

COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON

HALIFAX SOUTH DOWNTOWN DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SUMMER 2020

DEAR RESIDENTS,

When I last mailed a newsletter to you in February, none of us could have imagined what the last four months would be like.

I want to sincerely thank every one of you for digging deep during this time, washing your hands, maintaining your distance, staying at home, and rising to the occasion. Together we flattened the curve and that saved a lot of lives.

This fight is not over. Until we get a vaccine or treatment we all need to listen to Public Health, follow their direction, and be take all reasonable precautions.

If there is ever any way I can assist you please contact me or my office and let us know how we can help. For now, take care, wash your hands, and be kind to one another.

2020 MUNICIPAL AND CONSEIL SCOLAIRE ACADIEN PROVINCIAL (CSAP) ELECTIONS

Election Day is October 17, 2020! Alternative voting (telephone and E-voting) period: October 6 to October 14, 2020. In person advanced voting will take place on October 6, 2020.

Not sure which District you live in? You can verify your district using the District Lookup Tool at <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/districts-councillors/district-look> . You are entitled to vote using the internet or telephone under By-law A-400, the Alternative Voting By-law.

During a municipal election the Halifax Regional Municipality hires workers for a variety of positions. If you are interested in working for the Municipal and School Board Election, please visit <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/elections>.

To find out if you qualify to vote or to find more information about the election process, visit <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/elections/information-voters>. To make sure you are on the voters list, you can check online here: <https://votersearch.halifax.ca/hrm/onvoterslist.html>. If you are eligible to vote and not included on the voters list, contact the Election Office at 902-490-8683 to register.

If you have any questions you can contact the Halifax Regional Municipality's Elections Office: Phone: (902) 490 VOTE (8683) or 1-844-301-VOTE (8683), Fax: (902) 490-4208, or email: election@halifax.ca

CONTACT US

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

Contact the Council Support Office by calling my Coordinator, Liam MacSween at 902-490-2012 or email liam.macsween@halifax.ca

CONTACT ME

PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5
902.490.8462
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

HALIFAX



MUNICIPAL COVID 19 SERVICE IMPACTS & UPDATES

Many municipal services have been altered or reduced to accommodate impacts from COVID-19. The situation continues to rapidly evolve and service levels will change again if required and as directed by NS Public Health.

For the up-to-date information and more in-depth information please visit halifax.ca/coronavirus, and follow the municipality on twitter and facebook at @hfxgov or on instagram @hfxmoments.

PARKS & RECREATION

Indoor pools will open for lane swims and aquafit classes only. It will not be possible to offer open swims at this time. To ensure all restrictions on group gathering sizes and physical distancing are maintained, all activities in the pool will be booked online. More details will be provided closer to the opening dates. We continue to explore options for further recreation opportunities as restrictions are eased by the province.

Municipal partner recreation facilities (i.e. Canada Games Centre, Cole Harbour Place, Zatzman Sportsplex, etc.) have started the first phase of reopening. Please contact each facility directly for information about pool re-opening dates and protocols.

Outdoor Pools

Due to the time required to recruit and train lifeguards, the maintenance required to open pools and the restrictions of social distancing which drastically reduces the number of swimmers allowed in the pool at once, the Halifax Common, Bedford and Cole Harbour outdoor pools will not be opening for the 2020 season.

Splashpads, Beaches and Water Testing

The following splashpads are now open:

- Halifax Common
- George Dixon Centre
- Isleville Street
- Westmount
- Bayers – Westwood
- Sackville (Kinsman)

All municipal beaches are open with lifeguards onsite until August 31.

Municipal staff regularly test the water quality at all supervised beaches during the summer months. Please note that there will no longer be water testing taking place at Black Rock beach, Dingle beach, Kinsmen beach and Government Wharf. Water quality testing will continue at Malay Falls beach even though it is unsupervised.

High bacteria levels can be caused by a number of factors, including dogs, birds, wildlife, and high temperatures. Staff will continue testing the water until bacteria levels return to safe levels. The municipality will advise residents when beaches close and reopen.

More information and updates on beaches, pools and splashpads can be found on halifax.ca/summeraquatics.

PARKING & PARKING PASSES

Enforcement of residential parking permit restrictions begins September 1.

As municipal parking enforcement has resumed with the lifting of some public health restrictions, all residential and **monthly parking permits** that expired in March through to July will no longer be valid after Monday, August 31.

Parking restrictions related to monthly and annual residential permits will be enforced effective Tuesday, September 1.

Residents can **renew monthly and annual residential parking permits** at one of the municipality's customer service centres, hours and locations in the following article.

For more information about parking permits, please visit halifax.ca/parking.



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.



COVID 19 & TRANSIT

As of Friday, July 24th, per a public health order, **masks are mandatory on all Halifax Transit buses and ferries.** Children under two and those with a medical reason for not wearing a mask are exempt. Transit riders are responsible for bringing their own masks.

