



COUNCILLOR TIM OUTHIT

BEDFORD - WENTWORTH

DISTRICT 16 NEWSLETTER

DEAR BEDFORD-WENTWORTH RESIDENTS



I had hoped to provide you with a newsletter sooner but I have been waiting to share progress on several plans, projects and issues that impact our community, prior to releasing an annual newsletter.

I am pleased to report that Halifax Regional Municipality has completed and passed the Integrated Mobility Plan. This plan will help guide the implementation of complete streets, integration of all transit modes, improve active transportation, and better link traffic and transportation improvements to growth and new development. The IMP also recognized that Commuter Rail is the best option for moving people in the Halifax to Windsor Junction corridor!

We have seen many “state of good repair” projects in District 16 over the past year. These projects included street paving, street patching, path paving, new fencing, stone wall replacement and repairs, new sidewalks, sidewalk repairs, painting, and several new playground structures. I will highlight some of these for you, plus provide an overview of the projects you can expect to see over the next year.

I am grateful for the tremendous support and cooperation that I have received from my Council colleagues, municipal staff, Halifax Water staff, Halifax Regional Police, our MP and MLA, community volunteers, and many community members as we work to serve and improve our community.

As always, I encourage you to contact me with your ideas, concerns and questions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - FAQs:

Q – What happens now with the Edward Cornwallis statue?

A – My vision and objective continues to be that we receive guidance from a panel of experts on how to celebrate and recognize both our diverse heritage and the spirit of reconciliation. I share the vision, and many of you have contacted me to support it, of a reconciliation and heritage park or museum display.

Q – How does the municipality go about deciding which streets and roads to repair or replace?

A – Please refer to the article on page 3 in this newsletter outlining the process.

Q – When does the municipality decide to use salt, sand or brine and does brine really work?

A – Please see the article on page 4 in this newsletter.

Q – How are plans progressing for the new Transit Terminal and Park & Ride in West Bedford?

A – The land has been purchased on Innovation Dr. I expect work to begin within the next two years and integrated with possible Bus Rapid Transit and/or Commuter Rail.

Q – How is the municipality progressing with speed calming and speed limit reduction in residential areas?

A – Regional Council has passed the Integrated Mobility Plan and has also given direction to Transportation, Traffic and Planning staff to change how we design our streets and to consider new and additional calming measures and traffic control standards. A number of streets in our community are presently being investigated for speed calming. The municipality has not yet received permission from the province to reduce the default speed limit on side streets and cul de sacs to 40Kph.

Q – When are we getting a new library?

A – Please see the separate article on page 6 in this newsletter.

Q – What is new regarding the Bedford Waterfront project?

A – Development and public consultation remains on hold while the municipality finalizes traffic and transportation studies and plans. Please see the WDCL projects update in this newsletter on page 6.



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STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARD WINNERS FROM DISTRICT 16



Danielle Baribeau



Sara Ibsen



Ridhi Mittal



Maryn Elizabeth Matheson

On May 9, Regional Council hosted the 2017 Halifax Regional Municipality Citizenship Awards at City Hall. Grade 9 students were recognized for their dedication and commitment to improving life in both their school and community. Congratulations to Danielle Baribeau, École Secondaire du Sommet; Sara Ibsen, Fairview Junior High School; Ridhi Mittal, Madeline Symonds Middle School and Maryn Elizabeth Matheson, Rocky Lake Junior High School.

HRM 2017 VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Leanne Strathdee



Shelly Rowan



Rachel Bouwer



Fred Pellerine

Each year the municipality recognizes volunteers who are nominated by community groups and organizations for their significant contributions to our community. Congratulations to Bedford Volunteer Award recipients Leanne Strathdee, Shelly Rowan, Rachel Bouwer and Fred Pellerine. The municipality appreciates your commitment to improving our community.

