

# Online Information Session Format

**7:00 PM – 7:05 PM** | Introduction of staff and welcoming attendees to the session.

**7:05 PM – 7:30 PM** | Halifax Water staff give a presentation about stormwater service.

**7:30 PM – 8:00 PM** | Respond to typed questions submitted via the Q&A function in GoToWebinar, the online platform being used to host this session.

**8:00 PM – 9:00 PM** | Give members of the public who have used the “Raise Hand” function the ability to turn on their microphone and ask questions directly.

**The session will end once all typed and spoken questions/comments have been addressed.**

Please note: We request everyone be respectful in making with comments/posing questions. **Any use of disrespectful language will result in that member of the public being muted for the remainder of the session.**

Please note: This meeting is being recorded and may be published online.

**Please do not provide personal information that you do not wish to be published online.**

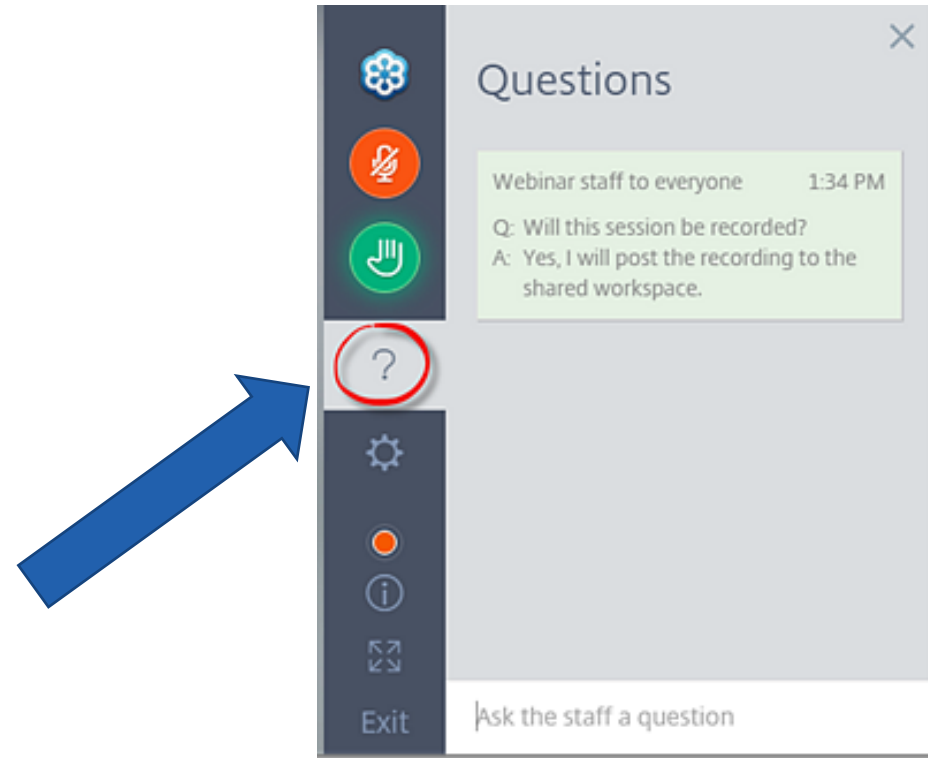


# How do I submit a typed question?

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Staff will respond to typed questions after the presentation.

