



District 17 Purcell's Cove - Armdale

The Mosher Report

Spring 2007



How to Contact Me

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Dear Residents:

As the days get warmer, many residents venture outside to enjoy the outdoors. Unfortunately, the warmer weather also brings with it a resurgence of calls concerning issues such as noise, loitering, trespassing and vandalism. Although members of the Halifax Regional Police continually patrol our neighbourhoods and respond to calls for service, they can't of course, be everywhere at all times. If a crime is in progress, it is very important to call 9-1-1. If the crime has already occurred, let the Police know by calling the non-emergency line, at 490-5020.

Community Relations and Crime Prevention is a department within Halifax Regional Police, that works with community members and organizations to improve the quality of life of residents through crime prevention programs and initiatives. In order provide an opportunity for the exchange of information, I have arranged for a series of three Community Police meetings in our district. The meetings will provide information on programs such as Neighbourhood/Business Watch and City Watch and include a Personal Safety Session. For more information concerning these programs, please refer to page three.

Divisional Commander Staff Sergeant Richard Lane, Constable Michael Strickland and I encourage everyone to attend these meetings. The programs offered only work with the community members. We would greatly appreciate you taking the time to come out and meet with us, as we partner to ensure that our communities are safe.

Sincerely,

Community Police Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

John W. MacLeod School
159 Purcell's Cove Road
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Monday, May 14, 2007

Chebucto Heights School
230 Cowie Hill Road
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Thursday, May 17, 2007

St. James Anglican Church
2668 Joseph Howe Drive
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Passing of Former District 17 Councillor Ron Hanson

Sadly, former Alderman and Councillor Ron Hanson passed away Friday, March 23rd 2007. Ron represented the former Ward 8 and District 17 for years and was well respected and liked by everyone. It is not a well known fact, but Mr. Hanson was Deputy Mayor and then Mayor of the former City of Halifax in 1980. He made tremendous contributions to our communities and will be greatly missed.

Tax Reform



Tax Reform Committee working towards a better solution.

The vast majority of HRM's revenue comes from the property tax, which is used to fund municipal services such as Police, Fire, Streets, Sewers, Transit and Parks & Recreation. Examples of other revenue sources are user fees, and funding from other levels of government. Unfortunately HRM has one of the highest reliance on property tax amongst municipalities in Canada and the lowest level of funding from both the provincial and federal governments. To make matters even worse, the Province takes 25% of your property tax to fund their own mandate, such as education, corrections and housing. This year HRM's provincial "contribution" will be \$106.6 million, up 8% over last year. The Province, and some MLA's, say "it is all the same tax payer, so what is the difference?" Well, the difference is that unlike income or sales tax, property tax is a regressive tax and is not reflective of one's ability to pay or the services they receive. HRM is continuing to push the legislature to support fair and equitable funding, so that each level of government can fulfill their mandate from their own revenues. However, HRM still has to find other ways to fairly distribute the property tax.

HRM has formed a Tax Reform Committee, of which I am a member to fulfill this mandate. The Committee will provide leadership for the tax reform project and will be the "eyes and ears" of HRM residents and business people. We will provide many opportunities for public input and extensive public consultation. The Committee wants to ensure that issues are identified and appropriately considered, in order to aid in formulation of policy and recommendations to Council.

For more information concerning tax reform, please visit: <http://www.halifax.ca/taxreform/index.html>, phone 490-4886 or e-mail taxreform@halifax.ca.

Doctors Nova Scotia Running Program



Councillor Mosher after running with students from Springvale Elementary.

Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Running for Fun is a free, school-based running program offered to students across Nova Scotia. The aim of the program is to convey the importance of exercise and healthy eating to youth 5 to 15 years of age. Youth run, walk or run/walk, one to three times per week. The program culminates with the youth run at the Blue Nose Marathon. Last year 6,500 kids from 108 schools participated in the program. This year they expect 8,000 youth to participate and 3,000 to complete the Marathon. In our district there are five schools participating: Ecole Chebucto Heights Elementary School, Cunard Junior High School, Halifax Christian Academy, John W. MacLeod Elementary School and Springvale Elementary School.

Doctors Nova Scotia provides each participant with a runner's handbook, a water bottle, healthy eating information and a certificate of achievement upon completion of the program. Each school solicits prizes to give to the students as incentives. Merchants in our area donated Wave Pool passes, Subway subs and Spryfield Bowlerama passes. Last year, using District 17 discretionary funds, I donated an ipod Nano per school as a grand prize. Each time a student ran or walked their name went into the final draw. This year I will be supporting the program again with similar prizes.

The program would not be possible without the dedication of school staff, parents and community volunteers who assist with coaching and administration the program. The overall program is overseen by Kerry Copeland, Program Coordinator, Doctors Nova Scotia. Kerry is a resident of District 17, a long standing community volunteer and the driving force behind this program's success. Last year the highest participation rate of any school in the Province was Cunard Junior High School. Way to go students, volunteers and Phys Ed Teacher Mary Lou Buckle!

City Watch Empowers Communities

City Watch is a telephone messaging system, operated and maintained by Halifax Regional Municipality through our Community Relations and Crime Prevention Unit. It allows a recorded important message to be sent out to multiple recipients at the same time. The system can generate an average of 72 calls a minute to homes or businesses or both.

