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MEMBERSHIP**

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**FALL  
2021**

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## PEHRA CONTACTS

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Maryn Lynn

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Melanie Weaver – Instagram

Brain Weatherbee – Website

Barb Kulka – Facebook

Hugh Millward – Facebook

Leila Bautista – Newsletter

To place a message on our  
Community Message Board contact

Laura Wagner at  
[messageboard@pehra.info](mailto:messageboard@pehra.info)

For more info please visit our  
website [www.pehra.info](http://www.pehra.info)

## JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

### SAVE THE DATE

## PEHRA'S VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 7PM to 8:30PM**  
Visit our website [www.pehra.info](http://www.pehra.info) for the link to sign up

#### Meeting features

- Discussion on traffic calming measures
- Q & A with Guest Councillor Kent

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT CELEBRATION - MAX THOMAS TRIBUTE

On October 4th, over 225 family and friends gathered together in Birches Park to celebrate the life of a young member of our community. Max Thomas was a beloved Beaver of our local P.E.C. Scouts Group that organized this special tribute. There were games for children to enjoy, reminding us of Max's love of fun, and a place of reflection for family and friends to show support to Max's parents - Devin and Leah. Scouter Paul led a beautiful, heartfelt ceremony by the oak tree (Max's favourite tree) planted in his memory in Birches Park through the Gifts for Parks program.



Scouts Commissioner, Allan Carrington, unveiled a sign on the new PEHRA / Scouts storage facility, a dedication to Max, "Scouts: giving youth the opportunity to realize their dreams and adventures... in memory of Max Thomas." We closed with a BBQ served by the Scouts. Thank you to our Scouts for organizing this very special tribute. Thank you to our sponsors, Superstore, Scotia Metal Products, HRM Event Grants Committee and PEHRA for their support.

## GRAND OPENING OF PEHRA / SCOUTS STORAGE FACILITY

October 4th marked the Grand Opening of our new PEHRA / Scouts storage facility in Portland Hills! The photo below features Scouts Commissioner, Allan Carrington, and PEHRA Chair, Dalyce Mallion, and special guests MP Darren Fisher and Councillor Becky Kent celebrating with an official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony! The 40-foot container will provide volunteers with a convenient “base of operations” to access ALL of the equipment (canoes, hiking gear, camping gear, tents, tables, games and more) needed to run a successful Scouts program or special events for our community.



This joint project with PEHRA and P.E.C. Scouts would not have been possible without the effort and support of Councillor Becky Kent as well as the cooperation and approval of HRM Parks & Recreation. Thank you to HRM Grants Committee for funding to help purchase the container; thank you to Councillor Kent for providing additional financial assistance; thank you to all those who contributed time and effort to make this “idea” a reality. This storage facility, centrally located next to the Dartmouth United Soccer storage container, will help support our dedicated volunteers and encourage more outdoor activities & events for everyone in our community to enjoy.

**PEHRA is a proud sponsor of our local P.E.C. Scouts program helping to promote its growth and stability.** To learn more about your residents' association or see photos & videos of our past events, please visit our [PEHRA Website](http://www.pehra.info) and social media pages.

## NEIGHBOURS IN THE NEWS – CONNOR FITZPATRICK



*Connor (left) and paddling partner Roland (right) on Olympic Games waters*

Connor Fitzpatrick is a sprint canoe athlete who has lived in Portland Estates all his life. This summer he competed in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games! He was 22 years old at the time and competed in the C-1 and C-2 1000-metre events. We asked Connor some questions about his paddling journey and his Olympic experience!

### **Tell us a bit about how your paddling journey started!**

I began paddling in the Summer 2011. I started paddling because a lot of my friends were doing it instead of off-season training for hockey. After a few years of playing in boats down at the lake all summer, I really started to fall in love with the idea of canoeing. I decided that I wanted to have more than just fun and also be competitive in this sport. I started to see lots of improvement and started to see some results come my way, and that was when I was fully in love with everything that came with the sport.

### **What was it like finding out that you qualified for the Olympics?**

The feeling was like none other, for the first few hours I was speechless and didn't really have many words to describe how I felt. After a few hours had passed, I slowly realized what had actually happened. It was so gratifying and it felt crazy to me. I was so happy that all the time and work was starting to pay off and that a lifelong dream of mine was about to come true this summer!! What an incredible feeling!!!

