
COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH
ALBRO LAKE - HARBOURVIEW

DISTRICT 9

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

Dear Residents,

This is the first edition of a new method of communicating with District 9 residents. My intention is to cover a number of community issues periodically in a brief but effective way. Information will be shared in bullet format -- short and to the point. If you require more information or have a question or suggestion on any issue, please email or call me at your convenience. I hope you will enjoy receiving this newsletter and I hope you find it helpful in keeping you up to date on district issues.

Municipal Issues

- < A public meeting will be held on Wednesday January 27th at Dartmouth High School starting at 7:00 pm. HRM is considering amending the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy to allow for amendments to enable the expansion of the Burnside Business Park on HRM owned lands. Presently, the lands are designated Rural Commuter/Resource not Urban Settlement/Industrial. The lands are situated adjacent to the Akerley Boulevard/Highway 107 Ext/Highway 118 Interchange. The recommendation is to change the zoning on these lands to Industrial/Commercial. Many residents, including those on Woodland Avenue and residents surrounding Lake Charles, are concerned about this re-zoning and its impact on traffic and the environment.
- < I put forward the following motion at regional Council on December 8th, 2009: "A report is requested from Public Works on the issue of maintaining/clearing key urban park walkways on a year round basis." The motion was passed by Regional Council. Of particular interest are the walkways through Northbrook Park and the walkway from Yorkshire Avenue to Harbourview School.
- < HRM is piloting a new street lighting project using LED lights which is expected to provide 40-50% energy savings. One snag is that the lights do not emit as much heat so blowing snow can block the lenses. HRM staff are working to resolve this problem.

Tender Info

- < A tender has been called for new signage for the Gray Arena.
- < A tender was also called for the de-installation and reinstallation of 41 light fixtures at the Gray Arena.
- < The new bridge installation from Highfield Park Drive to Burnside Drive was awarded to Dexter Construction for \$681,576.00. This project is cost shared by the Provincial Government. The work is 90% completed and will be finished in the spring.
- < The Burnside Trail is expected to be completed this spring costing approximately \$350,000 and will extend the bridge trail the full length of Burnside Drive.
- < The Highfield Park Fire Station was converted to Natural Gas by Metro Burner at a cost

of \$19,977.52.

General

- < When comparing a 25-30 year old detached three bedroom bungalow on a 6000 sq. ft lot...out of 21 cities in Canada Halifax ranks 9th lowest in total property tax. HRM ranks ahead of Regina, Saint John, Fredericton, Victoria, Grande Prairie, Burnaby, Vancouver, Saskatoon, Montreal, Toronto, London and Laval. Surrey, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Red Deer, Winnipeg, Lethbridge, Edmonton, and St. John's are lower in total property tax.
- < If you are interested in snow standards regarding the clearing of streets and sidewalks, specific information can be found on the HRM website at www.halifax.ca.
- < Ergoworks Atlantic is moving from Dresden Row to Windmill Road. They cited better loading bays and increased visibility as two key reasons for the move. Recently, OPA opened a new restaurant in Dartmouth Crossing.
- < Transportation & Public Works, Community Safety, and Provincial Services costs take up nearly 70% of every tax dollar collected by the Municipality and transfers to the Province take up 22% of that amount.
- < HRM is opening up its Grants Program criteria for acceptance of applications for assistance to facilitate community gardens. The 2010/2011 grant application period is open now until March 31st. Information on grants can be received by calling 490-4000 or 490-5469.

Recent Bylaw Issues

- < Windmill Road resident charged with engaging in activity that unreasonably disturbs the neighbourhood. Court Date - May 20, 2010.
- < Middle Street owner charged with allowing more dwelling units than permitted in an R-2 zone. Court Date - May 20, 2010.
- < Albro Lake Road building owner charged with allowing a building containing more than two dwelling units which is not permitted in an R-2 zone. Court Date - May 20, 2010.

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