

Councillor Tony Mancini

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE -
DARTMOUTH EAST

DISTRICT 6
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024



DEAR RESIDENTS,

I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful summer season – I've been pleased to be taking advantage of our beautiful parks and lakes and seeing many of you on the trails as well.

As we come to the end of another Regional Council term, I've been reflecting on the massive shifts our municipality has seen in the last four years. We began this term during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and have since experienced significant population growth as a municipality – bringing both challenges and opportunities, plus the ever present pressures of climate change on our municipality.

In this newsletter, I will provide some updates on housing and homelessness initiatives, the LakeWatchers program, details about the upcoming municipal election and the new electoral districts plus much more.

I appreciate the opportunity I've had to serve this community, especially during such a changing time. Please continue to reach out to me with your questions, concerns or ideas about municipal programs and services. If you'd like to stay informed, please reach out to Laura Nooyen at nooyela@halifax.ca to subscribe to the monthly District 6 e-newsletter.

DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW

Significant changes to District 6 will be in place after the fall election as a result of the 2023 District Boundary Review. The new District 6 has a population of 26,822 and will include all of Woodlawn up to Wildwood Boulevard and around the Bell Lake area. It will go to Celtic Drive and

CONTACT US

Call 311 to reach the 311 Municipal Contact Centre, or visit halifax.ca/311 to report a municipal issue. Please call 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, except Christmas & New Year's Day.

CONTACT ME

You can reach me at 902.292.4823 or by email tony.mancini@halifax.ca or fax 902.490.4122

CALL MY OFFICE

Contact Laura Nooyen, Senior Council Constituency Coordinator by phone 902.490.1577 or by email nooyela@halifax.ca

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

Find me on Facebook, Twitter/X and Instagram @tonymancini_ns

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Police, Fire Emergency: 911

Police (non-emergency): 902.490.5020

Fire (non-emergency): 902.490.5530

Halifax Water Emergency: 902.490.6940

Councillor Support Office: 902.490.4050

Peddars Way to Oathill Lake and extend past Barry's Run and include Craighburn, all the way up to Spider Lake Road. Dartmouth North will become part of District 5. You can find out more about the new boundaries including a map of the new and old boundaries at halifax.ca/city-hall/elections/district-boundary-review.



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

The housing and homelessness crisis is continuing to impact us at the municipal level. As a temporary response to the homelessness crisis, Regional Council recently approved nine additional sites that could potentially be designated locations for encampments if the need arises.

The municipality does not support encampments or tenting as a solution for those experiencing homelessness, but this list will allow us to adjust to the changing levels of demand if needed. We cannot legally remove people experiencing homelessness from their tents unless an alternative housing option is available to them. If any sites are opened as designated locations, it would be a temporary measure until appropriate sheltering and housing options become available from the Province of Nova Scotia.

Information will be shared publicly, including the specific section or area permitted for sleeping rough if any of these sites become designated. To open any of the potential designated sites, detailed site preparation will first need to be completed by municipal staff including preparation of supports to people sleeping rough and mitigation of potential community impacts.

The municipality has also explored other options, including privately owned land and sought other space for encampments from provincial and federal governments. Municipal staff continue to regularly visit the existing four designated locations to ensure the services are adequate and to mitigate issues where possible. In addition, the municipality will continue coordinating with the Province of Nova Scotia and their service providers to ensure those experiencing homelessness have access to the support they need.

We are hoping to find more creative solutions, such as the extended opening of the Shubie Park campgrounds where people were able to shelter in their trailers last winter.

Update On Bancroft and Marketplace Potential Encampment Site

Staff are currently preparing a new site in Dartmouth at the intersection of Bancroft Lane and Marketplace Drive.

