



District 17 Purcell's Cove - Armdale

The Mosher Report

Spring 2004



How to Contact Me

Linda Mosher, Councillor - District 17
Halifax Regional Municipality
Post Office Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5

Councillor's Office 490-4050
Home Office 477-8618
Cell Phone 476-4117
Fax 479-4680
City Hall Fax..... 490-4122
E-mailmosherl@halifax.ca
HRM Customer Service Centre 490-4000

Service Enhancement

Weekly
Green Cart
Pick-Up

July 2 - Sept 3, 2004
Inclusive

Dear Residents

Another cold and rough winter has passed. Residents and HRM's snow and ice crews had a very difficult winter, especially with the last blizzard. The roads, curbs and some residents' properties suffered from difficult snow removal conditions. HRM's crews will be busy in the upcoming months fixing the damage. If anyone notices winter damage, such as pot holes, please contact HRM's call centre at 490-4000 to ensure they get repaired. The call centre is operational seven days a week from 7:30 am to 10:00 pm.

Over the past few months there have been a large number of car break-ins and stolen vehicles throughout the District. Residents have asked what they can do to minimize these incidents. In response to these requests, members of the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) have prepared some articles to assist residents in protecting their vehicles. Members of the Police and COPS will be regularly patrolling our District looking out for these types of crimes. Recently HRP arrested one individual who was breaking into cars in the Fairmount area. Hopefully with the additional patrols and helpful hints from the HRP, we can further reduce these crimes.

Policing and traffic issues are two of the largest concerns in our area. This newsletter will focus on the Policing issues and my next newsletter, due this summer, will detail

many initiatives that HRM will be undertaking to lessen the traffic burden and bottlenecks that affect our area.

Also in this newsletter you will find information about HRM's general budget for 2004/2005 and capital budget approvals for our District. Please feel free to contact me regarding these or any other issues. I wish everyone a wonderful spring!

Community Police Office - Herring Cove Road

Musicstop will be opening in the Old Canadian Tire building on the Herring Cove Road. Councillor Adams, Inspector Darnbrough and I have met with the Musicstop owners about locating a police office at this strategic location. Councillor Adams and I have each committed \$10,000 to assist in the construction of this police office as both Districts 17 and 18 would be well serviced from there. We have also talked to Deputy Chief Burbridge about the possibility of locating an entire section of HRP in this facility. This would dramatically increase visibility and police presence in our communities. I will keep residents informed on progress.

Happy Birthday!



During the month of February, I had the opportunity to celebrate significant milestones with residents in the district. Left to right: Winnie MacPhee and Alice Blom, who both turned 90, and Geneva Bourgeois, who turned 100.

Boundary Changes for District 17

The number of Councillors, and the district boundaries, are determined by the Utility and Review Board (UARB). Recently, the UARB concluded that HRM will continue to have twenty-three districts. However, as population changes have occurred in many areas, there have been some boundary changes. The former City of Dartmouth will have one fewer Councillor and the former City of Halifax will have one additional Councillor, to service the rapidly growing area of Clayton Park West. The boundaries of District 17 have been changed somewhat. As we have experienced growth, such as the Stoneridge On the Park, which was not in existence at the time of the last Municipal election, the "old" District 17 would have been too large. The East Side of Joe Howe Drive from the rotary to the Bi Hi ramps (Pinewood Acres/Mumford Road side) will become part of District 15, Fairview - Clayton Park for the next election. The rest of the District will remain the same. District 17, generally, will have the boundary line extend down Joe Howe Drive, through the rotary, up the center of the North West Arm and on the other side, down the center of the North West Arm Drive. It will still stretch from Purcell's Cove to Fairmount, ending at the Bi Hi.

"COPS" Update

The "Eyes and Ears" of the Halifax Regional Police have been patrolling the streets of Districts 15, 17, and 18 since November of 2003. The "Citizens on Patrol" volunteers are part of a pilot project assisting patrol members of the Halifax Regional Police by reporting criminal activity they observe in their designated area. They now patrol areas that include Spryfield, Purcell's Cove, Armdale, Fairview, Clayton Park and Bayer's Lake Industrial Park.



The detail pairs two "COPS" members together, in their own vehicle, to patrol a specific area within their sector. They report any suspicious or criminal activity to the Halifax Regional Police who, in turn, dispatch a police unit to investigate the incident. Since the patrols began, the "COPS" have recovered a stolen motor vehicle, reported numerous driving and youth complaints, and on one occasion informed a homeowner that he had a chimney fire of which he was unaware. Since November, the members have logged over 900 volunteer hours of patrol. With the summer months fast approaching, the "COPS" are looking forward to increased activity in their areas and assisting Halifax Regional Police in crime reduction.

The 19 "COPS" volunteers range from 21 to 83 years of age, and many live outside their area of patrol. Each member is reliable, responsible, and all are committed to working towards making their area of patrol a "Safe Community".

2004/2005 Budget

Although unforeseen events such as Hurricane Juan and the blizzard in February decreased our ability to provide extensive capital improvements, we were able to provide a reasonable budget for all residents in HRM. The focus of the budgeting process was on creating value, meeting demand and prudent planning in order to make HRM the best managed, most livable community in Canada.

After a week of heated debate, Council has passed the 2004/2005 budget. The capital budget is \$139.9 million and the operating budget is \$545 million. The general commercial tax rates were set at \$3.272 for the urban area, \$3.272 - suburban and \$2.999 - rural. The residential property tax rates were set at \$1.283 - urban area, \$1.182

- suburban and \$1.176 - rural. What this means is that a homeowner with a house assessed at \$100,000 in the urban area will pay \$1283 a year in property taxes.

