

Greetings:

Over the past few days I have given considerable thought to what I would write about this month. Although I receive requests for information about indoor recreational facilities, I also receive a considerable amount of requests for information about outdoor recreational opportunities. Hence the topic for discussion this month - recreation!

By the time this article reaches you, the new tennis court beside Seaside Elementary School should be completed. It is one of several projects that will provide a recreational opportunity to you and your family. There will be others in the future, and I will share more information as time progresses.

In the 16 months since my first election to office, I have been making a concerted effort to ensure that everyone is aware of what is happening in our community, but also what we have in our community! It amazes me that many residents do not know that much about where we live. I am sure that some of what I share today will come as a surprise - a good surprise, I hope! Yes...some will complain about what we don't have, but I have come to recognize that if it rained \$100 bills, some would find the negative in it! THIS is a good news story! Something we should thank people for...particularly our trails groups.

At this time I would like to share with you information regarding one of the greatest assets we have in our community. It is something I am very proud of and something that is envied by many outside of District 8. It is the 'Shearwater Flyer'. As many of you know, I have been seeking volunteers for a trail group in our community and the Shearwater Flyer will provide you with an opportunity to witness just what incredible work our trails volunteers do.

Much work has gone into the completion of this particular trail. It follows the route of the former Musquodoboit Railway from Bissett Road to Shearwater. We JUST completed the final section of the eight-kilometre Shearwater Flyer, which crosses unspoiled land that many have never had an opportunity to enjoy. Several bridges span remote streams where people can fish or just enjoy the solitude. Unusual plants dot the bog and turtles lay their small eggs in the sandy slopes. There is a fragile ecosystem on our trail, which is a relatively untouched sanctuary right here through our own neighbourhoods.

I encourage residents to spend some time enjoying our trail system, which includes the Salt Marsh Trail. The Shearwater Flyer's completion will allow users to travel a continuous trail system from the West Lawrencetown Road to Shearwater. It is gorgeous and a fantastic way to spend the day. Whether running, walking, cycling, or cross county skiing, the trail is something we should be very proud! It closes a gap that will now allow residents to enjoy a continuous recreational route. I know I could not be more proud to see the completion of something that was a goal of mine, just a little more than a year ago. I remember well, the day we crawled through trees and bushes in an effort to find the location of this final section of the trail. To see the Shearwater Flyer today makes me very happy indeed, and is proof of what hard work and dedication can accomplish!

Please enjoy the trail and take care of it, so that in the years to come many others may travel it as well.

Anyone interested in information about the trail, and/or a map, please contact me and I will ensure that it is promptly sent to you.

Anyone interested in joining the effort to continue to build trails, should be in contact with me. We have further plans that are equally as exciting! Now...go pack a lunch and head on out!

Happy trails,

Jackie

THE SHEARWATER FLYER TRAIL

The Shearwater Flyer Trail is going to have its official opening on June 6, International Trails Day at 12 Wing Shearwater and everyone is invited. Posters detailing opening activities have been placed at all trail points. Last year saw four kilometres of The Flyer surfaced with crusher dust, starting at Bissett Road and working towards to Caldwell Road. It is hoped to finish surfacing to Caldwell Road intersection this year. Last fall, rough work was completed from Hines Road to Corsair Drive which added an additional one half kilometre to The Flyer, now eight kilometers in length.

May has seen a flurry of activity at 12 Wing Shearwater putting fencing, sign posts, information kiosk in place as well as surfacing this last section of trail with crusher dust and the trail is seeing heavy use with favourable comments.

Many thanks to the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association for their work on the Shearwater Flyer.
--

HEALTH SURVEY

Capital Health and Community Health Boards are undertaking a major health survey. Beginning May 14 until mid-June, Capital Health and the Southeastern Community Health Board will be conducting a major telephone health survey. The information gathered through the survey will help your local Community Health Board and Capital Health set priorities and plan services and programs. Survey participants who receive a call will have the option to do the survey over the telephone or online. Make a contribution to the health of your community and answer the survey if you receive a call. For more information call Anna Jacobs at 460-6888.

TALLAHASSEE YOUTH DROP IN CENTRE SUMMER HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 4 - 6 pm for 10 - 12 year olds and 6:30 - 8:30 pm for 13 - 15 year olds. Admission is \$2 per visit or purchase a membership for \$15 and get 15 visits (membership also gives you half price admission to special events). Play video games, air hockey, fuzball or listen to music, watch movies or just hang out with friends. The Centre is located in the Tallahassee Recreation

Centre at 168 Redoubt Way. For more information, call 465-8734.

