



District 17 Purcell's Cove - Armdale

The Mosher Report

January 2007



How to Contact Me

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**Inside
This Edition**

**Community meeting
and important
information
regarding rotary
conversion for
2007.**

Dear Residents:

2006 was quite a year for District 17 residents. First we saw the highest assessment increases in all of HRM. Residents were understandably upset and raised many concerns, suggesting that property taxation is not related to the municipal services they receive. This issue has been debated by Council dating at least back before amalgamation. When David Wilkins, U.S. Ambassador to Canada, came to City Hall to present the Mayor and I with an American flag (flown over the U.S.S. Constitution), we had a lengthy chat. He brought up the issue of property taxation and the many inequities it creates and said that it is also an issue throughout the United States. The HRM Tax Reform Committee, of which I am a member, was formed in December 2006 to address taxation issues. For more information about the major Tax Reform Project, please visit <http://www.halifax.ca/taxreform/index.html>.

Another major "highlight" for our area was the rotary rules change. In October 2005, the Provincial MLA's passed the Motor Vehicle Act change in the legislature, but unfortunately did not tell HRM that it applied to the Armdale Rotary. First we were told that it was exempt, then we were told that the Armdale Rotary was not a rotary at all, but a traffic circle. Residents and HRM Traffic Authority started questioning the legislation, insisting that it must apply to the rotary. In order to clarify the rules, I made an appointment with the Deputy Minister of Transportation and brought along HRM's

Manager, Traffic Authority. We were told that the rules in fact, did apply to the Armdale Rotary and that they were in effect now. He confirmed that if someone got into an accident and they were driving the "old" one-on-one way, than they would be at fault. We were not surprised but were dismayed, that the legislature changed the rules and did not have any public awareness campaign. The rest as they say, is history. The final part of the rotary change to a roundabout will be physical conversions to enhance traffic flow and make it safer for both pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Please read this newsletter's insert for more detailed information on the conversion.

Councillors receive many calls about a wide range of municipal issues. As in past years, speeding was one of the major reasons residents have contacted me. This year Halifax Regional Police's dedicated Traffic Division has been working hard in HRM as well as in District 17. Residents have contacted me about issues such as illegal left hand turns off the St. Margaret's Bay Road onto Fenerty from 7:00-9:00 a.m., speeding on streets such as Joseph Howe Drive, Purcell's Cove Road, St. Margaret's Bay Road, Osborne Street, Herring Cove Road, Highfield Street, Williams Lake Road, Brook Street and Crown Drive. These concerns are brought forward to our Police Divisional Commander who ensures that the area Constables monitor these issues. Youth complaints have also been brought forward. Police Staff Sergeant Lane has attended many community meetings with me and is working with his

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Constables to address these problems. We will be working with communities to establish or to revitalize Neighbourhood Watch and the use of City Watch.

In 2007 we should see closure on some of these issues and bring enhancements to the neighbourhoods so that our district becomes an even better place to live.

Sincerely,

Jenida Mosher



HRM residents showing their civic pride.

Civic Pride



Councillor Mosher joins students at Ecole Chebucto Heights during their annual Clean Up.

2007 District 17 Pre-approved Improvements

The budget for 2007/2008 will not be deliberated by Council until March. However, some projects have already been approved.

- As part of the Herring Cove Street-scape Improvement Study that Councillor Adams and I initiated, there will be several projects completed in 2007. Forest green welded wire (wrought iron type) benches and waste receptacles will be put in place from the rotary, to out past the Captain William Spry Centre.
- A look off will be constructed from Herring Cove Road (near Winchester) which will permit not only a panoramic view of Melville Cove, but also will include interpretative panels of the area.
- A small park area in front of The Punch Bowl will be created. We are currently determining land ownership and preparing a detailed design.
- Based on my request to visually enhance the centre of the rotary new landscaping beds have been already designated; however, Mayor Kelly, Councillor Adams and I are also working on more elaborate enhancements to showcase this area.
- St. Margaret's Bay Road will have a new sidewalk on the north side, as well as a road improvement project. This will include a marked crosswalk, and as the road will be widened to three lanes approximately in front of the Need's store, it will have overhead lights to enhance pedestrian safety.
- New community signage is planned for Purcell's Cove, as well as Herring Cove Road as part of the street-scape improvements, and Kline Heights as part of a capital project to enhance the park area on Withrod Drive. It is my desire to identify all neighbourhoods within the district so that each can retain its unique identity within the larger context of "HRM".
- A study has been undertaken to redesign the Captain William Spry Centre as a community facility that fully meets our municipal mandate. Currently it has a pool on one end, a library on the other and offices and meeting rooms in between. The retrofit will greatly enhance the building and make it much more useful.
- HRM will commence the onerous task of rebuilding the sea walls along Regatta Point and Sir Sandford Fleming Park. The main issue is that sea levels have risen and the previous walls cannot withstand these levels or storm surges. Funding is in place for the urgent restoration, the tender has been issued and the granite curb stone is secured. Engineers are finalizing the design and determining a long term capital plan.

