

# COUNCILLOR LINDELL SMITH DISTRICT 8 NEWSLETTER

*Halifax Peninsula North*



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SUMMER 2023

## DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy Summer!

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to share some wonderful news with all of you. I am delighted to announce that my family has recently welcomed a precious new addition—a healthy baby boy! We are grateful for the love and support we have received from the community. With this new chapter of parenthood, I want to share with you all that I will be taking some parental leave starting in June and returning the end of September. As a parent, it is important to me to be present during these formative months, and I appreciate your understanding and support during my absence from official duties.

While I will be taking a temporary step back, please rest assured that you will be able to have your concerns and inquiries answered. My coordinator Nancy, with the support of the Council Support Office and my Council colleagues who border our wonderful district, will be available to support concerns or questions you may have during this period. I will be periodically working with Nancy and checking emails to address any urgent matters that may arise during this time.

Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude for your understanding and support during this exciting time for my family.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all first responders who worked in extremely difficult and dangerous conditions to keep our communities safe during the wildfires. Their hard work, bravery, and dedication is truly appreciated!

Finally, a big shout out to all 2023 Graduates! Congratulations and best wishes as you embark on this new journey.

Warm regards,

Lindell



## CONTACT ME

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## CONTACT MY OFFICE

Nancy Viner, Constituency Coordinator

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**Phone:** 902.490.4086

## CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

I invite you to connect with me on Twitter and on Facebook: @**LindellSmithHFX**

**HALIFAX**



## DISTRICT 8 NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023

### PARTICIPATORY BUDGET IS BACK!

District 8 Participatory Budget is back!

This is your opportunity to provide input on how to spend \$110,000 in the District. This process encourages great ideas to come forward from local non-profit groups, builds community support and collaboration, and gives local residents a direct say in how they want District 8 capital funds spent.

The District 8 Participatory Budget Vote Night is taking place Wednesday, July 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Halifax Forum - Maritime Hall.

Any District 8 resident in attendance can vote, even kids! There is no age limit. Voters must be present to vote. ID is not required, but voters will be asked to sign in affirming they are residents of District 8. Not sure if you live in District 8? Look up your address here: [halifax.ca/city-hall/districts-councillors/district-look](https://halifax.ca/city-hall/districts-councillors/district-look).

Community groups can send a funding request including a letter explaining the project, how much you are seeking and how those funds will be spent and, confirmation of the group's non-profit status to my Council Constituency Coordinator, Nancy Viner by email to: [vinern@halifax.ca](mailto:vinern@halifax.ca). if you would like to be considered for D.C. funding.

Application deadline: Wednesday, July 12

Vote Night: Wednesday, July 26 at the Halifax Forum - Maritime Hall

Learn more about applying: [lindellsmithhfx.ca/pb/](https://lindellsmithhfx.ca/pb/)

### 2023/24 MUNICIPAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET

On April 25, Regional Council ratified the 2023/24 Municipal Operating and Capital Budgets. The average residential tax bill is increasing by 5.9 per cent. The average single-family home tax bill will increase by \$128 in 2023/24 to a total of \$2,288.

Due to the increase in property assessment values, the municipal residential tax rate will decrease from 0.794 to 0.760.

This budget will allow the municipality to deliver services that positively impact the daily lives of residents today and into the future.

A new commercial taxation policy came into effect on April 1, changing the way that commercial property taxes are calculated going forward.

2023/24 Budget at a Glance	
OPERATING BUDGET	\$979.4M
CAPITAL PLAN	\$333.3M
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL TAX BILL INCREASE	5.9%
MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE DECREASE	0.794 TO 0.760

Geographical tax boundaries for commercial properties will change from the previous urban, suburban and rural areas to one of five new tax areas, which are listed in Administrative Order 2022-003-ADM, Respecting Commercial Property Taxation in Certain Areas of the Municipality.

As well, for each tax area, rates will vary by assessed value of the property, within three tiers of assessment. The rates for each tier and tax area will be updated on [halifax.ca/taxrates](https://halifax.ca/taxrates).

We've allocated significant funding towards improving our public transportation system, making it more accessible and efficient for all residents. This budget also includes provisions to develop affordable housing, which will help ensure our residents can access quality, low-cost housing.

Furthermore, we're prioritizing public safety with funds allocated to the creation of a new Community Safety business unit, as well as additional funding for Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency services.

