



COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

DISTRICT 4 ONLINE NEWS

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy March District 4!

Even though we have been experiencing some late winter storms recently, spring is just around the corner! I am confident warmer and brighter days are ahead.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind folks that daylight savings time is quickly approaching. Don't forget to set your clocks forward at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 12th.

The Halifax District RCMP are currently hosting town hall meetings and the public is invited to attend. I encourage you to attend the town hall meeting at Cole Harbour Place on Wednesday March 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Westphal Room. There will be opportunities for discussion on policing and priorities. I hope to see you there!

We continue to press on with budget discussions and I am happy to say that we are on track for the final budget deliberation on April 25th.

March 2023

Your contribution to the budget process is encouraged! Please consider sending a written submission to clerks@halifax.ca with your thoughts, concerns, and/or suggestions.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with your municipal questions or concerns. I love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Trish Purdy





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MARCH IS FRANCOPHONIE MONTH

March is Francophonie Month, celebrating the French language and diverse Francophonie cultures through cultural activities held worldwide.

March 20 has been observed worldwide as International Francophonie Day since 1988. The date commemorates the establishment of the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, the precursor to the [International Organization of La Francophonie](#), the organization representing countries and regions where French is the first or customary language. Today, with 300 million speakers worldwide, French is the fifth most spoken language in the world; La Francophonie has 88 member states and governments.

Visit the [Calendar of the local francophone network](#) to learn more about various events celebrating the rich and diverse Francophonie cultures happening in Halifax this March 2023.

SQUARE ROOTS: MARCH DATE



Square Roots is a community interest company (not-for-profit) that aims to reduce food waste and food access challenges.

They provide fresh local produce that may get rejected by grocery stores for not being “pretty” enough to families in need for low or no cost. The date for bundle pick up in March is the 24th at 6:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to sign up and find out more.

COUNCILLOR DROP IN

The following Community Drop-In sessions are planned for the month of March. Please feel free to drop by to discuss any municipal concerns or questions, I would love to see you!

Tim Hortons, Forest Hills Parkway
Friday, March 24th 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Selby’s Bunker, Cole Harbour Road
Friday, March 24th 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

**MOIS DE LA
FRANCO
PHONIE**

**MARS 2023
HALIFAX - DARTMOUTH**



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8th is International Women's Day! Together, let's celebrate all women and girls and their incredible contributions to our world.



WORK WITH HRM'S RECREATION TEAM THIS SUMMER!

Are you a student or young adult looking for a summer job that offers more than minimum wage? Check out exciting opportunities with HRM's recreation team this summer! There are a variety of positions available in recreation programming, aquatics and inclusion support. These fun summer jobs pay \$16.30 to \$19.30 per hour. Visit our [website](#) for a full list of postings until April 16th.



Council eBus demo!

CONSIDER STARTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN THIS SUMMER

Thinking of starting a community garden? Many community gardens in Halifax are operated by residents on land owned by the municipal government.

Applications for spring 2023 are due by March 30th. To review HRM's application form and handbook, visit our [website](#).

You'll also find a full list of existing community gardens if you're thinking of joining one. Let's get growing!





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HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE REDUCTIONS

The municipality is reminding residents that, due to current staffing issues, Halifax Transit is implementing further conventional bus service reductions.

As of Monday February 27th, Halifax Transit has temporarily suspended service on three bus routes, made schedule adjustments to three routes, and removed trips from 30 routes. These service reductions are new and replace several of the trips impacted by the service reductions introduced in November 2022. More details are available [here](#).

The service reductions have been developed with consideration for passenger impact and no community will completely lose service during these changes. This service reduction will be in place until late summer 2023, and if recruitment continues at the current pace, Halifax Transit is planning to return to regular service levels by that time.

Halifax Transit has continued to work to improve staffing levels. From September to December 2022, 35 new Operators have been hired and trained, and hiring is ongoing this year with new training courses hosted every three weeks.

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



March 2023

2023 COMMUNITY GRANTS: APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Program is currently accepting applications for the 2023 program. This program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region. There are two types of grants:

Applications are now open for the Community Grants Program.

This program provides cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities.

