

COUNCILLOR TIM OUTHIT

BEDFORD - WENTWORTH

DISTRICT 16 NEWSLETTER



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



DISTRICT 16 RESIDENTS,

This is my final newsletter for you as your representative on Regional Council. It has been an honour and privilege to serve and represent you during the past 16 years. We have overcome many challenges and seized several opportunities during this time. Many plans and policies have

been enacted, such as the Integrated Mobility Plan and the internationally recognized HalifACT Climate Action Plan that will guide us forward.

Highlights for me in Bedford-Wentworth were the construction of the 4-pad arena, the artificial turf sports field, the performing arts cafetorium at CPA, the additional community centre, the DeWolf Park Washrooms and outdoor gym. We also saw upgrades to our LeBrun Centre, upgrades to the Bedford Leisure Club/Lawn Bowling facility, additional police and HRFE personnel in response to our population growth, a significant investigation into bringing back commuter rail, the expansion of Sandy Lake Park, and our first transit park and ride facility. None of these would have been possible without the tremendous cooperation and support of my council colleagues, municipal staff, politicians and staff from the other orders of government, community groups, and user groups. We have also worked together to achieve significant expansion and improvements to our transit service, traffic calming in many neighbourhoods, several new playgrounds, many existing playground upgrades, and the recent addition of new tennis and pickleball facilities in our community.

We have seen the continuation and growth of our beloved Bedford Days, Canada Day in Bedford, Rouge et Blanc, and Light Up Bedford Parade events. These events would not take place without volunteers and event sponsors, whose energy and passion is astonishing and appreciated!

The recent announcements of an additional fire station in our District, and the finalized funding for our new waterfront library and ferry service are extremely exciting and transformational for Bedford-Wentworth! We will finally see the hub long desired to be the core of Bedford.



Highlights for me for HRM include the downsizing of council, diversity and inclusion hiring practices, freezing residential tax increases three times, construction of the Oval and Central Library, the Cogswell Interchange project, and the tremendous and nationally leading growth of our downtown core. I have strongly supported the steps that council is taking, along with the other orders of government, to try to combat the housing shortage, and support affordable housing initiatives and measures to try to reduce homelessness. During this time, we have also worked together as a municipality and community to respond to the tremendous challenges presented by the pandemic, inflation, labour shortages, huge increases in construction costs, the housing crisis, record flooding, and the unprecedented losses from wildfires. We are still working on solutions, and there is much more to be done.

In this newsletter, I will provide an update on some the projects that you can expect to see over the next year, answers to Frequently Asked Questions, as well as an overview of the schedule for Bedford Days 2024. As always, I encourage you to contact me with your ideas and questions, I am still around until the end of October! I am happy to meet with anyone considering running for council. In this role you can help people and you can make a difference. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to work on your behalf with amazing staff, organizations, individuals and teams striving to improve our communities.

HALIFAX



DISTRICT 16 NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2024

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q – Is the Bedford Hwy going to be repaved this year?

A – The highway is in pretty good condition within District 16. However, I have been advised by municipal staff and the councillor for the area that some paving will be undertaken in the Princess Lodge and MSVU areas this season. These areas could no longer remain on hold until the larger redesign project.

Q – Is Bedford finally getting a new library?

A – Yes, please see the article on page 3.

Q – Has the Bedford Ferry service been approved?

A – Yes, please see the article on page 3.

Q – Why do the lights in DeWolf Park frequently not work?

A – These aging lights need to be replaced. HRM is piloting solar replacement lighting. They may also be added on the path between Shore Dr and Waterfront Dr.

Q – What is the status of the proposed developments on the Dartmouth Rd and Wardour St?

A – These proposals have been deferred in response to concerns from local residents. They will come forward in the future as part of the Suburban Plan, as well as an investigation into making the area around Scott Manor and the cemeteries a Heritage Conservation District. There will be significant future public consultation.

