

# Councillor Kathryn Morse

HALIFAX - BEDFORD BASIN WEST

DISTRICT 10  
NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024



## KESHEN GOODMAN LIBRARY REOPENS

Keshen Goodman Library reopened on July 26 after an extensive renovation. The municipality's second busiest library is now bigger, brighter and better than ever!

The children's area has been revamped with new toys and artwork, cozy cubbies and a two-storey indoor playhouse. There is a new teen lounge for socializing as well as a soundproof computer room. Several new rooms have been created along the library's west wall to provide much-needed community meeting spaces. Some rooms are set up for videoconferencing for remote work, medical appointments or meetings.

Keshen Goodman was rewired and now there are plenty of places to plug in. A redesigned book delivery system and an energy-efficient air-handling unit will make the library more functional for staff and users. Accessible washrooms have been installed.

The whole building has been refreshed with white paint, new furniture and tech, and special noise-muffling ceiling panels.



## CONTACT US

Call 311 to reach the 311 Municipal Contact Centre, or visit [halifax.ca/311](http://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 902.497.7278 or by email [kathryn.morse@halifax.ca](mailto:kathryn.morse@halifax.ca) or fax 902.490.4122

## CALL MY OFFICE

Contact Sarah Edjemudiare, Council Constituency Coordinator by phone 902.943.1169 or email [sarahagaren.edjemudiare@halifax.ca](mailto:sarahagaren.edjemudiare@halifax.ca)

## STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

I do a weekly Facebook update for District 10 and invite you to follow the page "*Kathryn Morse Councillor District 10 Halifax-Bedford Basin West*"

## 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

Keshen Goodman is more than a library, it's a community hub. In September the library's popular language classes, parent and tot socials, book clubs, jam sessions and other events start back up again. Drop in or check the Halifax Public Libraries website for details.



## REBUILDING DUTCH VILLAGE ROAD

Dutch Village Road is one of the most historic streets in our district. The name refers to the first European settlers in the area who were “Deutsch” and came from what is now Germany. The original Dutch Village Road ran from the Northwest Arm to the Bedford Basin. More recently, Dutch Village Road was the dividing line between the former City of Halifax and the County of Halifax. The Halifax side of the street got a sidewalk, but the County side did not.

There has been a plan to improve Dutch Village Road since at least 2017. For three years, engineering work has been underway to redesign a section of Dutch Village Road between Alma Crescent and Joseph Howe Drive (at Bayers Road). The main goal is to improve safety. Dutch Village Road handles about 16,000 vehicles per day as well as serving Halifax Transit routes. The new design will be a huge improvement for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.



In June this project finally went to tender. The new Dutch Village Road will have sidewalks on both sides, curbs on both sides, proper bus stops that are accessible, and on-street parallel parking spots (instead of the current nose-in parking which is illegal). There will be a separated bike lane. Once Dutch Village Road is rebuilt, benches and street trees will be installed. Heritage signs are also planned.

Construction will begin this fall and is expected to take about a year to complete.

## WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE UPDATE

The Windsor Street Exchange redevelopment is an important project for District 10 residents and the entire municipality. As the municipality’s population has grown, the Exchange has become a bottleneck, especially at peak times. With all the lane changes and weaving of traffic, it can be challenging for drivers.

The Windsor Street Exchange is also a challenging place to move through on foot or by bike. Although I was successful in advocating for a crosswalk and RRFB for the ramp (next to the cemetery), more safety measures are needed. In June, Regional Council approved an expanded scope of the redevelopment project beyond the main intersection and also approved amendments to require more safety measures for pedestrians and cyclists. The Windsor Street Exchange serves many suburban Halifax Transit routes and is key to a better functioning transit system. Regional Council recently directed that dedicated bus lanes be included in the next phase of the design. Dedicated bus lanes can reduce traffic congestion and improve commuting times for both transit users and car commuters. Construction is expected to begin on the Windsor Street Exchange in 2025.

## GREEN ARROWS GET GREEN LIGHT

The intersection of Dunbrack Street and Willett Street will have left turning arrows installed later this year. This intersection has been a concern of residents for some time because of traffic speeds on Dunbrack and visibility issues on Willett.

This planned signal upgrade is part of the Road Safety Strategy approved by Regional Council in July 2024. As part of the strategy, the municipality’s traffic safety teams have reviewed signalized intersections across the municipality and those with the worst collision histories are being targeted for improvements.

The intersections of Joseph Howe Drive/Dutch Village Road (both the north and south intersections) and Dunbrack Street/Main Avenue have been also been recommended for signal upgrades.



### PLAYGROUNDS ON THE WAY

The Duc d’Anville project is part of regular playground renewal. It will have climbing equipment, swings, and a special accessible swing, the first of its kind in the Halifax Regional Municipality. The old gravel surface is being removed and more accessible surfaces will be installed. A few pieces from the old playground that were still in good condition were saved and will be re-installed in the new playground.

