



## COUNCILLOR RUSSELL WALKER DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER HALIFAX-BEDFORD BASIN WEST

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

FALL 2017

# DEAR RESIDENTS

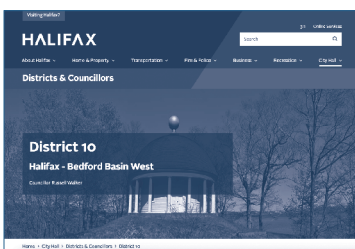


I extend a warm welcome to all new residents and businesses who have moved to our area since my last newsletter.

It was a very exciting summer with the many festivals and events that happened throughout HRM including the Canada 150 Celebrations and The Tall Ships. Whether we are ready for it or not, fall is in the air. As the days get shorter and the temperature drops, it's time to put away the lawn furniture and get our properties prepared for what's in store over the next few months. Don't forget to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors when you change the clocks back in October.

It continues to be a pleasure to represent you on Regional Council. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please contact me.

## STAY INFORMED – ELECTRONIC UPDATES



In addition to a hard copy newsletter, I also send frequent electronic updates to residents on my distribution list. This is a great way to keep up to date on what is happening within our District and the Halifax area. If you would like to receive these electronic updates visit [www.halifax.ca/city-hall/districts-councillors/district-10](http://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/districts-councillors/district-10). Go to the bottom of the main page, input your email address and click subscribe. Once this information is received, you will be added to the distribution list. I encourage you to stay informed by signing up for the updates. Addresses will not be shared and you can unsubscribe at any time.

If you are aware of a community event or announcement and would like me to include it in an update, you can forward the information to Lucille Walsh at [lucille.walsh@halifax.ca](mailto:lucille.walsh@halifax.ca) and it may be included in a future update.

### Councillor Russell Walker

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# HALIFAX



## DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017

### MOBILE FOOD MARKET IN FAIRVIEW

Fairview Mobile Food Market
Saturdays
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Titus Smith Park
September 23
October 7
October 21

The Mobile Food Market is entering its 2nd season of providing access to fresh and affordable fruit and vegetables to residents in our area.

For more details on the Mobile Food Market visit: [www.mobilefoodmarket.ca/](http://www.mobilefoodmarket.ca/).

## MOBILE FOOD MARKET

### DISTRICT 10 CAPITAL UPGRADES

Since my last newsletter upgrades have been completed to the **Titus Smith Park** including the replacement of the main play structure, a peripheral pathway, a black ornate fence along Titus, and extension of the chain link fence on the east side to deter trespassing.

Work has been done to the **Hemlock Ravine Park** including the replacement of the retaining wall at the Heart Shaped Pond and a walking path around the pond.

The **walking trail** to Main Avenue from Rosedale Avenue along Northwest Arm has been completed. It will have a dividing line for walkers and cyclists.

### HALIFAX NORTHWEST TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Do you enjoy the local trails? Many of them are maintained and stewarded by the local volunteer trails group. They are always looking for volunteers. Learn more about the local neighbourhoods through the trail lens.

Check out their website to learn more: [www.halifaxnorthwesttrails.ca](http://www.halifaxnorthwesttrails.ca) to find a trail near you and decide if this is a volunteer activity you would enjoy, they need you!

### HALIFAX TRANSIT

Effective September 2017, some school specific routes will no longer be in operation due to low usage or duplication by other Halifax Transit routes. Should you wish to continue using Halifax Transit to school you can use alternate routes. The following identifies routes to be discontinued and provides some alternate options:

- **Clayton Park Jr. High School** (Route FV01) — Routes 17 St. Mary's, 42 Lacewood/Dalhousie and 52 Crosstown travel in close proximity to the school.
- **Fairview Jr. High School** (Route FV01) — Routes 2 Wedgewood and 4 Rosedale travel in close proximity to the school.
- **Halifax West High School** (Route FV01) — Routes 16 Parkland and 89 Bedford travel in close proximity to the school.

For Halifax Transit information, please visit: [www.halifax.ca/transportation/halifax-transit](http://www.halifax.ca/transportation/halifax-transit).

100%  
ACCESSIBLE FLEET

HALIFAX  
TRANSIT

### LEAF AND YARD WASTE

As the fall clean up season begins, don't forget that your leaf and yard waste can be placed in the green cart or the large paper waste bags for collection. Remember weekly green cart collection has been extended to the end of September, so green carts will be collected every week until the bi-weekly schedule resumes in October. Up to 20 bags, 25 kg (55 lb) maximum weight each, are allowed each green cart collection day. No bundle can exceed 34 kg (75 lb) and no individual piece can be more than 4 feet long (1.2 m) or larger than 8 inches (0.2 m) in diameter. Grass clippings are not eligible for compost collection. Instead, try leaving grass clippings on your lawn when you mow to encourage a healthier lawn or garden. For more information visit [www.halifax.ca/home-property/garbage-recycling-green-cart](http://www.halifax.ca/home-property/garbage-recycling-green-cart).

