

COUNCILLOR WAYE MASON

HALIFAX SOUTH DOWNTOWN DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WINTER/SPRING 2019

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Well, the winter is almost over and spring should be just around the corner! I am sure many of us are looking forward to warmer weather.

This newsletter is packed full of information including a long article about the plan to replace the Cogswell interchange with a new mixed used district, as well as information about timeline to adopting the Centre Plan, access-a-bus changes, taxi regulation changes, traffic calming rules improvements, the francophonie and the 2019/20 budget.

Residents should also be aware of two major projects that will impact all of us this spring and summer, the CN Bridge renovation projects at Quinpool, Marlborough Woods, and Belmont-On-The-Arm, as well as the Coburg Road Water and Wastewater upgrades project. Finally, we have set new dates for our consultation about possible changes to Participatory Budgeting, and moving the vote to the fall.

Thank you and take care,



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING DELAY FOR REVIEW, RETHINK AND REDESIGN

It's been six great years of Participatory Budgeting, and it's time to talk about what changes we may want to see to make it even better. I had hoped to have a meeting last Fall but we ran out of time, so I've decided to have a meeting in May and move the Participatory Budget vote to October 2019.

The program was designed by and for the community, and I want to hear what you think! Please join me Wednesday, May XX, at the library I hope at 7pm.

For more information, please visit <http://wayemason.ca/pb>

MUNICIPAL BUDGET 2019/20 UPDATE

Regional Council has been debating how to spend your tax dollars for the 2019/20 fiscal year at a series of Budget Committee meetings that have been held from January to March.

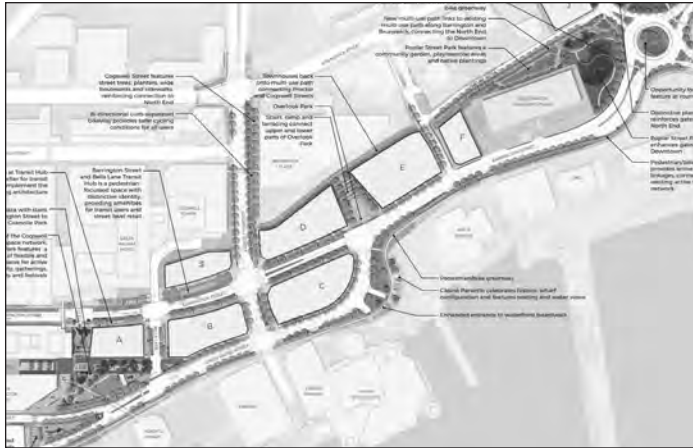
The municipal budget determines spending priorities and service delivery for residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality. As Brent Toderian once said "The truth about a city's aspirations isn't found in its vision. It's found in its budget." Getting the budget right is important!

Council are reviewing presentations for each department and providing direction for their budgets. Council is scheduled to do a final review and approval of the 2019/20 budget on April 2nd starting at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street. The session is open to the public. You can find out more information at <http://halifax.ca/budget> and I am always interest in hearing your thoughts about what our priorities should be.

HALIFAX



THE COGSWELL INTERCHANGE IS COMING DOWN



In February Council approved the plan to remove the interchange.

A new neighbourhood will soon be built – where the Cogswell Interchange now stands – designed to connect downtown with the north end and waterfront, creating a stronger, more inclusive network of communities.

On February 26, 2019 Regional Council approved the 90% construction design plan and gave direction to proceed with tendering construction services for the project.

Council also directed staff to continue with public engagement, utilizing the Public Art policy as appropriate, to finalize placemaking and commemoration aspects of the Cogswell District. In particular, focus will be placed on completing ongoing engagement with the Mi'kmaw and African Nova Scotian communities.

Staff will return to Council with a report regarding timeline, phasing construction to align with other street recapitalization projects, and options to fund the Cogswell Greenway including potential use of development charges on adjacent development sites.

The approved design plan addresses public realm elements including accessibility, public art and commemorative features, parks and open spaces, multi-use paths, streetscapes, and a transit hub for the new neighborhood. It

also details the construction phases for the project. Significant public feedback was used to inform the 90% design. From August through October 2018, input was sought on two topics: public spaces and urban design rules for new buildings in the Cogswell District.



The Northern Gateway at Barrington and Cornwallis looking south

Residents contributed roughly 100 ideas about parks, plazas, streetscapes, greenways, public art, and commemoration of history within the area. Input provided on building designs will help inform next steps with future engagement regarding the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use By-laws (LUB) associated with district. All ideas and feedback are summarized in the Engagement Report prepared by Fowler, Bauld & Mitchell .

In addition to input from a robust public engagement initiative, staff garnered insights from an external review process carried out in partnership with the Downtown Halifax Business Commission, Development Nova Scotia and 13 other key stakeholders. The Cogswell project team and WSP worked with Gehl, an urban design firm, and the stakeholder group for several months on a review of the approved 60 per cent design concept with the goal of identifying potential improvements to the design for the Cogswell District, specifically regarding public realm and building design.

Detailed land use policy, including finalizing the rules that will guide the design and use of buildings in the Cogswell District, will be reviewed and considered in the coming months as part of the MPS and LUB amendment process.

This will include opportunities for public engagement, details of which will be provided by March 31, 2019. The target is to complete the process well in advance of the sale of the first development block.

NEXT STEPS: Staff have been directed by Council to proceed with issuing the deconstruction and construction tender. Awarding of the contract is anticipated by mid-summer, with work targeted to begin in early fall 2019.

Additional information can be found at: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/construction-projects/cogswell-district/cogswell-district-redevelopment>



Granville Square, a new park north of where Granville Mall currently ends.