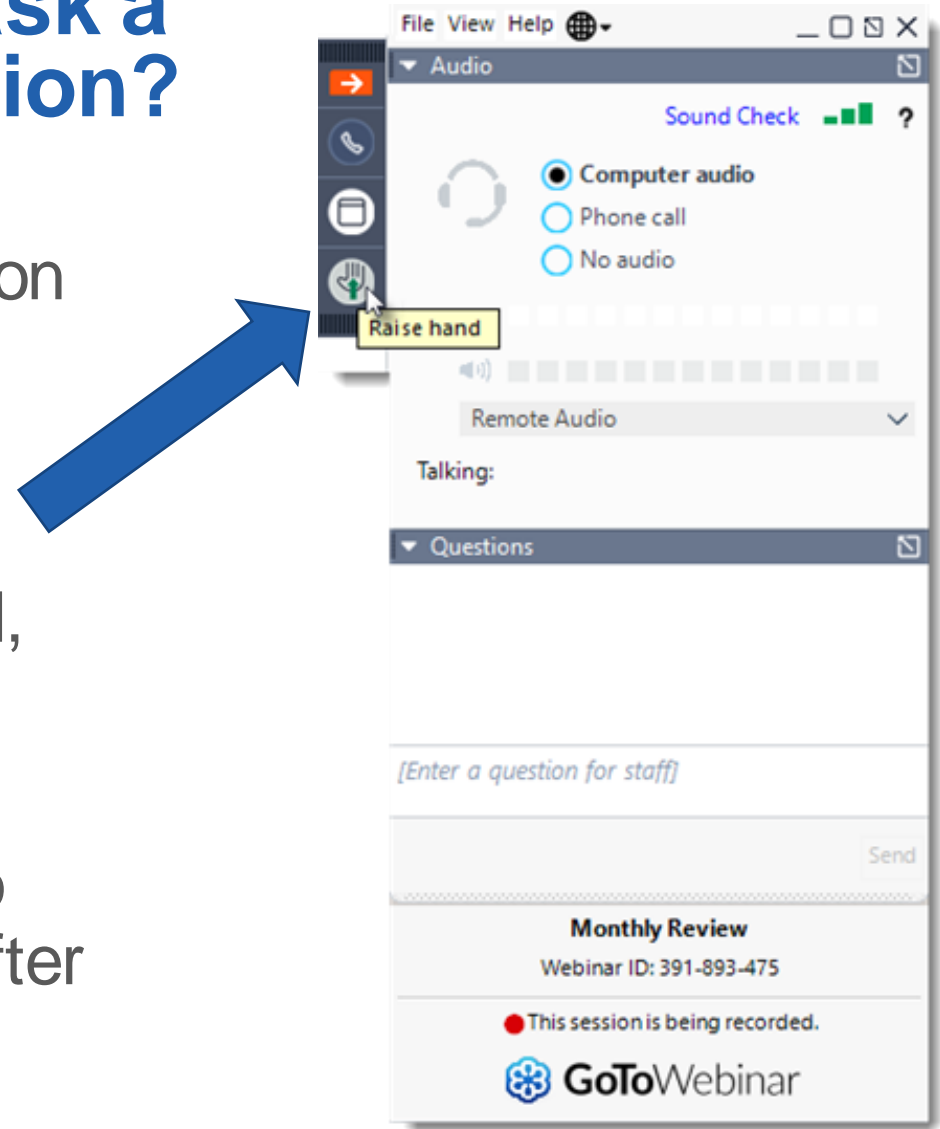


# How do I raise my hand to ask a question after the presentation?

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Staff will grant microphone access to those attendees with raised hands after the presentation.

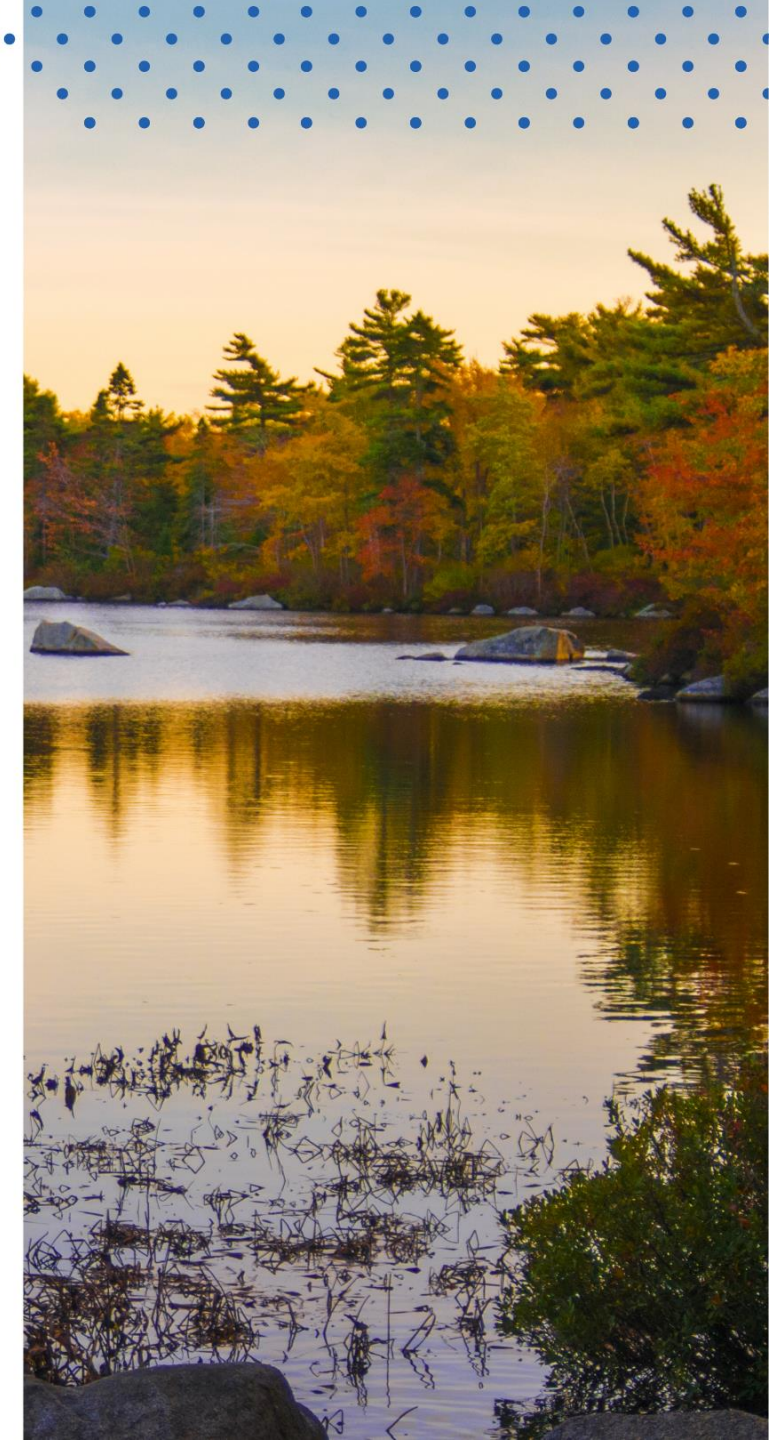




# Public Information Session Stormwater Expansion - Update

Stormwater Management Expansion

**STRAIGHT from  
the SOURCE**



# Why is Halifax Water responsible for stormwater management?

**2007**

HRM transferred responsibility for wastewater and stormwater services to Halifax Water, to ensure service was properly funded and could be effectively managed and upgraded as required for residents.

