

COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON

HALIFAX SOUTH DOWNTOWN

DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WINTER 2020

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Another winter is almost behind us! Now we can all look forward to spring with warmer weather and more daylight hours to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour on March 8th at 2:00 am. This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

This newsletter updates you on the upcoming 2020 Participatory Budgeting, Grafton Park / former library site, Cogswell District Redevelopment Project, Municipal Budget 2020/21, Vehicle for Hire Licensing Review, Halifax Common Master Plan, Public Access to Data and Shared Micromobility Transportation.

Sign up for my e-newsletter so you can keep up to date on these and more information as it comes forward!

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

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, Lucille Walsh** and she will mail the newsletter to you. Her contact info is in the sidebar to the right of this page.

NEED HELP? REACH OUT!

311 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

To contact the Council Support Office call 902.490.2012 or email walshl@halifax.ca

CONTACT ME

PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5
t 902.490.8462
e waye.mason@halifax.ca

STAY CONNECTED

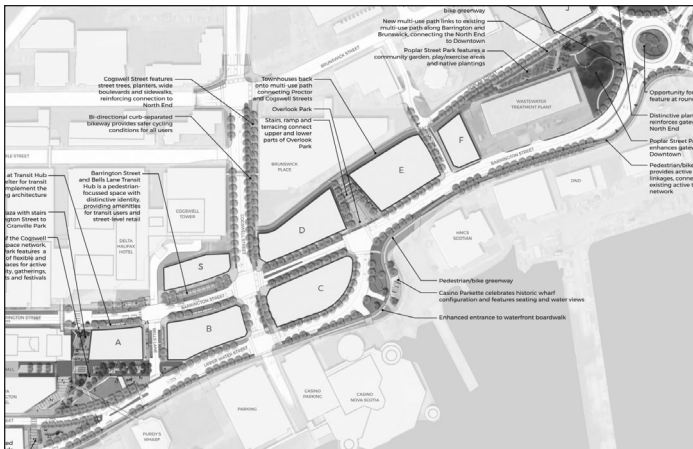
facebook.com/wayemasonhrm
twitter.com/wayemason
instagram.com/wayemason
wayemason.ca
halifax.ca

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



DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER WINTER 2020



COGSWELL DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The Cogswell District is one of the biggest city-building projects in the history of Halifax. Per Council direction, municipal staff members will be issuing the deconstruction and construction tender sometime this year.

This is expected to be issued this spring. Further details regarding timing and specifics of the construction efforts can only be determined after the tender is awarded, following discussions with the selected contractor.

To mitigate traffic impacts for the duration of the project, a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan will be developed to help reduce the number of vehicle trips through the construction site by promoting other travel options and providing information to assist everyone who will be affected by the traffic disruptions.

Barring any unforeseen substantial delays, street construction will be finished by 2022.

Development of newly created lots will not be fully realized until several years after street infrastructure construction has concluded.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/construction-projects/cogswell-district/cogswell-district-redevelopment>.

MUNICIPAL BUDGET 2020/21 UPDATE

Regional Council has been debating how to spend your tax dollars for the 2020/21 fiscal year at a series of Budget Committee meetings that have been held from January to March.

The municipal budget determines spending priorities and service delivery for residents of Halifax. Regional Council is reviewing presentations for each business unit and providing direction for their budgets. The sessions are open to the public and are held in Council Chambers, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street. I always welcome your thoughts on what our priorities should be.

You can find more information including meeting dates at <https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/hfxtax2020>.

VEHICLE FOR HIRE LICENSING REVIEW

On January 14, 2020, Regional Council approved a motion that would amend our Bylaw T-1000 respecting the regulation of taxis, accessible taxis and limousines and Administrative Order 39 respecting taxi and limousine regulations to introduce new licensing requirements for Transportation Network Companies like Uber and Lyft.

Halifax Regional Council is committed to public safety. These amendments will ensure drivers are required to have a criminal record check and a vulnerable sector check which will reduce the risk to the public. More information including the full report can be found at <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/200114rc1531.pdf>.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO DATA

The municipality has released 24 new datasets as part of an ongoing commitment to providing public access to data created and managed by the municipality.

The majority of these datasets support the Halifax Green Network Plan and the recently approved Centre Plan. Data on accessible parking spots as well as an update to municipal tax rates has also been released. This brings the total number of open datasets to 115. A wide range of data can be sourced for free through the catalogue, such as transit routes and schedule data, solid waste collection schedules, and area rates. For access to all the data sets, please visit our website at <http://catalogue-hrm.opendata.arcgis.com/>.



