

COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER SUMMER/FALL 2017



DEAR RESIDENTS,

By time you receive this in the mail it will be September, the students will be back, and we may even be feeling a bit of the crisp fall air in the breeze in the evenings. Where does the time go? The last page of this newsletter once again **welcomes students back to Halifax**, and provides important information on how to help make our neighbourhoods even better.

This fall many major projects and plans will be completed. We've had a bit of time off this summer, but soon it will be time to make sure these important pieces of foundational work get done, and represent what our community wants to see.

Some of the plans coming include **Green Network** (the future of parks and wilderness), **Integrated Mobility** (the future of transportation), **Schmidtville and Old South Suburb** (strong heritage protections for our neighbourhoods), **Downtown Dartmouth** (an important piece of developing our downtowns) and of course the **Centre Plan** (finally modernizing our planning rules). Sign up for my e-newsletter so you can keep up to date on these and more as they come forward!

This newsletter updates you on the results of **Participatory Budgeting 2017**, as well **Call Centre** hours, **Green Cart info**, and a **public wifi update**.

Take care,

E-NEWS SIGNUP

In addition to this paper newsletter, I send regular email updates approximately once every two or three weeks via email.

Please visit wayemason.ca/mailling-list and enter your information. You will receive an email to confirm subscription. You must click on the link supplied to complete your enrolment. You can unsubscribe at anytime and your email address will not be shared.

If you are aware of a community event or announcement and would like it included, **or if you want the e-news mailed to you**, please contact my Coordinator, Melody Campbell and she will mail you the newsletter. Her contact info is in the sidebar to the right of this page.

CONTACT US

311 - HRM CITIZEN CONTACT CENTRE

Call 311 or visit halifax.ca/311 to report a municipal issue, the contact centre is open 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday except Christmas & New Year's Day.

CALL MY OFFICE

Contact my Council Constituency Coordinator Melody Campbell by email at melody.campbell@halifax.ca or by calling 902.490.2012

CONTACT ME

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wayemason.ca/mailling-list/

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Police/Fire Emergency	911
Police non-emergency	902.490.5020
Fire (non-emergency)	902.490.5530
Halifax Water Emergency	902.490.6940
Councillor Support Office	902.490.4050





2017 CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

On May 9th, the **2017 Citizenship Awards** were presented at City Hall to students who exemplify dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life in our schools and in our communities. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all Award recipients, including District 7 Award Recipients **Emma Martel** from Gorsebrook Junior High School, **Cornell Reddick** from Highland Park Junior High School and **Rand Abounahia** from the Maritime Muslim Academy. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to your school and community.



Emma Martel, Gorsebrook Junior High School



Cornell Reddick, Highland Park JHS



Rand Abounahia, Maritime Muslim Academy



SCREENING OF MILK AT CITY HALL

I was pleased to host a screening of the movie “Milk” at City Hall on July 26th during Pride Week. Milk is a 2008 American biographical film based on the life of gay rights activist and politician Harvey Milk, who was the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California, as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Presented with the support of Councillors Smith, Cleary & Austin and Municipal Clerk Kevin Arjoon, it was an evening enjoyed by all those in attendance, it was very moving. This was the first time that we know of that a movie screening was held at Halifax Hall.

CALL CENTRE HOURS CHANGE

HRM's 311 Customer Contact Call Centre has changed its hours of regular operation. **The new hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.** Residents can still obtain transit and garbage/recycling information by selecting the automated self-service options after hours. Service requests can also be submitted online anytime at <https://www.halifax.ca/home/311>.

Please contact our call centre to report any municipal issues in your area so we have a record and can remedy the situation as soon as possible.

WEEKLY GREEN CARTS PROGRAM EXTENDED

During this year's budget debate, HRM Regional Council decided to an extension of its weekly organic green cart collection program. Green cart collection will continue until the end of September. For more information about this initiative, please go to:

www.halifax.ca/home-property/garbage-recycling-green-cart/green-carts-leaf-yard-material Please be Green!

PUBLIC WIFI

Public WiFi service is now available at the **Grand Parade** and on the **Halifax and Dartmouth waterfronts**. Bell Aliant is responsible for monitoring and responding to concerns regarding connectivity or access issues. To check it out, logon to HfxPublicWiFi.



LARGEST TURNOUT YET FOR 5TH ANNUAL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING VOTE IN DISTRICT 7

A record number of residents, five hundred and thirty-seven voters, turned out on June 14th to decide which community projects would receive funding in the districts 5th annual participatory budget vote. Residents, many of them children, came to the Halifax Central Library and voted to support five of the nine citizen-led initiatives through funding from the district discretionary capital fund.

