



COUNCILLOR LORELEI NICOLL

DISTRICT 4 ONLINE NEWS

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL

Dear Residents

These have been very difficult times for all of us. In addition to dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, our province suffered a tremendous shock last week when a senseless act of violence claimed 22 innocent lives. On behalf of all District 4 residents, I offer my sincere condolences to the families of the victims and I want to let you know we are grieving with you.

fortunate enough to have known Heidi for many years as a mother, a wife and an outstanding member of our community. My thoughts and prayers are with her husband Dean, her children, Connor and Ava, her family and the RCMP family who have lost one of their own.

Many residents are suggesting ways we could memorialize Constable Heidi Stevenson who lived in Cole Harbour where we all loved her and will miss her tremendously. A close friend of the family has willingly offered to help by receiving these suggestions which will be discussed with the Stevenson family at an appropriate time in the future. Please forward any suggestions you may have to me and I will pass them on to the family representative.



One of our Cole Harbour residents, Constable Heidi Stevenson, sacrificed her life to save others. She is truly a HERO! I have been



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This tragedy has devastated our communities. We will grieve, we will support each other, and we will rise together!

Thank you to all first responders who put their lives on the line daily to protect us. Thank you for your service and your sacrifice!

COVID-19 Update

I hope everyone is staying safe and abiding by the rules set out in the Provincial State of Emergency. I know that we are all getting anxious to get things back to normal. By continuing to follow the rules, we are keeping our communities safer. We must all do our part to flatten the curve.

For up-to-date and accurate information, please check the [Canada](#), [Nova Scotia](#), and [Halifax Regional Municipality](#) websites.

Stay safe, stay well and stay home!

Please DO NOT call 9-1-1 for non-emergency purposes. Residents can call 3-1-1 and police non-emergency line at 902-490-5020. Access 211 to find non-municipal community and social services available in your area.

Nova Scotia offers COVID-19 testing to anyone who develops two or more symptoms. People must still call 811 to arrange a testing time.

Key Activities Underway

- In-person services are unavailable at Access NS Centres & Registry of Motor Vehicles Offices until further notice. There are extensions for some motor vehicle licenses, permits, registrations, and inspections. Learn more [here](#).
- NSHA launched an in-home blood collection service on Monday, April 27 for patients requiring urgent/time-sensitive testing for immediate diagnosis or management of chronic illness who are unable to leave their home due to illness, mobility challenges, isolation due to COVID-19, or risk of undue hardship. A patient's physician or nurse practitioner will initiate the request for this service through the NSHA Continuing Care referral process. Referred patients will be contacted by the local blood collection service to book an appointment for the in-home visit.
- While buildings are closed due to COVID-19, you can still register your child for school. Information on how families can register their child (Pre-Primary to Grade 12) can be found [here](#). If you need assistance email registration@hrce.ca or call 902-464-2000.
- Parks & Recreation staff started spring and summer maintenance activities on Monday, April 27. Staff is ensuring all parks are maintained to safe operational levels while beautifying these green spaces. Please be aware that this does not mean municipal parks are open.
- There is a Province wide burn ban in place.
- To continue to practice safe social distancing, there will be virtual special

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meetings of Regional Council on May 12 from 10 am – noon; May 26 at 1 pm; June 9 at 1 pm; and June 23 at 1 pm. Residents can click the video link on [Halifax.ca](https://www.halifax.ca) to “watch on web” and enter the webcast by selecting ‘join anonymously’.

- All customer service centres and Planning & Development counter services remain closed to the public. Services continue to be available online.
- Legal documents and appeals will no longer be accepted in person at City Hall. Residents are asked to fax these documents to 902-490-4208 or send by email to clerks@halifax.ca.
- All Halifax Public Library branches continue to be closed until further notice.
- Halifax Transit continues to operate on a reduced schedule. Changes to transit services can be found [here](#).
- Safety-related aspects of the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act continue to be enforced.
- Parking fees at meters continue to be waived and HotSpot fees will be set to zero until further notice.
- All municipally owned recreation facilities, community centres and arenas are closed until further notice.
- Applications for Rezoning, Municipal Plan amendments, Development Agreements, or Downtown Halifax Site Plan Approvals can be submitted via email to Carl Purvis – Planning Applications Program Manager at purvisc@halifax.ca.
- An [online form](#) has been created for all permit and sub-division application intakes.