Delivery Note: Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.



PENINSULA SOUTH COMPLETE STREETS

This project applies a “complete streets” approach to improving

mobility for people travelling through the south end of the Halifax peninsula, with a focus on improving comfort, safety and convenience for people walking and cycling while also considering transit, accessibility, placemaking, urban forestry, vehicle traffic, loading, parking and other factors.

The project team is currently evaluating the cycling route options for connections to the west and east of University Avenue. The preferred cycling routes, draft District Identity for University Avenue, and concepts for walking and cycling improvements will be shared for feedback during round two of public engagement in spring 2020.

Please visit the project website to learn more and download the What We Heard Report <https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/peninsula-south-complete-streets>.

SHARED MICROMOBILITY TRANSPORTATION

Shared Micromobility is a service that provides access to personal vehicles for transportation purposes, such as bike and e-scooter share systems.



HRM recently conducted a Readiness Study to inform staff and Regional Council about the best approaches to enabling, regulating, and delivering shared micromobility transportation options in Halifax. This project is the result of a 2019 motion from the Transportation Standing Committee as well as Action 88 of the Integrated Mobility Plan which directs municipal staff to conduct a bike share feasibility study. A staff report will come back to the Committee in spring 2020 outlining the findings of Phase 1 of the study.

You can find out more about Shared Micromobility and the next steps in a feasibility study at <https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/shared-micromobility>.



HALIFAX COMMON MASTER PLAN

HRM is planning for the future direction of the Halifax Common! As the city and region continues

to grow, this dynamic public space will only take on more significance as a major park and recreation area serving local residents and all people in the Halifax region. The time has come to take a comprehensive look at the future of the Common, through a master planning process that will define management policies, guidelines for open and green space, as well as concepts and action plans for physical renewal.

The outcomes will serve as a blueprint for future improvements, to guide the City in provision of open space areas, parks, recreation programs and facilities for the short and the long-term.

On December 10, 2019, Regional Council approved the recommendation to initiate the capital planning and construction of a new outdoor aquatics area on the Central Common. This is a complete replacement of the existing swimming pool and related facilities on the Central Common. The project includes an outdoor recreation pool, splash pad, community building and playground. This is envisioned as the first phase of the Halifax Common Open Spaces Master Plan. More information concerning this project can be found at <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/regional-plan/mainland-common-master-plan>.

GRAFTON PARK (FORMER LIBRARY) UPDATE

The property that the former library is on, formally known as Grafton Park, has been registered as a heritage property. This will help protect the many graves under the site, which was once the Poor House burial ground.

There has been some unwarranted concern that the municipality is considering selling this property, which is absolutely untrue. It is important that residents know Council has never voted to sell this land, or direct staff to sell this land.

All of the Council motions and direction regarding Grafton Park are a matter of public record, and I have published them (with links to relevant staff reports) on my blog <http://wayemason.ca/graftonpark>.



2020 PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

It is Participatory Budgeting time in District 7!

Once again, this spring, I am asking residents of our district for input on how to spend \$54,000 in the community.

The funds will be allocated using the Participatory Budgeting model whereby non-profit organizations are invited to submit community project ideas and qualifying submissions are then voted on by the community.

- Big projects would be able to apply for \$13,000, and voters would have to vote for three large projects on their ballot.
- A small project category would be created for projects needing \$5,000 or less, and voters would ALSO have to vote for three small projects.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **April 8th, 6:30 – 7:30 pm** is the Information Session at the Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street
- **April 24th, 12:00 am** is the Participatory Budgeting submission deadline
- **May 11th, 5:45 – 8:00 pm** is the Vote Night at the Halifax Central Library, Lindsay Children’s Room.

The benefits of this process are that it encourages great ideas to come forward from local groups, builds community support and collaboration, and gives local residents a direct say in how they want the District 7 capital funds spent.

More info can be found at <http://wayemason.ca/pb>.



It was fun being joined on stage by District 7 residents Louisa and Aya at New Years 2020, congrats to Civic Events staff for once again putting on such a great event.



I had the tremendous honour of representing Canada and Nova Scotia at the Association of Cities of Vietnam Annual Meeting in Vung Tau, where I gave a keynote address on property tax.



Halifax once again hosted the Coady International Institute's International Program. David Peruse, Councillor Smith & I enjoy talking about democracy with participants from around the world.