We're investing in critical areas such as transportation, public safety, infrastructure management and addressing climate change. By doing so, we're creating a foundation for sustainable growth across our region.

### HRM VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

A huge congratulations to the most recent recipients of HRM's volunteer awards, and the Volunteer of the Year award recipient Wendy Keen. A very special congratulations to those from District 8. Eileen Beazley, Georgia Boutilier, Mohamed Jabi Mikhail Klemmychev, Chantal LeBlanc, Paul McLennaghan and Dawn Miller.

### HRM 2023 CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Each year, HRM celebrates a grade 9 student from each school who exemplifies the qualities of a good citizen. Congratulations and thank you to Semira Aman from Maritime Muslim Academy for your contribution to our communities in District 8.



### APPROVED 2023/24 PARKS OUTDOOR RECREATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

**Africville** - Boat launch rehabilitation (carry forward project)

**St. Stephen's Elementary School** - Park Playground (carry forward project), Park Recapitalization

**Africville** - Walkway Paving (carry forward project), Park Recapitalization

**Isleville Park** - Shade structure replacement



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### DISTRICT 8 2023/24 PLANNED CAPITAL WORK

Below is a list of all street, road and sidewalk construction projects planned in District 8 this season as well as active transportation (cycling) initiatives and traffic calming.

#### Street Recapitalization

Albert Pl – Albert to Cul De Sac (Carryover)  
Albert St – Acadia to Rector (Carryover)  
Hunter St – Cunard to Charles (Carryover)  
Isleville St – Young to Duffus  
Monaghan Dr – Young to End (Carryover)  
Vienna St – Dublin to Oxford

#### Asphalt Overlays

Agricola St (North Bound) – Young to Duffus (Integrated Traffic Calming)  
Oxford St – Chebucto to Quinpool  
Windsor St – Maxwell to Connaught

#### Sidewalk Renewals

Isleville St – Merkel to Merkel (E)  
Isleville St – Columbus to Columbus (E)  
Isleville St – Young to Hennessey (W)  
Kempt Rd – Stairs to Stanley (E)  
Monaghan Dr (E) – Young to End (Carryover)  
Parker St – Windsor to Welsford (E)  
Vienna St – Dublin to Oxford (S)

#### AAA Bikeways

Almon St – Windsor to Gottingen (Carryover, Protected Bike Lanes)  
North End (Local Street Bikeway) – Duffus to Young

#### Bridges

Lady Hammond Bridge (Load Evaluation)  
MacKay Bridge Approaches (Structure 12, Ramp F)  
MacKay Bridge Approaches (Structure 13, Ramp F)

#### Traffic Calming

Leeds St – Novalea to Memorial (Vertical Deflections)  
Willow St – Dublin to Windsor (Vertical Deflections)

#### Planer Patching

Barrington St – Duffus to Hanover

#### Proposed Crack Sealing

Columbus St – Kempt to Massachusetts (Carryover)  
Connaught Ave (North Bound) – Bayers to Windsor  
Glendale Rd – Edgewood to Roslyn (Carryover)  
Hanover St – Devonshire to Barrington  
Kempt Rd – Commission to Civic 3387 (Carryover)  
Kencrest Ave – Novalea to Glebe (Carryover)  
Novalea Dr – Duffus to Northridge  
Richmond St – Devonshire to Barrington  
Roslyn Rd – Connaught to Oxford (Carryover)  
Union St – Young to Kenny (Carryover)  
Windsor St – Maxwell to Bayers  
Windsor St – Quinpool to Cunard  
Young St – Gottingen to Robie  
Young St – Oxford to Windsor (Carryover)

### JUSTFOOD ACTION PLAN

On March 7, Regional Council approved Part A of the JustFOOD Action Plan for the Halifax Region, the first food strategy for the municipality. The Action Plan is a long-range strategy to guide actions to improve food security and strengthen our local food system. The municipality and the Halifax Food Policy Alliance (HFPA) are co-leading the development of the action plan, recognizing that we need to work together towards a healthy, just and sustainable food system. To become involved and learn more, visit the JustFOOD virtual food hub at [justfoodhalifax.ca](https://justfoodhalifax.ca).



### POTHoles: REPORTING & REPAIRING

Road operations crews identify, log, and address potholes all year. They also rely heavily on residents to report any problematic potholes they see, so they can be logged into the system for repair. Our crews monitor and repair more than 1,700 km of roadways and more than 5,200 potholes are repaired throughout the municipality each year.