BEDFORD VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Bedford volunteers

Congratulations to this year's 2017 award recipients: The Bedford Volunteer of the Year is Terry Choyce (Bedford United Church). The Youth Volunteer is Skylar Boylan (Bedford United Church).

- Jose Ross, All Saints Anglican Church
- Barry Matthews, Bedford Baptist Church
- Erika Proctor, Bedford Business Association
- Pamela MacLean, Bedford Horticultural Society
- Carolyn Ulch, Bedford Lawn Bowls
- Basil Miller & Betty Ann Chennell, Bedford Leisure Club
- Kyle Schmeisser, Bedford Minor Baseball Association
- Elaine & Stephen Melanson, Bedford Players Community Theatre
- Christopher Henningsen, Bedford Public Library
- Harvey Hustins, Brookside Cemetery Corporation
- Terry Choyce, Bedford United Church
- Diane Urquhart, Catholic Women's League
- Ted Sceles, Fort Sackville Foundation
- Renee Dawson, Girl Guides of Canada – Bedford District
- Beverly Wentzell, Kwebec Chapter #27 OES
- Micheline Menard, Meals on Wheels
- Joyce Pitcher, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 95
- Owen Barnhill, Scouts Canada 1st Bedford Group
- Michael Roughneen, St. Ignatius Church
- Jad Issa, Bedford Public Library
- Nicole Poirier, St. Ignatius Church
- Skyler Boylan, Bedford United Church

On behalf of Bedford residents, thank you and congratulations! I encourage residents to contact me or the Bedford Volunteer Awards Committee should you wish to nominate members of these groups, or from other groups not yet recognized, for this year's awards. The municipality appreciates your commitment to improving our community.



DEWOLF PARK TREE DEDICATION & NEW INTERPRETATION PANELS



A big shout out and thank you to municipal Parks for replacing the memorial tree, interpretive panels and signage in DeWolf Park.

PAVING & REPAIR

Have you ever wondered how your municipal government selects which streets will be paved or which sidewalks need repair?

The municipality's Pavement Management team inspects all roads, sidewalks, and other infrastructure on a three-year cycle to decide which ones need work most urgently.

How are projects selected? Each type of infrastructure is assessed by the Pavement Management team in its own way:

- Streets are rated by assessing the severity and density of each type of distress present on the roadway. Those scores then go into an algorithm used to compute an SDI (Surface Distress Index), which is a score between 0 and 10 for that particular segment of road, where 10 is a perfect road and 0 is a heavily distressed road.
- Sidewalks are rated by walking each block of sidewalk, and taking a count of the defective slabs vs total slabs on that block, and then computing a "Percent Defective." Where sidewalks are asphalt or brick, they are simply rated good, fair or poor.
- Curbs are rated as good, fair or poor, regardless of the material.

2017 CAPITAL WORK COMPLETED

Street Recapitalization

Bedford Hwy. – Hwy. 102 to Rocky Lake
Dartmouth Rd. – Bedford Hwy. to Bedford Bypass
Estelle Ave. – Olive to Lewis
Olive Ave. – Lewis to Bernard

Asphalt Overlays

Condor Rd. – Eaglewood to End
Nighthawk Ln. – Eaglewood to Snowy Owl
Raven Hill – Snowy Owl to Cul De Sac
Snowy Owl Dr. – Condor to Cul De Sac

Microsurfacing

Starboard Dr. – Larry Uteck to 50m E of Friesian

Planer Patching

Southgate Dr. – Bedford Hwy. to Larry Uteck

Sidewalk Renewals

Bedford Hwy. – North Mall Entry to Oakmount (E)
Dartmouth Rd. – Eaglewood to End of Sidewalk

New Sidewalk

Hammonds Plains Rd. – Brookshire to Smith
Bedford Hwy. – Walkway near Rocky Lake to Civic 1687
Dartmouth Rd. – Brentwood to Ridgevale

Guide Rails

89 Dartmouth Rd. (replacement)

Retaining Walls

Bedford Hwy. – Rocky Lake to Civic 1687
Bedford Hwy. – Oakmount to North Mall Entrance

