

#### **WELCOME MAY!**



As we welcome a new month, I am reminded of the saying: "The greatest gift you can give is

your time." That is especially poignant at this time as we celebrated volunteers from across HRM at the recent Volunteer Awards. You will read more about the District 9 volunteer award recipients further in this newsletter. I also want to acknowledge the number of calls and emails I receive from residents almost daily who are looking for a way to help in their community from organizing neighbourhood litter cleanups to serving on a volunteer committee or coaching a sport team. Thank you for the gift of your time!

Contact me at: <u>Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca</u> or call 902.579.6746.

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#### **MAY MEETING DATES**

Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held on:

#### Regional Council:

Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 31st at 10:00 a.m.

#### Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Regional Centre Community Council:**

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Please confirm dates and times on our municipal website as they are subject to change.

#### **DID YOU KNOW...**

May 1<sup>st</sup> is <u>World Laughter Day</u>
May 4<sup>th</sup> is <u>International Firefighters Day</u>
May 7<sup>th</sup> is <u>World Athletics Day</u>
May 8<sup>th</sup> is <u>Mother's Day</u>
May 24<sup>th</sup> is <u>Victoria Day</u>

### SPRING COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSIONS

Now that COVID restrictions have been lifted, I am pleased to offer Community Drop-In sessions the first Thursday of the month for May and June from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you have a question regarding a municipal program or services, please drop-in for a chat

with me at the Chocolate Lake Community Centre, 14 Purcells Cove Road.

I will be wearing a facial mask and ask that you also wear a mask.

Upcoming session will be on: Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



#### **NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK**





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#### **VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2022**

Each year during National Volunteer Week, the Halifax Regional Municipality holds an award ceremony to acknowledge and honour the contributions of volunteers and volunteer organizations in our communities. I am pleased to recognize the volunteers selected to receive a 2022 Volunteer Award for District 9. Please join me in thanking these exceptional community volunteers for their dedication of time and commitment to the community.

#### **Aimee Gasparetto**

Aimee always goes above and beyond in her volunteer role with Nourish Nova Scotia and is making a difference in the lives of our province's youngest citizens. Whether fundraising for the Blue Nose Charity Challenge, representing Nourish at the NS Legislature, or meeting with MLAs, Aimee is always onside to support Nourish. We are so grateful for Aimee's dedication to supporting healthy, just, and sustainable food futures for all children and youth in Nova Scotia.

#### **Heather Nicole McGrath**

Heather volunteers in many areas of our community such as youth sport, PTA, raising funds and awareness for cancer research and Camp Brigadoon. Her dedication to Give to Live's annual Big Swim event is most impressive, with almost a decade of commitment to the event which has raised over \$1.5 million to sponsor children to attend Camp Brigadoon. As event director, Heather

pours countless hours and energy into the organization and running of this important event which benefits children, youth and families in Atlantic Canada. Heather's commitment to service is unparalleled, and her dedication to community is inspiring.

#### Jane Rafuse

Jane has been a tremendous supporter of <u>Blue Nose Marathon</u> as both a participant and volunteer. Her volunteer efforts have helped thousands of participants get ready for their race. Jane is helpful, kind, and caring. Blue Nose Marathon would not be the success it is without the dedication of Jane. Thank you, Jane, for all you continue to do.

Thank you to all volunteers! Our community is made even richer by your contributions.





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#### **BACKYARD FIRE - DO'S & DON'TS**



It's that time of year when many us of want to enjoy a warm spring or summer's evening by a backyard fire or wish to burn some wood that we've cleared from our property while tidying up after the winter. But we must do this safely, abiding by all provincial and municipal rules around outdoor burning:

### STEP 1: Check to see if fires are permitted by the Province of NS on a given day

View the Provincial Burning Restrictions Map to check for bans every time before you burn (posted as of 2:00 pm each day): <a href="https://www.novascotia.ca/burnsafe">www.novascotia.ca/burnsafe</a>.

Green = open air wood burning status is not posted yet (visit later - after 2:00 p.m.)

- Green = open air wood burning is allowed, beginning at 2:00 p.m.
- Yellow = open air wood burning is allowed, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Red = open air wood burning is not allowed at any time

# STEP 2: If burning is permitted that day, follow the municipal rules for backyard fires (domestic burning) that apply to you

Check the information below to see if you're in in (A): "Permit Required Zone" or (B): "No Permit Required Zone". The following rules apply until October 15<sup>th</sup>:

### (A) URBAN/SUBURBAN AREAS: "PERMIT REQUIRED ZONE"

Your property is serviced with both municipal water AND sewer. Most urban/suburban lots in the municipality are in this Zone.

