

#### **WELCOME JULY!**



Happy Canada Day! Although it may be difficult to feel joyous and celebratory this Canada Day, we must face our atrocious past and focus on truth and reconciliation

to guide us to what Canada should be – a cultural mosaic, welcoming and accepting of our diversity. The time is past due for us educating ourselves about the dark sides of Canada's history—and the dark sides that are still present and ongoing today—and learn more about the heritage, diversity, sacrifice and strength of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples across this land.

Keep reading for information on the Regional Plan Review, Mountain Bike Strategy Survey and much more!

You can reach me at **902.240.7926** or email lona.Stoddard@halifax.ca.

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME JULY! 1
TABLE OF CONTENTS1
HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL AND
HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2
HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2
RECYCLING COLLECTION CHANGES 2
CANADA DAY JULY 1, 2021 2
BELLA ROSE ARTS CENTRE3
HRM ANNUAL TREE PLANTING 3
DID YOU KNOW4
MUNICIPAL MOUNTAIN BIKE STRATEGY SURVEY – DEADLINE JULY 31 <sup>ST</sup> 4
KEEP OUR LAKES SAFE & CLEAN!4
REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW – YOU CAN STILL SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK!
GOT MY 2 <sup>ND</sup> SHOT!6
COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD7



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#### HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL AND HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Virtual meetings of Halifax Regional Council and Halifax & West Community Council will take place on the following dates:

#### Regional Council:

Tuesday, July 20th at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Halifax & West Community Council:**

Tuesday, July 13th at 6:00 p.m. (If required)

Please confirm meeting dates and times on the municipal <u>website</u>.

## HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The minutes and video of the <u>June 22<sup>nd</sup></u> Halifax & West Community Council meeting are now available online.

For more information on the Halifax & West Community Council and how to view/participate at the meetings, click <a href="here">here</a>.

## RECYCLING COLLECTION CHANGES



#### CANADA DAY JULY 1, 2021

I plan to attend this event on Canada Day. Contact Kayla Bernard, Coordinator, if you have questions: kayla@heartwood.ns.ca.



This Canada Day we want to shift the focus and narrative from celebrating to pause and reflection. Opening a space for everyone to reflect without placing further burden and work on Indigenous elders and community members, who are already feel emotionally at capacity as they continue to grieve the finding of now over 1000 indigenous children uncovered at Canada's Indian Residential Schools.

HeART Mental Wellness Art Programming in partnership with local community leaders and elected officials would like to hold an open space this July 1st to provide opportunity for reflection and conversation the best way we know how, which is through art.

Come join us as we collective create an art piece together, using a variety of mediums in our local park.

This is a free event, with the opportunity for people to donate to Indian Residential School Survivor Society.

Questions about the event or want to know more? Reach out: kayla@heartwood.ns.ca

The Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line, **1.866.925.4419**, is available 24 hours a day for residential school survivors and family experiencing pain or distress.



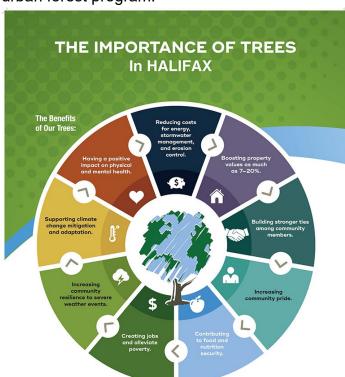
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#### **BELLA ROSE ARTS CENTRE**



# HRM ANNUAL TREE PLANTING

Trees - how important are they? Very! See the chart below for some amazing facts on trees and <u>click here</u> for more information on Halifax's urban forest program.









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#### DID YOU KNOW....

The song "O Canada" was originally commissioned by Lieutenant Governor of Quebec Théodore Robitaille for the 1880 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day ceremony. Calixa Lavallée composed the music, after which, words were written by the poet and judge Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier.

### MUNICIPAL MOUNTAIN BIKE STRATEGY SURVEY – DEADLINE JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>

Here is the <u>link</u> to complete the Mountain Bike Strategy Survey.



## Halifax Regional Municipality Mountain Bike Strategy Survey - 2021

The popularity of mountain biking worldwide has grown exponentially in recent years. Various municipalities in Atlantic Canada have recognized this opportunity and have devoted resources to develop purpose-built sustainable mountain bike trails, infrastructure, and related education/programs.

