



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

**COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY DROP-IN**

**DEAR RESIDENTS,**

Happy July, District 4!

Summer is in full swing, and I hope you're finding time to unwind, recharge, and enjoy all that this beautiful season has to offer, whether that's a walk on a local trail, a day at the beach, or simply soaking up the sunshine in your backyard.

There will be no Councillor Community Drop-In for July, but we'll be back on Thursday, Aug. 8. Details can be found on the right column of this page. I hope to see you there!

As always, I'm here to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any municipal questions or concerns. I always enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Trish Purdy*



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, Aug. 8, 2025, from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

**TALK TRANSIT**

We want to hear from you!

Halifax Transit is seeking feedback about accessible bus stop features for passengers with vision-related disabilities, as well as Our Student Transit Pass Pilot Program.

Learn more and take the online [survey](#).



## COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

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### EXPLORING OASIS IN COLE HARBOUR – COMMUNITY DROP-IN!

We're hosting a special **Oasis Drop-In Session** to explore interest in launching the *Oasis Senior Community Connections Program* right here in Cole Harbour. This is a chance for local seniors, families, and community members to learn about the program, share ideas, and help shape something meaningful for our neighbourhood.

**Tuesday, July 29 6:00–8:00 PM**  
**Westphal Room, Cole Harbour Place**

#### What is Oasis?

Oasis supports older adults who are aging in place by offering social connection, wellness activities, and community-led programming—all in a local, accessible setting. Weekly gatherings might include coffee and conversation, wellness topics, arts and games, helpful resources, or guest speakers—co-designed by participants themselves. The program is low-cost to the community and coordinated by Spencer House with trained volunteers and program staff. If you're a senior or support a senior in Cole Harbour, we'd love to see you there. Let's build a supportive and vibrant community—together.

### Oasis Senior Community Connections Program

A Community-Led Initiative by Spencer House



#### What is Oasis?

The Oasis program aims to foster healthy communities for older adults living in Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC's). It supports seniors who can live independently with some assistance, emphasizing self-determination and tailoring programs to members' needs and desires. By collaborating with various sectors, Oasis provides a supportive environment in apartment buildings or community spaces, helping to prevent social isolation, enhance nutrition, and promote physical activity, enabling seniors to age with dignity at home.

Learn more at: [www.oasis-aging-in-place.com](http://www.oasis-aging-in-place.com)

#### Why Bring Neighbourhood Oasis to Your Community?

- ✓ **Enrich Community Life** for older adults through meaningful programs and activities
- ✓ **Flexible and Collaborative** Spencer House provides coordination and volunteers
- ✓ **Low Cost to the Community** We handle supplies, training, and leadership
- ✓ **Designed for Aging in Place** Supports wellness, independence, and community belonging

#### How the Program Works:

Our trained volunteer leaders work with a Program Coordinator to organize and facilitate weekly or biweekly gatherings in a common community space. Activities are co-designed with participants and might include:

- ☕ **Hospitality & Conversation**  
Tea, Coffee, Snacks, and Community Connection
- 📖 **Helpful Resources**  
Info on Local Services, Health Supports, and More
- 🎨 **Engaging Programs**  
Arts, Games, Wellness Topics, Seasonal Celebrations
- 🗣️ **Guest Speakers**  
Relevant Topics Chosen by the Oasis Participants
- 💬 **Peer Leadership**  
Participants Are Encouraged to Help Shape and Lead Programming

**Let's Build Community Together!**  **SPENCER HOUSE**  
here with friends

Allison Davis, Executive Director  
☎️ Spencer House Seniors Centre  
5596 Morris Street, Halifax  
✉️ [ed@spencerhouse.ca](mailto:ed@spencerhouse.ca)  
☎️ 902-421-6131  
🌐 [www.spencerhouse.ca](http://www.spencerhouse.ca)

### FLOOD READY



Floods happen in the HRM. With the new municipal flood maps and resources, you can learn what flooding is, where it could flood, how HRM is building resilience, and how to get flood ready.

Learn more [here](#).

### HALIFAX SUMMER SERIES



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. Plan your summer [today](#).



