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COMMUNITY FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

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Fall is here, and there's no better time to become educated about the state of our Dartmouth Lakes and how YOU can help!



SAVE OUR LAKES

Written by Norman Steele

If you live in Dartmouth, especially if you grew up in our neighbourhood, you need to know what is happening to our lakes. Dartmouth lakes have been a source of beauty and community for generations! Adults and kids alike have used them for swimming, boating, ice hockey, and fishing.

However, these activities cannot be enjoyed if our lakes are unsafe. For quite some time now, members of our local community have expressed concerns about dramatic negative changes in Russell and Morris lake, such as excessive weed growth and declining water quality.

It is not too late, there are solutions to help get the lakes back to safe, healthy conditions. But it will take resources, action, and lots of support (continued on page 2).

COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, November 6th 7PM to 9PM

Woodlawn Library Auditorium

Please join us!

PEHRA AGM

Learn about what PEHRA does for the community and how you can be involved!

SAVE OUR LAKES

Find out what can be done to address the poor conditions of our lakes, with special guests Councillor Bill Karsten and Claudia Chender MLA!

NEW IDEAS

An opportunity to bring forward your ideas for community projects, events or discuss any other issues of concern.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Join or renew your annual \$10 per household PEHRA membership, which contributes to costs of newsletters, events and maintenance projects in our community.

New Volunteers are always welcome! Come join us Nov 6th. Share your input and enthusiasm for our wonderful community. For more information contact chair@pehra.info.



Scouts Tree Planting Team

THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SPOTLIGHT

1st Portland Estates Scout Group

For this issue, we are featuring the 1st Portland Estates Scout Group! These young individuals have been doing great work in our community. To learn more about the Scouts and their involvement, we spoke to fourteen-year-old Belle Moore, a Venturer Scout and Beaver Youth Volunteer (continued on page 2).

THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SPOTLIGHT (CONT'D)

What do the Scouts do in our community? The Scouts aim to help the community as a whole in the things that we do. For multiple years, we have cleaned the neighbourhood at the community cleanup. We also planted 2000 trees throughout last year and this year. We helped out with multiple PEHRA community events such as Fun Fest, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Halloween Party. A few of the older Scouts are also leaders for the smaller kids involved in scouts.

Why do you enjoy being a part of Scouts and what have you learned?

Scouts has been an amazing way to meet new friends, help people, and try new things. During my few years in Scouts, I have been taught many camping skills, but I have also learned how to be more independent. Last year at camp, you would go get the wood for the fire and then start it yourself, so we learned how to cook our own food.

How can people in our community support or get involved with the Scouts?

Firstly, you can come to events where we will be. You can sign up for Scouts there and/or try fun activities with us. Also, if you ever see us at store asking for donations, donate! We like to give something to you in return as well, such as apples, popcorn, and trees. You can register your kids online for Scouts, and with the proper training, parents can become leaders as well! Scouts really is an amazing experience that I recommend to all parents to put their children in!

Do you know a good neighbour that contributes to our community?

Send your recommendations to newsletter@pehra.info for a chance for them to be featured in our next issue!



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SAVE OUR LAKES (CONT'D)

In the natural environment, over many thousands of years, lakes gradually change condition as land slowly erodes and deposits debris and sediment in them. Eventually, a lake may become a marsh or even mostly become infilled. In Dartmouth and Portland Estates, our impacts from changing natural conditions into land developments (homes, streets, sewers) has evidently accelerated this process to only decades. We are more frequently hearing from our neighbours and the media about lake closures, weed issues, toxic algae bloom, and invasive species. So what can be done to help our lakes?



In September, a town hall was organized where over 150 residents attended to express concerns over these very issues. I, as a representative of PEHRA and the Oathill Lake Conservation Society, along with others presented our concerns to the room. Participants were asked to submit their concerns and action items. The key messages were that HRM and the Province were not listening, not providing the support and resources to tackle the issues, and not acknowledging their regulatory and decision-making roles in contributing to the declining conditions of our Dartmouth lakes. It is land use control and management that has the greatest negative effects and these responsibilities are mostly those of HRM and the Province.

