

# COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

*Serving the Communities of Fairview,  
Clayton Park & Rockingham*



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

## DEAR RESIDENTS,

I hope you enjoy my second newsletter, the summer edition. I welcome your feedback on any of these topics or on any concern you may have. The best way to reach me is by email at [kathryn.morse@halifax.ca](mailto:kathryn.morse@halifax.ca). If you would prefer to speak to me by phone, please call 902-490-4050 or 497-7278.

To subscribe by email to my monthly newsletter, please contact my constituency coordinator at [ken.benoit@halifax.ca](mailto:ken.benoit@halifax.ca). I also post district updates weekly on Facebook if you'd like to follow me there. Wishing you a healthy, happy and sociable summer!

Best regards,

**Kathryn**

## REMEDY FOR ROSEDALE

If there was an award for *Most Disliked Intersection*, Dutch Village Road and Rosedale Avenue would be among the top contenders in District 10. Fairview residents have given me a lot of good reasons for disliking it: poor visibility for drivers, lack of sidewalks, pedestrian hazards, congested parking, and the tightness of the new buildings to the corners of this busy intersection. It took a year, but the unique zoning rules for Dutch Village Road that allowed 100% lot coverage for the buildings at the bottom of Rosedale have been changed. From now on, there must be setbacks on the front and sides of new buildings on Dutch Village.

While getting that zoning change, I worked with HRM staff to address residents' safety concerns at the bottom of Rosedale. The solution is temporary cement barriers with reflective posts, installed mid-June 2022. The barriers not only mark out the intersection, they improve visibility,



reduce illegal parking and create a safer zone for pedestrians. Along with the temporary barriers, the crosswalk is safer thanks to a new Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB), installed in March 2022.

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## CONTACT ME

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## CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

I do a weekly Facebook update for District 10 and invite you to follow me there:



**Kathryn Morse Councillor District 10  
Halifax-Bedford Basin West**

## CONTACT MY OFFICE

Ken Benoit, District 10 Constituency Coordinator

**Email:** [ken.benoit@halifax.ca](mailto:ken.benoit@halifax.ca)

**Phone:** 902.490.4050 or call 311 for municipal matters

**HALIFAX**



## DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

### Halifax - Bedford Basin West

#### REMEDY FOR ROSEDALE (CONTINUED)

The cement barriers are a temporary remedy until Dutch Village Road is rebuilt, a project that is scheduled to start in 2023. When the road is rebuilt, the temporary barriers will be replaced by proper sidewalks, curbs, and parallel parking spots. Until then, Dutch Village and Rosedale may not win **Most Popular** Intersection, but I think it qualifies as **Most Improved**.

#### SAFER SCHOOL ZONES

One of the top concerns I hear from residents is traffic safety, especially in school zones. Physical traffic calming measures can help to encourage drivers to slow down or find alternate routes. After working with HRM traffic safety staff last year, I'm pleased that traffic calming measures will be installed in two more school zones in District 10.

In **Clayton Park**, Plateau Crescent and Clayton Park Drive will be getting a combination of speed humps and speed tables (speed tables are the wider, flatter ones). In **Rockingham**, speed humps will be installed on Castle Hill Drive. Due to the expense, traffic calming measures are rationed in HRM and only a few speed tables and speed humps are installed in each district each year, usually in school zones. Last year, speed tables were installed on Willett St. and streets surrounding Fairview Heights School.



Duc D'Anville Elementary School Speed Table Locations

#### MORE SIDEWALKS

I have received many requests for new sidewalks and I have been working to get more sidewalks built throughout our district. Because of the high cost of installing new sidewalks, typically HRM has been building only 6-10 new sidewalks each year, distributed across the 16 districts. Unfortunately it seems sidewalks have not been a priority for many years and now HRM has 700 sidewalk requests in the queue. In the past year, 120 of those 700 sidewalks

have been identified as high-priority because they are on bus routes, school routes, or have a high volume of pedestrian traffic. At the usual rate of installation, it would take at least a dozen years just to build the high priority sidewalks in HRM.

