



COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY
DISTRICT 4 ONLINE NEWS
COLE HARBOUR - WESTPHAL - LAKE LOON - CHERRY BROOK

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy April District 4!

With days getting longer and the weather getting warmer, I hope Spring finds you all well. Spring is a time of new life as we see buds begin to form on the trees and hear birds singing in the mornings again. I encourage you to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and lovely Spring weather.

As we slowly emerge from the last two years, we have a couple of community events coming up next month that I am excited to share with you. I am pleased to announce our first Senior Social, which will take place on Tuesday May 10th at the Cole Harbour Fire Hall. Kindly see below in this newsletter for more details.

The second event to note is a District 4 Community Clean Up Competition, which will take place on Saturday May 14th 9:00-10:30am. Details can also be found in this newsletter.

I am always happy to hear from you! Please know you can reach out anytime for all your municipal concerns.

Sincerely,

Trish Purdy





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APRIL 2ND IS AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Each April is World Autism Month, beginning with World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd.

The month is focused on sparking dialogue and action to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism and creating a world where all people with autism can reach their potential.

Instead of seeing autism as a disorder, people use the term “neurodiverse” to recognize the rich differences, abilities, and strengths autistic people and other neurodiverse people have.

Let’s be kind, accepting and inclusive all year-round. There is so much to learn from those who see and experience the world differently.



PROPERTY TAXES IN HRM

How are they determined?

Taxes are set by Regional Council based on decisions made through the annual budget process.

This process started in November. The final Budget and tax rates for the year are set in April.



In January, Regional Council voted to **reduce** the proposed “average tax bill” increase from 5.9% **down to 4.6%**.

Your **Assessed Property Value** is sent from an independent, not-for-profit called Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) in January each year.

The amount you pay for property taxes =



ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE

X

TAX RATE APPLIED TO ASSESSED VALUE

- The **average** municipal property tax bill in 2022/23 is \$2,144, an increase of \$94 or 4.6% over the previous year.
- How much each property pays will depend on the final tax rates to be set in April and their assessment.
- The municipal property tax rates are expected to **decline** from those used in 2021.
- Property taxes pay for critical services that keep our municipality functioning and make HRM a great place to live. Services range from recreation programming to waste management, emergency services and more.



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SQUARE ROOTS: APRIL DATES



Square Roots is a community interest company (not-for-profit) that aims to reduce food waste and food access challenges. They offer fresh local produce that may get rejected by grocery stores for not being “pretty” enough. The dates for bundle pick up in April are the 9th and the 23rd. Click [here](#) to sign up and find more information regarding pick-up or delivery options.

PLEASE REMOVE BIRD FEEDERS

HRM staff are encouraging residents to remove bird feeders from their property to help stop the spread of avian flu and protect our local bird population.

Nova Scotia is dealing with a deadly strain of avian flu in bird populations, and backyard bird feeders can facilitate the spread of it amongst wild birds.

If you encounter a sick or dead bird in Nova Scotia, do not touch it. Please report it to the provincial Natural Resources Department at 1-800-565-2224. While there is a very low risk of humans getting sick from avian flu, it's common sense not to handle sick or dead birds at any time.

April 2022

PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW PHASE 3

Residents are invited to participate in a review of Phase 3 of the Regional Plan that's open for one month until Monday, April 18, 2022.

The Regional Plan sets out a common vision, as well as



principles and long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining where, when, and how future growth and development should take place between now and 2031.

There are several development requests being considered for Phase 3 of the Regional Plan. If you have comments or questions about them, let HRM know!

To learn more about where development requests are being considered for Phase 3, please visit:

- Regional Plan Review's Shape Your City [web page](#).
- Requests for Site Specific Amendments to the Regional Plan [map](#).
- Phase 3 Site Specific Requests [table](#).

Please submit and feedback or questions by email (regionalplan@halifax.ca) or phone (902.233.2501). For site-specific applications, please reference the case number.

Please see the project [website](#) for more details.



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NOVA SCOTIA POWER SCHOLARSHIPS

Nova Scotia Power has announced several scholarships that are available for the 2022 academic year to help high school students - or those entering another year of post-secondary - to further their education.

