



District 17

Purcell's Cove - Armdale

The Mosher Report

Winter 2005



How to Contact Me

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Dear Residents

It has been another busy year on Regional Council. We are continuing to work on priorities that I helped establish during my previous term on Council. One of the main initiatives is to establish a Regional Plan to provide a blueprint to direct growth and resources over the next twenty-five years. This plan is being further refined based on public and Council input. A revised version should be available for discussion in early 2006. The harbour clean up project is continuing and we are on schedule for completion of all three plants by 2008. As well, a new traffic division was established by the Halifax Regional Police.

Development in our district is continuing at a rapid pace, most of which is "as of right" or "by right." This means that if the requested development meets the current zoning for the land and as long as the application meets the basic regulations, a permit is issued without public input or Council involvement. Unfortunately, there has been a real lack of information to the nearby residents regarding the particulars of the development. I brought this issue to Council and they endorsed my request for fact sheets and information being sent to area residents regarding these types of developments. It is important that abutting neighbours know what is going on.

Recently Council established key areas which will be the focus of our efforts, they are as follows: (in no particular order) regional planning, youth, infrastructure, by-law enforcement, public safety, taxation, traffic congestion, transit, community relations, recreation, community and economic development.

I wish everyone a great Holiday Season, and a Happy New Year!
Sincerely,



1st Cowie Hill Brownies

Herring Cove Road Improvement Strategy

The Herring Cove Road Community Development and Streetscape Planning Project will provide a blueprint for improvements to the Herring Cove Road area that increases its cultural, historical, natural, social, community, and business focus. Ekistics, the consulting company retained by HRM for the project, presented their recommendation to the public. It incorporated many of the wonderful ideas generated by the public through the workshops and surveys. One major recommendation is to have a transit terminal at the Spryfield Mall. HRM staff agrees this is an ideal location and is looking at having this as a Bus Rapid Transit route. This would entail having a bus go from the mall to downtown Halifax via North West Arm Drive, including a stop to pick up park and ride passengers.

Other transportation ideas included increased capacity for bicycles, meridians, improved sidewalks and walking connectivity through an integrated trail system. The recommendations must be analyzed by HRM staff to ensure they are feasible. Transportation and Public Works will assess all of the consultant company's traffic suggestions following consideration of current and anticipated vehicular volumes. Some other possibilities for this "village" are

vast improvements for a park area in front of the Captain William Spry Centre, the location to incorporate a skate board park, signage, and other community and esthetic enhancements.

HRM Planning staff formed a steering committee for this project, which includes representation from Traffic, Engineering, Community Response, Parkland Planning and Recreation. A final report will be coming to Chebucto Community Council in December. Given HRM's priorities and limited resources, some of the recommendations are unrealistic and may not be implemented. However, the report should be approved in principle so that we can start planning for the many good ideas which are included in the report. HRM will be able to have a multi-year financial plan to implement the staff recommendations. Councillor Adams and I have obtained close to \$½ million this year to implement some of the suggestions. The money will be spent next year as the work is still in the planning stages. Funding will be allocated each fiscal year and residents should expect some noticeable improvements over the next several years. We greatly appreciate the excellent feedback and suggestions provided by members of the community.

New Police Office

Since 2000, Councillor Adams and I have worked with the Halifax Regional Police to establish a Community Police office near the boundaries of Districts 17 and 18. The Musicstop (former Canadian Tire building) was chosen as the ideal location. Through the hard work and dedication of Police Chief Frank Beazley, Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge, Inspector Cliff Falkenham, Inspector William Darnbrough, and numerous members of the force, we finally have the new office. We were very pleased with the public attendance of the grand opening of the new Herring Cove Road Police Office, which is open to the public daily from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For your reference, the telephone #'s are: 490-5199 and 490-5053. Please continue to use the general police non-emergency line 490-5020 and the emergency line 9-1-1.



New Traffic Signals for Springvale



Installation of traffic signals was approved for the intersection of Springvale Avenue and Joseph Howe Drive. Traffic Services determines where traffic signals are placed based on warrant points. A location must score 100 points before it is approved. In 2003 this location scored 96 points and it rose to 107 in 2004. In the near future this number will jump dramatically given the large number of homes being constructed.

It has been increasingly difficult to get out of Fairmount subdivision, not only based on the volumes of cars entering and exiting the subdivision, but also the speeds and number of vehicles on Joseph Howe Drive. The underground installation of the signals was coordinated with the Springvale Avenue street reconstruction. The tender for the signal installation was awarded mid November and they should be installed by February. Traffic Services will ensure that adequate signage and notification is made to the public for the new signals.

Re-activation of the Traffic Division



During Town Hall meetings, residents made it clear to Chief Beazley that traffic enforcement is a key issue. As your Councillor and as a member of the Halifax Regional Board of Police Commissioners, I was solidly behind establishing an HRP traffic division which will promote safer streets and communities by dealing with strategic traffic enforcement, prevention and education. We will create a 22-member traffic unit. In addition to the two current member accident investigation team, we hired ten new full time police officers in 2005-2006. We will hire ten more in 2006-2007 to complete the team.

