

COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER

Harbourview - Burnside - Dartmouth East



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SUMMER 2022



DEAR RESIDENTS,

It's been a challenging two years, but now summer has arrived and with it lots of exciting events. Dartmouth will play host to several major sporting events this summer including **Canoe22**, the **2022 ICF Canoe Spring and Paracanoe**

World Championships. The event is August 3rd – 7th with a dynamic race schedule and a public cultural festival along the Prince Albert Roadway. There will also be a **National Baseball Tournament** August 4th – 7th for the Men's 22U National league.

I'll be co-hosting the **East Dartmouth Community Barbecue** outside the East Dartmouth Community Centre Saturday, August 13th. This is a great event for the whole family, and we are looking forward to showcasing the beautiful renovations to the community centre.

The **Robert Burns Drive** mural should be installed this summer - a beautiful addition to the Dartmouth North community!

If you want to keep up to date on what's going on in the district, please consider subscribing to my monthly e-newsletter by contacting my coordinator Laura Nooyen at nooyela@halifax.ca. I'm honoured to continue to represent the residents of District 6 and I'm looking forward to seeing more of you out in the community as things open up.

CONNECT WITH ME

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Follow me on Twitter and Facebook!

UTILITY CORRIDOR

A new utility corridor (water, wastewater and gas) will be installed on Waverley Road travelling down Waverley Rd, Jaybe Dr, John Brenton Dr, through Shubie Campground parking lot, down the hill past the beach, over the Shubie Canal and across the 111 Highway to Dartmouth Crossing.

This project will provide increased water distribution, system reliability and improve wastewater service by renewing the existing 390 Waverley Road wastewater pumping station and reducing the wastewater flows going to the 192 Waverley Road wastewater pumping station.

These upgrades will improve the level of service to existing Halifax Water customers while supporting the municipality's projected growth within the Regional Plan.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

The Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes that all residents deserve a home. While the province is responsible to lead addressing homelessness and affordable housing, the municipality has an important role to play and is committed to applying resources to support efforts aimed at helping to address this important issue. Here are some of the initiatives we've actioned:

- Committing approximately \$5 million for the purchase and installation of modular units that accommodate 64 people.
- Providing the province access to select municipal facilities to be used as temporary emergency shelters.
- Approving \$70,000 to a coalition of 11 community service providers for use as crisis funding for hotel stays to support individuals experiencing homelessness. *Continued, next page*

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- Working with both levels of government to provide accommodations for up to 70 additional individuals through the Rapid Housing Initiative.
- Allocating funding for six affordable housing projects from community partners, with a total of 157 units and contributing a further \$6 million annually for social and non-profit housing.
- Working with the Archdiocese of Halifax Yarmouth to approve 17 safe emergency shelters with heat, electricity and access to washrooms.
- Approving a one-time grant of \$445,500 to the Housing Trust of Nova Scotia for affordable housing units outside of the Regional Centre which will offset the deed transfer tax for the purchase and rehabilitation of five properties.

In recognition that some individuals will be unable or unwilling to accept indoor shelter, and that demand for indoor shelter beds does exceed capacity, Regional Council also directed staff to designate spaces for outdoor overnight sheltering. We have designated park/green spaces for long-term overnight sheltering where the municipality can provide other supports such as portable toilets, water and garbage collection. These sites have been deemed suitable based on their distance from childcare facilities, active sports fields, cemeteries, environmentally sensitive areas and more. In Dartmouth, there are two locations – **Geary Street Green Space** and **Green Road Park**. Monitoring and enforcement will be undertaken by existing bylaw officers. Outreach workers, including Street Navigators, will be the first point of contact for individuals using designated locations. For more information and regular updates, visit our website: halifax.ca/addressinghomelessness

GRAY ARENA UPDATE

On May 31st, Regional Council approved a motion removing 10 Monique Avenue, Dartmouth (the Gray Memorial Arena) from the surplus property list and providing \$100,000 in funding from the 2023/24 operating budget to create a redevelopment program for this location that will re-assess municipal needs at the site. Engagement findings, partnership interests generated from the community consultations, and existing and proposed community facilities in the area will be taken into account. Council also voted to continue to support the scheduling and booking of dry floor recreation programs (lacrosse, floor hockey, skateboarding, pickleball etc.) within the Gray Arena.

