

# COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

*Timberlea - Beechville -  
Clayton Park - Wedgewood*



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SPRING 2022

## DEAR RESIDENTS,

I am honoured to be your municipal representative on Halifax Regional Council. Thank you for your ongoing support. I appreciate hearing from you regarding municipal programs and services. Your input helps me to help you.

This spring newsletter is my way to reach out to all members of the district with updates on important matters relating to District 12 such as the 2022/23 Capital and Operating Budget discussion, Otter Lake Facility update, Park West School update, changes to Parks & Recreation fees and much more! You can also obtain updates by viewing my monthly e-newsletters on social media or my municipal website at [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca).

As we continue to maneuver through the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to thank you for your continued diligence in wearing facial masks, social distancing and washing/sanitizing your hands. Your diligence is not only protecting yourself, but your loved ones and neighbours too! Check our municipal website for updates on the lifting of restrictions as per the provincial public health directives. *Stay safe and enjoy a wonderful spring!*

## HRM CITIZEN CONTACT CENTRE

Call 3-1-1 toll-free from anywhere throughout HRM and our friendly and knowledgeable agents can provide you with a wide variety of municipal information and services in over 150 languages using a telephone interpretation service.

**Hours of operation:** Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 5:30pm.  
Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

## PRIORITIES

- **Request for lights** at the intersection of Timberlea Village Parkway & St. Margaret's Bay Road for improved pedestrian safety.
- **Request for lights** at Grandhaven & Washmill Lake Drive to slow traffic speed and increase pedestrian safety.
- **Capital Improvement projects at the Mainland Commons** – I will be working with Councillor Morse to look at possible improvements to the baseball field announcer's booth.



## CONTACT ME

**Email:** [iona.stoddard@halifax.ca](mailto:iona.stoddard@halifax.ca)  
**Phone:** 902.240.7926  
**Fax:** 902.490.4122  
**Mailing address:** PO Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

## CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

I share regular updates on Facebook and invite you to follow me there. However, please email or call me if you have questions.



**Iona Stoddard -  
Councillor for District 12**

## CONTACT MY OFFICE

Michelle Doucet, Constituency Coordinator  
**Email:** [doucetmi@halifax.ca](mailto:doucetmi@halifax.ca)  
**Phone:** 902.490.6982

HALIFAX



### 2022/23 CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGET

#### The Average Residential Tax Bill Revised Recommendation

	2021/22 Average	2022/23 Average
Assessment	\$252,100	\$270,000
Tax Rate	0.813%	0.771%
Climate Action Tax	n/a	0.023%
<b>Total Tax</b>	<b>0.813%</b>	<b>0.794%</b>
<b>Average Tax Bill</b>	<b>\$2,050</b>	<b>\$2,144</b>
Increase \$		\$94
Increase %		4.6%

Figure 1, Slide 10 from staff presentation at January 28th Budget Committee

The Fiscal Framework is presented annually to Regional Council with recommendations for tax modifications to accommodate changing operational costs, capital investments, as well as debt and reserve changes including funding for current and new strategic initiatives. It is also reflective of on-going and emerging opportunities and challenges. The Fiscal Framework, presented in November 2021, sets the opening strategy to guide Regional Council as we debate the 2022/23 operating/capital budgets over the coming months, with the final budget and tax rate, expected to be completed on April 12th.

On January 28th, staff presented the revised recommendation requested by Regional Council to reduce the original 5.9 per cent tax increase recommended by staff to 3.7 per cent. Staff returned with a recommendation to reduce the proposed tax rate increase from 5.9 per cent to 4.6 per cent.

Recognizing feedback from Regional Council on the importance of ensuring appropriate investment to advance the objectives of HalifACT, our climate action plan, staff recommended that the proposed Climate Action Tax remain at 3 per cent, while reducing the property tax increase for residential and commercial properties from 2.9 per cent to 1.6 per cent.

This year's Fiscal Framework was designed in the face of one of the most complex financial and operational environments the municipality has ever seen. Budget considerations driving this year's report include inflationary pressures as well as COVID-19 recovery costs and revenue losses.

The challenges for this year's budget include insufficient funds to support the services directed by Regional Council, a limit to how many projects the municipality can deliver at any one time, and delays and gaps in the industries' supply chain and labour market which have caused extensions to project delivery timelines and increased vendor costs. Additionally, the municipality will acquire 300 additional lane-km of Provincial roads in June 2022. Regional Council has requested options for funding Parks and Recreation projects at a 60/40 split (meaning 60 per cent recapitalization and 40 per cent growth), this is compared to the currently proposed 70 per cent recapitalization and 30 per cent growth.

For the past number of years, the municipality's financial condition has been strong, and we have a number of key strengths that can now be leveraged. Our residential taxes are at the lower end of the scale in comparison to similar Canadian municipalities, we have low debt levels meaning there is room to add debt strategically, and we are seeing strong revenue from deed transfer taxes.

The municipality's population is expected to exceed 500,000 within the next five years. This growth brings tremendous opportunities for the Halifax region, as well as new residents that require municipal services. There is also an expectation of a higher level of servicing across the entire municipality, including investments in rapid transit, complete streets, new parks and recreation services. As a growing city, Halifax is challenged by both a housing shortage and housing insecurity. The municipality is committed to applying resources to support efforts aimed at helping to address the housing shortage, facilitate affordable housing projects and enhance our efforts with partners and other levels of government to address homelessness in the Halifax region.

