

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL WALKER DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER HALIFAX-BEDFORD BASIN WEST



DEAR RESIDENTS



In 2015 we celebrated the opening of the Lacewood Transit Terminal which comes equipped with 14 individual bus bays, comfortable indoor and outdoor passenger waiting areas, public washrooms, a bicycle centre complete with bike parking, repair station, and bus bike rack demo and accessibility features to improve navigation and access for passengers with physical challenges. I have received very positive feedback from residents about our new terminal. Drop by to view the facility.

I extend a warm welcome to all new residents and businesses that have moved to our area since my last newsletter. There is always something to celebrate in the Halifax area. Check out our Civic events website at halifax.ca/events/ to find something you and your family will enjoy. Keep checking to find out information on the upcoming holiday events. I would like to wish all residents a very happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year. Enjoy the time with your family and friends.

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

During the last few years as Councillor, in addition to a hard copy newsletter, I have been sending regular electronic updates to residents on my contact 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 apps.halifax.ca/subscriptions/subscribe?list=6, input your information and then click submit. 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 and it may be included in a future update.

211 OFFERS MORE INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

The provincial information line 211 offers information about programs for seniors and resources for senior abuse. It is available 24-hours a day and has interpretation services for more than 100 languages. Visit their website at ns.211.ca/ or call 211 for more information.

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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.

HALIFAX



DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015

LED STREETLIGHT CONVERSION PROJECT

The LED Streetlight Conversion Project began on October 5th. To help make our communities safer and more energy efficient, the Halifax Regional Municipality is moving forward with a project to replace all traditional high-pressure sodium streetlights in the Halifax region with energy efficient LED technology.

The municipality is responsible for more than 44,000 streetlights across the region. About 7,000 of those have already been converted to LED technology through spot replacements and smaller conversion projects. All remaining streetlights will be converted over an 18-month period.

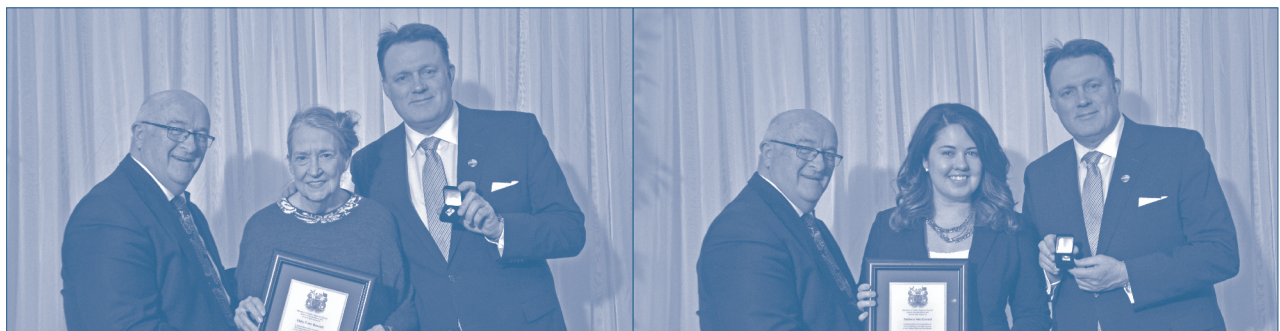
LED streetlights are widely popular for their energy efficiency, long lifespans and reduced maintenance requirements. Once complete, the conversion to LEDs will save the municipality about \$5 million a year — savings that will fully fund the conversion work and continue to accrue after the project is paid for.

As they're replaced, each LED streetlight will be equipped with adaptive technology installed by Silver Spring Networks. Once fully implemented, the system will monitor the streetlights in real-time and send alerts when maintenance is required, allowing the municipality to better manage streetlight maintenance and eliminating the need for residents to report outages. The old streetlight bulbs will be properly disposed of by Dan-X Recycling in Dartmouth, diverting that waste from the landfill and keeping harmful chemicals out of our environment.

Residents can follow the progress of this project using our online map. To view the map and find out more about the LED streetlight conversion project, please visit halifax.ca/traffic/LED/. Until the project is complete, you can report burnt out streetlights by calling 311.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes the extraordinary contributions of individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in municipal communities. Congratulations to the 2015 District 10 Award Recipients, Mary Eden Bassett and Stephanie MacDonald. Thank you for your contribution to making our community a better place to live, work and play.



Mary Eden Bassett

Stephanie MacDonald

OPEN GYM FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

Gyms will be open for school-aged children and youth, along with their parents, to come build an obstacle course, dance, shoot some hoops, or anything fun and active. Parks & Recreation staff will be onsite at each school to welcome and assist participants, but unlike other municipal programs, these sessions are FREE and will be unstructured with no lesson plans or organized activities. Fairview Junior High School will be open on Saturdays until May 7, 2016 from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Excluding December 12th - January 2nd (inclusive), March Break - March 18/19th, 2016, and Easter - March 25/26th, 2016.