The new site will provide approximately 3000 square meters of space for tents and other site facilities such as toilets and garbage disposal. The project will involve clearing bushes and trees, grading the site, and preparing access roads and pathways. Concrete pads will be created for site structures such as bathroom facilities. The location of the site provides easy access to Halifax Transit and other amenities. The site itself will be fenced on three sides with permanent fencing allowing access only from Bancroft Lane. Vegetative buffers will be left in place to provide privacy for the site and businesses that are nearby. Preliminary design is ongoing, and staff will be seeking a contractor to complete the work. It is anticipated that the site will be ready for use in mid-September or early October 2024. The preparation of this site as a designated location will also include \$50,000 of clean up to an adjacent site also owned by the Halifax Regional Municipality.

While the site at Bancroft and Marketplace has been examined by staff and contractors the possibility of encountering an unknown issue during the preparatory phase of this work exists. Staff will address these issues if they occur and will provide Regional Council with an update as the work continues.

Municipal staff have recommended initiating five Civilian Led Response Teams (CLRT), a proven model used in other jurisdictions to respond to people experiencing a behavioural health crisis. The CLRTs would include a mental health professional, a social worker, a civilian compliance officer and a peer support worker that would be able to provide 24/7 support. As a result of my motion, the municipality has made a request that the province cover the estimated \$3,200,000 cost for the CLRT and we are awaiting their response.

LAKEWATCHERS PROGRAM

The LakeWatchers Program is in its second year of operation and I want to thank all the staff and volunteers for the amazing work you are doing to provide quality monitoring of our beautiful lakes. This program was reinstated in 2022 after I submitted a motion regarding the importance of water quality.

The LakeWatchers Program enlists the help of volunteer teams to collect and monitor data from vulnerable lakes



across the municipality. There are seven lakes within District 6 that are monitored through the LakeWatchers Program: Albro Lake, Lake Charles, Lake Micmac, Lemont Lake, Oathill Lake, Penhorn Lake and Topsail Lake. You can find the data they are collecting on the halifax.ca Open Data portal.

For the Spring Sampling, which occurred in April/May, 38 of 73 identified vulnerable lakes were sampled with the help of volunteers, but this number is looking like it will grow to over 40 during the Summer Sampling scheduled for this month. A summary report on the health of our lakes will be presented to Regional Council in October using the data collected in the LakeWatchers program. You can find out more and sign up to volunteer at halifax.ca/lakewatchers. Our lakes must continue to be a top priority!

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Election day is coming – and there are several ways that you can have your say. Every four years, the Halifax Regional Municipality holds a general election for both Regional Council and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial's (CSAP) Halifax-area school board members. Your municipal representatives can make a huge impact on your day-to-day lives – making decisions about policing, fire and emergency services, neighbourhood streets, community recreation, snow clearing, garbage collection and so much more.

In order to participate in the Municipal Election, you must be 18 or older, have lived in Nova Scotia for six months and have been a resident of the Halifax Regional Municipality since the first polling day and be a Canadian Citizen. **Make sure to check that you are on the voters list before August 30** by visiting our website halifax.ca/elections. If you're not on the list, just dial 902-490-VOTE(8683) to get added to the list.

Election Day is Saturday, October 19 but you can also cast your vote online or over the phone using your pin from your voter card from October 8 to 16, and can vote in person in advance from October 12 to 15.

The municipality is currently recruiting more than 1,200 election workers to serve in various temporary roles to ensure a fair, accessible and efficient election. Find out the details at halifax.ca/elections.

PARKS OF LAKE CHARLES DEVELOPMENT TRAFFIC UPDATE

The Parks of Lake Charles Development including 4,900 new single family homes, townhouses and apartments is well underway. This development was approved by the Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister in January 2023. During public consultation, residents raised concerns about the additional traffic strain this development could cause. The municipality has approved adding right hand turning lanes on Waverley Road to Montebello Drive and Breeze Drives and the province has approved twinning the 107 and adding an additional exit and connection to the highway from Avenue du Portage to help alleviate these concerns.

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

The past four years have been challenging ones, as we faced a global pandemic, community tragedies, wildfires, hurricanes and flooding and so much more. I'm so proud of the work Regional Council has completed in the last four years, delivering on our strategic priorities plan to make the Halifax Regional Municipality a place of healthy and vibrant communities, build a strong and diverse economy and a sustainable environment.

