

**\$10 PEHRA
MEMBERSHIP**

www.pehra.info
/groups/pehrainfo
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newsletter@pehra.info



COMMUNITY SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Leila Bautista – Newsletter
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Place a message on our
[Community Message Board](#)

Emily Michaud
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For more info please visit our
website www.pehra.info

KEEP CONNECTED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

PEHRA IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM! FOLLOW US AT @pehra_dartmouth

PEHRA volunteers are working hard to promote engagement and community spirit through our social networks. With our new Instagram account, we will be able to reach out to more residents. We look forward to sharing contests, polls, shoutouts, vivid images and videos with our followers.

We want to hear from you. Keep connected and help us care for our community!



CANCELLATION OF SPRING AND SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENTS

What a year it has been! Most of us have adapted to the changes and we are very fortunate to live in Nova Scotia. If you have been affected by COVID-19, our thoughts are with you.

Public health regulations still don't allow us to gather in large groups and so we have to cancel the following annual PEHRA events - the Community Easter Egg Hunt and the Community Fun Fest. Hopefully, we will be able to have these events again next year. But in the meantime, continue to stay safe! You can find a recap of these community events from past years by checking out our previous online newsletters at <https://pehra.info/news/>.

A COVID-SAFE ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP – SATURDAY APRIL 24TH 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Please join us and members of the community on Saturday, April 24th 2021 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 and wear your face masks!

PEHRA asks that we all follow the latest COVID-19 public health orders and recommendations. This will likely mean sticking to clean-up work with your "bubble", social distancing around others, and not attending if you answer 'Yes' to any of the COVID-19 screening questions (<https://www.nspickmeup.ca/covid-19/>).

The requirements will be subject to change depending on the latest Public Health restrictions and orders. Event updates will be posted to social media. Last year we were not able to host the event due to COVID-19, 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!



Photo from the 2018 Spring Clean up



Photo from the 2019 Spring Clean up

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SPOTLIGHT

ALLAN CARRINGTON



Allan Carrington has been living in Portland Estates/Hills for almost 15 years and is a dedicated volunteer in the community. Through his role as P.E.C Scouts Group Commissioner, Allan keeps youth engaged through skill-building activities and adventures.

We asked Allan a few questions to learn more about his commitment to volunteering and his love for the community!

How did you start volunteering?

I started volunteering with Scouts UK, teaching Cubs/Scouts how to row a gig (6-man boat) when I was a 12-year-old Sea Scout. I was a volunteer in Scouting until I left the UK at the age of 29. With Scouts Canada, I volunteered just over 3 years ago to 'help out at Beavers' and came home from the first meeting to tell my wife that I had volunteered to run the entire group. You can imagine how that conversation went!

What inspired you to volunteer and why is the PEHRA community important to you?

Scouting can open a world of opportunities for anyone. I was fortunate that someone volunteered their time when I was in my youth, so it's time to give back and open even more doors for the youth in our community. We have to take care of our community and ensure that we build a world of opportunity to inspire the generations that follow us.

How can youth in our community get involved?

Any youth that isn't working towards leadership, teamwork, outdoor skills & qualifications, OR any adult that would like to help youth to achieve their goals, should visit Scouts.ca. They can also get in touch with the P.E.C. Scouting team or any members to find out more.

Thank you for your contributions Allan!

PEHRA'S FIRST VIRTUAL AGM REACHED RESIDENTS IN THEIR HOMES

On November 26th, PEHRA held its first Virtual Annual General Meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions. A Zoom Webinar format was used, successfully allowing residents to participate or just listen safely from their homes. Guests included Claudia Chender MLA, who touched on continued group efforts for Saving our Lakes; Councillor Becky Kent highlighted HRM actions to address traffic concerns and how she will be involved to pursue other community concerns; Scouts Commissioner Allan Carrington reported outstanding growth with young Scouts searching for outside experiences and skills. Results of our community survey and a recap of PEHRA efforts were also shared.

You can visit our website at www.pehra.info to view a recording of the Virtual AGM.

PROTECTING OUR TREES AT RISK

PEHRA and the Scouts have been working in our parks to wrap our "trees at risk" from the beavers living in Morris and Russell Lake. Beavers are herbivores so they cut down the trees to eat the leaves and bark, gnaw on the wood to keep their teeth from growing too long, and use the wood to make their homes or lodges. If the beavers take away too many of our trees, the banks of our lakes and rivers will erode and fish will not have shade to cool the water they live in.



