

**\$10 PEHRA  
MEMBERSHIP**

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# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING  
2022

## PEHRA CONTACTS

### CHAIR

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### VOLUNTEERS

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### COMMITTEES

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### COMMUNICATION TEAM

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Melanie Weaver – Instagram

Barb Kulka – Facebook

Hugh Millward – Facebook

Leila Bautista – Newsletter

### VACANT POSITIONS

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[website@pehra.info](mailto:website@pehra.info)

[events@pehra.info](mailto:events@pehra.info)

To place a message on our  
Community Message Board, contact  
Laura Wagner at  
[messageboard@pehra.info](mailto:messageboard@pehra.info)

## SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH A HOUSEHOLD PEHRA MEMBERSHIP

As COVID-19 restrictions ease this Spring 2022, PEHRA is excited to be able to return to hosting some of our annual community events! Our mandate, as your residents' association, is to promote and enhance the quality of life in our community. With your support and our strong relationships with HRM, we can continue to identify issues and improvements for our community. Your \$10 annual membership fee goes directly back into our community to support improvement projects and neighbourhood events. PEHRA has been very instrumental in developing our trails, new gates, new playground, our gazebo at Birches Park, "our little library" and many other neighborhood improvements.

Join by visiting the membership page on our [website here](#). **PLEASE SUPPORT AN ASSOCIATION THAT IS MAKING YOUR COMMUNITY BETTER.**

## THE EASTER BUNNY RETURNS TO BIRCHES PARK!

**SAT APRIL 16th**

**from 2pm to 3pm**

Join PEHRA and the P.E.C. Scouts by the Gazebo in Birches Park for a fun Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt!



A drink & snack station will be run by the Venturers! PEHRA and our sponsor, Dentistry 4 U, will provide Easter treats. Welcome spring with a photo with the Easter Bunny! Come join us for some outdoor family fun in our community park.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat April 16, 2pm -3pm  
**Easter Egg Hunt**  
@ Birches Park, Gazebo

Sat April 30, 9am – Noon  
**Community Clean Up**  
@ Birches Park, Bellbrook Park  
& Superstore parking lot

Wed May 11, 7pm (tentative)  
**Spring Town Hall Meeting**  
Q&A with Councillor Kent  
@ Woodlawn Library

Sat May 28, 9am – Noon  
**Community Yard Sale**  
Join our Participation Map!  
Contact [chair@pehra.info](mailto:chair@pehra.info)

Sat June 25, 4pm  
**Outdoor Music Festival**  
@ Birches Park, Gazebo

**STAY TUNED FOR  
FURTHER EVENT DETAILS**

## 2022 SPRING COMMUNITY CLEAN UP!

Please join us and members of the community on **Saturday, April 30th 2022 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Registration, supplies, and gloves will be available at three locations: the Woodlawn Library, Birches Park, and Bellbrook Park. The event is rain or shine, so dress smart! PEHRA asks that we all follow the latest COVID-19 public health orders and recommendations.

Requirements will be subject to change based on the latest restrictions. Please do not attend if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

For the last two years we were not able to host the event at the same capacity due to the pandemic, so we have lots of work to do this year!

We hope to see you and your family there to help keep our community clean. **Those signing up for a PEHRA membership at one of the three registration locations will receive a free trash grabber tool while supplies last!**



## THANK YOU FOR LIGHTING UP OUR COMMUNITY WITH "HOLIDAY CHEER"!



Thank you to all those residents who added colour and light during our holiday season. Decorations throughout the community helped to make the season bright despite the pandemic restrictions that impacted our usual festivities. A team of PEHRA volunteers circulated Portland Estates and Hills and entered the addresses of decorated homes into our "Holiday House Draw!" Councillor Kent drew 3 winners on Dec 21st with each winner receiving a \$50 Superstore Gift coupon and a FREE PEHRA Membership for 2022. Visit our [website](#) to view the winners and many other photos of the wonderful homes that participated.

**Thank you Portland Estates & Hills residents for lighting up our community and lifting spirits during the holiday season!**

## RECAP ON PEHRA'S FALL 2021 AGM

We held our **2021 Annual General Meeting virtually on November 17th**. All residents were invited to attend, and our special guests were our MLA Lorelei Nicoll and our HRM Councillor Becky Kent.

