

COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

*Timberlea - Beechville -
Clayton Park - Wedgewood*



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SPRING 2024

DEAR RESIDENTS,



Spring is blooming around us and the new season is bringing a sense of renewal. There is much to celebrate and look forward to in our community over the coming months.

This May, I will be hosting my second open house event. Come by the MacDonald Memorial Legion Branch 156 (231 Greenhead Rd, Lakeside NS) on Wednesday, May 15 any time between 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Municipal staff will also be attending to answer questions, comments or concerns you have related to projects or initiatives in our District.

I am honoured to be your municipal representative on Halifax Regional Council for the areas of Timberlea, Lakeside, Beechville, Clayton Park West and Wedgewood. Thank you for your ongoing support and feedback and for your participation in our wonderful community and neighbourhoods. I always appreciate hearing from you regarding matters in our district that need my attention.

Warm regards,

Councillor Iona Stoddard
902.240.7926
iona.stoddard@halifax.ca

APPROVED 2024/25 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Regional Council has approved the 2024/25 municipal budget.

The annual municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing the growing region – including municipal operations, Regional Council-approved priority initiatives and investments to purchase, construct and rehabilitate municipal assets.

The 2024/25 municipal budget includes an operating budget of \$1.04 billion and a capital budget of \$306.5 million. This budget allows the municipality to keep pace with operating demands posed by significant growth, inflationary pressures and also includes some investments in new or enhanced services.

The tax bill is the collection of all necessary levies – including the general property taxes, area charges and provincial contributions. For more information on how to read the tax bill, visit: halifax.ca/taxes.

Effective the 2024/25 fiscal year, the municipality will no longer be required to collect and remit taxes to the Province of Nova Scotia for Housing and Corrections. Previously, these charges were included in the “provincial rate” section of residents’ tax bills.

While this change has no effect on the municipality’s budget, it will lower the total tax bill – which includes the portion the municipality collects on the province’s behalf.

HALIFAX



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The average residential tax bill (including provincial contributions and mandatory tax) will increase by 6.3 per cent – or approximately \$214. This is based on the average single-family home assessment value of \$323,300.

A new commercial taxation policy came into effect on April 1, 2023, changing the way that commercial property taxes are calculated. Geographical tax boundaries for commercial properties changed from the previous urban, suburban and rural areas to one of five new tax areas, which are listed in Administrative Order 2022-003-ADM, Respecting Commercial Property Taxation in Certain Areas of the Municipality. As well, for each tax area, rates will vary by assessed value of the property, within three tiers of assessment.

The residential rate and commercial rates for each tier and tax area was updated on halifax.ca/taxrates on Wednesday, April 24.

Below are select highlights from the 2024/25 municipal budget, grouped by Regional Council-approved priorities from the Strategic Priorities Plan 2021-25.

Communities

- \$2 million for a 24/7 fire station conversion in Hammonds Plains
- Funding for 22 new Halifax Regional Police positions and six new Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers
- \$2.3 million in continued Community Safety programs and new positions
- Funding for 10 new crossing guard positions

Prosperous Economy

- \$7.5 million in budgeted tax relief for non-profit and charitable organizations

Environment

- \$18.6 million for capital projects as part of HalifACT: Acting on Climate Together

Integrated Mobility

- \$271 million for the Mill Cove Ferry Terminal project

- \$2.4 million for funding of the Integrated Mobility Plan

For more information on the 2024/25 municipal budget, including all associated budget resources, visit our website at halifax.ca/budget.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVED CAPITAL FUNDING 2023/24

The District Capital Fund provides larger grants to non-profit organizations for projects that benefit our community. The following organizations were provided grants this past year from this funding:

- Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Society
- Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank
- BLT Community Garden Association
- Lake City Woodworkers
- Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization
- Crosswalk painting
- The North Grove
- Beechville Baptist Church
- Hubbards Area Recreation Association
- MacDonald Memorial Legion Branch 156
- Halifax Meals on Wheels
- Halifax Christian Church
- Souls Harbour Rescue Mission
- Freedom Foundation
- HeART Youth Programs
- Ronald MacDonald House Charities
- Wonder'neath Art Society
- AIDs Coalition of Nova Scotia
- Birch Cove Baptist Church
- Halifax Cycling Coalition
- Timberlea Baptist Church
- Emmanuel Baptist Church
- Special Olympics Halifax Region
- SEDMHA

HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND UPDATE

As part of the Housing Accelerator Fund, the municipality is collaborating with partners and other levels of government in a national effort to support housing. The municipality is proposing updates to planning policies to enable more density and flexible housing types in residential areas. In response



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to feedback from residents and the development community, Regional Council reviewed an amended package of planning changes for consideration last month. To learn more about the proposed amendments and upcoming public hearing details, please visit halifax.ca/HAF.

POTHOLES

Road operations crews identify, log, and address potholes all year. They also rely heavily on residents to report any problematic potholes they see so they can be logged into the system for repair. HRM's crews monitor and repair more than 1,700 km of roadways. More than 5,200 potholes are repaired throughout the municipality each year.

The time to fix a pothole can range anywhere from 7 business days to 30 business days depending on the pothole and if it is considered a priority. Crews aim to repair priority potholes on main arterial and major collector roads within 7 business days.

How do I report potholes?

On municipal roads, please call 311 or email contactus@311.halifax.ca. You can also fill out an online form at halifax.ca/potholes.

What if my vehicle is damaged by a pothole?

First, call 311 to determine who is responsible for the stretch of road the pothole is located on. If the damage occurred due to a pothole on a municipal road, begin a claim process with a 311 agent. If you determine it occurred on a provincial road, please contact the provincial Department of Public Works.

Please visit halifax.ca/potholes for more information.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Congratulations to the most recent recipients of the Halifax Regional Municipality's Volunteer Awards! Each year the Mayor and Regional Council recognize the extraordinary contributions of outstanding individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in our communities. This annual event puts a spotlight on amazing people who give of their time in our municipality.

To learn more, visit our website at halifax.ca/about-halifax/volunteering/volunteer-awards.

A very special congratulations to those from District 12 who have gone above and beyond to volunteer to organizations and causes that are close to their hearts and that make a difference in our communities:

- Aniq Jalal (Youth)
- Dr. Nicholous Deal (Adult)
- Fares Siddiqui (Youth)
- Marion Gates (Adult)
- Nicole McDonald (Adult)
- Olivia Lily Liu (Youth)
- Taskeen Shabbar Ahmed (Youth)



IN THE COMMUNITY



I was honoured to be the Councillor chosen for the Campaign School for Women held on April 6. It was a remarkable event of questions, answers and mock campaigns. The MLA chosen was MLA for Needham, Susie Hanson.



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2024 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS GRADUATION

Special recognition to Volunteers graduating from District 12 on April 3, 2024:

- Firefighter Matthew Arthurs – Station 58, Lakeside
- Firefighter Cameron Hubley – Station 58, Lakeside
- Firefighter Daniel McComb – Station 58, Lakeside
- Firefighter Dmytro Petrovski – Station 58, Lakeside



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CONTACT ME
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To sign up to monthly e-newsletters, please get in touch to be added to my mailing list. You can reach out to me directly at iona.stoddard@halifax.ca or contact victoria.palmer@halifax.ca.

MY OFFICE IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

Councillors' Support Office, Halifax Regional Municipality

PO Box 1749, 1841 Argyle Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5
Phone: 902-490-4050 | Fax: 902-490-4122

HRM 311 CITIZEN CONTACT CENTRE

More than a telephone number, 311 is your direct connection to important municipal services and information. There are three customer service centre locations in the Halifax region. You can also contact 311 by phone, regular mail, or email contactus@311.halifax.ca.

Call 3-1-1 toll-free from anywhere throughout HRM and our agents can provide you with a wide variety of municipal information and services in over 150 languages using a telephone interpretation service. Their service includes reference numbers, which will assist you when following up.

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m



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. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.