Taking Action Against Graffiti



Graffiti is an ongoing problem. After many years of hard work we are making progress on this issue, including an upcoming bylaw. Not only is graffiti a crime, but there is data that absolutely

links graffiti to associated collateral crimes. Teenaged graffiti writers have told me that often when they are writing graffiti, they are also drinking, doing drugs, and vandalizing property. Many spend \$300- \$400 a week on alcohol, drugs and paint. The resulting costs to society and the impact is significant.

When graffiti is present on a building and not removed promptly, it attracts more and more vandals who make their mark as well. This in turn increases unsightliness and a general feeling of unease in the community. Graffiti if left unchecked, contributes to neighbourhood decline. One solution was to have murals cover the tagged surfaces. In 2003 one of the worst targets for graffiti was the “wall” at the start of Purcell’s Cove Road. On behalf of the community, I retained the services of artist Kenny Head, who painted the Sir Sandford Fleming mural and several others throughout the district. This strategy worked for sometime, however a new crop of vandals with even less respect for property have started to attack the murals as well. After a teenager contacted me and requested a “legal wall”, HRM’s Community Response allowed them to paint on the vacant former B.C. Silver School. Again, this approach worked well in the beginning; the rest of the area was clear of graffiti and the school exhibited some talented work. Unfortunately, eventually the free wall was abused and garbage and unsightliness plagued the area. Other answers are needed.

Where is the Sir Sandford Fleming Mural?

Unfortunately the mural on the Purcell’s Cove Road had to be removed due to water damage. The plywood used as a canvass was specialized wood utilized for boating and a protective base coat was also applied. Due to the age and condition of the wall behind the mural, water is seeping into the wood and damaging the mural. The wood has been moved to an HRM facility, where it will be dried. The mural will be touched up and re-affixed to the wall as soon as HRM staff have determined how to best stop the water infiltration.

In researching more solutions, it became apparent that other areas in North America were successful in addressing graffiti with Graffiti Bylaws, prohibiting sales of supplies to minors and community partnership initiatives. In 2005 I brought these recommendations to the Board of Police Commissioners who agreed. The staff response to this request came to Regional Council and a final report, including the Bylaw is forthcoming. Unfortunately, much time has passed, but I look forward to the final implementation phase of this initiative. HRM has made graffiti removal a priority. If you see graffiti in progress - please call 911. If you see graffiti on HRM-owned property, please call 490-4000 to report it for removal. If graffiti is on your own property call Police at 490-5016 to file a Property Damage Report. Expedient removal is a deterrent against future vandalism. Taking Action Against Graffiti is most successful when the community is actively involved.



Youth painting on the former B. C. Silver “free wall”.



Serving tea with Mayor Kelly to residents at Melville Lodge Care Centre

Cowie Hill Wiring Update

In the last Mosher Report the issue of underground wiring in Cowie Hill was featured. At the time, Nova Scotia Power (NSPI) wanted to replace the underground utility with overhead, or charge the homeowners millions to keep the underground service. HRM Engineering and Legal staff have always maintained that the subdivision was approved based on underground service and that it must remain underground. Cowie Hill residents retained the services of a lawyer to represent their interests. We had many meetings with NSPI and they lowered their offer on many occasions and finally came up with an offer that residents felt was reasonable. I am happy to report due to persistence, dedication, and hard work of HRM staff, the Condominium Corporation Managers and their lawyer, Cowie Hill residents will continue to have underground wiring, as they should.

J.L. Ilsley High School Dinner

From Left to Right: Rene Quigley, King Lion; Randy Ball, Vice Principal; Councillor Linda Mosher; Ruth Gabriel, Teacher and in the background is Principal Reyner.



Citizenship Awards



Mayor Peter Kelly and I, present Brittany Wesley, a student at Cunard Junior, with the Citizenship Award.



Mayor Peter Kelly and I, present Shulamite Sing, a student at Halifax Christian Academy, with the Citizenship Award.

Frog Pond Observation Deck

Many residents have stopped to ask me why a wooden platform was installed at Frog Pond. The main reason that the structure was built was for environmental protection. Due to the continued environmental degradation of the water course, I asked HRM staff to find a way to stop the continued erosion of gravel and debris. The structure was designed to prevent cars from driving on the side of the road in front of the pond. The wheel chair accessible observation deck was also designed so skaters or anyone wanting to sit and relax could use it as well.

Wrought iron type benches have also been ordered, as well as a large waste receptacle and planters in various sizes. This project is evolving over time and additional work such as landscaping may still be required to not only provide an environmentally sustainable sitting area, but also to blend in with the natural surroundings. An interpretative panel will also be installed to educate people as to why you should not feed the ducks.