- ✓ One outdoor wood burning appliance can be used without a permit if they meet the criteria in the By-law, which means they:
  - must be placed a minimum of 4.75m
     (15ft) from any dwelling or accessory building
  - are not placed on a wooden deck/combustible platform
  - only burn dry seasoned wood
  - are equipped with a spark arrester with no opening large than 9.65 mm (3/8") to prevent sparks from leaving the appliance

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- are used per the manufacturer's instructions
- ✓ Burning in propane or natural gas CSA or ULC approved appliances are permitted any time of day, as they are not regulated under the By-law, however all manufactures instructions must be followed
- X Burning of brush/tree limbs and other domestic waste (boxes, construction material, etc.) is prohibited
- **X** Campfire burning is prohibited (0.5m diameter open fire) except at campgrounds

### (B) RURAL AREAS: "NO PERMIT REQUIRED ZONE"

Your property is **not** serviced with municipal water AND sewer. Most of the rural lots in the municipality are in this zone.

- ✓ Outdoor wood burning appliances are allowed if they meet the criteria in the By-law (as indicated in section A).
- ✓ Campfire burning (o.5m diameter open fire) is allowed ONLY if the fire is 4.75m (15ft) away from any dwelling or accessory building. The campfire must be contained using noncombustible material and you must burn dry seasoned firewood. Only one campfire is permitted per property.
- ✓ Burning in propane or natural gas CSA or ULC approved appliances are permitted any time of day, as they are not regulated under the By-law, however all manufactures instructions must be followed

- ✓ Domestic burning of brush/tree limbs is allowed ONLY if:
  - the fire is 23m (75ft) away from any dwelling or accessory building
  - a person in charge of burning has a means to call 911 from site
  - at least two people 19 years of age or older are present
  - suitable equipment is in attendance to contain and extinguish the fire
  - wind velocity will not jeopardize the ability to control and contain the fire
  - the person in charge ensures all smoldering embers are completely extinguished prior to leaving the site
- ➤ Domestic waste burning is prohibited (includes leaf and yard waste including grass and grass clippings, twigs, and house and garden plants, box board including cereal, shoe, tissue and detergent boxes, construction or demolition material, including saw dust, wood shavings, planking, siding, wood beams, plastic and rubber).

#### QUESTIONS/CONCERNS?

For more information on these burning types, please contact 311 and they will arrange for Fire Prevention Staff to contact you.

**Call 911** while the illegal burning is occurring and advise the operator of the civic address where the burning is taking place and the reason you think the burning is in violation of the Halifax Regional Municipality's By-Law



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Number O-109 Respecting Open Air Burning: <a href="https://bit.ly/3E8jATe">https://bit.ly/3E8jATe</a>

Visit the municipality's web page, Burning Rules and Regulations, for more information: https://bit.ly/3JAks4f.

## JOINT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (JEM) TEAM



#### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK**

As part of <u>Emergency Preparedness Week</u> beginning Sunday, May 1, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency's (HRFE's) Emergency Management Division is encouraging all residents to 'be ready for anything'.

This past year has continued to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness, due to the impacts from COVID-19 and numerous severe weather events. The Emergency Management Division is focused on ensuring the safety and security of residents, their properties, and the environment by providing a prompt and coordinated response to an emergency situation.

Being 'ready for anything' requires three key steps:

- Know the risks
- Make a plan
- Have an emergency kit

Residents have a big role to play when it comes to ensuring their own safety. All residents should be prepared to be self-sufficient in their home for 72 hours in case of emergency.

To stay informed about emergencies and operations, residents are encouraged to sign up for <a href="https://doi.org/10.25">hfxALERT</a>, the municipality's mass notification system. Subscribers may receive urgent and non-urgent notifications by phone, email, and/or text message. During emergencies, the municipality communicates with residents via <a href="public service">public service</a> announcements, web updates, social media (<a href="https://doi.org/10.25">hfxALERT</a>. Residents may also contact 311 for more information about emergency operations.



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To support Emergency Preparedness Week, HRFE's Emergency Management Division is running a contest to bring better awareness about being 'ready for anything'.

Residents have the opportunity to win one of 10 emergency kits (approx. retail value \$30). To participate in the contest, take the emergency preparedness <u>quiz</u>. Those who answer all questions correctly will be eligible for the draw. The draw will take place the week of May 9.

