

\$10 PEHRA MEMBERSHIP

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newsletter@pehra.info



Community Newsletter

SPRING 2018

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**Live music, food & fun for the whole family!
Join us at the 3rd Annual Community Fun Fest
on Saturday June 23, 2PM-4PM in Birches Park.**

UPCOMING EVENTS!



APRIL 21
Annual Community Clean up
9am to Noon @ Birches Park
Bellbrook Park & Superstore
Garbage bags, gloves
& refreshments provided

MAY 12
Spring Scavenger Hunt
2pm to 4pm @ Birches Park
Come Celebrate Spring
with PEHRA & the SCOUTS!
Prizes and refreshments!

MAY 26
Annual Community Yard Sale
8am to Noon
Add your address to our map!
Contact: secretary@pehra.info

JUNE 23
3rd Annual Community Fun Fest
2pm to 4pm @ Birches Park
See more details to the right!



Enjoy old-fashioned picnic races, hula-hoop and shoe kicking contests, face painting, jumping castle and scenic train rides on our trail throughout the park! Don't forget the Tug-of-War challenge between Portland Estates & Portland Hills. Build your team in advance to get the edge! Our Business Showcase features local businesses and our Band Stand will feature the toe tapping music from local talent! Lots of volunteers and sponsors are needed to make this event a great success. To book a business tent, please contact *Dalyce Mallion* at birchespark@pehra.info.
Rain date: June 24.



(Vishal Bhardwaj)

THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SPOTLIGHT

Vishal Bhardwaj

Vishal was nominated as one of the Top 25 immigrants in the Maritimes and received the Canada 150 volunteer award in 2017. In this issue we feature a long-time resident and great supporter of Portland Estates & Hills. Vishal is very active in the community and ran as a Liberal candidate for Dartmouth South in the last Provincial Election.

(continued on pg 2)

THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SPOTLIGHT (CONT'D)

How long have you lived in Portland Estates/Hills? I came as an immigrant from India over 15 years ago and have lived in Portland Estates since 2002 with my wife Shelly, and my two children, ages 14 and 11. We moved to Portland Estates after my wife and I were married, she grew up in the community.

What do you value most as a resident of Portland Estates & Hills? The people are so friendly; you rarely pass a person without them saying "hi". People are always so eager to help and make you feel at home, like family. This was so important to me as an immigrant. The community embraced and welcomed me.

Tell us about your volunteering efforts. I volunteer because I want to give back to the community that treated me so well: in any way I can make a difference for all the community gave me. I volunteer with PEHRA, the Immigrant Services Association of NS, Board of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, as a volunteer soccer coach, as well as a few other efforts.

Why did you decide to volunteer with PEHRA when you already have so much on your plate? Participating in events helps bring together newcomers not only to the community but the country. Community events bring us all together, and create a sense of belonging.

GROWING OUR PEHRA MEMBERSHIP. WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN IN APRIL?

Dear Fellow Neighbour, if you are already a member, please let me take this opportunity to thank you for your great support that keeps us going! Your support is greatly appreciated by PEHRA. Over the years, your membership support has helped us organize multiple events and projects in the community and we are constantly striving to add new and exciting events to our calendar. Events are a fun way to get to know your neighbors and getting to know your neighbours helps to build a caring and safe community!

PEHRA volunteers also work with HRM on behalf of all residents to maintain our facilities, parks and trails as well as initiating projects that continue to enhance our community. Our next big project is the construction of a "Concert Gazebo" in Birches Park overlooking Morris Lake that will bring you more outdoor enjoyment. Your memberships will help us fund this project and the concerts we plan to hold!

While you can join PEHRA anytime, we encourage residents to renew their memberships in April to help us fund our spring and summer activities. You can join or renew your \$10 household membership ONLINE (see Facebook or website for details) BY MAIL (see application Pg. 4 of this newsletter) or at our Membership Table at any of our COMMUNITY EVENTS!

Once again thank you for your support! Help us make this community the best in HRM! - *Vishal Bhardwaj*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Available Roles: Events, Gardeners, Newsletter Distribution, Website Admin and Pickleball Tournament Organizer

PEHRA and its initiatives would not be possible without the people that offer their time and effort. Give back to the community by fulfilling some of the roles above! If you would like more info or are interested in any of the volunteer positions above, contact Dalyce at 902-448-1010 or chair@pehra.info

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 Cell: (902) 476-1855
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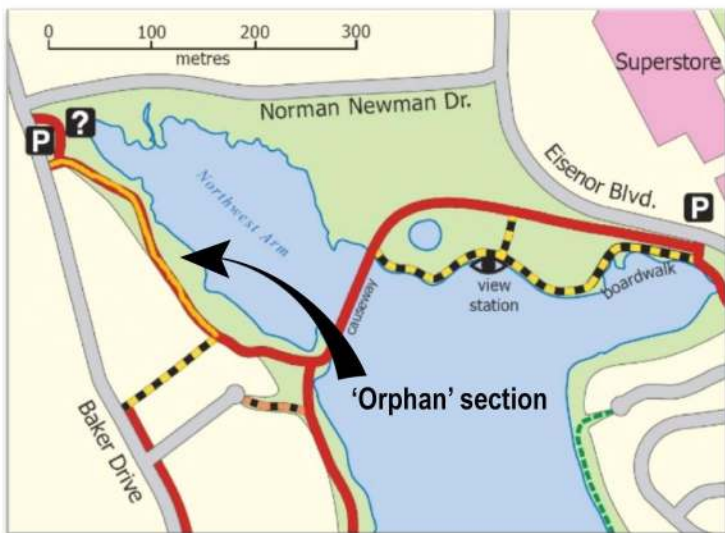
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PEHRA'S PERSISTENCE TO UPGRADE MAIN TRAIL: RUSSELL LAKE TO BAKER DRIVE

