

COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER FALL 2015



Credit: Brice Ferre Studio

DEAR RESIDENTS,

It's September and fall means that after a slow and glorious summer the district is picking up speed again. With public school and university starting up again, please exercise caution with kids and new residents on the streets finding their way to school.

To our student neighbours welcome to Halifax, or welcome back! The **last page of this newsletter is addressed to students** and talks about the common issues student residents run into around noise, booze, and mess. Please take a minute to read it.

This newsletter has items about our upcoming meeting about setting up a **Joint Emergency Management volunteer team** on the peninsula as well as an update on **Participatory Budgeting** and my ongoing focus on **area parks**. I hope you find this newsletter interesting and helpful!

Take care,

ENEWS SIGNUP

In addition to this paper newsletter, I have been sending regular email updates approximately once a month for the last three years. This is the best way to keep up to day on what is happening in our District and in the Halifax area.

Please visit wayemason.ca/mailling-list and enter your information. You will receive an email to confirm subscription, you must click on the link supplied.

If you are aware of a community event or announcement and would like it included, please forward the information to Jessica Brady at bradyj@halifax.ca so I can include it in a future update.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS

We are lucky to have two new residents associations representing the interests of our districts. I urge you to consider joining either!

PARK TO PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Represents residents of the South End, south of South St + south Common.
Visit: vparktoparkhfx.simdif.com

CENTRAL HALIFAX COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Represents residents of Central Halifax (South, Robie, Quinpool, the arm)
More info at: halifaxdistrict7.ca/chca

CONTACT US

311 - HRM CITIZEN CONTACT CENTRE



Call 311 or visit halifax.ca/311 to report a municipal issue, the contact centre is open daily from 7 am - 11 pm except Christmas & New Year's Day.

CALL MY OFFICE

Contact my Council Constituency Coordinator, Susan During by email at durings@halifax.ca or by calling 902.490.4013

CONTACT ME

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STAY CONNECTED

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twitter.com/wayemason
wayemason.ca
halifax.ca

JOIN MY E-NEWSLETTER LIST

wayemason.ca/mailling-list/

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Police/Fire Emergency	911
Police non-emergency	902.490.5020
Fire (non-emergency)	902.490.5530
Halifax Water Emergency	902.490.6940
Councillor Support Office	902.490.4050

HALIFAX



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HALIFAX GREEN NETWORK PLAN

We want your input on the Halifax Green Network Plan. The plan will be a blueprint for the municipality to protect our communities' land and water resources. Use our online interactive mapping tool and survey to provide feedback.

Visit halifax.ca/HalifaxGreenNetwork for details.

NEW BIKE LANES IN DISTRICT 7

Keep your eye out for two new bike lanes being constructed this summer. Bike lanes are an important part of our investment in active transportation, and encourage motorists and cyclists to share the road. The University Avenue Bike Lane pilot project and the Hollis Street Bike Lane have both received final approval from council and construction is expected to be completed by the fall.

HALIFAX RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Move, create and learn – Halifax Recreation have programs available for all ages, shapes and sizes! The Halifax Recreation Program Catalogue for the Fall and Winter seasons is now available. Check out all they have to offer in HRM facilities across the municipality. Visit halifax.ca/rec/ for more details and registration dates.



Cheque was presented to Principal LeBlanc, representing the PTA at Gorsebrook, for new plexiglass backboards for the gym.

PARKS IN DISTRICT 7

HOW DO WE MAKE OUR PARKS EVEN BETTER?

Those of you who came to Participatory Budgeting or get my email newsletter know I love talking about parks! Right now my focus is on Conrose and Gorsebrook as key sports fields and multi-use parks.

I've also had community 'pop up' meetings in the pocket parks at Inglis and at Queen and Green, and have been approached by residents about Marlborough Woods park and at the Camp Hill Cemetery. I want to hear from residents about what they want in our parks.

The playground at Cornwallis Park is being replaced this year with the project scheduled to be completed

in the fall of 2015. The consultant, Ekistics, developed a concept plan and staff hope to start construction in September.

While the municipality can and should do more, I think a key piece is residents, through community & faith groups, PTAs and sports organizations, and as individuals need to be encouraged to take ownership of parks and help maintain, update and improve these community spaces.

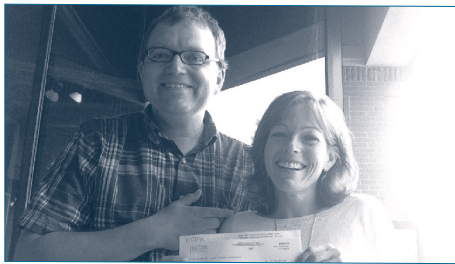
I'm going to have a meeting in October about Gorsebrook Park. Please contact me or visit wayemason.ca/parks if you want to help improve our parks!



It was an honour to represent Halifax on Battle of the Atlantic Day, with my colleagues Constable Robin Sherwood, Halifax Regional Police (left) and Captain Jeff Paris, Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency.



The Mayor, Councillors, members of the RCMP and guests commemorated the one year anniversary of the tragedy in Moncton.



Participatory budget cheque was presented to Juanita Spencer from Spring Garden Area Business Association in June.



Resident Gerry Post had myself and HRM staff Constantinos Liolis (pictured) and Trevor Harvie (taking photo) experience just how difficult navigating in a wheelchair can be.



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING 2016

RECAP: DISTRICT 7 VOTES ON HOW TO SPEND \$94,000

District 7 residents came out in droves tonight to contribute to the third year for one of Canada's most ambitious participatory budgeting projects, and vote on how to spend \$94,000 on citizen-led initiatives.

