

COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SUMMER 2020



DEAR RESIDENTS,

Nous tirons le meilleur parti possible d'une année difficile ici, dans le district 6.

This summer certainly hasn't been our typical season filled with Canada and Natal Day celebrations, community barbecues and events, but we can be thankful that our province continues to flatten the curve and

warmer temperatures mean we are able to get outdoors and enjoy some of our regular activities with only a few minor adjustments.

Since my last newsletter, the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated the news. I know the pandemic has provided many challenges to families in District 6, our business community and it has also brought many challenges for our municipality as a whole. I'm very proud of how our staff have responded to these challenges. We acted quickly to update transit service and made changes to how we provide customer service to keep residents safe, our staff worked diligently to recast our entire budget to reflect the lost revenue from the pandemic keeping the tax rate steady and our Parks and Recreation staff have managed to keep up with the constantly changing safety precautions required for our outdoor spaces and programming.

Ce bulletin d'information vous offre plus de détails sur notre réponse à la COVID-19, y compris le nouveau budget et notre élection municipale à venir, entre autres. Je vous remercie de continuer à travailler avec moi dans la création d'un district 6 sécuritaire, actif et sain!

This newsletter will provide more detail about our response to COVID-19, the new budget, our upcoming municipal election and much more. Thank you for continuing to work with me as we build a safe, active and healthy District 6!

Contact Information

Call: 902.292.4823
Email: tony.mancini@halifax.ca
Website: www.halifax.ca
Twitter: @tonymancini_NS
Facebook: @tonymancini.ns

BUDGET

The COVID-19 pandemic added some significant challenges to the municipality's finances. After a three month process receiving presentations from each business unit outlining their current initiatives, future opportunities, savings and evaluating their performance to determine our 2020/21 budget, we started from square one again in May 2020.

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 recast 2020/21 municipal budget.

Council approved the residential tax rate remain unchanged from our previous deliberations, 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% to \$2,003. The overall average commercial tax bill will also increase by 1.4%.

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 at halifax.ca/city-hall/budget-finances/budget

HALIFAX



DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

WANT MORE INFORMATION LIKE THIS?

Sign up for my monthly e-newsletter by emailing tony.mancini@halifax.ca and requesting to be added to the list!

COVID-19

The Halifax Regional Municipality continues to monitor and respond to the rapidly evolving effects of COVID-19. As of July 24th, masks are required in order to use public transit. Our public transit has continued to operate on a reduced schedule and with no fare collection since the outbreak. We have already encouraged social distancing by blocking off every other seat, however a full 2 metres is difficult to maintain on buses. This is why our Province has directed that masks are now mandatory on all Halifax Transit buses. We are also installing protective shields around the bus driver. Transit resumed full capacity service and fare collection on August 1st. Children under two and those with a medical reason for not wearing a mask are exempt. Those who are feeling ill are reminded not use any transit service until their health returns to normal. For more information on municipal services during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit halifax.ca/coronavirus.

2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

On October 17th, 2020 you will have a chance to cast your vote for Mayor, Council and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) school board.

Your municipal council is instrumental in determining the services we rely on every day – including garbage collection, snow plowing, parks, recreation, development and public safety. You can vote on election day at your local polling station, or by participating in advanced polling through internet or telephone voting.

To participate, please ensure you are registered to vote and your information is up to date on our Voters List by October 5th. Call 902-490-VOTE (8683) to confirm. You must be at least 18 years old, be a Canadian Citizen, an ordinarily resident of Nova Scotia for 6 months or an ordinarily resident in the Halifax Regional Municipality since the first advance polling day.

For more information on the upcoming election, please see our website halifax.ca/city-hall/elections.

BLUE MOUNTAIN-BIRCH COVE LAKES WILDERNESS AREA CONTRIBUTION

On July 21st, I was proud to be a part of Council's decision to contribute up to \$750,000 towards the Nova Scotia Nature Trust's acquisition of 232 hectares of land to preserve the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area. The Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness area has been a true gem for outdoor recreation and is an important area for nature conservation in the municipality. The Nature Trust will now be able to manage the ecological integrity of this land and provide more opportunities for wilderness recreation including hiking, canoeing and nature appreciation.

RESPONSIBLE COMMEMORATION OF OUR HISTORY

The Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History was established October 30, 2018 with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs. In its report, the Task Force provided 20 recommendations for taking action to ensure the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people are fully acknowledged and committing to a new equal partnership with Aboriginal people in Canada; one based on truth, dignity, and mutual respect.

The final report came before Regional Council on July 21st, and made the important distinction between history and commemoration. History is the analytical and evidence-based process of understanding the past, while commemoration is the way in which communities of the present day choose to remember and publicly celebrate the past. To make changes is not to 'erase' history, but to take a responsible approach to maintaining the integrity of public commemoration. Edward Cornwallis, British governor of Nova Scotia, had a career characterized by violence directed against non-English peoples. Although his assumptions of racial superiority were not uncommon for a man of his era and social background, continued public commemoration of his role is incompatible with current values. Edward Cornwallis must and will continue to be treated as a historically significant figure as evidence shows him to have influenced events.