The Halifax Water Stormwater Service Boundary originates from road ownership boundaries set between the Province and HRM. This is in accordance with a Road Transfer Agreement (titled HRM-01) between HRM and the Province, which was signed in 1996.

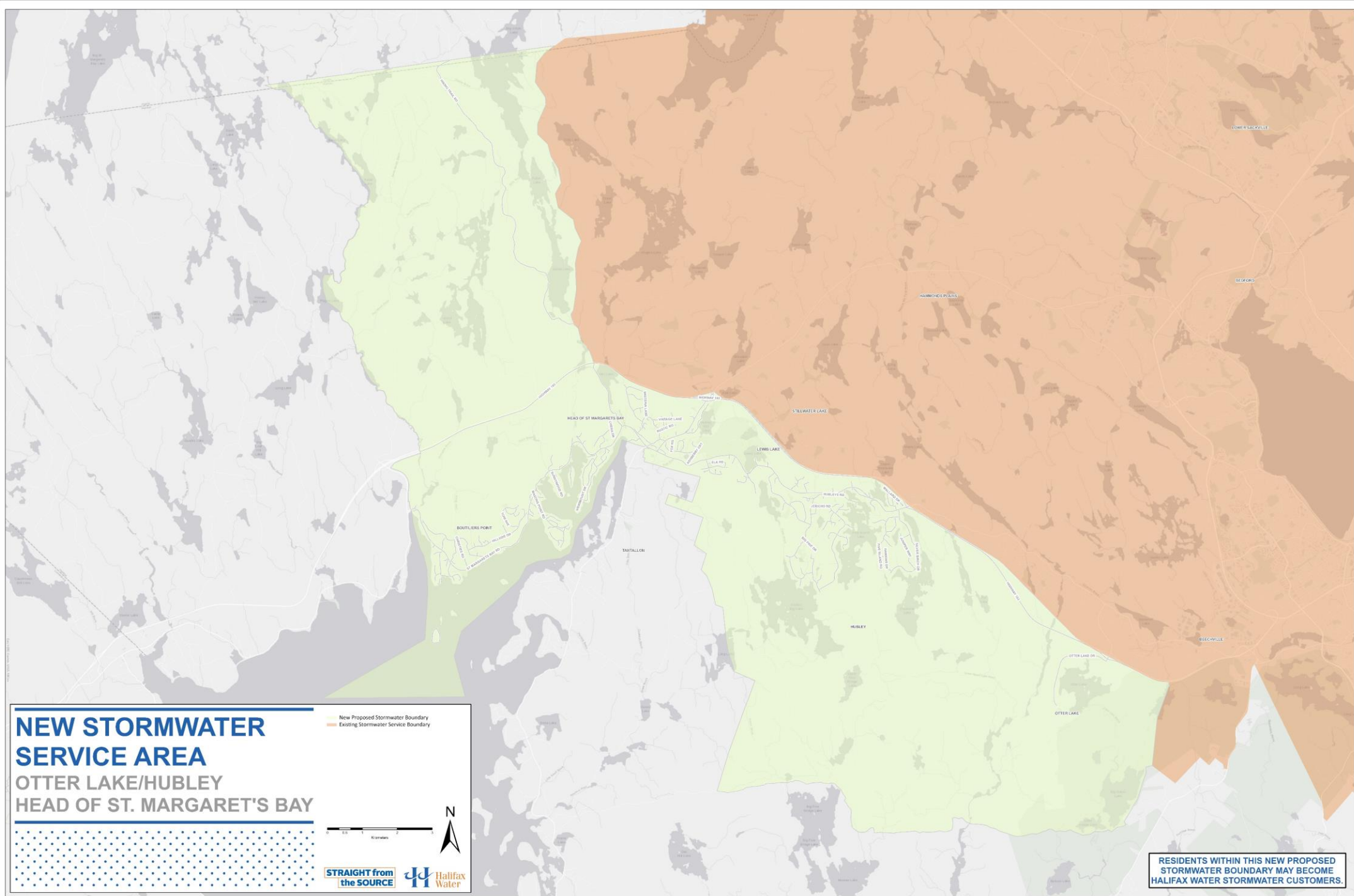
**July 2021**

Halifax Regional Council approved acceptance of additional roads from the Province and requested that Halifax Water assume responsibility for delivery of stormwater service.

**June 1, 2022**

NSUARB approved (April 13, 2022) the transfer of assets and responsibility, Halifax Water began providing stormwater service in the expanded areas 1 & 4.





**NEW STORMWATER SERVICE AREA**  
**OTTER LAKE/HUBLEY**  
**HEAD OF ST. MARGARET'S BAY**

Legend:  
New Proposed Stormwater Boundary (Light Green)  
Existing Stormwater Service Boundary (Orange)

Scale: 0 1000 2000 Meters

STRAIGHT from the SOURCE Halifax Water

RESIDENTS WITHIN THIS NEW PROPOSED STORMWATER BOUNDARY MAY BECOME HALIFAX WATER STORMWATER CUSTOMERS.

