



Councillor Bob Harvey

District 20

Halifax Regional Municipality



District 20 Newsletter

Winter 2006

YEAR OF THE VETERAN



Councillors Brad Johns and Bob Harvey presented a framed collection of Year of the Veteran memorabilia to Calais Branch 162 in Lower Sackville. Receiving the presentation is Earnie Harrison, Branch Past President.

This past year coincided with the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, which made it a fitting occasion to recognize the past service of those who have defended Canada and the present sacrifices being made by Canadian Armed Services personnel in many parts of the world, including Afghanistan. To all veterans who have served Canada in peace and war – thank you!

CAUDLE PARK ELEMENTARY CLEAN-UP DAY AND DEDICATION OF NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT



Last spring the Caudle Park Elementary Home and School Association held a clean up and BBQ celebrating the installation of their new playground equipment. The addition was named in honour of past HSA president Janet Walsh, who worked diligently on upgrading the playground.

IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES

The shortest month of the year is proving to be an important one for the community of Sackville. The long-awaited new Cobequid Community Health Centre is to open on February 20th and will provide new and improved services to the greater Sackville-Bedford area. All those associated with this great project are to be congratulated particularly those who helped raise nearly four million dollars in community contributions to the more than thirty million dollar project.

By mid month the new MetroLink public transit terminal and service will be fully operational on Walker Avenue featuring new buses, a terminal building and a park and ride facility. The premium service will cost \$2.50 and will utilize new low-floor buses with highway-coach style seating, air conditioning (for summer comfort) and bike racks. The buses will utilize Transit Priority Signalization and have the use of queue jump lanes at key intersections. The buses will travel to Scotia Square via Hwy. 101, Windmill Road and the MacKay Bridge. This enhanced facility demonstrates HRM's commitment to public transit and reducing green house gases.

On Saturday, February 18th don't forget to join in the fun of Monte Carlo Night at the Sackville Heights Community Centre located at 45 Connolly Road. There will be a bar, canteen, door prizes and an auction. This popular fund-raiser for the Centre promises to attract even more Sackville high rollers this year. Doors open at 8 p.m.

RCMP LONG SERVICE AWARDS



Councillor Bob Harvey congratulating Cst. Curt Wentzell on receiving his 30 year Silver Clasp at a recent service awards ceremony held in Beaver Bank.

Cst. Wentzell is well-known and respected in the Sackville community as the Coordinator of Community Policing and the School Liaison programs. Thank you to Curt and all members of Police Services for your dedicated commitment to public safety.

HALIFAX REGIONAL INTEGRATED TRAFFIC



In October a new Traffic Unit was launched made up of both HRP and RCMP officers under the command of Sgt. Mike Spearns. The unit patrols six divisions including Lower Sackville and has a strength of 10 members. It is projected that with this year's budget the number will grow to 20. The formation of the unit is a response by Council and the Police Services to the public's concern with traffic issues in residential neighbourhoods and communities in the urban and suburban areas of HRM. The unit will focus on education of the motoring public and enforcement. During its first month of operation the Traffic Unit gave out a thousand tickets.

CAN YOU AFFORD TO LITTER?

How many times have you seen an empty coffee cup or a loose piece of refuse littering the streets, sidewalks or parks in your neighbourhood? Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents. Litter in the form of discarded cups, cigarette butts, flyers and other material can be found in every corner of HRM on any given day. Are we content with this portrait of our city, or would we rather keep our community clean, safe and beautiful? The truth is that each and every one of us can make a difference in reducing litter in our neighbourhood.

A province wide litter survey was conducted in 2004 by the Department of Environment and Labour to characterize Nova Scotia litter by material, origin and brand. The number one identifiable piece of litter was determined to be disposable drink cups, made out of non recyclable materials. Other common items included snack food wrappers and tobacco products. As environmentally conscious citizens we need to find a better way to put this litter in its place – the waste basket.

In April 2006, HRM will launch a coordinated campaign in partnership with local environmental non profit organizations to help prevent and reduce littering in HRM.

The municipal departments of Transportation & Public Works, Real Property & Asset Management, Solid Waste Resources, Metro Transit, Capital District, HRM Police, the RCMP with funding assistance from the N.S. Resource Recovery Fund Board have joined forces to combat the fight against litter. This campaign has been developed based on the recommendations of the 2004 Litter Survey and includes focus on education, clean up, monitoring and enforcement. The campaign is being designed to help increase public awareness of the issue of litter, while profiling current anti-litter initiatives such as the Adopt-a-Highway program and the Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up.

In addition to the public education component, increased enforcement of existing anti-litter legislation will be conducted. Did you know that you are subject to a fine of \$387.50 under the Nova Scotia Environment Act if caught in the act of littering? The Motor Vehicle Act also provides a fine of \$445.00 if caught littering from a vehicle on a road or a highway. HRM Police and the RCMP have issued tickets to litterbugs in HRM. That will make you think twice before carelessly tossing your garbage on the ground or from your vehicle.

Enhanced enforcement of this legislation in conjunction with the public awareness campaign to reduce litter will put a spotlight on the shadow created by litter in HRM communities. Help us win the fight against litter by organizing a community clean up or requesting a litter basket on your street or near your place of work. As a concerned citizen, a parent, a business or a student, can you afford to litter?

Look for more information upcoming in our April launch of the HRM Litter Prevention and Education Campaign.

