

Dear Householder:

In May 1958, City Council approved a building renumbering system for Halifax which basically stipulated that all North-South streets would be numbered from 0 to 5000, and all East-West would be numbered above 5000. It was also considered desirable that numbers on parallel streets throughout the City should be in line with each other. That is to say that numbers on streets such as Elm St., Kline St., Oxford St., Robie St., and Gottingen St., will be in line as will numbers on Inglis St., South St., Spring Garden Rd., Jubilee Rd., and Quinpool Rd., etc. The same principle would apply, of course, to all parallel streets, and not only to those mentioned.

In order to accomplish the desired effect, considerable research and experimentation was carried out and it was found that by reserving a house or building number for each interval of 15 feet along a street the desired results could be realized. This interval may be difficult to fully appreciate at first, especially in residential areas where lot frontages are quite large, but in commercial areas building lots can and do have frontages as small as 20 feet with possibly two doorways in that frontage. Therefore in order to adhere to our basic principle of numbers on parallel streets in both commercial and residential areas being in line, the interval referred to above is necessary.

The first major departure from the old system is the high numbers. The second is that your next door neighbor's number will not generally be one higher or one lower as was previously the case, due to the fact that there could be more than one 15 ft. interval between entrances. On streets running north and south, the starting point is at the southern most tip of Point Pleasant Park and a number is reserved for each 15 feet as one travels north. Major streets such as Inglis St., South St., Spring Garden Rd., Quinpool Rd., etc., will be identified by a certain number based on the distance from the starting point and it should not be too long before all citizens become accustomed to numbers being north or south of certain major streets. The starting point for East-West streets will be at the Harbour front so that major streets such as Barrington St., Gottingen St., Robie St., Oxford St., and Connaught Ave., will be identified by the distance from the starting point based on the same 15 ft. interval referred to above. A plan showing major street designations which we hope will help you understand the new system is on the reverse side of this sheet.

With numbers on North-South and East-West streets clearly distinguishable from each other and building numbers on parallel streets in line across the length and breadth of the peninsula, one will be able to locate an address much easier than before. The shorter streets will appear to undergo the most drastic changes in that the numbers will not start with 1, 3, 5, etc., but rather they will depend on the distance from the respective North-South or East-West starting point and generally will be quite high. For example, Seldon St., being a short North-South street, will start at No. 1850, and Yale St., being a short East-West street, will start at No. 6240. All streets will not be numbered at the same time. A certain number will be completed each month with the target date for completion of the entire City set for May 1, 1965. Owners and occupants of buildings will be reminded about a month in advance by newspaper advertisement or some other appropriate means, of the impending changes on each street.

We realize that there will be some minor difficulties and inconvenience during the transition period from the old to the new numbers and we ask your indulgence and cooperation in making the change as smooth as humanly possible. You can assist immeasurably by notifying friends, relatives, business houses, etc., of your new number. On completion, we are confident that all will realize that the new system is more convenient for our citizens as well as for visitors to our City.

Please keep this notice in a conspicuous place in your home or place of business.

G. F. West,
Commissioner of Works.