HALIFAX

- a project grant of up to \$5,000 OR
- a capital grant of up to \$25,000.

The application deadline is March 31st. Applicants should review the program guidebook prior to applying for a grant. Application forms and program guidebooks are now available. You can access them in several places:

- [Online](#)
- At an HRM Customer Service Centre:
 - Alderney Gate, 40 Alderney Drive, - Dartmouth, 1st floor
 - Musquodoboit Harbour Strip Mall, Corner of Hwy #7 & East Petpeswick Road
 - Bayers Road, 7071 Bayers Road, 2nd floor
- By contacting [311](#)
- Or by emailing nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

For further information, please email nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca or call 902.490.7310.



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CASE 23862: 1200-1216 COLE HARBOUR ROAD

WM Fares, on behalf of the property owner, is requesting to discharge an existing development agreement and enter into a new development agreement to allow a six-storey, multi-unit residential building on lands at 1200 and 1216 Cole Harbour Road, Cole Harbour. The applicant wishes to construct a multi-unit residential building on the site. The major aspects of the proposal are as follows:

- 104 residential units (30 one-bedroom units and 74 two-bedroom units);
- Approximately 16 parking spaces outside and 152 inside; and
- Indoor and outdoor amenity space for the residents of the building; and
- The ability to convert the ground floor to commercial space in the future.

The development plans outline the development proposal in detail and include information related to the design and scale of the proposed building, traffic impacts, and location of driveway accesses and parking. The plans can be accessed [here](#).

PUBLIC HEARING: MARCH 27

A public hearing will be held by Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council on **Monday, March 27th at 6:00 p.m.** at the Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council Chambers, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

All oral and written submissions will be considered at that time. Information on how to sign up to speak in advance can be found [here](#). Written submissions may be forwarded to the Municipal Clerk by mail, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3A5; by fax, 902-490-4208; or by e-mail, clerks@halifax.ca. Written submissions should be received by the Municipal Clerk's Office as early as possible and not later than 3:00 p.m. on March 27th. [View the staff report](#).

ICE THICKNESS TESTING PROGRAM

HRM has begun the annual [ice thickness testing program](#) for this year's winter season. Each year, the municipality provides reports on ice thickness testing undertaken on more than 70 lakes throughout the region.

The Canadian Red Cross recommends that ice be at least 15 centimeters thick for individual skating, and at least 20 centimeters thick for group skating. Extreme caution is advised in areas where streams flow into and out of lakes. It is also important to note that ice conditions may vary over the entire surface of lakes and are subject to change with weather conditions.

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

ICE THICKNESS TO SAFELY ENJOY WINTER ACTIVITIES

15 CM WALKING OR SKATING ALONE	20 CM SKATING AS A GROUP OR PLAYING HOCKEY	25 CM SNOWMOBILING OR DRIVING AN ATV
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CASE 23052 – 613 HIGHWAY 7 & 32-38 LOONVIEW LANE, WESTPHAL

Quest Capital Inc has requested a substantive amendment to an approved development agreement to add new land, construct two 300-unit buildings, retain the existing townhouse structure on the site and change the commencement and completion dates.

The applicant wishes to amend the development agreement to allow for:

- The continuation of the existing 4-unit townhouse block;
- Add more lands to be regulated by the development agreement;
- Two residential buildings each containing 300 units (600 units in total); and
- Extend the commencement and completion dates in the approved agreement.

One of the new buildings would be an apartment building marketed to seniors, while the other is proposed to be shared housing with special care as permitted under the Land Use By-law for Cole Harbour-Westphal. This is defined as a building that provides a level of care, such as housekeeping, meal preparation, personal care, help with medication, or nursing care, to residents because of cognitive, physical or behavioral limitations.

The applicant is requesting to extend the time for commencement and completion by 5 years.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SEED KIT INITIATIVE



Neighbourhood Seed Kits encourage residents to build relationships with their neighbours through vegetable gardening. Residents can apply to receive a free community seed kit to share with their whole neighbourhood. Each kit contains enough seeds for approximately 30 households.

Applications for the Neighbourhood Seed Kits are open until Friday, March 31st 2023. Residents can apply [online](#).



