

## Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities

#### **WELCOME SEPTEMBER**

I hope you all had a great summer! I'm looking forward to a few more hot, sunny days before Fall frosts start taking over, but it is time to get back to our regular routines. It's back to school season, and we all have a role to play in keeping each other safe – watch out especially in school zones and make sure to obey school zone speed limits, stop for buses and pay special attention near crosswalks. I'm wishing all of our students and teachers a safe, productive and fun school year! You'll find lots of details about opportunities to get involved with your community below in this newsletter, please continue to reach out to me with any questions or concerns about municipal programs and services. Have a great autumn!



#### **BIENVENUE AU MOIS DE SEPTEMBRE**

J'espère que vous avez tous passé un été merveilleux! J'espère que nous aurons encore quelques jours ensoleillés et chauds avant que les gelées d'automne ne n'arrivent, mais il est temps de revenir à nos routines habituelles.

C'est la saison de la rentrée scolaire, et nous avons tous un rôle à jouer pour nous protéger les uns les autres – soyez prudents, surtout dans les zones scolaires, et veillez à respecter les limites de vitesse de ces zones, arrêtez-vous pour laisser passer les autobus et redoublez de vigilance à proximité des passages piétons. Je souhaite à tous nos élèves et enseignants une année scolaire sécuritaire, productive et amusante!

Vous trouverez ci-dessous plusieurs renseignements sur les possibilités de vous impliquer dans votre communauté dans cette infolettre et n'hésitez pas à me faire part de vos questions ou de vos préoccupations concernant les programmes et les services municipaux. Passez un superbe automne!



HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

#### **SHORT TERM RENTAL RULES**

In a move to regulate the booming short-term rental (STR) market, Halifax Regional Council has taken significant steps towards establishing uniform policies and regulations across the region. These changes came into effect as of September 1.

STRs, such as those listed on platforms like Airbnb and VRBO, have gained substantial popularity in recent years as an alternative to traditional accommodations. This surge in popularity has sparked concerns about its potential impacts on residential neighborhoods and the long-term rental property market.

All STRs will now have to register with the municipality, encompassing both primary residences and secondary properties, like cottages or income-generating assets.

Additionally, the plan outlines a zoning approach, permitting STRs in residential zones only within the host's primary residences. In areas where conventional tourist accommodations are already allowed, commercial STRs would also be permitted. You can find the full staff report <u>here</u>.



#### YOUTH WORX PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking applicants for the Youth WORX Program.

Youth WORX offers 24 weeks of paid job and life skill building experience for youth ages 16 to 24 and who are not employed or attending school full-time.

Participants will gain hands-on work experience operating the <u>Youth WORX Café</u> in the Sackville Sports Stadium, as well as delivering and repairing green carts on behalf of the municipality. Further, participants will have the opportunity to attend job readiness workshops to improve their employability skills.

Visit the Dartmouth North Community Centre Activity Room (105 Highfield Park Drive, Dartmouth) Wednesday, September 13 at 7 p.m. to learn more.

For more information, residents can visit <u>our website</u>, call 902-490-5589, text 902-579-5446, email <u>youthworx@halifax.ca</u>, or message <u>@hfxnextgen</u> on Instagram.

#### **GENDER EQUITY WEEK**

September 18-26 is Gender Equity Week, an opportunity to celebrate the valuable contributions of women and gender-diverse communities while reaffirming our commitment to advancing gender equality.

Gender equality means that all gender identities have equal rights and opportunities.

While progress has been made, including achieving gender parity on Regional Council in the last municipal election, there is still work to do.

#### THE NORTH GROVE SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

The North Grove are looking forward to a great September! Join them to celebrate the year at their Annual Report to Community on September 19. Check out all the exciting programming happening in September on their calendar <u>here</u>!





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#### **REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW**

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 longrange, 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 <u>video</u> for more information. Have your say in the growth of our region at the following pop-up being held near you:

Saturday, September 16, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Alderney Landing Farmers Market

Thursday, October 5, 12 – 4 p.m. Woodlawn Library

Here, you'll have an opportunity to meet municipal planners to talk about your ideas for our community.

