 3 months' worth of supplies for the program.

SENIORS SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

Removing snow around your property can be a challenging – or even impossible – task for many people. There is help available: the Halifax Regional Municipality provides an annual contribution of \$400,000 in support of the YMCA for its Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. Please note, YMCA Senior Snow Removal does not apply to the clearing of your driveway. To find out more about this program and to apply, please call the YMCA at 902.483.3678 or visit www.ymcafx.ca/community-initiatives/ymca-senior-snow-removal/

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Program offers funding for community projects led by registered, non-profit organizations and charities throughout the Halifax region. There are project grants of up to \$5,000 and capital grants of up to \$25,000. While you cannot apply yet for 2022, you can contact the Grants office for general inquiries at this time: NonProfitGrants@halifax.ca.

Applications will be accepted starting in January and up until March 31, 2022.

A wide variety of projects are eligible for the grants such as publishing maps or guidebooks, creating interpretive panels, buying safety equipment, or renovating a building for community use.



Please recycle.

Delivery Note:

Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.

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