



### MESSAGE FROM BECKY

What a gorgeous July we are having so far – a time to celebrate our beautiful country and all the summer season has to offer. I am particularly pleased to announce that my second grandchild arrived safely on June 30. That makes two to love and cuddle with ♥!

There's lots going on around town this month, so make sure to mark your calendars for the Summer Series events, Pride, and much more!

I hope you are all taking some time to take advantage of our beautiful parks and trails during this time of year, and having a chance to take a break and enjoy time with family and friends. As always, please reach out if you have questions or concerns about your municipal services – I'm always happy to help!



# OUTDOOR POOLS AND BEACHES OPEN

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that the Commons, Bedford and Cole Harbour outdoor pools, as well as all supervised municipal beaches, are now open!

A full list of supervised beaches can be found online. Please note that Taylor Head Beach will now be supervised and Malay Falls will no longer be supervised.

Municipal staff regularly test the water quality for bacteria levels, blue-green algae, and other waterborne contaminants at all supervised municipal beaches from July 1 to Aug. 31. For more information, check out our website.

### ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Did you know, the Halifax Regional Municipality has a variety of adaptive equipment available to borrow to help you get out and about this summer? Try out our Hippocamps, Beach chair or GRIT chair today!

For further information please email inclusion@halifax.ca

**DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE** 

### **SUMMER SERIES EVENTS**

The Halifax Regional Municipality is hosting and promoting a variety of activities through its Summer Series, running from June to early September.

Events include live music, family-friendly activities and fireworks. Many events are free for residents. Here are some of the events happening this month:

July 13 - DDBC Sullivans Pond Summer Concert Series – Sullivan's Pond on the Bandshell Stage

July 20 - <u>DDBC Sullivans Pond Summer</u> <u>Concert Series</u> – Sullivan's Pond on the Bandshell Stage

July 25- 27 – NOVA Multi Fest – Dartmouth Waterfront

July 27 – <u>JCANS</u> - Dartmouth Waterfront

July 27 - <u>DDBC Sullivans Pond Summer</u> <u>Concert Series</u> – Sullivan's Pond on the Bandshell Stage

July 29 – August 4 – <u>Buskers Festival</u> – Halifax Waterfront

Check out more details, here.



A busy Canada Day at Fishermans Cove!

# NORTH WOODSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE PARK FEEDBACK

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to provide feedback on future changes to the North Woodside Community Centre Park.

The North Woodside Community Centre Park provides recreational space for several Dartmouth-area neighbours – serving as a community hub alongside the North Woodside Community Centre. While the municipality owns the community centre, it is managed by the North Woodside Community Association Board, which is a volunteer-led, non-profit organization.

The survey is available on Shape Your City and will remain open until Wednesday, July 23. feedback will guide park improvements and future investments – including ways to increase accessibility, improve recreation service delivery and enhance safety and park aesthetics.

### **URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN**

Halifax's updated Urban Forest Management Plan has been approved by Regional Council. The plan outlines a long-term strategy to grow, protect, and care for the region's urban forest over the next 25 years.

The plan includes five objectives, 17 strategies, and over 100 actions—such as planting at least 1,000 net new trees annually and was shaped through extensive public engagement in 2024, including input from historically underrepresented communities. It emphasizes climate resilience, community health, and inclusive stewardship of the urban forest.

Learn more and view the plan at <u>Shape Your City Halifax</u>.





DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE



Thank you to our major sponsors: HALIFAX & Province of Nova Scotia as well as our local businesses that have supported us over the years!

# INCREASE IN THEFTS FROM VEHICLES

Halifax Regional Police has reported a rise in thefts from motor vehicles across the municipality. From January to May 2025, there were 584 reported incidents, with a steady increase each month since February.

These thefts are often crimes of opportunity. Police are reminding residents to lock their vehicles, remove valuables—including wallets and electronics—and avoid leaving items in plain view.

To report a theft, call **902-490-5020** or use the online crime reporting tool. For suspicious activity, contact police or submit an anonymous tip to **Crime Stoppers** at **1-800-222-TIPS (8477)** or

crimestoppers.ns.ca.