Out of a report to Halifax Regional council in 2019, a volunteer committee has formed to develop a comprehensive Mountain Bike Strategy that aims to provide guidance to the municipality and other stakeholders.

Data from this survey will be used for the development of this strategy and the advancement of mountain biking locally. No personal or individual information will be collected in this survey.

This survey closes on July 31, 2021.

## KEEP OUR LAKES SAFE & CLEAN!



Govenors Lake, Timberlea, NS

HRM is renowned for its beautiful lakes. Though some lakes remain in good condition, there are others that are starting to show signs of stress from surrounding land uses such as development, lawn and road management, historical contamination, and overall climate change.

Despite the best efforts of municipal staff and residents to keep our lakes clean and ready for swimming on beautiful summer days, nature sometimes has other plans. In the warm weather months, algae blooms can form and some types of blue-green blooms (cyanobacteria) can produce toxins which result in temporary closures of our beaches and lakes.

Staff monitor and report on the status of blooms at 19 beaches across the municipality. Some local lakes fall under provincial jurisdiction, including Grand Lake, which was recently under a water quality advisory. In these cases, Nova Scotia Environment is primarily responsible for water testing.

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Both staff and residents can keep an eye out for algae blooms. An algae bloom can appear as surface scum, foam, or a mat and / or discoloured water and can be blue, blue-green, green, or yellow in colour. Learn all about algae and how it can impact our municipality, here.

The municipality asks anyone who observes water conditions with these characteristics to <u>call 311</u>. Harmful algal blooms are typically seen in the warmer summer months of July and August.

Testing is done to confirm if a bloom observed has potential to produce toxins. Some algae have no risk for toxin production; if this is the case, the risk advisory will be lifted, and no further testing is required. If toxin-producing cyanobacteria are identified, the risk advisory and closures remain in effect.

Staff will monitor the location to ensure the bloom is absent for 7 days as toxins can remain in the water even after the bloom has disappeared. At that time, water samples will be tested for toxins, and the risk advisory will be lifted if toxins are within safe limits.

If a beach is closed, do not swim, or engage in any other recreational activity that may involve contact with water (e.g., paddling). Keep children and pets away from the water, and do not drink the lake water - boiling water will not remove toxins.

Residents can also help keep our lakes clean and safe, while adhering to any municipal advisories and beach closures. Even though overall lake health is complex, one way that you can help protect our lakes from pollution is by always picking up your dog's waste.



Pet waste often contains harmful bacteria and parasites that can be hazardous to human health and our waterways. Unfortunately, there have been high levels of fecal matter detected in popular local lakes in recent years, specifically Lake Banook and Lake MicMac.

Please ensure waste is properly disposed of in garbage bags and keep pets on leashes near waterways, beaches, and sensitive areas.

Check out more about animal waste and lake health, and view HRM's Canine of the Month gallery <a href="here">here</a>. High volumes of animal waste may contribute to beach closures in the best interest of your safety. Not surprisingly, swimming in areas where wildlife congregate (i.e. birds and deer) is also potentially risky for your health.

I encourage everyone to follow these beach safety rules and restrictions, while doing our part to keep our lakes clean. Let's enjoy our lakes and have a safe summer!



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#### REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW – YOU CAN STILL SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK!



We continue to seek your input on the Regional Plan Review. You can help decide how Halifax will grow by having your say.

The Regional Plan sets out a common vision, principles and long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining where, when, and how future growth and development should take place between now and 2031. This includes topics such as affordable housing, identification of wilderness areas, impact of COVID-19, population growth and more.

Municipal staff are consulting with the public until July 16th for feedback on the Regional Plan Review <u>Themes & Directions</u>. The feedback will help them understand what residents think is important and will direct future work.

You can share feedback by filling out a survey here:

https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan/, by calling 902-233-2501, or emailing regionalplan@halifax.ca.

#### GOT MY 2ND SHOT!



# We can all help by getting vaccinated.

Government Gouvernement du Canada

Canada



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## COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD



I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council and the Halifax & West Community Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Community Design Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee

#### Enjoy your summer!