Volunteers at the Tree Wrapping Event on February 13th

By wrapping some of our trees with wire fencing (pictured above), we can protect the environment from damage and live in harmony with the beaver. Thank you to Councillor Becky Kent for providing the funding for materials to wrap the trees. A great team effort to protect our environment and our community! Scouts and community volunteers will continue to wrap trees over the next several months. To help out or learn more, please contact Norman Steele at environment@pehra.info

VOLUNTEER FOR PEHRA

Gardeners, Membership, Events



PEHRA Portland Estates & Hills Residents' Association

Celebrating 30 Years in our Community

Email chair@pehra.info to get involved



ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS FROM NEW DEVELOPMENT

Written by Norman Steele – Environment Committee Chair

New construction and development continue in Portland Estates and Hills. The PEHRA Environment committee has been providing oversight and liaising with residents, HRM, and Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) for these projects to help ensure that environmentally friendly construction practices are being used. Unfortunately, it has been observed over the years that many of the development activities both in past and present are failing to meet the requirements of regulations and good community stewardship.

Morris and Russell Lake have been overfed with nutrients from the silt and sediment that is running-off and eroding from construction and development sites (See recent photos of runoff from Portland Hills development at the top of the road near Portland Street below). Street catch basins (drains) flow into both Morris and Russell Lakes and local streams. Steps can be done to prevent this! Run-off can be easily controlled using well-known and common engineering, and sediment and erosion control practices.



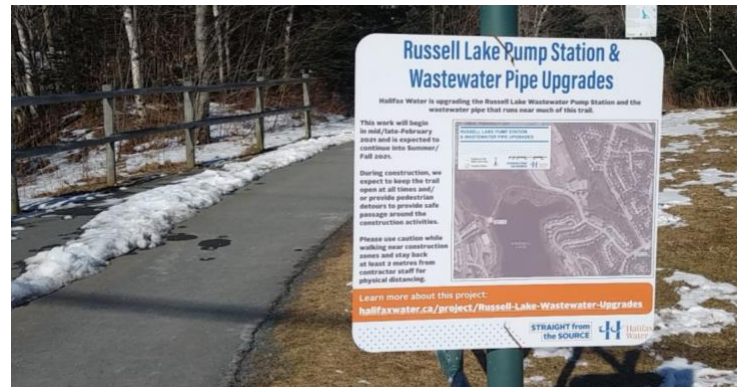
This is directly affecting the health of our lakes – with both lakes showing signs of deterioration from this overfeeding; algae blooms, excessive weed (aquatic plant) growth, and poor water quality. Federal, Provincial, HRM regulations/guidelines, and regulatory authorities are supposed to protect our lakes and community from this harmful runoff.

PEHRA has been communicating frequently with HRM, our councillor Becky Kent, and NSECC in the hopes of finally resolving this long-standing issue. Residents can also **take action** by voicing their concerns to HRM 311 at contactus@311.halifax.ca, Councillor Becky Kent at kentb@halifax.ca, and Nova Scotia Environment at ice@novascotia.ca.

PEHRA will continue to monitor local construction projects and advocate for positive change. For more information, please contact our Environment Chair Norman Steele at environment@pehra.info

HALIFAX WATER UPGRADES ALONG GREENWAY TRAIL

Written by Hugh Millward – Trails & Parks Committee Chair



PEHRA Board members met recently with project managers from Halifax Water and Dexter Construction to discuss upcoming upgrades to the Morris/Russell Lake wastewater forcemain (sewer). The upgrades are necessary to replace couplings on the forcemain running under the paved Greenway trail. Beginning in late April, a temporary by-pass pipe will be laid, and work will then proceed at 10 worksites between Birches Park and Baker Drive. The Russell Lake pumping station will receive a thorough reconstruction, and the adjacent osprey nest has already been relocated to a quieter spot 100m to the South.