Residents who would like to attend an event and require accommodation for accessibility are asked to please contact Planning Staff by emailing <u>regionalplan@halifax.ca</u> or calling 902-943-3248. To learn more about the Regional Plan Review, please visit our <u>website</u>.





New judges tower on Lake Banook

#### LUCIEN DRIVE ROAD CLOSURE

Lucien Drive from Owen Drive to Dorothea Drive will be closed from August 28 – September 18 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays for pavement maintenance.

Local street access will be maintained. Motorists should expect delays and are advised to use alternative routes whenever possible.

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#### SQUARE ROOTS PROGRAM

The Square Roots program for Dartmouth is coming back! The new program will provide free 10lb bags of produce for pick up once a month.

Pick up locations are the Dartmouth North Public Library or the Fairbanks Centre. The following dates are planned for pick up, and you can sign up using the link on my <u>facebook page</u> the Monday before each pick up.

The following dates are planned for the next few months: September 15/16 October 27/28 November 17/18 December 1/2





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#### **BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY**

Students will be returning to school this week, and many will be busing, walking and riding their bikes to get there. With more people and vehicles on our roadways, motorists are asked to drive with caution and allow for additional time when travelling before, during and after school.

Keep in mind that the speed limit in school zones is reduced to 30 km/h in areas where the approaching limit is 50 km/h, when children are present. Where the approaching speed limit is higher than 50 km/h, drivers are required to reduce speed to a maximum of 50 km/h when children are present. By reducing your speed, you'll have more time to react to the unexpected and avoid an incident. Slower is safer, as children are sometimes distracted and do not always notice oncoming traffic.

Remember that passing school buses in either direction when the red lights are flashing, regardless of the number of lanes of traffic, not only puts people in danger, but is illegal and carries substantial fines. Motorists must also slow down approaching a school bus with flashing amber lights and prepare to stop.

Please avoid shortcutting in and around school areas if possible. Obey posted signs as well as crossing guards' directions, watch out for children crossing the street and remember that crosswalks are not always marked. Essentially, every intersection is a crosswalk, whether marked or unmarked.

Our officers will be paying extra attention in school zones throughout the month of September to educate motorists, enforce motor vehicle regulations and ensure a safe start to the school year.

Visit <u>Back to School Safety Tips</u> for more info.

## HAZARD RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The municipality is seeking input from residents on hazards, risks and vulnerabilities across communities. Feedback will inform the development of a comprehensive Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for each district.

You can attend the public engagement session on Monday, September 18 from 6-8 p.m. at the Fairbanks Centre or provide your feedback on the <u>survey</u>.

For complete details, visit our website.

TURNING YOUNG NATURALISTS INTO NATURE ACTIVISTS - YOUTH AND FAMILY WORKSHOP



## Recognizing and Stewarding Urban Birds

Join Nature Nova Scotia for a guided bird walk and afterschool art project on September 11th, 4-6 pm , Shubie Park, Dartmouth.



### TAX RELIEF FOR NON PROFITS

The Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program is now accepting applications for 2024-2025. This program can help some non-profit organizations reduce their annual property tax bill.

Organizations applying for acceptance into the program must submit a complete application on or before Thursday, November 30. The application forms is available <u>online</u> or by e-mailing <u>non-profittax@halifax.ca</u>





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#### HURRICANE SEASON PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane season is coming, are you prepared?

Every household needs an emergency plan. It will help you and your family know what to do in case of an emergency. During an emergency, make sure to stay informed. You can do this by signing up for <u>HRM</u> <u>emergency alerts</u> check our <u>website</u> frequently, and follow <u>@hfxgov</u> on twitter for municipal updates and information during a storm. Pay attention to evacuation orders and warnings issued by local authorities, and have a plan to monitor weather updates even if the power goes out.

It's also important to plan to protect your property. 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.

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 <u>website</u>.