Crack Sealing

Southgate Dr. – Bedford Hwy to Larry Uteck
Armenia Dr. – Nine Mile to End
Aspenhill Crt. – Hazelton to Cul De Sac
Basinview Dr. – Wimbledon to Minshull
Bedford Hills Rd. – Hammond Plains to Basinview
Bedford Hwy. – Fourth to Dartmouth
Birch St. – Maple to End
Bosun Run – Civic 88 to Fleetview (W)
Damascus Rd. – Duke to Cul De Sac
Douglas Dr. – Meadowbrook to Cul De Sac
Duke St. – Rocky Lake to Mann
Elgin St. – O'Brine to End
Fairwinds Pl. – Armenia to Cul De Sac
Fleetview Dr. – Civic 67 to Bosun Run
Hammonds Plains Rd. – Civic 674 to Giles (E)
Hazelton Hill – Gary Martin to Larkview
Innovation Dr. – Gary Martin to Angus Morton
Larkview Terr. – Hazelton to Cul De Sac
Larry Uteck Blvd. – Bedford Hwy to 170m W of Starboard
Lewis Dr. – Bernard to Olive
Lowther Ln. – Three Admirals to Cul De Sac
O'Brine St. – Dartmouth to Tophill
Olive Ave. – Bernard to Lewis
Rockmanor Dr. – Redbank to Birchwood
Shore Dr. – Fort Sackville to Wardour
Three Admirals Dr. – Hollyhock to Cul De Sac
Tophill Dr. – O'Brine to End



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PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR 2018

Street Recapitalization

Armoyan Crt – Peregrine to Cul De Sac
Cliff St – Bedford Hwy to Pine (2017 Carryover)
Doyle St – Hammonds Plains to Landsburg (2017 Carryover)
Eagle Pl – Eaglewood to Cul De Sac
Eaglewood Dr – Dartmouth to Golf Links
Golf Links Rd – Dartmouth to Eaglewood
Peregrine Cres – Eaglewood to Eaglewood

Asphalt Overlays

Bedford Hwy – Highway 102 to Oakmount (2017 Carryover)
Hammonds Plains Rd – Smith to Sandy Lake Academy (2017 Carryover)
Kearney Lake Rd – Civic 327 to Larry Uteck
Parkvale Cres – Ridgevale to Ridgevale

Chip Sealing

Emmerson St – Rutledge to End

Active Transportation

Bedford West Greenways (Sidewalk Oversizing) (2017 Carryover)
Fort Sackville Walkway & Bedford-Sackville Connector
Sackville-Bedford Greenway – Adjacent to 1746 Bedford Hwy (realign/recap) (2017 Carryover)

Guide Rails

Cliff St (replacement) (2017 Carryover)

Retaining Walls

Cliff St (replacement) (2017 Carryover)

Walkways

15 Fourth St to 15 Panorama Ln (2017 Carryover)
Doyle St to Basinview Dr

Bridges

BR124 Moirs Mill Lake Pedestrian Bridge (Detailed design for future replacement)

CROSSWALK UPDATE

Last year the municipality converted the Special Crosswalk (RA-5) at Bedford Hills Rd and Basinview Dr to a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) treatment as part of a trial installation at 4 different locations around Halifax. This new treatment type has been well-received by residents. A standard treatment of signs and paint (RA-4) was approved by the Traffic Authority for the intersection of Gary Martin Dr and Innovation Dr and its installation is weather dependant.

SALTING AND BRINING – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW?

Salt management is all about utilizing de-icing chemicals at the right time, in the right amounts, in the right place. Salt needs time, temperature and moisture to work. It draws the heat required either from the air or the roadway surface. Sodium chloride is a chemical made up of sodium and chloride ions held together by a chemical bond. Heat and moisture is required to break this chemical bond allowing the separate sodium and chloride ions to go into a solution. This solution depresses the point at which water will freeze. As it melts snow, it creates more moisture and forms brine across a roadway. This prevents new snow from packing on the roadway and stays in a “slushy” state until it can be ploughed off mechanically. It takes eight times more salt to de-ice as opposed to anti-ice. It’s far easier, and less costly, to prevent the ice and snow pack from forming on the travelled way than to remove it afterwards.

