



**COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY**  
DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER  
COLE HARBOUR - PRESTON - WESTPHAL - CHERRY BROOK

## DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy April, District 4!

Spring is finally here! The days are growing longer, and warmer temperatures are just around the corner, bringing with them a refreshing sense of renewal and excitement. It's the perfect time to embrace the season of growth and change!

I am wishing you a joyful Easter filled with new beginnings, bright moments, and plenty of happiness.

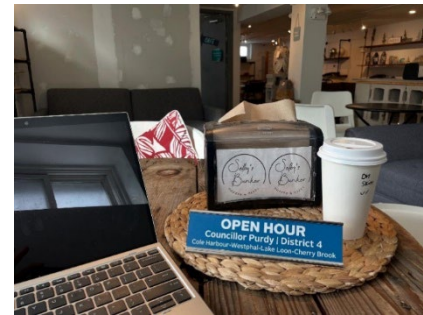
I hope to see you this month at my Councillor Drop-In! Details are on the right column of this page.

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*

## COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY DROP-IN



The following Community Drop-In session is planned for the month of April. 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, April 25 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.**



It has been a pleasure getting to know MP Darrell Samson during my last term.

There was a celebration farewell where Councillors who share boundaries with him presented him with a plaque thanking Darrell for his service.

March 2025

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### SALMON RIVER DRIVE BRIDGE



The Salmon River Drive bridge (Walker's Bridge) replacement project involves replacing the existing bridge to ensure long-term safety and reliability for motorists and pedestrians. Construction is expected to take place over two years in 2025 and 2026.

Transport Canada is currently reviewing an application for the replacement of Salmon River Drive bridge (Walker's Bridge) in Westphal, N.S. Review the notice and how to provide comments [here](#).

### NEW ONLINE RECREATION SOFTWARE

We launched a new online recreation software on April 1, 2025.

Here's what you need to know:

Summer camp registration will take place on the new registration platform. [This MyREC webpage](#) will remain the same, it will just link to the new system.

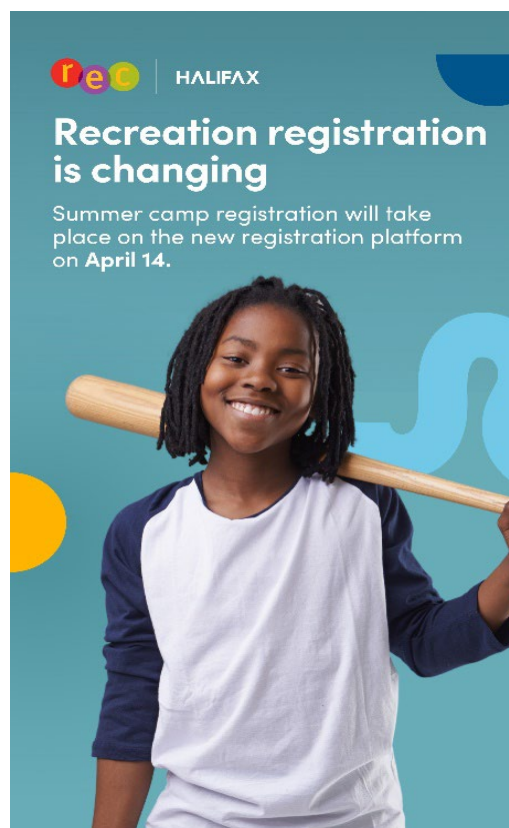
If you do not have an active facility membership at one of our municipal recreation

April 2025

centres, the Canada Games Centre, Cole Harbour Place, the St. Margaret's Centre or Zatzman Sportsplex you will need to create a new user profile. You can create your new client profile beginning March 19, 2025.

If you have an active facility membership at one of our municipal recreation centres, the Canada Games Centre, Cole Harbour Place, the St. Margaret's Centre or Zatzman Sportsplex your client information has been transitioned to the new system. However, you will need to set up a new password and link your payment information to your new account if you wish to complete online transactions.

Members are now prompted to create their new password in an email coming from [communication@xplorrecreation.com](mailto:communication@xplorrecreation.com).







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## COMMUNITY CORNER – DISTRICT 4

### Ross Road Realignment

Budget Committee voted in favour of accelerating the detailed design of the Ross Road realignment by one year! We will be seeing action finally on this much needed and anticipated improved intersection next year- 2026! A big thank you to Councillor David Hendsbee for pushing this project forward for many years without giving up, and to Council for voting in favour of the accelerated timeline!



Starting the exciting process of planning for the Ross Road realignment!

