



DISTRICT 5 NEWS

Dartmouth Centre - Halifax Regional Municipality

Gloria McCluskey, Councillor - District 5

Winter 2007



Dear Residents of District 5



It is hard to believe that we are almost into 2008.

This was a very busy year for me but I enjoyed working for you. Most of you know that I was thrown a curve ball in April when I had to undergo open heart surgery to repair a leaky heart valve. However, all went well, and I want to thank the residents who offered prayers for me, sent cards, e-mails, flowers and fruit baskets! I am so grateful. You were partly responsible for my rapid recovery, along with the wonderful doctors and great nurses in the ICU. Thank you for your patience during my recovery.

I attended a public meeting on the Mayor's Task Force on Violence and some residents expressed concern that they didn't know what numbers to call when they wanted to contact Police, so I decided to have "policing" as the theme for this newsletter. I hope you find the information helpful.

Season's Greetings and best wishes to you and your families for a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve you.



How to Contact Me

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HRM General Information

490-4000
Seven days a week
7:00am - 11:00pm
General information is also
available on the internet at:
www.halifax.ca



Meet Seamore the Turtle who appeared in June 2007. Seamore is just one example of the fine work of the HRM Dartmouth Horticulture staff. Special thanks to those who worked on this project: Debbie Mason-Bourque, Peggy Conrod, Miles Fleet, Mike MacPhee, Christine Carroll, Jill Burke, Elizabeth Burns, Chad Barkhouse, David Robson, Sue Dexter, Adam Griffiths, Corey Ford, Amaro DaSilva



Art Unveiling - Maitland Street

Mayor Peter Kelly and Councillor McCluskey took part in the unveiling and judging of the work of local artists. These murals represent some of the largest Wall Murals created under the Public Art Program of HRM and are certainly an improvement to the area.



Policing



The responsibility for policing the urban core of HRM lies with Halifax Regional Police. It is divided into three geographic areas or Divisions; the area commonly referred to as Dartmouth is the East Division. As each area has its own specific environment and demographic composition, it is assigned its own Divisional

Office led by the Divisional Commander and supported by Community Response Officers and the Quick Response Unit.

Divisional Commander

Staff Sergeant Don MacLean,
Phone 490-5172; E-mail macleado@halifax.ca
Office location - Eric Spicer Bldg, 21 Mount Hope Avenue.

Community Response Officer



Cst Philip MacKenzie,
Phone 229-3062; E-mail
mackenh@halifax.ca

Cst MacKenzie has been a police officer with Halifax Regional Police for 8 years, the majority of his service as a uniform patrol officer in Dartmouth. His role as Community Response Officer, the public face of Halifax

Regional Police in our community, makes him a consistent point of contact. He will become intimately familiar with the issues and concerns and will be an invaluable resource in effectively addressing local problems.

Quick Response Unit

Halifax Regional Police has recently dedicated a 'Quick Response Unit' to each of its Patrol Divisions. The focus of the Quick Response Unit is to tackle disorder and quality-of-life concerns as they arise in a particular community. Comprised of a supervising Sergeant and six Constables, this unit has the ability to work in uniform or plain clothes, depending on the task at hand.

The team has made many significant arrests and laid numerous charges for robbery, vehicle thefts, theft from vehicles and court order violations. The team also plays a pivotal role in ensuring that persons who have been charged with criminal offences and are bound by court-imposed conditions, such as house arrest or curfews, are complying with those conditions or face further consequences.

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act

The Nova Scotia Government passed new legislation on January 7, 2007 - The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act, which improves community safety by targeting and shutting down residential and commercial buildings and land being used for illegal activities such as producing, selling or using illegal drugs, prostitution, illegal gaming or the unlawful sale or consumption of alcohol.

The Public Safety Investigation Section, composed of 5 former police officers, has handled over 100 complaints. In a number of cases, they have proven that illegal activities were occurring and the surrounding neighbourhood was adversely affected. They have evicted people from 22 addresses.

The Gentleman's Massage Club at **70 Windmill Road** was one of the most successful investigations conducted to date. This address has been the subject of long standing complaints in this community as well as a number of criminal charges relating to prostitution. Through investigation and the cooperation of members of the community and Councillor McCluskey, an application was brought before the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia to have the business shut down for 90 days. Prior to the decision of the court, the owner decided to sell the business and a declaration was received from the new owner that the building would be renovated and utilized for residential purposes.

