

## COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON

### HALIFAX SOUTH DOWNTOWN DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WINTER/SPRING 2022



### DEAR RESIDENTS,

As we all look forward to spring, the end of the State of Emergency and a hope to start 'living with covid', I hope you and your friends and loved ones are doing well. It's been an incredibly difficult two years, and the stress and strain is something we will be dealing with for some time.

My family is looking forward to spring and summer, but at the same time we are going to continue to be cautious, wearing masks in public, and taking the other modest precautions we have all become so familiar with. While things are "more normal" COVID is still in our community. I am hopeful we will continue to be cautious while we see what summer brings.

As far as work goes, I will be returning to City Hall March 22nd for our first in person council meeting since November, and intend to work out of my office there until summer. I will however try to make as many constituent meetings virtual if possible, to limit contacts.

This newsletter contains **district capital grants for 2022/23, volunteer award recipients, municipal budgeting and taxes, on demand accessible transportation services, Africville visioning process, and emergency accommodations in HRM.**

I'd like to take a minute to **welcome Vicki Palmeter as my new Council Constituency Coordinator.** Vicki has replaced Liam, who has received a promotion and moved on as the Elections and Special Projects Manager. I am so pleased to have Vicki join the team, and you can reach her at 902.490.2012 or email [victoria.palmeter@halifax.ca](mailto:victoria.palmeter@halifax.ca)

To keep informed about these issues and more, **please sign up for my e-newsletter**, which I send out every 2-4 weeks. You can sign up at my website, **[www.wayemason.ca](http://www.wayemason.ca)**

Stay in touch and take care,



**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.

### CONTACT US

#### CALL 311

Call 311 or visit [halifax.ca/311](http://halifax.ca/311) to report a municipal issue.

Please call 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday except Christmas & New Year's Day.

#### CALL MY OFFICE

Contact Vicki Palmeter at 902.490.2012 or email [victoria.palmeter@halifax.ca](mailto:victoria.palmeter@halifax.ca)

#### CONTACT ME

Please email me rather than call [waye.mason@halifax.ca](mailto:waye.mason@halifax.ca) but do call if required 902.430.7822

#### STAY CONNECTED

[facebook.com/wayemasonhrm](https://facebook.com/wayemasonhrm)  
[twitter.com/wayemason](https://twitter.com/wayemason)  
[instagram.com/wayemason](https://instagram.com/wayemason)  
[wayemason.ca](http://wayemason.ca)  
[halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca)

#### 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

# HALIFAX



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### ADDITIONAL ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS RECEIVE SUPPORT

HRM has been working for some time to find a workable solution to provide on demand, taxi style accessible transportation. In February, Regional Council awarded SeniorsTransit Inc. with a three-year contract to provide Private On Demand Accessible Transportation Services.

The contract will have a maximum life-cycle cost of \$1,805,013 with funding from the Halifax Transit 2022/23 proposed operating budget.

Council approved the procurement of an On Demand Accessible Transportation Service with the goal of improving the financial viability of operating accessible taxi services for service providers.

The municipality will pay a fixed unit price rate to SeniorsTransit Inc. to ensure the availability of accessible transportation to the public and SeniorsTransit Inc. will charge members of the public the same fares and rates that are charged to use a taxi.

### 2021 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each year the Halifax Regional Municipality holds an award ceremony to acknowledge the contributions of volunteers and volunteer organizations in our communities. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our 2021 Volunteer Awards were rescheduled to from April to December. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all Award recipients! I would like to give a special shout-out to the following District 7 recipients: **Shikha Sarah Gupta, Thomas Williams, Kendall R. Worth and Julia Meredith Wright.**

Congratulations to **Kiyana Kamali**, the Municipality's Volunteer of the Year. I would also like to celebrate **Change is Brewing Collective** and **Autism Nova Scotia** who received the Municipality's Community Volunteer Awards.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our community!

*Thomas Williams was unavailable to attend the Ceremony on December 1, 2021.*



Mayor Savage, Kendall R Worth, and Councillor Mason



Mayor Savage, Shikha Sarah Gupta, and Councillor Mason



Mayor Savage, Julia Meredith Wright, and Councillor Mason

### MUNICIPAL BUDGET 2022/23 UPDATE

Regional Council has been debating how to spend your tax dollars for the 2022/23 fiscal year. I want to assure you that HRM is not taking both the increase in assessment and then increasing the tax rate on top of that. In plain English, HRM sets a target for the average tax bill increase, not the rate increase. This means Council votes on the per home impact, not the rate. The rate is then set to match the tax bill increase. I wrote a short blog explaining how the tax rate is arrived at. You can read it here: [www.wayemason.ca/taxrate](http://www.wayemason.ca/taxrate)

Council is scheduled to do a final review and approval of the 2022/23 budget on April 12th.

### LAST MINUTE ONLINE RENTALS FOR MUNICIPAL ARENAS

Did you know? Residents are now able to rent spaces in arena facilities through online booking. Participating arenas include the Sackville Sports Stadium, LeBrun Arena, St. Margaret's Centre, Zatzman Sportsplex, RBC Centre and HRM 4-Pad. Learn more and book here: [www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/facility-rentals-bookings-field-conditions/last-minute-rentals](http://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/facility-rentals-bookings-field-conditions/last-minute-rentals)



## **EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATIONS IN HRM**

The Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes that all residents deserve a home. While the province is responsible to lead addressing homelessness in all NS municipalities, the Halifax Regional Municipality also has an important role to play in supporting the province, and is committed to applying resources to support efforts aimed at helping to address homelessness in the Halifax region.

