



COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

DISTRICT 4 ONLINE NEWS

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy September District 4!

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer and were able to take some time to create memories with family and friends. As September begins, so does a new school year. I wish all those returning to school a wonderful year ahead.

As kids go back to school, there will be increased traffic in school zones. A friendly reminder to keep an extra eye out for kiddos crossing the street on their way to and from school. Back to school safety tips have been included below.

We have a couple upcoming public engagement sessions happening in our community regarding the Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and the Regional Plan Review. Details can be found in this newsletter. I encourage you all to attend and share your feedback with staff.

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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HAZARD RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



The Halifax Regional Municipality Emergency Management Division is currently conducting a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) to keep improving how we make decisions, understand community vulnerabilities, and mitigate emergency risks and hazards. The HRVA program will establish profiles and recommendations for action for each of the municipality's districts. Informed through comprehensive public engagement, these profiles will increase our understanding of human-, natural- or conflict-caused hazards that exist and how they increase community vulnerability. The recommendations will then be put into use and adapted based on continual review of HRVA profiles.

The easiest way to contribute to the HRVA is to attend a public engagement session and then contribute to our online survey. The public engagement sessions will introduce the process, gather local knowledge on historical hazards and likelihood of reoccurrence as well as to gather knowledge of emergencies occurring in the distant past.

District 4 Public Engagement Session

Date: September 20, 2023

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Location: Westphal Room, Cole Harbour Place, 51 Forest Hills Parkway

The information residents and related stakeholders have to offer about the potential hazards and risks that may increase the vulnerability of our communities is vital to the HRVA process.

For more information and to fill out the survey, visit our [website](#).

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. For more information, click [here](#).

National Day
for Truth and
Reconciliation

September 30th



Canada



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TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM 2022-2023

Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to announce 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 Thursday, November 30, 2023.

The Tax Relief Program for Non-Profit Organizations application forms is available online on the program's [website](#) or by e-mailing non-profittax@halifax.ca.

A dark blue poster with a white house icon containing a heart and a hand holding a heart. The word 'HALIFAX' is in the top right corner. Below the icon, the text reads: 'Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program' and 'Now accepting applications for 2024-2025'.

REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW POP-UP SESSION

The municipality is inviting residents to participate in the [Regional Plan Review](#) through several engagement opportunities taking place from now until the end of October 2023.

The Regional Plan sets out a common vision and long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining where, when, and how future growth and development should take place. It was adopted in 2006 and is reviewed approximately every five years to ensure that the plan still reflects the municipality's goals for growth and development. You can check out this short [video](#) for more information.

Have your say in the growth of our region at the following pop-up being held in our community:

Cole Harbour Place (Centre Court)
51 Forest Hills Parkway
Thursday, September 21
4 to 7 p.m.

Here, you'll have an opportunity to meet municipal planners to talk about your ideas for our community. Staff are also available to meet with interested community and stakeholder groups by request, by emailing regionalplan@halifax.ca or calling 902-943-3248.

Residents who would like to attend an event and require accommodation for accessibility are asked to please contact Planning Staff by emailing regionalplan@halifax.ca or calling 902-943-3248.



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IMPROVING HOUSING PERMIT PROCESSES IN HALIFAX



Regional Council and the development industry have expressed a shared interest in transparent reporting regarding the time it takes to get a permit to build or renovate. Council was presented Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that measure how long it takes to get development approvals and permits in HRM. This is crucial given the ongoing housing crisis in the Nova Scotia. The [staff report](#) and [presentation](#) presented in Council on August 22 outlines the current processing timelines for various application approval streams, sets targets, discusses recent improvements, and identifies obstacles, resource needs, and legislative changes required to consistently meet these targets. Staff will report on these KPIs twice a year, with the next report coming in January.

The staff report and accompanying presentation includes information on processing times and targets for applications related to development and construction, subdivision applications, and planning applications, which encompass rezonings, land use by-law amendments, and development agreements. It does not cover timelines for comprehensive policy work directed by Council, such as the Regional Plan Review and policy initiatives for planned growth areas.

A detailed overview of the current and target processing times, Subdivision Application KPI's, and Planning Application KPI's can be found on tables on page 3 and page 4 of the report.

While permit and development application processing faced significant challenges in 2021, considerable improvements have occurred. Municipal staff will continue to monitor and adjust staffing, processes, and tools to reduce wait times and achieve target timeframes for most applications. Transparency in approval wait times through the website and upcoming online dashboard will set service delivery expectations for citizens and elected officials. The bi-annual KPI report, along with the annual budget and business plan, will enable Regional Council to regularly review service delivery metrics and provide necessary support, direction, and transparency for service delivery expectations for citizens and elected officials.

COUNCILLOR DROP-IN

The following Community Drop-In sessions are planned for the month of September. Please feel free to drop by to discuss any municipal concerns or questions, I would love to see you!

Tim Hortons, Forest Hills Parkway

Thursday September 21, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Opus Café, Wilfred Jackson Way

Thursday September 21, 11:30-12:30 p.m.

Selby's Bunker, Cole Harbour Road

Thursday September 21, 5:00-6:00 p.m.



BE PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season is coming, are you prepared? In an emergency, it may take emergency workers some time to get to you. Have an emergency kit ready and be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for at least 72 hours. That includes your pets.