## Marketing Levy Changes

By-law M-400, Respecting Marketing Levy, has been passed, replacing By-law H-400, Respecting Marketing Levy and includes the following changes:

 hotels currently collecting the levy will see the levy increase from two per cent to three per cent
 tourist accommodations will now be required to collect the three per cent marketing levy as well
 the first remittance will be due November 15, 2023

Learn more about the marketing levy changes at halifax.ca/marketinglevy. HALIFAX

#### **DARTMOUTH CONCERTS**

Dartmouth Community Concert Association (DCCA) has announced its 67th Season of classical-plus concerts. DCCA has an all-volunteer board of directors and has been a feature of Dartmouth's cultural scene since 1957, offering concerts on a low-cost membership or individual ticket basis.

See their <u>website</u> for ticket prices and more details. All concerts at 7 p.m. at the Woodlawn United Church. The next concert will be Saturday, October 14 and will feature Noël Wan on the harp.

#### WOODLAWN TRAFFIC CALMING

Traffic calming measures are being installed on Wanda Lane, Walters Street, Ellenvale, Day Avenue and Belle Vista Drive.

Speed tables were selected as the appropriate traffic calming measure for these streets. Speed tables encourage slower speeds of travel by causing discomfort for drivers travelling at higher speeds. There is no negative effect on cyclists riding at moderate speeds, and there is no effect on resident access or on-street parking. Transit buses can also traverse speed tables with minimal impact. With the construction of speed tables on Wanda Lane we expect slower vehicular speeds.

For more information on our traffic calming program, you can check out our website <u>here</u>.

#### MEMORY AND MENTAL HEALTH EVENT

Have you ever wondered how our memories impact our mental health? Do you want to learn how to practice techniques that improve memory and mental health? Join the Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish on Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Karen Chipman. Dr. Chipman is a neuropsychologist with the Nova Scotia Health Authority, her presentation will focus on memory issues for people living with a mental illness of any sort. All are welcome to attend. This is a free event. RSVP by calling 902-466-6183 ext. 2 to attend.





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#### HALIFACT COMMUNITY UPDATE

Wondering about the work HRM are doing to fight climate change? Concerned about how we're adapting to extreme weather and the risk of wildfires? Find out more about how we're coordinating climate action throughout the municipality by reading the latest issue of the <u>HalifACT community update</u>.

HalifACT is one of the most ambitious climate action movements in Canada. We're committed to keeping residents informed of the ways we're leading, collaborating and supporting the climate movement in the Halifax region.

Head to our website for more information on HalifACT.

## INCENTIVES FOR SECONDARY AND BACKYARD SUITES

Secondary and backyard suites will continue to be an important part of the municipality's efforts to address unprecedented housing need. Given the level of population growth and housing need, it is crucial to invest in all types of new housing options.

To further support secondary and backyard suites, the municipality is considering additional incentives and tools that could drive more participation. Find out more by reading this <u>staff report.</u>

#### **IMPAIRED DRIVING STATISTICS**

Halifax Regional Police charged 38 drivers with impaired related offences during the month of July.

Of the 38 drivers, 24 were charged with impaired operation of a conveyance by alcohol, five were charged with impaired operation of a conveyance by a drug and nine drivers were issued a driving suspension for operating a conveyance while having consumed alcohol. Of the 38 drivers, 13 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.



Mount Edward dirt pump track grand opening!

#### **TRANSIT SAFETY**

<u>By-law T-1200</u> has been approved, promoting safey, well-being and comfort for passangers and employees of Halifax Transit. Safety concerns such as vandalism, violence, and criminal activities have been recurrent challenges for Halifax Transit, and the absence of regulatory measures has hindered efficient enforcement and coordination with Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP to address aggressive behaviour and maintain passenger safety.

The four key objectives of *By-law T-1200* are to enhance passenger and employee safety, preserve transit property, ensure efficient transit operations, and foster a positive passenger experience.

It includes a list of prohibited activities, informing the public about appropriate conduct while using Halifax Transit services and will apply to all Halifax Transit property (vehicles, shelters, terminals, depots, park and ride facilities, etc.)

This by-law will make Halifax Transit a more reliable, efficient, and comfortable mode of transportation for the communities it serves. For more information, read the <u>staff report</u>.





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# To ALL Students Returning to School If you see any of the following:

-another student struggling to make friends
-another student being picked on
-a student who is new, shy, or not with the
"in crowd"
-a student who is eating lunch alone

# Be a Leader! Be a Warrior!

Say hi. Smile at them. Ask if you can sit with them. Include them. You never know what that person is facing inside or outside of school.