Some of the uses of City Watch are for crime alerts, emergency responses, missing children, fire alerts, weather related safety, community policing initiatives, resident and business watch alerts. Residents and businesses who receive these messages are first signed up through a Neighbourhood/Business Watch Program.

Your information is privacy protected and will be used solely for City Watch and Neighbourhood Watch purposes.

For more information please refer to <http://www.halifax.ca/Police/index.asp> and select Programs or phone 490-5016.

Personal Safety Issues



As crime becomes an increasing problem in today's society, the need to involve the community in crime prevention for themselves and their communities becomes paramount.

The Police will conduct a session about personal safety during the upcoming community meetings, to empower you to handle potential unsafe situations. This is not a physical response, but ensures that you have a plan to deal with confrontations. At the end of the session there will be three guiding principles that residents can adhere to, which are:

- 1) **Have a plan** - many people have a plan for most situations in life, but do not know how to deal with their own personal safety. Often if faced with a sudden confrontation, people are like "deer in head lights" and cannot logically react.
- 2) **Do not stereotype** - many people envision what their biggest threat is, and the type of person involved. Criminals can be anywhere and anyone.
- 3) **It can happen to me** - so many people think that they will not be victims of crime. The session will teach that it can happen to you, without causing fear or paranoia. The goal is to reduce crime and fears accompanying criminal activity.

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is a program aimed at reducing crime in the community. It involves getting to know your neighbours and introducing them to the concepts of the program. Neighbourhood Watch can be summarized as good neighbours working together and being alert to the potential of crime in their area before it starts.

Neighbourhood Watch provides a means of reducing the opportunity for crime to occur, through the active participation of citizens in crime prevention. Citizens are taught how to make their homes less inviting as a target for thieves; how to participate in Operation Identification, making their personal property less desirable to burglars; and how to be alert to suspicious activity in their neighbourhoods.

Very few people are in a position to protect their homes and property all the time. Vacation, business and shopping trips, or even an evening out will leave homes unattended and vulnerable to theft. The Neighbourhood Watch program will provide a sense of security for individuals or families who leave their homes for any length of time. The program will also help coordinate the efforts of police and the community in tracking down criminals. Strong community involvement is encouraged because neighbourhood unity can deter crime.

All members of Neighbourhood Watch are assigned a personal identification number. This protects your anonymity when reporting an incident as you are only obligated to identify yourself with your number. Access to your datafile is confidential and restricted to your Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

For more information please visit: <http://www.halifax.ca/Police/Programs/neighbourhoodwatch.html>. If you would like to sign up for the Neighbourhood Watch program, please phone the Program Coordinator at 490-6977.



Councillor Mosher, her nephew and Elmo enjoy the "Take the Roof Off Winter" skating party at Frog Pond.

District 17 Recycles Contest Winners



Recently, I had the pleasure of attending the awards banquet for the Nova Scotia Recycles School Contest winners. Every year the RRFB and municipalities throughout Nova Scotia hold a contest, challenging students to consider the three R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) and composting. This year, the students created artwork for t-shirts made from recycled

pop bottles, designed advertisements using old magazines, created television ads and wrote essays on how to improve waste diversion. There were 9,400 entries from students in grades primary through twelve, vying for over \$40,000 in cash and prizes. Grade twelve students were eligible for \$20,000 in scholarships. Jeremy Francis from John W. MacLeod School was a winner for the Grade Two-Three category and Kelly Foster from J. L. Ilsley High School was a winner from the Grade Twelve category.



Jeremy Francis accepts his award



Kelly Foster accepts her award

Ravenscraig Development



Polycorp President Peter Polly, Vice-President Louis Lemoine and I chat during an open house to showcase the model home for the 77 single family housing development that will span from Joyce Avenue to Williams Lake Road.

Mowing of HRM Properties

Last year there was a tremendous number of calls and e-mails concerning mowing, or lack thereof, for HRM properties in District 17 and throughout HRM. In 2006, mowing was contracted out to allow HRM staff to focus their expertise in key areas such as sports field rehabilitation. The mowing concerns were brought to the attention of HRM staff who took these very seriously. Some of the issues were attributed to weather, others to lack of stringent standards.

This year HRM issued new performance based tenders that were designed to make the contractors more responsible for their work. There are specific standards set in the contract such as grass on athletic fields must be a height between 2 1/2 to 4 inches (5-10 cm), and parks and green spaces between 2-3 inches (4-9 cm). The specific measurements take varied weather patterns out of the equation. The stringent guidelines include requirements such inspection of the Contractor's equipment, and regular inspections of their work. If the standards are not met, financial penalties are in place. If they still cannot be met than action will be taken to null and void the contract. The School Board has decided to match the service standards of HRM. In our district, Sir Sandford Fleming Park (Dingle) will continue to be excellently maintained by HRM staff.

Residential and commercial properties are regulated by Streets Bylaw S-300, which states "abutters, except where grass cutting and maintenance service is provided by the Municipality, shall maintain any grass which is between the sidewalk and the curb closely clipped and to a height not greater than six inches and shall keep such areas in good order including raking and renewal of the grass as necessary".

Should a resident have concerns about any property, including HRM lands, please contact our Call Centre, 490-4000, they are open 7 days per week (excluding Christmas and New Year's Day) from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. Our representatives will ensure that your concern is addressed.



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.