

COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE DISTRICT 9 NEWSLETTER



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SUMMER 2020



DEAR RESIDENTS,

Thank you! I cannot say it enough. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we continue to make major infrastructure improvements throughout District 9 such as the road work on Herring Cove Road, transit priority lanes on Bayers Road, bike lane and active transportation connections, and

the soon-to-be-completed replacement of the St. Andrew's Community Centre. Most importantly, thank you for your engagement and cooperation during the COVID-19 pandemic and for supporting our local businesses.

The early months of 2020 have certainly been challenging for everyone. My Council colleagues and I worked diligently to present fiscally-responsible municipal operating and capital budgets while facing the serious impacts of COVID-19 on our local, national, and global economy. The original budget had a total tax increase of just 1.4% (the lowest increase of similar municipalities across the country). In the re-cast budget, finalized on June 9th, we were able to keep the same low increase, with as many programs and services left in place as possible considering the extremely tight budget constraints. See details on the budget included in this newsletter.

Please enjoy your summer and the wonderful features available in and around District 9: Dingle beach in Sir Sanford Fleming Park; Frog Pond; Shaw Wilderness Park; Chocolate Lake; Cunard Beach; Kidston Lake; Long Lake and the Long Lake Trail; Chain of Lakes Trail; and many more!

Most importantly, please exercise your right to vote in the upcoming October election for Mayor, Councillor, and CSAP representatives for the Halifax Regional Municipality. This is one way to make your voice heard and decide who will represent you on local decision-making bodies.

Respectfully,

Shawn Cleary
Councillor District 9
Halifax West Armdale

CONTACT INFORMATION

311 - MUNICIPAL CITIZEN CONTACT CENTRE

Call 311 or visit halifax.ca/311 to report a municipal issue. Hours are: Mon-Fri 8a.m. – 8p.m.; Sat-Sun 9a.m.-5:30p.m. Closed on Christmas Day & New Year's Day.

CONTACT MY OFFICE

Contact my Council Constituency Coordinator Chris Newson by email at Chris.Newson@halifax.ca or by calling 902.490.1562

CONTACT ME

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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
Councillor Support Office 902.490.4050

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

If you are aware of a community event or announcement and would like it included in a future newsletter or E-newsletter, please forward the information to my Coordinator, Chris Newson at Chris.Newson@halifax.ca

BUDGET 2020

Following many hours of critical discussion, Council colleagues and I finalized one of the most challenging budgets, ensuring the continuation of programs and services that residents expect and rely on while maintaining the tax rate from the pre-COVID budget. As you can imagine, the budget was a moving target this year with the coronavirus pandemic causing almost daily revisions to all departmental budgets.

Regional Council approved \$787-million in total municipal expenditures, provincial mandatory contributions of \$168-million, and a capital plan of \$150-million as part of the 2020/21 municipal budget.

The residential tax rate is to remain unchanged from 2020/21, acknowledging that the average residential tax bill will increase due to growth in property assessment. The average single-family home tax bill will increase by \$27, or 1.4 per cent in 2020/21 to \$2,003. The overall average commercial tax bill will also increase by 1.4 per cent.

Capital debt will remain stable and should be as low as \$235.7-million in 2020/21. The municipality anticipates it will incur a short-term debt of \$130-million for cashflow purposes.

Key programs and capital projects

Halifax Transit

- Woodside Ferry Terminal Upgrades \$4.5-million
 - Ragged Lake Transit Expansion \$5-million
 - Access-A-Bus Replacement \$1.17-million
- Active Transportation and Environment
- Active transportation projects \$7.5-million
 - HalifACT 2050 -Energy Efficiency \$2-million

Transportation & Safety

- Bridge and street improvements \$33.7-million
- Windsor Street Exchange \$1.8-million
- Downtown Dartmouth Infrastructure Renewal \$2-million

Recreation & Community

- Halifax Common Upgrades \$600,000
- Keshen Goodman Library \$2-million
- Streetscaping \$400,000

Property Tax

The following tax rates were approved by Regional Council on June 9th:

the general rates of taxation on residential and resource property be set at

- (i) \$0.670 for the urban area
 - (ii) \$0.637 for the suburban area; and
 - (iii) \$0.637 for the rural area
- per \$100 of taxable assessment;

- d) the general rates of taxation on commercial property be set at
 - (i) \$3.000 for the urban area;
 - (ii) \$3.000 for the suburban area; and
 - (iii) \$2.658 for the rural areaper \$100 of taxable assessment;

If you need assistance with property tax payments, please call 311 or Email hrmcollections@halifax.ca and request to speak with a tax analyst to discuss setting up a payment arrangement to repay the amount owing over a period of time (typically within 24 months). This option is available to commercial and residential customers.

