

**DEPUTY MAYOR
LISA BLACKBURN
MIDDLE/UPPER SACKVILLE -
BEAVER BANK - LUCASVILLE
DISTRICT 14 NEWSLETTER**



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SUMMER 2020



DEAR RESIDENTS,

I have never been more honoured to be the municipal representative for District 14. With grace, dignity and a strong communal sense of “together we stand strong” we have faced significant challenges in the early months of 2020. I am moved by how residents have rallied together during the COVID-19 pandemic

by respecting the guidelines outlined by our provincial health officials and, reaching out to those in need with such generosity and compassion; shown unified support for the importance of annihilating racism and its eradication from all public service (police, fire, local government etc.) and from society once and for all by demanding accountability now. Your voices have been heard, your actions of peaceful solidarity have been respected and acknowledged. Change is not coming, change is happening!

The impacts of COVID-19 have been severe. Finalizing the 2020/21 budget was a daily challenge as constant updates were required to ensure my Council colleagues and I were basing our decisions on the most accurate data. On June 9th, we finalized a budget that kept the tax rate at 1.4% and still ensured the provision of municipal programs and services you rely upon.

Summer is here! Time to enjoy the wonderful season as pandemic restrictions are cautiously being lifted and life can begin to return to its new normal. Enjoy the local parks, trails, beaches that we love and make some new memories right here in District 14!

Congratulations to all 2020 graduates! Although the traditional ceremonies may not be taking place, your achievement is not diminished – you have worked hard and earned the next step in your chosen journey. Best wishes to you!

Don't forget to vote on October 17th, 2020 for Mayor, Councillor and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) representative. This is your chance to help decide who will represent you for the next four years.

Best wishes,

Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call: 902.579.7164

Email: lisa.blackburn@halifax.ca

Council Constituency Coordinator:
Chris Newson at 902.490.1562 or
Email: Chris.Newson@halifax.ca

Municipal website: www.halifax.ca

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/newsbag>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lisablackburndistrict14/

Police/Fire Emergency: 911

Police Non-Emergency: 902.490.5020

Fire Non-Emergency: 902.490.5530

Halifax Water Emergency 902.490.6940

Councillors' Office: 902.490.4050

Councillors' Fax: 902.490.4122

HRM Citizen Contact Centre: 311

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2020/21 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

On June 9th, my Council colleagues and I approved \$787-million in total municipal expenditures, provincial mandatory contributions of \$168-million and a capital plan of \$150-million as part of the 2020/21 municipal budget.

Given the impacts of COVID-19 on the municipality, all business units presented revised budget plans from those presented earlier in the year.

Council approved the residential tax rate to remain unchanged from 2020/21, acknowledging that the average residential tax bill will increase due to growth in property assessment. The average single-family home tax bill will increase by \$27, or 1.4 per cent in 2020/21 to \$2,003. The overall average commercial tax bill will also increase by 1.4 per cent.

Capital debt will remain stable and should be as low as \$235.7-million in 2020/21. Subject to Regional Council's approval later in June, the municipality anticipates it will incur a short-term debt of \$130-million for cashflow purposes.

Key programs and capital projects

Halifax Transit

- Woodside Ferry Terminal Upgrades \$4.5-million
- Ragged Lake Transit Expansion \$5-million
- Access-A-Bus Replacement \$1.17-million
Active Transportation and Environment
- Active transportation projects \$7.5-million
- HalifACT 2050 -Energy Efficiency \$2-million
Transportation & Safety
- Bridge and street improvements \$33.7-million
- Windsor Street Exchange \$1.8-million
- Downtown Dartmouth Infrastructure Renewal \$2-million
Recreation & Community
- Halifax Common Upgrades \$600,000
- Keshen Goodman Library \$2-million
- Streetscaping \$400,000

Property Tax

The following tax rates were approved by Regional Council on June 9th:

the general rates of taxation on residential and resource property be set at

- (i) \$0.670 for the urban area
 - (ii) \$0.637 for the suburban area; and
 - (iii) \$0.637 for the rural area
per \$100 of taxable assessment;
- d) the general rates of taxation on commercial property be set at
- (i) \$3.000 for the urban area;
 - (ii) \$3.000 for the suburban area; and
 - (iii) \$2.658 for the rural area
per \$100 of taxable assessment;

If you need assistance with property tax payments, please call 311 or email hrmcollections@halifax.ca and request to speak with a tax analyst to discuss setting up a payment arrangement to repay the amount owing over a period of time (typically within 24 months). This option is available to commercial and residential customers.