BUDGET 2006

Council expects to hold its budget debate for the 2006/2007 Capital and Operating Budgets in May. Early estimates indicate that an increase in spending of about 5.5 % will be required to maintain the same level of service now provided. Council has no control over almost 20% of its spending which amounts to more than 100 million dollars. This is mainly money transferred to the province for the mandatory amount for education and other provincial services including property assessment. Assessments increased in our district, for the most part, at a rate less than the HRM residential average of 12%. Council has directed staff to prepare a balanced budget representing a 5.1% reduction in the tax rate. This would result in a \$67 tax increase for a home assessed at \$150,000 and a yet to be determined service decrease. In a 2004 comparison with 25 other municipalities across Canada, HRM had the fourth lowest average residential property taxes. Two capital projects have already been approved for Lower Sackville. The repaving of First Lake Drive between Quaker and Cavendish and the repaving of Hillside Avenue from Hillcrest to Skyridge with a new sidewalk and concrete curbs.

SALUTING THE WORKERS WHO BUILT THE MACDONALD BRIDGE



Mr. Cyril Sampson, a retired ironworker who helped construct the Macdonald Bridge, posed for photographers with the Iron Worker statue commemorating those who built the bridge.

The Angus L. Macdonald Bridge, known to many of us as the "Old Bridge", celebrated its 50th Birthday, in 2005. As a Councillor of HRM, I serve as a Commissioner of the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission so had the pleasure of participating in the anniversary program.

Having been a history teacher for many years, one of the highlights for me was the erecting of "The Iron Worker" statue commemorating the workers who built the Macdonald Bridge. Halifax artist Mr. Peter Bustin sculpted this life-size bronze statue working from archival photographs of actual workers. It captures magnificently the youth, physical strength and determination that these men brought to the task.

Mr. Cyril Sampson was just a young, single man when he came to Halifax-Dartmouth to work on the construction of the Macdonald Bridge. Now a retired steel worker, he was a guest of honour at the unveiling ceremony of the statue, on December 5th, 2005 along with the Honourable Angus L. Macdonald Junior (son of the late Honourable Angus L. Macdonald former Premier of Nova Scotia for whom the Bridge is named), and Mr. Bustin.

Even fifty years after the Bridge opened, Mr. Sampson still speaks with pride of the contribution he and his colleagues made to its construction. Hearing the emotion in his voice as he shared in unveiling the statue was a poignant reminder to me of the importance these bridges have in the lives of the people and the communities that they have brought together for more than half a century.

The Iron Worker statue is located outside the administrative offices of the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission located adjacent to the Dartmouth toll plaza at the Macdonald Bridge (intersection of Wyse Road and Nantucket Road, Dartmouth).

TRAILS



Rick Peckham being congratulated by Councillor Bob Harvey after accepting an award for trail development on behalf of the Sackville Rivers Association.

Rick has given countless volunteer hours to the development of the river trail linking Bedford and Sackville. This trail uniting the two communities will be opened officially in early June. Other trail developments include a proposal by the Friends of First Lake to upgrade the trail around the lake in the municipally owned lake shore lands. Negotiations between the association and HRM are on-going as to design and location. Interested residents and abutting property owners attended an open house on the project in December and will continue to be engaged as the matter continues to receive consideration by the municipality.

HERITAGE AWARD FOR 2005



Photo credit, Al Matheson

William and Ray Treen are shown receiving the Ted B. Blackburn Award for "outstanding interest" in our community's heritage. Wilma is the hard-working President of the Fultz Corner Restoration Society (Fultz House Museum) and is ably assisted by her husband Ray. Thanks to all volunteers who make such a difference in our quality of life in Sackville.

SHOW YOUR CULTURE!

What does culture mean to you? What is your most cherished cultural memory, and will you share it with us? We're looking to showcase the cultural fabric of HRM, and we need your submissions.

Show Your Culture - send us letters, poems, art, pictures, music, recipes... anything that shows a part of your culture and what your culture means to you. With the Cultural Plan, we're building the blueprint for cultural development for HRM: your input helps us, brick by brick. We'll display your cultural submissions on the web site, so we can show the world what culture means in HRM.

For more information visit the website at www.halifax.ca/culturalplan.

CHINESE NEW YEAR



Photo Credit, Ted Tam

On January 21, Councillor Harvey joined the Chinese Society of Nova Scotia at their New Year Banquet to celebrate the Year of the Dog, 4703 in the Chinese lunar calendar.

ONLINE SERVICE REQUESTS

HRM residents are now able to report burned out street lamps or dangerous potholes in their area through the Internet.

Residents may request a limited number of services or access information by simply logging on to the HRM website, www.halifax.ca and filling out an online service request form. Initially, services offered range from reporting a litter problem to requesting the removal of a household appliance, such as a stove or refrigerator, no longer in use. It's quick, easy and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You still have the option of contacting HRM for service requests or information by calling the Corporate Call Centre at 490-4000, or by visiting one of the many walk-in customer service centres in the region.

HOW TO REACH ME:



Bob Harvey, Councillor

District 20, Lower Sackville
1841 Argyle Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5

488-4820 (Cell)
864-4160 (Residence)
869-4031 (Fax)
E-mail: harveyb@halifax.ca

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
- 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 Barnet, MLA
 - Hammonds Plains - Upper Sackville.....864-8669

Boards and Committees

Along with my regular duties of serving the constituents of District 20, I am currently active on the following Committees: HRM Capital District Commission, Dangerous and Unightly Premises Committee. Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission, Heritage Advisory Committee, Volunteer Award Recipients Committee. North West Community Council and Planning Advisory Committee.



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