

Assessment Up In HRM

Residential assessments of \$18.6 billion have been recorded for our municipality, which is an increase of 10% over last year. Commercial assessment stands at \$6.9 billion an increase of 4.8%. How this will play out when Council sets a tax rate will be determined at budget time in March. Our revenue requirement to meet our anticipated capital and operational needs will be impacted by the provincially imposed assessment cap. It is hoped that some relief will come from the promised sharing of the Federal Fuel Tax with municipalities. Questions about individual property assessment should be directed to the Provincial Assessment Office at: 424-5225 or 1-800-667-5727 or website: www.nsassessment.ca.

Happy Days at A.J. Smeltzer



Drew Sadler, Ronald MacDonald House Charities, presenting a plaque to Sophie Lussier, Learning Centre Teacher

A.J. Smeltzer Junior High received a grant of \$22,000 from Ronald McDonald House Charities to provide equipment and technology to assist the Learning Centre in the school.

The A.J. Smeltzer Junior High School Band received a \$10,000 grant through the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences' Band Aid Program. The 25 members of the band played at the announcement that Halifax will host the 2006 Juno Awards. They displayed the new instruments donated to the school, including horns, congas, cymbals and a bass guitar and amplifier. Congratulations!

How To Contact Me



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Contact Numbers

Emergency (Police/Fire/Ambulance)	911
HRM Call Centre - Open seven days a week (7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.):	490-4000
Call Centre TTY/TDD:	490-6645
HRM Homepage:	www.halifax.ca
Community Council Information Line:	490-6080
Public Library, Sackville Branch:	865-8653
Sackville Sports Stadium:	869-4141
Water Commission - Service Calls:	869-4290
Water Commission	
- General Inquiries and Billing Info:	490-4820
Councillor Robert P. (Bob) Harvey, District 20:	488-4820
Councillor Brad Johns, District 19:	476-1234
Councillors' Office, City Hall:	490-4050
Sackville Community Website:	www.sackvillenovascotia.ca
School Board Member, Wade Marshall:	830-1295
Cobequid Multi-Service Centre:	869-6100
Honourable Geoff Regan, MP - Halifax West:	426-2217
Dave Wilson, MLA - Sackville - Cobequid:	864-0396
Peter Stoffer, MP, Sackville	
- Musquodoboit Valley - Eastern Shore:	865-2311
Hon. Barry Barnett, MLA	
- Hammonds Plains - Upper Sackville:	864-8669

DELIVERY NOTE: Due to the 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.



Councillor Bob Harvey

Lower Sackville

Halifax Regional Municipality



District 20 Newsletter

Winter 2005

Greeting For 2005



Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Congratulations to the Sackville Volunteer Firefighters Association, which will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sackville Fire Department this year. Our volunteer firefighters have been a source of pride in our community since 1955 and our thanks go out to all past and serving members of the department. Please support anniversary events later this year.

Regional Plan

In December Council adopted a "Regional Plan Preferred Alternative" which features a regional urban centre connected to corridors of smaller local centres linked by major transit routes. The settlement pattern to be encouraged includes building blocks of a regional centre, district centres, local centres and rural commuter centres. Highlights also include a system of interconnected open space corridors and a transit focused solution to transportation needs. Our area, with its forthcoming Bus Rapid Transit terminal, will be a district centre with nearby areas of Sackville being considered local centres. This proposal will be presented in different locations in HRM in the coming weeks at public forums, including one at **Sackville High School on February 10th from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm.** (Storm date is February 14th)

Parkland Achieved



from left to right: Gordon Kyle, Co-chair, The Friends of First Lake; Theresa Scratch, Director, Second Lake Regional Park Association; Shane O'Neil, Director, Second Lake Regional Park Association; Dick de Gier, Co-chair, The Friends of First Lake; Barry Barnett, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations; David Haley, Chair, Second Lake Regional Park Association; Steve Craig, Past-president, Lake District Recreation Association, and Director, Second Lake Regional Park Association; Richard Hurlburt, Minister of Natural Resources; missing from the photo is Bill Hatcher, past Director, Lake District Recreation Association.

Just before Christmas, Sackville residents received a most welcome announcement when the Honourable Richard Hurlburt, Minister of Natural Resources, confirmed that 64 acres of land in the First Lake watershed, beyond Crimson Drive, had been transferred to his department from Community Services (formerly housing). This transfer will assist in maintaining the future integrity of First Lake and provide a gateway to the parkland watershed of Second Lake, which was put under the control of DNR in 1999 by the then premier, Russell MacLellan. Hopefully this final transfer will facilitate this open space area, of almost 800 acres, gaining the status of park reserve. Trail development has already begun and a park management agreement is in the making with the Second Lake Regional Park Association. Congratulations to all the community members and political leaders who made this legacy of our natural environment possible for future generations.

Advance Capital Budget 2005/2006 Approval

In December Council gave advance approval to three important capital projects in our district. They included the repaving of the remaining portion of Dorothy Drive and the end of Gloria Avenue to the Beaver Bank Road, Erondale Drive and the completion of the Cobequid Road sidewalk to Judy Ann Court. I have stated at Council that our district priorities for the budget are in the areas of renewing Sackville's original streets, building sidewalks for public safety and increasing the number of frontline police officers in the community.

Fultz Corner Restoration Society

In October the Fultz Corner Restoration Society (Fultz House Museum) marked its 25th anniversary with a gala dinner. During the evening three volunteers were recognized and presented with the Ted B. Blackburn Award for their outstanding contribution of our community's heritage: Cathy Lapierre, Judy Church and Darryl Spidell. Congratulations to all volunteers who show such pride in our community.