The time to fix a pothole can range anywhere from seven business days to 30 business days depending on the pothole and if it is considered a priority. Crews aim to repair priority potholes on main arterial and major collector roads within seven business days.

#### How do I report potholes?

On municipal roads, please call 311 or email [contactus@311.halifax.ca](mailto:contactus@311.halifax.ca). You can also fill out an online form at [halifax.ca/potholes](https://halifax.ca/potholes).

#### What if my vehicle is damaged by a pothole?

First, call 311 to determine who is responsible for the stretch of road the pothole is located on. If the damage occurred due to a pothole on a municipal road, begin a claim process with a 311 agent.

If you determine it occurred on a provincial road, please contact DPW.

Please visit [halifax.ca/potholes](https://halifax.ca/potholes) for more information.

### NEW TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES & INFRASTRUCTURE WEB MAP

The municipality has just released a new traffic calming map on our website that enables the public to check in on the status of any traffic calming assessments. This new map replaces the previous lists posted online and will be updated on a frequent basis. To view the new map, visit [data-hrm.hub.arcgis.com/pages/mapping-application](https://data-hrm.hub.arcgis.com/pages/mapping-application).



## DISTRICT 8 NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023

### CHANGES TO PARKING PERMITS

Effective Saturday, April 1, changes to annual parking permit fees, visitor parking permits, commuter permits, carshare parking and the ability to purchase second permits are in effect.

- Annual parking permit fees will increase from \$40/year to \$75/year.
- Residents can purchase a second annual parking permit for \$175/year.
- Annual visitor parking permits will shift to pay-per-use:
  - o One day: \$15
  - o Two days: \$25
  - o Seven days: \$35
- Carshare vehicles will be able to park at any on-street paid parking location.
- Commuter permits will see price increases or price decreases, depending on the zone. Student commuter permits will change from a flat rate of \$35/month to \$10/month discount off the regular zone price.
- All permits will shift to a digital format, removing the need for replacement fees.

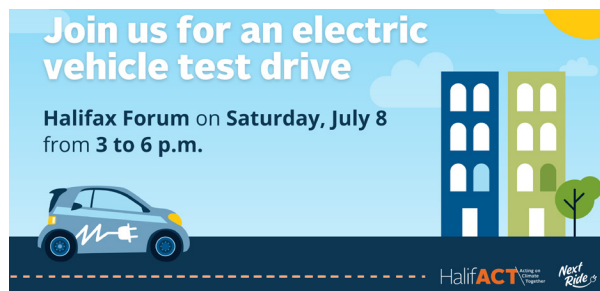
These changes, supported by amendments to By-law P-1200 and approved by Regional Council, will streamline purchases, increase flexibility and create efficiencies in a new digital format. These changes are also based on resident feedback, will better align with residents' needs and better reflect the cost of administering these programs.

All current parking permits will remain valid until they expire.

### TEST DRIVE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE

The municipality is partnering with Next Ride and the Clean Foundation to host 18 free electric vehicle test drive events between May and July. Our team will be on hand to answer questions and share information about electric vehicles, available rebates and what to expect from the municipality's electric vehicle strategy.

Secure your spot by registering for a free test drive event near you in advance. **Our next event is on Saturday, July 8 at the Halifax Forum, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.** Limited walk-in spots will be available. Links to register will become available approximately two weeks before each event.



You can register and see the full list of event dates and locations by visiting [nextridens.com](https://nextridens.com). To register on the website, scroll down to find our municipal test drive events as they become available.

### ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY

Progress has been made in District 8 on implementing the Accessibility Strategy since Regional Council approval in May 2021.

#### FORT NEEDHAM PARK WASHROOM

The newly constructed Fort Needham Memorial Park accessible washrooms sit on a concrete barrier-free pad and have windows spanning the front side. Solar panels sit on the roof.



#### GEORGE DIXON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The playground at the George Dixon Community Centre was replaced with a new all-inclusive JumpStart playground. Features include:

- Pour-in place rubber surfacing allowing for a barrier-free transition from pathways to play area;
- A We-Saw, an updated version of a seesaw designed for ease of use for kids of all abilities;
- A We-Go-Round, a merry-go-round designed so that children using mobility devices can wheel right in;
- A collection of musical instruments providing auditory stimulation; and
- Braille lettering, sign-language and communication charts.



Please recycle.

#### 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.

# HALIFAX