



**COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE**  
DISTRICT 10 ONLINE NEWS  
HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST



### **SPEED TABLES AND HUMPS PLANNED FOR GLENFOREST, CENTRAL, MELROSE AND MORE**

Several streets in District 10 will see traffic calming measures installed over the next few months. Glenforest Drive in Clayton Park will be getting three speed tables (the wider flatter ones) between Willett and Oakburn. A raised crosswalk will be installed at Glenforest and Plateau.

Raised crosswalks are new. They are similar to speed tables but they have painted crosswalks in the flat centre section. Raised crosswalks were trialed in Dartmouth last year and have been working well.

Three speed tables plus a raised crosswalk should make a real difference on Glenforest, where residents are concerned about speeding.

A number of streets in Fairview will also get traffic calming over the next few months. Frederick Avenue and Coronation Avenue will be getting a speed hump (narrower than a speed table) in the blocks just below Willett. Speed tables will be installed on Willett, Sunnybrae, Central and Melrose. The largest project is on the upper end of Melrose Avenue and has been coordinated with Halifax Water. This project will involve asphalt removal, roadbed repair, upgrades to the drainage system, water and sewer main replacement, and installation of new concrete curbs and gutters. Once all this work is done, four speed tables will be installed on Melrose between Gesner and Dutch Village. The old walkway between Gesner and School Avenue will also be repaved.

I have been advocating for traffic calming for our district for two years and am very pleased to see these projects moving forward. I'm hopeful the speed humps, speed tables and raised crosswalk will reduce speeding and improve safety.



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Councillors can advocate, but we do not decide which traffic calming features should be used or where they should be installed. The types and locations of traffic calming features are determined by HRM's trained engineers and transportation safety staff. They base their decisions on traffic volume and other data collected through traffic studies including reviewing traffic-related complaints to 311. HRM staff also consider individual characteristics of the street (such as flat or hilly, curvy or straight, with or without sidewalks) when deciding which features should be installed. The context of each street is important too: neighbourhoods on a grid pattern need different solutions than neighbourhoods with cul de sacs. Neighbourhoods near fire stations -- as in Rockingham -- need different solutions than those without fire stations, such as the planned narrowing of Flamingo Drive. Along with all the local considerations, HRM staff also use national guidelines from the Transportation Association of Canada to determine where traffic calming can have the most positive impact on pedestrian safety. So there's no one size fits all when it comes to traffic calming. Residents on the affected streets will be getting letters from HRM with the details.

## Let's Connect

### Councillor Kathryn Morse

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### 311 Contact Centre

Dial 311 or email [contactus@311.halifax.ca](mailto:contactus@311.halifax.ca)



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## CELEBRATING DISTRICT 10 VOLUNTEERS

**Congratulations** to volunteers with the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank - 2023 HRM Volunteer Award winners in the group category! These dedicated volunteers devote 500 hours a month supplying and running the food bank based out of the Salvation Army's Fairview Citadel (50 Gesner). This food bank was one of only three volunteer organizations in HRM selected in the group award category. The food bank started thirty years ago and has become an essential support for more than 300 families each month, many of them newcomers to Canada. Along with Mayor Savage, I was delighted to present the award to two of the food bank's faithful volunteers, Harold and Marian Smith.

The HRM Volunteer Awards ceremony in April was HRM's biggest-ever, with 200 attendees and close to 100 awards given out.

**Congratulations** to all the other District 10 volunteer award winners:

- Josh Brown – Halifax Regional Police Youth Program
- Erin Clements – Birdland Community Garden
- Khalieha Cunningham – Life Beyond the Hurt
- Dr Margaret Bateman Ellison – Diocese of NS
- Emily Fougere – Centennial Arena





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- Ju He – Chinese Society of NS
- Nicole Mauger – Blue Nose Marathon
- Jacob Rafuse – The Youth Project, Make a Wish, AIDS Coalition of NS (also a Provincial Award recipient)
- Steven MacLeod – The Youth Project, Make a Wish, AIDS Coalition of NS (also a Provincial Award recipient)
- Miranda Pike – Little Princess Parties

A special **congratulations** to District 10's youth award winners, who are volunteering with churches, kids' sports teams, Halifax Public Libraries and Halifax Recreation:

- Benjamin Amusan
- Andrew Brooks
- Jane Garnier
- Casey McDonald

A huge thank you to all the volunteers in District 10 and across HRM who give so much.

For more information see our [website](#).



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Photo: Sean Dewitt

## REGIONAL COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Regional Council has approved the 2023/24 municipal budget of \$1.2 billion – including an operating budget of \$979.6 million (total municipal expenditures) and provincial mandatory contributions of \$192.2 million – as well as a capital plan of \$333.3 million.

The average residential tax bill is increasing by 5.9 per cent. The average single-family home tax bill will increase by \$128 in 2023/24 to a total of \$2,288. Due to the increase in property assessment values, the municipal residential tax rate will decrease from 0.794 to 0.760.

A new [commercial taxation policy](#) came into effect on April 1, 2023, changing the way that commercial property taxes are calculated going forward. Geographical tax boundaries for commercial properties will change from the previous urban, suburban and rural areas to one of five new tax areas. The result is some of the larger stores located in business parks like Bayers Lake will be paying more than in previous years.

Municipal debt will remain stable at approximately \$194.5 million in 2023/24, with servicing costs under five per cent of revenues, which is well below provincial guidelines for debt management.





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Since 2015/16, the municipality's population growth rate has increased significantly. The municipality's fiscal approach must continue to adjust to both population growth, the costs of providing roads and infrastructure and other financial realities. That said, as the municipality's overall fiscal position is still very strong, the municipality is well positioned to withstand economic pressures.

