



HALIFAX  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
**DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER**  
COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON  
WINTER/SPRING 2014



## Dear Residents,

The winter has been a challenging mix of bitter cold, snow, rain and surprisingly nice days! The repeated freeze and thaw has made snow removal, dealing with road ice and repairing potholes a bigger challenge than usual. HRM needs your help - **please help and call 311 to report poor road conditions, snow plow damage, pot holes or improperly cleared snow and ice.** For information on snow removal standards, please visit [wayemason.ca](http://wayemason.ca) or call my office at 490 7177.

This newsletter's focus page contains **information for seniors**. HRM offers many programs for seniors, and supports programs like Spencer House to enhance senior's quality of life.

There is also some information about the **Metro Transit redesign**, **Downtown I'm In**, and the **Mayor's Healthy Communities** round table report. Lastly, there is information about this year's **District 7 Participatory Budget process!** This year, submissions start in February and voting is in April. Please have a look at the important deadlines on page 3 of this newsletter for more information.

There are many significant issues being debated by Council that impact our district, from licensing and inspecting apartments, to arts and culture funding, to the Regional Plan review. I am working hard to represent you. Do not hesitate to share your views with me about these or any other municipal issues!

Take care,

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

*My office is here to serve you.*

### 311 - HRM CITIZEN CALL CENTRE



Call 311 or visit [halifax.ca/311](http://halifax.ca/311) for routine, non-emergency issues. Open daily from 7 am - 11 pm except Christmas & New Year's Day.

### CALL MY OFFICE

Please contact my **Council Constituency Coordinator, Lynn Matheson** by email at [mathesl@halifax.ca](mailto:mathesl@halifax.ca) or by calling **902.490.7177**.

### CONTACT ME



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### STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED

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t [twitter.com/wayemason](https://twitter.com/wayemason)  
w [wayemason.ca](http://wayemason.ca)  
k [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca)

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

### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Police/Fire Emergency	911
Police (non-emergency)	490-5020
Fire (non-emergency)	490-5530
Halifax Water Emergency	490-6940
Councillor Support Office	490-4050



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

## Metro Transit: The Moving Forward Together Plan

On January 14, 2014, Regional Council approved an expansion in the scope of the Metro Transit Five Year Service Plan to include a thorough review of the entire network. Regional Council also endorsed four principles called the "Moving Forward Principles" to be used when drafting the plan.

1. Increase the proportion of resources allocated towards high ridership services
2. Build a simplified transfer-based system
3. Invest in service quality & reliability
4. Give transit increased priority in the transportation network

It is expected that a draft plan will be available in the Fall of 2014. Although the draft network and service plan proposed may have some of the same features and characteristics of the existing network, it is likely that substantial changes will be proposed. This could result in a transit network that is significantly different than the current system in terms of the number of routes, length and frequency of routes, coverage area, and service types.

There will be many opportunities for the public to provide feedback on the draft plan. For more information or to be added to our email list, contact [movingforward@halifax.ca](mailto:movingforward@halifax.ca).

## Mayor's Healthy Communities



On January 28, 2014, Regional Council unanimously endorsed a series of recommendations to make Halifax a more healthy and liveable community. These recommendations were based on feedback provided at an event the Mayor hosted in October. Council directed staff to move forward

immediately on three initiatives:

- Work with Halifax Harbour Bridges to fix the cycling connectivity challenges at the Halifax end of the Macdonald Bridge Bikeway
- Develop and implement an urban orchard pilot project plan
- Work with Business Improvement Districts to determine what opportunities exist to improve accessibility to businesses.

A second recommendation is to make accessibility a priority for HRM, while the third recommendation would see HRM staff working with the standing committees of Council to identify additional Healthy Community initiatives.

## Downtown I'm In!



Downtown Halifax and Dartmouth have something for everyone. Vibrant cities around the world have one thing in common: they attract and keep people in their downtown areas.

Mayor Mike Savage and HRM Regional Council are gathering ideas on how to make Halifax and

Dartmouth downtown areas even better.

On February 8, citizens came together in Halifax & Dartmouth to hear Charles Montgomery, author, *The Happy City* and Mark Brand, Vancouver-based social entrepreneur and restaurateur, speak about how to build successful downtowns.

We want YOUR ideas. You can still comment! Visit [www.downtownimin.ca](http://www.downtownimin.ca) to share your thoughts.



**Fire Fighters Line of Duty Death Ceremony**  
December 6th - Station 4, Lady Hammond Road.



**Hope Blooms** receive HRM Regional Council recognition for their inspiring entrepreneurial accomplishments.



**Brunswick Street Mission** Mayor Savage, staff and board of the Mission cut ribbon on renovations donated by Nova Scotia Homebuilders Association.

