

COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

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



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

FALL 2022

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Thank you for your feedback over the past year. I appreciate your requests and suggestions. Whether it's new playground equipment, improvements to roads, or upgrades to parks, together we are making things better in District 10.

Over the next few months Regional Council will be very focused on the 2023 municipal budget. As always, we will be working to keep costs as low as possible while continuing to improve services for residents in our growing city. There is always a lot going on at City Hall and in our district. I hope you will follow my weekly posts on Facebook and please contact me at kathryn.morse@halifax.ca or 902-490-4050 to share your priorities and concerns.

Wishing you the best of the holiday season,
Kathryn

NEW SAFETY FEATURES FOR LACEWOOD AND DUTCH VILLAGE INTERSECTIONS

You may have noticed changes at some of the city's busiest intersections, including two in District 10. Intersections with higher accident rates were selected to be in this pilot program. Data is being collected at all the upgraded intersections to help determine the design of more permanent road safety improvements in the years ahead. It's all part of HRM's "Towards Zero" approach to reducing injuries and fatalities.

The intersection of Lacewood and Dunbrack as well as the intersection of Joseph Howe, Dutch Village and

Bayers Road have some new features. The crosswalks have been painted with zebra stripes for increased visibility, and rubber speed bumps with markers have been installed in the road. These bumps are aimed at reducing the potential for left turn collisions by encouraging drivers to take these turns at slower speeds. An advance pedestrian walk light has also been provided at the Dutch Village intersection for pedestrians crossing Joseph Howe Drive.

These new traffic features are considered best practices across Canada and are aimed at making our roads safer, especially for pedestrians, the most vulnerable road users. Between 2019 and 2021, traffic-related injuries and fatalities declined by 13%.



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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
Phone: 902.490.7184 or call 311 for municipal matters

HALIFAX



DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

Halifax - Bedford Basin West

AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS SECURED IN FAIRVIEW

The Nova Scotia Housing Trust has purchased two residential buildings in Fairview, ensuring that 89 affordable apartments remain in the community.

The two Evans Ave buildings went up for sale last spring. Long-time residents feared they might lose their affordable housing if the buildings were purchased, renovated and then the apartments rented out at higher prices. Fortunately however, the NS Housing Trust bought the buildings. The Trust's goal is to fix them up while keeping them very affordable.

How can the Trust do it? Because it's a non-profit, the Housing Trust will qualify for longer term mortgages through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and energy efficiency grants through federal programs. Renovations are planned, but they'll be done gradually, and rents won't be going through the roof. The Housing Trust will also have a model where residents will pay rent based on their household income.

I was thrilled that Halifax Regional Council agreed to help the NS Housing Trust purchase these buildings. Councillor Sam Austin and I spoke in support of a \$445,000 grant to offset deed transfer taxes, and all the councillors agreed. Although the grant wasn't huge, it was something within council's power to do, and it helped the Trust conserve centrally located, affordable apartments.

It's exactly these kinds of projects that I believe HRM needs more of: partnerships between all levels of government, CMHC, and non-profits like the NS Housing Trust that have know-how to make affordable housing happen.

ACCESSIBLE TAXI SERVICES

Last spring Regional Council unanimously approved a three-year contract to Extra Care Taxi to provide an accessible taxi service for passengers who are unable to use conventional taxis.

As part of the contract, passengers pay the regular taxi fare and HRM covers any extra costs for the service. Extra Care Taxi has ten accessible vehicles and offers service 24/7. Bookings can be made by phone at 902-334-0334 or online: www.extracaretransit.com

NEW PLAYGROUND FOR FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

After almost 5 years in the planning stages, new playground equipment has been installed at Fairview Heights Elementary School. This playground was planned by the school and parents, who raised \$45,000 for the project, including \$30,000 from the Kin Club of Halifax. I was pleased to contribute an additional \$15,000 from my district capital funds.



I was also pleased to purchase two accessible swings this fall, one for Fairview Heights and the other for DJ Butler Park on Flamingo Drive. The accessible swings have a backrest and safety features for children who need extra support. Thanks to everyone involved for making these projects happen, including HRM Parks and Recreation.



With Michael Corbett, Vice Principal Fairview Heights



DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

Halifax - Bedford Basin West

DISTRICT 10 BOUNDARY CHANGES

Every eight years the boundaries for HRM's polling districts are reviewed to make sure each district has a roughly equal number of eligible voters. The boundary review has been going on since early 2022. Every district has proposed changes however those in District 10 are relatively minor.

In District 10 the only proposed change is for Hogan Court to be included in neighbouring District 16 (Larry Uteck area). The other District 10 boundaries are recommended to remain the same, consisting of School Avenue in Fairview, the Mainland Linear Trail, Dunbrack Street, Kearney Lake Road, Kearney Lake (Hamshaw, Saskatoon and area), the Bedford Highway and Joseph Howe Drive.

One reason only minor changes are being recommended is that District 10 has 22,950 eligible voters, which is already close to the average per district and the target number. Although HRM's overall population is growing, the independent boundary review panel has recommended maintaining the same number of councillors at 16. The final decision regarding the number of councillors and the district boundaries will rest with the UARB, and is expected sometime in mid- 2023 following a public engagement process. Any changes coming from this review will not come into effect until the 2024 Municipal Election.