Pre-wet systems spray a 23 per cent brine solution on dry salt as it is being discharged from the truck. Our tandem and five-ton single axle trucks all have pre-wet systems installed. Each truck has a capacity of approximately 500 litres for brine. By spraying brine onto the salt it gives the salt a boost in moisture content that speeds up the formation of brine as it mixes with the snow. At lower temperatures, snow contains less moisture and it can take a longer time to start the chemical process. Pre-wet salt sticks better to the roadway. This is especially important at the beginning of a weather event when the municipality salts the roadway ahead of the snowfall as part of the anti-icing strategy. Dry salt will very quickly be scattered to the curbs with traffic action and wind. Pre-wet salt stays in the roadway longer.

Direct Liquid Application (DLA) is one of the tools used for preventive maintenance. This is where brine (23 per cent salt solution) is sprayed directly on the road surface before a snow event or a risk of frost. The water evaporates leaving the salt residue in the tiny cracks and surface of the roadway. Once snow falls, it mixes with this residue creating brine which spreads across the road surface and prevents the formation of ice. It’s interesting to note that once the water evaporates, the sodium chloride crystalizes on the road surface leaving a white residue which appears to look like a significant amount of salt has been used – when, in fact, much less has been applied by using brine rather than road salt. It can be used up to 48 hours in advance, to target areas that are prone to early morning frost conditions particularly during the early and late “shoulder” seasons.

Due to Canada Post distribution areas, some residences which are not in District 16 may receive this newsletter. I apologize for any confusion this may cause and hope you still find the information useful.



BANNER YEAR FOR THE BEDFORD HIGHWAY!



I was pleased to use District 16 capital funds to purchase and install new Bedford Days and Canada Day banners last summer.

BEDFORD DAYS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Last summer was the 40th anniversary of Bedford Days. Thank you to all the volunteers, many sponsors, and municipal staff who work almost year-round to make this event fun and successful. Volunteers committee members include: Erika Proctor, Donna Lugar, Hannah Colville, Natasha Handspiker, John Smith, Denise Kroll, and long time municipal staff member Mike Gillett. I also want to thank past committee members Barb Hooper and Krista Tidgwell Vining for their previous years of service. Please contact me or a committee member if you have suggestions for our next Bedford Days program.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUND UPDATE

I am happy to report that two new playgrounds were completed in 2017: Southgate Drive Park Playground and Transom Playground. The following playgrounds are upcoming in 2018:

Fleetview Drive Park Playground
Bedford Village Park Playground
Pierre Gingras Memorial Park Playground and Court

In addition to playgrounds the following projects are also planned:

Scotia Drive Park Concept Plan
Park Bridge – Ridgevale Drive Park
Meadowbrook Park (backstop and reconfiguration of field for baseball)

RESTORED AND EXPANDED CENOTAPH

I was recently approached by the Bedford Legion and the Bedford Lions Club regarding the need for a new and larger Cenotaph for our community and the need for improvements to the areas where wreaths are placed and participants stand. Both groups offered financial support and project design and overview support. The initiative was led and strongly supported by Kent Nickerson, who recently passed away. The group, municipal staff and I are committed to making his vision a reality. While the Cenotaph and Park work is underway, the municipality will also undertake repairs or replacement of our deteriorating bandstand/gazebo in Fish Hatchery Park. Please see the update below from municipal Parks.