### HOUSING PERMIT PROCESS CHANGES

Given the ongoing housing crisis in Nova Scotia, Regional Council are assessing our Key Performance Indicators for Development Approvals.

The <u>staff report</u> and <u>presentation</u> presented 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. 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.

#### **BEE CITY**

The municipality's Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee received a <u>staff recommendation</u> <u>report</u> to consider applying to become a Bee City. The Bee City program is conservation initiative aimed at protecting pollinators like bees, birds, and butterflies that play a vital role in plant health and ecosystem balance.

To sustain Bee City status, program partners must annually demonstrate progress in improving pollinator habitats, educating about pollinator importance, and celebrating National Pollinator Week. Partners gain access to a network for learning and sharing best practices, fostering community pride and encouraging residents to take action on their properties.

The municipality already has ongoing initiatives that align with the Bee City program, such as encouraging residents to plant native pollinator species in <u>boulevard gardens</u> implementing <u>naturalization</u> pilot projects in parks, promoting community gardens, and accommodating beekeeping. The success of maintaining Bee City status relies on implementing the Naturalization Strategy, and is contingent on hiring a full-time Naturalization Coordinator within Parks and Recreation. Once the position is filled, the direction from Council is for the municipality to apply for Bee City status within one year.



Halifax International Fleet Week welcome. You can check out the Royal Canadian Navy on full display September 7 – 10. More details <u>here</u>.





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Trekking

848army@cadets.gc.ca https://registration.cadets.gc.ca/get-started.htm

## **MOBILE SPECIAL HOUSEHOLD WASTE** DEPOT

Residents looking to dispose of household special waste not acceptable for curbside collection can bring their materials to the following upcoming mobile household special waste depot events. The next event in our area is Saturday, October 7 at Mic Mac Mall, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

The municipality also operates a permanent Household Special Waste Depot at 20 Horseshoe Lake Drive. Dropoff times are on most Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The household special waste drop-off depots are open only to residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Business waste is not permitted. For more information on Halifax's solid waste program including updates on future depot events, please visit the website, download the Halifax Recycles app or call 311.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS**

Regional Council recently enacted two changes to Administrative Order One (AO1), Respecting Procedures of the Council that will make public participation in our meetings easier.

The first change will allow the public to be heard prior to staff reports being discussed at Standing Committees and Community Council meetings. The staff report introduces proposed changes to the order of business for Standing Committees and Community Councils.

Regional Council also received a report on hybrid meeting options. Within this report, staff advised they would bring forward a report including amendments to Administrative Order One to allow for virtual meeting participation for the public at meetings held in the Council Chamber. The transition to hybrid participation is expected in the fall of 2023, following legislative changes, training, and technology testing. Additionally, Administrative Order now incorporates gender-neutral language throughout, for clarity and inclusivity.



Speaking to the UARB about the **HRM District Boundary Review**  8

#### WINDMILL ROAD TRAFFIC DELAY

Asphalt repair is continuing on Windmill Road, from Fernhill Drive to Dawson Street. The work is expected to be completed by Monday, September 11. Work is taking place from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily. There will be lane drops with occasional stop and go traffic will be in place while work is underway. Motorists should expect delays and are asked to use alternative routes whenever possible.





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#### **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. You can learn more <u>here</u>.

#### **BREEZE AND CALEDONIA TRAFFIC DELAY**

Breeze Drive/Caledonia Road, from Stanfield Avenue to Waverley Road, will experience lane drops and stop and go traffic until September 22, Monday to Friday, from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. for natural gas pipeline installation.





CALL MLA TIM HALMAN



902 469 7353



COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI DISTRICT 6 HARBOURVIEW – BURNSIDE – DARTMOUTH EAST

(902)–292-4823 <u>Tony.Mancini@halifax.ca</u> PO BOX 1749 HALIFAX, NS B3J 3A5 <u>www.halifax.ca</u>

#### Currently serving on:

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Halifax Regional Library Board Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council Solid Waste Regional Chairs Committee Regional Centre Community Council Shubenacadie Canal Commission Special Events Advisory Committee