The approved environmental protection plan includes silt fencing around work areas, and several sediment booms alongside Russell Lake. Dexter Construction will keep the main trail open at all times or provide pedestrian detours around construction activities. They are required to reinstate the trail to pre-construction conditions. PEHRA will continue to liaise with Halifax Water, and will be providing updates on our Facebook. You can also follow progress at <https://halifaxwater.ca/.../russell-lake-wastewater-upgrades>.

SCOUTS & PEHRA BUILDING A STRONGER FUTURE TOGETHER!

Did you know that the Scouts have 6 canoes, a Marquee tent, camping, hiking, climbing gear, leather tools and lots of equipment that need to be stored “somewhere” in order to run a successful program for young Scouts? PEHRA too has acquired event equipment, tents, signage, and archives that have changed hands with various volunteers over 30 years of serving the community. Scouts & PEHRA have a VISION! Let's build a “base of operations” to store our equipment so that our future volunteers will have a strong foundation to continue the good work! Want to help out with this project? Contact chair@pehra.info

KEEP WILDLIFE “WILD” – THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF FEEDING BIRDS, WATERFOWL, AND WILDLIFE

Written by Norman Steele – Environment Chair

At Birches and Russell Lakes parks, there have been daily occurrences of individuals dumping huge quantities of bird seed and other food in the parks with what appears to be the objective of feeding the ducks and birds. People may view doing this as helping the wildlife survive, but it is actually harmful to wildlife, to our environment, and to humans. This feeding activity is also prohibited by law in HRM. To educate residents about the negative impacts of feeding wildlife, I have compiled some key points from an educational article from Nova Scotia Lands and Forests. Please refrain from these harmful feeding practices, and pass along this valuable information to others.

Feeding wildlife affects...

- **Changes in natural population processes.** Feeding wildlife increases local populations through higher survival rates. As more animals survive, there are fewer resources available for the group, and eventually shortage of food or disease will affect these unnaturally high populations.

- **Animal foraging patterns.** Wildlife will continue to return to where they found an easy meal. This has a particularly negative impact on juvenile animals, as they don't learn the necessary skills of recognizing and finding natural foods. Feeding frequently increases animals' travel near or across roads and highways – endangering not only the wildlife, but the travelling public as well.

- **Houses and Properties.** Other activities can inadvertently attract wildlife. Reduce the chances of nuisance wildlife visits by always removing food residue from your barbecue and surrounding areas, practicing proper household waste disposal and composting techniques, and feeding pets indoors. While you may enjoy seeing the wildlife on your property, consider the impact it may have on your neighbours and their properties.

The best "care" we can provide wildlife to ensure their health and continued existence, is to maintain natural quality habitat and healthy ecosystems where possible...Keep wildlife "wild"! To learn more please read the full article at

<https://novascotia.ca/.../feeding-wildlife-full.asp>



Ducks at the Birches Park boat launch, where feeding often occurs.

TRAFFIC CALMING & ENVIRONMENT ISSUES – COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT UPDATE

Written by Councillor Becky Kent

It is my pleasure to share my first PEHRA Newsletter submission with PEHRA members and interested residents. The good news is that in the current model, Eisner Drive is listed in this year's budget deliberations for traffic calming, assuming that the budget passes and with no changes to this list. Also, the Portland Hills Drive traffic calming measures will continue this year. Last year, 2 speed humps were installed close to the Elementary School. We do not know what measures will be used for Eisner, but Portland Hills Drive will include speed humps and bump outs on the curbs at the minimum.

I am also working with PEHRA and dedicated residents to facilitate action on the impact of the construction project at 670 Portland Hills Drive. The priority is holding the planning department to their authority on the project and the project owner on accountability to the neighborhood. Key focus is on Storm Water Management on site to mitigate silt run off on private properties in the area and eventual harm to Morris Lake, Tree Buffer impact, and site safety. We have had several meetings on site with PEHRA, HRM planning & Halifax Water. Together we are stronger.

Thanks to all who are willing to take action along with me.

SAVE THE DATE for District 3 Virtual Updates with Councillor Becky Kent. To pre-register, please email becky.kent@halifax.ca

PEHRA MEMBERSHIP

PEHRA needs your membership support! Membership funds are essential to helping us organize volunteers, initiatives and events on behalf of residents so we can maintain a safe and caring community for years to come.

Become a member today for just \$10/year - visit www.pehra.info/membership or email membership@pehra.info