



HALIFAX
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER
COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON
FALL 2013



Dear Residents,

A beautiful summer is ending and soon public and post-secondary students are returning to school.

This newsletter contains a lot of information aimed at helping to welcome newcomers to our district, and fostering a happy transition for our post-secondary students. There is also some information about traffic and parking control signs that I hope helps to clarify drivers' responsibilities in a school zone.

It has been a busy summer at Council, and I have heard from my colleagues who have been here longer than I that it has been one of the busiest yet. There are many significant issues facing HRM and our district - from the Regional Plan review to the upcoming transit consultations to the new library to the possibility of new investments in recreation facilities.

I continue to work diligently to represent the District's interests and HRM on Council, and I want to hear from you! I will be repeating the Participatory Budgeting process in 2014/15 (see p. 3), and will soon start office hours at Spencer House twice a month to make it easier for you to come and chat with me (see p. 2).

Take care,

HOW CAN WE HELP?

My office is here to serve you.



Call 311 for routine, non-emergency issues. The call centre is open 7am to 11pm year round except Christmas and New Years.

CALL MY OFFICE

Please contact my **Council Constituency Coordinator, Lynn Matheson** by email at mathesl@halifax.ca or by calling **902.490.7177**.



CONTACT ME

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Please join my email newsletter list - use the form on my website, <http://wayemason.ca/mailling-list/>



PLEASE RECYCLE

Due to Canada Post delivery routes, some residents who do not live in District 7 may receive this newsletter. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.

To find out who your councillor is, please visit:
<http://eservices.halifax.ca/districtLookup/> or call **311**.



GRAND PARADE

Grand Parade is HRM's electronic newsletter that celebrates our city. The Grand Parade will share stories and focus on topics such as festivals and events, transit, development projects, municipal services, and Council decisions.

Sign up at halifax.ca/grandparade



Crosswalk Safety Advisory

I have been appointed to serve on the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC). The purpose of this committee is to develop and present input and advice to the Transportation Standing Committee with respect to crosswalks in our municipality.

Currently CSAC is working on a report and action plans to improve the safety of pedestrians using marked and unmarked crosswalks. For more information visit:
www.crosswalksafety.ca

Moving Forward Together: The Metro Transit Five Year Service Plan

The first round of public sessions for the Metro Transit Five Year Service Plan, are scheduled for the second week of September. The Halifax session is September 9th at St. Agnes Hall, 6903 Mumford Road. More information will be available closer to the date. Please come out and help create a new vision for Metro Transit in HRM!

Council Reinstates Ferry Service

Metro Transit resumed late night Alderney ferry service following Regional Council's approval during the 2013-14 budget and business planning process.

To view the updated ferry schedule, visit www.halifax.ca/metrotransit/ferries.html

HOW TO FILE A NOISE COMPLAINT

District 7 residents tend to live in higher density spaces, which means we are sometimes exposed to our neighbours and maybe, our neighbours' gatherings and parties.

If a neighbour is making what you consider to be an unreasonable amount of noise and it's after 4.30 PM and before 7.00 AM, please call the Halifax Regional Police non-emergency number at 490-5020. Outside of that time (regular business hours), please call 3-1-1 and it will be addressed by Municipal Compliance staff.

In both instances, you will be asked to provide contact information so an Officer can follow-up. To read the complete By-Law N-200, please visit <http://www.halifax.ca/legislation/bylaws/hrm/documents/By-lawN-200.pdf>

New - SPENCER HOUSE OFFICE HOURS!

Starting in September I will be meeting constituents twice a month at Spencer House, 5596 Morris Street. You can make an appointment with Lynn, my Coordinator, or drop by and I will try to fit you in!

Wednesday, Sept 11, 1-4pm
Wednesday, Sept 25, 9am-noon
Wednesday, Oct 9, 1-4pm
Wednesday, Oct 23, 9am-noon

Wednesday, Nov 13, 1-4pm
Wednesday, Nov 27, 9am-noon
Wednesday, Dec 11, 1-4pm



Gerry Pettipas - Volunteer Award
Spring Garden Business Improvement District, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, more.

Emily Jones - Volunteer Award
Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure

Also honoured: Samantha Miller (Youth), Rick Power



Pride Parade 2013
Waving the Pride flag with the Mayor, Council, and staff. (KINGSNEWSHFX)



Get Down on Barrington June 2013
With volunteers and Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency staff after a hard days work.



Battle of the Atlantic Dinner
With Paul Willis & Lynn Mason aboard HMCS Sackville.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING:

A new and different way to make decisions about how to spend public money in your neighbourhood



In June and July residents of District 7 joined me in a participatory budgeting process to allocate \$92,000 in capital funding to the community.

