

Call 1-800-565-2224

or

Halifax Regional Police or RCMP at

902-490-5020

to report illegal activities
in our watershed areas.

Lake Major

Newsletter

To learn more about Halifax Water's
Source Water Protection Program
please visit:

halifaxwater.ca/protected-water-areas

or call our Customer Care Centre at
902-420-9287

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Summer 2022 Edition

Have your say on the Regulatory Review Process for the Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area

In 2021, the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board (Board) was approached about inconsistencies in the *Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area* Regulations (Regulations). These Regulations are specific to the provincially designated *Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area* (PWA). For details on the watershed area please visit <https://www.halifaxwater.ca/protected-water-areas>.

Through the Lake Major Watershed PWA Regulations, the Board, comprised of stakeholders and community representatives, was established to advise the Minister and the Water Works Operator (Halifax Water) on managing the Lake Major watershed. The Board's Terms of Reference is found at <https://www.halifaxwater.ca/sites/default/>

files/2019-01/lakemajoradvisorycommittee.pdf.

The utility (e.g., Halifax Water) is responsible for enforcing the PWA regulations under their jurisdiction, as directed by the Province of Nova Scotia, which includes approving any changes or amendments to their respective PWA regulations. Halifax Water is responsible for managing the municipal water supplies for the Halifax Regional Municipality, which includes three PWAs, one of which is the Lake Major Watershed.

Upon review of the *Lake Major Watershed PWA* Regulations, the Board agreed that there were inconsistencies and subsequently recommended that Halifax Water make a formal request to

the province to amend the Regulations. Halifax Water met with Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) in early 2022 to discuss the regulation amendment process, including public consultation.

NSECC directed Halifax Water to conduct the consultation and include the Board and representatives from the province. These public engagement sessions (see the table below) are designed to inform and seek input from the public on potential amendments to the Regulations.

Those interested in participating in the regulation amendment process are encouraged to review the current Regulations at <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/envpwlmr.htm>.

Community	Location	Date	Time
East Preston	East Preston Recreation Centre 24 Brooks Dr., East Preston	Tuesday, September 20, 2022	2:00 PM — 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM — 9:00 PM
North Preston	North Preston Community Centre 44 Simmonds Rd., North Preston	Wednesday, September 21, 2022	2:00 PM — 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM — 9:00 PM
Cherry Brook/Lake Loon/Lake Major	Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia 10 Cherry Brook Rd., Cherry Brook	Wednesday, September 28, 2022	2:00 PM — 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM — 9:00 PM
Westphal/Waverley	The Fairbanks Centre 54 Locks Rd., Dartmouth	Wednesday, October 5, 2022	2:00 PM — 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM — 9:00 PM
Greater Dartmouth Customers	Woodlawn United Church 54 Woodlawn Rd., Dartmouth	Tuesday, October 11, 2022	2:00 PM — 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM — 9:00 PM
Online Engagement Session	Sign up online at register.gotowebinar.com/register/5498327122348821517	Wednesday, October 19, 2022	7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

The informal in-person and online sessions taking place on the dates and times indicated on the table on the previous page will include a number of information panels for community members to view at their leisure, to learn about the Designated *Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area* and its Regulations and to consult with representatives from the Board, Halifax Water and the Province of Nova Scotia. We strongly encourage interested members of the community to attend these sessions to engage with representatives and to submit comments and feedback in writing.

Have Your Say!...

- **Attend the public consultation sessions listed on opposite page;**
- **Participate online at www.halifaxwater.ca; or**
- **Write us, by Nov. 18, 2022 at:**

**Lake Major Watershed
Engagement Team
c/o Halifax Water 450 Cowie Hill Road
PO Box 8388 RPO CSC Halifax,
NS B3K 5M1**

After initial comments have been gathered, the public will be able to review the recommended Regulation amendments via Halifax Water's website until January 19, 2023. The proposed amendments will be submitted to the province by the end of January 2023.

To get started on the public consultation process, the public is invited to carefully review the *PWA* Regulations at the link referenced on the opposite page, and the tabled list (below) of some watershed-related activities, how they are currently regulated and some highlighted inconsistencies within the Regulations.

Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area Regulation Inconsistencies and Omissions

Activity	Existing <i>PWA</i> Regulations	<i>PWA</i> Regulation Inconsistencies / Omissions
Boating	Boats permitted up to 9.9 hp on all Lake Major <i>PWA</i> watercourses except for Long Lake where boating is not permitted.	Restricting boating on specific lakes creates confusion for the public and creates enforcement issues for Halifax Water.
Fishing	Fishing permitted within the Lake Major watershed except within 100 m of Lake Major Intake, or on Long Lake where fishing is not permitted.	Restricting fishing on specific lakes creates confusion for the public and creates enforcement issues for Halifax Water.
Swimming	Swimming permitted within the Lake Major <i>PWA</i> except within 100 m of the intake, or on Long Lake where swimming is not permitted.	Restricting swimming on specific lakes or areas creates confusion for the public and creates enforcement issues for Halifax Water.
ATV/Motocross/ other off-road vehicles	Recreational vehicles not permitted on or over Long Lake or Lake Major.	Omission of off-highway vehicle use on land within the <i>PWA</i> has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.
Pets	Not included in the current <i>PWA</i> Regulations.	Pets must be on leash and under the owner's control at all times and cleaned up after.
Water withdrawal	Not included in the current <i>PWA</i> Regulations.	Omission of restrictions related to water withdrawal activities within the <i>PWA</i> has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.
Watercourse and wetland setbacks and buffers	Not included in the current <i>PWA</i> Regulations. Setbacks and buffers controlled by HRM (development) and the province (forestry) are not articulated in the <i>PWA</i> Regulations.	Omission of restrictions related to watercourse setbacks and buffers within the <i>PWA</i> has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.
Docks and Wharfs	Not included in the current <i>PWA</i> Regulations.	Omission of restrictions related to docks and wharfs within the <i>PWA</i> has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.
Boat Launch	Not included in the current <i>PWA</i> Regulations	Omission of restrictions related to boat launches within the <i>PWA</i> has created confusion for the public and an enforcement gap for Halifax Water.