### HALIFAX PRIDE WEEK



The 2025
Halifax Pride
Festival is
just around
the corner,
taking place
July 17 to 27
across our
municipality!
For 11 days,
we'll come
together to
celebrate the
strength,
spirit, and

vibrancy of our 2SLGBTQIA+ communities through more than 30 Signature Festival Events and 100+ community-led gatherings.

The Halifax Pride Parade will take place on Saturday, July 19 at 12 p.m. This parade is one of the city's most cherished community events, bringing people together to celebrate identity, show solidarity, and stand up for equity. If you're part of a group that wants to join in, I encourage you to get involved and help make this incredible day even more powerful.

This festival is about connection, activism, and creating spaces where people of all sexualities and gender identities can flourish. Halifax Pride's guiding principles – community, self-expression, and growth – are a reminder of the ongoing work we all share in building a more equitable society, free from oppression.

### 4

## **COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT**

**DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE** 

### **HEAT SAFETY**

Extreme heat events can occur in Nova Scotia, typically between July and September, and are characterized by temperatures remaining high during the day and night for several consecutive days.

During extreme heat events people are at risk of overheating or other heat-related illnesses. Temperatures may also be hotter in tall structures (like apartment and office towers) and in direct sunlight. Everyone should take precautions when temperatures rise. The following precautions may help mitigate impacts of extreme heat:

- Dress appropriately and wear sunscreen. Be sure to wear a hat and loose layers of light-coloured clothing.
- Stay hydrated. Have lots of cool drinks available and be sure to drink before you feel thirsty. Hydrating foods are also helpful. Stay away from sugar and alcoholic drinks as these can dehydrate you.
- Keep cool. Stay indoors and avoid physical exertion during extreme heat events. If you plan to spend time outdoors, or will be working outdoors, take breaks from the sun by spending time in a cool place such as a treeshaded area or an airconditioned space including public libraries or recreation facilities such as pools or splashpads.
   Schedule your outdoor activities carefully and try to keep them limited to early mornings and evening hours when it is cooler.

- Draw curtains at home during peak hours and use a fan or air conditioner. Drawing curtains helps avoid passively heating your home.
- Frequently visit neighbours, friends, and older family members, especially those who are chronically ill, to ensure they are cool and hydrated. Infants, young children and other high-risk individuals need frequent watching.
- Keep your pets hydrated and in a shady area.

Visit the <u>Government of Canada website</u> for information and statistics about extreme heat events in Canada as well as other general resources to help you prepare.

Download the municipality's <u>Preparing for</u>

Extreme Weather and Climate Change Impacts
guide which includes a full page on preparing
and mitigating extreme heat.





**DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE** 



Thank you to the volunteers who came out to Quigleys Corner in EP to spread 7 yards of mulch to renew the corner for the summer months. The little area is part HRM right of way and part private property (Funeral Home parking). A group of us were able to get the large boulders and artwork last year, and now with the new mulch, it looks amazing!

### **HALIFAX INDEX**

Last month, the Community Planning and Economic Development committee received a presentation from the Halifax Partnership on the Halifax Index. The Index compiles local statistics about our economy, communities, and quality of life in Halifax.

While we are still facing severe challenges with housing and affordability, things are looking up for our municipality. In 2024, HRM's population grew to 503,000, we have the strongest job growth in many years, and our housing construction is still hitting record highs.

You can find the full presentation here.

### **NEW OPEN DATA SETS**

The Halifax Regional Municipality has released four new datasets on Open Data, as part of an ongoing commitment to provide public access to data created and managed by the municipality. Details here.

### **NOVA SCOTIA POLICING REVIEW**

On June 25, the Province released the findings of their comprehensive policing review. They will introduce six foundational changes and expand the role of the provincial police to improve public safety:

- establishing a single police records system to replace the three that currently exist
- adding community safety personnel
- ensuring appropriate policing staff levels across the province
- establishing community safety boards
- augmenting provincial police standards
- introducing a new RCMP billing mechanism for municipalities.

