

COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON

HALIFAX SOUTH DOWNTOWN DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SUMMER/FALL 2023



DEAR RESIDENTS,

Fall is here again and as always students, both in school age and post secondary, are returning to our streets and our neighbourhoods.

I continue to meet regularly with residents, HRM staff and police, as well as university administration, to ensure a smooth transition this year. Please do not hesitate to let me know if issues are occurring near you.

I encourage all residents to take a minute to read up on and participate in the current Regional Plan Review. There are several engagement opportunities taking place from now until the end of October 2023.

The Regional Plan sets out a common vision and long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining where, when, and how future growth and development should take place.

Originally adopted in 2006, the plan is reviewed approximately every five years to ensure it still reflects the municipality's goals for growth and development. For full engagement opportunity details, visit: shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan/widgets/158302/key_dates.

I look forward to seeing you all around our community this fall! Thank you, stay safe, be kind.

ENEWS SIGNUP

In addition to this paper newsletter, I have been sending regular email updates approximately once a month for the last ten years.

This is the best way to keep up-to-date on what is happening in our district and in the Halifax area. Please visit wayemason.ca/mailling-list and enter your information.

You will receive an email to confirm subscription, you must click on the link supplied.

You can unsubscribe at anytime and email addresses will not be shared.



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 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

CONTACT ME

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

STAY CONNECTED

facebook.com/wayemasonhrm
twitter.com/wayemason
instagram.com/wayemason
wayemason.ca
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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Summer/Fall 2023

SQUARE ROOTS RELAUNCH

Halifax South Square Roots food bundles are coming soon!

The Square Roots bundles program is dedicated to reducing food waste and increasing food security in our community.

Each bundle costs \$10 and comes with 10 lbs of locally grown produce!

Pick up every other week at Spencer House, 5596 Morris Street on Saturdays 9 a.m. -11 a.m.

Pre-order your bundle on the website:
squarerootsbundleshfxsouth.com

HRM VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each year the municipality recognizes volunteers who are nominated by community groups and organizations for their significant contributions to our community.



District 7 Volunteer Award recipients Dan O'Connor, Pearl Michael, George Boyd and Joan Dobbie. Not pictured Richard Jardine.

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!**



Alice Roebottom,
Armbrae Academy



Lucas Vandersteen, Fountain
Academy, Sacred Heart School



Liviya Driver, Barat Academy
Sacred Heart School



Elliot Thompson
Gorsebrook Junior High School

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS UPDATES

The list of homeless and at risk people in Halifax has grown to almost 1000 people as of June, which is roughly five times what it was pre-COVID. As a result, many more people are living in tent encampments around the municipality. In just a few months, the encampments have increased from under 80 to 178.

Unfortunately most of the municipality's designated sites for these encampments are full. We are working to designate more sites that will better comply with HRMs policy of limiting five tents at a each camp site.

From a legal perspective, based on some recent Court rulings in BC, and of course from a moral perspective, it is clear that people tenting in a park need to have somewhere to go, and just telling them to move on is not acceptable. Alternatives need to be made available.

Council has approved a budget to hire staff dedicated to supporting these housing and homelessness encampment issues.

HRM is also working with the Province and service providers to transition people out of the park into shelters and residences. Unfortunately, the province has not opened enough beds to accommodate all of those in need. The number of people entering homelessness is rising much faster than the supply of affordable housing and shelter.

We will continue to advocate with the Province to accept the scale of the challenge and build the needed housing. For now, HRM staff continue to work to clean up around the encampments and provide what support we can.

For more information, please visit halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/helping-ad-dress-homelessness, or click the link from the top page of halifax.ca.



2023 PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING VOTE RESULTS ARE IN FOR DISTRICT 7

After a fun and somewhat hectic night, four small projects, and seven large projects received full funding, and one received partial funding at the first District 7 Participatory Budgeting vote since the start of Covid-19.

Despite the tragic wildfires forcing a last-minute rescheduling of the event with just one day's notice, our district participatory budgeting event was packed from the start.

A total of 358 residents of all ages turned out on June 12 at the Halifax Central Library to cast their votes on what community projects would receive \$84,000 of district capital funding for 2023/24.

It was the first time we have been able to gather as a community for the vote for three years. It was so exciting to feel that energy and excitement again!

Each district in HRM has a District Capital Fund budget of \$94,000 for projects in the community that provide widespread community benefit. In District 7, \$10,000 has been allocated for pride crosswalks prior to the vote.

It was also gratifying that District 7 residents voted overwhelmingly to fund Adsum House's project to buy tents, pads and sleeping bags for people experiencing homelessness, which got over 50 percent more votes than the next highest project.

The many system failures regarding affordable housing and shelter that continue to plague Nova Scotia are well known, and no one thinks tents are the right long-term solution, but residents spoke loudly and clearly that these vulnerable residents must be supported while better long-term solutions are put in place.

Full funding was provided to:

Large Projects (up to \$10,000)

Adsum for Women & Children	\$10,000.00
Purchase of new sleeping bags, tarps, and tents	
Gorsebrook Junior High School	\$10,000.00
Installation of new basketball backboards in gym	
Halifax Brewery Market	\$6,500.00
Upgrade to community space	
Halifax Central Junior High	\$10,000.00
Calisthenics equipment to promote exercise in the community.	
Halifax Lancers	\$8,000.00
Replacing the concrete floor in sections of the stable	
LeMarchant-St. Thomas Elementary School	\$10,000.00
Install basketball backboards	
Spencer House	\$8,650.00
Placemaking efforts on Morris Street	
Turret Art Space	\$3,350.00
Renovation and carrying costs (partial funding)	

Small Projects (up to \$5,000)

Neighbours of Larch & Jennings Streets	\$2,500.00
Event day supplies and food to create a community mural	
Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association	\$5,000.00
Funding to support the Halifax Mural Festival	
Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax	\$5,000.00
Landscaping & creating a community garden & sitting area.	
Wonder'neath Art Society	\$5,000.00
Storage and display cabinets to house the collection.	

For more information on participatory budgeting, visit wayemason.ca/pb.



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Summer/Fall 2023



WELCOME NEW & RETURNING STUDENTS!

We need your help to continue to make this neighbourhood a great and diverse mix of people.

There is no “student neighbourhood” in Halifax. This area has students mixed in with many others and you are 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 and share this community respectfully.

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

Know your rights:

Halifax is responsible to ensure the building you live in is meeting minimum standards, including things like fire and other safety items, heat, water and sewer. More info on minimum standards is here: 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 visit here for more info:

beta.novascotia.ca/documents/residential-tenancy-guides.

Here are three things that seem to cause most of the friction: noise, booze and mess. You can have fun but make sure that it doesn't impact others' enjoyment of their neighbourhood!

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 okay to carry open liquor in public, not even on St. Patrick's Day! Fines run from \$130.45 and \$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.

Getting the right garbage out on Monday morning is important. There is street-side collection of compost (green bin), recycling of paper and 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.