For more information on being prepared for an emergency, visit the <u>HRFE Emergency</u>
<u>Management web page</u>.

#### **CN VEGETATION CONTROL**



CN Rail's annual Vegetation Control Program (VCP) will run from April to October 2022. A regularly updated schedule is available at <a href="https://www.cn.ca/vegetation">www.cn.ca/vegetation</a>.

If not managed properly, trees, brush or other vegetation can severely compromise rail and public safety. Vegetation can impede the view motorists have of oncoming trains and increase the risk of crossing accidents. Moreover, unwanted vegetation can damage the integrity of the railbed, interfere with signals and

switches, contribute to track side fires, compromise employee and citizens safety, reduce visibility for train crews at road crossings/train control signals and track side warning devices.

CN's annual vegetation control program is designed to mitigate these risks by managing brush, weeds and other undesirable vegetation.

### INTERSECTION OF JUBILEE ROAD | OXFORD STREET

The Halifax Regional Municipality has implemented a change to traffic operations at the signalized intersection of Oxford Street and Jubilee Road. Signage was recently installed to restrict motorists from making a right turn from eastbound on Jubilee Road to southbound on Oxford Street when facing a red signal.

This restriction is being implemented under the municipality's <u>Strategic Road Safety Plan</u>, in response to a demonstrated, on-going issue with vehicle collisions and conflicts with pedestrians in the crosswalk related to vehicles turning "right on red" at this particular leg of the intersection.



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#### STEWARDSHIP TRAINING - MAY 7<sup>th</sup>





### LAKEWATCHERS WATER QUALITY MONITORING



**Chocolate Lake** 

The municipality is launching a new Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program called LakeWatchers, which will conduct environmental monitoring in 76 lakes across the municipality. The purpose of the program is to collect data, such as pH levels, to inform future actions to maintain or improve a lake's health. The data will be publicly available through future staff reports to Regional Council and through the municipality's <a href="Open Data">Open Data</a>
Portal.

Data collection will take place twice a year through internal sampling (e.g. sampling done by staff or contractors) and/or trained community teams, called LakeWatchers. The municipality will leverage existing water quality community groups and also welcomes new volunteers to collect data in support of this program. To express your interest in volunteering, please visit our website.



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The LakeWatchers Program is separate from regular water quality testing for safe recreational use. This program runs every summer from July 1 to August 31. For more information, visit our website.

Water quality monitoring is essential to the successful management of water resources. To learn more about how you can help, visit halifax.ca/lakewatchers.

### HALIFAX COMMON AQUATICS FACILITY



The Halifax Regional Municipality, in partnership with Marco Group and other leading partners, has broken ground on the new Halifax Common Aquatics Facility.

This project is part of the Halifax Common Master Plan. Once complete, the Aquatics Facility will include a 13,500 square foot pool with capacity for 450 people, a new playground, and a year-round pavilion with a community room, kitchenette, modular stage for performers, and natural shade areas from tree groves and overhang features of the

structure. It is anticipated the new facility will be open to the public in summer 2023.

Significant construction will be taking place at the Halifax Common for the duration of the project. Residents are advised of the following impacts:

- The existing splashpad will remain open, but the pool will remain closed.
   For a list of alternative facilities, visit our website.
- The existing skatepark will remain open, but the asphalt basketball court will be closed. For a list of alternative facilities, visit our website.
- The existing playground will be dismantled, and a temporary play structure will be built near the corner of Bell Road and Trollope Street.
- The existing Pavilion building will be dismantled and unavailable for bookings.

Once complete, the Halifax Commons Aquatic Facility and surrounding area will be a significant enhancement for urban aquatics, recreational play, entertainment, and an outdoor oasis for residents to enjoy.

For more information, visit the <u>Shape your City</u> <u>webpage</u>.



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### STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT



The Halifax Regional Municipality is marking the launch of its Strategic Performance Snapshot – a new online dashboard showcasing the municipality's progress as it delivers on the priorities of Regional Council and the administration.

The Strategic Performance Snapshot provides an online record of the work being done by the municipality to meet the evolving and growing needs of the Halifax region. The consolidated data captures how the organization is performing on its strategic initiatives, helping to guide and prioritize municipal planning and decision making with transparency and accountability to residents.

The new online tool is a 'snapshot' in time — based on data that is updated annually. Depending on the type of information, it may be updated on the dashboard after the close of the calendar year (January to December) or the municipality's fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). The goal is to improve access to information

through a centralized dashboard that shows how well the municipality is delivering services.