With extensive public engagement and a committee including members of both sides of the debate, they have made recommendations including:

1. The Cornwallis statue should be retained in HRM collection storage pending the establishment of a civic museum.
2. The current Cornwallis Park should be renamed and repurposed as the "Peace and Friendship Park" with an outdoor performance space.
3. Cornwallis Street should be renamed "New Horizons Street."
4. Re-address the near-absence of public Mi'kmaq commemoration and that priority be given to memorializing survivors of the Shubenacadie Residential School and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

The HRM has committed itself to the cause of reconciliation, the report and recommendations were accepted by Council on July 21st except for renaming Cornwallis Street to New Horizons Street. Instead, Council requested that public consultation be included to re-name the street. Council also directed the Chief Administrative Officer to return annually to report on progress addressing the recommendations.





FARRELL STREET PARK COMMEMORATION PROJECT

In 2017, 18 year old Chelsie Probert was tragically murdered while walking through the Farrell Street Park in Dartmouth North. Since her death, I have had a chance to meet with her family and have been passionate about making the park a safer community gathering place by partnering with Nova Scotia Power and Police. This year, I contributed over \$11,500 from the District 6 Capital Fund for Parks and Recreation to create a special memorial in the park. The memorial will feature a sitting area, greenery and a commemorative plaque. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this important project!

HARTLEN STREET CONNECTOR

In 2011, a study related to the Main Street Dartmouth Planning Vision and Streetscape Concept determined that Hartlen Street should be extended to connect Main Street and Lakecrest Drive. This extension will allow for increased connectivity in the Main Street area. In March 2020, we acquired the final piece of property required to start this project so this year we will be moving forward with demolition, the creation of a temporary grass path, bench and sign, crosswalk relocation and a curb extension. Then we can begin the planning, design and construction of the final project.

BLUE GREEN ALGAE

Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) is naturally occurring in freshwater environments and produce toxins during blooms posing a risk to people and pets.

These blooms have often been present in our Dartmouth lakes, so HRM staff are drafting a report on the results and recommendations of the Pollution Source Control Study for Lake Banook and Lake Micmac that was presented in April 2019. I was also able to get the Lake Monitoring & Sampling Program for Lakes Micmac, Charles and Banook reinstated during our recent budget discussions. You can find the test results on our website or by paying attention to our media advisories that will announce if lakes are unsafe.

HRM staff are also in the process of launching a public education campaign in the Banook and Micmac watershed to encourage responsible pet ownership, will be installing nets under the Highway 111 bridge to deter pigeon roosting and continue to investigate effective and practical means to deter Canada Geese from using these lakes as these things all may contribute to the blue green algae.

During an advisory, lake users are encouraged to take the following precautions:

- Avoid water contact. If contact occurs, wash with tap water as soon as possible.
- Do not swim or wade (or allow your pets to swim or wade) in any areas where blue-green algae is visible or in areas where a risk advisory has been issued.
- Avoid consuming water from this lake.
- Avoid consuming fish that has come from this lake.

People who come in contact with blue-green may experience skin and eye irritation, sore throat, fever, nausea and vomiting and/or diarrhea. Children and immune-compromised individuals are at a higher risk. If you have these symptoms, you are advised to seek medical assistance. To learn more about algae blooms, visit our website halifax.ca/about-halifax/energy-environment/harmful-algae-blooms

MONTEBELLO TRAFFIC CALMING

Montebello was identified by our traffic staff as a street that had excessive speeding and was eligible for the Traffic Calming program.

Traffic Calming helps make neighbourhoods safer by slowing down cars, trucks, and motorcycles altering driver behaviour. Studies have shown that reducing the posted speed limit in an area typically has no significant impact on how fast people drive but physical measures are more effective.

This summer, staff will be working to install concrete bump outs and flexible bollards around pedestrian infrastructure to slow down the traffic. The work is expected to be complete by September 2020.

ELLENVALE RUN PROJECT

The Ellenville Run brings stormwater from Lemont Lake to Morris Lake. Over the past 3 years, Halifax Water has been working to complete a \$13.5 million project to stabilize the channel walls, naturalize the channel and re-establish or improve the natural habitat.

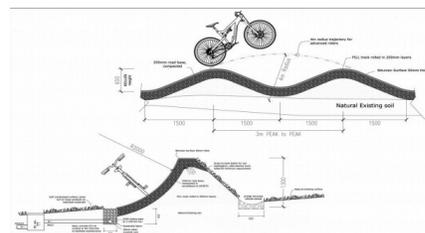
The restoration efforts of this project use energy dissipation pools, natural pool and riffle sequencing, and natural stone on the bottom of the channel liner. This provides a naturalized stream bottom that reduces velocities, creates pools and meanders, and helps to improve fish passage.

Phases 1 – 3 of the project are complete, and construction on phase 4 is expected to begin in 2021.

