



DISTRICT 5 NEWS

Dartmouth Centre - Halifax Regional Municipality

Gloria McCluskey, Councillor - District 5

Fall 2005



Dear Residents of District 5

I am pleased to provide you with my 1st newsletter since being elected last Fall. I hope you find the information informative. I will continue to work diligently on behalf of the residents of District 5. Your concerns are my concerns. I welcome your comments on any of the issues Council deals with.

I extend a warm welcome to all new residents to District 5. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

How to Contact Me

Halifax Regional Municipality
P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Cell476-1667
Office 490-7033
Fax490-4871
City Hall 490-4050
City Hall Fax 490-4122
Emailmclclug@halifax.ca

HRM General 490-4000

Seven days a week
7:30am - 10:00pm

Boards and Committees

I currently serve on the following Boards/Committees:

- Alderney Landing Project Board of Directors
- Audit Committee
- CAO Review Committee
- Capital District Not for Profit Society
- Dangerous & Unsightly Premises Committee
- Halifax-Dartmouth Natal Day Steering Committee
- Program & Service Review Committee
- Dartmouth Sportsplex

Harbour East Community Council

The Harbour East Community Council meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Former Dartmouth City Hall, 90 Alderney Drive. If you require information you may contact Julia Horncastle at 490-4211, visit our website at www.halifax.ca or call the Community Council information line at 490-6080. Residents are invited to attend. At the end of the regular business, residents will have an opportunity to speak about their concerns.

Police Services Launch HRM Traffic Unit

Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP launched the new integrated Traffic Unit on October 11th. The unit will feature 10 members this year and will be expanded to include 20 members in 2006.

Over the past several years at Town Hall Meetings, citizens have identified traffic safety as one of their primary concerns. Their issues include speeding, motorists not obeying traffic signs and signals, and pedestrian safety to name a few. The newly created Traffic Unit will aim to improve municipal traffic enforcement and enhance public safety across HRM.

HRM Customer Service

HRM has launched a new online service enabling residents to report such things as burned out street lamps or dangerous potholes in their area through the Internet. Citizens can now contact us 24 hours a day/seven days a week for a variety of services offered, as well as obtain information wherever it's most convenient for them.

Residents may access a limited number of service requests or access information by simply logging on to the HRM website, www.halifax.ca and filling out an online service request form. Initially, services offered range from reporting a litter problem to requesting the removal of a refrigerator or freezer, no longer in use. It's quick, easy and convenient. This service also allows residents to follow-up on their service request. A service number will be assigned to each citizen request after it has been submitted. This number can then be entered into the 'Lookup' function at a later time to check the status.

I would prefer that you contact me directly; however, you can still contact HRM for service requests or information by calling the Corporate Call Centre at 490-4000, or by visiting one of the many walk-in customer service centres in the region.

Congratulations! To Canada Games Athletes

Athletes from District 5 did us proud at the Canada Games by winning several medals. Congratulations to them and to all athletes who participated. Medalists were: Jenna Marks, Russell Todd, Hannah Vaughan, Michelle Mussett, Erin Pegg, Daniel Marks, Maria Halavrezos, and Jennifer Rowlands. Great Job!

Community Information Radio

Want to know where the latest road construction is taking place? Where traffic is tied-up due to motor vehicle accidents? How the traffic is moving on the two bridges? For all of this and more...tune into Community Information Radio at 97.9 FM on your radio dial. Get up to the minute details every hour on what is happening in HRM.

Show Your Culture

HRM's Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) has officially launched its web presence at www.halifax.ca/culturalplan with a call to the public to Show Your Culture.

What does culture mean to you? What is your most cherished cultural memory, and will you share it with us? We're looking to showcase the cultural fabric of HRM, and we need your submissions.

Show Your Culture - send us letters, poems, art, pictures, music recipes—anything that shows a part of your culture and what your culture means to you. With the Cultural Plan, we're building the blueprint for cultural development for HRM: your input helps us, brick by brick. We'll display your cultural submissions on the web site, so we can show the world what culture means in HRM.

For more information, visit our web site or contact Holly Richardson at 490-6889 or email richarh@halifax.ca

Tax Rebates and Deferrals

Halifax Regional Municipality can help homeowners pay their property tax through a payment plan, a property tax rebate, or deferral of property taxes (payment is put off to a later date). These programs are available to all homeowners with a combined household income of \$27,000.

For the first time, homeowners will now be eligible to apply to both the deferral program and the rebate program. The purpose of these programs is to help more low income residents of HRM stay in their homes without fear of losing it to a tax sale.

If you received a property tax rebate last year, you will automatically receive an application this year. If you would like to apply for the first time, please call 490-5454 or 490-4000. Applications must be returned by December 31, 2005.

Block Parent News

The Block Parent Program started in Nova Scotia in 1968. Since then our community has changed but the need to have a safer community is as important today as it was then. The program is run by a volunteer group from the community in partnership with the Halifax Regional Police. We are proud to have the Block Parent Program in our community. To enable the program to continue to meet its' goal of making safer communities, we are asking for volunteers to assist in various roles: making calls, hand out information at public meetings and school presentations. Everyone has something to offer. If we work together, we can make a difference in the safety of our community.

If you are interested in becoming a Block Parent or would like more information please call 435-1232 or visit our website at www.blockparent.ca

Bits & Pieces

Dillman Park - a lot of improvements have been made this year. More improvements to come next year.