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### HALIFAX REC VAN



The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that the Rec Van will

once again be travelling across the region this summer. Starting Wednesday, July 2, the Rec Van will travel to different rural communities from Mondays to Thursdays every week. A range of recreation activities will be offered, including baseball, basketball, soccer, washer toss, giant checkers, archery, skipping and more.

Rec Van services are free for residents and open to all ages. The final day of the Rec Van will be Friday, Aug. 22. For more information, including the complete Rec Van schedule, visit [here](#).

### HALIFAX COMMON POOL & SPLASH PADS OPEN

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that the Halifax Common pool, located on the Halifax Mainland Common, opened on Sunday, June 15. All municipal splash pads also opened on June 15. The Halifax Common pool offers a 25-metre, five-lane swimming pool, three climbing walls, beach entry with play features and large universal change rooms. Access to lane swimming and open swims are free of charge and available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and hours of operation, visit [our website](#).

The municipality operates eight splashpads across the region. For more information, click [here](#). In July, splash pads will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

### UPDATE ON COUNCIL VOTE REGARDING BIKE LANE CONSTRUCTION

At the June 11 meeting, Regional Council considered a motion brought forward by Mayor Andy Fillmore regarding upcoming bike lane projects. I supported the Mayor's motion to pause the implementation of bike lanes.

The motion proposed that the municipality temporarily pause awarding any new bike lane design or construction capital project contracts until Council received a supplementary staff report outlining:

1. A list of bike lane projects proposed in the current four-year capital plan that could reduce vehicular traffic capacity and/or increase traffic congestion; and
2. An assessment of the feasibility of alternative network solutions that could achieve active transportation goals while maintaining or improving current traffic flow.

The motion was defeated in a 12–5 vote.

Following the vote, Council considered and approved a separate motion related to the [Morris Street project](#) directing staff to provide alternatives that would allow two-way traffic on Morris Street while still meeting the project's transportation goals. That report is expected to come forward at the July 8 meeting of Regional Council. A Brunswick Street alternative motion, which sought to maintain vehicular lanes while delivering a protected bike lane, was defeated.

At the June 25 meeting, Council voted in favour of a new motion requesting a staff report outlining:

June 2025



## COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

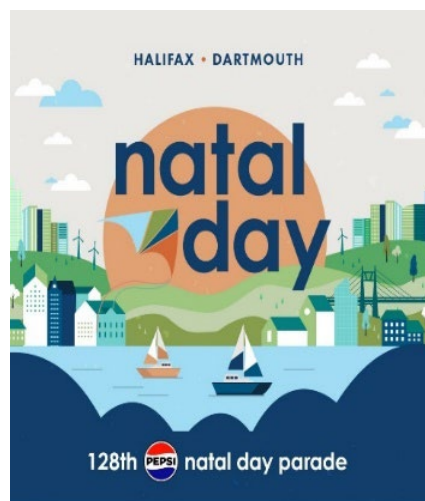
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- A list of AAA bike network capital projects proposed for the 2026–2029 fiscal years and their estimated budgets;
- An assessment of alternative network solutions that could reduce future costs; and
- Opportunities for additional external funding 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 cost-benefit analysis was not adopted. The requested staff report is expected to return to Council in December.

For more information on Council decisions or to review meeting materials, visit [here](#).

### NATAL DAY PARADE APPLICATIONS



The 128th Pepsi Natal Day Parade is scheduled for **10:30 a.m. on Monday, August 4, 2025.**

Float registration is now open, and applications will be accepted until **Friday, July 18.**

Learn more and apply for the parade [here](#).

### 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 [Streets By-law \(S-300\)](#), 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.



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### 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 the police or submit an anonymous tip to **Crime Stoppers** at **1-800-222-TIPS (8477)** or [crimestoppers.ns.ca](https://crimestoppers.ns.ca).

### ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE



We have a variety of adaptive equipment available to borrow to help you get out and about this spring and summer.

- Hippocamps
- Beach chair
- GRIT chair

For further information please email [inclusion@halifax.ca](mailto:inclusion@halifax.ca).

