



COUNCILLOR LORELEI NICOLL

DISTRICT 4 ONLINE NEWS

COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL

Dear Residents,

Now that the warmer weather is upon us and some restrictions have been lifted by the Province, I see more people out in the community. Even though some restrictions have been lifted, I ask you to be mindful of the social distancing requirements. We can all enjoy the outdoors while still protecting each other.

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, Halifax Regional Council has finalized the 2020/2021 Budget. My colleagues and I based our decisions on the most up to date financial data. On June 9th, Council approved a budget which maintained the tax rate at 1.4% and still ensured the provision of municipal programs and services that you rely on.

It is with a hint of sadness and an overwhelming amount of gratitude that I will not be seeking re-election as Councillor for District 4 in the upcoming municipal election. In my twelve years in the role, I have been privileged to work with residents, community leaders and elected officials in Cole Harbour, Westphal, Lake Loon

and Cherry Brook on many community issues. It has been my absolute pleasure to have been given the opportunity to represent you and our wonderful communities in the Council Chamber. Together, we have made District 4 a better place to live, work and play. For this, I will be forever grateful and tremendously proud of our accomplishments.

Don't forget about the Municipal Election taking place on October 17, 2020. Please vote for Mayor, Councillor, or Conseil Scolaire Acadien (CSAP) representative. This is your chance to decide who will represent you for the next four years.

I wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy summer. Enjoy!

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MUNICIPAL BUDGET

At the June 9th meeting of Regional Council, my colleagues and I approved \$787-million in total municipal expenditures, provincial mandatory contributions of \$168-million and a capital plan of \$150-million as part of the 2020/21 municipal budget.

Given the impacts of COVID-19 on the municipality, all business units presented revised budget plans than those presented earlier in the year.

Council approved the residential tax rate to remain unchanged from 2020/21, acknowledging that the average residential tax bill will increase due to growth in property assessment.

The average single-family home tax bill will increase by \$27, or 1.4 per cent in 2020/21 to \$2,003. The overall average commercial tax bill will also increase by 1.4 per cent.

Capital debt will remain stable and should be as low as \$235.7-million in 2020/21.

Key programs and capital projects:

Halifax Transit

- Woodside Ferry Terminal Upgrades \$4.5-million
- Ragged Lake Transit Expansion \$5-million
- Access-A-Bus Replacement \$1.17-million

Active Transportation and Environment

- Active Transportation Projects \$7.5-million
- HalifACT 2050 -Energy Efficiency \$2-million

Transportation & Safety

- Bridge and Street Improvements \$33.7-million
- Windsor Street Exchange \$1.8-million
- Downtown Dartmouth Infrastructure Renewal \$2-million

Recreation & Community

- Halifax Common Upgrades \$600,000
- Keshen Goodman Library \$2-million
- Streetscaping \$400,000

For more detailed information on the 2020-21 municipal budget visit our [website](#).

2020/2021 PLANNED CAPITAL WORK

Now that the budget has been approved, the following capital projects are underway in District 4:

Parks and Recreation

- Play structure replacement - Caldwell Road Elementary School Park
- Play structure replacement - Shrewsbury Road Park
- Play structure replacement - Settle Lake Park

Transportation and Public Works

HRM's Road Operations division has completed over 3,000 square meters of asphalt maintenance projects in District 4:

- Tamara Drive, Cole Harbour
- Amethyst Crescent, Cole Harbour
- Auburn Drive, Cole Harbour
- Jasper Drive, Cole Harbour
- MacLaughlin Road, Cole Harbour
- Prescott Drive, Westphal
- Sirius Crescent, Cole Harbour



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COVID-19 UPDATE

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

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. Call 211 to find non-municipal community and social services available in your area.

Nova Scotia offers COVID-19 testing to anyone who develops symptoms. Please call 811 to arrange a testing time.



As of Friday, July 24th, in keeping with the public health order, masks will be mandatory on all Halifax Transit buses and ferries. Children under two and those with a medical reason for not wearing a mask are exempt. Transit riders are responsible for bringing their own masks.

As part of a mask awareness campaign, Halifax Transit staff will continue to hand out masks periodically, through pop-up events at select locations across the municipality. Times and locations will be announced in advance via @hfxtransit on Twitter.

Those who are feeling ill are reminded not use any transit service until their health returns to normal.

Capacity Increase – Saturday, August 1

The mandatory use of masks and the installation of Polycarbonate shields will provide appropriate mitigation of risk associated with the spread of COVID-19. All capacity restrictions on buses, Access-a-Buses and ferries have been lifted as of Saturday, August 1st.

Fare collection – Saturday, August 1

Fare collection on buses and ferries has resumed as of on Saturday, August 1st and passengers will once again be permitted to enter buses through the front doors. March and April passes will be honoured until August 31st. Some retailers may also still have April passes for sale, which can continue to be purchased and used until the end of August. For all information regarding transit passes, including updated expiry dates, please visit our [website](#).

Buses and ferries continue to operate on a reduced schedule until August 31st at which time they will return to regular scheduling.