This represents a great relief for the surrounding community and neighbourhood and a success for the Public Safety Investigation Section.

CityWatch

City Watch is a telephone messaging system which allows a recorded message to be sent out to multiple recipients at one time -- an average of 72 calls per minute. Any resident, organization or business located within Halifax Regional Municipality can, free of charge, receive information through City Watch.

Some of the uses of City Watch within HRM include notifying groups involved with: ground search and rescue, neighbourhood watch operation, military recalls, emergency measures notifications, crime alerts, weather related safety and community policing initiatives.

If you require more information, **contact Cst. Beth MacLeod at 237-0069**

When should you call the Police? What number should you call?

Whenever you observe suspicious events, call. Never assume someone else will; the Police Department would rather receive numerous calls on the same incident than none at all.

Often citizens are uncertain that what they see or hear is suspicious. If you are in doubt, call the police immediately. Don't wait to talk it over with someone else. Don't be concerned about bothering the Police -- you won't be. Don't worry about your call proving to be unfounded. Instead, think what could happen if you don't call.

Emergency Life threatening situations and crimes in progress (break and enters, robberies, assaults, property damage - graffiti, thefts from motor vehicles, injury motor vehicle accidents)	911
Non-Emergency Crimes after the fact, suspicious people or vehicles, public intoxication, loitering, vehicle parked for longer than 24 hours, loud disturbing noises, unruly house parties. Incidents of this nature require a police officer to respond in a non-emergency manner.	490-5020
Telephone Reports Crimes not in progress and those that do not require a police officer to respond. A report taker will file your report over the telephone.	490-5016
Volunteer Programs Neighbourhood Watch, and City Watch Coordinator, Cst Beth MacLeod Citizens on Patrol, email burnssh@halifax.ca	237-0069 490-6976
Divisional Commander - Staff Sergeant Don MacLean, E-mail macleado@halifax.ca	490-5172
Community Response Officer - Cst Philip MacKenzie, E-mail mackenph@halifax.ca	229-3062
HRM Call Centre 7:00AM to 11:00PM everyday (except New Year's day and Christmas day) General Information is also available on the internet at www.halifax.ca	490-4000

Neighbourhood Watch - What is it?

The Neighbourhood Watch Program is comprised of concerned citizens who communicate with their neighbours and police regarding crime and safety-related problems.

There are many benefits:

Awareness - Safety is enhanced when residents become more aware of the threat of crime and reduce the opportunities for criminals to act.

Reporting - Residents are more aware of who belongs in the neighbourhood and are more inclined to report suspicious persons and activities.

Warning to criminals - Neighbourhood watch signs warn criminals they are in a neighbourhood whose residents participate in the program.

Access to crime data - Members are informed about crime trends and suggestions on how to deal with them.

Arrests and Convictions - Increased reporting to police creates greater opportunities to respond and apprehend "the bad guys."

Empowerment - Knowledge empowers communities to react to problems that affect them resulting in a peaceful existence by reducing the fear of crime.

How to sign up:

If you're interested in becoming involved with the Neighbourhood Watch program and don't know who the Captain is for your area, call the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Cst Beth MacLeod at 237-0069.

Capital Budget - District 5 Projects

If you are unhappy because your street didn't get repaved this year, or your sidewalk wasn't replaced, rest assured I will be pushing again for our share of the next Capital Budget. It is never enough because many of the streets, sidewalks, and curbs are in need of replacement, but we did get a number of projects approved this year.

