

**\$10 PEHRA
MEMBERSHIP**

🌐 www.pehra.ca
f /groups/pehra
@ pehra_dartmouth
✉ newsletter@pehra.ca



COMMUNITY FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

PEHRA CONTACTS

CHAIR

Hugh Millward
chair@pehra.ca

TREASURER

Dilkeerat Dhillon
treasurer@pehra.info

MEMBERSHIP

Angela Fitzner
membership@pehra.ca

VOLUNTEERS

Rana Zaman
volunteers@pehra.ca

COMMITTEES

Hugh Millward
trails@pehra.ca

Dalyce Mallion
birchespark@pehra.ca

Laura Wagner
littlefreelibrary@pehra.ca

Dana McLellan
gatesandgardens@pehra.ca

Norman Steele
environment@pehra.ca

COMMUNICATION TEAM

Hugh Millward
communication@pehra.ca
Melanie Weaver – Instagram
Norman Steele – Facebook
Hugh Millward – Facebook
Leila Bautista – Newsletter

To place a message on our
Community Message Board,
contact

Laura Wagner at
messageboard@pehra.ca

For more info please visit our
website www.pehra.ca

HELP US CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY

For over 30 years, PEHRA has been promoting and improving the quality of life in our community. All residents of Portland Estates and Hills benefit from our community events and our lobbying activities! Our trails and Birches Park facilities were largely the result of our efforts to seek support from HRM, and are greatly enjoyed by all. Plus, each year we host free and well-attended events in Birches Park that bring our community together!

Our work is made possible by our volunteers, but we could always use more. We are currently looking for individuals to fill positions on our Board, and people to help on our various committees: gardens and gates, trails, environment, and events!

As you read about the work we do, we hope you consider the **impact your time and support have on our ability to brighten and maintain our community**. For just \$10 per household annually, you support our improvement projects and neighbourhood events. For new memberships, go to <https://pehra.ca/join>. For our current members, be sure to renew for 2022-23 by sending an e-transfer to treasurer@pehra.info. Thank you for your support!

2022 PEHRA AGM FOLLOWING TOWN HALL

This year, we held our AGM in conjunction with Councillor Becky Kent's October 19th Town Hall for our district. This allowed for a lengthy Q&A session on a variety of community issues, followed by our business meeting. Councillor Kent led the Town Hall discussion, and was aided by guests Dan Kinsella (Halifax Police Chief) and Max Chauvin (HRM Homelessness Coordinator). Various topics were discussed, with emphasis on:

- Traffic calming measures
- Policing
- Proposed re-districting for HRM Council seat, as presented by Councillor Kent
 - If approved, Portland Estates and Hills would separate from Eastern Passage and Cow Bay, and become merged with Dartmouth South.

2022 PEHRA AGM FOLLOWING TOWN HALL CONTINUED

The PEHRA AGM followed the Town Hall. Led by PEHRA's chairperson, Hugh Millward, our main events and achievements during the fiscal 2022 were recognized, and activity highlights for each of PEHRA's committees were described. The financial report was presented by our treasurer, Dilkeerat Dhillon. Thanks to diligent fund-raising efforts from our events team (particularly HRM grants and event sponsorships) our efforts can continue. The Chair underlined the need for paid PEHRA membership to sustain our work, concluding as follows:

"PEHRA is pleased to work on behalf of all residents of Portland Estates and Hills, and all residents can enjoy our free events and benefit from our lobbying successes... but we rely on residents' willingness to show their tangible support for our efforts... there are so many things we can do together. Let's strengthen our community with a strong residents' association."

Most Original - 249 Bellbrook Crescent



SHARING THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT

On October 30th, Three witches and a werewolf (Councillor Becky Kent, MLA Lorelei Nicoll, and PEHRA volunteers Dalyce Mallion and Tamer Sobeih) toured the Portland Estates and Hills neighbourhood to look for homes who excelled at capturing and sharing the Halloween spirit! Although there were many worthy contestants, 3 prizes were awarded with a \$25 Gift Card and free PEHRA membership – delivered on Halloween Night (see photos of winners below). A big "thank you" to all participating homes, and Councillor Kent and MLA Nicoll for getting into the spirit and sharing some fun in our community. We look forward to them returning to judge PEHRA's "Holiday House Contest" on December 20th!

Most Spectacular - 70 Edgewater Close



Most Creative - 3 Sprucewood Court





PARTY IN THE PARK SUMMER EVENT

On August 28th PEHRA, in partnership with Councillor Becky Kent, invited the community to gather for an afternoon of live music, food and fun in Birches Park. Our Gazebo became our bandstand featuring live bands Mojo Alley and The Harbour Kings. Jumping castles, food stands, an obstacle course made by our PEC Scouts, and amazing support from local businesses made for an enjoyable day in the sun. Join our [Facebook group](#) to check out a video recap of the event – filmed and created by Wiechert Films.