For more information on municipal services during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit halifax.ca/coronavirus

HRM Customer Service Centres

On Tuesday, August 4th, the Customer Service Centres at Alderney Gate and Bayers Road will be reopening to the public with regular hours of operation.

Note: As part of the 2020/21 recast budget discussion, the Customer Service Centres and drop-boxes at Acadia Centre (Sackville) and Scotia Square will remain permanently closed effective Friday, July 17.

Planning & Development service counters will remain closed until further notice.



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A number of services offered by 311 & the Customer Service Centres remain available online, including the payment of parking tickets, zoning confirmation applications and applications for all permit and subdivision applications.

Residents are reminded to follow all public health protocols while onsite, including physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) at all times.

Parks & Recreation

Indoor pools will open for lane swims and aquafit classes only. It will not be possible to offer open swims at this time. To ensure all restrictions on group gathering sizes and physical distancing are maintained, all activities in the pool will be booked online. More details will be provided closer to the opening dates. We continue to explore options for further recreation opportunities as restrictions are eased by the province.

Municipal partner recreation facilities (i.e. Canada Games Centre, Cole Harbour Place, Zatzman Sportsplex, etc.) have started the first phase of reopening. Please contact each facility directly for information about pool re-opening dates and protocols.

Outdoor Pools

Due to the time required to recruit and train lifeguards, the maintenance required to open pools and the restrictions of social distancing which drastically reduces the number of swimmers allowed in the pool at once, the Halifax Common, Bedford and Cole Harbour outdoor pools will not be opening for the 2020 season.

Splashpads, Beaches and Water Testing

The following splashpads are now open:

- Halifax Common
- George Dixon Centre
- Isleville Street
- Westmount
- Bayers – Westwood
- Sackville (Kinsman)

All municipal beaches are open with lifeguards onsite until August 31.

High bacteria levels can be caused by a number of factors, including dogs, birds, wildlife, and high temperatures. Staff will continue testing the water until bacteria levels return to safe levels.

The municipality will advise residents when beaches close and reopen. More information and updates on beaches, pools and splashpads can be found on [online](#). For more information on municipal services during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit our [website](#).

SPLASHPAD COMING TO DISTRICT 4

HRM staff are currently preparing a design-build solicitation for the installation of a Splashpad at the Cole Harbour Outdoor Pool in Colby Village. It is anticipated that the project will be finalized by June 2021. I was happy to provide \$200,000 of District Capital Funds to support this important project for residents of District 4.

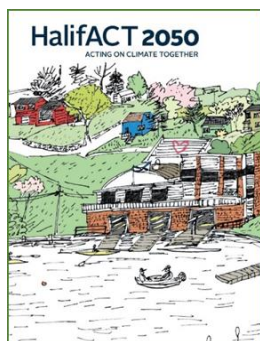




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HALIFACT 2020



Halifax Regional Council recently approved HalifACT 2020, a long-term climate action plan to reduce emissions and help communities adapt to a changing climate.

The plan outlines seven key areas that require

immediate action in order to successfully combat climate change:

1. Retrofit and renewable energy programming
2. Retrofit municipal buildings to be net-zero ready and climate resilient
3. Electrification of transportation
4. Net-zero standards for new buildings
5. Risk and vulnerability assessments
6. Capacity building for climate adaptation
7. Sustainable financing strategy

You can check out the full report [here](#) where you can participate in a survey, check out the interactive map on climate hazards in your area and more. This is such an important initiative that I was proud to support. By working together, we can shape the future of Halifax for generations to come.

- **SAVE** money: reduce your energy consumption
- **CUT** emissions: consider transportation alternatives
- **PREVENT** loss: be prepared for climate-related emergencies
- **STRENGTHEN** communities: become more informed and involved

SUMMER OUTDOOR RECREATION



The REC Van visits parks and greenspaces throughout the municipality in July and August providing

free recreational sports and activities including arts and crafts, baseball, soccer, washer toss, giant checkers, music and more to children, youth, families and seniors.

This year, the program is being expanded with two vans. For more information, including the schedule, visit our [website](#). You can also learn about other outdoor recreation opportunities [here](#).

ONLINE COMMUNITY RECREATION

The municipality is committed to providing opportunities for residents of all ages to stay active while following public health measures so we have launched “Rec at Home.” Activities will include arts and crafts, camp games, dance and fitness, exploring nature and physical activities and sport games.

All activities will be posted on our [website](#). Virtual recreation videos will be posted on our [YouTube page](#) and the [Halifax Parks & Recreation Facebook page](#). Check back often, as new activities are being added regularly.

SUMMER GREEN CART COLLECTION

Due to a significant budget impacts from COVID-19, the weekly summer green cart collection program has unfortunately been suspended for 2020 and green cart collection will continue every two weeks. Here are some tips to minimize odours from the green carts:

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- Place wet food waste in boxboard, or wrap using one sheet of newspaper
- Line both your mini-bin and green cart with a paper bag
- Empty your mini-bin daily and place the green cart for collection on the scheduled dates even if it isn't full.
- Food waste can be stored in the freezer until collection day. Considering washing your green cart after each collection with mild detergent and warm water, vinegar, lemon juice or baking soda.
- Consider using the services of a commercial bin cleaner.
- Consider composting on-site as an alternative to the curbside bin; focus on establishing a healthy composting ecosystem that can have minimal odour and can produce valuable compost.

