



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT
DISTRICT 3 ONLINE NEWS
DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Dear Residents,

February is almost half way gone and we are all still bundled up in our homes doing our part to protect each other in this COVID-19 Pandemic. As we hear of the cases in other provinces, we can continue to be proud to live in Halifax and Nova Scotia. Well done, and thank you.

I hope that you have been able to get through the weather events safely. HRM has been challenged with the most recent 40 cm of snow, but our crews worked day and night to bring safety back to our streets and sidewalks. I know that some of you were concerned with snow service and I thank all of you who brought concerns to my attention.

There are some positive things happening in our district, and I am sure many challenges still to work through. I am hosting some virtual meetings in the coming months to offer another opportunity for you to engage with me. I hope

you take the time to join me. (See list of dates below).

Again, if there is anything specific you would like me to include in this newsletter please let me know.

I hope you find this helpful.
I wish you all well and stay safe.

Warmly,

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.



SAVE THE DATE – COUNCILLOR ONLINE MEETINGS

I am organizing some online engagement meetings with residents who would like an opportunity to get to know me better, have a chance to engage on specific subjects, share concerns or ideas, etc.

The tentative dates are listed below. In some cases they will be specific to subjects areas and in others open town hall meetings.

In each case, you will need to preregister by email (kentb@halifax.ca) so I can send you confirmation of date/time and log in information. Each meeting will be from 7-8pm.

These will be held through Zoom. If you don't have a Zoom account you can join through your browser.

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



February marks African Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the history, achievements and contributions of African Nova Scotians and individuals of African descent in our region. This year's theme, Black History Matters: Listen, Learn, Share and Act, recognizes the important legacy of people of African descent and their long-standing history in the development of Canada. As a municipality, we have been taking steps to address the anti-Black racism that exists within our organization and in the communities we serve. However, we still have much work to do in removing barriers to equity and inclusion.

I encourage you to celebrate the rich culture of people of African descent. Take time to recognize the great adversity the Black community has overcome and demonstrate your allyship by participating in this year's virtual events and activities. More information can be found on our [website](#).

 **SAVE THE DATE**
District 3 Virtual Updates with
Councillor Becky Kent

Sign Up: Please pre-register by email at becky.kent@halifax.ca
A confirmation of date/time and log in information will be sent in advance of the meeting.
Mtg Platform: Zoom
Dates:
Wed, February 24—Update on Silver Sands Beach access
Wed, March 3—Regal Road area playground project idea
Thurs, March 11—Woodlawn, Town Hall
Mon, March 22—South Woodside, Town Hall
Thurs, April 8—Russell Lake, Town Hall
Wed, April 14—Eastern Passage, Town Hall
Thurs, April 22—Cow Bay, Town Hall
Thurs, April 29—Portland Estates/Portland Hills, Town Hall
I am looking forward to speaking with you soon.



Russell Lake Pump Station & Wastewater Pipe Upgrades

Halifax Water is upgrading the Russell Lake Wastewater Pump Station and the wastewater pipe that runs near much of this trail.

This work will begin in mid/late-February 2021 and is expected to continue into Summer/Fall 2021.

During construction, we expect to keep the trail open at all times and/or provide pedestrian detours to provide safe passage around the construction activities.

Please use caution while walking near construction zones and stay back at least 2 metres from contractor staff for physical distancing.



Learn more about this project:
halifaxwater.ca/project/Russell-Lake-Wastewater-Upgrades



Halifax Water will be completing wastewater system upgrades along portions of the Portland Lakes Trail and near Portland Estates and Russell Lake West beginning next week and continuing throughout summer/fall 2021. These upgrades include parts of the wastewater pipes that carry wastewater from the Russell Lake Pump Station and the Morris Lake Pump Station; and replacement of the Russell Lake wastewater pumping station.

Halifax Water has created a project website, <https://halifaxwater.ca/project/russell-lake-wastewater-upgrades>

They expect to keep the trail open at all times and/or provide pedestrian detours to provide safe passage around the construction activities.

COYOTE SIGHTINGS AND WILDLIFE SAFETY

There has been a slight increase in sightings of coyotes in Portland St-East Woodlawn area, in particular, Mount Edward Road and Grimes Avenue. No doubt they may be in other areas. Wildlife Technicians from NS Department of Lands and Forests strongly suspect unintentional feeding has brought the coyotes into the community.

In response to concerns expressed about coyotes in our communities, I reached out to staff in the Department of Lands and Forestry. They provided the following information on coyotes:

Coyotes are very well adapted to live around humans, for the most part they avoid us and are hardly seen, even in the most urban of spaces. However, coyotes can be problematic if they become food conditioned, this means accustomed to foods left out by humans. Attractants can range from cat food to birdseed as coyotes are omnivorous. Then, there's the



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issue of pet and human safety. As stated above coyotes rarely become aggressive and often go unnoticed, they learn to avoid busy times and human activity. Cats and dogs in the suburbs are at risk but rarely sought as a food source. This can change dependent on time of year, territorial tolerance, leaving pets unattended and feeding pets outdoors. In the winter and spring, coyotes tend to be a little more territorial as they are re-establishing their home range, mating and having pups. From January to April we often see a slight increase in coyote – pet encounters, most of which end without injury, but cats and small dogs are vulnerable. The negative encounters are mostly avoidable by supervising pets and not allowing cats to range free. It's important to remember outdoor cats are at risk from cars, disease, elements and predators (coyotes, bobcat, fox, owl, eagle).

Risk to humans is very low and knowing the basics of being “coyote smart” can help to avoid unwanted encounters. The “Be Coyote Smart” [webpage](#) has a plethora of tips for living with coyotes and what to do during an encounter. This website also has a sighting option, where residents can report coyote sightings in their community. This helps us track individual animals or pairs and assess behavior.

Along with the on-line reporting option residents can call the **Waverley Depot at 902-861-2560** to report coyote sightings or if they have questions or concerns about wildlife.

INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN FIREFIGHTING?

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) is inviting applications between January 28, 2021 and February 21, 2021 for the development of a candidate pool to fulfill hiring requirements for permanent full-time career Firefighters. Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) is committed to being the best Fire & Emergency service and reflective of the diverse communities we serve. The recruitment and selection process includes; aptitude testing, physical abilities testing, background screening and a panel interview. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

PINK SHIRT DAY



Wednesday, February 24th

Wear your pink shirt and support anti-bullying!

This Pink Shirt Day, the focus is working together and treating others with dignity and respect. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and shown the importance of helping one another and advocating for those who need it. Help us “*lift each other up*” and support programs that encourage healthy self esteem and teach empathy, compassion and kindness.



YOUR DISTRICT CAPITAL FUNDS AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

I was happy to support the 1st Portland Estates and Colby Scout Group with a donation from the District 3 Capital Funds. This donation purchased a new marquee tent. These tents have multiple uses for an organization like the Scouts and will be the focal point of any event or large activity.



Councillor Becky Kent and Allan Carrington of the 1st Portland Estates and Colby South Group.

WEEKLY RECYCLABLES COLLECTION TO BEGIN IN JULY

In the proposed upcoming 2021/22 operating budget, a change of service for recyclables collection is proposed for the Eastern Passage and Cow Bay area.

This is subject to Council approval of the proposed budget. If the budget is approved, the service level for recyclables collection for Eastern Passage and Cow Bay areas will change to weekly collection as of July 2021.

Prior to implementation, there will be communications to the residents affected. For more information on garbage, recycling and green cart collection, please visit our [website](#).

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CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **becky.kent@halifax.ca or 902-478-5368**. For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at 311. To reach my office, please call Nadine Yuriev at **902-490-1577**. For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).