The Province will also move ahead with further strengthening of police standards, which every police agency must meet. The government will work with those that cannot meet the standards through expansion of the provincial police – currently the RCMP – which delivers policing services in most areas of Nova Scotia. You can find Deloitte's final report <a href="here">here</a> and the full comprehensive policing review here.



HRFE at the Horizon Elementary School Spring Fling! Thank you to all the volunteers, staff, and teachers for making this happen!



**DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE** 



Another great Lobster Dinner event in support of Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation!

### WEEKLY GREEN CART COLLECTION

Weekly green cart collection returns across the municipality starting Monday, July 21, and will continue until Friday, Sept. 12.

This enhanced summer service is a helpful way to manage food waste during peak heat months. While in previous years it ran through the full summer, Regional Council approved a slightly shorter collection period this year as part of the 2025–26 municipal budget process.

To ensure pickup, please have your green cart at the curb by 7 a.m. on collection day—and remember to keep items secured from wildlife. The easiest way to confirm your schedule is by checking the Halifax Recycles app or visiting halifax.ca

Here are a few simple tips to keep your green cart clean and odour-free during the heat:

- Wrap wet food waste in boxboard or newspaper
- Use paper liners in your mini-bin and green cart
- Empty your mini-bin daily
- Place your cart at the curb even if it's not full
- Freeze food scraps until collection day
- Store your cart in a shaded, wellventilated area

Thank you for doing your part to keep our community clean and green!



Very happy to share that District 3 Capital funds supported gender neutral and accessible washrooms at the Buffalo Club in Eastern Passage.

### **MAY IMPAIRED DRIVING STATS**

Halifax Regional Police charged 47 drivers with impaired related offences during the month of May. 27 were charged with being impaired by alcohol, five were charged with being impaired operation by a drug and 15 drivers were issued driving suspensions. Of the 47 drivers, 23 calls were received from people who suspected impaired driving. We thank the public for reporting suspected impaired drivers and encourage anyone to call 911 immediately if they suspect someone is driving impaired.



**DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE** 

### **BIKE LANE UPDATE**

At the June 24 meeting, Council voted in favour of a motion regarding bike lane projects after defeating Mayor Andy Fillmore's motion the previous week to temporarily pause awarding any new bike lane design or construction capital project contracts until Council received a supplementary staff report.

The new motion will initiate a staff report outlining:

- A list of AAA bike network capital projects proposed for the 2026–2029 fiscal years and their estimated budgets;
- An assessment of alternative network solutions that could reduce future costs; and
- Opportunities for additional external funding sources.

The motion also included a request to break down project budgets by general traffic, public space, pedestrian, and bike lane components. A proposed amendment to include a full costbenefit analysis was not adopted. The requested staff report is expected to return to Council in December. For more information on our bike lane network, check out our website.



New Shearwater Flyer Off-Leash Dog Park!



Proud to support the Island View High Pickleball Tournament fundraiser!

### **COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS**

Halifax Regional Council has approved 63 grant awards through the 2025/26 Community Grants Program, totaling \$476,430 in funding to support a wide range of non-profit and community-led initiatives.

Congratulations to the Seaside Broadcasting Corporation, the Dartmouth Senior Citizens Service Centre Commission, the Kiwanis Club of Cole Harbour Westphal and many more – we're looking forward to seeing how your projects can continue to positively impact our communities!

For more information, read the <u>staff report</u>.





**DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE** 



### **TEST DRIVE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE**

Curious about what it's like to drive an electric vehicle (EV)? Now's your chance to find out! The municipality's Clean Energy team is once again partnering with Next Ride to offer free EV test drives this summer. Last year, 338 residents had the chance to get behind the wheel, learning firsthand how EVs perform and how our growing charging network supports their use.