- Curb Renewal - sections of Celtic Dr and Guy St.
- Paving Renewal - Hillside Avenue - Lyngby to Crichton, Elliot St. - Erskine St to Prince Albert Rd, Charles St. - Frederick St. to End
- Resurfacing - Thistle St. - Crichton Park to Maple St, King Street - Portland to Alderney
- Retaining Wall - Tulip Street - Pine to Maple
- Beckfoot Drive - Pumping Station
- Sewer - Elliot St. - Erskine St to Prince Albert Rd.
- Sewer Laterals - Charles St. - Frederick St. to End; Tulip Street - Pine to Maple
- Sidewalk Renewals - Charles St. - Frederick to End S
Tulip Street - Pine to Maple N
Elliot St. - Erskine to Prince Albert W
View Street - Murray Hill to Hyland N
Tulip Street - Pine to Maple S
Hillside Avenue - Lyngby to Mt. Pleasant W
Canal St. - Portland to Value Village north E
Queen Street - Dundas to Victoria N
Charles St. - Frederick to End N
- Storm and Wastewater - Hillside Avenue - Lyngby to Crichton - Charles St. - Frederick St. to End
- Surface Sealing: Hawthorne St. - Prince Albert to Sinclair St., Canterbury St. - Medford to Camden, Nowlan St. - Prince Albert to End, Hawthorne St. - Sinclair St. to Erskine St., Lyngby Ave. - Hillside - Crichton Park,
- Thin Overlay of Asphalt: Overdale Lane - Civic #10 to Guy St., Chittick Ave. - Curley Ave to Jean Ave, Tremont St - Cranston to Joffre, Harris Rd. - Curley Dr. to Penhorn Dr., Overdale Lane - Guy St. to civic #10, Tulip St. - Pine to Existing, Shore Rd. - Mott to Geary St.
- Alderney Drive at Ochterloney -traffic improvements
- Elliot St. - Erskine St to Prince Albert Rd. - underground
- Pine St. Playground replacement.
- Finlay Centre Playground replacement.
- Pine St Tennis court re-built
- Beach Volleyball Court at Birch Cove Park.
- Hawthorne Ballfield -backstop replacement
- Brownlow Soccer Field - Irrigation system
- Maynards Lake fencing replacement
- Dartmouth Common Fence - completion along Thistle St.
- Dartmouth Waterfront Park Breakwater - walkway and benches
- Lake Banook area improvements for 2009 World Canoe Championship
- Brownlow Tennis court rebuilt.
- Findlay Community Centre \$53K interior and exterior upgrades
- Crichton Community Centre \$10K accessibility and exterior upgrades
- Alderney Landing \$50K various upgrades
- 90 Alderney Drive \$25K interior and exterior upgrades
- Quaker House \$5K interior repairs.
- The Alderney Breakwater restoration
- Major streetscape overhaul on Alderney Drive, Phase 1 - Spring of 2008.
- Steering Committee working on Sullivan's Pond / Lake Banook Master Plan
- Shubie Canal Pedestrian Bridge design committee, chaired by WDCL; and,
- Additional waste receptacles are being planned for installation on Portland Street.

Crime Tips - District 5

Never leave valuables out in the open in your car - This is an invitation for a criminal to break in. If you have bought items from one store and plan to go to another you should put the bags in your trunk before arriving at the second store. Criminals watch for people to store purses or bags in the trunk before going into the mall.

Don't advertise new purchases - When you break the boxes down, turn them inside out before putting them at the curb for recycling, otherwise people will know what you bought and could be tempted to break in.

Going Away - If you plan to travel, let your Neighbourhood Watch Captain know as well as your neighbours so they will keep an extra eye on your house. Leave a key with someone you trust. Do not leave a key hidden somewhere on your property.

Vehicle Safety:

- Have your keys in your hands when approaching your vehicle
- View the interior of your vehicle before entering.
- Always lock your vehicle and keep the windows up whether you're in it or not.
- Always keep valuables out of sight.
- Do not pick up strangers.

Personal Security at HOME

- Never indicate to anyone that you are home alone.
- When talking to unknown persons on the phone, do not give out personal information.
- Do not open your door for just anyone. Install a viewer. Confirm Credentials.
- If there is an emergency and people want to use the phone, ask them to wait outside while you phone.
- Do not rely on night chains. They can usually be broken with little effort.
- If you think there is someone inside your home...YOU GET OUT...THEN CALL POLICE.
- In the event of prowlers or "Peeping Toms" call the police immediately. If you wish, you can turn on your outside lights. This will frequently scare prowlers away

Automated Banking Machines:

- Choose bank machines that offer clear visibility in and out, are well lit by natural or artificial light, have an obvious presence of video surveillance as well as a high volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.



Due to Canada Post distribution areas, some residences which are not in District 5 may receive this newsletter. I apologize for any confusion this may cause and hope you still find the information useful.