### Feeding the Deer



There has been an increase in the deer population over the past few years in Cole Harbour – especially in and around the Colby

Village area. Kindly remember that feeding the deer is not allowed under by-law A700 16.A: No

April 2025

person shall feed or permit the feeding of wildlife that creates a nuisance to an owner or occupant of any property. If you see an injured or distressed deer, kindly call Hope for Wildlife at 902.407.9453.

### Caldwell Road Phase 2

This completion of Caldwell Road has been pushed out to 2026 due to utility pole relocation delays. The delays are due to easement issues, capacity issues, and HRM not having the ability to hurry the process. We are waiting on third party work. Very sorry for the continued frustration this delay causes.

### Astral Drive Recapitalization

Astral Drive is slated for 2025 for the first phase of the recapitalization project. Phase One will be from Selig to Stratford including integrated traffic calming. Knowing that Caldwell Road would be delayed yet another year, staff worked hard to get the detailed design work for Astral completed in time to be able to begin phase one this year. Very thankful they got it done in time! Thank you!

### Sherwood Development

HRM planning staff are finalizing the Development Permit review. They have a final subdivision application under review for a townhouse lot on Sherwood, but there is no timeline yet.

### Broom Road Development

HRM planning staff are finalizing the Development Permit review. The next step will be to subdivide the property, but there is no ETA on this yet. Staff have not received an application for any building permits to date.



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### LIVING LAKESHORES

This spring, the municipality's Environment and Climate Change team, in partnership with TransCoastal Adaptations (TCA) at Saint Mary's University and the Ecology Action Centre, will launch a new project called Living Lakeshores.

This project aims to increase the resilience of freshwater shorelines in the Halifax region and build community understanding of natural restoration approaches in sensitive ecosystems.

The municipality will be offering free shoreline naturalization training to residents, delivered by TCA.

For all the training information please click [here](#).

### BUDGET 2025/26

On Tuesday, April 8, Regional Council will give final review and approval of the 2025/26 budget.

Following the Wednesday, March 26 Budget Committee meeting, the proposed tax rate of 0.772 tax rate (an increase of 0.002 from 2024/25) – two thousandths of a cent higher than last year will be forwarded to Regional Council.

The municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing a growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations, capital priority initiatives approved by Regional Council, and capital projects and investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace municipal assets.

For more information on the 2025/26 municipal budget process, visit [halifax.ca/budget](http://halifax.ca/budget)

April 2025

### 2025/26 PLANNED CAPITAL WORK – DISTRICT 4 HIGHLIGHTS

We're investing in safer, smoother streets across District 4 as part of HRM's 2025/26 Capital Works Program.

Key street recapitalization projects planned for this season include:

- Astral Drive (Seilig to Stratford): Sidewalk renewal and traffic calming measures to enhance pedestrian and vehicle safety.
- Astral Drive: New sidewalk for bus stop connections
- Hillsboro Drive (Highway 7): Reinstatement of existing traffic calming features to maintain a safer traffic flow.
- Sirius Crescent (Poplar to Poplar): Upgrades to improve road condition and support a more comfortable drive for residents.
- Brookfield Avenue, Atholea Drive, Pearl Drive, and Upper Governor Street: Traffic Calming Measures to be put in place.

### REPORT A POTHOLE

Potholes can form any time of year but worsen more rapidly with fluctuating winter temperatures.

See a pothole? Report it by calling 311 or using our online form at <http://halifax.ca/potholes>. You can also find answers to common questions, priorities and timelines on our website.



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### NEW SECOND UNIT INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR PROPERTY OWNERS



The Halifax Regional Municipality has introduced a new program to help property owners create more housing options across the region through non-repayable funding.

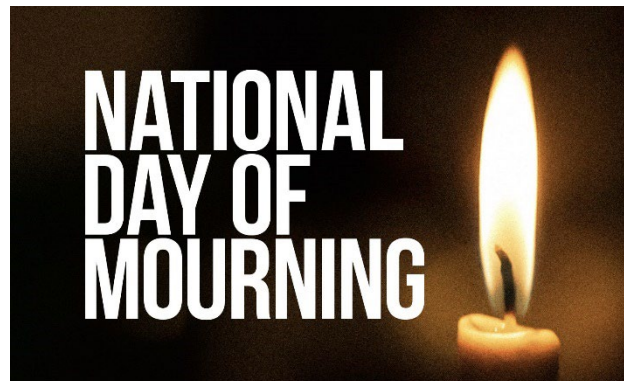
The Second Unit Incentive Program offers financial grants to help offset costs associated with building new second units. Eligible residents can receive up to \$12,000 to help reduce building expenses related to water and wastewater.

Funded through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), this program is part of the municipality's commitment to increasing housing availability and supporting sustainable community development.

The program is available to owner-occupants of a one-unit dwelling who are up-to-date on property tax payments, where land use by-laws allow. A building permit is also needed to apply.