For more information, please visit halifax.ca/rec/OpenGymProgram.php



WINTER OPERATIONS



Streets are prioritized based on a number of criteria including how often they're used by commuters, access to important infrastructure like hospitals and schools, and whether they're on major bus and traffic routes. The municipality has classified all routes and will service them (salt, sand and plow) in order of priority.

When the parking ban is in effect, it is only enforced during declared snow and ice events, from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Residents have a responsibility to secure off-street parking during the winter months and seek information about when the parking ban is enforced. The easiest way to stay informed is to sign up for notifications by filling out an online registration form at halifax.ca/snow/parkingban/, calling 311 or by emailing contact@halifax.ca.

If you signed up last season, you will automatically be included. Residents who subscribe will receive timely messages by phone, email, and/or text message about the status of the ban.

Please check out Halifax Regional Municipality's Winter Operations webpage at halifax.ca/snow/ for more details on snow and ice clearing, priority streets and the winter parking ban.

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes students who exemplify dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life in our schools and communities. Congratulations to the 2015 District 10 Citizenship Award Recipients, Ashley Boehner and Connor Morrison. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to your school and community.



Ashley Boehner



Connor Morrison

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

The program is now open for the current 2015/16 fiscal year. Halifax Regional Municipality can help homeowners pay their property tax through a payment plan, a property tax rebate, or deferral of property taxes (payment is put off to a later date). These programs are available to all homeowners with a combined household income of \$32,000 or less a year who live within the boundary of Halifax Regional Municipality. There are different programs to choose from depending on a person's needs. It is important that you know what choices exist.

You can have your exemption award direct deposited to your bank account by completing the payment registration form and returning it with your application and a void cheque.

The 2015-16 Residential Property Tax Exemption Application form and a guide are available each year from municipal Customer Service Centers, the municipal Call Centre, the Halifax Regional Municipality Financial Services Department and on our website. Each year an advertisement is placed in the newspaper to inform the public that the program is open for applications. After you have filed your personal income tax for the current income tax year 2014, filed in April 2015, and have received the Notice of Assessment back from Canada Customs and Revenue Agency confirming your income, you can then complete your application. **A copy of this must be submitted with your application form as confirmation of income is required.**

For more information about the program including the application form visit halifax.ca/taxes/exemption/.



DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015

HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) provides help to lower-income Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating.

You qualify for this program if you pay a heating bill at your current address and meet ONE of the following criteria:

- live alone with an income of \$27,000 or less;
- live with others and have a combined income of \$42,000 or less;
- receive Income Assistance from the Department of Community Services, OR;
- receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement from Service Canada.

For more information on this program including an application form please visit: novascotia.ca/sns/access/individuals/consumer-awareness/heating-assistance-rebate-program.asp

You must apply by **March 31, 2016** to receive a rebate.

2015 HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100th ANNIVERSARY GRANTS PROGRAM

December 6th, 2017 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion. In recognition of this significant date, the Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to announce a new grant program in support of community-based projects undertaken by local non-profit organizations and charities to commemorate the centennial.

The Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program is now accepting applications. The deadline for applications is Friday, December 18th, 2015. An application form and program guidebook is available through the Halifax Regional Municipality Corporate Call Centre by dialing 311, on the municipality's website at: halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/grants.php or from municipal Customer Contact Centres.

Halifax locations include: Bayer's Road, 7071 Bayer's Road, 2nd Floor and Scotia Square Mall, 5201 Duke Street, 1st Floor.

Inquiries should be directed to Halifax Regional Municipality Finance: Grants & Contributions at 902.490.7310 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm).

FAIRVIEW URBAN FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD

New street trees arrived in our area in November! Halifax Regional Council approved HRM's Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) in 2012. Our urban forest consists of all trees within the urban core, including street trees, park trees, and trees on private and public land. The goal of the plan is to ensure a sustainable future for our urban forest and to create awareness about the many benefits that we all gain from the trees in our neighbourhoods. This November, 40 new street trees were planted in the Fairview Urban Forest Neighbourhood on Adelaide Avenue. Seven hardy tree species suitable for fall planting were selected. In years to come these trees will beautify the neighbourhood and grow tall to form a protective canopy cover.

The progress of the UFMP street tree planting project is being monitored by faculty and students from Dalhousie University's School for Resource and Environmental Studies (SRES). The Dal monitoring crews evaluate the condition of our new street trees and note any diseased or dead trees to be removed under the replacement warranty provided by our tree planting contractors. In the meantime, please remember that you can report street tree damage to our Citizen Call Centre at 311.

Our UFMP website will be updated on a regular basis to help you stay informed about upcoming planting schedules and volunteer opportunities in your neighbourhood. Visit the website at: halifax.ca/Property/UFMP/index.php

MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each year the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Mayor and Regional Council recognize the extraordinary contributions of individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in our communities.

If you know someone who should be receiving one of these awards, check out the full criteria and nomination information on our website at halifax.ca/volunteerservices/awards/. Make sure to have your nominations in by December 11th, 2015 for consideration.