



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

## DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy December District 4! I hope you are all getting into the Christmas spirit - I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. I hope you will all get a chance to connect with friends, family and loved ones, give back to our community and celebrate treasured traditions this month!

Now is the time to begin preparing for winter weather – check out some tips below for getting your property ready for snow clearing season. You can also find important information about the 2025 Volunteer Awards, Winter Preparations and much more!

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

Sincerely,

November 2024

## VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS



We have some incredible volunteers and community organizations in District 4 – let's show them the appreciation they deserve! Nominations are now open for the 2025 Volunteer Awards. You can nominate deserving volunteers in the youth, adult or group categories to be recognized at a ceremony in the Spring for their contributions to their communities.

Fillable nomination forms can be found on the program [web page](#) and will remain open until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

**HALIFAX**



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### CART-BASED TRASH COLLECTION

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve waste management and enhance community services, the Halifax Regional Municipality is exploring a cart-based collection system for garbage, similar to the green cart program for the collection of residential organics.

Cart-based collection can address health and safety considerations, modernizes collection infrastructure, and has been demonstrated to improve citizen satisfaction and protection from animals/birds and associated litter. Cart-based programs are also typically implemented with automated collection which reduces labour requirements.

If implemented, each household would receive a wheeled cart specifically designed for garbage disposal. On collection days, residents would place their carts at the curb, where trucks equipped with hydraulic arms will lift, empty, and return the carts.

Cart-based collection for recycling (i.e., blue carts) is not part of this current evaluation. Under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), the delivery of curbside recycling collection will shift from the municipality to the producers of blue bag material, commencing in December 2025.

A survey to gauge public interest and support will be available until December 20. The results of the survey will be used to inform a staff report to be presented to Halifax Regional Council in Spring 2025. [Take the survey here.](#)

### COMMUNITY CORNER

**Cole Harbour Area Decorative Pole Update:** We have experienced a technical difficulty with the wiring of the power to the decorative poles on Cole Harbour Road. That has recently been fixed but now we are waiting for the actual strings of lights to be replaced. They have been ordered and we are awaiting their arrival!

#### The East Preston Active Transportation Greenway:



The East Preston Active Transportation Greenway project is now in the final stages of construction.

We are hoping to have it completed next week. We appreciate your patience with the construction of this project which provided a multi-use pathway for people walking and bicycling from the East Preston Day Care (1799 Highway 7) to the East Preston Recreation Centre (24 Brooks Drive). This project was the top priority project identified in the East Preston Active Transportation Plan, a plan developed by a committee of East Preston residents.

#### Cole Harbour Road Line Painting:

We have experienced too much rainy weather for the line painting at the Cole Harbour Road and Forest Hills and Cole Harbour Road and Caldwell Road intersections this season for it to be completed this season. These intersections are expected to be repainted in the Spring.



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### WINTER PREPARATIONS



As we gear up for the winter season, it's important to ensure we're all prepared for whatever Mother Nature has in store for us. Our snow clearing crews are poised and ready, responsible for over 3,844 lane kilometers of streets and about 1,000 kilometers of sidewalks. While we can't control the weather, by working together, we can certainly be better prepared.

While the snow hasn't started to fly yet, I would encourage you to begin preparing your property for snow clearing season by removing planters, lawn decorations and any other portable objects near the sidewalk and trimming any tree branches and shrubs that originate from your property that may obstruct access and visibility for snow-clearing equipment. You can mark any permanent structures or objects with a reflector that will be visible above the snow. This helps crews identify obstacles.

Effective December 15 to March 31, the municipal overnight winter parking ban will be enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during weather events and snow removal operations. You can sign up for hfxALERT to receive crucial updates, including Winter Parking Ban [notifications](#).

Let's work together to ensure a safe and smooth winter season for everyone in our community. Stay warm and stay safe!

### TAX RELIEF FOR NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

The municipality is pleased to announce that the Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program is now accepting applications for 2024-2025. Organizations applying for acceptance into the program (or the addition of another property) must submit a complete application on or before Friday January 31, 2025.

The municipality's Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program can help eligible non-profit and charitable organizations reduce the amount of property tax they pay each year. You can find the application form online on the Program's [website](#) or by emailing [non-profittax@halifax.ca](mailto:non-profittax@halifax.ca).



## Sponsors Needed

Are your colleagues, sport, community or volunteer groups looking for a great way to give back in our neighbourhood?