Weekly Green Cart  
Program ends on  
September 30th



HALIFAX



## CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

HRM recognizes students who exemplify dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life in our schools and communities. In May, Mayor Mike Savage and I had the privilege of presenting citizenship awards to Sarah Page, Jayleigh Bryan and Katie Rooney. Congratulations to all 2017 award recipients! Thank you for your dedication and commitment to your school and community.



Mayor Savage, Sarah Page and Councillor Walker



Mayor Savage, Jayleigh Bryan and Councillor Walker



Mayor Savage, Katie Rooney and Councillor Walker

## VOLUNTEER AWARDS

I was honoured to present David Williams with an HRM Volunteer Award last spring. Volunteers are the backbone of our community, giving selflessly of their time and energy to make our municipality a better place to live, work and play. Thanks David for volunteering in our community.



Councillor Walker, David Williams and Mayor Savage

## MAINLAND COMMON DOG PARK

Temporary fencing has been put in place that will barricade the slope from dogs and dog owners while keeping the remaining dog park and wooded trails open. It will remain in place until hazards are mitigated. Access to the slope will be blocked as the terrain and content of the sub grade seems to be prone to other holes or depressions developing over time.

The current strategy will be to fill existing holes with surge rock or gravel and top dressing with limestone screenings. Staff is reviewing the best method for preventing new holes for the remainder of the season throughout the dog park.

Moving forward HRM will be closing the dog park every Wednesday afternoon from 1-3 pm (optimal as it is quieter) for staff to bring in the equipment and supplies needed to deal with maintenance concerns. This is to ensure we are getting ahead of problems before they exist, rather than responding to them after the fact.

A longer-term strategy has already been discussed for capital consideration for 2018 that includes exploring alternative surfacing options, potential drainage and provision of shade.

HRM encourages anyone who sees a danger anywhere in one of our parks to call 311 so staff can follow up. Many people observe dangers, and even go so far as to say someone should fix something, and may even comment on it through social media but the only way that HRM can know for sure that there is a problem is if someone opens a file through 311. When a file is opened a service request number will be created which you can use to follow up on the status of the work by calling either 311 or contacting me.



## DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017

### GET HELP PAYING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

The 2017 Deferral of Property Taxes and Deferral of Local Improvement Charges Program is now open.

If you need help paying your property taxes, the municipality offers a few choices. You can apply for:

1. **A payment plan:** rather than two large payments, you can pay in smaller monthly amounts.
2. **A rebate:** if your household income is less than \$33,000, the municipal government will pay a portion of your property taxes. The amount of rebate varies with income and residential tax.
3. **A rebate and a deferral:** after the rebate has been applied to your tax account you can postpone payment of all or a portion of the balance. Interest is charged on the deferred tax amount.
4. **A deferral of local improvement charge:** you can postpone payment of all or a portion of your local improvement charge.

You can also combine different options to meet your needs such as:

- A rebate plus a payment plan to pay the balance in monthly amounts.
- A rebate plus a deferral of the full balance.
- A rebate plus a deferral of only part of the balance.
- A rebate plus a deferral of the balance of tax due plus a deferral of local improvement charges.

For more information please visit: [www.halifax.ca/home-property/property-taxes/exemptions](http://www.halifax.ca/home-property/property-taxes/exemptions).

### REPORT GRAFFITI

Report graffiti on municipal owned property. Graffiti is a crime! If you see it in progress call 911.

**Private Property** owners are responsible for the removal of graffiti from their own property. It is recommended that you file a Property Damage Report with the Police by calling 902.490.5016. **Private and Commercial Property** owners can request a free Graffiti Removal Kit. Only one kit per property will be provided. Kits include information on where to buy additional product. To request a kit, call 311.

For more information, or to submit an online request visit: [www.halifax.ca/fire-police/police/reporting-crime/report-graffiti](http://www.halifax.ca/fire-police/police/reporting-crime/report-graffiti).

### HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program helps with the cost of home heating for low-income Nova Scotians who pay for their own heat. Rebates range from \$100 to \$200. You can apply between October 17, 2017 and March 31, 2018.

To qualify for the rebate, you must pay for your own heat and meet one of the following criteria: have a net income of \$27,000 or less and live alone with no children or dependents; have a combined net income of \$42,000 or less and live with children, dependents, or other adults; receive income assistance from the Department of Community Services; or receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement or the Allowance from Service Canada.

If your personal or financial situation has changed since last year, you still may qualify. Examples of changes include becoming widowed, getting divorced or legally separated, losing your job, or having the custody of your children change. Contact Service Nova Scotia to find out if you qualify at 902-424-5200.

For more information please visit: [www.novascotia.ca/programs/heating-assistance-rebate-program/](http://www.novascotia.ca/programs/heating-assistance-rebate-program/).

### 311 CITIZEN CONTACT CENTRE

The 311 HRM Citizen Contact Centre is a great resource for residents to find information and raise concerns about our municipal services and operations. In July, the 311 Citizen Contact Centre changed its hours of regular operations. The new hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The Citizen Contact Centre will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Residents can still obtain transit and garbage/recycling information by selecting the automated self-service options after hours and service requests can also be submitted online anytime at [www.halifax.ca/home/311](http://www.halifax.ca/home/311). Please contact our Citizen Contact Centre to report any municipal issues in your area so we have a record and a service request number for easier follow up.



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.