



District 10

Halifax Regional Municipality

Councillor Mary Wile

December 2006



How to Reach Me:

Home Office.....490-7028
Cellular.....476-2048
Facsimile.....490-5487
E-mail.....wilema@halifax.ca
Mailing Address:.....PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5

Committees I Serve On

HRM Committees:

- Community & Race Relations Advisory Committee
- Dangerous & Unsightly Premises Committee
- Emergency Measures Advisory Committee
- HRM Urban Design Task Force
- Neptune Theatre Foundation
- Solid Waste/Resource Advisory Committee
- Volunteer Award Recipients Committee
- 2011 Canada Winter Games Bid Planning Committee
- Chebucto Community Council

Community Committees:

- Mainland North Local Committee on Addictions Awareness
- Clayton Park West Neighbourhood Watch
- Mainland North Volunteer Recognition Committee
- Bayers Lake Business Association
- Centennial Rink Commission
- Mainland Commons Community Centre



Dear Residents:

As Christmas draws near and the New Year approaches, it is a good time to look back on the past year. It has been a busy year for me, with many special events and projects accomplished. One of the most rewarding was the development of Stratford Way Park and the building of the Korean War Veteran's Memorial.

Regional Council had a very heavy and demanding schedule of major projects including the Regional Plan, Cultural Plan, Municipal Planning Strategy, Active Transportation Plan and the Urban Design Plan for the Central Core. In addition, HRM was given the go ahead to bid on the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the 2011 Canada Winter Games, and the 2010 Acadian Games. For more information on any of these exciting initiatives, please visit www.halifax.ca.

One of the hardest and most difficult decisions to be made by Council is on the issue of property tax. Each year, Council is faced with the task of setting the tax rate. This year Council lowered the rate by 5.1%. The assessment system is an unfair basis for taxes and has nothing to do with the cost of providing services. On October 3, 2006, Council approved that tax reform move ahead, to look at better ways to manage property taxes. For more information go to www.halifax.ca/taxreform/.

Constantly aware of the residents' concerns regarding the seemingly endless and dangerous traffic, I met with staff to discuss crosswalks. As a result, four were installed at various locations in District 10 (Willett Street at Westridge, Farnham Gate and Parkland, Fairfax at Parkland, and the half-signalization at Lacewood and Thomas Raddall). One of the most advanced traffic light systems in HRM was installed at the intersection of Dunbrack and Lacewood. Also advanced left turn signals were installed at various intersections on Lacewood Drive.

Another major issue this year was the Memorandum of Understanding signed by HRM and the YMCA to coordinate the building of the new Mainland Common Community Centre. This relationship will bring to District 10 a community facility that will provide the largest recreation pool in HRM along with a 3-lane walking track, gym, fitness centre, multi-purpose rooms and a variety of programs that will cater to every age and cultural group. I know this facility will be impressive and I am looking forward to the turning of the sod sometime in the fall of 2007.

As a final note, the holiday season is coming up and I want to wish all the children and residents a very Merry Christmas and a successful and healthy 2007.

Mary Wile
Councillor Mary Wile

Korean War Veterans Memorial Garden Grand Opening



The Pagoda, at the centre of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Garden.

In August 2005, a meeting was held between myself, HRM Park Staff and members of the Korean Association of Nova Scotia who aspired to create a memorial garden in honour of Canadian Korean War veterans. One meeting was enough to build momentum for HRM and the Nova Scotia Korean Association to go forth and make the dream a reality. Funds from Se Uk Walling's, (President of the Korean Association of Nova Scotia) tireless fundraising, along with a contribution from my District Capital Fund and Parks Capital Projects Service of HRM, resulted in the newly opened Korean War Veterans Memorial Garden.

The Garden, located in Stratford Way Park, has already been host to two important events. On July 27th, 2006 a ceremony was held, at which I served as Master of Ceremonies, in order to commemorate the declaration of the Korean War Armistice and to unveil a plaque in honour of the veterans. Attendees included: Soo Taek Rhee, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Montreal; Brigadier General Richard Parsons, Commander Land Forces Atlantic; representatives of the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments and our Canadian Korean war veterans, Korean citizens and visitors. I was also very pleased to see approximately two hundred visitors attending each event.

To date, landscaping work is not yet complete. Plans for 2007 include: planting of trees and shrubs, installation of lighting and furniture, and enhancement of the playground area. If you are interested in making a donation towards Stratford Way Park, in the form of a tree or shrub, in the memory of a loved one or a special event please call 490-4000. All donors will be recognized in the Park, by way of a plaque.



Myself and members of the Korean Association of Nova Scotia.