As part of a mask awareness campaign, **Halifax Transit staff will continue to give away masks periodically,** through pop-up events at select locations across the municipality. Times and locations will be announced in advance via @hfxtransit on Twitter.

Capacity Increase & Fare Collection -The mandatory use of masks and the installation of polycarbonate shields will provide appropriate mitigation of risk associated with the spread of COVID-19. Fare collection has resumed and all capacity restrictions on buses, Access-a-Buses and ferries was lifted as of Saturday, August 1st.

Transit Pass sales - March and April passes will be honoured until August 31. Some retailers may also still have April passes for sale, which can continue to be purchased and used until the end of August. For all information regarding transit passes, including updated expiry dates, please visit our website at halifax.ca/transit

Buses and ferries continue to operate on a reduced schedule.

COVID & CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

On Tuesday, August 4th, the Customer Service Centres at Alderney Gate and Bayers Road will be reopening.

- **Alderney Gate and Bayers Road** – from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.
- **Musquodoboit Harbour Recreation Centre & Library** – from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays.

The customer service centres and drop-boxes at Acadia Centre (Sackville) and Scotia Square will remain permanently closed. Planning & Development service counters will remain closed until further notice.

A number of services offered by 311 & the Customer Service Centres remain available online, including the payment of parking tickets, zoning confirmation applications and applications for all permit and subdivision applications.

Residents are reminded to follow all public health protocols while onsite, including physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) at all times.

2020 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each year during National Volunteer Week in April, Council holds an award ceremony to acknowledge the contributions of volunteers and volunteer organizations in our communities.

While our celebration had to be postponed this year due to COVID 19, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all Award recipients! **I would like to give a special shout-out to the following District 7 recipients:**

- Bob Goodall
- Brian L. Maloney
- Ann Marie Tompkins
- Yolana Wassersug

Community Group:

- The Friends of the Public Gardens

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our community!

GRADING & NOISE BYLAW REVIEW HRM WANTS YOUR INPUT!

Staff are looking for your feedback on potential changes to existing municipal regulations relating to grading and construction noise in residential areas. Participant feedback will be used to inform recommendation reports to Regional Council.

The **Grade Alteration and Stormwater Management By-Law Online Survey** proposes condensing three existing grade alteration regulations related to grading, excavation and topsoil removal—including the Topsoil By-Law 40, Bedford Grade Alteration By-Law and Pits Gravel Pits & Excavations By-Law 41—into one new Grade Alteration By-Law. New stormwater management standards are also proposed. **This survey closes on August 18th.**

The **Construction Noise Survey** seeks to determine whether changes should be made to the Noise By-Law (N-200), including construction hours of operation in residential areas. **This survey closes on August 31st.**

Share your thoughts now:

www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/by-law-changes



WELCOME STUDENTS!



WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME TO DISTRICT 7!

I've printed this welcome letter every year around Labour Day since 2013, but this year is different. How many students will be coming to Halifax, or where newcomers might be coming from is not clear. COVID-19 has changed so much, and university life is one of them. However you arrived here, welcome, stay safe, wash your hands, and follow the municipal (@hfxgov) and provincial government (@nsgov) on social media to stay informed about public health direction as this situation continues to evolve.

During this time, with more people working from home, and the potential for further lockdowns, it is more important than ever that we all respect our neighbours and our community.

Our community is a very diverse mix of students, renters, long-term homeowners, businesses and more. Our diversity is what makes our neighbourhood great. This area is a real mixed bag of housing, with apartments mixed in with other homes. There is no student neighbourhood in Halifax - you are as likely to live next to your professor as to an apartment of undergrads.

Sometimes people are new renters and just don't know they have legal obligations as tenants and neighbours. We know most students just want to get along with their 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 neighbours have the right to a good night's sleep. You can be **fined if your party or gathering "unreasonably disturbs or tends to disturb the peace and tranquillity of a neighbourhood" starting at \$463.95 and rising to \$1,268.95 for a third offence.** Keep noise to a

reasonable level. Tickets can be given any time of day. Remember if your neighbour has kids, they are going to expect some late night quiet!

Booze: The drinking age in Nova Scotia is 19. **Underage drinking can result in a fine of \$463.95.** Same goes with walking across the street with an open drink. Being intoxicated in a public place can result in a **fine of between \$130.45 and \$463.95.** Basically, don't walk around drunk with open liquor (no, not even on St. Patrick's Day)! You can have fun but make sure that it doesn't impact others enjoyment of their neighbourhood.

Mess: Clean up after a party. You would 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 and see if your neighbours have any concerns, and they are more likely to cut you some slack. HRM can order a property cleaned up and if the work is not done, HRM 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 <http://www.halifax.ca/recycle/area1and2.php> (we live in area 1). **Fines are \$463.95.**

Final Words: Halifax is your home now too, and we are glad you are here! Nobody wants to fine you, or call bylaw on you, or call the police, but we all have to share this space.

The responsibility for a great neighbourhood belongs to everyone. Halifax is one of the best cities in Canada, and it takes all of us working together to make it so. Let's keep working together to share these neighbourhoods.