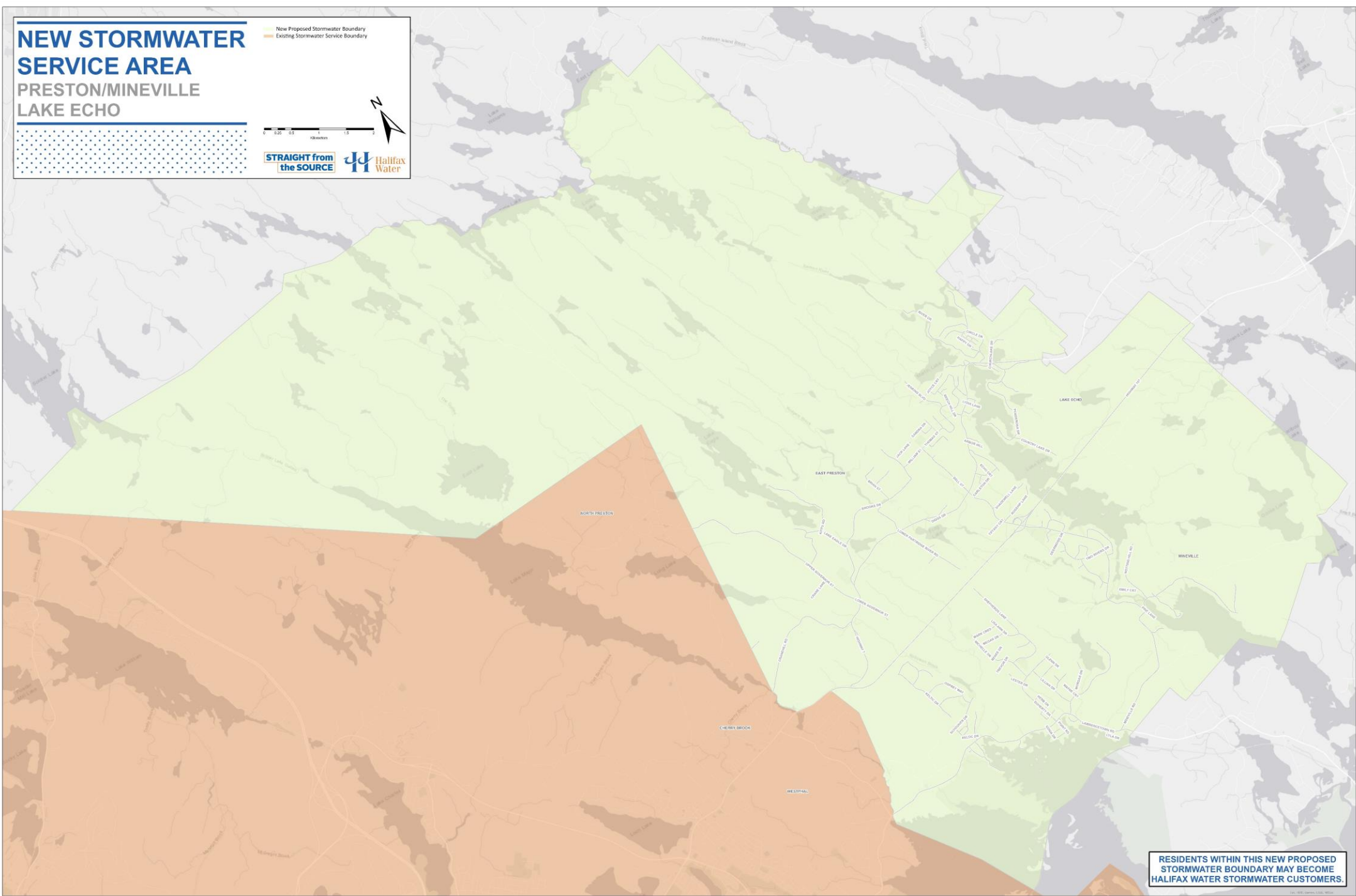
# NEW STORMWATER SERVICE AREA PRESTON/MINEVILLE LAKE ECHO

New Proposed Stormwater Boundary  
Existing Stormwater Service Boundary

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometers



STRAIGHT from the SOURCE Halifax Water



RESIDENTS WITHIN THIS NEW PROPOSED STORMWATER BOUNDARY MAY BECOME HALIFAX WATER STORMWATER CUSTOMERS.

# What is Halifax Water's role and why charge rates?

- Halifax Water is an integrated water utility that operates as a not-for-profit and is regulated by the NSUARB.
- HRM transferred wastewater and stormwater responsibility to Halifax Water in 2007.
- As a result, Halifax Water is obligated to provide stormwater service and accept assets when provincial road infrastructure is transferred to HRM.
- Halifax Water is required to recover costs for provision of each of its specific services. There can be no cross subsidizing of services.