For more detailed information on the 2020-21 municipal budget visit <http://www.halifax.ca/budget>

2020/21 Planned Capital Work

Now that the budget has been approved, the following capital projects are scheduled to be done in District 14 this season (weather permitting).

Street Recapitalization

Danny Dr – Beaver Bank to Barrett

Rosley Rd – Beaver Bank to End of Asphalt (2019 Carryover)

Gravel Road Paving

Rosley Rd – End of Asphalt to End of HRM Limit (2019 Carryover)

Microsurfacing

Sackville Dr – Beaver Bank to Millwood

Planer Patching

Fenerty Rd – Sackville to Springfield Lake

Hamilton Dr – Sackville to Strathmore (N)

Sackville Dr – Hamilton to Patton

Crack Sealing

Sackville Dr – Skyridge to Florence

Bridges

BR65 Rosley Rd Bridge – replacement (2019 Carryover)

RAPID TRANSIT STRATEGY AND ELECTRIC BUS PROPOSAL

Regional Council has approved two critical transit projects that will provide valuable, long-term benefits to the municipality by helping achieve objectives outlined in the Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) and broader climate change goals.

The first initiative, the Rapid Transit Strategy (RTS), includes four Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines, which will have less frequent stops than traditional routes; will run at a high-frequency; and will incorporate a network of transit priority lanes that allow buses to avoid traffic congestion.

Additionally, the RTS recommends three new fast ferry routes providing direct connections between downtown Halifax and new terminals at Mill Cove, Larry Uteck and Shannon Park.

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The second initiative, the Electric Bus Proposal, recommends converting the Transit bus fleet to a low-carbon or zero-emission fleet. The goal is to electrify 50 per cent of the fleet by 2028.

To proceed with next steps, Regional Council has:

- directed the CAO to submit both the Rapid Transit Strategy and Electric Bus Proposal for funding through the Federal Government's Public Transit Infrastructure Fund and the Green Infrastructure Fund, as well as any additional stimulus funding streams that may become available; and
- authorized the mayor to send a letter of support for both the Rapid Transit Strategy and Electric Bus Proposal to the Province of Nova Scotia.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Considering there are almost daily changes as we cautiously begin to lift pandemic restrictions, it is almost impossible to provide an update here that would not be out of date prior to the printing of this newsletter. For the most accurate and up to date information, check our municipal website at www.halifax.ca to learn more about Parks & Recreation Services including lifeguard services; Public Library services, Halifax Transit schedule and service updates and much more including virtual public hearings.

Although we are slowly reopening businesses and services, the virus is still among us so be vigilant and continue to adhere to advice provided by the provincial health authority.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2020

Want a more diverse body of decision makers in local government? Interested in being a Candidate? If so, check the municipal website at <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/> elections for more information on the 2020 election for Mayor, Councillor and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP).

2020 is the year that you get to decide who will be representing District 14 for the next 4 years as well as Mayor for the regional municipality and the CSAP representative. Voter participation is extremely important for a democratic government. Please ensure you vote on October 17, 2020 for the candidate you feel will best represent District 14.

For those interested in running in 2020, you become an official candidate by filing your nomination papers with the Returning Officer. You can file your nomination papers only during the specified dates and times. Call the Election Office during the last two weeks of August 2020, to make an appointment to file your nomination papers for the Municipal Election on August 26, 27, 28 and September 1, 2, 3, and 4, 2020. Call 902-490-4210 to book your appointment.

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 is Nomination Day. There are no appointments on Nomination Day. Nomination papers are accepted from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, first come, first served.