Emerging Issues and Next Steps

- The application deadline for Community Grants Programs as well as the Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program have been extended until May 15th.
- The 2020 Volunteer Awards are postponed until further notice.
- The Youth Live Enviro Depot at 947 Mitchell Street is closed until further notice.
- The collection of residential refrigerant gas removal (CFCs) service has been suspended until further notice.
- Currently, the Otter Lake Waste Facility is not accepting cash as a payment method.
- The difficult decision has been made to reduce budgeted staffing levels by approximately 1,480 employees. These casual, temporary and seasonal employees who normally provide service to the public and they cannot due to the pandemic. This number includes more than 500 seasonal employees who are not currently employed but will no longer be hired this spring and summer as planned, including seasonal recreation staff. The municipality has also instituted a hiring freeze as part of the goal to minimize layoffs.
- HRP will proactively release updates each Monday and Friday to the public and media in relation to violations under the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act and Health Protection Act related to COVID-19.

To report violations related to the provincial state of emergency, call the police non-emergency line at 902-490-5020.



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Property Tax Deferral and Pre-Authorized Payments

Important changes have been made to taxation to provide immediate relief to both residential and business customers. As a reminder, if you pay your taxes by Pre-Authorized Payments (PAP) on a regular schedule (like bi-weekly or monthly) your payment due date(s) have **not** been changed and payments will continue to be withdrawn as originally scheduled. If you are experiencing financial hardship and would like to delay your regularly scheduled PAPs occurring between now and June 1, you will need to contact the municipality by calling 311, or by emailing cashmgmt@halifax.ca

If you pay the municipality in a lump sum only on due dates via PAP (i.e. April 30 and October 31), your April 30 payment has been automatically updated to June 1.

It is critical that those who can pay their taxes continue to do so in a timely fashion. Tax revenue makes up 82% of the municipality's revenue. Operating expenses total approximately \$100 million per month and, while the municipality is financially sound, a significant amount of cashflow is required to provide services, pay vendors and suppliers and continue with capital projects that support the economy. More information on the tax deferral process can be found [here](#).

Support for Business – Halifax Partnership

The Halifax Partnership is aware that this is a very challenging and uncertain time for our business community, our residents and our city. In response, the Halifax Partnership's

SmartBusiness team has shifted to an urgent support model. They are offering a fast and reliable service to assist companies (large and small) in navigating programs and resources available to the business community and troubleshooting challenges they may be facing due to COVID-19.

The Halifax Partnership's SmartBusiness program is over 15 years old and through a very established action team of 35 support organizations, they can quickly help a company navigate solutions through a one stop shop mechanism.

If you know of a business who could benefit from having Halifax Partnership's team assist with navigating COVID-19 relief programs, existing resources or in discussing the challenges they're facing, please direct them to Jason Guidry at the Halifax Partnership at jguidry@halifaxpartnership.com. The Partnership has also built an easy-to-use assessment tool that provides businesses with detailed information on wage subsidies, grants and emergency programs that they may be eligible to receive. Businesses can access the tool [here](#).

Site Preparation For A Building Inspection during COVID-19

To maintain social distancing, Developers and Building Standards staff must follow these steps to allow for continued building inspections:

- No persons are to be on site during the inspection except for one contractor or developer's representative (who has not traveled out of the province recently and is not showing signs of cough, fever or difficulty breathing). The Building Official



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will have the right to refuse another person being present or refuse to conduct the inspection. The applicant must have on site a set of the approved drawings and any other documents relevant to the inspection. Since HRM will be conducting many of the inspections without the main file, the applicant is responsible to ensure the design and conditions on site are compliant with the approved permit. HRM is attempting to continue inspection services while the demand exists but the above (and other) processes may change at any time.

2020 Volunteer Award Recipients

As part of National Volunteer Week, the Halifax Regional Municipality is honoured to announce the recipients of the 2019-20 Volunteer Awards. These awards are given to outstanding individuals or groups in recognition of their extraordinary volunteer contributions to their community. I am pleased to honour three District 4 residents with this award:

- Bryanna Banfield
- Harvey Foston
- Chloe Hovey

On behalf of residents of District 4, I thank you for your commitment and dedication to volunteering and for making your communities better places to live, work, and play. Congratulations!

