



## COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

DISTRICT 10  
HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST



### CITIZENSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY



The annual Citizenship Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 7 at City Hall, celebrating excellence among our community's youth.

This year, 39 grade nine students were honoured, including Jhanvi Prasanth Menon from Halifax West High, representing our district. Congratulations again to all the celebrated students!

### INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia is recognized annually on May 17 as it was on this day in 1990 that homosexuality was declassified as a mental disorder by the World Health Organization.

Everyone has the right to be wholly themselves and we all share a responsibility to actively promote equity, diversity, and inclusion and to stand against the prejudice, discrimination, stigma, hostility, and violence experienced by the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

For more information, visit [this website](#).

### NEW POET LAUREATE – ANNA QUON



The Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to announce that Anna Quon has been named the municipality's ninth poet laureate.

The municipal poet laureate is a resident poet, storyteller or spoken word artist who has achieved excellence among their peers and whose work demonstrates connection with and relevance to the municipality's citizens. Anna will serve as the municipality's poet laureate until 2027.

Anna's poetry chapbook, *Body Parts* was published in 2021 and her latest novel *Where the Silver River Ends* was released in 2022, making a trilogy with her first two novels *Low* (2013) and *Migration Songs* (2009). Learn more [here](#).



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## MORE HOUSING, FASTER

### Urgent changes to planning documents for housing



Regional Council held First Reading for the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) changes on April 23. Under the federal HAF agreement, Council will consider planning and zoning changes to help address the shortage of housing across HRM. These changes are also designed to encourage a greater variety of housing types.

As most are aware, HRM has a severe housing shortage. People are really struggling to find housing in our city right now and the existing mix of older housing does not always meet the current needs, especially for single people, students, seniors, and extended families who want to live together.

In January, HRM invited residents to provide written feedback on the proposed HAF changes. Seven hundred pieces of correspondence and five petitions have been received since January and a summary report with recommendations is now available. In response to public feedback, planners recommended further changes to address heritage, parking, and student housing concerns.

So, what does this mean for District 10? If the HAF changes are approved and adopted, taller and denser buildings will be permitted in some locations near major transit routes and universities.

As highlighted previously, in District 10 the five proposed HAF Opportunity Sites for higher density housing are: 70 Lacewood Drive, 167 Willett Street, 127 Harlington Crescent, 1 Lodge/544 Bedford Highway, and 44-48 Main Avenue.

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Along with higher density housing in selected locations, there is also a proposed zoning change that would allow suburban properties with a single house to be converted to housing with up to four units, either through renovation or rebuilding. If the homeowner opts to tear down and rebuild, the new smaller units will be required to fit into the same footprint, height, and street setback requirements of the previous home.

The intention is to gradually enable an increase in housing availability while retaining the character of neighbourhoods. Given the expense of renovating to add self-contained housing units with bathrooms and kitchens, this option is not for everyone. In other cities where similar zoning has been introduced, there is a slow uptake and conversions take place over decades rather than years, but this change may allow a greater variety of housing types to be added over time.

The Second Reading and a public hearing on the proposed changes will start Tuesday, May 21 at 1 p.m. If the HAF changes are approved, the federal government has committed \$79 million to help HRM fast-track more housing construction over the next few years. If you have questions or feedback about HAF, please email me at [Kathryn.morse@halifax.ca](mailto:Kathryn.morse@halifax.ca) and I would be happy to arrange a phone call or meeting with you. More details are available on the HRM [website](#).







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### JOSEPH HOWE/HIGHWAY 102 SIGNAL CHANGE



As many residents have noticed, there have been significant changes to the T-shaped intersection at Joseph Howe Drive and the Highway 102 ramp (Exit 0)

was redesigned and rebuilt. A crucial aspect of this redesign involved prohibiting right turns on red at this intersection. Additionally, to facilitate safer traffic flow, a green right turn arrow has been installed.

These changes were made to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists using the popular Chain of Lakes Trail which crosses the ramp at Exit 0.