For more information call 902.490.4210 or Email: election@halifax.ca.

WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

On November 26, 2019, Halifax Regional Council established the Women's Advisory Committee by adopting Administrative Order 2019-004-GOV to support the creation of a gender-inclusive municipality and provide advice to Council on matters relevant to the municipal mandate. In accordance with the Administrative Order, the Committee is comprised of 10 members, 8 women appointed in accordance with the Public Appointment Policy with at least one woman from each of the rural, suburban, and urban areas of the municipality and two members of Council at least one of whom shall be a member of the Executive Standing Committee.

The current HRM appointments to the Women's Advisory Committee are as follows:

- Haneen Al-Noman
- Lilian Barraclough
- Tanya Boudreau
- Charla Dorrington
- Holly Mathias
- Jane McKay-Nesbitt
- Michael Smith
- Christine Qin Yang
- Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
- Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn

For more information, contact Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant: viningk@halifax.ca.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

As Vice-Chair of HRM's Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, I enthusiastically supported the following motion at the March 5, 2020 meeting to help crack down on illegal dumping:

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Prepare amendments to the Solid Waste By-law (S-600) for Council's consideration to address illegal dumping and litter abatement; and**
- 2. Assess staffing requirements to support the implementation of the proposed by-law amendments.**

The intent is for staff to amend By-Law S-600 respecting Solid Waste Resource Collection and Disposal to include a section defining illegal dumping and providing the tools for the enforcement of harsher penalties, including a reverse onus clause, similar to the amendments made by Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) in February 2018.



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CBRM amended their Solid Waste By-Law "...to enable the municipality to hold a generator accountable for illegal dumping should the generator be successfully identified through searching the illegally dumped materials (referred to as 'reverse onus')."

The staff report responding to the motion is expected to be before Regional Council in March 2021.

Call 311 if:

- You see debris on HRM property that requires cleanup
- You witness someone leaving garbage / recycling / debris etc. on your property or a neighbour's property
- You see garbage on the side of a municipal road that requires cleanup

Call the police if:

- You see someone currently dumping debris and they are still in the area

Contact the Department of Transportation if:

- You see something that requires clean up on the side of a provincial road

HRM is not responsible for removing illegally dumped material from private property. Place the material curbside for collection on your regular garbage day or make arrangements for it to be removed.

SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC CALMING

Speeding remains the number 1 complaint I receive from residents on an almost daily basis. Exceeding the speed limit is an infraction of the provincial Motor Vehicle Act and is enforced by local RCMP and HRP. It is vitally important that all incidents of speeding be reported to the local detachment to initiate a complaint which will result in a member being assigned a task to conduct patrols. For the District 14 area, please call Halifax District RCMP Traffic Unit at (902) 244-7208.

Traffic calming helps make neighbourhoods safer for non-drivers. That means slowing down cars, trucks, and motorcycles by altering driver behaviour. Studies have shown that reducing the posted speed limit in an area typically has no significant impact on how fast people drive.

Physical measures are more effective and could include:

- speed humps
- raised intersections and crosswalks
- curb extensions

- traffic circles or mini roundabouts
- on-street parking
- raised median islands

You may view the current list of assessments and rankings of streets being considered for traffic calming measures on our website at: <https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/streets-sidewalks/road-safety/traffic-calming-for-safer-streets#Assessments>.

Local District 14 streets being done in 2020 are:

- Danny Dr Beaver Bank Rd to Barrett Rd
- Monarch Dr (N) Majestic Ave to Amedee Dr (school zone)

Ranking of local District 14 streets already submitted for Traffic Calming measures:

- Fenerty Rd Sackville Dr Springfield Lake: 7th
- Rafting Dr Executive Dr Millwood Dr: 28th
- Executive Dr Sackville Dr Rafting Dr: 57th
- Fringe Dr Executive Dr Rafting Dr: 68th

There are 218 streets on this list as of May 8, 2020.

To have your street considered for traffic calming measures, call 311 or Email: contactHRM@halifax.ca

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES OF 2020!



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. Please accept my apology for any confusion.