### MASTER COMPOSTER RECYCLER PROGRAM

The Master Composter Recycler program has had a few last-minute spots open up. This is a virtual class with 10 hours of instruction time online.

There is also an optional in person tour of the facilities.

The program begins next week, and will be held Wednesday evenings 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Summer Dates: Wednesday July 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

This free 5-week, 5-class course includes:

- how our waste system works
- tours of our recycling and organics facilities
- composting and waste reduction workshops

Interested in signing up? Fill out this [form](#)

Please note this program fills up quickly, there will also be a session in October. More information is available [here](#).





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### WEEKLY GREEN CART COLLECTION

Weekly green cart collection returns across the municipality starting Monday, July 21, and will continue until Friday, September 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](https://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, well-ventilated area

Please note: Printed collection schedules distributed before June 10 are no longer accurate. For the most up-to-date information, always refer to the app or municipal website.

Bi-weekly collection will resume starting Monday, Sept. 15.

### URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN



#### Urban Forest Management Plan

Discover how the municipality is growing a greener, more climate resilient Halifax

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.

Originally developed in 2013, the updated plan reflects current environmental priorities, equity considerations, and the needs of a growing population. It includes five objectives, 17 strategies, and over 100 actions—such as planting at least 1,000 net new trees annually.

The plan 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 [Shape Your City Halifax](https://halifax.ca/shapeyourcity)



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### RURAL TRANSIT INITIATIVE APPROVED BY TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE



The  
Transportation  
Standing  
Committee has  
approved a set  
of

recommendations to help strengthen transit service in rural communities across Halifax Regional Municipality.

The recommendations follow a review of the Rural Transit Funding Program, which was first implemented in 2014 to provide financial support to non-profit providers that serve areas outside Halifax Transit's main service boundary.

The report was based on extensive community engagement, a gap-and-needs analysis, and consultation with stakeholders, service providers, community members, and members of Regional Council.

Key initiatives include creating a Rural Transit Advisory Group to guide implementation, adding a new capital grants funding stream, developing a professional training and support program for providers, exploring fare integration with Halifax Transit, and preparing a Microtransit Service Plan to address gaps in service delivery.

This work is expected to proceed in phases starting in the 2025/26 fiscal year, with funding already approved in the current budget. Additional funding may be considered in future reports as initiatives move forward.

### STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PILOT PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Council has directed the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Province of Nova Scotia to extend 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 Halifax 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](#).

June 2025

**HALIFAX**

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### COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM SUPPORTS 63 LOCAL PROJECTS



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.

These awards reflect Council's continued investment in strengthening communities through arts, heritage, environment, recreation, and social services. Adjustments were made to ensure fairness and accountability, while allowing for flexibility in cases where matching funding was confirmed or project costs were reduced.

This program continues to demonstrate Council's commitment to building vibrant, inclusive, and resilient communities across the Halifax region.

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

### HALIFAX 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.



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### 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:

- [@hfxgov.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxgov.bsky.social) (main municipal account)
- [@hfxtransit.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxtransit.bsky.social) (Halifax Transit)
- [@hfx-fire.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfx-fire.bsky.social) (Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency)
- [@hfxevents.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxevents.bsky.social) (Halifax Events)
- [@hfxrec.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxrec.bsky.social) (Halifax Parks & Recreation)
- [@hfxplanning.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hfxplanning.bsky.social) (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](https://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

### WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS – JULY 30

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.

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 [here](#).



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### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025



It is always a privilege to attend graduation ceremonies and witness the incredible achievements of our students. Congratulations to the graduates of both Cole Harbour District High and Auburn Drive High! Your hard work, determination, and perseverance have led you to this special milestone, and a new chapter now begins. Wishing all graduates continued success in the years ahead. Well done!

A special congratulations as well to Sarah Ingalls, recipient of Auburn Drive High School's 30th Anniversary Award—what an outstanding accomplishment!



June 2025

### 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



**Stay Informed,  
Stay Connected**

Get the latest updates from  
**Councillor Trish Purdy**

Email [andrea.rowan@halifax.ca](mailto:andrea.rowan@halifax.ca) to  
subscribe to my monthly  
e-newsletter



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](#).