# REAL MONEY. REAL PROJECTS. REAL DECISIONS.

*Money for community projects,  
chosen by residents of District 7!*



## CALL FOR PROJECTS

Each municipal councillor has a budget of \$94,000 from the District Capital Fund for permanent projects in your community that provide widespread community benefit.

We are practicing a different way to make decisions about how to spend public money in our neighbourhood. Community members, like YOU, will propose projects and/or make recommendations on how to spend this money.

- Do you live in District 7 Peninsula South Downtown?
- Need funding for a project to support, enhance, build community here?
- Want to have a say in how this neighbourhood budget is spent?

The money can be used for things like:

- public art, bike racks, installing benches
- renovating a park or playground
- signage, public washrooms, bleachers

Capital projects that provide a public benefit are eligible for funding. Visit [www.halifaxdistrict7.ca](http://www.halifaxdistrict7.ca) for more information, or call my office and speak to Lynn Matheson at 490 7177

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

### Brainstorm Pop-In for People with Project Ideas

*Wednesday, March 5 - 6-8pm*

*Spencer House Seniors Centre - 5596 Morris Street*

Our team will be available to help brainstorm your idea, support you in planning, work with your idea to see if/how it could be eligible. Bring your questions, napkin sketches, ideas, and plans. Attendance to this is not mandatory.

### Project Submission Deadline

*Wednesday, March 26 - 4pm*

By this date, complete the form and have your eligibility confirmed by Lynn Matheson of Councillor Mason's Office. **Extensions will not be granted.**

### Community Meeting and Vote!

*Wednesday, April 16 - 6-9pm*

*St Mary's Elementary - 5614 Morris Street*

Projects will be presented "science fair style". Residents will vote for their five favourite projects. Funding will be announced on this night after votes are counted.



## SENIORS IN OUR DISTRICT

HRM provides many services for seniors, these are three examples that I wanted to share with you:

### **Senior Snow Removal Program**

HRM funds a program for seniors (65 years of age or older) and for persons with disabilities in HRM who also meet low income criteria. The program applies to owner-occupied residential properties only - commercial properties are ineligible and the program is NOT available to landlords. Call the YMCA 423-9709, Ext. 228 to find out more!

### **Access to Transit**

Did you know that: you can request a special stop if you are on the bus after 6pm? Many buses are Accessible Low Floor (ALF) buses with no steps? Metro Transit's Access-A-Bus service is a shared ride, door-to-door, transit service for registered persons who are unable to use the conventional transit system due to physical or cognitive disabilities? Looking for help navigating Metro Transit? Contact 311 or contactHRM@halifax.ca for more information, or visit [halifax.ca/metrotransit](http://halifax.ca/metrotransit)

### **Halifax Public Libraries**

The library sends books to you by mail! Library materials are available for loan free of charge to any resident of the HRM who is unable to visit the library due to disability, long-term illness, or caregiver responsibilities. You can access *Books By Mail* by phone Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4 pm at 490-5599 or email [bxm@halifax.ca](mailto:bxm@halifax.ca), or visit [www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca](http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca)



**Spencer House**  
5596 Morris Street, Halifax  
902-421-6131 [www.spencerhouse.ca](http://www.spencerhouse.ca)

**Looking to meet new people and make new friends?**  
**Looking for a place where you can jump into activities of all kinds?**

Spencer House, a drop-in centre for older adults, could be just the place.

With a daily schedule that attempts to meet the needs and interests of all its members, and a daily lunch that is both delicious and inexpensive, Spencer House is a home away from home for those who want to stay healthy and active, contribute to their community, and explore new ways to get the most out of life.

Pay a visit to Spencer House and see for yourself. They are on Morris Street, near Atlantic News, and will be sure to give you a very warm welcome!

## SOME USEFUL NUMBERS FOR SENIORS

### **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

**911 - Emergency** - Police, Fire, Ambulance

**311 - Citizen Call Centre** - Open 7 days a week 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Animal services & licenses, bylaw complaints, city event information, construction services, customer service, garbage collection & schedules, Illegally parked vehicle complaints, bus schedules, parking ticket payments, property tax information, requests concerning parks, playgrounds and sports fields, requests for street and sidewalk maintenance, traffic and street lights, concerns and suggestions, waste water services, TTY/TDD - 490-6645

**490-5020 - Police Non-Emergency** - When you need an officer to come to the scene but it's not an emergency such as: Driving complaints in progress, noise complaints in progress, historical sexual assaults.

**490-4050 - Councillors' Office** - Main council office line.

### **PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA**

**420-6000 - Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority**

**211 - Community & Social Services** - Financial and social assistance, senior's services and home care, government program assistance, disability support services, volunteer organizations, mental health support

**811 - Non-Emergency Health Information**

**424-0065 - Department of Seniors** - Seniors and concerned family members and friends to call for help in accessing information dealing with government services and programs.

### **GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

**1 800 277 9914 - Old Age Security & Canada Pension Plan**

**1-800-268-7708 - Veteran in Crisis Hotline**