Annual Spring Clean-up and Maintenance Program Underway

Now that the winter season has wrapped up, municipal staff have transitioned to annual spring cleanup activities across the region. Crews are working in all areas to address litter,

remove downed branches and other winter debris while taking appropriate precautions to reduce the likelihood of contributing to the spread of COVID-19.

Municipal and contracted crews will also be out in the coming weeks repairing damage caused by snow-clearing equipment this past winter.

The municipality regularly supports [The Great Nova Scotia pick-me-up](#) and [Adopt-A-Highway Nova Scotia](#) programs and has been advised that community cleanups have been postponed. Learn more by visiting their websites.

Please report turf, curb, or other damage sustained from snow clearing operations to 311 or contact@halifax.ca. More information on the annual spring cleanup can be found [here](#).

Spring Cleanup on Personal Property

Residents are encouraged to assist with spring cleanup activities by cleaning up around their own property if they can safely do so while adhering to the guidelines in the Provincial State of Emergency Order.

Garbage on private property is the responsibility of the property owner and should be properly sorted and prepared for curbside collection. The schedule for collection of garbage, organics and recyclables can be found [here](#). Residents are permitted to place one large bulky item, such as a piece of furniture, curbside for collection every garbage day. The Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility, which continues to operate on a regular schedule, also accepts excess bags of garbage from residents, for a small fee. Leaf and yard waste can be placed in the green bin, but no grass clippings. Any excess leaf and yard waste can be placed in large paper bags - not plastic - for curbside organics collection. Material must be placed curbside no later than 7 a.m. on collection day to ensure pickup.



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Active Transportation Trail and Street Recapitalization – Forest Hills Parkway and Cumberland Drive

The Halifax Regional Municipality's (HRM) advance funded 2020/21 Capital Budget provides for some milling and paving, curb renewal, and the construction of an Active Transportation trail on the east side of Forest Hills and Cumberland Drive from Chameau Crescent to Colby Drive. This work will continue the Active Transportation trail construction from Main Street to Chameau Crescent. The proposed work will involve tie-in to driveways and some lawn slopes, but it is expected that most work will be within HRM's right-of-way. Any fences, hedges, shrubs and/or gardens within the street right-of-way may have to be moved or removed before construction by the property owner. Please note, HRM will remove any items in conflict with construction. Please advise us if you have a heated driveway, invisible dog fence or in-ground sprinkler system. Trees within the street right-of-way will be addressed by the Municipality and must not be removed by the property owner.

This work is planned for the 2020 construction season. Please note that HRM By-Law S-300 states that pavement cuts shall not be permitted (except for emergency water or sewer breaks, etc.) for two years after the street has been paved. If you have a project requiring a pavement cut, please contact HRM or the appropriate utility to initiate the work, apply for a permit and have the work finished before the HRM project begins. For additional driveways or driveway modifications, please contact HRM at 311. For water or sewer lateral works, please contact Halifax Water at 902-490-9287. For installation of natural gas laterals, please contact Heritage Gas at 1-877-836-7427. All efforts will be taken to reduce the impact to your property during construction. HRM staff sent a letter to residents in the notification area

of the construction. A follow-up advisory will be provided by HRM prior to starting the work. If you have any tenants in this area, please advise them of this information.

There will be several stages of construction taking place during this project. If someone at your address has difficulty crossing uneven ground, gravel or steps, please let us know in advance so we can work with you for alternate access, where possible, during the project. During construction, parking access may be impacted both on street and in driveways to complete the work. Further information of impacts for driveway access will be given at the time of construction. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Jennifer Jeans, Design Engineer by email at jeansj@halifax.ca or by telephone at 902-490-1457.

Lifting of Spring Weight Restrictions

The Halifax Regional Municipality lifted spring weight restrictions on roads it oversees on Sunday, April 26. Spring weight restrictions will also be lifted on roads in the municipality maintained by the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Updated information on the provincial restrictions still in place in other parts of the province can be found [here](#).



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