Looking beyond 2023/24, steps will need to be taken, as outlined in the [Fiscal Sustainability Strategy](#) of November 2020, to ensure spending does not outpace our income.

The annual municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing a growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations (for example, transit, police, fire protection, garbage collection, snow clearing), capital priority initiatives approved by Regional Council (for example, HalifACT, Cogswell District project, Integrated Mobility Plan), as well as capital projects and investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace municipal assets such as buildings, roads, active transportation, parks and bridges.

## Key programs and capital projects

### Halifax Transit

- Electric bus procurement and Ragged Lake Transit Centre expansion – \$40.7 million
- Burnside Transit Centre eco-rebuild – design phase – \$20.8 million

### Environment

- HalifACT projects (for building retrofits, adaptation, etc.) – \$20.7 million
- HalifACT seven new staff positions – \$412,000

### Community safety

- 15 additional rural fire fighters – \$137,000
- New Community Safety business unit created – \$400,000
- Framework for Addressing Homelessness – \$1.1 million

- New Navigator position – \$125,000
- Bedford West fire station – \$16 million

### Transportation

- Cogswell District project – \$35.6 million
- Integrated Mobility Plan projects – \$45.8 million

### Recreation and community

- Affordable access to recreation programming – \$500,000
- Community action planning for African Nova Scotian communities – \$300,000
- Arts grants funding increase – \$100,000
- Halifax Public Libraries' collections – \$300,000
- Park recapitalization – \$6.8 million
- Park land development – \$1.4 million

The [Property Tax Exemption and Deferral Program](#), part of the Affordable Access Program, offers homeowners assistance with paying property taxes. Through the program, residents can apply for a property tax exemption, rebate, deferral of current year property tax and deferral of local improvement charges. There are also payment plan options that can assist taxpayers with personal budgeting.

For more detailed information on the 2023/24 municipal budget, visit: [halifax.ca/budget](https://halifax.ca/budget).





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## ROAD SAFETY FOCUS – MAY 2023

The monthly road safety theme for May is **Motorcycle Safety**. Spring signals the start of motorcycling season in Nova Scotia. Motorcycle safety is a shared responsibility. Watch out for each other. 2022 saw an increase in serious motorcycle collisions in HRM. Be the change in 2023. Watch out for each other.

- Drive safely. Operating your motorcycle safely can help protect you and other road users. Some tips to keep in mind are:
  - Take an approved motorcycle training.
  - Always drive defensively.
  - Travel at a safe speed.
  - Only ride when sober, focused and well-rested.
  - Check your blind spot before changing lanes.
  - Focus on where you need to go rather than looking at what you want to avoid (the motorcycle may go where you look).
  - Ride within your experience and skill level.
  - Go with an experienced rider the first time you explore a new area.
- All motorists can help reduce motorcycle collisions. Those who share the road with motorcycles should:
  - Keep their eyes on the road.
  - Check their blind spots and mirrors before changing lanes.

- Give motorcycles space just like any other vehicle.

Central to the Council-approved [Strategic Road Safety Framework](#) is the municipality's commitment to a "Towards Zero" approach – with the goal of a 20 per cent reduction in fatal and injury collisions by the end of 2023, road safety is everyone's responsibility whether you're walking, rolling, cycling, or driving.

Interested in learning more about road safety in HRM and the progress we are making? The [Road Safety Dashboard](#) provides an overview of collision data and allows users to track progress the municipality is making on a number of different road safety initiatives as we work together to accomplish our Towards Zero goals. Collision details are also available on the [Open Data Catalogue](#)

## UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

### May 2023

[Asian Heritage Month](#)  
[Jewish Heritage Month](#)  
[MS Awareness Month](#)  
[Gaelic Nova Scotia Month](#)  
[Huntington Disease Awareness Month](#)  
[Lyme Disease Awareness Month](#)  
[Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month](#)  
[World Press Freedom Day](#)  
[World Pulmonary Hypertension Day](#)

### 21 May, 2023

[Bike to Work Day](#)

### May 28-June 3

[Access Awareness Week](#)





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## UPCOMING MAY MEETINGS

### Thursday, 18 May

10:00

Community Planning and Economic Development  
Standing Committee

13:00

Transportation Standing Committee

16:30

Active Transportation Advisory Committee

17:00

Youth Advisory Committee

### Tuesday, 23 May

10:00

Halifax Regional Council

### Wednesday, 24 May

15:00

Heritage Advisory Committee

18:00

Regional Centre Community Council

### Monday, 29 May

10:00

Executive Standing Committee

Please confirm dates and times on our [municipal website](#)  
as they are subject to change.

## FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN DISTRICT 10

### Lena Metlege Diab, Member of Parliament

District government office

401-3845 Joseph Howe Dr

Halifax, Nova Scotia

B3L 4H9 (902) 426-2217

### Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA for Fairview-Clayton Park

District government office

3845 Joseph Howe Dr, Suite 203

(902) 329-8683

### Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA for Clayton Park West

District government office

397 Bedford Hwy · Suite 201

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## MOBILE FOOD MARKET FAIRVIEW

June 3, 17

July 15, 29

Aug 12, 26

Sep 9, 23

Oct 7, 21

Titus Smith Memorial Park

44 Vimy Avenue

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Every other Saturday

Cash, debit and credit

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## E-NEWSLETTER/SUBSCRIBE

I send monthly e-newsletters to community members. If you'd like to keep up to date with my Councillor news, please get in touch with my Council Constituency Coordinator, Ken Benoit at: 902.490.7184 or email: [benoitk@halifax.ca](mailto:benoitk@halifax.ca).