The objective is to start getting action and support from our elected governments. With the right support we can make a difference and take action to save our Lakes. If you want to help, PEHRA has a dedicated committee for this cause – the Morris and Russell Lakes Conservation Committee. A link to the town hall report can be provided by request. Please contact me for more information at environment@pehra.info.

VOLUNTEER FOR PEHRA

We need your help!



For Events, Gardening,
Delivering Newsletters and more.

Email chair@pehra.info to get involved



4TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FUN FEST FUN FOR EVERYONE IN BIRCHES PARK!

This year's Fun Fest was a great success! On Sunday June 23, the local band, Reminiscent, returned for a 4th year to kick off the festivities performing from our NEW Gazebo Band Stand!

The potato sack race, shoe kicking contest, and the parent & child relay are also among the favorites every year.



(photos courtesy of Shafong Photography)

Finbars Fun Fest Grill served up delicious BBQ hot dogs and hamburgers! Cotton candy and refreshments were also enjoyed. Kids were amused by train rides around Birches Park, jumping castles, balloon animals, face painting and carnival games while parents strolled the Showcase of Local Businesses. Over 450 residents, neighbours, family and friends shared an afternoon of fun in our beautiful Birches Park! PEHRA strives to host community events that bring everyone together to celebrate summer fun in our community.



Fun Fest would not be possible without the efforts of many PEHRA volunteers, participating businesses and sponsors! Thank you to all who helped make our event a success. For more photos & videos of Fun Fest, visit our PEHRA Website, www.pehra.info. If you have some feedback on the event, wish to help organize or participate in our 5th Fun Fest, please contact chair@pehra.info. We hope to see you there next year!

4th ANNUAL COMMUNITY *FunFest* JUNE 23 2019 IN BIRCHES PARK

THANK YOU

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CLOCK IT TO YA!

CALLING ALL GARDENERS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our volunteer master gardener on our Gates and Gardens Committee, Rodger LeDrew, recently retired from PEHRA to pursue his retirement in the valley. We wish Rodger well, but miss him terribly! He was responsible for leading the Gates & Garden team in the weeding, maintaining and beautifying of the gardens and entrances to our community. This is a terrific opportunity for anyone who wishes to share their love of gardening with others. You would be playing a vital role in enhancing our beautiful neighbourhood! If interested in joining the team or would like to know more information, please contact volunteers@pehra.info.

HEALTH CENTRE

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OUTDOOR CONCERTS IN OUR BIRCHES PARK GAZEBO!

Attention all music lovers! We now have a wonderful facility in Birches Park soon to be outfitted with electricity! Our Gazebo is a perfect stage for hosting outdoor concerts. If you have contacts in the music industry or have the enthusiasm to help bring our community together through music, contact Dalcyce at chair@pehra.info.

NEW TRAILHEAD SIGN NEAR WOODLAWN LIBRARY

PEHRA's Trails and Parks committee has been involved in planning and constructing the trail system in our community for many years, on HRM parkland. The Portland Lakes Greenway trail is a designated municipal greenway, maintained by HRM, and is well used year-round. This Fall, PEHRA will install a trailhead information sign at a prominent location at the central point of the greenway, on Eisener Boulevard opposite the Woodlawn Library! The sign will complement three previously installed trailhead signs at the extremities of the greenway. It will provide an informative map of the trail system and useful trail information (for example, "pedestrians have the right of way, cyclists sound warning before passing"). A PEHRA volunteer has produced the artwork at no cost, but production and installation will be sourced to a signage contractor. A grant from the HRM District Capital Fund, courtesy of Councillor Bill Karsten, will cover nearly half the cost. We anticipate that the work will be completed by early November. We hope you enjoy this new addition to our wonderful trails!

Sweet Hearts Home Daycare



**Home Daycare On
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**1-5 years old
Before and After school**


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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 Leila at newsletter@pehra.info.

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



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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