Speeding On Residential Streets

Speeding is a concern raised by many residents in different parts of the community. A sampling only of streets where I have heard this complaint would include: Irene Avenue, Old Beaver Bank Road, Riverside Drive, Nictaux Drive, Dickey Drive, Old Sackville Road and the Walker Service Road. **Speed and inattentive driving** cause accidents, injury and death. While I am working with HRM Traffic Services and the RCMP to improve safety on our streets, we as drivers can solve these problems ourselves by driving in a responsible and defensive manner. In conjunction with the other Councillors whose districts are served by the Sackville RCMP Office, we provided, some time ago, funding to purchase a speed radar trailer. We are prepared to help the local RCMP fund hand held speed radar units, for more patrol cars, as another tool in the effort to make our streets safer. As well, we are pressing for the establishment of a Traffic Division to deal exclusively with speeding and other traffic violations in HRM. In this regard please watch for and obey the new stop signs at intersections on the Old Sackville Road: the Sackville Crossroad, Meadowlands, Connolly Road and First Street.

School/Neighbourhood Playgrounds



With the cooperation and hard efforts of school-parent groups new playground equipment has recently been installed at Caudle Park Elementary School and Cavalier Drive School. This new equipment is already being well used and proving to be a hit with some of our younger residents. Congratulations and thank you to all the parents and staff who are committed to making our schools and playgrounds such happy, pleasant and safe places for learning to take place.

The Missing Link

News that the province has taken renewed interest in having the Sackville Expressway built to complete the transportation link from Burnside to Highway 102 and Sackville is encouraging. However, I remain unconvinced that a private toll road is the most appropriate way of creating this piece of important public infrastructure. The Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission has been charged with studying the concept and having the appropriate work done to provide the required information upon which to make decisions about this project. HRM has not taken a position on such a toll road. At this point it remains a provincial undertaking. In my view the Province, as part of the provincial transportation system, should build such a road. Should a toll road be built all existing roadways must be maintained to give the public an option to the new road.

2005 is the Year of the Veteran. This provides a special opportunity to thank all veterans of our Armed Services for their contributions to Canada in times of war and peace.

Sackville Sport Heritage Hall Of Fame

In October four individuals were inducted into the Sackville Sports Hall of Fame during an interesting evening program conducted by Pat Connolly. Those inducted were Bill Arsenault as boxing official and builder of the sport; the late Scott Edward Kelly, car driver and athlete; Frank (Speed) MacMahon, car driver/athlete and the late John Spurdakes, minor league baseball administrator and builder. It was a grand night with many friends and family members of the recipients present. Also recognized that evening and receiving 'honourable mention' was Sarah Bray, a World Junior Tae Kwan-Do Champion. Congratulations to organization President, Bill MacDonald, and his Board of Directors for a great night and keeping Sackville's sporting tradition front and centre in our community.

Metropolitan Field Meeting

Vandalism, graffiti and general public safety issues in and around our million-dollar sports facility will be the focus of an upcoming public meeting. I have asked several HRM departments including the Community Response Team and the RCMP to convene the meeting. Under discussion will be some background on the development of the facility, maintenance issues and recreational programming opportunities. As well, the community will be asked to consider creating a Neighbourhood Watch program for the area. The meeting is planned for **Monday, February 7th at the Metropolitan Avenue Fire Station from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm upstairs in the Atwood Room.**

The Cobequid Centre Of The Arts Society

Several months ago a new society was formed in Sackville with the hope of providing residents of the northwest region of HRM with a unique cultural centre for the arts. Such a centre would offer local artists a venue to showcase their talents in the visual and performing arts. The project catalyst is local artist, Jean Watson. A steering committee, representative of many individuals and organizations in the area, has been hard at work. A public meeting will be held in the **Fenerty Room** of the Sackville Library at **7:00 pm on Thursday, February 3rd** to elect a board of directors and executive.

Sackville Drive Secondary Planning Strategy Amendments

A public information meeting to review proposed housekeeping amendments to the Sackville Drive Plan will be held in the **Fenerty Room** of the Sackville Public Library at **7:00 pm on Thursday, February 17th.**

Cobequid Long Term Care Project

The province is committed to establishing a long-term care facility in the catchment area of the Cobequid Community Health Board. The likely provider of this service will be Northwood Care Inc. and a steering committee is working to establish the senior services for which there is the greatest need in the area. It is intended that this facility will be a new approach to providing long-term care and not a traditional nursing home. To that end a series of public meetings were held recently to receive input from the communities in the area on the greatest needs facing our growing senior population. This is an exciting and long awaited development which, I know, will be well received across the region. At the moment no site has been determined for the proposed facility.

Community Fund Raisers Set For February 12th

Saturday night February 12th will see the second Monte Carlo Nite in support of our new Sackville Heights Community Centre. Sackville high rollers will gather at 8:00 pm at the Centre, to try their luck, at this fun filled event. For tickets call Gordon Morgan at 864-0870. At the Kinsmen Centre on First Lake Drive there will be a Valentine's Dance in aid of the Cobequid Community Health Centre. For tickets to this event call Steve Craig at 865-0778.

HRM Winter Parking Ban In Force

It is illegal to park on an HRM street from 1:00 am to 7:00 am to facilitate our snow removal and ice control program. It is anticipated that this parking ban will be lifted on March 31st. The provincial parking ban, under Section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act, which applies to all streets 24 hours a day 12 months of the year is in effect during any required snow removal and salting operations.