# How has Halifax Water communicated with property owners about this proposed stormwater service expansion?

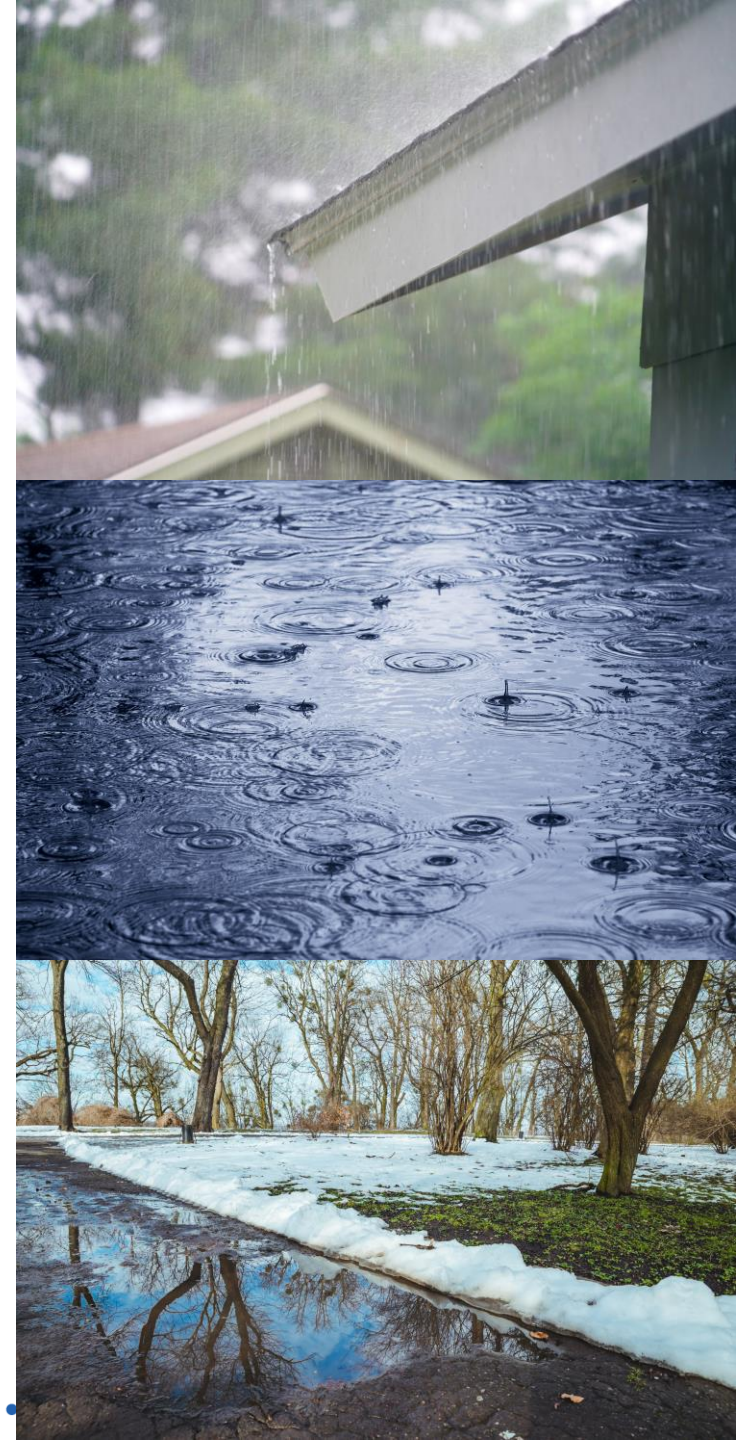
October 13, 2021	Halifax Water submitted a public application to the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board (NSUARB).
Late October 2021	Halifax Water notified property owners within the impacted areas via addressed letters.
November 2021	Letters were sent to all property owners within the impacted areas inviting them to in-person public information sessions.  Newspaper ads and geotargeted Facebook ads were also used to promote these events.
November & December 2021	Four in-person public information sessions were held in the communities of Boutiliers Point, Ingraport, Head of St Margarets Bay, Lewis Lake, Hubley and Upper Tantallon.  Four in-person public information sessions were held in the communities of East Preston, Lake Echo, Mineville, and the western areas of Lawrencetown.
February 2022	Online public information sessions were held in February 2022. More information is available at <a href="https://www.halifaxwater.ca/stormwater-expansion">halifaxwater.ca/stormwater-expansion</a>
October 2022	Letters were sent to residents of expansion area notifying about their service status.
January – March 2023	Property owners who were notified that they would become customers received their first Halifax Water stormwater bill.



## What is stormwater?

Is precipitation of all kinds, and includes rain, melting snow and ice, groundwater discharge and surface water.

Stormwater runs off from impervious surfaces such as roofs, parking lots, driveways, and other hard surfaces.



# Why does stormwater management matter?

Hard surfaces such as pavement, packed gravel and roofs prevent precipitation from naturally soaking into the ground.

Without proper management, runoff from these impervious areas can cause flooding and damage to public and private property & infrastructure during precipitation events.

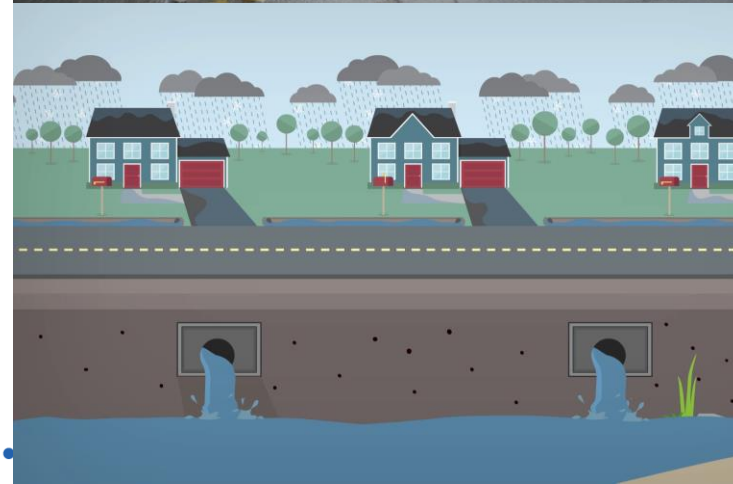
Climate change increases this risk.



# What is stormwater management?

Designing, operating, and maintaining stormwater systems that control and reduce the impacts of rainwater or melted snow runoff into streets, lawns/yards and other sites.

