

Greetings,

The past month has been very busy, and it appears that things will remain so for the next several weeks as we work through HRM By Design and the 2009 Budget. Spring was a busy time for me last year as well, so it is no surprise that this year is the same. With the spring thaw comes flooding, potholes, washed out gravel roads and walkways, and so much more. I encourage residents to call 490-4000 to report any of the above issues directly to the corporate call centre, so that you will be assigned a service number, which will allow you to follow-up on the status of the matter reported.

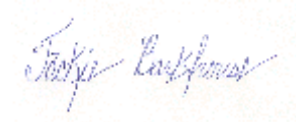
In our community there is much going on as committees get back into full swing, and plans are being made for the summer and fall months. There are a number of committees that require volunteers, and if you get in contact with me I would be pleased to discuss them with you. The Community Garden Committee, Fall Festival Committee and McNab's Island Picnic Committee, are a few that may be of interest to you.

I anticipate that for the next few months you will be noticing a number of projects being started, worked on, and completed...right before your eyes! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me, as I am anxious to let you know what is going on.

Fisherman's Cove continues to be an important focus for me, and will continue to be during this summer and fall, and indeed over the next few years. I am enjoying working together, and am pleased that we are going to continue to do so, so this beautiful area will thrive and grow, as a jewel in our community and as a destination area for HRM and beyond. Many thanks to Carolyn Scott, the Board of Directors, and those business owners who have taken the time to include me in plans and projects.

Once again I would like to take a moment to thank the volunteers in our community for their commitment and dedication to our community and the residents who live here. THANK YOU from all of us!

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Kaufman".

CONGRATULATIONS to students and their families who will celebrate a graduation this spring!

## Community Development

For those who may not be aware, Halifax Regional Municipality has Community Relations and Cultural Affairs staff who support the work of volunteers and non-profits by providing training, advice, links to resources and networking opportunities with other organizations. Darren Hirtle is the staff person assigned to Dartmouth and Eastern Passage. If you have any questions or if you would like to discuss any community projects or your organization's needs, please call 490-1946 or e-mail [hirtled@halifax.ca](mailto:hirtled@halifax.ca).

Many thanks to Bradley Tucker who organized the Easter Egg Hunt at Tallahassee Community School on April 5. It was a huge success, with many more egg hunters than anticipated! It was a pleasure to join Bradley and Becky Kent at the event. Thank you for the invitation.

## Capital Health - Simpson Hall Makes Way for Individuals Preparing to Move into the Community

As you have probably heard, Capital Health is removing Simpson Hall from The Nova Scotia Hospital site! This exciting project is to prepare the land to build community focused living residences for our patients in transition to live in the community! Work on Simpson Hall has already begun. Verhagen Construction is in charge of the demolition and removal.

### How is this done?

The building is cleared of any interior finishes. The first to go are door casings, ceiling tiles, radiator covers and other removable fixtures. Debris from the deconstruction of each floor is channeled through external, covered chutes to receptacles at ground level. Masonry is deposited in the elevator shafts. Eventually they will be cleaned out and the refuse is trucked from the site.

The environmental contractor follows a floor behind the physical contractor. Their job is to remove any potentially toxic materials using strict procedures. This controls exposure of hazardous materials to themselves and those outside the building, using negative air pressure, hospital-grade hepa filters and other methods. A second environmental contractor acts as a consultant to monitor these procedures. All necessary precautions will be taken to ensure all safety and environmental procedures are followed to the fullest. The outer walls will remain standing to provide a wind break until it is necessary to take them down. At that time, the brick walls will be pulled inward by machines driving back and forth along the roof.

### What about the extra traffic, noise and dust?

The contractor estimates 4-5 truckloads a day from the site. The route the trucks will take is fenced off from the regular traffic on The Nova Scotia Hospital site. Dust is controlled through the use of water sprayed from fire hoses. Noise will be at its peak during the breaking down of concrete and brick. This stage is set for later this year. All work done on weekdays will be between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., weekend work will start after 9 a.m. This is according to the HRM by-laws. Most work will take place from Monday to Friday. We welcome your involvement in this community initiative and would like to hear your comments and questions. Please contact Shauna Blundon, Capital Health, at 464-6098 for more information.

## **Devil's Island Lighthouse Society**

The Devil's Island Lighthouse Society have been working to have the lighthouse included under Bill S-215 (The Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act) when this bill comes into effect in May of 2010. They have recently collected in excess of 3,000 signatures on a petition and have presented it to Peter Stoffer, the NDP member of Parliament for our area, to take to the House of Commons. There is a deep attachment in the community of Eastern Passage to this lighthouse and the Society wishes to preserve the tower. Many descendants of Devil's Island families now reside in Eastern Passage and have a strong connection to the history of the Island. As Councillor for the area, I want to convey my full support to the Society's effort to preserve the lighthouse and thank all those who signed the petition for their efforts.

## **Quigley's Corner Beautification Project**

At present we are in the planning stage of the Quigley's Corner Beautification Project. I would like to know what you think of the idea, and what you may want to have considered as an important addition to the area. Benches, garbage cans, better lighting, and a mural on the side of the brick building could be considered and perhaps planting a large tree to be used for our tree lighting each Christmas. The area is also heavy with wild roses and they may be removed and underplanted with new material. Any plants that can be relocated to the community garden will be. I am asking that you send your ideas and suggestions by either mail or email, to me at barkhoj@halifax.ca or PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5 no later than May 15th. At that time all ideas will be considered by the planners, as they draw up the overall plan for the project. I will make that available one evening for those interested to view. PLEASE be certain to also let me know should you be opposed to anything in particular happening at that location. I look forward to your input.

## **April Traffic Unit Update**

In their continued effort to address road safety issues and educate citizens on the rules of the road, the HRP/RCMP Integrated Traffic Unit focused on cell phone enforcement and vehicle safety compliance checkpoints during April. A number of daytime checkpoints were conducted, some in partnership with Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Compliance Officers. Safe vehicles are an important component of overall road safety. All motorists are asked to have a look at your vehicles inspection sticker to ensure it is up-to-date. Regardless of who owns a vehicle, it is your responsibility as the driver to ensure the vehicles inspection, permit, and insurance is up to date, as it will be you, the driver, who will receive a ticket if it is not. Also, talking on a hand-held cell phone (or texting) while driving has been banned in Nova Scotia for one year now. During the first 12 months of the law, 1747 tickets were issued in HRM for infractions. Talking on a handheld phone while driving is a distraction and driver distractions lead to accidents. If you must talk on your phone while driving, purchase a hands-free device, or safely park on

the side of the road before talking. In February, the units focus was safety checkpoints and targeting of impaired drivers. They issued 922 tickets during the month. On a positive note, night-time checkpoints targeting impaired drivers only resulted in one man being charged with the offence.

**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.