We are accepting sponsorship groups to fill the Fridge. These groups can join together for a one time food drive, weekly, monthly Fridge contribution of goods on a schedule, coordinated with us.

The Cole Harbour Community Fridge would love to be your chosen benefactor! Financial contributions also gratefully accepted.

[coleharbourfridge@gmail.com](mailto:coleharbourfridge@gmail.com)



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### MUNICIPAL BUDGET 2025-2026

This month, Regional Council will begin setting our strategic priorities for the next four years and start the municipal budget review process. Over the next few months, we will be reviewing each department’s budget in preparation for a final budget approval in April.

You can find the full schedule as it becomes available on our [website](#). We welcome public feedback throughout this process by participating in the Public Participation portion included in each meeting or you can submit correspondence to the Clerk’s Office.

### MUNICIPAL BOARD AND COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT

We’re looking for people to serve on the boards, committees and commissions that help to advise Regional Council, Community Councils, Standing Committees and municipal staff on important issues.

There are 39 positions currently available including on boards such as the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Board of Police Commissioners, Grants Committee, Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee and many more. We encourage people from all backgrounds reflective and inclusive of residents from across the municipality to apply. Applications are available [online](#) and will be accepted until Monday, December 16 at 11:59 p.m.

### WINTER GREEN CART TIPS



When temperatures drop, materials in green carts can freeze and cause issues for both residents and waste haulers. To avoid some of the problems associated with green cart in the winter, our Solid Waste Resources team has some helpful tips:

- Put your green cart out for each collection, even if it’s not full. This will give material less time to freeze
- Line the bottom of your green cart with a yard waste bag, boxboard or newspaper
- Place your green cart in a place where the sun can reach it
- Wrap food in paper scraps

More information on green carts can be found on our [webpage](#).

### HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program provides assistance to low and moderate income Nova Scotians for help with the cost of home heating. Rebates are \$600/household. Find out more and apply by March 31, 2025 [here](#).



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## SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL



There's no denying it – winter is on its way. There is a snow removal program available for seniors (ages 65 and older) and persons with disabilities to help ensure safe access to your home.

The Senior Snow Removal is a YMCA program provided in partnership with Halifax Regional Municipality, and oversees the clearing of front and back steps, walkways, ramps, and access to fuel tanks. Please note that the program does not include driveway clearing.

Those 65+ or persons with disabilities must also meet the following eligibility criteria:

- ✓ The participant must reside in a single dwelling home which is owned or rented;
- ✓ The participant, also including all individuals who live on the premises aged eighteen or older, must not exceed a total gross household income of \$32,000, and;
- ✓ The participant may not be a landlord.

The Senior Snow Removal operates on a first-come, first-serve basis. When maximum capacity is reached, the program will come to a close and individuals will be placed on a waitlist.

You can download the 2024/2025 application package online. Completed applications may be emailed to [ssr@halifax.ymca.ca](mailto:ssr@halifax.ymca.ca) faxed to 902-423-8530 or can be mailed or dropped off in person the YMCA on Gottingen St.



A BIG thank you to our very own Cole Harbour and Area Business Association for putting on another wonderful community Christmas Tree Lighting! It was so good to see so many family and friends come out for the event!

## WINTER PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Program registration for our winter recreation programs has begun!

There's something for all ages and abilities – so make sure to check out the programs on our [website](#).



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### RCMP OCTOBER STATISTICS

The RCMP responded to 773 calls for service in District 4 in October, up from 4.6% over the same period in 2023.

There were 26 Motor Vehicle accidents with six resulting in injuries and Police laid charges for impaired driving and issued 22 citations for speeding, aggressive driving and other MVA offenses. For more information on our RCMP, see their [website](#).

### SALTWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Regional Council has directed the Chief Administrative Officer to initiate a review of the municipality's current Saltwater Management Plan and to explore policy options for setbacks for new stormwater discharge locations.

These recommendations came from the LakeWatchers Water Quality Monitoring Program Report. The LakeWatchers Program, launched in 2022, conducts water quality monitoring in 73 lakes. Water quality monitoring is a critical component of effective water resource management. This responsibility is shared across all levels of government, the private sector and the general community.

Given that many municipal programs, services and responsibilities directly affect lake health and water quality, the municipality is uniquely positioned to monitor water quality and address emerging issues, as well as ongoing concerns. For more information, read the [staff report](#).

### BODY WORN CAMERAS



Starting this month, as part of the RCMP's national deployment, the Nova Scotia RCMP will begin issuing body-worn cameras (BWCs) to officers across the province.