It was amazing and humbling to see residents of Halifax South Downtown come and say what matters to them. We had record numbers of participants, families, students, and folks of all ages come out and vote.

Eligible projects were present for a science fair style event where residents of District 7 could ask questions before voting on five projects. This year 335 residents cast a ballot, up from 260 in 2014 and 120 in 2013.

Full funding was provided to **Le Marchant St Thomas Elementary** for a playground at \$20,000.00; **OPEN Projects** urban furniture on the Halifax Waterfront for \$4,000.00; **Speedy Kids Oval Program** skate equipment for \$5,000.00; **Spring Garden Area** bike racks and beautification for \$20,000.00; **Halifax Cycle Coalition** for picnic tables & bike racks for \$15,695.00; **Peter Green Hall Green** space enhancements for \$20,000.00, and; **Park to Park Residents Association** for Gorsebrook benches and signage, \$4,500.00.

Partial funding of \$4805.00 was also provided to **Halifax Minor Baseball** for dugouts at Conrose field.

It is really difficult to choose when all the projects are so exciting, but the residents' wishes were clear.

Next intake is scheduled to start February 2016. For more information visit wayemason.ca/pb

BE PREPARED: HELP ESTABLISH A JOINT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (JEM) TEAM ON THE PENINSULA

Do you want to help your community be prepared in the event of an emergency – hurricanes, blizzards, power outages, etc ??

Join us **Wednesday 30 September 2015 at 6:00pm** for a meeting with Barry Manuel, HRM EMO manager, JEM Council Chair Len Milne, and myself at the Lindsay Childrens Room, Halifax Central Library, Spring Garden Road

The topic will be the establishment of a Joint Emergency Management (JEM) team. This is a community-based volunteer organization that works with HRM EMO.

This is a great way for involved citizens to educate friends, family and neighbours in preparedness for emergencies. Their motto is "neighbours helping neighbours". During emergencies, residents in affected communities need to be prepared to help themselves and to assist others.

Some JEM activities include managing a network of comfort centers, public education and awareness, and risk assessments in your areas.

JEM teams operate under the auspices of and take direction from HRM EMO. All volunteers will be covered by special liability insurance when activated. Be part of the solution when an emergency strikes – become a JEM volunteer!

Contact me if you have any questions, and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!



PLEASE RECYCLE - Due to Canada Post delivery routes, some residents who do not live in District 7 may receive this newsletter.

If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion. To find out who your councillor is, please visit: eservices.halifax.ca/districtLookup/ or call 311.



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ESSENTIAL INFO FOR NEW & RETURNING STUDENTS: WELCOME, BIENVENUE, PJI'LASI TO HALIFAX AND DISTRICT 7!

Welcome back, or if this is your first year, welcome to your new home!

This area is diverse mix of students, renters, long-term homeowners, businesses and others. Our diversity is what makes our neighborhood great. We're glad you're here, and we hope you like it enough to stay when you graduate.

This area is a real mixed bag of housing, with apartments mixed in with other homes. There is no "student ghetto" in Halifax - you are as likely to live next to your professor as to an apartment of undergrads. These other homes contain emergency room doctors, retired people, seniors, preschool and school age children, babies, professionals of all kinds.

Sometimes students as new renters do not know they have legal obligations as tenants and neighbours. The majority of students want to get along with their neighbours, so here are three things we see that seem to cause most of the friction: noise, booze & mess.

NOISE: You have the right to enjoy yourself with friends while respecting that your neighbors have the right to a good night's sleep.

You can be fined if your party or gathering "unreasonably disturbs or tends to disturb the peace and tranquillity of a neighbourhood" starting at \$463.95 and rising to \$1268.95 for a third offence.

Keep noise to a reasonable level. Tickets can be given any time of day. Remember if your neighbour has kids remember, they are going to expect some late night quiet!

BOOZE: The drinking age in Nova Scotia is 19. **Underage drinking can result in a fine of \$463.95.** Same goes with walking across the street with an open drink. **Being intoxicated in a public place can result in a fine of between \$130.45 and \$463.95.**

Basically, don't walk around drunk with open liquor, even on St Patrick's Day! Stay in your house, obey the law, or go downtown. Have fun without interfering with others enjoyment of their neighbourhood!

MESS: This is often a result of a party. Clean up any litter. You might be surprised how many residents ask me to remind students not to go to the bathroom outside. Nothing undermines the reputation and dignity of students in general like public urination. Pick up any garbage the next day, and ask your neighbors if they had any concerns - they'll be more likely to cut you some slack.

HRM can order a property cleaned up and if the work is not done, HRM will clean the property, and bill the property owner, which will upset your landlord! Make sure you put the right stuff out Monday morning, visit <http://www.halifax.ca/recycle/area1and2.php> (we live in area 1). **Fines are \$463.95.**

FINAL WORDS: Halifax is your home now too, and we are glad you are here! Nobody wants to fine you, or call bylaw on you, or call the police, but we all have to share this space. I ask you to respect your neighbours and the community.

If your actions or actions of your guests unreasonably and repeatedly disturb the neighbourhood, people will call the city, the police, the universities, and your landlord.

The responsibility for a good neighbourhood belongs to everyone. Halifax is one of the best small cities in Canada, and it takes all of us, working together to build a stronger community.

This is my third back to school message since being elected, and I do want to thank you all as last year was one of the smoothest back to schools in a decade. Let's keep working together to share this community respectfully!