**Continued on next page**



# DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2022

### 2022/23 CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGET

#### Continued

We want to fulfill council priorities, which have been largely informed by public engagement. This budget increase is required for us to do that. There is a limit to how many projects the municipality can deliver at any one time, regardless of funding, and delays and gaps in supply chains, as well as the private sector labour markets, are causing extensions to project delivery timelines and increased vendor costs. The municipality is seeking partnerships with other levels of government to access funding programs.

Although discussions regarding federal and provincial funding for municipal infrastructure and climate action are ongoing, without specific details on these programs, including how funds can be accessed, it is not possible to incorporate this potential funding into municipal budget planning

I, along with my Regional Council colleagues, will continue to fight for programs and services important to you while doing our fiscal responsibility to balance the budget and keep the tax rate as low as we possibly can. Please follow along with the remaining budget discussions and provide your input by joining a budget discussion session by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at [clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:clerks@halifax.ca). The schedule of remaining Budget Committee meetings is available at [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca).

### TRAFFIC CALMING FOR SAFER STREETS

The most common complaint/concern I receive from residents is regarding speeding and road safety. Please call the non-emergency police line at 902.490.5020 to report all incidents of speeding/unsafe driving as police need this information.

With an additional \$8M requested in the proposed 2022/23 Capital and Operating budget, I am hopeful that, if approved, it may help to provide more traffic calming measures this season. From 2018 to January 2022, a total of 176 streets have been provided traffic calming measures - approximately 44 streets per year.

Traffic calming helps make neighbourhoods safer for non-drivers. That means slowing down cars, trucks, and

motorcycles by altering driver behaviour. Physical measures are more effective and could include: speed humps, speed tables, raised intersections and crosswalks, curb extensions, traffic circles or mini roundabouts, on-street parking and raised median islands.

If you are interested in having your street assessed for traffic calming measures, please call 311 and ask to have your street assessed. **The following streets in District 12 are on the list for future implementation.** There are 222 streets currently on the list and the ranking indicates the position on the list. Due to budget limitations, we are only able to do a limited number of streets per year.

Ranking	Street Name
8	Beech Tree Run
55	Sheppards Run
111	North Green Road
164	Governors Lake Drive
178	States Lane
186	Turnmill Drive
188	Stratford Way
194	Charles Road
195	Chelton Woods Lane
221	Broadholme Lane

For more information on traffic calming measures criteria, eligibility as well as a list of all streets being assessed, go to the municipal website [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca) then search *Traffic Calming for Safer Streets*.

### OTTER LAKE FACILITY UPDATE

The Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility (Otter Lake) was commissioned in 1999 and included the Front-End Processor (FEP) and Waste Stabilization Facility (WSF). The FEP consists of mechanical equipment that processes bagged garbage. The main function of the FEP is to separate and send organics containing waste to the WSF for bio stabilization (treatment similar to composting) prior to landfilling, to mitigate landfill nuisance factors such as odours and attraction of birds.

*Continued on next page*



## DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022

### OTTER LAKE FACILITY UPDATE

#### *Continued*

In an FEP/WSF Closure Review report, Dillon Consulting concluded that there does not appear to be any significant benefit to the continued operations of the FEP/WSF. Further, there does not appear to be any increased risk to public health and the environment if the FEP/WSF operations are terminated.

A public consultation process ran from November 3 to December 6, 2021. While this public consultation was targeted to residents within five-kilometres of the Otter Lake facility, all residents across the municipality were welcome to provide feedback.

On January 24, 2022, the public consultation report was submitted to Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) as part of the application requirement. The report is available at [www.halifax.ca/otterlake](http://www.halifax.ca/otterlake). NSECC will advise on the application status.

### PARK WEST SCHOOL SITE - UPDATE

The municipality undertook public consultation, through a survey, about the potential transfer of the Park West School Park to the province for a new school. There were 380 survey respondents, over 82% were from two postal code areas closest to the lands: B3S and B3M. The majority of respondents, 69%, did not support the transfer of municipal parkland to the Province for the new public school.

The loss of parkland was the most cited reason for not supporting the land transfer (244 respondents), followed by 144 who prefer an alternative location. 116 cited compatibility issues with surrounding uses and 60 had 'other' reasons, a third of which were concerns related to loss of forest and wildlife habitat.

The municipality has advised the Province of the survey results and understand that it will further consider the options and needs relative to the Park West School site.

Should the Province continue to suggest a need for this site, the municipality would consider this through a further review process that would include a formal public notification and a decision of Regional Council.

To read the most recent staff report regarding this matter, please go to the municipal website at [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca) and search the December 7, 2021 Regional Council meeting agenda for links to the report and minutes. The decision now rests with the Province/Halifax Regional Centre for Education regarding the site of the new school.

### PARKS & REC FEE CHANGES



On April 1, 2022 the Parks and Recreation Fee structure will be changing. These changes will affect all recreation services, programs, rentals, drop ins, voucher and memberships fees. This does not mean prices are going up across the board; as a result of the fee structure changes that were approved by Regional Council, some fees are increasing in cost while others are staying the same or decreasing.

The updated fee structure will reflect the actual cost of providing recreation services to residents. Learn more, and explore a list of FAQs at: [www.halifax.ca/parks-rec-fee-changes](http://www.halifax.ca/parks-rec-fee-changes).



Please recycle.

#### 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.

# HALIFAX