



COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

DISTRICT 4 ONLINE NEWS

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy December District 4!

It's hard to believe it is almost Christmas! Time surely has flown this year. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. May the holiday season bring you warmth and joy that lasts the entire year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind folks that the holiday season can be difficult for some. I encourage you to check on those who may be alone this Christmas and offer a helping hand if you can. A little bit of kindness goes a long way.

We have now begun our budget deliberations for the 2024/25 fiscal year. I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions pertaining to the process or items being discussed.

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

Sincerely,

Trish Purdy





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SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

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 program 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 program 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. Call 902-483-3678 for more information. You can download the 2023/2024 application package [here](#).

Completed applications may be faxed to 902-423-8530 or can be mailed or dropped off in person to:

Attention: YMCA Senior Snow Removal
Community YMCA
2269 Gottingen Street
Halifax, NS B3K 3B7



VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

We've launched a Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) for those who require more support during emergencies. The VVPR provides essential information to first responders, municipal staff and volunteers to help prioritize responses to residents' needs. Details can be found [here](#).





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COMMUNITY CORNER

Ross Road Realignment Update

As many of you are aware, there has been a push to realign Ross Road with the intersection at Lake Major Road. This would greatly increase the safety of this intersection by aligning it with a lighted intersection. Staff have advised that the project continues to move through the planning stages with the corridor geometry and survey work completed. Land requirements are being advanced along with detailed engineering design and preparation of tender documents for the project to advance to construction in 2026/27. However, this is contingent on the Council deliberations of the capital budget, set to take place on Tuesday December 12th. An update will be included in our January E-newsletter.

Provincial Affordable Housing Announcement on Sherwood Street

This past month the provincial government announced [three new Affordable Housing initiatives](#) in Nova Scotia with one being in Cole Harbour on Sherwood Street. The developer has been in contact with HRM Planning and Development and I have a meeting with the Executive Director of Planning and Development later this month to discuss this among other things.

When I find out details as to what to expect from the planning process, how community members can access information about the proposed development and send in correspondence, I will provide an update.

December 2023

PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY IN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

We've introduced virtual public participation for in-person meetings held in Council Chamber.

This option is now available for any meetings taking place in Council Chamber where there is an opportunity for the public to speak, including meetings of Budget Committee. This is in addition to a livestream of all meetings, which is available on the municipality's [YouTube channel](#).

In August 2023, Regional Council passed amendments to [Administrative Order One – Respecting the Procedures of the Council](#) to enable virtual participation.

Those who wish to participate virtually must register in advance by 4:30 p.m. the business day before the meeting. For more information, visit [our website](#).



TRANSIT CHANGES

As our city grows, so do our transit needs.

Halifax Transit has introduced new service to Bayers Lake, Burnside, and Dartmouth Crossing and brought back 55 trips on 26 routes, 12 of which will be returning to full service!

Learn more [here](#).



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NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#) is recognized annually on December 6. This day was chosen in memory of the fourteen women who tragically lost their lives in the École Polytechnique massacre on December 6, 1989. This act of violent misogyny led the federal government to formally recognize this day, with a goal to increase awareness around violence against women.

On December 6, honour the 14 women who lost their lives at Polytechnique Montréal by observing a moment of silence at 11 a.m. and wearing a white ribbon if possible.

It is important to remember that violence can affect women from all backgrounds regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, immigration status, ethnicity, education or income.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, police services, shelter and community-based organizations reported an increase in violent acts towards women, girls and gender-diverse people. Communities across Canada and the world began to see a [shadow pandemic](#) of increased violence against women. Due to calls for social justice regarding violence against women of colour, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, there has been an amplified awareness around gender-based violence in recent years.

How can you help?

Preventing and ending gender-based violence is everyone's responsibility. You can be part of the solution when you:

- Listen to and support survivors of gender-based violence. For example, you can learn about the experiences of Black and Indigenous survivors within our region with Avalon Sexual Assault Centre's recorded [learning event from 2022](#).
- Speak up when you see harmful behaviour and maintain confidentiality if someone in the workplace has experienced gender-based violence.

If you or a loved one is experiencing violence, speak with someone you trust about getting support.

- Call 911 if you or someone you know is in danger.
- To connect with community services including legal aid, counselling, family resource centres, housing, and accessibility support within the municipality, call 211 or [search online for community resources](#).
- See the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women's [Resource Map](#).

Learn more about gender-based violence [here](#) and by visiting [Ending Violence Association of Canada](#).





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IMPROVEMENTS, AMENDMENTS AND ADVANCEMENTS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE MUNICIPALITY

On November 14th, Regional Council passed a [series of motions](#) to amend, improve, and advance affordable housing in the municipality.



A full overview of the motions and background information can be found in the [staff report](#).

At the November 14th Regional Council Meeting, the motion was advanced that the [Administrative Order Number 2020-007-ADM Respecting Incentive or Bonus Zoning Public Benefits](#) and [Administrative Order Number 2020-008-ADM Respecting Grants for Affordable Housing](#) both be amended, so that money collected through the [Interim Density Bonus Program](#) can be used to fund eligible public benefits, including affordable housing, in the Suburban Area (outside the Regional Centre). This will ensure that the Halifax Regional Municipality can fund affordable housing projects throughout the entire municipality to ultimately support more residents in need.

Staff also recommend expanding eligible partnerships between private businesses and Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), by allowing eligible NPOs to lease privately owned property or housing and maintain their eligibility for Affordable Housing Grants Program funding.

