

Councillor Waye Mason

HALIFAX SOUTH DOWNTOWN

DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2024



DEAR RESIDENTS,

This will be my last print newsletter as your Councillor. It's hard to believe that twelve years has passed already!

Since 2012 so much has changed. The municipality has gone from a shrinking population and a stagnant economy to one of the most vibrant cities in Canada. Our downtown from having a doubtful future to becoming the fastest growing population in Canada.

When I look back, some of the moments I am most proud of are big projects, and some are changing how the city works. Major projects or investments I'm proud of include the streetscapings of Argyle and Spring Garden, the new Common Pool, the South Park bike lane, the project to redevelop the Cogswell lands, purchasing the Shaw Wilderness Park lands, and getting the land donated by the municipality to support the construction of a new Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre.

Bringing in plans that move us away from car dependent transportation through the Integrated Mobility Plan, adopting and funding HalifACT, our climate action plan, and protecting our green and wild spaces through the Halifax Green Network plan are huge steps forward and were all major accomplishments. Successfully navigating our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, renaming Peace and Friendship Park, and working to build a real and lasting partnership with the Mi'kmaq people has filled me with joy.

And you can never rest, because despite all this, there is still so much to do! Thank you for all your kind words and support throughout the years, stay safe, be kind.

2024 HRM ELECTION

The next municipal and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) election is coming up!

Eligible residents may vote for Mayor, Councillor, and CSAP (if applicable)

October 8-16 - Advance online and telephone voting

October 12 and 15 - Advance in-person voting

October 19 - Election Day

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

halifax.ca/elections

CONTACT US

Call 311 to reach the 311 Municipal Contact Centre, or visit halifax.ca/311 to report a municipal issue. Please call 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, except Christmas & New Year's Day.

CONTACT ME

Email is usually faster, so try waye.mason@halifax.ca but do call if required 902.430.7822

CALL MY OFFICE

Contact Vicki Palmeter at 902.490.2012 or email victoria.palmeter@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



IMPORTANT TRANSITION INFORMATION

Due to protection of privacy concerns, I am not able to hand over my mailing list to the new Councillor. As soon as the election is over, and the new Councillor has got their communication set up, I will email my list with the subscription information. For now my email list continues to work. Sign up at wayemason.ca/mailling-list and you will receive an email to confirm subscription, you must click on the link supplied.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

No one should live in a tent in Canada, and no one thinks tents are a solution, but they are a sad reality until more affordable housing and shelter is built.

The Province has been working to create almost 200 tiny homes to address this issue, but those projects are behind schedule.

Having a pragmatic approach to managing the reality that there are tents (for now) is in no way is an endorsement of tenting as a solution. It is dealing with this reality while other options are built.

For more information on the municipality's efforts to address homelessness visit halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/helping-address-homelessness.

2024/25 PROJECTS IN DISTRICT 7

Paving Projects:

Bauer Street – Cogswell to Cornwallis, Coburg Road – Oxford to End, Falkland Street – Gottingen to Bauer, LeMarchant Street – Watt to Coburg (Re-Instate Traffic Calming, Carryover), Victoria Road – Bland to Tower, Shirley Street – Robie to Preston (Integrated Traffic Calming), South Street – LeMarchant to Oxford

Bikeways and Multiuse paths

Coburg Road – Oxford to Conrose Park (multi-use pathway, part of the Halifax Urban Greenway or HUG)

Traffic Calming

Young Avenue, Pepperell Street, Preston Street, College Street (school area), Watt Street (school area), Shirley Street, Pepperell Street, Inglis between Robie and Beaufort.

Traffic Signal Upgrade

Oxford Street at Jubilee Road (to add green right arrow, to stop back ups at no right turn on red, protect pedestrians)

New Crosswalk with Pedestrian Activated Beacons

Robie Street at Binney Street

Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon Crosswalk Upgrade

Coburg Road at Larch Street, Jubilee Road at Walnut Street, South Street at Dalplex (Civic 6260)

Planned Parks and Rec projects

Camp Hill Cemetery - phase 2 and phase 3 fence restoration, Halifax Central Common - skatepark design, Point Pleasant Park - new playground, Temporary St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay Elementary School and Watt Street School - playground replacement

HRM VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each year the municipality recognizes volunteers who are nominated by community groups and organizations for their significant contributions to our community. Thank you for giving so much back to our community!



Deputy Mayor Deagle-Gammon and I with award recipients from left to right: Maureen Banyard, Igor Stevanovic, Leigha Givner, Abby Spooner, Councillor Waye Mason, Joyce Li and Sam Li.

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS FOR HRM YOUTH

Each year the Halifax Regional Municipality's Citizenship Award is presented to outstanding Grade 9 students in our municipality. Each school has one award recipient, and schools choose their award recipient based on leadership qualities, service in the school and community,



and academic performance. I extend my congratulations to each award recipient; your hard work and service to our community is so appreciated. Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition!