The following are Regional Council's Strategic Priorities that we set at the beginning of this four year term and some highlights of what my colleagues and I are working on to achieve success:

Prosperous Economy

A prosperous, welcoming and growing economy positions the municipality as a residential, business and tourism destination of choice, with economic opportunities for all. We are working to grow our economy strategically and inclusively with action plans such as the African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Action Plan, 2022-2027 Inclusive Economic Strategy and more. We are also investing in holistic planning, working to increase the housing supply as quickly as possible by reducing red tape and updating planning regulations with the Regional Plan and Suburban Community Planning updates. We continue to invest in talent attraction, retention and development with the Atlantic Immigration Program and the Halifax Connector Program.

In response to surging industrial land demand, Phase 13-1 in Burnside Park will provide key infrastructure for



the park expansion and comprise of approximately 120 net acres of industrial lot inventory, streets and services is almost complete. See our website for updates on available purchasing opportunities soon.

Communities

We are investing in safe, inclusive and affordable communities. A Public Safety Strategy and a new Community Safety department have been established, excelling in proactive initiatives and optimizing emergency responses. In 2020, we enacted the Density Bonusing Program that allows the municipality to require developers to ensure public benefits connected to development contributes to the public realm and livability of the area. Public benefits can be on the ground, such as public art, or can be received as money-in-lieu, such as funds to be used to support affordable housing or municipal park improvements. The municipality has been able to contribute to several affordable housing developments in the last four years and has also reduced other financial barriers for non-profit housing initiatives as a result of the Density Bonusing Program.

We have been investing in our public parks and recreation including the completion of Phase 2 of the Shubie Park Pump Track and upgrades to the Mt. Edward Road Dirt Pump Track. Pickleball has been flourishing in Dartmouth so we have expanded the Craig Blake Park courts to include five pickleball courts. We've also completed numerous upgrades to the Caledonia Road Skatepark and the Beazley and Woodlawn Park Ballfields, converted the Ira Settle Park to a permanent rugby field and the Don Bayer Park field to a Cricket Pitch. Additionally, we added an off leash dog park to the Don Bayer Park field, a public wharf on Lake Micmac, along with many additional other projects. The East Dartmouth Community Centre also has received some major upgrades both outdoors and inside over the past two years. We are hoping the renovations will be complete by the fall.

It's also important that we do what we can to make life more affordable during these challenging times. I, along

with some of my colleagues, partnered with Square Roots and the Mobile Food Market to provide free or low-cost food to families in need and I submitted a motion in 2022 to reduce barriers to the Recreation Funding Access Program that provides free or 50 per cent discounted recreation programs.

Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths as a municipality – we've enacted the Anti-Black Racism Strategy, Accessibility Strategy and Immigration Strategy to work on removing systemic barriers so everyone can contribute and feel involved in public life.

Environment

We aim to provide leadership in climate change action and environmental protection – both as an organization and a region. This begins with HalifACT, the municipality's Climate Action Plan. We have been completing deep energy retrofits of municipal buildings and we are working to decarbonize transportation and public transit with new electric buses.

I introduced a motion to commence an Illegal Dumping investigation program and the municipality continues to be a leader in recycling and waste management. I have worked closely with the province and other municipalities to establish the Extended Producer Responsibility program in Nova Scotia and the Halifax Regional Municipality.

We are working to ensure infrastructure and natural systems are prepared to withstand and recover quickly from climate impacts and to protect the environment including with Naturalization programs. Additionally, we are partnering with Halifax Water for a \$13.5 million project to stabilize and naturalize the Ellenvale Run in order to re-establish the natural habitat. I also recently introduced a motion to consider height restrictions around Lake Micmac to protect the lake for future generations.

You can find out more about the strategic priorities and all the initiatives we are doing to support them on our website at halifax.ca/city-hall/budget-finance/budget-strategic-priorities-plan.



Delivery Note:

Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.