

Online Newsletter: A great way to learn about upcoming events and opportunities, and to stay in touch with your community.

Greetings:

Here's hoping that everyone is getting out and about in HRM, and enjoying the beautiful and fun-filled days of summer.

Canada Day is over for this year, but now my duties as council rep on the Natal Day Committee are in full swing. Needless to say, I enjoy special events and the way our neighbourhoods, communities and municipality come together to celebrate!

The Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Summer Carnival and Seaside Harvest Festival plans are in full swing, so it is a busy time at my office as we plan and prepare.

If you have a special interest and are looking to volunteer in your community, please be in contact with me. At the present time I am hoping to connect with residents who are interested in working with me to create a permanent musical venue in the community of Eastern Passage. As well, residents in Woodside are encouraged to become involved as we proceed with the Woodside Visioning, which is a tremendously exciting opportunity!

Whatever you do this summer...enjoy!

Best regards, J

For more information on the Natal Day Celebrations, which is taking place from July 29th - August 2nd, please go to: <http://www.natalday.org/>

For more information about the Eastern Passage Summer Carnival that is taking place from August 1st - August 8th, please go to: <http://www.epcbsummercarnival.ca/>

Teddy Bear Picnic

Location: MacDonald Park/Community Garden

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2010

Time: 1-2:30 pm

Lots of treats and activities for your family to enjoy. Bring a blanket and teddy bear, and join Councillor Barkhouse and friends, for a fun filled event in the garden! Games and prizes galore. "Smiles strongly encouraged"

Giant Hogweed and Other Invasive Species on HRM Radar

Giant Hogweed, recently in the national news, is just one of several invasive species that the municipality is currently keeping an eye on. Others include Japanese Knotweed - on the list of top 100 invasive

species in the world, and the European Fire Ant, currently causing problems around the province and municipality.

Brought to the Municipality's attention in recent days, Giant Hogweed has now been spotted in several areas around HRM. Introduced to North America in the early 1900s as an ornamental garden plant, it was first identified in Nova Scotia in the 1980s. Direct contact with Giant Hogweed can cause both severe skin and eye problems - including possible blindness.

Considered a human health hazard, response to this plant will fall outside of HRM's current pesticide bylaw. Appropriate action, says Richard MacLellan, Manager of HRM's Sustainable Environment Management Office (SEMO), will occur once a plant is identified as being on HRM property.

An information bulletin for residents looking to identify Giant Hogweed can be found at: www.halifax.ca. Residents worried they may have the plant should contact Marian Munro, at the Nova Scotia Museum, for confirmation (424-3564) and arrange for a professional landscaper to address the problem. HRM staff are currently consulting with other levels of government and stakeholders to determine Best Management Practices for this particular invasive species. Additional information will be posted to the HRM site as soon as it becomes available.

Also on the radar of most HRM residents are the above mentioned fire ants. Staff continue to monitor the problem and research the best methods for avoiding, controlling or eliminating the ants. SEMO Staff are collaborating with a local Masters Student from Saint Mary's University on the efficacy of different management measures. Most recently, the municipality purchased several dozen boric acid bait stations for trialing effectiveness on infestations located on HRM properties.

The definition of an alien invasive species, according to HRM Environmental Performance Officer, Cameron Deacoff, is one which is not native to an area and will "out compete" existing native species. He also adds that not all alien (non-native) species become a problem, as was the case with fire ants until fairly recently. "These guys have been around for quite a while, and as to why they're now posing a problem, that's an unknown at this point."

Three invasive species currently under management in Point Pleasant Park, and assumed to be located elsewhere around the municipality are the Japanese Knotweed, the Common Burdock, and the Himalayan Balsam. All three species of plants will aggressively push out Acadian forest plants and limit the biological diversity of the park unless controlled. A combination approach - including removal, cutting back, and pilot programs to restrict growth are currently underway in the park.

Invasive species - which include plants, animals, and insect life - are often introduced to an area by accident, says Deacoff. In addition, he says, are the many species which are deliberately introduced to an area - an example of which is the Norway Maple, first imported to North America in the mid-1700s.

The municipality has recently received approval from Regional Council to proceed with an action plan to identify and map out the location of invasive species around the municipality. Part of that plan will be a preliminary determination of the roles HRM's federal and provincial counterparts will play in the development of any future policy.

The action plan, which HRM's Sustainable Environment Management office is currently working on, is slated to be presented to Regional Council in the fall. If approved, policy development - in conjunction with federal and provincial partners, non-governmental organizations, and the community - will begin immediately, with a possible implementation start date of spring 2011.

Halifax Public Gardens offering free guided tours

Want to learn more about the heritage and horticulture that makes the Halifax Public Gardens such a treasure? Why not take in a free guided tour this summer?

Volunteers from the Friends of the Public Gardens are offering walking tours during Wednesdays in July and August. The one-hour tours take place at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. and can accommodate up to 15 people.