The focus of the evening was a discussion of the interim traffic calming measures on Eisener Boulevard. Councillor Kent provided background on the project, noting that this road needs structural repair/renewal in a couple of years, and the west side of the road has been identified as requiring a sidewalk. The HRM traffic authority implemented an interim solution by narrowing the road width and adding a temporary protected lane for pedestrians and cyclists. This is intended to reduce traffic speeds and increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Councillor Kent agreed that the traffic authority had failed to engage residents in the process, and she had received many resident complaints regarding the interim measures - which she had shared with Traffic staff. She had also requested changes in the planning framework going forward. Councillor Kent then fielded several comments and questions from meeting attendees. When the Q&A session closed, she requested anyone with further questions to contact her directly via email [kentb@halifax.ca](mailto:kentb@halifax.ca), or by phone at 902-478-5368.



## FISHING AND BOATING ON OUR LAKES

*Written by PEHRA Environment Chair Norman Steele*

Now that the lakes are free from ice and the fishing and boating season is upon us, it is a good time to remind ourselves on how to conduct these great outdoor activities safely and responsibly.

**Fishing is a great outdoor recreational activity but when done irresponsibly, it can have negative impacts on wildlife.**

- Monofilament fishing lines, lures, hooks, metal leaders and weights (sinkers) present huge dangers to birds and other wildlife when not properly disposed of.
- Monofilament line is amazingly strong and can tangle around bills, feet, wings, and legs of birds - often resulting in death or amputations of feet, leg, and wings.

Please make your best efforts to retrieve any of these items in the event of a snag and fishing line breakage. **Always consider the impacts to Morris and Russell lakes, the residents, and the wildlife.**

One of the most common concerns I have heard from residents with regards to boating on our lakes is excessive speed and reckless operation of motorized watercraft. These activities are regulated by Transport Canada and laws have prohibitions on speed near shorelines and may require licensing for operation.

**Be aware of how your boat's wake might affect others when choosing your speed.**

- A boat's wake can damage other vessels, docks, and the shoreline. It can also be a risk for swimmers, divers, and people on small boats that might capsize. You will be responsible for any damages or harm you cause.
- Speed limits are 10 km/h within 30 m (98'5") of shore on all inland waters in Nova Scotia.

For more information on safe boating, follow this link to view the [Transport Canada Safe Boating Guide](#).

**Stay safe and have a great summer enjoying our lakes!**

## COMMUNITY TRAILS REPORT

*Written by PEHRA Trails Chair Hugh Millward*

We are currently reviving the **Trails and Parks Committee (TPC)** by recruiting new members as trail stewards. The TPC stewards will conduct regular patrols of all trails to monitor for safety and maintenance issues. The committee also continues to plan and lobby for improved trail and park facilities (such as signage and litter bins), and for extensions to the active transportation (AT, walking and wheeling) network of our community. The committee will be meeting soon to inspect the trails and discuss a variety of trail stewardship issues. **If you're interested in being a trail steward, contact the TPC Chairperson (Hugh Millward) at [trails@pehra.info](mailto:trails@pehra.info), or by phone at 902-462-3058.**



*Trail Stewards discuss issues on-site, Fall 2021*

### Morris and Russell Lakes Wastewater Project

PEHRA continues to monitor the Halifax Water repair and enhancement work relating to the Morris and Russell Lakes wastewater pumping system. Dexter Construction completed work at the Birches Park pumpstation last Fall, and work by Whebby Ltd. on the Russell Lake pump station is now almost complete. After enquiry with Halifax Water, we have learned that Dexter's Spring schedule will include removal of the by-pass pipe, re-instatement of the disrupted sections of the paved and side trails, removal of the environmental sedimentation controls, and final clean up. PEHRA has been invited to an on-site inspection of the completed work.

## COMMUNITY TRAILS REPORT CONT.

### The “Orphan” Trail

The main Portland Lakes Greenway has a section at its Baker Drive end that remains unpaved. We have been lobbying HRM staff for several years to pave and upgrade this section, and Councillor Becky Kent is very supportive of this project. We learned recently from David Maclsaac (Supervisor of HRM Active Transportation) that the upgrade is now scheduled for 2022. The engineers are targeting a 3m wide paved path with a grade maximum of 8%, and the TPC hopes to provide input on the final design.