Over the last several months constituents have contacted me with complaints about drivers making illegal maneuvers and creating unsafe conditions at Exit 0. Since the right turn signal change, vehicles have been backing up at the intersection and all along Joe Howe to the Superstore during peak times in the afternoons. Apparently, some frustrated drivers were going around the vehicles waiting in line and entering the highway ramp using illegal turns.

I passed these concerns along to HRM's traffic safety team and they have been reviewing the situation. They made a signal change that will require pedestrians and cyclists to activate the crosswalk crossing signal by pressing a button.

This change will provide a safe option for Chain of Lakes Trail users. The only difference is the signal won't be automatic and trail users will need to press the button. This change should improve traffic flow and reduce driver frustration.

Many thanks to the HRM team for making this change and to everyone who contacted me and 311.

### COMBATTING ISLAMOPHOBIA



Halifax Regional Council has directed the Chief Administrative Officer to strike a working group of municipal staff to create an action plan that will combat Islamophobia and improve the safety of Muslim women and girls. This working group will provide a report on progress made and resources required to implement this action plan.

In Canada, gendered Islamophobia is one of the most common forms of Islamophobia. Muslim women and girls who wear visible indicators of their faith—such as the hijab or niqab—are more vulnerable to acts of Islamophobia. Action that combats Islamophobia will make our community safer and more inclusive to those most impacted by violence, which makes our community safer for all residents. For more information, read the [staff report](#).



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## DISTRICT 10 AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to the 2024 HRM Volunteer Award winners! Among the winners were six remarkable individuals from District 10, recognized for their

exceptional contributions to our community at the annual ceremony on April 17:

- **Maneesh Bhatthi Guruge**, who dedicates time to volunteering with the Canadian Red Cross, Autism NS, Feed NS, IWK Health, and the Canadian Cancer Society.
- **Keri Jenkins**, a dedicated fundraiser and volunteer at Duc d’Anville Elementary School.
- **Marly Nauss**, serving as a Volunteer Medical Responder.
- **Yvonne Noel**, demonstrating leadership as the community manager for Square Roots Fairview/Clayton Park.
- **George Petru**, volunteering with the Fairview Resource Centre.
- **Yiqing Zhang**, a passionate volunteer with the Chinese Society and a student leader.

Thank you for making our community a better place!

## HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE DEPOT

Household Special Waste (HSW) includes hazardous materials that are generated in the home, such as batteries, paint and aerosol cans, propane cylinders, and used motor oil. These materials do not belong in the landfill and proper disposal is critical for environmental protection.

Residents looking to dispose of household special waste not acceptable for curbside collection can bring their materials to the municipal HSW depot at 20 Horseshoe Lake Drive in Bayer's Lake. mobile household special

waste depot events started in April and will continue through October.

For more information on what kind of materials can be dropped off and complete schedule, please visit [our website](#).

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Many students know Melissa Caines as a trusted go-to person at Fairview Junior

High and Fairview Heights schools. As a community outreach worker with Schools Plus, Melissa provides assistance to students and families. She also organizes everything from babysitting workshops to free clothing swaps. Melissa noticed some of the students were arriving at school without breakfast or a packed lunch. She applied and received funding from the Province to run a snack program out of her office.

I was happy to make a contribution through my District Capital fund so Melissa (seen in the photo with Principal Leanne March) could buy a small fridge and expand the variety of snacks. The snack itself is important because it helps students concentrate in class, but Melissa says a snack break is also a great way of building connections and a sense of community in the school.

## REPORT A POTHOLE OR SINKHOLE

HRM crews monitor for potholes on our roads year-round, but it’s also important for residents to report potholes so that crews are aware of them and can work on getting them fixed.

To report a pothole, call 311 or use the online form. Visit our [website](#) for more information.



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### HOUSING TRUST RENOVATIONS



Recently the [Housing Trust of Nova Scotia](#) showed me around one of their apartment buildings in District 10. In 2022 the non-profit bought five apartment buildings in HRM, including two buildings in Fairview. They now own a total of 89 units on Evans Avenue.