WOODSIDE FERRY

The Building Canada Fund (BCF) in the Federal Government is a major infrastructure funding program. In April, Regional Council approved an infrastructure list which included an additional Woodside ferry. This will be a welcome addition for commuters in the District and hopefully encourage more residents to switch to ferry service.

GOVERNMENT WHARF ROAD - UPDATE

As many readers know, Government Wharf Road is located in Eastern Passage, District 8. This road has existed for many years and serves as the only access to a wharf and fish processing plant for the local fishing community. As well, the road services many businesses that are linked to the local economy and tourism industry. Given the uniqueness and popularity of this community, the road is subjected to significant volumes of traffic, particularly during the summer and fall season.

Factors including age, traffic volumes and lack of general maintenance have impacted on the condition of the traveled way. The local community is concerned about its state and the potential impact on local and general travel. As a result, they have requested the ownership of the road be taken over by one of the government levels. Unfortunately, discussions with all three levels of government have concluded the ownership is unclear. The Municipality continues to work with the provincial and federal governments to determine if a resolution can be found. One option that is being explored is to transfer the ownership to HRM. It is complex and issues such as the current road, sewer/water and boundary layouts are offering some challenges. The review of these issues has been time consuming, but must be satisfactorily resolved prior to having Regional Council vote on the approval of this option. Municipal funding for this project was approved in 2008 and will remain earmarked until such time as provincial approval is received. As Councillor for the District, I understand the importance of this road to the community and am working very closely with HRM staff and other government officials with hopes of arriving at a positive resolution for the community.

HOW DO I ORGANIZE A NEIGHBOURHOOD CLEANUP?

Clean Nova Scotia and Halifax Regional Municipality can help! The Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up is a campaign coordinated by Clean Nova Scotia and supported in part by HRM that encourages Nova Scotians to get together to pick up litter.

All you have to do is select an area you would like to clean, gather a group of people (friends, family, coworkers, schoolmates etc.) and then register your cleanup with Clean Nova Scotia.

Clean Nova Scotia, 126 Portland Street, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 1H8 or Phone: 902-420-3474. You

can also register on line at www.clean.ns.ca/pmu.

When you register with Clean Nova Scotia and receive your free Pick-Me-Up kit, it will include a data card (you will receive an information booklet when you register that outlines the importance of the data card and how to send it back to us) to record what you have collected. The data card is important to Clean Nova Scotia as it helps them track waste-producing trends and it also helps them get funding necessary to support this program — so don't forget to send it back in when you are done!

OURHEALTHYMINDS.COM

A new Capital District Health mental health website officially launched on May 7. OurHealthyMinds.com is about mental health. It celebrates the many ways we can be well and honours the many ways we can experience mental illness - as an individual, a caregiver, a parent, a child or loved one. The site shares resources to help you get well and stay healthy. It offers a community of support for everyone who is affected by mental illness.

MAY TRAFFIC UNIT UPDATE

In their continued effort to address road safety and educate citizens on the rules of the road, members of the Halifax Regional Police/RCMP Integrated Traffic Unit focused on motorcycle and bicycle safety awareness in May.

With the weather warming up, motorcyclists and cyclists alike are hitting the roads and trails for another season. The Traffic Unit reminds all two-wheeling enthusiasts to ensure their bike is in good working order, adhere to the rules of the road and always wear a helmet. Citizens are reminded the helmet law applies to both motorcyclists and cyclists.

During April, the Unit's focus was motor vehicle safety compliance and cell phones. Checkpoints were held at a number of locations throughout the region during the month, some in partnership with Nova Scotia Safety Compliance officers. Members of the unit wrote 1,239 Summary Offence tickets for a range of violations during the month; 37 for illegal cell phone usage.

CONGRATULATIONS!

At this time I would like to congratulate all those students who are graduating this spring. You must be proud of your accomplishments. To those families who share in the joy of their children's success...congratulations!!!!

SEASIDE TENNIS COURT UPDATE

Work has begun on the Seaside Elementary School tennis court resurfacing project. Fence repairs will commence after the court resurfacing is completed. The expected finish date is June 30th. This project is much anticipated and I look forward to its completion.

HRM CUSTOMER SERVICE - HRM's Call Centre Agents are waiting to serve you seven days a week from **7:00AM to 11:00 PM** everyday, except New Year's day and Christmas day. Just call **490-4000**. This is your one stop call centre concerning any issue you have such as potholes, flooding road maintenance, by-law enforcement, solid waste schedules, animal control, planning matters, bus schedules, property taxes and complaints. If you require the use of a TTY/TDD line (for the hearing impaired) please dial (902) 490-6645.