The main Portland Lakes trail has a section at its western end (Baker Drive) that requires upgrading to HRM's 3m paved Greenway standard. The trail section was originally planned and constructed by HRM in 2005 as a gravel trail on HRM parkland, funded by a developer. It was intended to be the main branch at the western end of the main trail, since it leads to commercial facilities and will eventually provide a key link to other Greenways in the Penhorn area. It is potentially an important link in the overall Active Transportation system.



Due to lack of funds, this "orphan" section was not upgraded to an Active Transportation paved trail under the 2010 federal RINC program and upgrading was put on hold for a later date. In Fall 2017, PEHRA requested Councillor Bill Karsten to assist us in moving the process forward. We are pleased to let our residents know that we have made progress. We are now assured that this section will be ranked for consideration as an AT project for 2019. In the meantime, Parks staff will undertake to fix the drainage issues and make repairs as required while we await the final paving of this important section of the main trail. - *Hugh Millward.*



DARREN FISHER
Member of Parliament
Dartmouth-Cole Harbour

CONNECT WITH ME

www.DarrenFisher.ca
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HALLOWEEN IN BIRCHES PARK

Last October, PEHRA hosted Halloween in the Park! Families enjoyed a sunny afternoon of games and contests in spectacular costumes! Special thanks to Atlantic Superstore for providing refreshments, to our Event Committee, contest judges, volunteers, and to everyone who attended to make this event possible.



CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

How lucky we are to live in this beautiful community. Parks, streams, trails, and nature all at our doorsteps. Let's protect and keep those valuable things healthy and safe. One thing we can do is pick up and responsibly dispose of dog poop. It is toxic to the soil and lakes and is also hazardous to environmental and human health, carrying fecal coliform and other pathogens. Remember, everything drains to the lakes! Storm drains in our area drain to the lakes. So unless you like to step in it, swim in it or damage our home, pick it up! - *Norman Steele*

OUTDOOR CONCERTS IN THE PARK ! NEW GAZEBO COMING SOON!

PEHRA is very excited about our latest project to enhance our outdoor enjoyment in Birches Park. Working closely with HRM, PEHRA has designed a dual-purpose Gazebo that will provide a shady place for all to enjoy by Morris Lake as well as providing an ideal setting and venue for hosting outdoor concerts. HRM will be tendering the project soon, targeting the completion of construction by end of August. Now is a great time to get involved in your community. If you are musical or have contacts in the music industry, we need you! JOIN US to help us organize our FIRST OUTDOOR CONCERT IN THE PARK! All ideas are welcome. Please contact Dalyce at birchespark@pehra.info or call 902-448-1010.

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KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED!

We offer several opportunities on Facebook to assist our community in staying connected. Pages are moderated to assist in ensuring as positive an experience as possible. There are three group pages: our main page 'PEHRA' where items of community interest are posted and discussed; a separate group for 'Business Services', whereby neighbourhood services can be offered or sought; and a separate 'Buy/Sell' group to help when you have new or used items to sell. Check the top of our main page for all the links: facebook.com/groups/pehrainfo. Questions? Want to help? Feel free to reach out to me, Dawn Kelly at socialmedia@pehra.info

THE COMMUNITY BOARD: WHAT'S YOUR MESSAGE?

Send me your messages for community-oriented events such as: sports registrations, fundraisers, or shout-outs to the people who make life in Portland Estates and Portland Hills fun for you. Messages generally go up 1 week prior to the event. On the right side of the community board there is space for you to place messages/ads but keep in mind they must adhere to family-oriented information. Contact Holly at messageboard@pehra.info




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ADVERTISING IN PEHRA NEWSLETTER

The PEHRA Community Newsletter is circulated to the residents of Portland Estates & Portland Hills. If you have a business or service that needs to reach our readership, you can advertise a business card sized ad in our newsletter for low cost of \$50 per issue. To place an ad in our newsletter, please contact Dalyce at newsletter@pehra.info or 902-448-1010. *Please note that PEHRA has the right to edit and/or refuse ads if they do not meet our association's mandate.*

Printed at  **The UPS Store**, 3-644 Portland Street, Dartmouth



JOIN OR RENEW YOUR PEHRA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Annual Membership of \$10.00 per Household



DATE: _____

FULL NAME: _____

SPOUSE NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: PHONE: - -

EMAIL: _____

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3-644 PortLand St, Suite 130
Dartmouth, NS, B2W 6A3

PAY BY: CASH
Please Call 902-448-1010

Would you like to help or volunteer in any of the following areas?

PLEASE CHECK BELOW:

- Membership
- Newsletter
- Events
- Gates & Gardens
- Trails
- Environment
- Birches Park
- Other