All the work of the municipality is tied to the Council-approved strategic priorities that are outlined on the dashboard. There are commitments to deliver on specific outcomes and initiatives to achieve each priority in the 2021-25 Strategic Priorities Plan.

Progress is measured by a variety of key performance indicators (KPIs) including residents' satisfaction with services, financial performance and stewardship, employee retention, achieving service standards and completion of project milestones. Some of the key features of the dashboard include year-over-year trends, information about related KPIs, and at-a-glance graphs and charts. Users can also access data on more than 80 municipal projects and initiatives.

Council Priorities – What We're Doing
We are working together on key initiatives to
ensure we meet the needs of our residents and
visitors to the region. Through the capital
budget, we are committed to investing over
\$843 million over four years to help us deliver
on the priorities approved by Regional Council.

Transformative capital investments include expanding our integrated mobility network through projects such as the <u>Windsor Street Exchange Redevelopment</u> and <u>Rapid Transit Strategy</u>; implementing recommendations outlined in <u>HalifACT</u>, our ambitious climate



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action plan; and the development of the <u>Cogswell District</u>, one of the biggest city-building projects in our region's history.

- Prosperous Economy
- Communities
- Integrated Mobility
- Environment

View the municipality's Strategic Performance Snapshot by clicking <u>here</u> or visit <u>halifax.ca</u>.

#### AFFORDABLE ACCESS PROGRAM



With the Halifax Regional Municipality's **Affordable Access Program** you only need one application to apply for:

- → Affordable Transit Pass
- → Recreation programming funding
- → Property tax payment assistance

To learn more, to see if you qualify, or to apply, call 311 or visit:

www.halifax.ca/affordableaccess

#### LITTERATI – LITTER TRACKING APP



HRM has launched Litterati, an interactive tool to collect data on litter trends around the municipality - it's now available for residents to download!

Litterati is an app that allows you to photograph and tag common pieces of litter found in your community. App users can geotag their location to help create a map of litter hotspots in the municipality. Plus, the app's artificial intelligence can categorize the type of litter.

The data collected using Litterati will be used to see where litter clean ups are taking place, track trends in the types of litter we are seeing in the community, identify illegal dumping locations, and to inform waste education efforts. To participate in challenges, residents must first download the Litterati App. Then,



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join the challenges or simply use the app to document any litter collected.

#### Quick Start Guide:

- Download the free Litterati Cleaning The Earth app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store and create your account.
- Sign up for a cleanup challenge (watch www.halifax.ca/litterati or the Halifax Recycles Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/HalifaxRecy cles - for upcoming challenges).
- 3. Clean up & take photos.
- 4. Upload your photos via wi-fi when you are done.
- 5. Tag your photos in the gallery after uploading.

For more information on the Litterati app, visit <a href="www.halifax.ca/litterati">www.halifax.ca/litterati</a> or contact <a href="www.halifax.ca">Wasteless@halifax.ca</a>.

Litterati is also funded in part by Divert NS and Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change.



### HOME WARMING PROGRAM APPLICATION



The Home
Warming Program
is a fantastic
program for lowincome
homeowners and
is fully funded by
the Province of
Nova Scotia and

Nova Scotia Power. It is 100 % free to all qualified homeowners in the province.

The qualifying factors for participation in the program are home ownership and fitting into our LICO-based net-income brackets.

- 1 person in the home \$27,250 or less per year
- 2-4 people in the home \$50,635 or less per year
- 5+ people in the home \$72,113 or less per year

All types of heating options (electric, oil, wood, coal, natural gas, etc.) are covered. On average, people who go through the program can see an annual savings of up to 20-30% off their annual heating bills.

For more information, please contact Sonia Smith, Senior Lead Outreach, Home Warming Program: ssmith@cleanfoundation.ca or call (P): 902-818-1926.



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#### IN THE COMMUNITY

If you have a question regarding a municipal program or service, I look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, May 5**<sup>th</sup> between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Community Drop-in session to be held at the Chocolate Lake Community Centre, 14 Purcells Cove Road.

There will be another session on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY**



I am a member of Halifax Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council, Regional Centre Community Council and the following boards & committees:

- Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee
- Community Design Advisory Committee
- Halifax Chain of Lakes Trails Association
- Investment Policy Advisory Committee

### HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### **Land Acknowledgement**

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.

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. Another way the municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement:

"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."

In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.