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## NEIGHBOURS IN THE NEWS – CONNOR FITZPATRICK CONT.

**How was your experience at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games?**

**What was the best part?**

My experience in Tokyo during the games was absolutely amazing - it was just fourteen days of the most adrenaline you could ever have, and everyone was on the same level of excitement. The best part of the Games for me was being able to finish 6th in the C2 1000m event with my partner Roland Varga and reset the best ever Canadian C2 time. We had such an incredible race and we worked so hard all year to get this great result and we are so proud of what we could do!

**What an amazing accomplishment Connor, your community was cheering you on!**

## TRAILS COMMITTEE UPDATE

*Written by Hugh Millward – Trails & Parks Committee Chair*

The PEHRA Trails and Parks Committee (TPC) was formed in 2001 to plan and construct a connected system of trails on public parklands within our community. Committee members continue to monitor the trails, and we lobby our Councillor and HRM staff about specific issues related to maintenance, repair, upgrading, and safety. Our recent efforts and concerns are summarized as follows.

**The “Orphan” Trail** - The main Portland Lakes Greenway has a section at its Baker Drive end that remains unpaved. We refer to this as the “orphan” section. The Greenway-standard upgrade of this section has been delayed since 2010, and should not be delayed further. We have been lobbying HRM staff for several years regarding this, and Councillor Becky Kent is very supportive of this project.

In late January we met on-site with HRM design engineer Jennifer Jeans. An upgrade is feasible at reasonable cost, providing that the paved width is narrower than the standard 3.5m width. Councillor Kent and myself met with David Maclsaac (Supervisor, Active Transportation) on-site in June. He assured us that the trail upgrade will definitely be proposed for the 2022 budget.

**Main Trail: “Missing Link” outside Berkeley** - There is a safety issue regarding jaywalkers and cyclists crossing Eisenor Boulevard to connect the two paved sections of the Portland Lakes Greenway. Rather than use the signalized pedestrian crossing opposite the Woodlawn Library, many trail users choose to cross where the eastern section of the paved trail meets Eisenor, even though that is a dangerous blind corner. The long-planned solution to these safety issues is to upgrade the sidewalk on the Berkeley side of Eisenor to a multi-use trail, at greenway standard (3.5m tread width, paved). Trail users will then be guided safely along a seamless route through the signalized pedestrian crossing. At a June meeting with Mr. Maclsaac and Councillor Kent it was agreed that the missing link should be constructed soon. The project could possibly involve Traffic Services in addition to Active Transportation, and be “piggy-backed” on upcoming traffic calming work on Eisenor.

**Trail Maintenance Issues** - The 2021 growing season has been particularly problematical for trail maintenance (or rather, lack thereof!). The main paved trail received late-season shoulder trimming in only two short sections, and HRM maintenance staff completely ignored the trail elsewhere. We complained twice to Rob Mullane (Superintendent for Parks East), and the neglected sections finally received attention in late September. A continuing issue, however, is the lack of any maintenance on the unpaved trails in our community, where woody growth requires cutting back. Councillor Kent has been informed about this problem.

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



## WANTED: TRAIL STEWARDS

*Written by Hugh Millward – Trails & Parks Committee Chair*

The Trails and Parks Committee (TPC) is being revived and we are recruiting new members as trail stewards. Specific and ongoing tasks for the TPC stewards are as follows:

- Conduct regular patrols of all trails to monitor for safety and maintenance issues.
- Report minor safety and maintenance issues to the HRM service line (311) and follow up for action and resolution.
- Engage in light clean-up and maintenance work to augment deficiencies in HRM maintenance, particularly on “abandoned” trails in Portland Hills.
- Report major issues relating to safety, maintenance, or trail upgrades to appropriate HRM staff, our HRM Councillor, and the PEHRA Board. Follow up for action and resolution.
- Plan and lobby for improved trail and park facilities (such as signage and litter bins).
- Plan and lobby for extensions to the active transportation (AT) network of our community, and for linkages to the regional AT network.

