

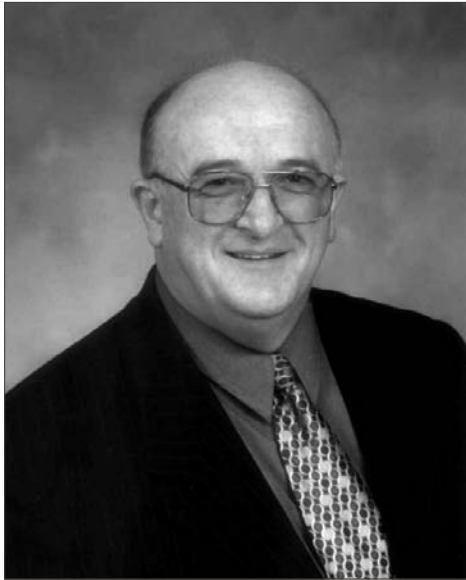


# Fairview - Clayton Park District 15 Newsletter

Halifax Regional Municipality

Councillor Russell Walker

Winter 2006



## How to Contact Me

Russell Walker, Councillor - District 15  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Home ..... 443-8010  
Cell ..... 497-7215  
Home Fax ..... 443-6513  
City Hall ..... 490-4050  
City Hall Fax ..... 490-4122  
E-mail ..... [walkerr@halifax.ca](mailto:walkerr@halifax.ca)

## Dear Residents

IN THIS, my annual newsletter, I am providing you with some information which I hope will inform you on some of the issues taking place in HRM in general and in District 15 in particular. I hope you will find this newsletter helpful and that it provides you with some useful and interesting information.

I have included contact numbers and e-mail address for your use if you have questions or concerns that you want to bring to my attention. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend to all the blessings of the upcoming season.

## Tax Rebates and Deferrals

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY can help homeowners pay their property tax through a payment plan, a property tax rebate, or deferral of property taxes (payment is put off to a later date).

For the first time, homeowners will now be eligible to apply to both the deferral program and the rebate program. The purpose of these programs is to help more low income residents of HRM stay in their homes. If you received a property tax rebate last year you will automatically receive an application for this year. If you would like to apply for the first time, please call 490-5454. Note: *Applications must be returned by December 31, 2006.*

## Noise By-Law

**D**URING the past few months I have received calls and e-mails about noise disturbances in various neighbourhoods. There are provisions in the by-law to ensure that “no person shall engage in any activity that unreasonably disturbs or tends to disturb the peace and tranquility of a neighbourhood.”

Part 3 of Schedule A states that activities originating from within a residential area that unreasonably disturb the peace and tranquility of a resident, at the specified times, where the sound resulting therefrom is audible at a point of reception. The operation of any item of construction equipment in a residential area without effective muffling devices in good working order and in constant operation is in effect at all times.

The use or operation of construction equipment, except where such equipment is used or operated on any highways; as a guideline this type of noise is prohibited during the following times:

Monday-Friday 9:30 pm - 7:00 am

Saturday - 7:00 pm - 8:00 am

Sunday, Statutory Holidays and Remembrance Day 7:00 pm - 9:00 am

These times are in effect unless those creating the noise have an exemption granted by Regional Council. Section 3(1) is the only provision in the by-law under which someone can be charged. The main question that the responding officer must ask is, whether or not the noise is unreasonable given the time of day, the environment in which the noise emitting activity is taking place, and the circumstances regarding the complaint. If the officer believes the noise is unreasonable in this situation, and wants to proceed to lay the charge, then he or she should have witness statements from neighbours who's peace and tranquility is being disturbed. Residents should phone the non-emergency Police Department number at 490-5020 if they have problems.



## HRM Call Centre



**T**HE HRM Call Centre is available to receive calls from residents seven days a week from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm except Christmas Day and New Years Day. The phone number is 490-4000 or 1-800-835-6428.

Some of the calls the Call Centre can help with include those about dangerous or unsightly premises - such as very tall grass, garbage or other materials not being stored properly, empty buildings not properly secured, or properties not being maintained. Other concerns that can be reported to the Call Centre concern street lights burned out, potholes, broken curbs, vehicles left on the street longer than 24 hours at a time in one location, garbage placed at the curb when it is not collection day.

Graffiti on buildings can also be reported to this number, as can a number of other issues. When the Call Centre operators receive the call they direct it to the HRM department that deals with the particular concern. Each call receives an incident number which you can receive and quote if you call back to follow up on the status of the issue you reported. While you may leave your name, it is not necessary, as the call can be completely anonymous.