For more detailed information on the 2020-21 municipal budget visit <http://www.halifax.ca/budget>.

DISTRICT 9 – 2020/21 PLANNED CAPITAL WORK

Now that the municipal budget has been approved, the following list of capital projects for District 9 are in process for completion this construction season (weather permitting).

Street Recapitalization

- Berlin St – Connaught to Dublin (Connaught to Oxford, District 9 Limits)
- Cook Ave – Romans to Heinish
- Heinish Ave – Cook to Vaughan
- Melville Ave – Winchester to End
- Romans Ave – Bayers to Federal (2019 Carryover, Halifax Water Project)
- Vaughan Ave – Romans to Heinish
- Ward Ave – Heinish to End

Asphalt Overlays

- Fenwood Rd – St Margaret's Bay to Bermuda

Microsurfacing

- Joseph Howe Dr – Ramp FVO DV-K (Bedford Hwy) to Armdale Rotary

Planer Patching

- Chebucto Rd – Mumford to North
- MacDonald St – Quinpool to Chebucto

Crack Sealing

- Almon St – Oxford to Connaught
- Connaught Ave (N) – Jubilee to Chebucto
- Joseph Howe Dr – Hwy 102 PCC Ramp to Armdale Rotary (Micro Preparation)
- McAlpine Ave – Federal to Chisholm
- Oxford St – Bayers to Almon
- Pepperell St – Vernon to Beech

Sidewalk Renewals

- Berlin St – Oxford to Connolly (S)
- Berlin St – Swaine to Connolly (S)
- Quarry Rd – St. Margaret's Bay to Edgehill (E) (2019 Carryover)



Active Transportation

Allan St/Oak St – Local Street Bikeway (2019 Partial Carryover)
Dunbrack Greenway – Chain of Lakes Greenway to Walter Havill

Retaining Walls

2981 Purcell's Cove Rd
Quarry Rd – St Margaret's to Edgehill

Guiderails

Quarry Rd – St Margaret's to Edgehill

BAYERS ROAD TRANSIT PRIORITY LANE

Phase 1 of this project is underway for the construction of dedicated bus lanes on Bayers Road from Romans Avenue to Connaught Avenue. This project is a key component of Halifax Transit's Moving Forward Together Plan (2016) and the Integrated Mobility Plan (2017), which recommend investment in transit lanes for the Bayers Road corridor in order to give priority to buses over general traffic, improve transit reliability, and ultimately encourage more people to use transit, which would also reduce congestion for car drivers.

The construction start date is the summer of 2020 and will take two construction seasons to complete. In addition to regular public service announcements during construction, general project construction updates will be posted to the municipal website project page at www.halifax.ca approximately every two weeks once the construction schedule is confirmed. Your patience and cooperation during the construction phase is appreciated.

If you have questions about tendering and construction, please contact: Dylan Hayne, P.Eng - Project Manager, HRM Project Planning & Design, Tel: 902-292-3521.

HELP FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Halifax Partnership's website is a source of vital information for businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The health and well-being of our Halifax business community is our top priority."

Halifax Partnership is leading the economic recovery efforts and have expanded their business support programs to help companies. Learn more at <https://halifaxpartnership.com/covid-19-resources/>



ST. ANDREWS COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT UPDATE

The newly constructed St. Andrew's Community Centre is on schedule to open this September.

Windows and exterior doors have been installed. Exterior masonry work is near completion along with the corrugated siding. Interior work continues (drywall, ceramic tile, mechanical room equipment installation, gymnasium painted, and walls primed in other areas, wood ceiling installed along main corridor). Most furniture and equipment have been ordered - arrival and installation is anticipated for early August. Road, parking and curb work has also begun.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING DISTRICT 9

Each district in the municipality usually receives \$94,000 in annual District Capital funding that can be used to support important community projects throughout the district. Due to budget cuts resulting from COVID-19, the amount has been reduced by 50% this year to \$47,250. These District Capital funds must be used for capital projects that will benefit the wider community, must be payable to a non-profit organization or can be used to support an unbudgeted HRM initiative, and must be for projects under the municipal mandate.