Thank you to MP Darren Fisher, MLA Lorelei Nicoll, and Councillor Becky Kent for attending and supporting our community. Thank you to all our volunteers, and sponsors (pictured below) who made this event possible! We look forward to next year's summer PEHRA event.



MOVIE IN THE PARK – A GREAT SUCCESS!

October 1st was a beautiful night for an outdoor movie event in Birches Park. Over **500 family and friends** gathered on blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy a Disney favourite, "Aladdin!". Pop Up Cinema's large screen attracted residents alongside their food truck serving movie snacks such as popcorn, drinks, and even cheesecake on a stick! Thank you to our PEHRA volunteers for helping to organize the event, and special thanks to our main event sponsor – Steele Mazda for their contribution to make this fun evening possible! Join us for another movie under the stars next year!



Looking forward to 2023 community events?

We are always looking for helping hands, new event ideas, and sponsors!

Bring your ideas to PEHRA and join our events team by reaching out to birchespark@pehra.ca

UPDATE TO COMMUNITY TRAIL

Written by Trails Committee Chair – Hugh Millward

PEHRA's Trails Committee has been lobbying to HRM for many years for a paved multi-user trail from the Russell Lake pumping station to the Baker Drive trailhead park. Our persistence is finally bearing fruit and our "Orphan Trail" is now getting some TLC!

The gravel trail was initially constructed in the 1990s when the lakeshore parkland was deeded to the city. In 2007, PEHRA's trails committee worked with HRM staff to plan, design, and construct the small trailhead park at the corner of Norman Newman Drive and Baker Drive. A paved trail upgrade was planned 12 years ago as part of a federal infrastructure program, but this section was excluded owing to lack of funds.

The current upgrade re-aligns the trail entrance to lower the grade from 17% to 8%, which is the national trail standard and provides improved accessibility for all users. **The entire trail section is being widened to three metres and paved.** In addition, the short section which shares the pump-station access road is being paved.



Like the rest of the greenway, this upgraded section will now be maintained year-round, including winter snow removal. PEHRA takes great pride in pursuing these developments that improve our neighbourhood!

NEW LAKEWATCHERS INITIATIVE

Written by Environment Committee Chair – Norman Steele

For many years now, PEHRA and the community has been concerned with the noticeable deterioration of water quality in Morris and Russell Lakes. Development of Portland Hills, ongoing constructions projects, and the effects of climate change have certainly contributed to excessive growth of aquatic plants, algae blooms, and high concentrations of contaminants and pathogens. Prior to the amalgamation of HRM, the city of Dartmouth conducted lake monitoring which included chemical analysis of the lake water quality. This helped identify trends and conclude if the water quality was good from a human health and ecological risk perspective.

After many years of asking Halifax and lobbying our representatives to start up the lake water quality monitoring again, we are pleased to announce that Halifax has **launched a new program called LakeWatchers.** The PEHRA Environment committee is participating and assisting with the collect of waters samples and other data. This is a step in the right direction and suggests a shift by Halifax towards more focus on the value and health of our urban lakes. If you are interested in participating and helping with the data collection, please contact our Environment Chair, Norman Steele at environment@pehra.ca. More information can also be found at the following link: [LakeWatchers | Halifax](#).



STRENGTHENING PEHRA COMMUNICATIONS

The PEHRA Communications Team strives to keep community information shared with residents clearly and effectively. We remind residents that we share up-to-date announcements surrounding events and PEHRA committee news on our social media accounts – [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Additionally, PEHRA members get occasional notices with these important reminders straight to their email inbox!

To streamline our online outreach, our social media announcements now present themselves in a “news feed” on our www.pehra.ca website. You can find everything you need to know on our website – including how to sign up to be a member so you get PEHRA information directly, board member contacts, descriptions of our various committees, and a collection of recent newsletters!

**Have any ideas or feedback on how to keep connected?
Get in touch with a Communications Team member today!**



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE, CARE FOR WHERE YOU LIVE!

Did you enjoy reading the newsletter, walking our community trails,
or attending PEHRA events this year?

Are you excited for upcoming contests and events,
and seeing lake and trail conservation efforts continue?

Help us continue and improve our efforts by becoming
a paid **PEHRA MEMBER for just \$10 a year/household** and by
VOLUNTEERING with our committees and at our events.

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

<https://pehra.ca/join>