Additionally, on November 14th, in light of [Bill 329](#) and the Interim Density Bonus Program, staff also recommend that, for the 2023/2024 Grant year, \$200,000 be allocated from the Housing Accelerator Fund to support suburban and rural affordable housing projects.

Finally, at the meeting, the motion was advanced for a review of the Affordable Housing Grant Program to be undertaken before the 2024/25 grant year to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of this program. For more information, read the full [staff report](#).

MOBILE YOUTH SUPPORT TEAM

WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

HAS YOUR COMMUNITY EXPERIENCED A CRISIS WHERE YOUTH HAVE BEEN IMPACTED?

The Mobile Youth Support Team offers debrief opportunities within municipal recreation centers specifically for youth when crisis occurs in a community and youth are impacted. When appropriate, the team may also visit alternative locations within community such as schools, churches and community centers to participate in debriefing and supportive conversations for impacted youth within their communities.

If you have experienced a crisis within your community and would look to touch base with the Mobile Youth Support Team please contact us.

Contact us:
DM on Instagram: @hfxnextgen
Email: youth@halifax.ca

Text/Call:
Youth Outreach: 902.476.2595
Youth Counsellor: 902.476.1668

 HALIFAX



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WINTER REC REGISTRATION

Get ready to register for Rec programs happening this winter!

To preview upcoming program PDFs, visit our [website](#) to see what's available in your community.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. each day for all ages:

Wednesday, December 6 - All dryland programs

Thursday, December 7 – Skating and aquatics programs

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



December 2023

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10 to commemorate the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR). This year commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The UDHR is a milestone document, which consists of a preamble and [30 articles](#) that sets out a broad range of fundamental human rights and freedoms to which all of us, everywhere around the world, are entitled. It guarantees our rights regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Available in more than [500 languages](#), it is the most translated document in the world.

In its preamble, the UDHR also highlights the “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

To learn more about the 75th anniversary of the UDHR and Human Rights Day, click [here](#).

HALIFAX



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2024 VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Each year the Mayor and Halifax Regional Council recognize the extraordinary contributions of outstanding individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in our communities. This annual event puts a spotlight on amazing people who give of their time in our Municipality.

There are three categories in which to nominate deserving volunteers: Youth, Adult, or Group. You can download the form or nominate online. Both versions of the forms can be found [here](#). Please select the appropriate form and returned to volunteerhelp@halifax.ca by **January 11, 2024**.

This is a scored process. Please provide as much information on your nominee as possible. If you require any clarification or to find out if nominees have received the award in the past, please contact Darren Hirtle at 902-476-1184. Learn more [here](#).



PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS VENUES STUDY

The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking public input on the Performing & Visual Arts Venues Study.



Happy Cities, on behalf of the municipality, are conducting a study of performing and visual arts venues across the region. The study will help improve the municipality's understanding of professional art venue operations, identify challenges facing existing art venues, identify the needs of the local arts and culture community and inform the municipality's long-term approach to supporting, renewing and investing in professional arts venues.

As part of the Performing & Visual Arts Venues Study's engagement program, Happy Cities is seeking feedback from users of performing and arts venues on their experience with these facilities. Happy Cities is also releasing a second survey to collect input from Indigenous artists and peoples.

There are two surveys available: a [Public Survey](#) and an [Indigenous Residents Survey](#). The surveys will remain open until **Friday, December 15**.

The Performing & Visual Arts Venues Study is expected to be completed by June 2024, and may lead to the creation of a Professional Arts Venues Plan.



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SNOW SEASON IS HERE

With each weather event, snow clearing crews are responsible for approximately 3,844 lane kilometres of streets and about 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks! We can't control Mother Nature or what this winter has in store, but if we work together, we can all be better prepared for whatever the season may bring.

For more information on our municipality's Winter Operations program, and tips to help you prepare for inclement weather, please visit our [website](#).

SERVICE STANDARDS:

HRM has service standards for streets, sidewalks, and bus stops and the timing varies depending on the priority level. We prioritize commonly used streets, bus routes and roads that provide access to hospitals and schools. When the snow stops, operators work as quickly and safely as possible to have all the roads cleared within 24 hours and major roads and bus routes within 12 hours.

Before contacting 311 about snow clearing, please ensure the service timelines for your area have expired. You can find detailed information about snow clearing service timelines on the interactive map or in the "when should clearing be complete?" section on the [website](#).

If your street or sidewalk has not been cleared by the indicated time in each chart, please e-mail ContactUs@311.halifax.ca or call 311 so crews can be dispatched to address the issue.

If an emergency vehicle needs to access a street, staff dispatch a plow immediately to that street.

Residents should note that in snowfalls greater than 30 centimeters or in blizzard conditions, more time may be needed to complete clearing. The same exception may apply when there are rapidly changing weather conditions. Crews will continue working until all streets and sidewalks are clear and safe. Of course, some roads are taken care of by the province, depending on where you live. Provincial road information can be found [here](#).

WINTER PARKING:

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect annually from December 15 to March 31. The ban is enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during declared weather events and snow removal operations only. Sign up for [hfxALERT](#) notifications to receive important updates from the municipality, including Winter Parking Ban notifications.

For more information on service standards, winter parking, and winter's impacts across our municipality, visit our [website](#) or keep up to date on clearing operations and municipal service updates via [@hfxgov on Twitter \(X\)](#).





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UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



There is one Regional Council meeting scheduled for December. **Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:**

- December 12

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

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

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 December 7.

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **trish.purdy@halifax.ca** or **902-240-3067**.

For routine municipal matters, please call our **Citizen Contact Centre at 311**.

To reach my office, please call Emily Simonov at **902-490-7177**.

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