

Councillor Virginia Hinch

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

**DISTRICT 8
NEWSLETTER**
SUMMER 2025



DEAR RESIDENTS,



Summer is winding down, and that means it back to the fall routine of school, work, and the activities we love to participate in during this time of year. To all the students starting or heading back to school this year, I wish you the best of luck on your academic endeavors and hope you have a fun and safe school year!

It has been a busy 10 months as I have been adjusting to my role as Councillor for District 8. I have been loving being a Councillor thus far and I know that with your help, we can continue to make District 8 a fun, safe and desirable place to live, work and play. The suggestions you share help to shape the future of our district; so, give me a call, or send me an email. I am looking forward to meeting with and getting to know more of you over the next four years.

If you're interested in staying up to date on what is happening in District 8 and the Municipality as a whole, there is a monthly District 8 e-newsletter. You can contact my coordinator Kate Richardson, and she can add you to my e-newsletter mailing list. I also encourage all residents to sign up for the HFX Alert system and follow HRM's social media to get the most up to date information.

As always, you can call 311 or email contactus@311.halifax.ca with questions about municipal programs and services, concerns about illegally parked cars, graffiti, to apply for licenses or building permits, request information about garbage collection, transit schedules, and more.

Best Wishes,

Councillor Virginia Hinch
District 8
Halifax Peninsula North

CONTACT US

Call 311 to reach the 311 Municipal Contact Centre, or visit halifax.ca/311 to report a municipal issue. Please call 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, except Christmas & New Year's Day.

CONTACT ME

You can reach me at 902.237.8373 or by email at virginia.hinch@halifax.ca
Mailing Address: PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

CALL MY OFFICE

For assistance with municipal issues, you can also contact my Constituency Coordinator, Kate Richardson, by email at richark@halifax.ca or by calling 902.490.4090

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Councillor Support Office: 902.490.4050

Police, Fire & Emergency: 911

Police (non-emergency): 902.490.5020

Fire (non-emergency): 902.490.5530

Halifax Water: 902.420.9287

Halifax Water Emergency: 902.490.6940

NS Power Outage Line: 877.428.6004

Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team: 888.4298167



311 MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION

When requesting assistance with routine municipal matters such as requesting traffic calming assessments, reporting potholes, missed garbage collection, and other routine requests residents are encouraged to contact the 311 Contact Centre. Residents can report an issue to 311 by either calling 311 or emailing contactus@311.halifax.ca. Please feel free to copy me on your email to 311 if it is a routine matter.

By reporting your municipal issues into 311 it helps ensure that your concerns are logged, tracked, and assigned to the appropriate staff department to address. Our Municipal contact centres are open 7 days a week and are the fastest way to ensure your concerns are addressed.

Once you have submitted a service request you will be provided with a SR number. This number can be used to contact 311 and follow up on your request at anytime. You can also advise the agent at the time of your call that you would like to receive a follow-up from staff regarding your service request.

For non-routine municipal matters please feel free to contact my office.

STRONG MAYOR POWERS

At the July 10 meeting, Regional Council voted in favour of a motion requesting consultation from the Province of Nova Scotia if it considers introducing strong mayor powers in Halifax or other municipalities.

The motion directs the Mayor to:

- Write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting that the province engage in discussion with Halifax Regional Municipality and other municipalities prior to any legislative changes.
- Write a letter to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Board encouraging them to adopt a similar position.
- Submit both letters by July 22 and circulate any responses to Council.

Council also directed the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report on how strong mayor powers have been implemented in other Canadian jurisdictions and what lessons may apply locally.

Strong mayor powers vary depending on provincial legislation but could include authority over hiring senior staff, preparing budgets, or vetoing council decisions.

Strong Mayor powers have not yet been introduced here in Nova Scotia. How such powers would apply in Nova Scotia would be determined by the province.

ROBIE STREET TRANSIT PRIORITY CORRIDOR

Robie Street is a critical link in HRM's Roadway network. It is an arterial roadway that accommodates more than 20,000 vehicles per day, is a designated truck route and is key corridor for several Halifax Transit Routes.

Robie Street was designated as a transit priority corridor as part of the Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP), recognizing its strategic importance for transit operations. Robie Street also plays a significant role in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service proposed as part of HRM's Rapid Transit Strategy.