**If you 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. Play a part in keeping our community trails looking their best!**

## BLUE-GREEN ALGAE ADVISORIES

*Written by Norman Steele - Environment Committee Chair*

**Lake advisories** - The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate (NSECC) have issued several blue-green algae advisories for lakes in the Dartmouth area. The advisories are primarily based only on a visual assessment of the algae accumulating and observed in the various lakes. Usually, an assessment by NSECC would be triggered by the public reporting the concern to the province. NSECC information and advisories are found at the link here:

[NS Environment – Blue Green Algae](#)

**What is blue-green algae?** Blue-green algae (also called cyanobacteria) are a type of bacteria found in many lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. These bacteria can multiply significantly in the summer, which causes extensive growths called blooms. These blooms often look like scum on the water surface and can be blue-green or greenish-brown. They can also smell musty or grassy. A blue-green algae bloom can produce toxins, which release harmful chemicals into the water when the bloom dies. Those same chemicals can linger in the water for some time and can be harmful to humans and their pets if water is ingested.

**Does Morris and Russell Lake have a blue-green algae?** The true answer is “We don’t know”. Members of the community have observed algae blooms on several occasions in both lakes. The provincial advisory does not include Morris and Russell lakes and is based on a visual assessment only. In many lakes where the advisory has been issued no physical sample has been collected or evaluated to confirm the assessment.

It is best to take a precautionary approach due to the potential health risk and follow the advisory recommendations: *No swimming in, drinking and other contact with the lake water when blooms or surface mats of algae are present or following a recent bloom.* The provincial advisories are in place until December 31, 2021. With warmer weather due climate change, and the continued sediment releases from construction development, we will experience more frequent algae blooms in our lakes.

### Next steps

This situation is an illustration of the lack of resources dedicated to urban lake environmental and human health management by our municipal and provincial governments. As the situation could have serious health risks and impacts on how the lake is used recreationally, it should be important for our government departments to either confirm or negate the assessments they make using laboratory analytical data. **PEHRA continues to inform and encourage our local governments to act.**



## HEARING FROM OUR COUNCILLOR AND MLA

We reached out to our elected officials - Councillor Becky Kent and our new MLA Lorelei Nicholl, to hear their thoughts about our community.

### COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

My top short-term priorities for District 3 are Speeding/ Safe streets, trail/ parkland development around Russell and Bell Lake, and improving Lake Health (baseline testing and lake monitoring). I love to spend time in the parks, trails, and business areas of this community, and I cherish the relationship I have with PEHRA, where working together with dedicated and trusted partners is the most effective way to bring good things to our communities.



Contacting Becky – 902-478-5368 Email: [kentb@halifax.ca](mailto:kentb@halifax.ca)

### MLA LORELEI NICOLL

Cole Harbour-Dartmouth is a newly created riding, so my priority will be on further developing my relationships and engaging with the constituents in the riding. I will focus on getting to know what is important to constituents so I can be a strong voice for them. We are very fortunate to have extensive trail connections and green spaces throughout the riding. Whether walking the Bissett Trail or enjoying the waterfowl in Morris and Russell Lakes, being with nature is a wonderful way to spend time, relax and improve our physical and mental health.



Contacting Lorelei – 902-701-2245 Email: [info@lorelainicoll.ca](mailto:info@lorelainicoll.ca)

## DO YOU AGREE THAT WE LIVE IN ONE OF THE BEST COMMUNITIES IN HRM?

We need your support! This Fall, we are asking you to join our association. With over 2,500 residences in our community, only 200 households have membership in our residents' association.

We are urging every household to join and let their voice be heard!

PEHRA has been instrumental in developing our trails, new gates, new playground, and bringing our safety and environmental concerns to HRM which has led to many community improvements.

**Membership to the association is only \$10 a year**

Your dues are used to cover community events, wreaths for gates, garden maintenance, website renewal and more. Other membership benefits we are working on includes discounts at local businesses, summer picnics at the gazebo, Christmas caroling for families, and many more opportunities to increase our community's sense of spirit.

**Support an organization that is working to make our community even better!**

Visit [www.pehra.info/membership](http://www.pehra.info/membership) or email [membership@pehra.info](mailto:membership@pehra.info)