BWCs can help to improve police outcomes, accountability, and relationships with the public. The cameras will be issued to 600 Nova Scotia RCMP officers in a phased approach over the next six to eight months with a digital evidence management system that will be used to store and manage video captured by the cameras.

RCMP officers will typically wear their BWCs on their chests; members of the public will know they're recording when a red light is visible and flashing below the lens of the camera. You can find out more [here](#).

Halifax Regional Police are also reviewing the potential use of BWCs. A [presentation](#) came to the Board of Police in June and Police will likely bring this forward for approval during budget.



## VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

The Halifax Regional Municipality has a Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) for those who require more support during emergencies.

The VVPR provides essential information to first responders and Emergency Management staff and volunteers to help prioritize responses to residents' needs in situations such as sustained power outages or severe storms.

You can learn more or sign up [here](#).

## HALIFAX TRANSIT CODE

In August 2021, Regional Council adopted the Halifax Transit Code encouraging safe and respectful practices for using transit.

This code has been so successful that the national organization that connects and speaks for public transit, the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA), has decided to adopt HRM's transit code campaign to be used nationwide.

Thank you to the amazing staff, especially from Halifax Transit and Corporate Communications, for your work on this important program. You can find out more about the transit [code](#) here, and more about CUTA [here](#).

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIPS

Holiday shopping season is in full swing. Whether you're going to stores or shopping online, consider these safety tips to keep your holiday season happy and bright:

### Online shopping

- It is best to shop from your personal device at home on a trusted network.
- Consider using different user IDs and passwords for different accounts and updating your passwords frequently.
- Verify secure connections and make sure you are on a secure website. Look for the padlock icon in the address bar and check for the valid certificate by clicking on the padlock icon.
- Unlike secure order forms on websites, email and text messages are not private. Don't send confidential personal or financial information by email or text.
- Be cautious, if an online deal looks too good to be true then it probably is.
- Watch out for email scams. Be wary of clicking on links in an email message, even if the deal seems great.
- After making purchases it can be helpful to keep the receipt, confirmation number and postal tracking numbers in a safe accessible place.
- If you are at an online store that you are unfamiliar with, read and understand the online shop's policies. It's always a good idea to check a site's reviews before making a purchase.



## COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

### In-store shopping

- We encourage you to lock your vehicle and park in well-lit and busy areas if they are available.
- Would be thieves will look for shoppers storing valuables in their vehicles. If you're going to drop off your purchases and return to the stores, consider locking your packages in the trunk and move your vehicle to another location in the parking lot.
- Thieves sometimes watch shoppers exiting a store. You may want to shop strategically; wait until the end of your shopping trip to make high-end purchases or make a special trip to take high-end items home and then return to continue shopping.
- Protect your PIN when using bank and debit machines. Cover the keypad to prevent someone from observing your key strokes or from recording your PIN. It's a good idea to change your PIN frequently.
- After a day of shopping, we recommend removing parcels and valuables and locking the vehicle upon returning home. Even an empty shopping bag can create the appearance that there's something in your car worth stealing.

No matter whether your shop in-person or online, we encourage you to monitor your bank and credit card statements closely and immediately report any discrepancies to your bank or to the company that issued the credit card.

### HALIFAX WATER FLUORIDE STATEMENT

Halifax Water have issued the following statement about fluoridation of the drinking water supply:

“Halifax Water acknowledges that it should have notified customers about the interruption of fluoridation at both Pockwock Lake and Lake Major water supply plants over the past several years. We take feedback very seriously and want to assure customers and the public that they will be made aware of these interruptions moving forward. These were operational decisions based on independent equipment issues at both water supply plants that had to be repaired or replaced at each facility.

From an operations perspective, Halifax Water intends to resume the fluoridation process when systems are ready and it is safe to do so. We will advise our customers when this occurs.”

Pockwock fluoridation has now resumed and the utility is currently evaluating options for adding fluoride back into the system at Lake Major. You can read the full statement and find out more [here](#).

### STREAMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regional Council are using a new system for electronic streaming, to find the council videos – go to our [Agendas, Meetings and Reports page](#) and click the meeting you want to view. Meetings will still be live-streamed and videos will be available after the meeting.