Steps leading down to Prince Albert Road from Sinclair Street have been replaced as promised.

Ferry Terminal Park - The brick path leading from Alderney Drive to Old City Hall will be resurfaced. New lighting will be installed along the path from Old City Hall to parking lot at the foot of Prince Street. Have you noticed the improvements to the park? Thanks to Maureen Cullen and her staff for the excellent flower beds this year.

Tired of cooking....great meals are served at the Dartmouth Seniors Centre at 45 Ochterloney Street. For information and times call 465-5578.

When Will My Road Be Paved

District 5 has many streets in need of reconstruction or repair. Over the last few months, I toured the area with a number of HRM staff. Unfortunately, due to limited financial resources, it takes time to complete all the work that needs to be done.

Every three to five years, each paved road in HRM is evaluated using a rating system which ranks street conditions from 1 to 10. It's the long term goal of HRM to have all streets at, or above, a 7.5 rating. There are three types of major paving work: micro-sealing, resurfacing, and reconstruction. Reconstruction is the only option available for some streets (those below 4), and it is also the most expensive to do. Thus, only a small number of streets are reconstructed each year, and HRM tries to coordinate this work with the replacement of sewer and water lines, where possible.

The cost of the street reconstruction is very expensive; therefore, part of the paving budget goes to projects that will prevent better streets from getting worse. Otherwise, the streets which are in better condition will continue to deteriorate, and over time, operational and capital costs become much higher. This is why a street in better condition than your own may get work done. The work being done on these streets is often either micro sealing (streets ranked 6-7.5) or resurfacing (rankings of 4-6). Micro sealing is the least expensive option, but must be done on roads in reasonably good condition. This work will reduce the long term costs of road repair and thus reduce costs for all taxpayers.

Corporate Score Card

Are you satisfied with the services you are receiving? How did you rate the Natal Day Festivities this year? What changes would you like to see? Watch for my website where I will be soliciting your opinions. The link to my website is www.halifax.ca/districts/dist05/dist05.html

HRM Citizenship Awards

Each year, the Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes Junior High School students who exemplify the qualities of a good citizen as a way of promoting awareness of municipal government. Congratulations to the 2005 Citizenship Award recipients from District 5.



Shalini Rao,
Sacred Heart School of Halifax



Andrea Richardson,
Ellenvale Junior High



Andrew James Sykes,
Prince Arthur Junior High



Matthew Day,
Kings View Academy

Citizens on Patrol

Citizens on Patrol (COP) is a community based, volunteer driven program, in which citizens patrol their community using their own vehicles. COP volunteers act as "eyes and ears" for the Halifax Regional Police with the intent of reporting crime.

Applicants for this program must have an interest in working towards a safe community, be 19 years of age or older, have a valid drivers licence and be successful in all HRP security clearances.

If you are interested in volunteering, setting up a group, or finding out more information, please contact Kendra Morton at 490-6976.

Upcoming Events

The Chronicle Herald Parade of Lights

Saturday, November 19th

Begins on Barrington Street at 6pm

This parade of lights is a delight for the public.

Call 423-6658 or 490-6776 for more information.

HRM Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday, November 26th

6pm at the Grand Parade

Enjoy live music, children's play, fireworks, the tree lighting and of course Santa!

For more info call 490-6776

Victorian Christmas at "Evergreen" House

November 25-December 23

26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth

Dartmouth Christmas Tree Lighting Festival

Saturday, December 3rd

5:30 - 7:00 pm at Sullivan's Pond Park

Entertainment, visit with Santa, refreshments, and fireworks

For more information call 466-2997

What You Should Know About the Public Street Right-Of-Way

The term right-of-way refers to the land area dedicated to public use, typically for pedestrian and vehicular movement. In an urban setting, many residents believe their property line extends to the curb. Generally speaking, the Municipality owns property for a specific distance behind the curb. The following diagram illustrates the right-of-way width of a typical urban local street. The distance and configuration of the right-of-way may vary from one street to another.

What do you need to know? In order to facilitate capital and maintenance improvements, the general public must not encroach within the right-of-way area. In some situations, residents will install a fence or wall, or perhaps plant shrubs. By doing so, it violates Bylaw S-300 and impedes future upgrade work. If the Municipality has future plans to install a sidewalk within this right-of-way area, these private encroachments will become problematic. Therefore, the Municipality requests that all residents adhere to the requirements under the Bylaw and refrain from using the right-of-way area. If you have any questions regarding public street right-of-way, please call 490-4000.

Police Related Issues Frequently Used Telephone Numbers

To file a complaint which requires a Police Response

490-5020

To file a report without Police Response or to add information to a report.

490-5016

To inquire about a report

490-5419

General Inquiries

490-5016

Crime Stoppers - TIPS

422-8477

Crime Stoppers - Toll Free

1-800-222-8477

Chief of Police, Frank Beazley

490-6500

Seized Vehicle Inquiries

490-5146/5109

Animal Control

468-9219

Bullying Hotline

490-SAVE (7283)

Bylaw Enforcement

490-4000

Parking Ticket Inquiries

490-5160

Special Enforcement Section

490-5130

Victim Services

490-5300

East Division - Community Office/Constables

490-5171

East Division - Inspector

490-5172

East Division - RCMP

490-5172



**Please
Recycle**

Please note - Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. Please accept my apology for any confusion.