SQUARE ROOTS

Square Roots is a non-profit company that aims to reduce food waste and food access challenges by providing low cost produce bundles from local farms to families in need.

We started an East Dartmouth Square Roots program two years ago and it has grown from serving about 40 families to 225 families with free bags of produce right to their doors every two weeks. **Keep an eye on my social media page to sign up or volunteer!**

2022 DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW

On June 14th, Regional Council passed a motion to recommend the completion of Phase 1 of the District Boundary Review. District Boundary Reviews happen every 8 years in Nova Scotia and are a time for municipalities to confirm that their governance structure and polling districts are providing the necessary services to the community.

Phase 1 of the boundary review examined the Council governance structure and provided rationale for the number of councillors and polling districts. The report found that 16 councillors/polling districts was suitable for the needs of the municipality. Regional Council also requested a report on the potential electoral reforms including the inclusion of designated seats for specific ethnic or cultural groups, extending voting and candidacy rights for permanent residents and new Canadians, the use of ranked ballot or run-off ballot systems and more.

The District Boundary Resident Review Panel is now leading **Phase 2** of the review on behalf of Regional Council and will examine the distribution of polling districts within the municipality, considering the number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, communities of interest and geographic size. For example, in my opinion the District 6 boundary should include communities around Craighburn and Barry's Run that are currently in District 1. Public engagement for Phase 2 is planned for September 2022.

The Review Panel will submit their final report and recommendations for Phase 2 to Executive Standing Committee in November 2022. In December, Regional Council will review the report and recommendations and the final Boundary Review application will be submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board by December 31st. Learn more here: halifax.ca/city-hall/elections/district-boundary-review



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AFFORDABLE ACCESS PROGRAM

Qualified residents can access subsidies on transit, recreation, and property taxes from a single application. To see if you are eligible and for information on how to apply, call 311 or visit: halifax.ca/affordableaccess

DID YOU KNOW?

The Affordable Access Program allows qualified residents to apply for subsidized programs.

IT INCLUDES:

- Affordable Access Transit Pass
- Recreation Funding Access Program
- Property Tax Exemption & Deferral Program

PORT WALLACE UPDATE

Port Wallace is one of the “Special Planning Areas” designated by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, meaning development approval authority is now a provincial responsibility.

Our planning staff are working on developing the local planning requirements and are negotiating development agreements with property owners and developers. More public consultation will take place prior to staff presenting the proposed planning documents and development agreement(s) to the Executive Panel on Housing.

Some limited tree clearing, and earthwork will be permitted on Port Wallace and other sites in the meantime as we continue the planning process and final approvals are more imminent. You can find detailed information about this project and check for updates on public consultation opportunities on our website: halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/regional-plan/special-planning-areas

SHANNON PARK UPDATE

Staff are still working on finalizing a draft development agreement for the development of Shannon Park.

Canada Lands Company acquired approximately 34 hectares of this former military site in 2014 from the Department of National Defence (DND).

The property includes a French immersion school. Large portions of the site have significant water frontage and offer a large, relatively flat area suitable for development.

Indigenous Services Canada retained approximately 3.6 hectares of the site for transfer to the Millbrook First Nation. Although Canada Lands is Shannon Park’s master land developer, the Company is working collaboratively with the Millbrook First Nation to redevelop the property.

Once the Company receives HRM’s approval of the development agreement, it will begin installing roads and services and will market and sell serviced lots and/or blocks to builders. This work will include the extension of infrastructure to enable development of the Millbrook First Nation lands.