Q – Has a development been approved for the open space at the bottom of Moirs Mill Rd?

A – No, the developer has withdrawn his application.

Q – Has a development been approved for the open area at the foot of Southgate Dr?

A – Yes. A Development Agreement was approved that was supported by most local residents and the developer.

Q – What is the status of the Papermill Lake area development?

A – A Development Agreement was approved by the former Town of Bedford in 1995 and it has no expiration date. Amendments have been requested by the developer, but the decision has been deferred until a new traffic study is undertaken and an update received on the plan(s) for neighbouring lands owned by this developer on the Hammonds Plains Rd, opposite Bedford Academy.

Q – Is District 16 receiving a new fire station in West Bedford, and will our existing fire and police station remain open?

A – Yes and yes. The Convoy Run station will remain open and an additional station and HQ are being built on the former Bens Bakery site on the Hammonds Plains Rd.

Q – What is the latest update on development in the Sandy Lake area?

A – The Sandy Lake area has been identified by the provincial government as a Special Planning Area. However, studies have been underway to determine where the development will occur, how much, and how to protect the lake, waterways, and wildlife corridors. I remain confident and determined that the lake will be protected, the protected Sandy Lake Park will be expanded, and that significant traffic and public transit improvements will be implemented as part of any future development, and partially funded by the developers.

Q – What is the status of the West Bedford Pump Track?

A – Councillor Lovelace and I have been working with HRM Parks and Clayton Developments over the past 2 years to acquire land for a Recreation Campus on Brookline Dr. There were delays that impacted the construction of the approved and partially funded pump track. Future plans for this land could include a pool and / or community centre, as the area continues to grow. In the meantime, Councillor Lovelace and I continue to advocate for a pump track to be built this season. If this is not possible, the funds we have dedicated will be put in a reserve fund for it for next year.

PLANNING FOR ROYAL HEMLOCKS VACANT LAND FOR RECREATION

The municipality is developing a park plan for Transom Drive Park, located at 195 Transom Drive in Bedford. The plan will consider possible improvements including the introduction of a play lawn, seating areas, and a formal pathway.

The existing playground and the tennis courts will be reviewed, including the consideration of the development of a general hard surface play area for a variety of activities such as ball hockey. The park plan will inform future capital improvements that could be expected in the coming years.

Public input will be sought on the development of concept plans and local residents can expect to be notified by mail and other means over the coming months. Inquiries on the project may be directed to Beth Bray, Landscape Architect, at beth.bray@halifax.ca.



DISTRICT 16 NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2024

APPROVED PROJECTS FOR 2024/25 & 2025/26

HRM PARKS

On behalf of Parks Capital, this is the list of Parks Outdoor Recreation Projects for our district:

- New Sport Court - Kastik Park (in progress – expected completion summer 2024)
- Bedford South School Park - sport field rehabilitation (ongoing)
- Playground Replacement - Cutter Drive Park (upcoming – planned for fall 2024)

HRM PUBLIC WORKS - 2024/2025 PLANNED CAPITAL WORK

Street Recapitalization:

- Locke St – Bedford Hwy to end
- Stone Terr – Dartmouth to end

Asphalt Overlays:

- Oceanview Dr – E of Amin to Armenia (Re-Instate Traffic Calming)
- Shore Dr – Hatchery to End (Carryover)

Traffic Management Projects:

Traffic Calming (corridors):

- Nottingham St
- Ridgevale Dr
- Union St

Traffic Calming (school area):

- Brookshire Crt

Accessible Pedestrian Signals:

- Hammonds Plains Rd at Innovation Dr

Planer Patching:

- Nine Mile Dr – Ternan to Oceanview

Proposed Crack Sealing:

- Bedford Highway – Southgate to Larry Uteck
- Bluewater Rd – Topsail to Civic 317
- Command Crt – Bluewater to Cul de Sac
- Dartmoor Cres – Dartmouth to End
- Golf Links Rd – Dartmouth to Shore

