



District 10

Halifax Regional Municipality

Councillor Mary Wile

December 2005



Dear Residents:

This is my first newsletter to the residents of District 10. I hope you enjoy it and I welcome your comments or suggestions. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your support in electing me as your representative for Clayton Park West. I'm committed to working to the best of my ability on your behalf.

It is now a year since I was first elected and the time has gone by very quickly. It is one of the most exciting jobs I have held! I have met many wonderful people, have visited a variety of businesses and HRM facilities, and above all, learned so much. The information is constantly flowing and the learning curve is phenomenal.

I want to wish all my residents and their families a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season. Let's hope 2006 will bring a healthy and peaceful New Year!

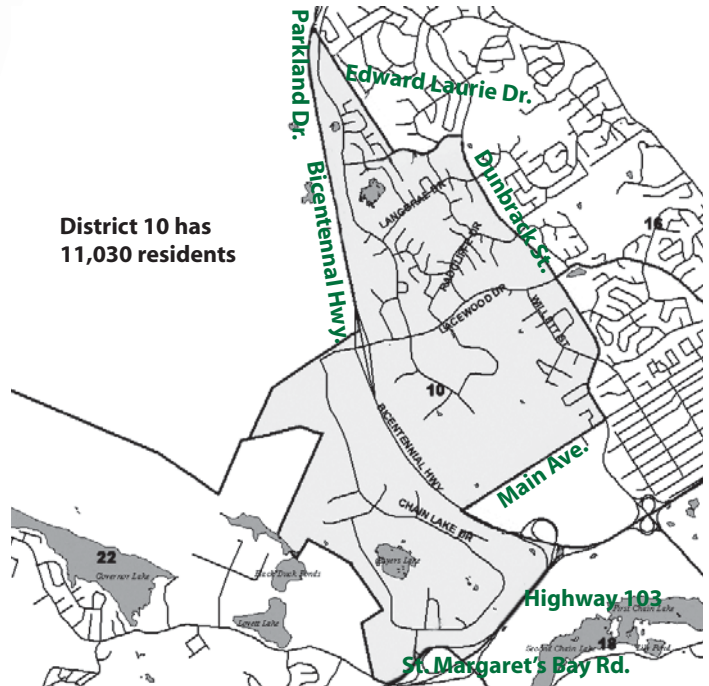
Councillor Mary Wile

How to Reach Me:

Home Office.....490-7028
Cellular:.....476-2048
Facsimile:.....490-5487
E-mail:.....wilema@halifax.ca

Committees I Serve On

- Appeals Committee
- Dangerous & Unsightly Premises Committee
- Neptune Theatre Foundation
- Program & Service Review Committee
- Mainland North Drug Awareness
- Halifax Mainland North Volunteer Recognition Committee
- Centennial Rink Commission
- Volunteer Award Recipients Committee
- Mainland Common Recreation Committee



HRM Trivial Pursuit - Questions

- When did Amalgamation of the 4 municipalities take place?
- Who was the longest serving Mayor for Halifax?
- The Halifax Explosion took place in what year?
- Where is the oldest black community in Canada?



Show Your Culture!

Culture is the living bridge between our past and our future. It's a daily (and life long) collaboration between ourselves and our community, touching every aspect of how we live our lives. To ensure a bright cultural future for HRM, we need to nurture and protect our culture. We also need to understand it from as many different perspectives as we can recognize.

Help Develop HRM's Cultural Plan! HRM's Cultural Advisory Committee is hosting a series of Open Houses. Check to find the one nearest you and drop in, ask questions and give your input on the Cultural Plan. For more information about the Cultural Plan, visit us online: www.halifax.ca/culturalplan

New Online Service Request

District 10 residents are now able to report burned out street lamps or dangerous potholes in their area through the Internet.

You may request a limited number of services or access information by simply logging on to www.halifax.ca and filling out an online service request form. Initially, services offered range from reporting a litter problem to requesting the removal of a household appliance, such as a stove or refrigerator, no longer in use. It's quick, easy and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You will still have the option of contacting HRM for service requests or information by calling the Corporate Call Centre at 490-4000, or by visiting one of the many walk-in customer service centres. You can also access information from the municipality's website.

New HRM Integrated Dispatch and Telecommunication Centre

HRM's new Integrated Dispatch and Telecommunications Centre was officially opened during a brief ceremony on Friday, November 18th.

The new centre marks a major advance in consolidating HRM's Emergency and Non-Emergency Call Taking and Dispatch Services in one new state-of-the-art facility. It also allows for closer integration of emergency and non-emergency call taking and dispatch in close proximity to the Joint Federal, Provincial and Municipal Emergency Operations Centre. HRM joins the ranks of municipalities such as Montreal, Toronto, Windsor and Calgary in investing in the infrastructure to support public safety and service delivery.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Community Relations and Crime Prevention Unit of the Halifax Regional Police Service works in partnership with communities to foster safer neighbourhoods and reduce the opportunities of crime through its Neighbourhood Watch program. For more information or to set up a meeting in your neighbourhood, contact Cst. Tanya Chambers, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, 490-6977 or chambeta@halifax.ca

You are welcome to attend meetings at the new Clayton Park West Neighbourhood Watch group, or, keep informed via the N.W. e-mail group! To join, e-mail Shelley Cahill, Citizen Coordinator, at shelley.cahill@ns.sympatico.ca or call 221-5778. The next N.W. meeting will be Thursday, January 26, 2006 @ 7 p.m. at Park West School.



Police memorial Service at Saint Mary's Basilica, in memory of those who died in service.