Parking Fines Increase

This summer, the provincial government proclaimed into law Bill 115, "The Justice Administration Amendment Act". With those amendments, the minimum fines for parking offences have increased throughout Nova Scotia. Minimum fines for offences such as parking during the winter ban, meter violations, etc., under the Motor Vehicle Act increased from \$15 to \$25. Minimum fines for obstructing snow removal and overtime specified by signs have been increased to \$50, while minimum fines for offences such as parking in accessible spaces and fire lanes have increased to \$100.

Bayers Lake Business Association Fleshes Out Strategic Plan

Last month's AGM addressed some important housekeeping issues for the new Association, including the appointment of an official Board of Directors, creation of a marketing campaign, and determination of membership fees. It was decided that the membership fees will consist of \$50 for an individual membership, \$125 for a company-wide membership and \$250 for a corporate sponsorship.

The marketing campaign has been designed to create an image of Bayers Lake Park in the minds of metro's consumers. The campaign kicks off this holiday season with an extensive shopping promotion.

The purpose of the first Director's meeting following the AGM, was to come up with a strategic plan for the coming year. Discussions centered on key areas for the BLBA, which are: traffic and access, transportation, communications, marketing, membership and security. From these, the Board identified four key projects to pursue during the next twelve months:

- **Improved transit service:** The Board has struck a two-member committee to work with Metro Transit to change current bus service, in order to better reflect tenant needs and to explore the possibility of relocating bus stops at store parking lots. It will also seek input into possible redevelopment of the CN rail lines through the Park and establish communication with HRM's Bike Committee.
- **Marketing strategy:** Board members will develop a Media Awareness Plan and conduct research to further define who comprises the Park's target market and how best to reach them.
- **Enhancing membership:** The goal of registering one hundred members by 2007 was established. In addition, the process of reforming the BLBA's bylaws has begun, in order to include the membership fees.
- **Improved security within Bayers Lake:** A two-person committee from the BLBA will establish open dialogue with Halifax Regional Police, in order to allow for a flow of communication between the two organizations.

Progress on each of these goals will be assessed at each Board meeting and adjusted as required.



The new executive of the Bayers Lake Business Association include: (l to r) Gord Gamble of Minuteman Press, Chair; Brian Pestill of Adven-Tel Products, Vice Chair; George Rae of Cast Microsystems, Treasurer; and Ken Partridge of The Burnside News, Secretary. Following closely on the heels of its first Annual General Meeting (AGM), the newly constituted Bayers Lake Business Association (BLBA) is already moving forward with a 12-month action plan to address what it identifies as the key concerns facing future growth in HRM's second largest business park.

HRM Launches New Graffiti Website



As part of Halifax Regional Municipality's recently adopted Graffiti Management Plan, residents are encouraged to take action against graffiti in their neighborhoods and to be aware of the negative social and economic impact graffiti has on their community.

A comprehensive web site (www.halifax.ca/graffiti) now offers new graffiti reporting procedures, information on efforts to reduce graffiti and tips for graffiti removal and prevention.

Residents are urged to do their part to keep our community clean, welcoming and vibrant by remembering the Three R's:

Three R's of Graffiti Removal and Prevention

- 1. Record It** - Note the time, location and date of when graffiti is discovered. Take a picture or record what it said.
- 2. Report It** - Graffiti in Progress - Call 911 immediately; graffiti vandalism is a crime and should be reported to police
Graffiti on HRM-owned Property - Call 490-4000 or report online at www.halifax.ca/access HRM.
Graffiti on Private Property - Call the Police at 490-5016 to file a Property Damage Report.
- 3. Remove It** - Quick removal is the best deterrent against repeat offenders. Visit www.halifax.ca/graffiti for removal and prevention tips.

For more information, residents are requested to contact the HRM Corporate Call Centre at 490-4000 or visit www.halifax.ca/graffiti.

Expanded Hours for HRM Corporate Call Centre

The HRM Corporate Call Centre's hours of operation have been expanded from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm. The only exceptions to this are Christmas Day and New Years Day, when the Corporate Call Centre is closed.

After 11:00 pm, emergency calls will be directed to the on-duty commissioner. Calling through to the HRM Corporate Call Centre is the most effective way to register your concerns. When a call is logged at the Centre, a service number is issued. You may wish to record your service number for future reference. Time between the initial call and resolution of the issue is monitored frequently, to ensure that residents' calls are handled in the most efficient manner possible.

Residents may contact the HRM Call Centre at 490-4000 or visit the HRM website at www.halifax.ca to register concerns through ACCESS HRM.