You can learn more by attending our *All About Green Carts* webinars that will be available until September and broadcast through Microsoft Teams [online](#). Click the video link to “watch on web” and enter the webcast by selecting “join anonymously”.



LAWN CARE SERVICES

Home Services Nova Scotia are offering lawn mowing and yard care services for people in need and provide employment for persons with disabilities. The regular rate is \$20/hour but this can be adjusted based on household income level. Seniors who make under \$22,000 per year are covered completely by a provincial grant. You can reach Home Services Nova Scotia at 902-402-0235 and speak with Jana or Jill for more detail.

PETS IN PARKED VEHICLES

With warm temperatures expected in the forecast, Halifax Regional Police are reminding citizens to not leave their pets in parked vehicles.

On a warm day, even with the windows open, a parked vehicle quickly becomes too hot and presents potentially fatal conditions for pets left inside. We encourage pet owners to not leave their pets unattended in vehicles, even for a few minutes.

If you can't bear to leave your furry friend at home, consider some alternatives to leaving him/her in the vehicle:

- Consider using a drive-thru or curbside pickup. Your pet can sit comfortably with you in your car while you wait for your meal or service.
- If you know that you have to make stops where pets are not allowed, bring someone from your family household bubble along who can keep your pet company. Have them walk your dog, give him/her water or stay in the shade until you return.



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Also, as a reminder, a summary offence ticket for leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle in conditions that could cause distress carries a fine of \$697.50. If you see a pet in immediate distress, call 902-490-5020 and take directions from the call taker.

UPDATE ON FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS IN HRM FACILITIES

As municipal community centres and partner facilities begin to reopen, so too will the provisions of free menstrual products in each facility. This was an initiative that I was proud to bring forward to Regional Council in 2019 and was supported by my colleagues in approving the 2020/2021 Budget.

WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On November 27, 2018, I was pleased to introduce a motion to create a Woman's Advisory Committee. The committee will advocate for women's gender-based issue resolutions and opportunities related to municipal policies, priorities and decisions to promote leadership development and to empower women to fully participate in civic life.

On November 26, 2019, Halifax Regional Council established the Women's Advisory Committee by adopting Administrative Order 2019-004-GOV to support the creation of a gender-inclusive municipality and provide advice to Council on matters relevant to the municipal mandate. In accordance with the Administrative Order, the Committee is comprised of 10 members, 8 women appointed in accordance with the Public Appointment

Policy with at least one woman from each of the rural, suburban, and urban areas of the municipality and two members of Council at least one of whom shall be a member of the Executive Standing Committee.

The current HRM appointments to the Women's Advisory Committee are as follows:

- Haneen Al-Noman
- Lilian Barraclough
- Tanya Boudreau
- Charla Dorrington
- Holly Mathias
- Jane McKay-Nesbitt
- Michael Smith
- Christine Qin Yang
- Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
- Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn

For more information, contact Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant: viningk@halifax.ca.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2020

Want a more diverse body of decision makers in local government? Interested in being a Candidate? If so, check the [website](#) for more information on the 2020 election for Mayor, Councillor and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP).

2020 is the year that you get to decide who will be representing District 4 for the next 4 years as well as Mayor for the Regional Municipality and the CSAP representative. Voter participation is extremely important for a democratic government. Please ensure you vote on October 17, 2020.

For those interested in running in 2020, you become an official candidate by filing your nomination papers with the Returning Officer.

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You can file your nomination papers only during the specified dates and times. Call the Election Office during the last two weeks of August 2020, to make an appointment to file your nomination papers for the Municipal Election on August 26, 27, 28 and September 1, 2, 3, and 4, 2020. Call 902-490-4210 to book your appointment.

Tuesday, September 8th is Nomination Day. There are no appointments on Nomination Day. Nomination papers are accepted from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, first come, first served. For more information call 902.490.4210 or Email: election@halifax.ca



WE WANT YOUR INPUT

We're looking for your feedback on potential changes to existing municipal regulations relating to grading and construction noise in residential areas. Participant feedback will be used to inform recommendation reports to Regional Council.

The Grade Alteration and Stormwater Management By-Law Online Survey proposes condensing three existing grade alteration regulations related to grading, excavation and

topsoil removal—including the Topsoil By-Law 40, Bedford Grade Alteration By-Law and Pits Gravel Pits & Excavations By-Law 41—into one new Grade Alteration By-Law. New stormwater management standards are also proposed. This survey closes on August 18th.

The Construction Noise Survey seeks to determine whether changes should be made to the Noise By-Law (N-200), including construction hours of operation in residential areas. This survey closes on August 31st. Share your thoughts [now](#).

SHAPE YOUR CITY
HALIFAX

CONTACT INFORMATION

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HRM Citizen Contact Centre – 311 Hours of operation: Monday to Friday
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (except Christmas and New Years' Day)
HRM Call Centre TTY/TDD line (Hearing impaired) – 902-490-6645.

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