2025/2026 PLANNED CAPITAL WORK

Street Recapitalization:

- Oakmount Dr – Bedford Highway to End
- Rosewood Crt – Oakmount to End
- Pine St – First to Cliff (Tentative due to easement questions)

Asphalt Overlays

- Ambercrest Dr – Ridgevale to Brentwood
- Rocky Lake Dr – Bedford Highway to Rocky Lake Elementary

MILL COVE FERRY PROJECT

This transformative project will introduce a brand new ferry route from Mill Cove to downtown Halifax. With funding announced in March 2024, the \$260M project includes building five new 150-passenger ferries that will allow for travel to downtown Halifax in approximately 18 minutes.

It includes a new building Mill Cove that will serve as both a library and a completely rebuilt Halifax Ferry terminal. Both facilities will be net-zero buildings, aligned with HalifACT, our plan to achieve a net-zero economy by 2050. These facilities will be climate resilient and will accommodate projected rise in sea-level and storm intensity. In addition, by choosing electric ferries, the municipality is working towards decarbonizing its transportation network and providing commuters a fast, safe, and sustainable mode of transportation.

This project is an integral part of Halifax's Rapid Transit Strategy (RTS) which builds upon the Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) to provide transportation options that are connected, accessible, affordable, and sustainable.

Procurement is already underway for the vessels and buildings, and announcements will be made later this year once vendors are selected regarding the vessel style and on the design and construction teams. More details on the building and site and design will be available once the team is onboard. In spring 2025, we expect site work at Mill Cove to begin, along with the construction of a temporary Halifax terminal downtown, which is required during the rebuilding of the permanent facility. If you have any questions or comments on the project, please feel free to reach out to the project team at millcoveferry@halifax.ca.

MILL COVE LIBRARY

Bedford has experienced incredible growth, and Halifax Public Libraries is excited to add a new library as part of the Bedford Mill Cove Ferry Terminal development. The Mill Cove Library is being envisioned as a modern and sustainably designed community hub on the Bedford waterfront. Beyond the many benefits of co-locating with Halifax Transit, including serving as a gathering space to support commuters and visitors, the early plans for the library include engaging outdoor spaces, community meeting and event spaces, and technology and library materials and programs for all ages.

The current Bedford Public Library branch, located at 15 Dartmouth Road, will remain open during the development, with the intention to relocate that branch to a new leased location further west once the Mill Cove Library is open.



DISTRICT 16 NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2024

The Bedford Days event is back! Please see below for the exciting 2024 event details. **All events are free unless otherwise noted online.** Events are subject to change, please visit halifax.ca/bedforddays for updates and complete details for each scheduled activity.



composers. Admission is \$20 at the door or \$15 in advance online at bedfordbrassquintet.com. Celebrating Maritime Music & Local Composers at St. Ignatius Church.

6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. – Bedford Volunteer Fire Department Beer Fest at DeWolf Park (19+)*

An entertaining evening featuring live music by the Tristan Legg Band and a DJ. Cash bar. If you chose to consume alcohol, we encourage you to follow The National Low Risk Drinking Guidelines. The Halifax Regional Municipality strongly promotes not drinking and driving and encourages the use of a designated driver. Drink responsibly.

Saturday, June 29

10 a.m. – Zumba in the Park at Dewolf Park**

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Yoga in the Park at Dewolf Park**

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Georgian Social at Scott Manor House**

The Scott Manor House is pleased to invite the public to our annual Georgian Social. Enjoy performances of the pipes and drums of the Clan Farquharson while we will be serving lemonade and our famous home-baked oatcake cookies. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the afternoon with us!

Sunday, June 30

10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. – Yoga in the Park at Dewolf Park**

Monday, July 1

Canada Day at Dewolf Park

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Canada Day Pancake Breakfast*

Enjoy delicious pancakes served by True North Diner Restaurant staff while quantities last. Enjoy live music.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Glow's Fun Land

Bouncy castles fun park for kids. Arrive early to beat the lineups! Tickets and bracelets are sold on site and not transferable to evening event.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Canada Day Live Music*

Join us at the main stage for live music.

