



Fairview - Clayton Park

Districts 15 and 16 Newsletter

Halifax Regional Municipality

Councillor Russell Walker

October 2003



How to Contact Me

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Dear Residents

As I write this introduction to my newsletter it is ten days after Hurricane Juan, which devastated HRM on Sept 28. Most people suffered through days without power and the results which included chilly, dark homes, cold showers, the loss of food and the feeling of living through a nightmare.

Despite the deprivation, worry and upset that most experienced in varying degrees, this was offset by the community spirit that was exhibited.

Neighbours came together to help one another and those who had their power restored first opened their homes to offer shelter, showers, and warm drinks to those without. Others helped to clear downed trees and other debris from neighbours' yards. I received calls from people with chainsaws who took down fallen trees, free of charge, for those unable to bear the financial cost of having the trees removed. The very best qualities were shown by so many citizens. It made me feel very proud and I want to thank each of you for coming together to make a very bad situation a little easier.

The clean-up will continue for the next weeks and months. We look forward to having our city gradually return to normal.

The Municipal By-Election will be held on November 8, 2003. Until that time I am also filling in as Councillor for District 16. I am looking forward to working with the residents of District 16 and encourage you to contact me for issues relating to your district.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the residents of Districts 15 and 16 on what is new and changing in your districts, as well as throughout HRM. As always, please contact me if you have any issues or concerns.

Russell Walker



Site of Former Halifax West School

Signs for proposals for the development of the property of the former Halifax West High School have been posted. The request for proposal calls for single family home uses and possibly some townhouses with some designated minor commercial/residential abutting Dutch Village Road.

A tender for demolition of the buildings was awarded to Dexter Construction. At present, they are removing contaminants and asbestos, following which the buildings will be taken down.

Citizens on Patrol

For a number of years the former Halifax County has had a group of citizens who volunteer as auxiliary police. Residents work in pairs driving around their local assigned area watching for suspicious activities. They do not investigate or intervene if they see potential illegal activities or possible problems. They are provided with 2-way radios with which they can relay information to the Police Department who will take the appropriate action to deal with the situation. The Police Department expects to put this program into effect in Districts 15, 17 and 18. Residents who have volunteered to participate will be screened for security clearance and then will be trained. Graduation will be in late October and they will be assigned to areas shortly thereafter.

New Basketball Court

A new basketball court was built on Burton Ettinger School grounds during the summer. It is a single court with three sides fenced. This project was planned and carried out by the Burton Ettinger School P.T.A. It was funded jointly by the P.T.A. and HRM.

R-A5 Crosswalk Lights

R-A5 overhead crosswalk lights have been installed on Main Avenue at the intersection of Hillcrest, Alex and Maple Streets. This is in response to the high volume of traffic on Main Avenue which is causing great difficulty for pedestrians crossing at those intersections. It is important that pedestrians continue to be very cautious before crossing any street.

Weekly Green Cart Pick Up



Many residents requested a weekly green cart pick up during the summer months. In response, a few districts were chosen to have green carts picked up every week from July 4 to August 28. This was a pilot project which is now being

assessed and the results will determine if it will continue next summer.

Harbour Clean Up

In July Halifax Regional Council voted to discontinue its plans to work with HREP to clean Halifax Harbour. The consortium had wanted to change the terms of the contract so they would no longer be responsible for any risks associated with the project. This would cause all the risks to be put on HRM taxpayers. The HREP would run the plant and use their own technology to treat the sewage. HRM would then be responsible for whatever flowed into the harbour, but would have no input on the technology being used, whether or not it worked. Council felt this was totally unacceptable.

The new plan has broken apart the one major project into smaller projects. The first project, which is to put all the pipes into the ground, has

been given to Dexter Construction and will take approximately 54 months. This approach has already saved \$18 million over this part of the original contract. After this phase has been completed the next part of the project will be awarded.



Street Paving

One question that often comes up is "why isn't my street being paved?" A great deal of work goes into determining which streets are going to be paved and when. The condition of existing pavements is rated then a priority list is set. There are different types of pavement upgrading that may be required. Some streets need complete reconstruction of gravel and pavement, overlaying existing pavements with a new layer of pavement,

or surface sealing treatment. When the paving program is set, it is then coordinated with other infrastructure projects. For example, if the Water Commission is planning a water main renewal within a year or two, then the paving is put on hold until that project is completed.

When a street is reconstructed it is considered to have a twenty year life cycle. This can be extended by thirty or more years with the proper surface treatments. Most pavements remain in fairly good condition for 15 years and deteriorate at a slow but constant rate. If it does not receive a surface treatment then, it deteriorates quickly over the next five years. The Pavement Condition Management System software is used to rate the condition of the pavement, so it is an arbitrary decision as to which streets to pave.

Odds and Ends

- A tender was recently awarded to widen the roadway under the BiHi at the entrance/exit to Bayers Lake Park. This will result in seven lanes plus a bicycle lane in that area. Work has already started on the project and when finished should help to alleviate some of the traffic congestion in that area.
- The Halifax Mainland Commons all-weather facility was officially opened in September. This is the largest facility of its kind in Canada and fifth largest in the world.
- The Parkview News is a community newspaper which is available in the area once a month free of charge. I write a column each month in which I try to keep residents up to date on issues in HRM. Watch for the newspaper and check out the column in between my yearly newsletters.

Council Committees

In addition to my regular Council duties, I also serve on a number of committees, many of which report to Council and/or carry out Council mandates. The committees that I am a member of are:

- Audit Committee
- Grants Committee
- Appeals Committee
- Harbour City Homes
- Membership Selection Committee
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors
- Regional Planning Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee
- Mainland North Drug Awareness Committee
- Mainland Commons Recreation Committee
- Centennial Arena Board of Directors
- Immigration Learning Centre Board of Directors

HRM Customer Service



In an effort to improve customer service to residents, HRM has introduced a general information line for all municipal services. By dialing 490-4000 caller inquiries will be dealt with directly by HRM Call Centre agents, or in some cases,

further directed to a contact person in a specific business unit for more detailed information. Call Centre service is available 7:30 am to 10:00 pm, seven days a week.

General information is also available on the internet: www.halifax.ca

Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control -----	468-9219
Assessment -----	424-5225
Building Permits -----	490-5650
Bylaw Enforcement -----	490-4000
Community Council Info Line -----	490-6080
Councillors' Office -----	490-4090
Development Services -----	490-5650
Emergency -----	911
Garbage/Recycling -----	490-4000
HRM General Inquiries -----	490-4000
Police Subdivision Office -----	490-5200
Taxes -----	490-4000
Zoning Information -----	490-5650

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.