SHUBIE PARK PUMP TRACK

Work will be beginning this summer on a Pump Track for Shubie Park next to the ballfield.

Pump tracks can be used by cyclists of all ages and skill levels and with any kind of bike. It is a continuous loop of dirt berms and "rollers" (smooth dirt or paved mounds) that you ride without pedaling. It's a great way to increase bike handling skills for younger riders, and for the whole family to enjoy cycling fun in a safe, traffic free environment.





DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

SQUARE ROOTS PROGRAM

Square Roots is a social enterprise that purchases cosmetically imperfect food that would normally be thrown out and distributes it to families in need for a low price. Programs currently operate in many areas across the municipality, and over the last few months we have been trying it out in East Dartmouth. Every two weeks, volunteers package 10lb bundles of produce to be delivered safely to over 100 households for free. Follow me on social media for more details. While our regular East Dartmouth Mobile Food Market has had to shut down during the pandemic, they also provided a generous hamper delivery to families in need this Spring and hope to be back to regular offerings in the future.

BODY WORN CAMERAS

At the July 20th meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, I put forward a motion to re-examine the possibility of a Body Worn Camera pilot project for Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District RCMP patrol officers.

Given the recent public demonstrations, a petition with almost 110,000 signatures and the Wortley Report's public consultations, there is still more to be done to improve the trust and relationship between Police and the community, particularly with minority communities. Body worn cameras could provide both more accountability and protect officers from false allegations.

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

We are coming to the end of another four-year term for this municipal council. I'm so proud of the things we have accomplished in District 6 and across the municipality in the past four years.

The environment has been a top priority for this council. We recently approved the HalifACT 2020 plan, long-term climate action plan to reduce emissions and help communities adapt to a changing climate. I was proud to lead the charge on advocating for the ban on single use plastic bags and supported the motion for staff to consider creating a blue bin program to replace plastic blue bags. Staff did an amazing job on our Litter Doesn't Belong Here campaign and we continue to advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility at the municipal level.

We are continuing to work towards more reliable transit in Burnside, Dartmouth Crossing and across District 6. We have also made major improvements to our Access-A-Bus program with the Access-A-Bus Continuous Improvement Service Plan. This plan includes investments in new technology, achieving a more adaptable service and the introduction of integrated trips, all contributing to a more efficient, accessible service for passengers. We are also making transit more accessible by expanding our Low Income Bus Pass program that provides monthly transit passes 50% off for residents who qualify. Another important addition to our transportation network could be Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber or Lyft. I have been an ardent supporter of these organizations and look forward to more progress in the regulatory framework to come.

A huge area of growth in District 6 will be the Port Wallace community. The Regional Plan identified Port Wallace as a

potential future growth area. A Port Wallace Public Participation Committee was created in 2014 to oversee public engagement and to make recommendations regarding the secondary planning strategy for the area. Once the draft policy is complete, further public consultation will take place. More detail on this project can be found here: halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/regional-plan/port-wallace.

Policing has been a highly debated topic over the past few months, as a Board of Police Commissioner I am pleased the Commission has supported several motions to help increase public confidence and safety. We are looking at how to reimagine our Police services, including following our Wortley Report recommendations, requesting a report on Body Worn Cameras and cancelling the purchase of an armoured vehicle. I would like to see an increase in resources and funding for traffic calming as this is a consistent issue in our communities and have been advocating for more mental health support for our fire and police services.

Recreation opportunities bring our community together, help residents get active and much more. I've been so pleased to support projects like the Dartmouth North Outdoor Public Library, The North Grove (formerly Dartmouth North Community Food Centre and Dartmouth North Family Centre) One Roof campaign and farm and the donation of a retired access-a-bus to our local Boys and Girls club with my Council colleagues. Our Parks and Recreation team are amazing and have completed new basketball courts on Farrell Street, in Landrace Park and at Caledonia Junior High. We have new tennis courts at Mount Edward Road and HRM's first pickleball courts in Morash Park. We are making recreation more accessible by creating an accessible path and water bike at Cyril Smith Park, adding new steps, bridges and a wharf at Shubie Park and completing renovations to Farrell Hall. I was able to support some great community organizations like our paddling clubs, numerous schools and sport teams and provided funds towards the McIntosh Run bridge. Finally, we are looking to invest in more public art. The Victoria Road pedway mural has recently been restored, and we are looking at some more opportunities to incorporate some beautiful artwork in our community.

I have also hosted multiple events that I hope allow our community to grow together or learn something new. Partnering with the local community, we started the annual East Dartmouth Community Barbecues and Tree Lightings. I continue to support the Shubie Park Tree Lighting and last year established two new events for high school students. The Young Women's Leadership Forum invited grade 10 students to City Hall for a panel discussion by strong female leaders in our community and the International Students Reception that welcomed our international high school students from Prince Andrew and Dartmouth High with a special City Hall celebration.

Thank you to everyone – staff, colleagues, residents and volunteers – who have helped make these projects, programs and events possible.



Please recycle.

Delivery Note:

Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.