With more Level 2 and Level 3 fast chargers being installed across the municipality, it's easier than ever to consider making the switch to electric. Whether you're interested in reducing your emissions, saving on fuel, or just curious about the technology - This is a great opportunity to learn more! Sixteen events are scheduled for this year, and some locations do fill up quickly. You can find full event details and learn more about the municipality's EV charging network <a href="heteroscienter">here</a>.

# WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING PERSONS

On July 30, we pause to reflect on the devastating impacts of human trafficking, a crime that continues to thrive in the shadows, even within our own communities. As we mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025, we're reminded that this global crisis is ongoing and growing in scale, reach, and violence.

This year's campaign, "Human Trafficking is Organized Crime – End the Exploitation," shines a light on the powerful criminal networks driving this exploitation. From 2020 to 2023, more than 200,000 victims were identified globally, yet we know that's only a fraction of the true toll. Victims are trafficked farther, held longer, and subjected to greater harm, all in pursuit of profit.

Organized crime is at the root of this crisis, using migration routes, global supply chains, digital platforms, and economic loopholes to fuel forced labour, sexual exploitation, and coercion into criminal activity.

Despite growing awareness, we must do more. The campaign calls on governments, law enforcement, civil society, and citizens to take stronger action through cross-border cooperation, tougher laws, smarter technology, and victim-centred supports. We need justice systems that hold traffickers accountable while protecting survivors with dignity and care.

As community members, we also have a role to play: learning the signs, supporting awareness efforts, and sharing reporting resources. By doing so, we help build a future where every individual can live free from exploitation. To learn more, visit their website.



**DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE** 

### HRM MOVES TO BLUESKY



As directed by Regional Council, and following a recent staff report, the municipality will be phasing out its use of X (formerly Twitter) and moving to Bluesky, a growing platform

where users can view short posts that include text, images, and videos.

This change reflects feedback from the public, emerging trends in other jurisdictions, and input from provincial and partner organizations.

The following official Bluesky accounts are now active:

- <u>@hfxgov.bsky.social</u> (main municipal account)
- @hfxtransit.bsky.social (Halifax Transit)
- <u>@hfx-fire.bsky.social</u> (Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency)
- @hfxevents.bsky.social (Halifax Events)
- <u>@hfxrec.bsky.social</u> (Halifax Parks & Recreation)
- <u>@hfxplanning.bsky.social</u> (Planning & Development)

Content on Bluesky will mirror what has traditionally been posted to X—such as updates on programs, services, events, disruptions, and emergency notifications. While an account is not required to view content on Bluesky, residents can follow and engage more actively by signing up.

Municipal X accounts will be discontinued by July 14, 2025.

This change does not affect Halifax Water, Halifax Regional Police, or Halifax Public Libraries, as they manage their own social media platforms independently. Residents are encouraged to stay informed through a variety of channels:

- Sign up for hfxALERT for emergency and operations notifications
- Download the HFX Recycles app for solid waste info and reminders
- Use the HFX GO app for transit fare payments and service updates
- Visit halifax.ca/news for the latest PSAs and news releases
- Explore Shape Your City Halifax to participate in municipal engagement
- Subscribe to the municipality's RSS feeds
- Call 311 with any questions

#### FLOOD READY



Floods happen in the HRM and climate change is increasing the risk. With the new municipal flood maps and resources, you can learn what flooding is; where it could flood; how the municipality is

building resilience and how to get flood ready.

Learn more here.





DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE

# COUNCIL APPROVES NEW REGIONAL PLAN



Halifax Regional Council has approved a new Regional Municipal Planning Strategy to guide development as the municipality prepares for a population that could reach one million by 2050.

The updated plan replaces the 2014 version and sets policies for how and where growth should occur, aiming for 75 per cent of new development in serviced urban areas. It also expands environmental buffer zones, supports commercial solar projects in rural zones, and allows short-term rentals on rural lots.

The plan includes changes required by the province's Minimum Planning Requirements, such as allowing residential uses in most zones and lifting bedroom mix requirements until 2027.

With the plan now approved, staff will move ahead with suburban planning work and a strategic growth and infrastructure plan to assess future servicing needs.