During precipitation events, the ground may become saturated with water or frozen. This creates excess runoff from hard surfaces. This water eventually runs into our streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, or the ocean.



# Ways Halifax Water provides stormwater services

The Halifax Water serves 10's of thousands of customers through stormwater systems consisting of:



**602 km  
of Ditches**



**17,556  
Culverts**



**46  
Retention  
ponds &  
Holding  
Tanks**



**24,695  
Catchbasins**



**1,140 km  
of Pipe**



# What is the value for Halifax Water stormwater customers?

Stormwater must be managed to protect your property, public infrastructure (e.g., roads) and the environment.

Halifax Water Stormwater Service is designed to ensure the flow of water is managed and customers are protected. This includes:

- Routine inspections of the system
- Monitoring for and removal of any blockages
- Conducting necessary repairs in ditches and culverts (inclusive of driveway culverts).



# Who is responsible for what?



On June 1, 2022, Halifax Water became responsible for the efficient flow of stormwater through the stormwater system in the expansion areas.

**Halifax Water is not responsible for the cosmetic grooming of ditches. Halifax Water is responsible for vegetation in a ditch that obstructs water flow.**



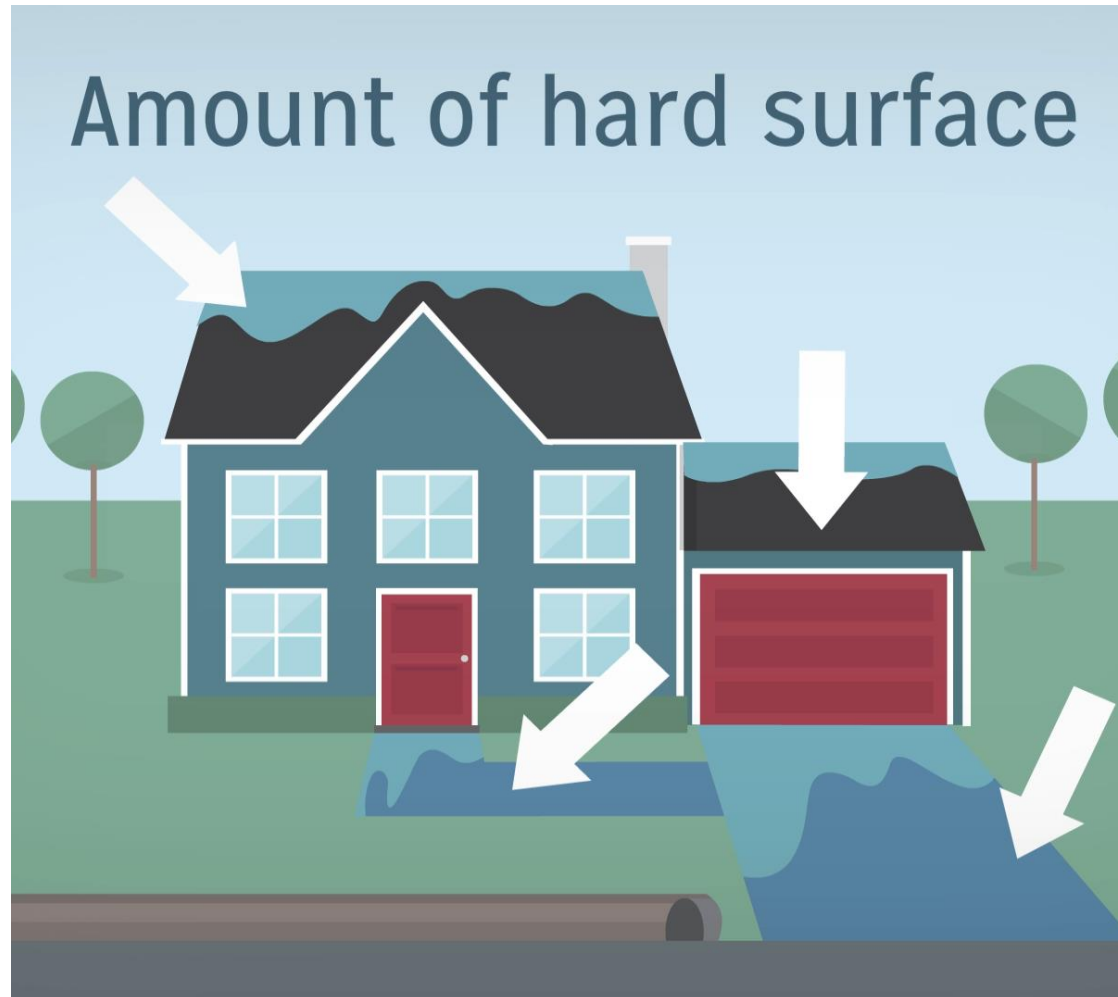
On June 1, 2022, HRM became responsible for:

- roads
- bridges
- roadside access
- road visibility/sight-lines at intersections, near signs, and around curves
- other non-stormwater assets in the right-of-way

**The municipality is responsible for vegetation in a ditch if it obstructs the right of way, or if it causes a visibility issue within the right of way.**



## What is an impervious area?



Hard surfaces that do not absorb water the same way that more natural surfaces do, such as ***roofs, asphalt, concrete, and packed gravel.***



## Where does the stormwater flow go?

If stormwater flows from a property to the stormwater system, that property receives stormwater service (regardless of whether or not there is a ditch along the property.)