To try to speed the process up, I brought a motion to council to expand the municipal budget for new sidewalks. I asked for **an additional \$7.5 million to be added to the HRM sidewalk budget**, to triple the annual amount. With help from my council colleagues, this item passed in the spring budget. Additional staff have been hired to do the design and planning and more sidewalks will be built, starting in the spring of 2023.

#### KEARNEY LAKE DEVELOPMENT FAST-TRACKED (+8 OTHERS)

The provincial housing minister is requiring HRM to fast-track **nine housing projects for a total of 22,600 units**. Although these nine construction projects will still need all the regular permits, they will be prioritized by HRM staff and the Nova Scotia Minister of Housing will have final approval instead of HRM's Regional Council.

The nine projects include one at Kearney Lake, with 1300 units in several multi-unit buildings. Although I completely support building more housing, I am concerned Regional Council is being bypassed. I'm also concerned there was no requirement for even a portion of the 22,600 units to be affordable.

HRM is missing a whole range of housing types, such as emergency housing, accessible seniors' housing, and below-market rental apartments. In my view, one of the main reasons there are gaps is because the provincial government has added very little social housing in the last 30 years in HRM.

I don't believe housing that's below the market price and deeply affordable will be built by market-driven developers voluntarily. There just isn't much money in below-market housing and developers aren't charities. Fixing the affordable housing crisis will require targeted programs and more collaboration between all levels of government, the private sector and non-government housing organizations like the NS Housing Trust.

Fortunately, we are starting to see that happening over the last few months. Meanwhile, the nine housing projects will be getting underway as soon as possible.



# DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

## Halifax - Bedford Basin West

### FEEDING FAMILIES



Did you know District 10 has a food bank? It's located at the **Salvation Army's Fairview Citadel on Gesner St.** Some of the volunteers who run it have been involved for more than 20 years. They dedicate many hours each week getting ready to open the food bank doors on Tuesdays from noon-2 p.m. It's a labour of love, with well-coordinated deliveries of fresh produce, frozen food, bread, eggs and other groceries arriving just ahead of the opening. Dry goods like diapers are also available. The food bank got started in the mid-1990s when a group of churches decided to coordinate their efforts. It has scaled up a lot since then, and now serves about 150 families a month. Supplies are provided by Feed Nova Scotia, 15 churches, and several local businesses, as well as individual donations. I support the food bank through my discretionary funds as a Councillor. **If you would like to donate, please contact Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank, c/o 216 Melrose Ave, Halifax, B3N 2E7.**

### MEALS ON WHEELS

Halifax Meals on Wheels is a charity that delivers freshly-made, low-cost meals to those unable to prepare their own. It's like a subscription for dinner. **Meals on Wheels works out of Trinity Church in Fairview**, where volunteers label, pack and distribute hundreds of meals every week. Meals on Wheels has a professional food provider and charges a basic fee per meal (\$7.50-\$8.50) to cover costs. Thanks to volunteers, delivery is free and available four days a week in Fairview, Clayton Park, Rockingham, Spryfield and Halifax peninsula. Meals on Wheels has been serving HRM since 1969 so they know what they're doing. If you or someone you know would like meals delivered, call them at **902-429-4299** or find them online.



## MOBILE FOOD MARKET FAIRVIEW

June 4, 18  
July\* 16, 30  
Aug 13, 27  
Sept 10, 24  
Oct 8, 22

\*No markets on July 2

Titus Smith Memorial Park  
Corner of Evans Ave & Titus St  
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM  
Every second Saturday • Cash & Debit

Contact [esther@mobilefoodmarket.ca](mailto:esther@mobilefoodmarket.ca) | (902) 802-7152

Healthy food Good prices Strong communities



### AFFORDABLE ACCESS

HRM has a new Affordable Access Program. You only need one application to apply for:

- Affordable Transit Passes
- Reduced price recreation programs
- Property tax payment assistance

As part of 2022 budget, council approved expanded tax relief for low-income homeowners. To learn more, to apply, or to see if you qualify, call **311** or visit:

[www.halifax.ca/affordableaccess](http://www.halifax.ca/affordableaccess)

### FREE SUMMER CONCERTS DOWNTOWN

HRM's popular Grand Oasis Festival is back at the Grand Parade outside City Hall. There will be 38 events, featuring 50+ artists starting on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The lineup includes Alan Doyle, Classified, Joel Plaskett, Neon Dreams, Ria Mae, and many more. Visit the Grand Oasis Festival Series website for the full schedule, to sign up for the newsletter and to reserve your free passes:

[www.halifax.ca/grandoasis](http://www.halifax.ca/grandoasis)



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.



## DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

### Halifax - Bedford Basin West

### BOUNDARY REVIEW IN 2022

District 10 includes the communities of **Fairview, Clayton Park, and Rockingham** with the boundaries being **Highway 102, Dunbrack/Willett, Kearney Lake, Hemlock Ravine Park and the Bedford Highway**. Our district may look different by the next election in 2024 because this year, HRM is required to review population changes and the size of its 16 districts. The number of districts and councillors will also be reviewed. Ideally, each district in HRM should have roughly the same population to give voters equal weight throughout the municipality. Geographic size and communities of interest are also considered when setting district boundaries. Recommendations for the new boundaries will be made by an independent seven-person volunteer advisory panel later this year. *Congratulations to former District 10 Councillor Russell Walker who was selected to be on the panel.* The panel will lead public engagement over the next few months and will provide advice to Regional Council. The final decision on district boundaries will be made by the NS Utility and Review Board. If you have questions about the review please contact me at [kathryn.morse@halifax.ca](mailto:kathryn.morse@halifax.ca) or contact Jill McGillicuddy, Legislative Assistant, at [mcgillj@halifax.ca](mailto:mcgillj@halifax.ca)

### HOUSING THE HOMELESS

By a recent count, HRM has between 550-600 residents who are unhoused, about double the pre-pandemic number. With only about 200 shelter beds in the city, many people are sleeping rough in city parks. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Council approved a motion to endorse specific criteria for four municipal parks to permit overnight sheltering for those experiencing homelessness. **These areas include the Barrington Street Green Space between Cornwallis St. and North St. in Halifax, Lower Flinn Park in Halifax, along with Geary Street Green Space and Green Road Park in Dartmouth.** The locations will allow 30+ people to sleep rough in the community. A maximum of four tents per site will be permitted and portable washrooms will be provided.

Last summer, Regional Council **approved funding to provide emergency accommodations in modular units.** Last January, 26 rooms opened up on the Dartmouth waterfront and 38 more rooms will open up this summer in modular units near Centennial Pool in downtown Halifax.

Although emergency housing is a provincial responsibility, Council stepped in because of the urgency of the situation. Purchasing the modular housing and installing water and services cost HRM approximately \$5 million. The provincial government has agreed to pay for staffing and operational

costs of the modular housing. While the modulares are a positive step, there is still a huge need out there. HRM has hired a full time Housing and Homelessness Coordinator and Regional Council will continue to work to increase emergency and affordable housing in our growing city.

### HRM'S CLIMATE PLAN FUNDED

After four months of meetings and debate, HRM Regional Council approved the municipal budget in April 2022 in a 14-3 vote. Along with increased spending on services, roads and parks, what's new in this budget are practical steps to **help HRM adapt to climate change.** HRM's HalifACT plan (ACT stands for Acting on Climate Together) is one of the strongest municipal climate plans in Canada. Planned actions in HRM include installing a network of public electric vehicle chargers, purchasing electric buses, moving toward more energy efficient municipal buildings, and taking steps to protect critical roads and infrastructure. The plan includes a range of actions aimed at buffering HRM against the impacts of climate change – such as planning for flood prevention and stormwater management. I'm proud to be part of a council that is working toward a more resilient Halifax.

### CONGRATULATIONS VOLUNTEERS & OUTSTANDING STUDENTS



*L-R: With Indrasena Weerasinghe, Mohammad Ehsan and Mayor Mike Savage*

**Congratulations to the 2022 Volunteer Award and Citizenship Award recipients in District 10!** It was a pleasure to join Mayor Savage and councillors as we presented the awards to dozens of HRM volunteers and students on two separate evenings. In District 10 the Volunteer Award went to **Indrasena Weerasinghe** and **Mohammad Ehsan** for their service to the community. Citizenship Awards went to **Jayden MacGillivray**, a grade nine student at Fairview Junior High and **Daaksha Ajith**, a grade nine student at Clayton Park Junior High School.