You can find out more about the Regional Planhere.

### STUDENT TRNASIT PASS PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Council approved the extension of the Student Transit Pass Pilot Program through the 2025-26 school year. Students in grades seven to 12 who attend junior high and high schools within the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) catchment areas will continue to have access to unlimited travel on Halifax Transit buses, Access-A-Buses and ferries.

Regional Council has also approved expansion of the program to include registered homeschooled students in grades seven to 12 who live in the region. Homeschooled students will also receive a free Halifax Transit pass by presenting proof of homeschool registration at municipal Customer Contact Centres.

First launched in 2021, the continuation of the program has been made possible through a funding agreement between the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Province of Nova Scotia. Two surveys, conducted in fall 2024 and winter 2025, highlighted the program's positive impacts on student independence, confidence and increased transit usage, as reported by both students and parents. For more information, read the staff report.



Happy 30th Anniversary North Woodside Community Centre!



**DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE** 

#### LAWN MOWING

As we move into the growing season, residents are reminded that they are responsible for mowing the grass in front of their properties, including the strip between the sidewalk and the road, known as the right of way.

While the municipality previously mowed some of these areas, particularly along major streets with a high number of non-residential properties, that approach changed with budget adjustments in recent years. For the 2025 season, maintenance of these grassy strips is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

Under the <u>Streets By-law (S-300)</u>, all property owners, including landlords and owners of commercial or private residential properties, are expected to keep the grass on their property, as well as the adjacent right of way, trimmed to a reasonable height of about six inches. The municipality does not mow grass on privately owned properties or sites owned by other government agencies.

If a complaint is received about long grass, a Compliance Officer will inspect the site. If the property is found in violation, the owner will receive an Order with a deadline to cut the grass. If the work isn't completed by that date, the municipality will hire a contractor to do the work, and the cost will be billed back to the property owner and applied as a lien on the property.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep our community looking its best.

### **TICK CHECKS**

As we spend more time outdoors, it's important to be aware of ticks and how to protect yourself. Ticks can be found in wooded areas, tall grass, and shrubs — even in urban parks and backyards.

To reduce your risk:

- Wear light-coloured clothing to spot ticks more easily
- Tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants
- Do a full body check after being outdoors
   on yourself, children, and pets
- Shower within two hours of coming inside

For more information on tick safety and prevention, click <u>here.</u>

### **OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS**



Select playing fields are available as off-leash dog areas from June 1 – November 1. Learn more on our website.

Please note that dogs must be on leash in municipal

parks unless signage indicates otherwise.

### **NATURAL PLAYING FIELDS**

Game on! Natural ball diamonds and playing fields are now open for play.

Find up-to-date information on field conditions here.



**DARTMOUTH SOUTH - WOODSIDE - EASTERN PASSAGE** 

#### 311 CONTACT CENTRE

More than a telephone number, 311 is your direct connection to municipal services. Email <a href="mailto:contactus@311.halifax.ca">contactus@311.halifax.ca</a> or call 311 and speak to our helpful operators for information about anything HRM-related: property taxes, illegally parked vehicles, recreation services, pet licenses, by-law concerns, litter and more:

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

# FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN DISTRICT 3

Barbara Adams, MLA/ Eastern Passage barbadamsmla@gmail.com
902-406-0656

Brad McGowan, MLA/ Cole Harbour – Dartmouth jbgmcgowan@gmail.com 902-424-2731

Darren Fisher, MP/ Dartmouth-Cole Harbour darren.fisher@parl.gc.ca 902-462-6453

### **BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

I'm pleased to be serving on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council for this term:

Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council (Chair)

Regional Centre Community Council (Vice Chair)

Board of Police Commissioners Appeals Standing Committee (Chair) Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Canadian Capital Cities Organization

### STREAMING REGIONAL COUNCIL

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

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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:

## **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.

#### CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **becky.kent@halifax.ca or 902-478-5368.** For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at 311.

To reach my office, please call Nadine Yuriev at **902-490-1577**.

For information on all things municipal, please visit our website.