# Stormwater Rates

<b>Residential Rates</b>		<b>Rates before Dec. 1, 2022</b>		<b>Rates as of Dec. 1, 2022</b>		<b>Current Rates as of Apr. 1, 2023</b>	
		Annual Halifax Water Site-Related Flow (SRF) Charge	Annual HRM Right of Way (ROW) Charge	Annual Halifax Water Site-Related Flow (SRF) Charge	Annual HRM Right of Way (ROW) Charge	Annual Halifax Water Site-Related Flow (SRF) Charge	Annual HRM Right of Way (ROW) Charge
Tier	Total Impervious Area on Property						
Tier 1	Less than 50m <sup>2</sup>	\$0 /year	\$0 /year	\$0 /year	\$0 /year	\$0 /year	Per a decision by Halifax Regional Council, the HRM ROW charge moved from Halifax Water bills to the municipal tax bill on April 1, 2023.
Tier 2	50m <sup>2</sup> to 200m <sup>2</sup>	\$14 /year	\$40 /year	\$16 /year	\$40 /year	\$19 /year	
Tier 3	210m <sup>2</sup> to 400m <sup>2</sup>	\$27 /year	\$40 /year	\$32 /year	\$40 /year	\$38 /year	
Tier 4	410m <sup>2</sup> to 800m <sup>2</sup>	\$54 /year	\$40 /year	\$64 /year	\$40 /year	\$76 /year	
Tier 5	Greater than 810m <sup>2</sup>	\$81 /year	\$40 /year	\$96 /year	\$40 /year	\$115 /year	
Culvert Only	Less than 50m <sup>2</sup>	\$14 /year	\$40 /year	\$16 /year	\$40 /year	\$19 /year	

## Commercial Rates

Impervious Area	Greater than 50m <sup>2</sup>	\$0.135 /m <sup>2</sup>	\$40 /year	\$0.145 /m <sup>2</sup>	\$40 /year	\$0.173 /m <sup>2</sup>	See above.
Culvert Only	Less than 50m <sup>2</sup>	\$14 /year	\$40 /year	\$16 /year	\$40 /year	\$19 /year	

# How are property owners charged?



Stormwater Charge	\$
HRM Right of Way Charge	\$
<hr/>	
	\$\$

## ● Site-Related Flow (SRF) charge

- Charged by Halifax Water.
- The SRF charge currently ranges from \$19 to \$115 annually.

## ● \*HRM Right-of-Way (ROW) charge

- Charged by HRM, collected on Halifax Water stormwater bills.

- Halifax Water currently collects this \$40 annual charge on behalf of HRM.

- \*Effective April 1, 2023, per a decision by Halifax Regional Council, the HRM ROW charge will be moving from Halifax Water bills to the municipal tax bill.

Learn more at [halifaxwater.ca/ROW](https://halifaxwater.ca/ROW).

## HRM ROW Charge - Overview

- Between 2014 and 2016 and since 2017, Halifax Water has collected a Right-of-Way (ROW) charge on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM).
- In May 2022, Halifax Regional Council voted to move this charge to the municipal tax bill. This change became effective on April 1, 2023, and the charge will first appear on the municipality's October 2023 final tax bill.
- The first bill that the residents of expansion areas received from Halifax Water, will have the prorated HRM ROW charge from June 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023. This charge will no longer be on Halifax Water bills from April 1, 2023, onwards.
- If your billing period begins on or after April 1, 2023, you will see no HRM ROW charge on your Halifax Water bill.
- Halifax Water will continue to collect the Stormwater (Site-Related Flow) charge.

# Does this mean water service or wastewater (sewer) service is coming to my area?

No.

Stormwater service is unrelated to water service or wastewater service.

HRM is responsible for extending water or wastewater service into developed communities. Requests for water or wastewater service extensions should be sent to your district councillor.



**My property is on a private road. I do not have any public road frontage.**

**Could I still become a customer?**

Yes.

If stormwater travels from your property and eventually into stormwater infrastructure managed by Halifax Water, such as a ditch or a culvert, you are a Halifax Water customer.

If the private road drains to the Halifax Water stormwater infrastructure, it will be considered as receiving service as well.



# I don't have a ditch or culvert. Could I still become a customer?

Yes.

If stormwater travels from your property and eventually to a piece of stormwater infrastructure managed by Halifax Water, such as a ditch or a culvert, you are a Halifax Water customer.

It is important to note that the frontage of your property is not used to determine whether or not you receive stormwater service from Halifax Water.



# Water from my property flows directly to a lake or the ocean. Could I still become a customer?

If no stormwater from your property drains through any Halifax Water infrastructure at any point, you are not a customer and, therefore, will not be billed **unless** you have a driveway culvert within the street ROW. In which case, you would be charged the annual culvert-only service charge (currently \$19/year) and the annual HRM ROW charge\*.

\*Effective April 1, 2023, per a decision by Halifax Regional Council, the HRM ROW charge will be moving from Halifax Water bills to the municipal tax bill. Learn more at [halifaxwater.ca/ROW](https://www.halifaxwater.ca/ROW).



# Will I see a reduction in my taxes?

- Provincial income taxes are set by the Province
- Property taxes are established by the Municipality.
- The transfer of infrastructure is the result of an agreement between the Province and HRM.
- These service exchanges have occurred in the past (previously in 2006 – and this one 2022)
- No funding for stormwater service is being transferred to HRM or Halifax Water.
- Other municipalities pay the Province for road maintenance on provincial roads within their region.
- As part of amalgamation, HRM was exempt from these costs, provided the municipality assumed responsibility for roads once the community reached a specified density.