Bedford Cenotaph and Bandstand Restoration

The original Bedford Cenotaph was constructed in 1926 as a memorial to World War I, through the efforts of the Bedford Chapter of IODE and Bedford resident Dr. Reginald V. Harris. In 1990, the Town of Bedford dismantled and moved the cenotaph, as the original site was not fully accessible and could not accommodate the Remembrance Day crowds. The bronze elements were retained but the stones were not reused. Fish Hatchery Park was chosen as the new location and the cenotaph was rebuilt using cut, coloured stones in keeping with the original design. The rebuilt cenotaph is smaller in scale than the original.

In 2017, the municipality hired Coastal Restoration to perform a structural review of the Cenotaph, as there had been concerns regarding the integrity of the masonry and foundation. It was determined that the structure did not have an actual foundation, but rather had been built on concrete blocks, not a poured slab. The mortar joints were also deteriorating in areas. In addition to the structural issues, the Bedford Legion and Lions Club had expressed concern that the site was congested, had accessibility challenges and had little capacity for the laying of wreaths. The NS Legion also wanted to commemorate the Afghanistan conflict.

A project is underway to restore the cenotaph and the bronze elements. Because a new foundation is required, this provides an opportunity to expand the ceremony site and greatly improve accessibility to the cenotaph. The location will be pushed back towards the adjacent sloped boundary and retaining wall that will act as a backdrop for the rebuilt cenotaph. The cenotaph will be raised so that it sits on a series of granite blocks with steps. The area in front and to the sides of the new base will be poured concrete for improved access.

Overall park improvements to Fish Hatchery park will include improved hardscaped paths, lighting, landscaping and flower beds and restoration of the park bandstand.



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MAINTENANCE AND A VISION FOR ADMIRAL COVE PARK, EAGLE ROCK PARK, AND THE PUBLIC AREAS OFF SHORE DRIVE

Over the last couple of years, many residents have shared concerns and ideas on how the municipality can better use, mark, promote and maintain these areas. Please see the update below from municipal staff. There will be public consultation and I also welcome your ideas.

Admiral Cove Park already has a network of trails with many viewpoints along the way of the Bedford Basin. An audit and assessment will be completed of the existing network of trails. Following the assessment of the trails, consultations with the Municipality and community stakeholders will occur to help in developing the vision of the park. Following the assessment and consultations, trail concept and design will be completed that considers the feedback from community, municipality and sustainable trail design. Good trail delineation, adequate signage and direction for viewpoints will be important aspects to this restoration project.

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY PURCHASES LAND FOR BLUE MOUNTAIN-BIRCH COVE LAKES REGIONAL PARK

On January 18, the Halifax Regional Municipality purchased approximately 197 acres of lands to form part of a Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park. This important acquisition marks the first parcel of land to be acquired by the municipality towards the creation of the regional park, which is proposed in the municipality's Regional Plan.

The Hobson Lake lands are to the rear of properties along Collins Road and beside provincial Crown lands that are already designated as part of the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area. The Halifax Regional Municipality has been seeking a formal access to the provincially-designated wilderness area for some time. The municipality continues its efforts to acquire additional lands towards the creation of the park.

The Hobson Lake lands have been acquired from West Bedford Holdings and will both enable public access into the regional park and support the protected wilderness area by acting as a buffer between it and developed lands. The acquisition includes provision for a future regional park trailhead entrance that is anticipated to be developed with parking and services for park users. The entrance will be achieved as part of the parkland dedication process as the company develops the next stages of its Bedford West community, which is anticipated in the next four to six years.

With the acquisition, municipal staff will be consulting with both the province and the public regarding the future planning of the Hobson Lake lands as part of the creation of the overall Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park. Public consultation is expected to begin in the spring.