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HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

The Province of Nova Scotia’s Heating Assistance Rebate Program helps low-income Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating. Nova Scotians can receive \$1,000 if you qualify for the Heating Assistance Rebate Program.

To qualify for the rebate, you need to pay for your own home (residential) heat and have a household income of \$85,000 or less. You can apply until March 31st and you don’t need to apply for the rebate again if you already applied.

How do I apply?

✓ Click [here](#) to learn more about eligibility and apply online!

✓ If you cannot apply online, there is also a printable application available on the website above.

✓ Or, contact the Heating Assistance Rebate Program directly to request an application by mail:

Phone: 902-424-5200

Toll-free: 1-800-670-4357

Fax: 902-428-2164

Mailing address: PO Box 641, CRO, Halifax NS B3J 2T3



PROPOSED POLICY AND REGULATION AMENDMENTS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Regional Council has approved new recommended changes to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy, Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies and Land



Use By-laws to establish policies and regulation for short-term rentals. These policies and updates are necessary as short-term rentals are a new land use that are regulated inconsistently throughout the municipality’s various land-use by-laws.

Short term rentals are temporary overnight accommodations in traditional dwelling units that are rented for a short period of time, i.e., a few days or weeks. The prevalence of short-term rentals has grown significantly in the last decade through the use of online booking platforms. There are currently approximately 2,000 active listings in the Halifax Regional Municipality. While some of this growth is welcome within the tourism sector, the growth has also impacted traditionally residential neighbourhoods and the availability and affordability of long-term rental housing.

The proposed amendments to land use planning documents will seek to prioritize the protection of long-term housing supply and affordability, while also making considerations for the region’s tourism sector and associated accommodations.

For more information, read the [staff report](#).



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UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

HEMDCC NOW STREAMED ONLINE

As part of continued efforts to support open and accessible meetings, webcasts will now be available from the Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council Chamber (60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth), thanks to some recent technical upgrades. This means that all Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council (HEMDCC) meetings that take place at that location will be streamed online for residents to watch. This follows a soft launch webcast pilot that occurred at the HEMDCC meeting on January 12th. This pilot was a success and the [video from this meeting can be found here](#).

Where to watch:

The HEMDCC webcast will be live on HRM’s [YouTube channel](#) and [agenda postings](#). Stay tuned for the video link to be shared closer to the next HEMDCC meeting, scheduled for March 27th.

Other webcast opportunities:

Due to the ability to webcast in this room, this space will also be available to other meeting bodies. Other meetings may take place there in the future, and if they do, they may also be webcasted. For example, Regional Centre Community Council also uses this space. Community Councils that do not use this space will not have a webcast, aside from Halifax and West Community Council (meetings occur in Council Chambers, which also has the capacity to webcast).



There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for March. **Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:**

- March 7th
- March 21st

I look forward to participating in these meetings, and I hope you can join us – in person or by tuning in on YouTube! Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings - including committees [here](#).

Meeting agendas (including the specific start time of 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.) and a link to watch the video are generally available by the Friday prior to the meeting. Reports on the items that councillors vote on are available and are linked throughout the meeting agenda.



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DISTRICT 4 RCMP ROAD SAFETY STATS: JANUARY 2023

Calls for service were down 6% in January from last year.

RCMP responded to 592 calls for service including issuing tickets for 36 summary offences, 2 aggressive driving, 3 cellphone use, 9 unregistered vehicles, 10 speeding offences and 12 other motor vehicle act violations like lack of registration and insurance.

There was 1 impaired driving charge and 1 suspension in January and RCMP completed 102 traffic stops. They also responded to 16 motor vehicle accidents, versus 12 in January 2022. For more information on our RCMP's work in the community, see their [website](#).

STEP UP TO LEADERSHIP

Step Up to Leadership is a free 8-week course for volunteers. The program covers leadership training and developing skills so our volunteers can effectively serve their communities. Step Up to Leadership runs Tuesdays March 21st – May 9th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Findlay Community Centre.

You can find out more by reaching out to Darren at hirtled@halifax.ca or 902-479-1184.

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 Simonov at **902-490-7177**.

For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).