## Down-Zoning District 15

RECENTLY a group of residents living in the area bordered by Joseph Howe Drive, Mumford Road and the railway cut to the Bi-Hi, expressed concern about development in their area. Their neighbourhood is zoned R-2 but after a number of houses sold in the area were converted into two and three unit dwellings, residents saw their neighbourhood radically changing. They contacted me to see if there was any way to prevent this from happening in the future and to maintain the neighbourhood as mainly single family homes.

They were advised of the process to down-zone from R-2 to R-1. Following a meeting between the residents and myself, they were directed to canvas their neighbours with a petition to gauge the interest in having the re-zoning take place. Approximately 120 residents signed the petition which I then presented to Chebucto Community Council and asked for a staff report on the re-zoning. In doing the report, staff checked all names on the petition to ensure that everyone who signed lived in the area to be down-zoned. When the report came back to Chebucto Community Council, I asked staff to proceed to the next

step. This was to hold a Public Information Meeting where residents would have an opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns and indicate if they were for or against the proposal. Prior to the meeting, all residents affected by the down-zoning, had been sent a letter advising them of the meeting.

Approximately 85 residents attended the Public Information Meeting and the majority spoke in favour of down-zoning. Staff then prepared a report based on the outcome of the meeting and brought it back to Chebucto Community Council. Council gave it first reading and then sent it for a Public Hearing. Residents had an opportunity to speak for or against the proposal. Following this Chebucto Community Council voted to accept the down-zoning. During the 21 day waiting period to have the down-zoning take effect, an area resident appealed the decision to the Utility and Review Board. Presently, the residents are awaiting the outcome of the appeal.

## Centennial Arena

ONE of the best used skating surfaces is the Centennial Arena located on Vimy Avenue in Fairview. The arena was a centennial year project (1967) and was realized from the fund-raising efforts of the residents of Mainland North (Armdale, Fairview, Clayton Park, Rockingham, Wedgewood Park and Princess Lodge).

The facility is operated as a Commission by a Board of Directors under a management agreement with HRM and is ably managed by Jack Poteri. Users of the facility include Halifax Minor Hawks, Halifax Skating Club, Junior and Senior School leagues, as well as other leagues. There are also senior skates in the mornings, adult skates on Sunday evenings and public skates on Fridays (3:30-5:00 pm). The arena hosts hockey and skating schools in the summer.



During the past five years the interior of the building has received a face lift. Some of the renovations include new boards and seamless glass, new ice re-surface, new washrooms, dressing rooms, new floor in the upstairs viewing stands and refinishing the boardroom. A fifth dressing room and new storage room for minor hockey have also been added.

The Board of Directors is now making plans in expectation of expanding the building in the future. The plans include a large meeting room, dry land training facility and a new front entrance and washrooms. This will allow for dry land training, hockey and skating in one location.

Residents should be proud of this facility and that it is evolving and updating to meet the needs of the users.

## Mount Royal Subdivision

DEVELOPMENT is continuing on the Mount Royal property (new subdivision) at the top of Fairview off Main Avenue. Some residents had concerns that the subdivision would be connecting to the top portion of Rosedale Avenue, but it will not. The new street will only connect to the Northwest Arm Drive to form a T intersection. Traffic lights will be installed there.

The development will consist of 100 single family homes, 67 town houses, a neighbourhood commercial plaza, 20 semi-detached home lots and 10 multi-unit residential and condominium units. Eight acres will be dedicated to green space. This development does not include any affordable housing units.

---

## Sharing Our Vision for a Mainland Common Community Recreation Centre

IN July 2006, Halifax Regional Municipality approved a partnership with the YMCA of Greater Halifax /Dartmouth for the development of the Mainland Common Community Recreation Centre.

During September and October, HRM and the YMCA hosted a series of Community Focus Groups with the purpose of:

- sharing the current vision, and
- providing an opportunity for the community to share perspectives on how this vision met their interests.

I thank everyone who participated in these sessions. Check out answers to frequently asked questions about the proposed Mainland Common Community Recreation Centre by visiting [www.halifax.ca/mainlandcommon](http://www.halifax.ca/mainlandcommon).

If you would like to receive emailed updates and notices on the Mainland Common Community Centre Project (ie, project updates, notice of public meetings, announcements, etc.), please forward your email address to [mccc@halifax.ca](mailto:mccc@halifax.ca) indicating you would like to be added to our mailing list.

---

## Community Information Radio

Want to know where the latest road construction is taking place? Where traffic is tied-up due to motor vehicle accidents? How the traffic is moving on the two bridges? For all of this and more... tune into Community Information Radio at 97.9 FM on your radio dial. Get up to the minute details every hour on what is happening in HRM.



*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.*