NEW LIBRARY FOR BEDFORD – WENTWORTH

Our growing District is long overdue for a new and larger library. Our existing facility has a wonderful staff and does its best to provide a tremendous service to our community. However, it is simply not large enough to accommodate the needs of our growing community. We need new types of services, additional programs, meeting space, and technology options that modern libraries can provide. This is the type of community impact that the Halifax Public Libraries can and wishes to deliver in Bedford-Wentworth! Simply put, we need a larger facility. My objective is to work with staff and residents to build or lease a facility similar in size to the Keshen Goodman Library in Clayton Park or the Woodlawn Library in Dartmouth. I believe it should be in a walkable location, with good transit access, good parking, and a view of the Bedford Basin. That is my vision, but we need to hear from you! Please see the update and process overview below from the CEO and Chief Librarian of Halifax Public Libraries.

REIMAGINE YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Asa Kachan, CEO and Chief Librarian, Halifax Public Libraries

You have been looking forward to the expansion and modernization of your Bedford Library and we want to hear from you. From April 1 to September 1, Halifax Public Libraries will lead a series of discussions with District 16 residents about their future library. We want to hear from you about what is important in your new space. Comments from the public will guide the design process for the new Bedford Public Library.

The upcoming engagement with the public will range from one-on-one meetings to neighborhood talks to community conversations. Notices will be placed at the existing branch, on the Library website and social media.

We look forward to hearing from you.

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION UPDATE

The past year has seen the completion of the following 2 projects:

- The access road from Waterfront Drive Extension to the South Jetty and Boat Launch has been paved.
 - The replacement of two large outfall pipes at Mill Cove has been completed with all vegetation, walkways and infrastructure successfully reinstated to its original condition.
- This project was conducted by Halifax Water, and involved the replacement of two large outfall pipes, one from the stormwater line under Waterfront Drive, and the other being an overflow pipe from the Mill Cove Treatment facility.

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POTENTIAL BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Bedford has had an active and volunteer led Bedford Business Association for several years. Resident Steve Warburton is now leading a study and process to see if businesses in District 16 are interested in forming an official BID. These exist in downtown Halifax & Dartmouth, Spryfield, Quinpool Rd, Spring Garden Rd, and in Sackville. Whether this option is chosen will depend on the results of a plebiscite held for the building owners and the business owners within the proposed boundary of the District 16 BID. Please see the overview and contact information below from Steve.

Submitted by Steve Warburton, Veteran Businessman, Community Volunteer, Former Halifax School Board Member, steve@warburtoncommunications.com

A project to pursue a Business Improvement District for Bedford is getting off the ground. As a beginning, three months of homework including research and the compiling of a business database is done.

The project's next steps include visits to businesses to gather support, an on-line survey and more planning. A number of meetings will also be scheduled. A plebiscite-vote is also part of the process HRM sets out for BID's.

Upping Bedford's Customer Service level and advertising what Bedford offers in the rest of Metro as well as investigating a possible Bedford Highway Outdoor Market/Business Garage Sale during Bedford Days.

The district group also offers advocacy, beautification and marketing advice and programs. The community could also grow our summer student hiring.

TRANSIT UPDATE

Halifax Transit now offers service for the residents of West Bedford who commute downtown or to the hospitals. Route 194 services existing and new stops in West Bedford and on Larry Uteck west of Highway 102. The service runs non-stop between Larry Uteck and Kempt Road. Between Kempt Road and Downtown Halifax the route will service limited stops.

WHAT IS GOING ON AT THE HIGHWAY 102 AND HAMMONDS PLAINS ROAD INTERCHANGE?

This past year saw the completion of a significant Halifax Water pipe replacement project, followed by an HRM sidewalk construction project. The province will be repaving the road under the overpass, between the entrance and exit ramps, this coming construction season. MLA Kelly Regan, Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, Halifax Regional Municipality, and Clayton Developments have worked together to design the implementation of an additional lane under the overpass. This is being done to help relieve traffic congestion. This expansion work will take place during the repaving project, and will serve as a temporary solution until the province ultimately rebuilds the interchange. This lane and sidewalk addition are good news for West Bedford residents, Hammonds Plains residents, and those driving or walking to CPA High School, the BMO Centre rinks, our community centre, and the artificial turf field!

PLEASE WATCH YOUR SPEED!