It has been great to see the police officers on motorcycles enforcing safety in our area. Residents have brought forward many traffic concerns such as speeding on Joseph Howe Drive, St. Margaret's Bay Road, Purcell's Cove Road and Herring Cove Road. There have also been issues such as vehicles not stopping at the 4-way stop signs on Purcell's Cove Road or illegal left-hand turns on the Bay Road. I always forward the traffic concerns that I receive to the Halifax Regional Police for enforcement.

Fast Ferry to Purcell's Cove

Recently HRM had the Whaling City Express high speed ferry from Boston come to Halifax. We had some trial runs from Bedford to downtown Halifax. For one of its trials, the ferry also went from downtown Halifax to Purcell's Cove.



Captain Ed Kiley, Stan Matthews, Linda Mosher, Carol MacLean, and George Hebb

Traveling at 27.1 knots, it took the ferry six minutes and fifteen seconds! It was a comfortable, smooth ride with very little wake. The residents of Purcell's Cove who joined me on board found this to be unbelievable.

In 2001 when I had Council endorse a request for a ferry from Purcell's Cove to downtown Halifax I had no idea that the concept would evolve to a high speed catamaran type of ferry. No other method of commuting would get residents to downtown in such a fast and enjoyable way. Due to the sheer volume of traffic in Bedford, their high speed ferry will be first, followed by Purcell's Cove. Ferries will be a wonderful way to utilize our watercourses for transportation, reduce green house gas emissions and reduce the volume of vehicles which decreases the need to upgrade infrastructure such as roads. I wish to thank Dave McCusker, Transportation Manager, for bringing in the ferry to show us how great it really works!

Citizenship Award Winners



Lynne Staples,
Cunard Junior High School



Benjamin Cunningham,
Ecole du Carrefour

Congratulations also to Allison Churchill,
2005 citizenship award winner at St. Agnes School.

Boards and Committees

The following is a list of Boards, Committees, Commissions, on which I serve: Board of Police Commissioners, Deadman's Island Committee, Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission (and their two sub-committees, Audit and Maintenance), Appeals Committee (Chair), Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (Board of Directors), Energy & Underground Services, (Chair), Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee, CAO Review Committee and Chebucto Community Council (Chair). As a representative from UNSM, I also sit on the Provincial Health Promotion Board.

Appointments to various committees is mandatory to HRM Councillors. These appointments do take away from day-to-day representation; however, I have chosen many of these boards, such as the Police Commission, to ensure that I obtain the services that residents in our district have requested.

When will my street be repaved?

I am often asked, “Why hasn’t my street been re-paved? Why is the street down the road being resurfaced and mine is in much worse shape? Why is it taking so long to have a new sidewalk installed?”

Last year HRM spent about \$16 million on our roads and sidewalks. This is not enough. To put this in perspective, there are 23 districts in HRM, and one resurfacing job such as the portion of the Cowie Hill connector can cost over \$400,000. In light of the condition of many of the roads and sidewalks throughout HRM, we must increase our funding to upgrade or replace this failing infrastructure.

Pavement starts to deteriorate as soon as it is constructed. The rate of deterioration depends on factors such as traffic volumes and weight of vehicles. The life span of pavement ranges from 20 to 70 years. HRM is responsible for 1540 kilometers of roads. In assessing the condition of the roads, HRM uses a Surface Distress Index (SDI). The rating tracks the density and severity of various types of pavement distress, such as potholes, cracking and patching. If I am contacted by a resident about the condition of a road, the first thing I do is ask HRM staff to obtain an SDI.

If the SDI rating indicates that a road is in poor shape, then this road is prioritized based on its SDI, and put forward for funding consideration in the capital budget.

It is not just the worst streets that receive funding for improvements. Sometimes it makes good economic sense to perform repairs to roads that are in acceptable condition. These roads can be upgraded with minimal cost and greatly improve the life of the pavement. The list of outstanding requests for District 17, and all of HRM is very long.

Sidewalk repair is also based on distress types, such as cracking, spalling, heaving or patching. With the present level of funding for sidewalk renewals, it will take approximately twelve years to upgrade all sidewalks that currently have a deficiency rating of 70% or higher.

New sidewalk requests are evaluated on a point system, scoring each request out of 100 possible points. Points are assigned for pedestrian users - 30 points; road classification - 25 points; existing facilities - 25 points; origin of request - 15 points; other factors - 5 points. The pedestrian points are scored higher if the location is within 200m of a school or is near a park or bus route. A requested sidewalk on an arterial or major collector road would score more points than one on a local street. If the sidewalk is in an area with shoulders less than 2m wide, it would score much higher than one with an existing sidewalk on the other side of the road. More points are given for petitions received from the abutting homeowners who are willing to pay local improvement charges, than if a Councillor simply requests it. The other category would include factors such as a section of sidewalk that would connect to an existing sidewalk.

Commemorating Deadman’s Island



U.S. Ambassador Wilkins, U.S. Consulate Leonard Hill, presenting the USS Constitution flag which will be on display at the Chocolate Lake Rec. Centre.

Springvale Elementary School



Grounds Improvement Project



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.