Staff hope to have the report back to Council in the fall.

PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Construction season is well underway. Some of the projects we plan to complete in District 6 this fiscal year include street recapitalization on Anderson Street, Ilsley Avenue, Ron Smith Avenue and Trinity Avenue, asphalt overlays on Ridgecrest and Shubie Drive, micro surfacing on John Savage and Wright Avenues, planer patching on Albro Lake Road, Helene Avenue, Mountain Avenue and Windmill Road, plus about 20 locations for crack sealing around the district.

We also plan to complete **new sidewalks** on Anderson Street and Trinity Avenue and replace the Barry’s Run Pedestrian Bridge.

I’m so pleased to see **traffic calming** is proposed on six streets in our area including Montebello Drive, Micmac Drive, Bonita Drive and Rossi Drive in the Montebello area and Alfred Street and Yorkshire Avenue around Harbour View Elementary School.



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HALIFACT

HalifACT is the Halifax Regional Municipality's response to the climate crisis that aims to build a more resilient future for our region. It is a commitment to reduce emissions, switch to clean and reliable energy sources, and to demonstrate leadership from local government. During our budget deliberations, Regional Council committed \$10 million toward plan for this fiscal year and \$109 million for fiscal years 2023/24 and 2025/26.

This year, this includes plans and retrofitting approximately 700,000 ft² of municipally owned buildings (fuel switching, heat recovery systems, LED lighting, demand-controlled ventilation, rooftop solar and more), installing 45- 50 electric vehicle charging stations, converting about 10% of the municipal fleet to electric or plug in hybrid electric and much more. For more information, check out our website: halifax.ca/about-halifax/energy-environment

FREE FARES FRIDAYS & FREE SAIL SATURDAYS!

Halifax Transit is offering free transit service, including buses, ferry, and Access-A-Bus, on Fridays and free Alderney ferry service on Saturdays this summer from July 1st - August 31st! This initiative was approved by Regional Council in April. Visit www.halifax.ca/freefares and check out all the Transit routes and schedules.

DOG OWNERSHIP

As a responsible dog owner you want nothing more than for your Fido to be safe and happy. I'm a dog lover and take great pride in being a responsible pet owner. Visit halifax.ca/dogownership to learn more about respectful and law-abiding dog ownership.

Troubles with a dog in your neighbourhood? If you're experiencing a problem or issue with a dog in your neighbourhood, the first step is to talk to the owner, who may not be aware that their pet is being disruptive. If the issue persists, you can register a complaint by contacting 311.

MOUNTAIN BIKING IN HALIFAX

In 2019, Regional Council requested that staff develop a Regional Mountain Bike Strategy. Parks & Recreation have met with Mountain Bike Halifax and they are collaborating with the Province and other stakeholders as they develop a strategy.

SHUBIE PUMP TRACK EXPANSION

I was so pleased to be part of the development of the Shubie Park Pump Track, an asphalt track of "rollers" that you ride without pedaling. It's a great way to increase bike handling skills for younger riders, and for the whole family to enjoy cycling fun in a safe, traffic free environment. This has been such a popular spot that we are planning to expand the track this season. Keep an eye on my social media for more updates.

EAST DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY CENTRE RENOVATIONS

The East Dartmouth Community Centre (EDCC) is undergoing some major renovations to better serve our East Dartmouth community. This year, we are working on the exterior renovations with a grant from the Atlantic Canadian Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and funds from my District 6 District Capital Fund.

There will be new lighting, seating, plants and a new beautiful mural. We are also adding free public WIFI! These renovations will make the centre more welcome to our East Dartmouth Community.

Don't worry,
Fido's friendly!



But, other humans and dogs deserve space for **many reasons**. Some dogs may be nervous or reactive.

When visiting municipal parks, please:

- Obey signs for dogs
- Keep your dogs on-leash (where required)
- Remove dog waste immediately
- Respect the space of others



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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