We tried a new and different way to make decisions about how to spend public money in our community. Community members decided how to spend this money. It was a great experiment in new ways to engage and inform residents.

Each Councillor is allocated a district capital fund. The money can be used for things like: installing benches, bike racks, public art; renovating a park or playground; signage, public washrooms, bleachers, and other capital projects that provide a public good.

District 7 residents were invited to Spencer House on June 5 to help design what the Participatory Budgeting process would look like and how it allocates the district's capital budget. The feedback from that meeting showed overwhelming support for a participatory budgeting process and generated many new ideas that helped change the shape of the public vote.

The first meeting determined that projects should reflect the community's priorities: projects are ideally intergenerational, inclusive, provide healthy spaces to gather and connect communities within District 7.

On July 17, projects were presented "science fair

style" at the Exhibition Hall at the Medjuck Building, Dalhousie Sexton Campus. Citizens were invited to vote for the five most compelling presentations of the sixteen on display. A busy and happy night saw six projects received full funding and four more receive

partial funding. Over 120 residents participated in the discussion with project sponsors and voted throughout the course of the evening.

This was a great opportunity to engage citizens in a real way that has immediate results. I was especially pleased to see that two proposals that impact all of HRM - Halifax Regional Search

and Rescue and Veith House - and not just district 7 were chosen for full funding. This shows, yet again, how residents of HRM can see the importance of strong regional programs that benefit all districts.

The Participatory Budgeting process for 2014/15 will start in January 2014, check wayemason.ca for updates.

RESIDENTS VOTED TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS

Final approval & amounts subject to review for compliance by HRM Financial staff.

Downtown Halifax BID	benches on Barrington	\$20,000
Veith House	Explosion Memorial Garden	\$5,000
St Mary Elementary SAC	active living initiative	\$30,000
Dalhousie Student Union	bike repair stands	\$3,089
Halifax Regional SAR	replacement vehicle	\$3,000
Spencer House Today Café	backyard patio	\$5,000
Independent Living NS	mapability.ca	\$6,250
Downtown Halifax BID	Argyle St Animation Project	\$6,250
Chebucto Community Net	server upgrade	\$6,250
Spring Garden Area BID	light up the side streets	\$6,250

STUDENTS - WELCOME TO HALIFAX!

Welcome to Halifax and to District 7, Peninsula South Downtown!

This community is a diverse mix of students, renters, long-term homeowners, businesses and others. Our diversity is what makes our neighborhood great. We're glad you're here, and we hope you like it enough to stay when you graduate!

District 7 is a mix of apartments and "student flats" mixed in with other homes. These other homes contain emergency room doctors, retired people, seniors, preschool and school age children, babies, grad students and professionals of all kinds.

Sometimes new student renters do not know what their legal obligations are as tenants and neighbours. Sometimes this misunderstanding leads to failure to meet these legal obligations, which in turn has negative consequences. I wanted to share with you where we have seen other new renters run into trouble. There are two big areas that seem to cause most of the problems: **noise & mess**.

NOISE:

You have the right to enjoy yourself with friends, and your neighbors have the right to a good night's sleep.

You can be fined under By-Law N-200 if your party or gathering *"any activity that unreasonably disturbs or tends to disturb the peace and tranquillity of a neighbourhood."* First

complaint is a minimum fine of \$300.00, second is \$700.00, and third is \$1000, and these really do get handed out - some students land \$2000 in fines in the first week of school!

PRO TIP: try to avoid yelling at each other when you call cabs and head out at 11pm. It drives your neighbors crazy!

Keep noise to a reasonable level. Tickets can be given any time of day. Remember there are school age children and babies in houses all around us.

MESS:

This is often a result of a party. Don't let anyone litter or go to the bathroom outside. Seriously, some people do this, and it makes neighbors understandably angry. Clean up afterwards. Pick up any garbage the next day, and ask your neighbors if they had any concerns - they'll be more likely to cut you some slack.

HRM can order a property cleaned up and if the work is not done, HRM will clean the property, and bill the property owner, which will upset your landlord!

RUBBISH TIP: Garbage and compost are picked up on alternate weeks, check the schedule!

Make sure you put the right stuff out Sunday night, visit www.halifax.ca/wrms/

collection.html - Fines under By-Law S-600 start at \$200.00

FINAL WORDS:

Halifax is your home now too, and we are glad you are here! Nobody wants to fine you, or call bylaw on you, or call the police, but the community takes these issues pretty seriously.

If your actions or actions of your guests unreasonably and repeatedly disturb the neighbourhood, people will call the city, the police, the universities, and your landlord.

The responsibility for a good neighbourhood belongs to everyone. Halifax is one of the best small cities in Canada, and it takes all of us, working together to build a stronger community.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of our community, and have a great year!