The Duc d’Anville project is part of regular playground renewal by the municipality’s Parks and Recreation. Most playgrounds are replaced every 15 to 20 years, depending on wear and tear. As old playgrounds are replaced, the new ones are made more accessible. The Duc d’Anville School Advisory Committee applied for and received a provincial grant to assist with the project. Three other District 10 playgrounds are also scheduled to get new equipment: Burton Ettinger Elementary (Central Avenue playground), Castle Hill, and DJ Butler Park.

### WHALE OF A MURAL

The exterior of Duc d’Anville Elementary School has been transformed with a beautiful new mural by artist Michael Burt. Michael and his Trackside Studios team spent a week turning the dark brick wall into an ocean playground, complete with humpback whale! Many thanks to Michael (an alumni of Duc d’Anville) as well the Duc d’Anville School Advisory Committee for making the magic happen. I was pleased to support this project with District Capital funds.



### TREMONT DRIVE SIDEWALK SURVEY

Most schools in District 10 are struggling with congestion challenges when students are dropped off in the mornings and picked up in the afternoon. These schools were built in the 1950s and 1960s when enrolments were lower and most students walked to school.

Rockingham Elementary has extra challenges now that many students arrive by car because of the narrowness of surrounding streets, the missing sections of sidewalk, and the unusually steep grade of Tremont Drive. To address safety concerns, Rockingham’s principal and teachers have been making a twice daily effort to escort students from car to school and back again.

I have been working with municipal planners who are reviewing the situation on Tremont Drive. They are looking at options to improve access and safety around Rockingham Elementary however the existing conditions are very challenging for sidewalk construction. The planners have been consulting with the school, police, and the municipality’s parking enforcement staff. This fall, they will be surveying parents and residents about possible options. In the meantime, family members who can park away from Tremont Drive and walk children the last few minutes to school can make the situation safer for everyone.

### DISTRICT 10 BOUNDARY TO CHANGE

Every eight years the Halifax Regional Municipality is required to conduct a review of electoral boundaries to ensure each district has approximately the same population.

A boundary review was conducted in 2022 and final boundaries were approved by the NSUARB (Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board) in early 2024.

In District 10, an area of wilderness has been added that includes a large section of the proposed Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes National Urban Park. As part of the change, Susies Lake, Quarry Lake, Washmill Lake and Fox Lake will be included in District 10. Although District 10 is now larger in terms of square kilometers, no new streets were added in Fairview, Clayton Park or Rockingham. The new district boundaries will go into effect after the municipal election that takes place on October 19 this year.



## PROGRESS ON THE MUNICIPALITY'S GREEN NETWORK PLAN

In 2018, Regional Council approved the Green Network Plan. The goals of the plan are to protect parks and ecologically important habitats for wildlife, for recreation and for overall sustainability. The Green Network Plan grew out of the work of many local community groups and engaged volunteers. Unfortunately the plan never received dedicated funding, so progress has been slow.

Last year, based on a motion I brought to Regional Council, funding was approved. A few months ago, David Hodd was hired as the Green Network Plan's Project Manager. David is a nature expert who has delivered environmental education and community-based nature conservation projects in Nova Scotia and the UK.

At a time of record growth, David will guide the municipality to help it manage and steward our beautiful natural places through the Green Network Plan.

## ARE YOU ON THE VOTERS LIST?

The municipality will send out voter information letters in September in advance of the October 19 municipal election. These positions offer an opportunity to gain experience in project management, public administration and community outreach. To make sure you receive this important information, contact the helpline to verify you are on the List of Electors by August 30. Please refer to the municipality's "Municipal Elections" page for details by visiting [halifax.ca/election](http://halifax.ca/election), or call the municipality's voter helpline at 902.490.8683.

## WORKERS NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTION

More than 1,200 workers are needed for the election. Election workers will have the opportunity to play a direct role in ensuring a fair, accessible and efficient election. These positions offer an opportunity to gain experience in project management, public administration and community outreach.

Temporary election workers are needed to support advance voting (Saturday, October 12 and Tuesday, October 15) and election day voting (Saturday, October 19) at voting locations across the municipality's 16 electoral districts.

For more information on becoming a candidate or applying to work the election please visit [halifax.ca/election](http://halifax.ca/election).

## DISTRICT 10 VOLUNTEERS OF 2024

Volunteers put the heart in our communities. Every year the municipality's mayor and councillors invite local organizations to nominate outstanding volunteers to be recognized and celebrated.

Along with Deputy Mayor Cathy Deagle Gammon (left in photo below), I was pleased to present the District 10 Volunteer Awards to:

- Yvonne Noel (Square Roots Fairview/Clayton Park)
- Marly Nauss (Medical Responder)
- Maneesh Bhatthi Guruge (Canadian Red Cross, Autism NS, Feed NS, IWK)
- Keri Jenkins (Duc d'Anville Elementary)

Congratulations also to George Petru and Yiqing Zhang from District 10. Thank you volunteers for your time, your talents and your dedication to others.



### 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.