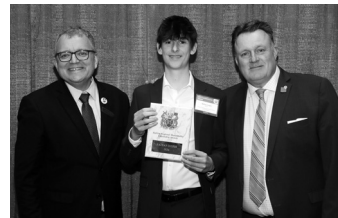
Mischaela Wong Gorsebrook Junior High



Saidharma Chelamkuri Halifax Grammar School



Isobel Schrader Sacred Heart School of Halifax, Barat Academy



Nathan Cooper Sacred Heart School of Halifax, Fountain Academy

2024-25 PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING VOTE RESULTS ARE IN FOR DISTRICT 7

On May 13, in a fun filled night of chats, idea sharing and voting, five large projects received full funding, two small projects received full funding, and one received partial funding at the final District 7 Participatory Budgeting before the upcoming election.

Over 180 residents of all ages turned out Monday evening at the Halifax Central Library to cast their votes on what community projects would receive \$56,680 in District Capital Funding for 2024/25.

It's always harder to stage the vote in an election year, as less money is available and the timelines change. We were unable to hold a vote the year before the 2020 election as we did not have enough applicants. I am really happy we were able to have one more vote before my time as Councillor ends.

I'm proud to have brought participatory budgeting to Halifax in 2013 to provide equal access to the Councillor's district capital fund, and make the decisions on funding in public.

In a non-election year, each district in Halifax has a budget of \$94,000 for a District Capital Fund for projects in the community that provide widespread community benefit.

Since 2013, community members in District 7 have proposed projects, made recommendations on how to spend this money, and voted on what should be funded. Many other districts in the municipality have since adopted full or partial spending of their District Capital Funds through a participatory budgeting vote.

I hope this community-driven process will continue in the future, and I look forward to coming to vote in 2025!

As always, we heard from residents about how difficult it can be to choose a few projects because all the projects are excellent and in need, but in the end, residents have to choose the best way to allocate the limited funding.

Funding was provided to:

Gorsebrook Junior High PTA for bike racks, benches, standing flagpole, and a mural - \$10,000.00

Local Council of Women, Halifax to create a garden and green space on the corner of Young & Inglis - \$10,000.00

Echology Action Centre for a bus bike rack installation, outdoor paint, new bike parts and tools - \$5,185.00

LeMarchant St. Thomas Elementary for 2 ceiling mounted basketball units (side nets) - \$10,000.00

Halifax Brewery Farmer's Market Cooperative Ltd to help fund the Community Wall Project - \$7,500.00

Halifax Dance Association for additional Aging Actively workshops at the Halifax Central Library - \$4,000.00

Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association for supporting the Halifax Mural Fest - \$5,000.00

North End Business Association to support the Halifax Mural Festival - \$3,995.00



WELCOME NEW & RETURNING STUDENTS

Halifax is your home and we are excited you are here!
We need your help to continue to make this neighbourhood a great and diverse mix of people.

Despite the marketing and what the internet says, there is no “student neighbourhood” in Halifax. The area around Dal and SMU has students mixed in with many others. You are as likely to live next to your professor, an emergency room doctor, retired people, seniors, preschool and school-age children, babies, and people of all kinds.

Halifax is one of the best cities in Canada, and it takes all of us to work together to make that true. We all need to work together to share this community respectfully.

Some students are new renters and may not know they have legal rights or obligations as tenants and neighbours, so I've included a short list of things for them to consider.

Know your rights: Halifax is responsible to ensure the building you live in meets minimum standards, including things like fire and other safety items, heat, water and sewer. More information on minimum standards can be found at halifax.ca/fire-police/fire/fire-prevention-safety/codes-regulations/m-200.

The Province is responsible for tenancy, which is rent, leases, and arbitrating conflicts with a property owner. If you are having tenancy issues, go to beta.novascotia.ca/documents/residential-tenancy-guides.

Here are three things that seem to cause most of the friction: noise, booze and mess. No one wants fines but sometimes things get out of hand and there are consequences.

Noise: You have the right to enjoy yourself with friends, but your neighbours have the right to a good night's sleep. Please do not “unreasonably disturb or tend to disturb the peace and tranquility of a neighbourhood.” Noise fines can start at \$463.95 and rise to \$1,268.95 for a third offence.

Drinking: The drinking age in Nova Scotia is 19. Underage drinking can result in a fine of \$463.95. It is also never ok to carry open liquor in public, not even on St. Patrick's Day! Fines run from \$130.45 to \$463.95.

Mess: This is often a result of a party. Clean up after! Talking to your neighbours and building a relationship can go a long way. Also, you would be surprised how many neighbours ask me to remind students not to go to the bathroom outside. Please don't pee on things, it's not a good look.

Getting the right garbage out on Monday morning is important. There is street-side collection of compost (green bin), recycling of paper & cardboard (clear bag) separately from (some) plastics (blue bag), and solid waste/garbage (clear bag). Some things like batteries and electronics have to be taken to a depot. For the schedule visit halifax.ca/home-property/garbage-recycling-green-cart.



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.