In addition to funding provided during 2021 to help unhoused individuals in our region, on January 11th, 2022, Regional Council approved an additional \$1.2 million in spending to purchase and install modular units at the Halifax and Dartmouth sites, as well as address suitable temporary housing to address needs of unhoused residents.

The **Dartmouth site is on Alderney Drive**, near Church Street. The municipality has finalized its work to provide bedroom spaces at the Dartmouth modular unit site, including commissioning work to ensure all systems are operating properly and safely.

Now that the Dartmouth site is complete, HRM has shifted its focus on completing the Halifax modular unit site.

The **Halifax site is located on a portion of the parking area of the Centennial Pool**. Six modular units, an accessible unit and a number of support units, for a total of nine units, will be installed. Based on single occupancy, this site will be able to accommodate 38 individuals.

The municipality continues to work with partners to complete the work as quickly as possible. As with the Dartmouth site, exact timing for occupancy is dependent upon the province, which is responsible for determining placement of individuals and providing wrap-around services onsite through a contracted service provider.

The municipality has provided some of the crisis accommodation funding approved by Regional Council to a coalition of 11 community service providers for hotel stays to support those experiencing homelessness.

In conjunction with service providers, the municipality is also directly covering the cost of hotel rooms for some individuals.

There are now also temporary overnight shelters available on a nightly basis until March 31st for those experiencing homelessness.

Visit [www.halifax.ca/addressinghomelessness](http://www.halifax.ca/addressinghomelessness) for more information including additional updates, funding to-date and other ongoing efforts to help unhoused residents.

You can also go to my website and subscribe to a housing specific newsletter for periodic updates at [www.wayemason.ca/housing](http://www.wayemason.ca/housing)

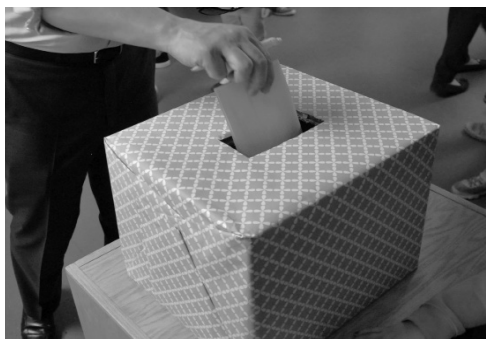
If you see an individual in need of shelter during extreme weather and they have requested help, please call 311 or 211 to connect them with service providers and ensure help is on the way. If their life is in danger, please call 911.



## DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER

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### 2022/23 DISTRICT CAPITAL GRANT APPLICATIONS - NOW OPEN



While COVID restrictions are largely going away, I've taken the difficult decision to not try and rush into a face-to-face Participatory Budgeting (PB) process this year.

It's already getting late to do the full PB process, and the community groups do best when they get the money as early in the construction season as possible. I also worry if we go for a full public process and vote in May or June it may get derailed if we have cases spike.

So once again this year, residents and community non-profit groups in District 7 will be invited to apply for a District Capital Funding grant. There are two project streams – a big projects category that funds up to \$10,000 and a small project category that will fund up to \$5,000 or less.

District Capital Funds are for permanent projects that provide publicly accessible benefits in the community and that provide widespread community benefit. Priority is given to projects that are intergenerational or focused on youth or seniors, and which work to address equity, inclusion, and systemic racism in our community. Projects must provide the broadest public benefit, and meet all HRM policies and guidelines.

In late May, Victoria and I will review the applications and announce the successful applicants. Deadline for submission is Monday May 30, 2022. For more information about applications, and past successful applicants, please visit [www.wayemason.ca/pb](http://www.wayemason.ca/pb)

### MUNICIPALITY LAUNCHES AFRICVILLE VISIONING PROCESS



Regional Council has directed municipal staff to work with community partners on an Africville Visioning Process. The visioning process will help

proactively address historic wrongs and establish a long-term vision for Africville, rather than engaging the African Nova Scotian (ANS) community only when other project priorities arise in the area.

The Process would consist of three phases:

- **Phase one** will consist of a public engagement process in partnership with Africville descendants, Africville-focused organizations and community partners that will inform the outcomes of the visioning process. Once this is completed, a report will be presented to Regional Council.

- **Phase two** will entail developing an action plan to support the visioning, based on what has been learned through the engagement process.

- **Phase three** will be an analysis and review of the process and the identification of any further actions that may need to be taken by all those engaged in the overall visioning exercise. This may include re-engagement with Phase One public participants.

Proactively working with the ANS community to address impacts of the Africville expropriation will assist with addressing long-standing discrimination and fostering positive working relationships between the ANS community, specifically Africville, and the municipality.

Developing a comprehensive master plan for the use and development of the former Africville lands and surrounding area, including potential changes to the transportation network, park spaces and new development opportunities (non-profit and private), with input from the Africville community, will demonstrate the municipality's commitment to continuing to work with the ANS community.