### Penhorn Link

The major development of the Penhorn Lands is moving forward with planning approvals and will form an important transit and commercial hub. For several years, PEHRA has been advocating for a seamless active transportation link from the Portland Lakes Greenway trailhead (at Baker and Eisenor) through to Penhorn. We have learned from HRM's AT unit that this link is now being envisaged, which is excellent news. Right now, the working concept to make that connection is to build a new AT-only bridge on Portland Street crossing Highway 111 (the Circ). This will replace the dangerously narrow sidewalk on the traffic bridge, and also provide a safe bike lane. A new multi-use pathway will replace sidewalks from the Circ through to the trailhead at Baker and Norm Newman. This is all being planned as part of the Cole Harbour Road-Portland Street functional planning process currently underway.

If you see safety or maintenance issues on our trails, please report them on the HRM service line (phone 311) and/or report to [trails@pehra.info](mailto:trails@pehra.info).

Let's all work together to take care of our community trails!

## SAYING THANKS TO BRIAN – A DEDICATED PEHRA VOLUNTEER



Brian at the 2021 Community Spirit Event

Brian Weatherbee is retiring from the position of PEHRA Website Administrator **after 3 ½ years of volunteer service**. When Brian joined PEHRA, he was recently retired and looking to use his creative computer skills to help contribute to his community. Becoming our website administrator was a great fit!

Brian refreshed our website ([pehra.info](http://pehra.info)) and identified other changes along the way to improve communication. He established our Google Drive storage to archive photos and reports so residents visiting our website can learn more about the work of PEHRA.

Brian also volunteered to manage our membership records for two years when this role became vacant. He has been a very active board member, and a committed volunteer at all our community events. Brian is moving to the valley, where we are sure he will continue to make valuable contributions to his new community. **We thank Brian for all his volunteer efforts and commitment to PEHRA and our community!**

If you are a resident of Portland Estates or Portland Hills and have website experience, come join our Communication Team and help us continue to reach out to our residents. Please contact [chair@pehra.info](mailto:chair@pehra.info) to get involved. **New volunteers and fresh ideas are always welcome!**



## TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

*Written by Councillor Becky Kent*

As many may know, Eisener Boulevard had several changes last year related to traffic calming and pedestrian safety. Many residents of Portland Hills and Estates took the time to call and email to express their concerns, ask questions, and share their perspectives. I have shared all of these with staff and am now able to report that there will be some additions to address some concerns raised. Tactical multiuse pathway (MUP) will be installed on the west side of Eisener Blvd from Russell Lake Drive to the existing Portland Lake Trail, and curb extensions near the Portland Lake Trail ingress/egress point (Atlantic Superstore entrance). This is intended to provide a safe connection for pedestrians and cyclists along that corridor.



Again, the MUP is a temporary measure to address connectivity within the area, while also achieving road narrowing for traffic calming. This work is planned for the 2022 construction season. A full capital project is expected in the next couple of years to create a formal and more traditional sidewalk/Multiuse Pathway version, along with road maintenance.

## SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL IN BIRCHES PARK ON SATURDAY JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>

Help us return to outdoor fun in our community this summer! Prior to Covid, we held many Community Fun Fests in Birches Park. This year with Councillor Kent's assistance, we would like to change it up and take advantage of our terrific Gazebo as an outdoor stage. In 2010 PEHRA hosted a successful Talent Show for our Lieutenant Governor Community Spirit Award Celebration - let's share our community talent again!



Bring your lawn chair, bring your voice, and let's celebrate all that we have to be grateful for in this wonderful community. Our EVENTS TEAM will also be looking for some great LOCAL BANDS to perform as well (let us know if you have a suggestion or connection!) and bring in a few FOOD TRUCKS to complete the festive mood! If you have a passion for music, please get involved and have some fun helping us organize this special June Event! Contact [birchespark@pehra.info](mailto:birchespark@pehra.info).

## CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Part of what makes Portland Estates and Hills such a great place to live is having a local residents association and all our volunteers within the community!

You can help us with this by becoming a **PEHRA MEMBER for just \$10 a year** and by **VOLUNTEERING** at some of our community-led events. PEHRA Board members are also needed for positions such as Secretary, Website Admin and Community Event Planners.

**We welcome your ideas and enthusiasm to help keep our community a great place to live!**