

COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON

District 7 Newsletter Fall 2014



Credit: Brice Ferre Studio

As summer ends, the fall semester begins! I think fall is Halifax's best season, with the Atlantic Film Festival, Nocturne, Halcon, Halifax Pop Explosion, and dozens of other great events taking place almost every day in September, October and into November. The city really comes to life!

Part of that vibrancy comes from welcoming back tens of thousands of students to university and college, as well as our P-12 students returning to school.

This transition sometimes causes issues especially late August and to mid-September. I hope students will read my article on the last page of this newsletter, which might help you avoid the common pitfalls I've observed after living in this neighbourhood for 24 years. To the residents, Superintendent McNeil writes on page 2 about the steps Halifax Regional Police and the area universities take to help our community during this transition.

This newsletter contains just a snapshot of some of the great things going on in our community, but really, so much is happening right now in the District, in Halifax, and at Council that I can barely scratch the surface.

To stay current on issues, upcoming public meetings, participatory budgeting deadlines, and all sorts of community information, please sign up for my email list or follow me on social media - the information is in the box on the right.

I hope you and yours had a great summer and I look forward to seeing you this fall!

HOW CAN WE HELP? MY OFFICE IS HERE TO SERVE YOU



311 - HRM CITIZEN CONTACT CENTRE

Call 311 or visit halifax.ca/311 for routine, non-emergency issues, 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 lynn.matheson@halifax.ca or by calling 902.490.7177

CONTACT ME

Waye Mason
Councillor | Le Conseiller | Comhairlaiche | Wunaqapeme'
District 7 Halifax South Downtown
PO Box 1749 Halifax, NS B3J 3A5
902.490.8462
waye.mason@halifax.ca

STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED

facebook.com/wayemasonhrm
twitter.com/wayemason
wayemason.ca | halifax.ca
Join my e-newsletter list: wayemason.ca/mailling-list/

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



COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON FALL 2014

OPERATION FALL-BACK

An update from Superintendent Robin McNeil
Central Divisional Commander, Peninsular Halifax

As students return to school, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) is launching the 'Operation Fall-Back' campaign to help reduce noise complaints, property damage and public intoxication in the residential areas surrounding universities.

The campaign starts August 31 and runs throughout September. As part of this initiative, HRP works closely with community groups, university officials and student representatives to help prevent problems through education and enforcement.

Like the last few years, the partnership will evolve into a dedicated patrol program, which runs from the beginning of October until the end of November as well as other peak

times throughout the year; HRP provides the cruiser and Dalhousie University pays the staffing costs for two officers who patrol designated neighborhoods around Dalhousie and King's campuses.

If you have a complaint about underage drinking, noise, damage to property and/or nuisances, call 902.490.5020. These complaints are taken very seriously.

To give you a sense of how seriously we take your complaints, here's the legislation HRP officers commonly use as part of Operation Fall-Back, along with the corresponding offence(s) and fine(s):

LEGISLATION	SECTION	FINE
HRM Noise By-law N200	Sec 3(1) Engaging in activity that unreasonably disturbs the neighborhood	1st offence: \$463.95 2nd offence: \$923.95 3rd offence: \$1268.75
Liquor Control Act	The following sections can be used separately or together: Sec 78(2) Illegally possessing liquor (possessing it underage or having open liquor in public which includes being in the street or going next door or across the street) Sec 78(3) Underage drinking Sec 87(1) Being intoxicated in a public place Sec 95(a) Permitting drunkenness to take place in any house or any premises of which he/she is the owner, tenant or occupant. Note: Police may detain a person in violation of any of the first three sections – 78(2), 78(3) or 87(1) – until he/she's sober.	\$463.95 \$463.95 \$130.45 Nil fine which means the accused must appear in court as there is no out-of-court payment
Environment Act	Sec 99(2) Releasing litter into the environment contrary to the Act or regulations	\$463.95



Councillor Mason on the Halifax Pride Parade float with Mayor Savage and Councillors Nicoll, McCluskey and Karsten.