Make a Plan

Every household needs an emergency plan. It will help you and your family know what to do in case of an emergency. When making your home emergency plan, you will need to think about the following:

- Safe exits from home and neighbourhood
- Meeting places to reunite with family or roommates
- Designated person to pick up children should you be unavailable
- Contact persons close-by and out-of-town
- Special health needs
- Place for your pet to stay
- Risks in your region
- Location of your fire extinguisher, water valve, electrical box, gas valve and floor drain

Protecting Property

Securing your property against hurricane damage is essential. This may include reinforcing windows and doors, clearing gutters and drains, and ensuring that the roof is in good condition. For those living in areas prone to flooding, elevating electrical systems and sealing basement walls can help to mitigate water damage.

Staying Informed

Monitoring weather updates is vital. Our government agencies provide timely information on storm tracking, severity, and projected paths. Pay attention to evacuation orders and warnings issued by local authorities. Having a battery-operated weather radio on hand can ensure you receive information even if the power goes out. Sign up for [HRM emergency alerts](#) check our [website](#) frequently, and follow [@hfxgov](#) on twitter for municipal updates and information during a storm.

Review and Practice

Periodically review your emergency plan and supplies to ensure they remain up to date and functional. Practicing evacuation procedures with your family can minimize confusion and anxiety during a crisis.

In hurricane-prone regions, preparedness for the impending storm season is not an option; it's a responsibility. By understanding the risks, creating an emergency plan, safeguarding property, staying informed, engaging with your community, and regularly reviewing your preparations, you can increase your resilience in the face of these powerful natural forces. Remember, the best defense against a hurricane is a well-prepared and informed community working together to weather the storm.

Learn more by visiting our [website](#).





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BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY – SLOWING DOWN FOR STUDENTS

As summer fades and school resumes, prioritizing traffic safety in residential areas is crucial. When students return to school, keeping them safe on the streets should be a top concern. Here are essential tips and reminders for motorists and parents during this back-to-school season.

Respect Speed Limits:

Obey posted speed limits, especially in school zones. Reduced speed limits during school hours protect children traveling to and from school.

Yield to Pedestrians:

Always yield to pedestrians, especially near crosswalks and school zones. Children may not accurately judge traffic, so extra caution is necessary.

Eliminate Distractions:

Avoid distractions like cell phones and eating while driving in residential areas. Focus entirely on the road, as children might unexpectedly enter the street.

Stop for School Buses:

When a school bus stops, stop behind or in front of it as per local laws. Failing to do so endangers students and can lead to fines.

Promote Walking and Biking Safely:

Consider walking or biking to school for physical activity and reduced traffic. Use designated paths and wear helmets while biking.

Safe Routes to School:

Work with schools and parents to identify safe routes to school. This can include walking groups, carpooling, and advocating for better signage.

Educate Children:

Teach children road safety, emphasizing looking both ways before crossing, using crosswalks, and wearing reflective clothing in low-light conditions.

Back to school should be a safe and exciting time for all. By following these tips and fostering responsible driving practices in your community, we can ensure a secure environment for students year-round. Let's make our neighborhoods safer for children during this back-to-school season and beyond.





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REGISTRATION OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES

We are pleased to announce an initiative by the Halifax Regional



Municipality, aimed at elevating the rental landscape and fostering enhanced living conditions for our residents. Under the newly enacted By-law R-400, *Respecting Registration of Residential Rental Properties*, all property owners are mandated to register their rental properties via the [official portal](#) by the deadline of April 1, 2024.

Embracing diverse property types, including apartment complexes, income properties, single room occupancies, secondary suites, and short-term rentals, the Residential Rental Registry stands as a visionary project. This initiative will provide an accurate and comprehensive overview of the Halifax rental sector, rectifying the existing gaps in building information accuracy and detail.

The benefits are substantial. By aggregating a complete record of rental properties, our municipality will adeptly channel resources to where they are needed most, benefiting the occupants of these properties by optimizing service provision. Over time, the registry will empower us to proactively address maintenance concerns, mitigate complaints and non-compliance instances, and enhance the safety and overall quality of living for renters across the region.

September 2023

The Residential Rental Registry process encompasses three key phases:

Registration: Rental property owners are required to diligently complete the online registration form for their property(ies) by the April 1, 2024 deadline. There is no application fee associated with this process.

Review: Our dedicated municipal staff will meticulously review each registration. Should further information be deemed necessary, applicants will be promptly contacted.

Confirmation: Following successful review, the municipality will issue a unique registration number to each rental property owner, confirming their compliance with the By-law R-400 mandate.

It is imperative to acknowledge that non-compliance with this directive bears consequences. After April 1, 2024, property owners possessing unregistered rental properties may incur fines of up to \$10,000. It is crucial to understand that registration within the framework of By-law R-400 serves as an administrative commitment and does not confer authorization for the operation of a rental property. Furthermore, By-law R-400 stipulates the necessity for rental property owners to maintain an up-to-date maintenance plan for their respective properties, incorporating all elements regulated by By-law M-200, *Respecting Standards for Residential Occupancies*. A maintenance plan template, facilitating adherence to this requirement, is readily accessible online [here](#).



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UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for September. **Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:**

- September 12
- September 26

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.

September 2023

HEMDCC NOW STREAMED ONLINE

As part of continued efforts to support open and accessible meetings, webcasts are now available from the Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council Chamber (60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth), thanks to some recent technical upgrades. This means that all Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council (HEMDCC) meetings that take place at that location will be streamed online for residents to watch. This follows a soft launch webcast pilot that occurred at the HEMDCC meeting on January 12th. This pilot was a success and the [video from this meeting can be found here](#).

Where to watch:

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 October 5 at 6:00 p.m.

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](#).

HALIFAX