Applications will be open until June 1, 2026, or until funding is fully allocated. More information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

### NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING



On April 28, Nova Scotians will join with Canadians across the nation, and over 100 countries around the world, to recognize the National Day of Mourning.

This day has been designated as a time when workers, families, employers and others come together to remember those who have died or been injured at work.

According to recent statistics from the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada (AWCBC), there were just over 270,000 accepted claims for lost time due to a work-related injury or disease in Canada in 2019, and sadly, 925 workplace fatalities.

On this important day, we pause to remember those who have died or been injured on the job and take time to collectively renew our commitment to making safety a top priority in our individual workplaces.

Learn more about the National Day of Mourning [here](#).





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## MOBILE FOOD MARKET



Regional Council has approved an increase in funding from \$75,000 to \$175,700 to the Mobile Food Market.

Rising costs, soaring rates of food insecurity and growing interest in community- based, welcoming and dignified ways of accessing food has resulted in an unprecedented demand for the services of the Mobile Food Market. Since 2019, there has been a dramatic increase in food distribution and has challenged the ability of the Mobile Food Market to respond to communities. Additional funding will be used to continue supporting a senior leadership role, an additional full-time employee, and for program funding.

Regional Council has also approved the continued support for two years until 2029 and directed the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Mobile Food Market and other partners for the purchase of a new hybrid or electric vehicle.

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

## NEW ONLINE TOOL FOR BURN RESTRICTIONS

### Current Conditions

Burning is not allowed between midnight and 2 p.m.



### Municipal fire risk general index

Low	Moderate	High	Very high	Extreme
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Index represented is the highest fire potential within the municipality today; it may not represent all areas - Please use the Burning Map for decisions on burning

The Halifax Regional Municipality has launched Before You Burn, a new online tool that provides residents and visitors with up-to-date information on whether burning is allowed in the Halifax region. Before starting an open-air fire, check [Before You Burn](#) to stay informed and ensure compliance with municipal and provincial regulations.

### WHY BYB?

- No more guesswork – this tool is specific to your civic address.
- Quick visual access to the burn status for the municipality (open, restricted, ban, etc.).
- More detail including the Halifax-specific fire risk index.
- Detailed descriptions of all burning types (campfires, brush burning, etc.).

The new [Before You Burn](#) tool displays the burning restrictions in effect across the municipality by comparing municipal by-laws and provincial legislation with live data from the [provincial fire restrictions webpage](#).



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### HALIFAX WANDERERS DND APPRECIATION GAME FLY PAST

Regional Council has given permission for the Royal Canadian Air Force to conduct a fly past over the Wanderers Grounds to mark the annual Department of National Defense (DND) appreciation game.

The annual event brings awareness and appreciation to the contributions of the Canadian Armed Forces and the DND. This event will also fundraise in support of military families through the Military Family Resource Centre.

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

### HALIFAX WATER ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY



Regional Council has approved the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and five-year business strategy for Halifax Water.

Halifax Water has a mandate to own and operate water facilities and utilities for the purpose of providing water, wastewater and stormwater services to customers. The organization is governed by the Halifax Water Board of Commissioners, in compliance with

April 2025

the [Halifax Regional Water Commission Act](#) and [Administrative Order 2018-001-ADM \(Respecting the Halifax Regional Water Commission\)](#).

The five-year strategic plan establishes the organization's objectives and strategic initiatives from 2025 to 2030. The 2025/26 Annual Business Plan outlines a number of goals that have been established to meet these objectives.

An updated integrated resource plan is expected in 2027/28.

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

### SNOW PROPERTY DAMAGE

Our crews and contractors do their best to avoid property damage while clearing streets and sidewalks as quickly as possible, but damage can happen when we're dealing with heavy equipment and challenging conditions.

Contractors who plow the streets and sidewalks are responsible for repairing any damage caused by their equipment. The municipality is responsible for damage caused by municipally owned clearing equipment.

Residents who have sustained damage to their property or know of damage to municipal property should report it as soon as possible by emailing [contactus@311.halifax.ca](mailto:contactus@311.halifax.ca) or calling 311. Unless there is an immediate safety concern, most damage will be repaired in the spring, when weather has improved.



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### ROAD SAFETY DASHBOARD

Interested in learning more about road safety in the municipality and the progress we are making?

[The Road Safety Dashboard](#) provides an overview of collision data and allows users to track progress the municipality is making on a number of different road safety initiatives as we work together to accomplish our Vision Zero goals.

### HALIFAX NAMED A 2024 TREE CITY OF THE WORLD

Halifax has once again been recognized as a Tree City of the World by the Arbor Day Foundation!

To receive this recognition, Halifax meets five key standards, including responsible tree management and public education efforts. This work is part of our broader goal to build a more livable and resilient municipality.