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Spring/Winter 2019



ACCESS-A-BUS IMPROVEMENTS

Access-A-Bus provides door-to-door transit service for persons who are unable to use the conventional system due to disability. Last month, Regional Council approved the adoption of the Access-A-Bus Continuous Improvement Service Plan which includes investments in new technology, achieving a more adaptable service and the introduction of integrated trips, all contributing to a more efficient, accessible service for passengers. More info: <https://tinyurl.com/y5ex4xvr>

TAXI LEGISLATION AMENDMENTS

Regional Council has approved amendments to the Bylaw and Administrative Order that govern taxis in our municipality. The new amendments aim to address the challenges of safety, zoning, supply and demand and accessibility. The amendments included making 600 more licenses available, eliminating the zoning regulations that confined taxi's to one particular area and making driver training, GPS and debit and credit card machines mandatory.

Feedback from residents and information captured from an extensive consultant's report were used to support and guide these changes. Staff were also directed to proceed with preparing amendments to existing Vehicles for Hire legislation and to explore opportunities to regulate transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft. More info: <https://tinyurl.com/y5wg6vvo>

TRAFFIC CALMING AMENDMENTS

Regional Council has made changes to Administrative Order 2015-004-OP Respecting Traffic Calming which make it easier for streets to qualify for traffic calming measures. We have lowered the speed thresholds necessary to qualify and eliminated the 10-point ranking threshold. For more information visit <https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/streets-sidewalks/traffic-calming-safer-streets>

CELEBRATING THE FRANCOPHONIE

Did you know that 49,575 HRM residents are reported to be bilingual and almost 12,000 people report French as their mother tongue? District 6 has a great francophone community. This month, the Francophone community will be celebrating Journée Internationale de la Francophonie. Created in 1998, this international celebration of the French language and culture takes place on March 20 each year. To learn more information visit <https://acadien.novascotia.ca/en/celebrations>



Planning staff have been working hard to collect your feedback on the Centre Plan through various open houses, events and online. The Centre Plan will take outdated Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws for the Regional Centre and update them into one combined policy and by-law set.

This plan will impact the future development of Dartmouth inside the Circumferential Highway and the Halifax peninsula. This will replace our 40 year old rules with clear, up to date plans that say where we do and do not want development, and what kind of development we want to see.

The legislative review path for the Centre Plan includes review by the six advisory committees, three community councils, two standing committees of Council, and Regional Council, starting April 10 and taking until September or October to complete.

The package should be available for public review the first week of April.

The next draft of the plan is the version that will work its way through the various committees to a public hearing at Council. At this point the process switches from the public engagement we have seen over the last three years to the adoption path, where the public is still encouraged to provide feedback in the form of submissions to the various committees and at the Public Hearing Council will hold.

For more information visit <http://centreplan.ca>

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, apologize for any confusion.

To find out who your councillor is, please visit: eservices.halifax.ca/districtLookup/ or call 311.



HALIFAX



DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2019



CN BRIDGES REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Canadian National Railway (CN) is planning to complete rehabilitation/repairs in 2019 on three cost-shared structures within the municipality at Quinpool Road, Belmont on the Arm and Marlborough Woods. Pending final approval by Regional Council of the 2019/20 capital program (Belmont on the Arm and Marlborough Woods) and the cost-sharing agreements with CN, the

work will include: Rehabilitation to the arch bridge structures (responsibility of CN); Full replacement of the paved surface and railing at each location; sidewalks at Quinpool and Marlborough will also be replaced. Belmont-on-the-arm is not wide enough and will continue to not have a sidewalk.

The nature of the work requires that the three bridges be closed for the duration of the CN Bridges Rehabilitation Project. Once work commences, motorists should expect traffic delays on routes normally requiring access to and from the CN bridges at Quinpool Road, Belmont on the Arm and Marlborough Woods. The work on Quinpool Road will take place April 1 to mid-August 2019, and for Belmont on the Arm & Marlborough Woods anticipated that the work to be completed at the Belmont and Marlborough locations will occur in 2019. For more information visit: <https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/transportation-projects/cn-bridges-rehabilitation-project>

COBURG ROAD WATER AND WASTEWATER UPGRADES

This spring, Halifax Water will be upgrading infrastructure on Coburg Road between Oxford Street and the CN Rail Bridge. Halifax Water's work will include a new water main on Coburg Road, and upgrades to the water and sewer system in the intersection of Oxford Street and Coburg Road. This work is anticipated to be complete by June 17, 2019.

In order to continue access for residents who use lower Coburg Road, a temporary single lane road will be constructed connecting Waegwoltic Avenue and Coburg Road. This road will be open during critical points of the project when access via Oxford Street cannot be maintained. The trail will be reinstated upon completion of the work to current urban trail standards. Additional Information can be found at <https://www.halifax.ca/home-property/halifax-water/about-your-water/capital-projects/coburg-road-water-wastewater-upgrades>

CONTACT US

311 CONTACT CENTRE

Call 311 or visit halifax.ca/311 to report a municipal issue.

The contact centre is open 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday except Christmas & New Year's Day.

CALL MY OFFICE

Contact the Council Support Office call 902.490.4050 or email nooyela@halifax.ca

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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

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Police non-emergency: 902.490.5020
Fire non-emergency: 902.490.5530
Halifax Water emergency: 902.490.6940
Councillor Support Office: 902.490.4050



Spent a week in November with Betty MacDonald (ED NSFM) and Councillor Walker meeting MPs and Senators in Ottawa on behalf of NS municipalities, including MP Andy Filmore.



As President of Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities I get to speak to many municipal councils, like in January when I presented to Cape Breton Regional Council.



My two year term on the Board of Police Commissioners ended in December. It was an honour working with Chief Blais (HRP), Chair Steve Craig, and Chief Superintendent Bergerman (RCMP).