Rec-Connect

RecConnect is an electronic service that will allow HRM residents to register for recreation programs from the comfort of their home or office by using the internet or touch-tone phone. This service will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To access RecConnect, residents must first call or visit their local recreation centre to obtain a RecConnect client number and family personal identification number (PIN). Once you have received these numbers, you can register for any number of programs through the internet at www.halifax.ca/RecConnect or touch-tone phone 490-EAZY(3299) or 1-866-263-EAZY (3299). Recreation programs are listed in the recreation catalogues which are mailed to residents' homes and available on line. For touch-tone phone use, residents need to have a copy of the recreation catalogue to register for specific programs.



Streets & Sidewalks

The approved Street Capital Projects for District 10 for 2005/06 are:

- Willett Street - Westridge to Lacewood - \$48,870.
- Farnham Gate Rd - Dunbrack to Scotch Pine Terr. - \$89,100.
- Harlington Cres - Willett to Willett - \$50,496.

Street Lights

From time to time, street lights may malfunction or become damaged creating a safety hazard. If you observe these problems please call 490-6546 or 490-4000, or fill out our online Street Light Damage Report at www.halifax.ns.ca/Works/tugs/Technical/electform.html

Crosswalks

The approved Crosswalk Capital Projects for District 10 for 2005/06 are:

- Farnham Gate Rd. and Parkland Dr., plus the crosswalk at Fairfax and Parkland - \$49,000. Work will be completed by Spring, 2006.

Parks Capital Projects

The approved Park Capital Projects for District 10 for 2005/06 are:

- Mandaville Court playground upgrade- \$25,000.
- Stratford Way Park landscaping - \$25,000.
- Mainland Common - Entrance upgrades- \$239,000.
- Mainland Common Baseball Field improvements - \$20,000.

“Engage HRM” is a new e-consultation bulletin board. Engage HRM is designed to allow residents to submit their views and provide feedback on the draft regional plan, suggest solutions for improvements to draft policies, as well as read the views of others and communicate directly with other bulletin board users. To register, please to: www.halifax.ca/regionalplanning/forum



Volunteers get together to clean out two paths to the Park West School in order to improve safety and mobility.

Why Do My Property Taxes Seem To Be So High?

HRM staff and Council have recognized the financial strain inflation and assessment increases have put on HRM citizens. To that end, we have developed a multi-phase action plan to provide long term reform to our overall tax system.

The temporary tax credit program was developed to provide relief from property tax bills due to the wide variation in Provincial Assessments. The average assessment in HRM has increased by 7.6% in 2005. HRM proposes to reduce property tax bills by 50% of the increase over the average. This will be based on a two year average, and applies to all residential properties with a dwelling unit. Condominiums, apartments, and market growth will also be included.

HRM staff and Council are working to develop a long-term Tax Reform Strategy. Market Value Assessments have no consistent link to services available, ability to pay and cost of services, especially in a growing market atmosphere. HRM Staff and Regional Council want to develop a system of assessing property taxes that is fair and equitable in linking to services and the associated costs.

Work on this strategy has just begun and the initial proposal for this reform will go to Council within the next few weeks.

Regional Council agendas will indicate when Tax Reform and/or Revenue Strategy discussions will occur, allowing you to follow the progress. In addition, there will be several public consultations held early in 2006.

For questions on taxation, please contact the Corporate Call Centre at 490-4000.



HRM Customer Service

HRM's Call Centre Agents are waiting to serve you seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Just call **490-4000**. This is your one stop call centre regarding any issue you have such as by-law enforcement, solid waste schedules, animal control, planning matters, bus schedules, property taxes and complaints. If you are calling from outside the local area, please dial our toll free number 1-800-835-6428. If you require the use of a TTY/TDD line, please dial (902) 490-6645.

Theatre Halifax

From all accounts, Theatre Halifax is soon to become a destination for quality entertainment, cultural events and community programming. Located in the Halifax West High School on Thomas Raddall Drive, plans are quickly moving ahead for the completion of the theatre.

At the November meeting of the theatre's Board of Directors, Syd Dumaresq of Dumaresq Architects, was appointed designer and project manager for the completion of the theatre.

Even though the theatre has temporary seating and the walls require acoustical treatment, the dimly-lit space is certainly in demand. Community organizations and the high school are wondering how they ever got along without it. Primarily used as a gathering place, community organizations are holding their meetings in the popular space but anxiously await the theatre's completion.

Response to the theatre's Name-A-Seat Program has been excellent. All 500 seats have been made available for naming, and I understand that many people are naming them in memory of a loved one; families are leaving their legacy and businesses are engraving their company name to show their support to community.

If you haven't supported the theatre yet and would like to, I urge you to get in touch with the theatre office at 457-3239 for more information on their donor programs.



CANADA POST
Due to Canada Post distribution areas, some residences which are not in District 10 may receive this newsletter. I apologize for any confusion this may cause and hope you still find the information useful.



Contact Numbers

Emergency (Police/Fire/Ambulance)	911
HRM Call Centre - Open seven days a week 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m	490-4000
Public Works - 24hr Dispatch Line	490-6203
Mayor's Office	490-4010
Councillors' Support Office	490-4050
Alexa McDonough, MP - Halifax	426-8691
Diana Whalen, MLA, Halifax Clayton Park	424-8637
School Board Member, Gary O'Hara	443-4077 or 431-4084
Water Commission	490-4820
24hr Police Non-Emergency	490-5020



HRM Trivial Pursuit - Answers

- A. April 01, 1996
- B. Ron Wallace
- C. 1917
- D. Preston