We opened the doors an hour earlier than last year and people were still lined up when the doors opened. It was very exciting to see so many people of all ages and from around the district come and have their say. This year 537 residents voted, up dramatically from 360 in 2017, 335 in 2015, 260 in 2014 and 120 in 2013.

Full funding was provided to the **Le Marchant St. Thomas PTA** – \$20,000.00 for playground improvements; **Partners for Care / Common Roots Urban Farm** – \$6,100.00 for tables, sitting area and water stations; **Inglis Street Elementary School PTA** – \$20,000.00 for playground improvements and a swing set; **Climb NS** – \$17,500.00 for an outdoor gym; **Halifax Cycling Coalition** \$14,250.00 – for eco counters and bike repair station. Partial funding was provided to **Downtown Halifax Business Commission** with \$16,150.00 for parkland upgrades.

For more information, please visit <http://halifaxsouth.ca/pb>.



It was an honour to participate in the kick off for the 150th anniversary of the Halifax Public Gardens with, among others, Queen Victoria and MP Andy Filmore.



Despite the rain the official opening ceremony for Canada Day at the Hill was, once again, moving and memorable.

2017 HRM VOLUNTEER AWARDS

On April 12th HRM recognized the extraordinary contributions of individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in HRM communities. Congratulations to District 7 Award recipients **Liz MacBeth**, **Mahbubur Rahman** and **Denton Frosese**.

Thank you for your contributions to our community!



Liz MacBeth



Mahbubur Rahman



Denton Frosese

PLEASE RECYCLE - Due to Canada Post delivery routes, some residents who do not live in District 7 may receive this newsletter. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion. To find out who your councillor is, please visit: eservices.halifax.ca/districtlookup/ or call **311**.





WELCOME (BACK) STUDENTS!

Please take a second to read a few pointers to help you enjoy Halifax.

Welcome to Halifax and to Halifax South Downtown!

Our community is a very diverse mix of students, renters, long-term homeowners, businesses and more. Our diversity is what makes our neighborhood great. We are all glad you are here!

You've probably noticed the diverse housing, with apartments mixed in with single family homes. There isn't a "student ghetto" in Halifax! You may live next to your professor, rather than fellow students. This can and does create problems at times as your neighbours could be emergency room doctors, retired people, seniors, preschool and school age children, babies, professionals of all kinds.

Sometimes students are new renters and don't know that they have legal obligations as tenants and neighbours. We know most students just want to get along with the neighbours. Here are three things that seem to cause most of the friction: noise, booze & mess.

NOISE: You have the right to enjoy yourself with friends while respecting that your neighbors have the right to a good night's sleep. Some top complaints I get include 'yelling while walking' and 'drunk what cab are you getting in' debates.

You can be fined if your party or gathering "unreasonably disturbs or tends to disturb the peace and tranquillity of a neighbourhood". Fines start at \$463.95 and rising to \$1268.95 for a third offence.

Remember if your neighbour has kids, they are going to expect some late night quiet, but also that tickets can be given any time of day.

BOOZE: The drinking age in Nova Scotia is 19. **Underage drinking can result in a fine of \$463.95.** Same goes with walking around with an open drink, and this is important - even during homecoming and St Patricks day!

Being intoxicated in a public place can result in a fine of between \$130.45 and \$463.95.

Basically, don't walk around drunk or with open liquor. You can have fun but make sure that it doesn't impact others enjoyment of their neighbourhood.

MESS: This is often a result of a party. Clean up any litter. You'd be surprised how many neighbours ask me to remind students not to go to the bathroom outside. Nothing undermines the reputation and dignity of students in general like public urination. Pick up any garbage after a party & see if you neighbours have any concerns, and they are more likely to cut you some slack.

The municipality can order a property cleaned up and if the work is not done, the municipality will clean the property, and bill the property owner, which will upset your landlord! Make sure you put the right stuff out Monday morning, visit <https://www.halifax.ca/home-property/garbage-recycling-green-cart/collection-schedules>. **Fines are \$463.95.**

FINAL WORDS: Halifax is your home now too, and despite all this talk of fines, we are glad you chose to come here! Nobody wants to fine you, or call bylaw on you, or call the police, but we all share this space. Please, respect your neighbours and the community.

If your actions or actions of your guests unreasonably and repeatedly disturb the neighbourhood, people will call the city, the police, the universities, and your landlord.

Halifax is one of the best small cities in Canada, and it takes all of us working together to make it so.

This is my forth back to school message since being elected, and I do want to thank you all as the last two years have actually been some of the smoothest back to schools in decades. **Let's keep working together to share this community respectfully!**