The Housing Trust bought the buildings with the goal of preventing renovictions and keeping affordable apartments in central neighbourhoods.

Since purchasing the buildings, the Housing Trust has started major renovations. So far, the Trust has installed a new roof at 27 Evans and will be installing new siding and triple-glazed windows to improve energy efficiency as well as sound proofing. The neighbouring building will also get upgrades.

The cost of renovations is covered through a combination of rent payments and support from all three levels of government, including a tax break approved by HRM Regional Council.

Through these supports, the Trust can offer apartments well below market price, such as a one bedroom for \$1350/month, about \$800 less than the going rate. Restoring older rental housing takes time, skill and money. The Nova Scotia Housing Trust is one of the local leaders showing it can be done. Many thanks to Executive Director Angela Bishop and Construction Manager Scott Wellard for the tour. You can apply [here](#).

### BETTER PARKING ENFORCEMENT

HRM is testing a new way of doing parking enforcement. Two HRM vehicles will be equipped with high-tech cameras designed to read and record license plates. The Mobile License Plate Recognition system will be able to quickly analyze vehicles for parking violations and alert compliance officers when there are infractions.

The system will replace more time-consuming manual checks. The benefits include improved traffic safety, more efficient parking enforcement and more cost-effective operations. All information collected through the license plate recognition is encrypted to protect privacy.

The full LPR program will be launched in June. HRM's parking enforcement staff are very stretched now and I'm hopeful this new technology will allow them to cover wider areas in less time.

### SPEED TABLES ON THE WAY



Several streets in District 10 have been selected for new traffic calming measures. Based on a review, speed tables will be installed on six streets in Fairview later this year.

The streets selected are Adelaide Avenue, Convoy Avenue, Coronation Avenue, Frederick Avenue, Rosedale Avenue, and Rufus Avenue.

Letters will be going out to residents in the next week or two with details, including locations where the speed tables will be installed. Residents of Clayton Park Drive and Torrington will be getting similar letters as well.

On Glenforest Drive, a raised crosswalk is being built at Plateau Crescent. Raised crosswalks provide better visibility of pedestrians and function like a speed hump or speed table when the crosswalk is not in use. Construction of the raised crosswalk is expected to be completed by mid-May.





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### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK



Emergency Preparedness Week is observed in HRM from May 6 to 11. This is a cause that District 10 resident Dave Aalders is actively engaged in throughout the year. Dave is dedicated to Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) with the Salvation Army.

You may have seen the EDS truck around the community or elsewhere in HRM. It's a mobile canteen equipped with a large stove and griddle. In an emergency, the canteen's volunteers can deliver hot drinks and hot meals to communities in need, as they did in Cape Breton after Hurricane Fiona.

In the last few months, the mobile canteen has been used as part of a street ministry program, delivering meals to some of the encampments across the city.

With a changing climate bringing more extreme weather, the canteen truck and its team of volunteers are busy training to be ready when needed. For more about Emergency Preparedness and about volunteering to help in a disaster, click [here](#) or visit the Salvation Army's [website](#).

### SCHOOL STREETS PROJECT



Two elementary schools in District 10 will be participating

in a pilot project aimed at making trips to and from school safer for children. As parents and teachers know, arrivals and departures from school can be somewhat chaotic. More students are travelling by car than ever before. The chaos comes from hundreds of vehicles dropping off and picking up children at schools designed decades ago as walking schools.

Burton Ettinger and Grosvenor Wentworth elementary schools have been selected for the "School Streets" pilot project. For two weeks, likely in the fall, sections of streets around these two schools will be limited to local traffic (residents) only for about 45 minutes in the morning and 45 minutes in the afternoon. Parents will be encouraged to park a few blocks away and walk with their children for the final stretch. More details will be sent out soon by the schools. For more on School Streets, click here to watch this [short video](#). More details can be found [here](#).

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### MAY IS ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

May is Asian Heritage Month, offering a chance to explore the history, traditions, and accomplishments of Asian communities and their significant influence on Canadian society. Celebrate by learning about diverse Asian Canadian cultures through various mediums, attending virtual events showcasing art, music, and food, supporting local Asian Canadian businesses, and engaging in discussions about diversity and inclusion.