1 p.m. to 3 p.m. – Kids Canada Day Party*

Activities with the mermaids, a cirque show and lots more.

6 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. – Glow's Fun Land

Arrive early to beat the lineups. Bouncy castles will be set up. Tickets and bracelets for the rides are sold on site. Note: Bracelets purchased during the day are not valid during the evening event. New bracelets must be purchased for the evening activities.

8 p.m. to 10 p.m. – Canada Day Celebrations*

Live music from Donair Supply. Kids entertainment.

10 p.m. – Canada Day Fireworks*

The municipality is attentive to safety concerns related to fireworks and remains in consultation with Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency on this issue. The municipality would also like to reassure residents that there are measures in place to ensure the fireworks used at municipal events are used in a safe manner and in accordance with any relevant fire regulations. As always, the status of fireworks for events is subject to change. Notification of changes will be shared via the municipality's Civic Events' Facebook page.

*July 1 Canada Day events are funded in part by the Government of Canada.

** Community Group Events: These are organized by local individuals and organizations to encourage recreation, sport and community celebration. Participants in any of these events are on a voluntary basis and the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is not liable or responsible for any injury, loss or damages.

Events are subject to change. Please visit halifax.ca/bedforddays or facebook.com/hrmcivicevents for the latest information and additional event announcements.

Saturday, June 22

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Coastal Makers Market at DeWolf Park**

Explore over 30 local vendors from across Nova Scotia and enjoy new features like a fresh flower bouquet bar, coffee to sip while you browse, and possibly live music. Check out Instagram for full list of vendors/updates at @coastalmakersmarket. Rain Date: Sunday, June 23

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. – Rouge et Blanc: A Taste of Bedford at Sunnyside Mall

Entrance with tickets only. View above website for details. Evening includes free hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants, wine tasting and live music. Special thanks to all the participating restaurants and Harvest Beer Wine Spirits.

Monday, June 24

Bedford Restaurant Week Begins (June 24-28)**

Visit participating Bedford food and drink partners for a delightful array of fun and unique specials in celebration of Bedford Days. Look for official Taste of Bedford displays at your favourite spots. See website for all details!

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. – West Bedford Days Ice Cream Party at Tyler Sampson Park (303 Gary Martin Dr, Bedford)

DJ and free ice cream while quantities last, field games, juggler.

7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Yoga with Angus at Lions Den**

By donation or non-perishable food item with proceeds going to the Lions Community Pantry.

Wednesday, June 26

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Kids Extravaganza at Basinview Drive

Community School (273 Basinview Drive). Bring the kids and have some fun with the mermaids, dance party, local dance performances, magic show. Presented by TD.

Thursday June 27

5:30 p.m. – Seniors Dinner at Bedford Lions Club**

Bedford Seniors are invited to attend the Bedford Days' Senior Dinner hosted by the Bedford Lions Club, doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner is served at 6 p.m., in lieu of admission, all participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food item donation for the Lions Community Food Pantry. To register, please leave a detailed voicemail at 902.835.0862.

3 p.m. to 6 p.m. – Pups n' Pints at Propellor Brewery**

Bring your four-legged friend and join us for Pups n' Pints at our Bedford location! All ages are welcome. Drink Responsibly.

Friday June 28

Healthy Lifestyle Day at Lebrun Recreational Centre:**

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Free Wall Pilates class with Lisa Johnson

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Free Yogalates class with Alyona Kucher

7:30 p.m. – Bedford Brass Quintet presents: Home Cookin': Celebrating Maritime Music & Local Composers**

Just in time for Bedford Days, this concert features down-home folk tunes from around the Maritimes, plus a collection of brass music by local



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 I hope you find this information useful.

HALIFAX