The Province is responsible for property assessments, and HRM utilizes the assessment figures to levy property taxes. This year, we lowered our tax rate by 2.4%, the largest rate decrease in the past five years. However, of the property owners who received an increase in assessment in our district, the average increase was 8.1%. Therefore in reality many property owners will be paying more taxes. In the past five years, the municipality has lowered its debt by almost 17%, or \$58 million, to the current total of \$290 million.

District 17 Capital Budget Approvals

The following district projects have been approved by Regional Council for this fiscal year:

- St. Margaret's Bay Road - new sidewalk installation- (Fairmount to Balcome, South Side) - \$170,000
- Sir Sandford Fleming Park (Dingle) - Seawall restoration, upgrades - \$97,000
- New transit shelter - Purcell's Cove Road at Regatta Point
- Deadman's Island - Interpretive signage - \$5,000
- Former C.A. Beckett School site -parks & playground upgrades - \$30,000
- Regatta Point Walkway connection to Purcell's Cove Road - \$54,500 to add to last year's funding to complete the project
- Cowie Hill Road Connector - resurfacing (concrete sections) - \$347,000
- Parkhill Road (Kirk to Marine) - resurfacing - \$53,000
- Fleming Drive turnaround area (at end) - \$10,000
- Colindale Street (McLennan to end, last phase) - \$193,000
- Crescent Avenue - Wastewater Pumping Station upgrades - \$485,000
- Whimsical Lake pumping station upgrades - \$49,000
- Balcome Drive pumping station - upgrades - \$29,000
- Main Artery Patching - Purcell's Cove Road - \$29,000
- Main Artery Patching - Joseph Howe Drive - \$19,000
- Captain William Spry Centre - electrical upgrades
- Cowie Hill Depot - upgrades to consolidate operations - \$291,000

Note - Crestview Drive is currently on the approved "shopping list" for resurfacing. This means it did not get approved in regular funding but is a priority should additional funding become available.

The above list is not all-inclusive of expenditures that will be made in our District. Individual departments have also allocated funds toward projects such as historical signage, upgrades to street drainage systems, street lighting and parks & open space renewal. As well, each district receives \$40,000 per year to pay for capital improvements that can enhance currently approved projects or provide funds for smaller projects in the district. Examples of the planned expenditures for these funds are: further enhancement of C. A. Beckett site, upgrades to Havill playground - Fenwood Road, guard rail for the Regatta Point walkway, community signage, outdoor improvements for each elementary school in District 17, and funding for a Community Police Office on Herring Cove Road.



Preventing Theft From Your Vehicle

Thefts from vehicles are not limited to shopping malls; they can occur in parking lots at recreation facilities (swimming pools, hiking trails), and even in your own driveway.

As with all crime prevention, the responsibility is yours. YOU must take charge of your affairs.

Prevention

- Close windows and lock your vehicle EVERY time you leave it unattended.
- Place valuables you MUST leave in your car out of sight, preferably in your trunk.
- If you plan to put valuables in your trunk, do so before you get to your destination as would-be thieves often “stake out” parking lots and watch for targets.
- If you make a trip to the car to store parcels while shopping, place them in your trunk and then move your car to another parking spot before returning to the store. To anyone watching, you have made your purchases and have left the area.
- Park in areas with pedestrian traffic if possible. Avoid dark, secluded areas.
- Engrave your driver’s license number on your car stereo, as they are often a prime target. Ideally, your car stereo should be out of sight when you are parked. Purchase removable brackets which allow you to remove these items so you can take them with you.
- Install locking gas caps to prevent theft or vandalism.
- Consider purchasing a burglar alarm for your vehicle, and advertise the fact that you have one (i.e. window decal, etc.)
- Cars with outside opening hoods should be secured with a lock.
- Keep an inventory of all accessories and items (tools, etc.) with serial numbers for identification purposes.
- ALWAYS report suspicious persons whom you see in or around motor vehicles.

If you are victimized: Report immediately to the police by calling 490-5016. This number can be reached 24 hours per day. Be able to supply a list of items stolen, with serial numbers or any identifying marks if possible.

Car Theft & How To Protect Your Vehicle

In Halifax in 2003, there were over 1250 vehicles stolen.

Reducing the Risk

No one is immune to vehicle theft. Here are a few steps which may be taken to reduce the risk of having your vehicle stolen:

- Always close and lock your doors and windows before you leave your vehicle.
- Never leave your keys in your vehicle when it is unattended (Many car thefts that occur are as the result of drivers leaving their keys in their vehicles).
- When parking in lots, do not leave your car keys with parking attendants.
- Car keys should not be hung on keyboards in the home or be visible through windows, they should be kept in a secure place.
- Ownership and insurance cards should not be left in your vehicle when it is unattended. This information allows organized theft rings to impersonate you.
- Park in well-lighted and well-travelled areas.
- Turn your wheels to the side when you park, which will make your vehicle more difficult for thieves to tow.
- You may also use anti-theft devices such as “The Club” and car alarms which have been approved by the VICC (Vehicle Information Centre of Canada). To check which alarms have been approved by the VICC, check their website at: <http://www.vicc.com/>. This may entitle you to an insurance discount with your insurance company.
- There are other deterrents to auto thieves such as “immobilizers” which, when triggered, shut down the vehicle’s electrical and fuel system. Also there are glass etching (where your vehicle’s serial number is etched into the glass making it less profitable for thieves to salvage and sell), as well as vehicle tracking systems.

For more information visit the following websites:

<http://www.watchyourcar.org/atips.asp> and
http://www.ibr.ca/ii_auto_theft.asp



Please Recycle

Delivery Note:

Due to 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.