To involve residents in how these tax dollars are spent, I organize a Participatory Budgeting process each year. However, the dates scheduled in Spring 2020 had to be cancelled due to the inability to hold public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The benefits of the Participatory Budget process are that it encourages great ideas to come forward from local groups, builds community support and collaboration, and gives residents a direct say in how they want the District 9 capital funds to be spent. Examples of past projects funded from the District 9 Participatory Budget process are: Outdoor Walkway and Community Garden at Chebucto Heights Elementary School property, new play equipment at Whimsical Lake Playground, etc.



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Although, Participatory Budgeting could not be held this season, nonprofit community groups may apply for District Capital funding by submitting a District Capital Fund Request Form and a letter outlining the proposed project and the amount requested. You may find the form on each Councillor's municipal website at: www.halifax.ca.

RAPID TRANSIT STRATEGY AND ELECTRIC BUS PROPOSAL

In June, Regional Council approved two critical transit projects that will provide valuable, long-term benefits to the municipality by helping achieve objectives outlined in the Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) and broader climate change goals.

The first initiative, the Rapid Transit Strategy (RTS), includes four Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines, which will have less frequent stops than traditional routes; will run at a high-frequency; and will incorporate a network of transit priority lanes that allow buses to avoid traffic congestion. Additionally, the RTS recommends three new fast ferry routes providing direct connections between downtown Halifax and new terminals at Mill Cove, Larry Uteck and Shannon Park.

The second initiative, the Electric Bus Proposal, recommends converting the Transit bus fleet to a low-carbon or zero-emission fleet. The goal is to electrify 50 per cent of the fleet by 2028.

To proceed with next steps, Regional Council has:

- directed the CAO to submit both the Rapid Transit Strategy and Electric Bus Proposal for funding through the Federal Government's Public Transit Infrastructure Fund and the Green Infrastructure Fund, as well as any additional stimulus funding streams that may become available; and
- authorized the mayor to send a letter of support for both the Rapid Transit Strategy and Electric Bus Proposal to the Province of Nova Scotia.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2020

Interested in running in the 2020 municipal or Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) election? Visit the municipal election website at www.halifax.ca/election for more information.

The municipal election will be held on Saturday, October 17th.

You become a candidate for the municipal election by meeting the criteria and by making an appointment with the Election Office to file your nomination papers.

- Call the Election Office during the last two weeks of August 2020, to make an appointment to file your nomination papers for the Municipal Election.

- The dates to file nomination papers are: August 26, 27, 28 and September 1, 2,3, and 4, 2020.
- Call 902-490-4210 to book your appointment.
- Tuesday September 8, 2020 is Nomination Day. There are no appointments on Nomination Day. Nomination papers are accepted from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, first come, first served.

In 2016 the residency requirements for voters changed. Student voters must meet the basic voter requirements.

A student is "ordinarily resident" either where their family home is located or where they are attending school, but not both. It's likely that most first-year students in Nova Scotia will meet the residency requirement in order to vote either where they attend school or where their family home is located. You can only vote in one municipal election.

Phone: 902.490.4210 (voicemail only – but all calls will be returned)

Email: election@halifax.ca

CENTRE PLAN PACKAGE B

Please participate in the Centre Plan – Package B conversation! I encourage you to voice your opinion through a series of online surveys to provide us with vital feedback on Centre Plan Package B. Package B includes proposed planning policies and land use regulations for the remainder of the Regional Centre, including residential neighborhoods, institutional and industrial areas, parks and community facilities, downtown Halifax, and waterfronts. Policies outlined in Package B complement those approved in Package A, ultimately resulting in one plan for the entire regional centre – all aimed at creating complete communities where residents can live, work, shop and play. Online engagement opportunities for Centre Plan Package B includes a series of 10 surveys. You can complete all surveys or select only those of greatest interest to you from the following topics:

- Parks and Community Facilities
- Established residential areas
- Young Avenue special area
- Downtown Halifax
- Entertainment District
- Institutional areas
- Industrial areas
- Water lots
- Coastal elevation
- Package A feedback

Participant feedback will be used to inform a recommendation report to Regional Council.

To learn more about the Centre Plan and to participate in the surveys, visit www.centreplan.ca. Surveys close on August 31, 2020 at midnight.



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. Please accept my apology for any confusion.

HALIFAX