Learn more about this initiative through the Arbor Day Foundation's [website](#).



April 2025

### BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENT

The Halifax Regional Municipality is announcing that Vincent Beswick-Escanlar will be appointed to the Board of Police Commissioners, effective April 1, 2025.

Mr. Beswick-Escanlar is a family physician, with expertise in public health and preventive medicine. With experience in both the military and policing, Mr. Beswick-Escanlar brings an understanding of the complex, interconnected factors that shape community policing and safety.

The municipality would also like to thank Gavin Giles, the current Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners, for his service. Mr. Giles' term as Chair concludes on March 31, 2025. An election for the new Chair will be held during the next meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners on April 2, 2025.

For more information about the Board of Police Commissioners, visit the [webpage](#).

### HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE CRIME UPDATE: JULY – DECEMBER 2024

Halifax Regional Police provides semi-annual crime data for Central (downtown Halifax), East (Dartmouth), and West (Bedford to Sambro Loop) divisions.

Here is a summary comparing July–December 2024 to the same period in 2023:





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### Crime Trends

- Crimes against persons have decreased by 4.77%
- Homicides down from 4 to 1
- Assaults down 5% (67 fewer cases)
- Attempted murders increased from 3 to 6
- West Division saw a 3% increase in these crimes

### Crimes Against Property

- 20% increase (1,143 more incidents reported)
- Central Division saw the highest increase in property crimes (55% rise)
- Theft over \$5,000 up 39% (29 more cases)
- Theft under \$5,000 up 29% (1,190 more cases)
- Break & enter down 11% (49 fewer cases)
- Motor vehicle theft down 10% (15 fewer cases)

### Federal Crimes

- 9.6% decrease
- General Federal Crimes (Firearms Act, Youth Criminal Justice Act, etc.) up by 6 cases

### Traffic & Enforcement

- Traffic collisions up 8% (169 more incidents)
- Summary Offence Tickets up 15% (463 more tickets)
- Central Division had the largest increase in tickets (27% rise)

### NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA VOLUNTEERING



The Navy League of Canada supports over 10,000 young Canadians through Royal Canadian Sea Cadets and Navy League Cadets, the country's largest maritime-themed youth programs. With a presence in more than 230 communities, their programs rely on dedicated volunteers to mentor youth, develop leadership skills, and support local branches.

#### Ways to Get Involved:

- Volunteer with Navy League Cadets (Ages 9-12): Help youth build confidence, friendships, and life skills.
- Become a Navy League Officer: Mentor cadets weekly, run programs, and engage with families. No military experience required.
- Support at the Branch or Division Level: Assist with administration, governance, or program development.

Volunteers complete a screening process to ensure the safety and integrity of our programs.

To learn more, contact Nova Scotia Mainland Division President, Erica Smith at [ericasmith@navyleagueofcanada.org](mailto:ericasmith@navyleagueofcanada.org)



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### HRP RELEASE IMPAIRED DRIVING STATS FOR FEBRUARY



Halifax Regional Police charged 43 drivers with impaired related offences during the month of February.

- 22 for impaired driving by alcohol
- 4 for impaired driving by drugs
- 17 issued suspensions for consuming alcohol before driving

Police received 16 calls from people reporting suspected impaired drivers.

If you suspect someone is driving impaired, call 911 immediately with details, including the vehicle's description and direction of travel.

### WILDFIRE SEASON PRECAUTIONS

Wildfire season runs from March 15 to Oct. 15. While burning restrictions are in effect year-round, additional restrictions are in effect during wildfire season.

Fire safety is key to protecting your home and community. Follow these tips every time you make an outdoor fire:

- Always check the daily burn restrictions before starting a fire to ensure it's safe and allowed.
- Never leave your fire unattended - unattended fires can spread quickly and become dangerous.
- Completely extinguish your fire - douse it with water, stir the ashes and repeat until everything is cool to the touch.

Through a voluntary process, residents may register to receive a wildfire risk assessment for their property using the FireSmart standard. The FireSmart program is a national initiative designed to help communities and property owners reduce the risk of wildfires. It provides education, guidelines and practical actions to minimize fire hazards in homes, businesses and public spaces.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the FireSmart program and more safety tips.



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### DISTRICT 4 BIRTHDAYS



Mr. Spencer Sparks of Lake Loon turned 99 on March 2

Mr. Aubrey Brown of East Preston turned 91 on March 13<sup>th</sup>

Ms. Velma Downey of North Preston turned 85 on March 20



Happy Birthday Velma Downey!

### STREAMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regional Council is 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.

### 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 Andrea Rowan at (902)490-7184.

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

11



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**Councillor Trish Purdy**

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