# What will Halifax Water do in Providing Stormwater Service

- Our primary goal is to ensure the stormwater system continues to function and to avoid damage to roads and private property
- If stormwater infrastructure is working properly and does not jeopardize roads, driveways and private property, little will change.
- We will operate and maintain the existing infrastructure.
- If an area of the system is not functioning as intended/designed, we will investigate and conduct the necessary maintenance.
- If an area has a water run-off/ponding problem, Halifax Water and HRM will investigate, the appropriate agency will undertake any required work.



# What if I disagree with Halifax Water?

You can contact us, and staff will review your property file with you directly.

We have a formal appeals (Notice of Objection) process in place. If you have been notified that you are a customer or received a bill, you have the right to appeal.

The first step is contacting Halifax Water.

The details of this process are available at:

**[www.halifaxwater.ca/contact-us#concerns](http://www.halifaxwater.ca/contact-us#concerns)**.



# Timeline – What has happened to date

July 16, 2021	Proposed transfer of Roads from Province to HRM.
July 20, 2021	HRM Council approves transfer.
September 2021	Halifax Water staff conduct preliminary assessments of infrastructure.
October 13, 2021	Halifax Water submitted an application to the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board (NSUARB).
Late October 2021	Halifax Water notified property owners within the impacted areas via addressed letters.
November 2021 - Ongoing	Halifax Water will conduct a comprehensive assessment of stormwater flows and infrastructure in these new areas.
November 2021	Letters were sent to all property owners within the impacted areas inviting them to in-person public information sessions. Newspaper ads and geotargeted Facebook ads were also used to promote these events.
November/December 2021	Four in-person public information sessions were held in the communities of Boutiliers Point, Ingramport, Head of St Margarets Bay, Lewis Lake, Hubley and Upper Tantallon. Four in-person public information sessions were held in the communities of East Preston, Lake Echo, Mineville, and the western areas of Lawrencetown.
January 2022	Letters were sent to all property owners within the impacted areas inviting them to sign up online to be notified when virtual public information session(s) have been scheduled. Newspaper ads were also used to promote this change to virtual sessions. These letters and newspaper ads also included a focus on the deadline to submit a Letter of Comment to the NSUARB regarding this proposed stormwater service expansion.
February 2, 2022	Letters of Comment to the NSUARB from anyone wishing to make comments were filed with the NSUARB.



# Timeline – What has happened to date

February 3 & 7, 2022	Virtual public information sessions were scheduled. Recordings of these meetings are available to the public at <a href="https://halifaxwater.ca/stormwater-expansion"><u>halifaxwater.ca/stormwater-expansion</u></a>
June 1, 2022	Halifax Water began providing stormwater service in the expanded area.
October 2022	Halifax Water contacted all property owners in the expansion areas to let them know if their property has been deemed to receive stormwater service from Halifax Water.
January – April 2023	The first stormwater service bills was delivered to those property owners who were determined to receive stormwater service from Halifax Water.

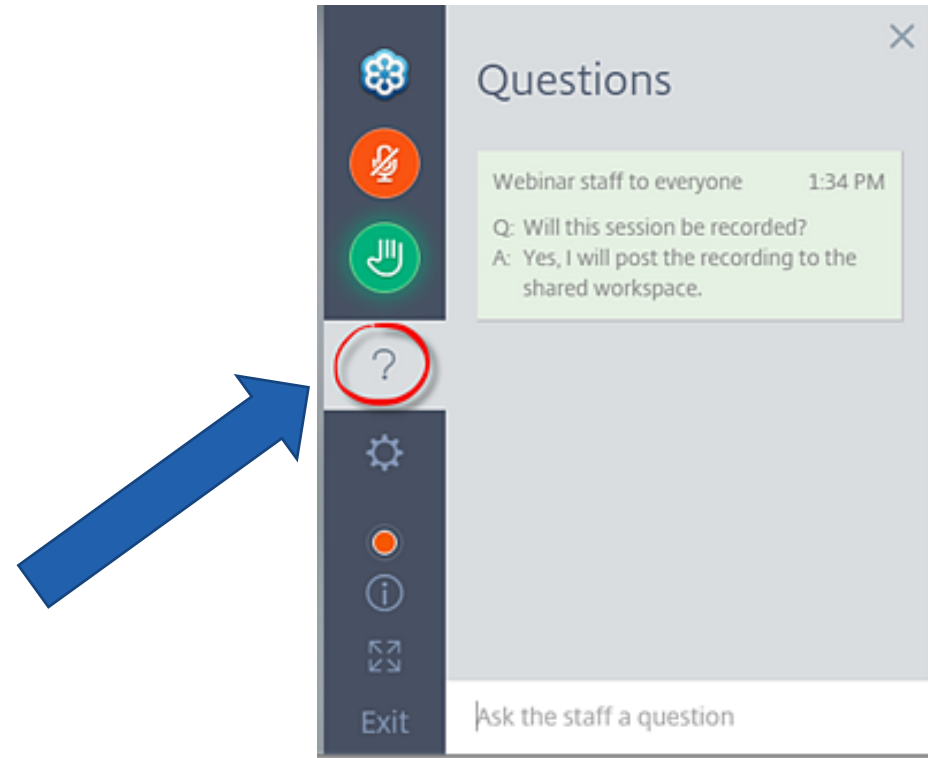
*Questions*

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