

H.R.M. District 3 Councillor's Communique - April 2010 - Issue # 149

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

We have a rich history of volunteering and community involvement. Volunteers are on the front lines of all of our community services : community health care, heritage and arts, maintenance of green space, disaster relief, volunteer firefighting, community protection, recreation, minor sports, etc. - the list is endless. National Volunteer Week (NVW) pays tribute to the millions of Canadian volunteers who donate their time and energy. NVW is the biggest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism this country has. This year, National Volunteer Week is from April 18th to April 24th, 2010. An annual campaign has been created to help organizations and individuals to deliver their own NVW celebrations. To help you say "thank you" to volunteers, Volunteer Canada has developed a wealth of resources and products (posters, postcards, volunteer recognition materials) that can be accessed through their one-stop-shop web-site: www.nvw-sab.ca . Canadians, from individuals to organizations that work with volunteers, are invited to submit photos and videos that recognize volunteerism. Go to the NVW home page to upload them online. Here are some other web-sites you can explore to find the products and resources to deliver your own volunteer recognition celebration : www.recreationns.ns.ca/volunteerawards & www.halifax.ca/volunteerservices/ .

BUSY BEE EXPANSION REQUEST

Busy-Bee Day Care is hoping to enlarge its operations and they have requested that their adjoining property be re-zoned to permit this commercial expansion. There will be a Public Hearing of the Marine Drive, Valley & Canal Community Council on Thursday, April 1st at 7 PM at the Lake Echo Community Centre.

FIRE SEASON ABOUT TO BEGIN

Due to last winter's dryness and an early warm Spring, HRM had to invoke an early ban on all open fires. Normally, on April 15th, the fire season officially begins, whereby burning permits will be required. Provincial Burning Permits can be obtained from the local NS Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) offices and some HRM Fire Stations. Domestic burning permits cost \$5.60. Industrial permits cost \$56.04. For more information about Provincial Burning Permits; www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestprotection/wildfire/burning-permits.asp Municipal Burning Permits are required all year round and can be obtained at any HRM Fire Station in District 3. For more details, go to HRM web-site: www.halifax.ca/fire/BurningBylaw.html Please follow all instructions and rules of conduct as outlined on those Burning Permits. For more safety tips and information about open-air burning: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/protection/wildfire/safe_debris.html . Please be respectful to fellow neighbours when you want to burn. Do not do any open-air burning if there is any laundry hung out to dry nearby or close to any homes with indoor-outdoor air & heat exchange units. Best be cognizant of those with health conditions that can be impacted by environmental smoke. Please be careful !

CELEBRATE 40th EARTH DAY

This year Earth Day 2010 is celebrating its 40th anniversary with events planned globally for the week of April 17th - 25th. It's a time to celebrate gains we have made and create new visions to accelerate environmental progress. Earth Day, in fact every day should be a time to act to protect our planet. See

what you can do on April 22nd at www.earthday.net

NEW SCHOOL OPEN-HOUSE

On Thursday, April 22nd at 7 PM, there will be a Public Open-house at the Porters Lake's Lakeview School to introduce and preview the plans for a new elementary school and enhanced Community Centre. This will be a joint public meeting, hosted by Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB), the Province & HRM. As reported back in November 2009 (Issue #144) we did a region-wide public consultation about what types of community facilities will be constructed in the future whereby joint-use partnerships could be a possibility. HRM has approved \$3.3 Million for doing enhancements to the new \$11 Million replacement school that will include an enlarged gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, fitness studio, separate washrooms & showers with lockers, additional storage and support office space. The school/centre opening should be by September 2011.

2010 HRM INTERIM TAX BILLS

HRM invoices tax bills to all property owners twice a year. The Interim bill has been mailed in mid-March and will be due by April 30th. The Final bill will be due by October 31st. If you have any queries about your tax bill, please call the HRM Call Centre at 490-4 0 0 0 0 r www.halifax.ca/revenue/tax/taxmain.html

*Happy
Easter*