Note that the deadline for these scholarships is April 20, 2022. Click [here](#) to apply.

A DISTRICT 4 LOCAL HERO



I recently had the pleasure of meeting Colin. As I heard his story I was inspired and humbled.

In his 80's, Colin lives a life of service to others through volunteer work. One of the places that he volunteers at is NS Walks. Colin told me that he is on this third trip around the equator (That means he has walked 3 X 45,000km!) If you are interested in joining a walking group, visit their [website](#).

I will leave you with a quote from Colin: "Every day when I wake up, I know I am going to have a great day!" Thank you, Colin for sharing a coffee with me and being an inspiration to so many!

APPLY NOW
2022 SCHOLARSHIPS
AND BURSARIES

Fostering education, diversity and inclusion to support strong, healthy communities of tomorrow

THE 2022 SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY PROGRAM:

- AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN SCHOLARSHIPS
- EMERGING LEADER SCHOLARSHIPS
- MI'KMAQ BURSARIES
- NOVA SCOTIA POWER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIPS
- WOMEN IN TRADES, ENGINEERING, & TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

ALSO:

- THE CHRIS HUSKILSON EMERA SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline for applications: **APRIL 20, 2022**



Visit nspower.ca/scholarships to apply





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SENIOR TEA SOCIAL



The purpose of our Senior Social is twofold. One is to provide a safe space to offer community to our seniors who may have been isolated over the last two years. The second is to provide helpful information that will promote the safety and well-being of our seniors. May's topic will be Senior Fraud Prevention. RCMP Sandra Paris, Cst./Gend. will give a special talk on how to protect yourself from being scammed. There have been quite a few fraud cases in the last few months, so be sure to come and hear how to protect yourself from being taken advantage of. MLA Lorelei Nicoll will also be joining us. The event is FREE, and we will serve light refreshments with coffee and tea.

Date: Tuesday May 10th

Time: 1-2pm

Location: Cole Harbour Fire Hall

Topic: Senior Fraud Prevention

April 2022

LEARN MORE ABOUT TRAFFIC CALMING EFFORTS IN HRM

Are you wondering what's behind the different types traffic calming measures installed throughout HRM?

Check out the municipality's traffic calming [website](#) to learn more. It includes example photos and descriptions of various traffic calming measures, a map of all installed measures, a list of proposed 2022 streets and a "Common Questions" section.

- ✓ Traffic calming is the installation of physical measures intended to slow vehicles and alter driver behaviour – including curb extensions, lane narrowing, speed humps and more.
- ✓ Traffic calming helps make neighbourhoods safer for non-drivers and is an important part of building healthy, walkable communities.

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Impaired Driving Statistics

From Halifax Regional Police

- In **February 2022**, 12 drivers were charged with impaired-related offences.
- 11 were alcohol-related, 1 was drug-related.
- 5 of these drivers - who provided breath samples - were at least twice the legal limit.
- Police received 2 calls in February from citizens who suspected impaired drivers.



If you see a potential impaired driver:

Call 911 immediately. Give the call taker your location, a description of the vehicle, including the license plate number, colour, make and model, the direction of travel for the vehicle and a description of the driver.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19: PHASE 3 IMPACT ON MUNICIPAL SERVICES

There are some changes to municipal services as Nova Scotia has entered phase 3 of the provincial reopening plan which began on March 21:



Masks and physical distancing:

Effective March 21, the municipality's Mandatory Mask Policy will be lifted, however, wearing a mask indoors and while using Halifax Transit services is recommended.

Halifax Transit:

The polycarbonate shields that were previously installed behind operators on conventional buses and Access-a-Buses will remain in place. Regular sanitization of high-traffic areas and will continue.

Those who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are reminded not to use any transit service until their health returns to normal.

Proof of vaccination:

Phase 1 of the provincial reopening plan (in effect Monday, Feb. 28), no longer requires residents to show proof of vaccination to participate in non-essential, discretionary events and activities. This includes recreation programming and visiting recreation and fitness centres.

For more information on the provincial reopening plan, click [here](#).

