

## Municipal Budget

Halifax Regional Council passed the municipal budget on April 11, 2017. This year marks the introduction of a multi-year budgeting approach for the municipality. The four-year plan means Regional Council approved the 2017-18 operating (\$741.5 million) and capital (\$187.2 million) budgets, as well as the 2018-19 operating (\$763.1 million) and capital (\$156.7 million) budgets, in principle. Multi-year budget strategies are considered a more modern, balanced approach to planning and investing.

Below are a few highlights:

- The average single-family home tax bill will increase by 1.8 percent in 2017-18, or an average of \$33. The tax bill is a consolidated bill that includes both HRM and mandatory PNS amounts. The 1.8% is the HRM controlled part.
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- The municipality's debt will continue to decline and should be as low as \$245.8 million in 2017-18, and \$240.7 million in 2018-19.
- Key programs and capital projects set to receive significant investment under the multi-year budget strategy include transportation and public works, the Cogswell Redevelopment Project, Transit projects and infrastructure, the Dartmouth 4-pad arena and renovations to the Dartmouth Sportsplex, and numerous recreation infrastructure improvements through the Canada 150 program.
- Budgets for Public Safety Services – including Fire and Emergency, Police, and RCMP have also increased.

The preliminary road and street budget was originally reduced, and I was successful in having it increased in the approved budget.

Some of the capital improvements we will see in Lower Sackville include a new sidewalk for Cobequid from Judy Anne Court to Suckerbrook Court and Glendale Drive from MacDougall to Metropolitan Avenue. We also have a budget of \$1,320,000 for the Sackville Greenway Project. From Crimson Drive to Sackville Lakes Park Parking Lot there will be a new greenway segment.

Street recapitalization will include work on First Lake Drive from Crimson to Cobequid, Glendale Drive from Riverside to 150m SE of MacDougall, Lydgate Drive from Metropolitan to Lumsden, Lynneville Drive from Lydgate to Lennox, Cobequid Road from Glendale to First Lake, Kipling Drive from Maplegrove to Riverside, Lumsden from Lydgate to Lynneville, and Marie Drive from Maplegrove to Kipling.

Detailed information on the 2017-18 and 2018-19 budgets can be found by visiting <http://halifax.ca/budget/>