RESTORATION PLAN FOR KEARNEY LAKE

An innovative plan to improve water quality at Kearney Lake could become a model for other lakes in HRM. The plan proposes restoring native vegetation along the shoreline and installing floating rafts of plants selected for their ability to remove pollution. These are "nature based solutions" that are having success in other cities.

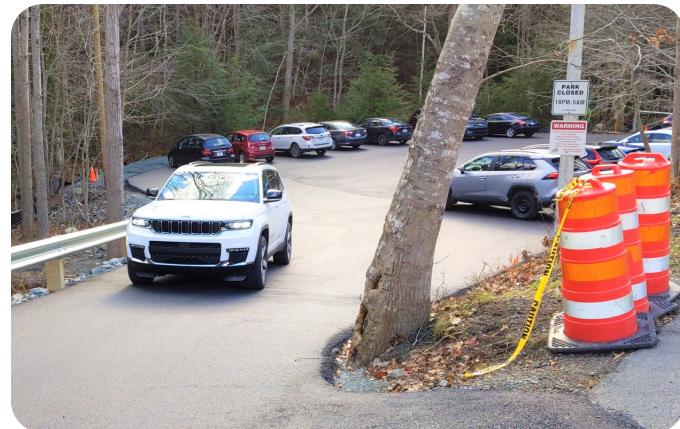
The main type of pollution in Kearney Lake is phosphorus and it's getting closer to a tipping point. If phosphorus levels continue to go up, Kearney Lake is likely to get algae blooms so prevention is key. Sources of phosphorus can be hard to identify. They include runoff

from construction sites, roads and lawns, especially artificially-fertilized lawns. By planting grasses and shrubs along Kearney Lake's rocky shoreline, some of the phosphorus runoff from the road will be absorbed and reduced. Kearney Lake could also get rafts of plants, known as "floating treatment wetlands", that remove phosphorus through their roots and store it in their leaves.

HRM's new water specialist wrote the Kearney Lake report in response to a motion I introduced about a year ago. Regional Council approved the report in August and by next year Kearney Lake may become an important test site for ways to restore our urban lakes.

HEMLOCK RAVINE PARK UPGRADE

The main entrance to the Hemlock Ravine Park has been upgraded. This fall, the driveway and parking lot were widened, paved and a railing was added for safety:



I SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

- Halifax Regional Council
- Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Special Events Advisory Committee
- Halifax Regional Library Board
- Canada Games Centre Board
- Centennial Arena Board



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.



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HOUSING PROPOSED FOR SOBEYS CLAYTON PARK SITE



Park West Centre - A rendering of the future aerial view

Sobeys Inc. and its real estate arm are proposing a major new residential and commercial development for the corner of Lacewood, Dunbrack and Radcliffe. The proposed “Park West Centre” is envisioned as a mix of stores, offices and housing, with up to 2000 apartments.

This site is not in District 10 (it's just across the boundary in District 12) however I'm including the proposal here because, if approved, it will be a significant change for Clayton Park and Rockingham.

Under the current Regional Plan, the Sobeys site is identified as a growth centre intended for a mix of high-density housing and commercial uses. It's located near schools, grocery stores, recreation centres and transit services, potentially making it a very walkable neighbourhood.

From an urban planning perspective, development of sites that already have existing services like this one, results in fewer demands for new infrastructure and therefore lower costs for the municipality and taxpayers. A similar project is proposed to redevelop Penhorn Mall in Dartmouth.

The Park West Centre proposal will be considered as part of Phase 4 of the 10-year Regional Plan review next spring and public hearings will be held. For more details, visit the HRM website: www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan/news_feed/phase-4-individual-requests

SNOW CLEARING – WHEN TO EMAIL OR CALL 311

HRM has snow clearing service standards for streets, sidewalks and bus stops. Crews work to have major roads and bus routes cleared within 12 hours after a snowfall ends, and all roads cleared within 24 hours.

Bus routes and roads that provide access to hospitals and schools are given priority. If an emergency vehicle needs to access a street, staff will dispatch a plow immediately to that street.

Before contacting 311 about snow clearing, please make sure the service timelines for your area have expired. You can find more detailed information about snow clearing at www.halifax.ca/snow.

If your street or sidewalk has not been cleared by the indicated time in each chart, please e-mail ContactUs@311.halifax.ca or call 311 so crews can be dispatched to address the issue. Please note, when there are blizzard conditions or snowfalls greater than 30 centimeters, more time may be needed to complete clearing. The same exception may apply when weather conditions are changing quickly, such as from snow to ice.

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect from December 15th to March 31st. The ban is enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. during declared weather events and snow removal operations. Sign up for hfxALERT notifications to receive updates from the municipality, including Winter Parking Ban notifications: www.halifax.ca/hfxalert

VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS DEADLINE JANUARY 6TH

For the past 25 years HRM has been recognizing the extraordinary contributions of adults, youth, and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs across the municipality. You can nominate a volunteer in three different categories: adult, youth and community group. Successful nominees will be invited to attend an awards ceremony and banquet with Mayor Savage and Regional Council. Nomination forms and detailed nomination criteria are available online: bit.ly/3GYGiAM