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COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

### SCAM TARGETTING SENIORS

Police are advising citizens to be cautious of a scam that targets seniors intending to defraud them of money that is continuing to occur throughout our region. In each incident, the victim received a call from someone pretending to be a family member who indicated that they have been arrested and are in jail. Another person representing themselves to be from the legal system becomes involved in the call and informs the victim that they need to pay money to have their loved one released from custody. If you receive a call like this, do not provide or confirm any personal or financial information and hang up the phone. In Canada, law enforcement and court officials will not attend a residence to collect money in relation to bail.

Call police at [902-490-5020](tel:902-490-5020) if you've lost money or your identity has been compromised as the result of a scam. You can report a scam where you haven't been a victim to the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#), or call 1-888-495-8501.

### WINTER SAFE DRIVING

With winter weather arriving potentially any day, Halifax Regional Police is sharing some winter safety tips to help road users be winter ready. Plan ahead to ensure your vehicle is roadworthy.

- Check your safety inspection sticker and the tread on your tires.
- Consider topping up your vehicle with extra windshield washer fluid.
- Keep a shovel, a bag of salt or sand and your snow brush and ice scraper in your vehicle.

Driving safely for the road conditions

- Stay up to date with the weather conditions.
- Visibility is key. Before you hit the road, clear all snow from the roof, hood, license plate, windows, mirrors, lights, turn signals and cameras of your vehicle. Scrape/defrost your windshield if necessary.
- Be mindful that winter conditions create challenges for pedestrians who may need to walk in the roadway to avoid snow-covered or icy sidewalks.
- Never drive distracted. Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. Watch for other road users, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Adjust your speed to the conditions. Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you so that you can safely slow down and/or stop. Remember



Congratulations to the career and volunteer Firefighters who were awarded their Long Service awards!



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not to accelerate or brake too quickly when the roads are slippery.

Think before you park on the street. When and where you park in the winter can have a big impact on clearing streets and sidewalks, which, in turn, can affect road safety. To help make a responsible parking choice, ask yourself:

- Is the overnight parking ban currently being enforced?
- Is your vehicle causing a safety issue?
- Is it making the road impassable?
- Is it impeding snow operations underway in the area?

### NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATIONS



The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to its annual live New Year's Eve celebrations, taking place on Tuesday, December 31 in the Grand Parade from 11:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

This free event will include a live TV broadcast on Eastlink Community TV, fireworks, music and tons of fun! Visit [here](#) closer to the event date for all the details.

November 2024

### SENIORS CARE GRANT

The Seniors Care Grant helps low-income seniors with the cost of household services like lawn care, snow removal, grocery delivery, transportation, small home repairs and phone service, healthcare services like physiotherapy and mental health support and home heating. Grants are \$750 for each household. You can find out more information and the application form [here](#).



2024 Swearing In Ceremony

### SOLID WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW

In order to align our solid waste system with our climate change action goals, and update outdated strategies, HRM is conducting a Solid Waste Strategy Review. The review began in February 2023, and the final report will be presented to Halifax Regional Council in Spring 2025. We all need to do our part to reduce waste. You can find out more [here](#).



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## COGSWELL DISTRICT UPDATE



Last month, the municipality announced three new street names in the Cogswell District that honour our history, Reconciliation Way, Dr. Alfred Waddell Street and Amalamek Way and this month we're making major progress towards the new Cogswell District.

On December 16, the new Halifax Transit Terminal at Scotia Square will open, rerouting approximately 30 Halifax Transit routes that have been on detour for the last six months. The Transit Terminal will include new heated shelters, additional seating and waiting space for passengers, wider sidewalks and an additional bus bay. New trees and landscaping elements will be installed in 2025.

Valour Way and the new roundabout will be fully operational with a temporary connection to Nora Bernard Street. Cogswell Street, from Brunswick Street to Upper Water Street, will also open on December 16. To learn more about the Cogswell District project, visit our [website](#).

November 2024

## NEW DATA SETS AVAILABLE

The Halifax Regional Municipality has released two new datasets on [Open Data](#), as part of an ongoing commitment to provide public access to data created and managed by the municipality.

The new datasets include information on [African Nova Scotian Communities](#) and the [Tree Canopy](#). Data sets regarding the HRCE School Boundaries, the Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation 2021 and Tax Rates have also been updated with more current information.

For more information on the municipality's Open Data program, and to access all the datasets, visit the open data [hub](#).



The Cole Harbour Library celebrated it's 35<sup>th</sup> birthday! The library is such an important part of our community - a big thank you to all of the staff who make it so special!



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### 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.

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council normally meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#). 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 January 9, 2024

### CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at [trish.purdy@halifax.ca](mailto: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 Quentin Hill at **902-490-6355**.

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