One of the most common concerns that Councillors receive involves alleged speeding. HRP continues to be incredibly supportive of our requests for speed enforcement throughout our District. I do not want residents to receive tickets, rather I want them to please watch their speed. HRP continues to focus on trouble spot areas such as Transom Dr, Starboard Dr, Larry Uteck Blvd, Southgate Dr, Moirs Mill Rd, Oceanview Dr, Basinview Dr, Hammonds Plains Rd, Rocky Lake Dr, and Dartmouth Rd to name only a few.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2018-19

The Community Grants awards project-specific cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located within the Halifax Regional Municipality. The Program is open for 2018 applications from January 4 to March 31, 2018.

For more information, the Community Grants Program Guidebook is available online at halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/community-grants.



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HAVE YOU HEARD?

Mobile payment for parking launched Dec. 4, 2017. Residents will now see meters labeled with information about the mobile payment option. Residents are reminded that there is no charge for parking at municipal meters on weekends and holidays.

The mobile payment for parking option can be used by downloading the HotSpot parking app. This is a third-party application managed by a Maritime-based company that is subscription based. Users download the application via their mobile device, register their licence plate(s) and when they park, instead of putting coins in the meters they type in the parking meter number and the desired parking duration. For more information about the app, please visit the HotSpot website.

Waterfront Development will also be adding a mobile payment for parking option via HotSpot to all its parking zones. The same app can be used to pay for both municipal and Waterfront Development parking.

Mobile payment for parking app features include:

- Mobile notification indicating that a meter is close to expiring
- The option to add more time up to the maximum for that parking space
- The option to terminate a session early and be refunded for any unused time

NOTE: All parking meters still accept coins

Mobile parking fees and standard coin parking rates will be the same at each individual location. There is a monthly/annual fee to use the app.

For more information about on-street parking in the municipality, please visit halifax.ca/transportation/parking/street-parking

DISTRICT CAPITAL FUND

Each Councillor receives an annual budget to use in their District to help fund community development and infrastructure projects. I have used my taxpayer funded budget to assist with projects such as playground improvements, banners, hanging flower baskets, lighting, painting, path and trail maintenance, fencing, tennis court improvements and community gardens. Other projects included repairs to the Bedford Legion, Scott Manor House, All Saints Church plus assistance with your requests for sports and recreation equipment for the Bedford Classic Basketball Tournament and CPA Rugby as well as crosswalk flags. Please contact me with your suggestions!

COMMUTER RAIL UPDATE

As many of you are aware, I am a strong advocate for bringing back commuter rail to our municipality. Many of you have also expressed great support. I have worked for several years to get a final decision on whether this is a viable technical and financial option. A study was completed in 2015 that showed that the service was technically and operationally viable, but expressed concerns about the economic viability of the proposed service. Subsequent discussions with potential partner, VIA Rail, have indicated that economic viability is certainly possible. The previous studies under estimated ridership, under estimated ridership revenue, took into consideration highway construction that has not occurred and may not occur, and failed to consider land use and development density growth as part of the overall economic impact and financial viability. The recently approved Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) did consider these factors. It was led by a consultant with more than 38 years of traffic and transit planning experience. He and his HRM team reviewed all the planned and pending development along this rail corridor, and recognized the tax and ridership revenue it would generate. The IMP presentation to Council recommended that commuter rail is indeed the best option for this corridor. It would be linked with existing Transit services and to upcoming new Transit facilities. This proposed service is subject to track access and access availability and costs from CN. Regional Council expects to receive this data from CN late this spring. Council will then be in a position to make a decision on commuter rail. Preliminary discussions with the provincial and federal governments are encouraging, with expressed interest in financial support for a pilot project with VIA Rail. I will keep you advised!

How to Contact Tim

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Follow me on Twitter and Facebook for almost daily updates and news.

Halifax Regional Municipality Call Centre 311
The municipal Call Centre is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It is closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.