Metro Transit Update

MetroLink Service Summary

The introductory phase of HRM's new premium transit service, MetroLink, designed under a five year program in part with Transport Canada's Urban Transportation Showcase Program to attract more people to public transit and reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, will be completed in March 2007. Throughout the duration of this very successful program, Metro Transit has overseen the building of two new transit terminals with free Park & Ride lots and the implementation of a new limited-stop, premium fare service utilizing transit priority lanes and signals. It also offers more comfortable buses with air conditioning, upholstered seats and bike racks, as well as other updated passenger amenities. Through the Regional Planning process, it is anticipated that additional MetroLink services could be introduced in the next five years in other busy transit corridors such as Clayton Park and Spryfield.

U-Pass at MSVU:

Several meetings have been held since December 2005, when Mount students voted in favour of a U-Pass program. However, at that time Metro Transit was already committed to the fairly massive undertaking of introducing a U-Pass program for Dalhousie students for January 2006. As a result, Metro Transit staff advised HRM Regional Council and MSVU Student Union that it would not be possible to introduce a U-Pass to MSVU until at least September 2007.

Based on Metro Transit's experience with Saint Mary's and Dalhousie, staff would expect a U-Pass at MSVU to increase ridership by 15-20,000 passengers per month. Metro Transit currently does not have the capacity on the routes operating past the Mount to support this increase. Metro Transit would not be serving the best interests of existing customers or students by introducing any new U-Pass programs without having sufficient service to meet the additional demand.

Tax credits for Transit Pass Users

Many are aware of the Federal Government's announcement last summer that effective July 1st, 2006 that they would offer tax credits to transit pass holders.

The Canada Revenue Agency has outlined a list of conditions for people to receive their tax credit. For more information on how to obtain your tax credit for transit passes, check out the information on the Canada Revenue Agency's website at www.cra.gc.ca or the link on transit's website at www.halifax.ca/metrotransit/passes.



Crosswalks: Did You Know?

Whether it is marked or not, under the Provincial Motor Vehicle Act, every place where one street intersects another is legally a crosswalk. The same legislation requires that drivers yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk. Failure to do so can result in a fine and loss of points on your drivers' license.

Pedestrians must also take care to ensure their path is clear before walking out into traffic. Even when overhead lights are engaged, always check to ensure drivers see you before proceeding across.

Based on national standards, painted crosswalks are put in places where traffic is sufficiently heavy; which is defined as less than 120 opportunities to cross per hour during peak times and also where there are more than 20 pedestrian crossings per hour in at least one hour of the day. An opportunity to cross, is also referred to as a gap and ranges from 9 to 15 seconds in length, depending on the road width.

HRM Opens Municipal Archives

HRM recently opened its own Municipal Archives to preserve and promote use of the Region's historical records. The new Archives houses historical records of HRM and the former cities of Halifax and Dartmouth, the former Town of Bedford and the former County of Halifax, some dating back to the early 1800s. Holdings include Municipal records repatriated from the Provincial Archives and community records donated by individuals.

Highlights from the Archives include:

- Council and Committee minutes, submissions and reports
- Ordinances and By-laws
- Halifax City Engineer's Office plans
- City of Halifax Engineering and Works photographs, 1948-1982
- Police Department records
- County Home records
- Photographs of Municipal officials and events
- Public Gardens, Commons and Points Pleasant Park Committees records

The Municipal Archives, as well as preserving the Region's documentary heritage, is a fundamental support of good governance, government accountability and citizen involvement, by providing access to previous deliberations and decisions.

The Municipal Archives is located at 81 Ilsley Ave., Burnside Park and is open to the public: Tuesdays 10am-1pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1pm-4pm, or at other times by appointment (490-4643); archives@halifax.ca. For more information, please visit www.halifax.ca/archives.

Citizenship Award



Mayor Peter Kelly and I, present Nabhan Chowdhury, a student at Park West School with the Citizenship Award, June 20th 2006.

Contact Numbers

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| HRM Call Centre - Open seven days a week 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m | 490-4000 |
| Mayor's Office | 490-4010 |
| Councillors' Support Office | 490-4050 |
| Geoff Regan 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 |
| Fire Non-Emergency | 426-8691 |
| 24hr Lake Ice Thickness Line | 490-5020 |

Council Meetings

Regional Council meetings are held on most Tuesdays and usually begin during the day with Committee of the Whole at a time that depends on the length of the agenda. December 12th is the last Regional Council meeting in 2006, with Council returning in the new year on January 9th.

Business meetings and public hearings generally start at 6:00pm and usually can be seen on Eastlink Channel 10.

AGENDAS for all council meetings are posted at least 48 hours in advance of a meeting.

You can find Community Council Agendas and Minutes at:
<http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/ccc/agenda.html>

You can find Regional Council Minutes and Agendas at:
<http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html>



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.