RCMP Road Safety Stats

District 4 - February 2022
Cole Harbour

- 607 calls for service in February 2022
Up 15.6 from February 2021
- 27 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 44 in Feb. 2021)
8 aggressive driving, 5 speeding, 3 cell phone, 11 other MVA
- 211 Proactive Assignments (vs. 53 in Feb. 2021)
- 28 Cell phone/Impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding checkpoints
- 118 Traffic Stops (vs. 190 conducted in Feb. 2021)
- 3 Impaired Driving Charge (vs. 4 in Feb. 2021)
- 3 Impaired Suspensions (vs. 6 in Feb. 2021)
- 14 Motor Vehicle Accidents (vs. 15 in Feb. 2021)
 - 3 of these accidents resulted in injuries

Please Drive Safely!



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DISTRICT 4 COMMUNITY CLEAN UP COMPETITION

Grab your friends, team, neighbours and join us on Saturday May 14th for a District 4 Community Clean up. We are going to compete to see who collects the most trash! If you are interested in participating in the event, kindly call or email me with your clean up location by April 28th. Many hands make light work. Let's work together to clean up our community!

Date: Saturday May 14th

Time: 9:00-10:30am

Locations: All over District 4!

Sign-up your community group/team by April 28th at trish.purdy@halifax.ca or 902.240.3067



APPLY FOR HELP WITH HOUSEHOLD COSTS: SENIORS CARE GRANT

The Seniors Care Grant is an annual grant program offered by the Province to reimburse costs of up to \$500.00 to help cover the costs of household services. It can be used to reimburse costs for such things as snow removal, home repairs, lawn care, grocery delivery, and more. It is available to homeowners and renters.

To be eligible for this grant:

- ✓ You are 65 years of age or over
- ✓ You have an annual household net income of \$37,500.00 or less
- ✓ You are living independently in your home (not living with a caregiver other than a spouse or partner)
- ✓ The property title or lease agreement must be in your name or include your name

You have paid for household services from 1 January 2021 to 30 November 2022

The deadline to apply is by 31 May 2022.

[Apply online](#) if you have an email address. You can also use the Seniors Care Grant Application Form if you're unable to apply online. This form can be printed from [here](#).

You can also reach out to your MLA to request assistance to apply to this program.





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HALIFAX REC: SPRING REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Halifax REC Spring programming! Check out all REC spring programming and registration information on our [website](#).

Please Note: Registration times for the Canada Games Centre, Cole Harbour Place, Zatzman Sportsplex and St. Margaret’s Centre take place at different dates and times. Please visit their websites directly for their registration information.

If you need help or have any questions, Rec staff are happy to assist you, or troubleshoot any registration issue. Just call 902-490-6666 to connect with a staff member.

Be sure to follow Halifax Parks & Recreation for updates – you can also connect with them online if on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) if you have any questions.

WORLD HEALTH DAY



World Health Day is celebrated annually, and each year draws attention to a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world. April 7 marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948.

This year’s theme is focused on the health of our earth and taking action – collectively and individually – to help our polluted planet. Many preventable environmental-related diseases are linked to the health of our planet, including cancer, asthma, heart disease.

On World Health Day 2022, WHO will focus global attention on urgent actions needed to keep humans and the planet healthy and foster a movement to create societies focused on well-being.

More than 13 million deaths around the world each year are due to avoidable environmental causes. This includes the climate crisis which is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. The climate crisis is also a health crisis. To learn more about the municipality’s climate action strategy, “HalifACT”, a community response to the climate crisis, visit our [website](#).





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UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for November:

- Tuesday, April 5th at 10am
- Tuesday, April 12th at 10am

We have now resumed in-person Regional Council meetings – it's great to be there in Council Chambers with my colleagues. Meetings are also broadcast live on Eastlink Community TV and [online](#).

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council normally meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth. The next Community Council meeting will take place on April 7th. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

As Councillor, I am also a Commissioner of Oaths. While in office, I may administer oaths and take and receive affidavits, declarations and affirmations within the Province for use within the Province. If you require a Commissioner of Oaths, please contact me.

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **trish.purdy@halifax.ca** or **902-240-3067**. For routine municipal matters, please call our **Citizen Contact Centre at 311**.

To reach my office, please call Emily Simonov (Smith) at **902-490-7177**.

For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).