

Lake Major Watershed Newsletter



Volume 1 Issue 2

Winter 2008

Continuing Success

The inaugural issue of Lake Major Watershed Newsletter was a great success. Halifax Water will continue to publish it every six months. This newsletter is an important way of communicating any new developments or concerns.

Halifax Water

As of August 1, 2007, in an effort to plan for the best delivery of future water and wastewater services to residents and businesses of Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), the wastewater division of HRM was merged with the water utility.

Excellence in governance was a key theme of the merger. With governance established, the focus will then be on asset management and environmental compliance. It is our strong belief that all staff will rise to the challenges and opportunities this merger presents. In the end, it is about ensuring safe, high quality, sustainable water and wastewater services to the customers we serve.

The utility is now called Halifax Water and is responsible for all water services – water, wastewater and stormwater – from “source to source”. This merger is viewed as an opportunity to deliver water and wastewater services (sewer/stormwater infrastructure and sewage treatment facilities) in an integrated, cost effective and environmentally sound manner with a commitment to long-term sustainability.

Board News

The last meeting of the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board (LMWAB) was held in November of 2007. The topics discussed were:

New Advisory Board Member - The Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board would like to welcome **Stewart Sparks** as the newest community representative of the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board. Mr. Sparks is the community representative for Cherry Brook and he can be reached at (902) 427-3360.



Clean-up from Hurricane Juan continues

Hurricane Juan Clean-Up - Clean Up efforts have resumed this fall and to date Halifax Water has been able to clean up one hundred acres of the affected areas. Efforts will continue until the end of 2008. If you have any questions please contact 883-4304.

In Memoriam - On September 3, 2007, two gentlemen from Eastern Passage lost their lives on Lake Major. In times like these we can only imagine the suffering that the family members have gone through and continue to go through; on behalf of the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board and Halifax Water we extend our condolences to the families.

The Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board and Halifax Water would like to thank all those involved in the Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts for their cooperation and professional conduct. SAR is an organization made up of many volunteers, who take time out of their schedules to provide the necessary services to make SAR work.

As Nova Scotians we are fortunate to have such a dedicated and professional organization available to us.

Profile of Dolly Williams

Dolly Williams has a strong commitment to improving her community and is well known for her social-activism work throughout Nova Scotia and across Canada. Dolly believes that family and community are very important and that we must give back to our communities and support those less fortunate when called upon to assist.

Together with her husband, Sinclair, they have built numerous homes in Eastern Passage, Colby Village, Lake Echo, Cole Harbour, Hammond Plains and the Prestons. And they are the parents of five children and grandparents of eight – all of whom are spread across Canada, from Dartmouth to Vancouver.

She retired from the Province of

Nova Scotia where she was employed for over thirty-five years. Since retiring from government, Dolly works as a part-time support counsellor at Adsum House for Homeless Women in Halifax and at Adsum Center for Women in Lakeside.

Dolly was the first black woman to hold the position, in Nova Scotia, as the Union Counseling Director for the Canadian Labour Congress of Canada, working with the Halifax /Dartmouth & District Labor Council, which serves a membership of over 80,000 members within Halifax Regional Municipality and surrounding areas.

Included in her many volunteering duties, Dolly is the president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women Canada, president of the Black Community Advocates Association of Nova Scotia, president and founding member of the Preston & Area Trails Association and is a charter member of the Preston & Area Lioness Club. She is an immediate past member of the board of Dalhousie Legal Aid Clinic and is a volunteer with the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program for Youth.

Among her joys and awards for volunteering and working in her community and abroad, one of Dolly's greatest rewards was meeting President Nelson Mandela, when he came to thank Canada for their work in his freedom.

Public Notification

Under Subsection 2(h) of the Environment Act, Halifax Water is obligated to inform the public and provide effective public participation in the formulation of decisions affecting the environment, including opportunities to participate in the review of legislation, regulations and policies and the provision of access to information affecting the environment.

Restricted Use - Under the Environment Act the Halifax Water Watersheds are protected by provincial regulations. Under these regulations certain activities within the watersheds, such as the unauthorized use of Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) are restricted. OHVs, such as all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles, can be a good source of recreational activity if used appropriately. However, if used inappropriately they can have a negative impact on water quality.

Recently Halifax Water has made a request to the Minister of Environment and Labour for a Ministerial Order to include the *Off-highway Vehicles Act*, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 323 under the Provincially Protected Water Areas Regulations (Lake Major, Pockwock Lake, Bennery Lake) and private lands owned by Halifax Water. All of Halifax Water watersheds have been posted with signs for your safety and awareness. If you have any questions please contact



The Off-highways Vehicles Act restricts usage of vehicles on watersheds

(902) 869-4304 or to report illegal activities please contact the Department of Natural Resources hotline at 1-800-565-2224. For more information or a copy of the regulations visit our website at www.halifaxwater.ca or call 490-4835.

Forestry Operations - Presently under the Lake Major Watersheds Protected Water Area Regulations any Forestry Operations that take place within the Lake Major Watershed must be reviewed by the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board and acquire an approval for forestry operations from the Department of Environment and Labour before any operations can take place. Halifax Water is requesting to the Minister of Environment and Labour to have the approval process streamlined. The Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board will

still be required to review and comment on the proposed operations; however, Halifax Water will have the responsibility of issuing the Approval to Operate. This is common practice throughout other Provincially Protected Watersheds (Bennery Lake and Pockwock Lake) managed by Halifax Water.

For more information or to have your concerns heard please contact 869-4304.

How to Contact Us:

The Lake Major Watershed Newsletter is a publication of Halifax Water. Visit our website at www.halifaxwater.ca, contact Customer Service at 490-4820, email us at Cust_Inq@halifaxwater.ca, fax us at 490-4749, or write to us at P.O. Box 8388 RPO CSC, Halifax, Nova B3K 5M1