Staff are currently working to implement transit priority upgrades on Robie Street using a phased approach. The first phase of the project, which added curbside bus lanes on several sections of Robie Street through the conversion of general-purpose traffic lanes, was completed in 2020. The second phase, which focuses on the longer-term configuration for the corridor, is ongoing. Preliminary design for the northern portion of the corridor is nearing completion, and it is anticipated that detailed design will be initiated in 2025. Preliminary design for the southern portion of the corridor will also be advanced in 2025.

Land acquisition is an important part of the ongoing work for Robie Street. Staff are actively carrying out the acquisition of lands included in the Robie Street Transportation Reserve (between Cunard Street and Young Street), which Council approved as part of the Centre Plan Package B. This includes the acquisition of parts of 33 parcels along the corridor. As of April 2025, approximately half of the 33 properties are under agreement or acquired, and staff anticipate that acquisition of the remaining properties will be completed before the expiration of the Robie Street Transportation Reserve in November 2026.

Construction timelines depend on many factors, but current plans (as outlined in the 2025-26 Capital Budget) target construction to start in 2028 and take up to four years, being carried out in phases.



STUDENT TRANSIT PASS PILOT PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce that the Student Transit Pass Program will continue for the 2025/26 school year, and the 2024/25 passes are extended until September 12, 2025.

All students in grades 7 to 12 in the municipality attending junior high and high schools registered at the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) will have access to travel on all Halifax Transit services.

Starting in September 2025, registered homeschooled students in grades 7 to 12 who live in the Halifax region will also be eligible to receive a Student Transit Pass.

Students who wish to become Access-A-Bus clients are required to apply to Access-A-Bus before becoming a passenger on this service. To register, complete the Access-A-Bus application form that can be found on our website. Only those students who meet the qualifications to become Access-A-Bus clients will gain access to this service.

At the beginning of the school year in September, students may pick up their 2025/26 transit passes at their school administration offices. Information on pass distribution for homeschooled students will be shared in early September.

E-SCOOTER RULES

With more people using e-scooters across the municipality, it's important to know where and how they can be used.

Under By-law M-300 (the Micromobility By-law), as well as the Province of Nova Scotia's Motor Vehicle Act, here's what you need to know:

Where e-scooters are allowed:

- On roads with speed limits of 50 km/h or lower
- In bike lanes
- On multi-use pathways within streets

Where e-scooters are not allowed:

- On sidewalks
- On park trails, unless they are specifically signed as permitted
- At speeds over 25 km/h on roads or bike lanes
- At speeds over 15 km/h on multi-use pathways

Safety first:

- Riders must wear a helmet
- Riders must be at least 14 years old

E-scooters may also be used on private property with permission from the property owner.

By following the rules, we can all help ensure micromobility options like e-scooters continue to be a safe and accessible part of how we move through our communities.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Participatory Budgeting is coming back to District 8! On **Thursday, Sept. 25**, District 8 residents will once again have the opportunity to provide input on how to spend **\$75,000** to support community projects.

On Participatory Budgeting vote night, everyone (including children!) is encouraged to come and help choose projects that will help build a stronger community. This is a more engaging and different way to make decisions about how to spend public money in our neighbourhood.

Community members, like YOU, will propose projects and/or make recommendations on how to spend this money.

If you are a nonprofit organization or community group looking for District Capital Funding to support your community project, I highly encourage you to apply for funding. The maximum amount of funds that will be provided for a single project will be **\$10,000**.

Community groups can send a funding request including a letter explaining the project, how much you are seeking, and how those funds will be spent and, confirmation of the group's non-profit status to my Council Constituency Coordinator, Kate Richardson, by email to richark@halifax.ca, if you would like to be considered for capital funding.

All funding requests must be submitted to my office by **Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, by 4p.m.** This will ensure that my office can vet all applications that have been received and ensure that they qualify for District Capital funding.

The Participatory Budget Vote Night will take place on **Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Halifax Forum-Maritime Hall.**



IN THE COMMUNITY



Celebrated the 63rd Anniversary of Jamaican Independence Day. Proud to have read the proclamation and help with the flag raising.



Attended the Halifax Harbours Bridge walk. Such a fun event to celebrate Natal Day Weekend



Congratulations to Yasmin Hampshire, Cecelia Gray, Sheleema Flint, Scott C.R. Lawson, Marrilee Wilson, Zhaojun Xu, this year's HRM Volunteer Award winners for District 8.



Attended the Highland Park Dreams Big announcement with Mayor Andy Fillmore and MLA Suzy Hansen.



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.