Councillor Mason takes a shot of the crowd from the stage in the Halifax Citadel during the Canada Day festivities



Councillors Mason, Whitman and Craig pose with Waye's wife Marnie at the start of HRM Bike Week Mayor's Bike Ride.



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING 2014/15

District 7 Votes on How to Spend \$94,000

District 7 Halifax South Downtown residents gathered in late spring to debate, discuss, and decide which submitted projects received funding from District 7 capital funds. This year over 260 residents participated in the discussion with project sponsors and voted throughout the course of the evening; up from about 120 in 2013. Each resident was provided a ballot and invited to vote on five projects. Residents of all ages - from elementary school up - decided what projects were district priorities.

Residents voted to provide full funding for three projects: Shelter NS received \$20,000 for a community garden, Halifax Music Co-op was successful in obtaining \$36,462 for an exciting venue upgrade, and Gorsebrook Junior High School Parent Teacher Association community garden project received \$30,000. The Metro Non-Profit Housing Association received partial funding of \$7,500 for basement upgrades for the Morris House.

Some of the organizations have received funding, while others continue to finalize paperwork. Visit wayemason.ca for more information on the last two years. Next years application process starts in February 2015.

NORTH PARK UPDATE

Construction on the roundabout at the intersection of Cunard, North Park and Agricola streets began on July 14 and is progressing rapidly. The majority of the excavation work in the first phase is complete and work continues.

Archeological experts from Davis MacIntyre & Associates are on site monitoring all construction excavations. The area is believed to have potential buried archaeological resources, as the North Commons and surrounding neighbourhood have been in use since the 19th century. In fact, on Aug. 6, experts discovered two bones located adjacent to a lot that once housed the Halifax Protestant Orphans' Home.

The area from which they were collected has been disturbed several times since the late 20th century by road building, parking lots, and so on. The soil from the area surrounding the find was immediately stockpiled and is being screened to determine if additional bones are present. Any bones collected are being sent to the Medical Examiner Service for further analysis.



Councillor Mason presents a cheque to Shakespeare by the Sea's Elizabeth Murphy, Jessie MacLean, and Ed Edelstein for their new berm at Point Pleasant Park.



Councillor Mason reviews plans for a community garden with Colleen Ritchie & Don Spicer from Shelter Nova Scotia.



"Heavy is the head that wears the balloon crown". Mayor Savage cuts the cake at Public Gardens tea party on Natal Day.



COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON FALL 2014

WELCOME, BIENVENUE, FÀILTE, PJI'LASI STUDENTS TO DISTRICT 7 HALFAX SOUTH DOWNTOWN!

Welcome back, or if this is your first year, welcome to your new home!

The peninsula 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.

This area is a real mixed bag of housing, with apartments mixed in with other homes. There is no "student ghetto" in Halifax - you are as likely to live next to your professor as to an apartment of undergrads. These other homes contain emergency room doctors, retired people, seniors, preschool and school age children, babies, professionals of all kinds.

Sometimes students as new renters do not know they have legal obligations as tenants and neighbours. The vast majority of students want to get along with their neighbours, so here are two things we see that seem to cause most of the friction: noise & mess.

NOISE: You have the right to enjoy yourself with friends while respecting that your neighbors have the right to a good night's sleep. The city protects people's rights by regulating noise.

You can be fined if your party or gathering "unreasonably disturbs or tends to disturb the peace and tranquillity of a neighbourhood." You can see the fines on page 2.

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 - if your neighbour has kids remember, they are going to expect some late night quiet!

MESS: This is often a result of a party. Clean up any litter. You might be surprised how many residents ask me to remind students not to go to the bathroom outside. Nothing undermines the reputation and dignity of students in general like public urination. 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! Make sure you put the right stuff out Monday morning, visit www.halifax.ca/recycle/area1and2.php (we live in area 1).

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 we all have to share this space. I ask you to respect your neighbours and the community.

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 Halifax, and have a great year!