By honoring Asian Heritage Month, we enrich our understanding of Canada's unique diversity. Stay updated on events celebrating Asian Heritage Month on our [website](#).



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### MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

From May 6 to 10, we observed Mental Health Week, dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of mental health for Canadians. Mental Health Week is an annual national campaign that encourages people to talk about mental health and reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness.

This year's theme was *A Call to be Kind*, which is centered on the healing power of compassion. Many people are affected by mental health issues or illness – whether it is themselves, their friends, family, or colleagues. In today's fast-paced world, a little kindness goes a long way.

Taking care of our mental health involves adopting healthy habits such as practicing mindfulness, staying physically active, connecting with others, and seeking help when needed. Let's prioritize every day as Mental Health Day! The Canadian Mental Health Association has a great list of resources on Mental Health. For more details visit their [website](#).

### HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

The growing tent encampments in HRM was discussed in council on May 7. After a brief improvement, the situation for the unhoused appears to be worsening once again. The number of people who have self-identified as homeless and have voluntarily added their names to a list for emergency housing (the "By Name List") has grown to just over 1200.

According to the most recent staff report, demand for emergency housing is growing exponentially in HRM and continues to outpace the supply of shelter beds. Designated tent locations are once again overcapacity, and recently more than a dozen new tents have popped up in non-designated areas, including Grafton Street Park, Chocolate Lake Park, Halifax Common, Point Pleasant Park and behind the Portland Street Superstore.

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Designated locations have basic sanitation services provided by the municipality, undesignated locations do not.

There are a wide variety of reasons the unhoused population continues to grow: increased cost of rental housing; shortage of social housing; and insufficient access to addiction treatment or mental health services. 81 of the 100 Pallet shelters promised by the Province of Nova Scotia (which has responsibility for emergency housing) are still pending, so Council will discuss what to do in the meantime. See here for [Report](#) on the update on homelessness.

### MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN DAY



May 16 is Moose Hide Day, a day of ceremony where all Canadians are urged to unite in taking a stand against violence towards women and children, as well as to

embark on a collective journey of reconciliation. What began 11 years ago as a small gathering of men and boys dedicated to raising awareness of the crisis of violence against Indigenous women and children has evolved into a national ceremony welcoming all Canadians to unite in ending violence against all women and children.

You can join the Halifax walk on May 16 by gathering at noon. The walk will be starting at Peace and Friendship Park in front of the Westin Hotel on Hollis Street, continuing along Barrington Street. More information can be found by visiting their [website](#).



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## E-NEWSLETTER/SUBSCRIBE

If you'd like to keep up to date with District 10 and Regional Council news, please get in touch with my Council Constituency Coordinator [Sarah Edjemudiare to subscribe to this newsletter.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 17** Bike to Workday  
International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- May 19 to 25** National Public Works Week
- May 20** Victoria Day
- May 26 to Jun 1** Access Awareness Week

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Thursday, May 16**  
10 a.m. **Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee**  
4:30 p.m. **Active Transportation Advisory Committee**  
5 p.m. **Youth Advisory Committee**
- Tuesday, May 21**  
10 a.m. **Halifax Regional Council**
- Wednesday, May 22**  
1 p.m. **Halifax Regional Council May 21 Continuation - If Required**
- Thursday, May 23**  
1 p.m. **Halifax Regional Council May 21 Continuation - If Required**
- Friday, May 24**  
1 p.m. **Halifax Regional Council May 21 Continuation - If Required**
- Monday, May 27**  
10 a.m. **Grants Committee**  
10 a.m. **Executive Standing Committee**  
5:30 p.m. **Women's Advisory Committee**  
7 p.m. **North West Community Council**
- Tuesday, May 28**  
10 a.m. **Halifax Regional Council – If Required**

## 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  
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 902.426.2217

[Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA for Fairview-Clayton Park](#)  
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## CURRENTLY SERVING ON:

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