Tours begin outside of Horticultural Hall near the Spring Garden Road entrance.
For arrangements for groups of 10-15 or for more information please contact 490-3995, or visit www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca

Call Centre Holiday Closures

Please be advised that, effective immediately, the HRM Call Centre (490-4000) will no longer be open on holidays. The first of these will be this coming July 1st (Canada Day). On those days, callers will instead have access to the following limited automated selection of services: holiday transit info., solid waste collection, Canada Day events, and parking ticket payment. Only issues of an urgent nature related to Public Works, Waste Water or Animal Control will be directed to an attendant. In addition to the automated information, callers will also be directed to the HRM website, at www.halifax.ca, where they'll have access to information on a full range of HRM services and events - including details on holiday-related activities.

Holiday closures are a result of recent budget cuts. Projected annual cost savings as a result of the closures are approximately \$50,000/yr. The call centre, which is open 7 a.m. 'til 11 p.m., 7 days a week, will resume normal open hours the day following the holiday closure.

Use of FeHEDTA Against HRM By-Law P-800

HRM residents are advised that using products containing FeHEDTA in the region (i.e. Fiesta, EcoSense Weed B-Gon, etc.) is against the Municipality's pesticide by-Law. HRM has already notified local retailers directly.

This week, HRM Council rejected the addition of the chemical FeHEDTA to Administrative Order #23 of the region's Pesticide By-Law P-800 Respecting the Regulation of Pesticides, Herbicides and Insecticides.

FeHEDTA is a chemical composed of iron chelated with hydroxyethylenediaminetriacetic acid that acts as an herbicide, particularly affecting broadleaved plants.

After reviewing submissions from a number of sources, Halifax Regional Council decided there was insufficient evidence on FeHEDTA's environmental and human health impacts and that the unknown potential risks of applying FeHEDTA as an herbicide outweigh the benefits.

For tips on sustainable landscaping methods visit:
<http://www.halifax.ca/pesticides/documents/SustainableTurfMaintenance.pdf> .

For information on permitted pesticides under Administrative Order #23 go to:
<http://www.halifax.ca/pesticides/documents/PermittedPesticides.pdf>.

TIME TRAVEL IN DARTMOUTH WALKING TOURS

until August 31

Wednesdays - Sundays (weather permitting)

Short Tour - 10:30 - 11:30 (~2.5 km) - \$5

Long Tour - 2:00 - 4:45 (~4 km) - \$10

Have you ever wondered if there's a larger story behind Sullivan's Pond and its inhabitants? Perhaps you don't Dartmouth's connection to the Royal Family of Spain. Thanks to the Time Travel through Dartmouth Walking Tour, back for the second year in a row, it's now easy to find out juicy historic bites like these! This summer, the Dartmouth Heritage Museum is pleased to bring you the story of Dartmouth. In partnership with the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission, the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, and Forrestall Fine Art, the Time Travel in Dartmouth Walking Tours cover many interesting aspects of art, architecture, sports, industry and more! Explore Dartmouth's most interesting personalities this year with Sarah, our resident Quaker tour guide. We are sure you will enjoy her stories, humour and energy!

FUNDRAISING TEAS

We will continue our popular teas throughout the summer every second Thursday -
July 22, August 5 & 19.

Seatings at 2:00 and 3:00

Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street

Only \$5 for everything!

Includes either tea or coffee, scones baked on the premises, homemade spreads and fruit jams/jellies as well as our friendly tours of Evergreen.

Please call 464-2300 to reserve your table.

Remember, if you have more than 10 people, you can reserve the tearoom for your party for \$5 per person (offer only during Evergreen opening hours Tues. - Sun. 10-5). Please call Lisa at 464-2916 to pre-book your party.

NEW EXHIBIT

Food, Factories, and Foundries: Dartmouth's Industrial Past

June 24 - September 11, 2010

Tuesdays - Sundays 10:00 - 5:00

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth

\$2 admission

Ice making, hemp-weaving, dairy & rope

Shipyards & steelyards & chocolate & soap.

Molasses & boilers & sugar for beer

And skates, nuts & bolts, they all were made here!

HRM's Vision

Regional Police to Host 'Discover HRP'

As part of its commitment to find new, innovative ways to recruit employees and volunteers, Halifax Regional Police is hosting 'Discover HRP,' a week-long program which gives individuals 19 to 30-years-old a chance to experience what it is like to be a police recruit.

During the week of July 19-23 the 24 participants will take part in fitness drills, firearms exercises, mentoring sessions and other practical exercises at the Halifax Regional Police Northbrook Training Facility in Dartmouth.

A session schedule is attached.

“HRM is a vibrant, caring, and connected community. Our community is built upon diverse cultures, respects the environment and our heritage, supports economic prosperity, and celebrates active citizenship.”

Community Memo Board

Residents are welcome to advertise community events. Please submit full content by email to me prior to the 18th of each month, and it will be included in that months online newsletter.

Ball Hockey Tournament

Men and Women's Ball Hockey Tournament
Cole Harbour Place - July 17th and 18th

Men's A Division (Elite)
Men's B Division (Rec)
Women's Division (open)

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Minimum 3 games guarantee
\$450/team
Prizes + more! BBQ on site!

For more information please contact Amy at 463-7659 or nsbha@hotmail.com

**Jackie Barkhouse
Councillor - District 8
Woodside - Eastern Passage
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If you would like to sign up for my online newsletter, please email me at barkhoj@halifax.ca with "Online Newsletter" in the subject line. E-mail addresses will not be shared and will be used only for the online newsletter.