



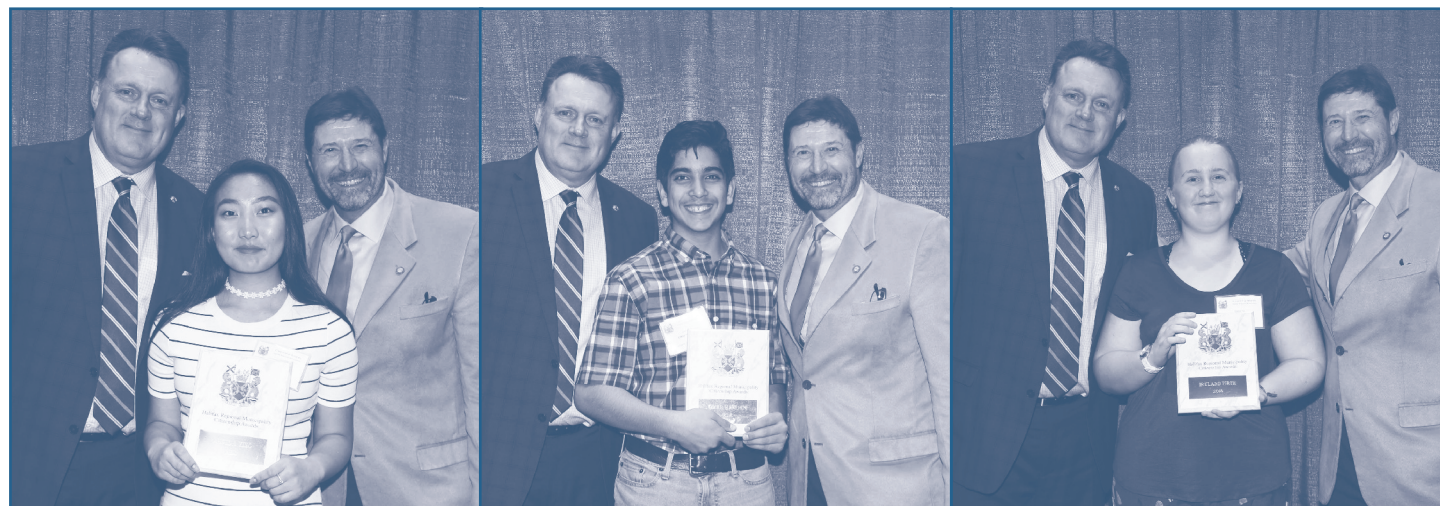
COUNCILLOR RICHARD ZURAWSKI

DISTRICT 12

2018 Citizenship Awards

On May 8th, the 2018 Citizenship Awards were presented at City Hall to grade nine students who exemplify dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life in our schools and in our communities. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all Award recipients, including District 12 Award Recipients.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to your school and community!



Angela Ying
receiving HRM Citizenship Award
idgecliff Middle School

Omar Hamdan
receiving HRM Citizenship Award
Maritime Muslim Academy

Ireland Firth
receiving HRM Citizenship Award
Park West School



Mothers Day Event at Armdale Yacht Club

Keep our communities clean, if you see illegal dumping call 311



DEAR RESIDENTS,

I am so happy and proud to be the Halifax Regional Municipality Councillor District 12. It is full of challenges, but also one of incredible rewards. It is my hope that this newsletter can bring you up to date on many of the issues that I have been working on, on your behalf.

Beginning in January, budget meetings kept Council and staff occupied. The goal was to keep municipal tax increases under 2%. It was tough, but in the final tallying, Council was able to approve an increase of 1.97%. Given the fact that demands on the municipality are continually growing, along with provincial off loading of services in education, transportation subsidies, affordable housing, poverty issues, it is a daunting task. With an inflation rate at current levels, around 2%, just maintaining our existing services, while inflation keeps eroding our ability to pay for these services, is a challenge.

In general, we passed a healthy budget and continued to stay within our means to finance the operation of Halifax Regional Municipality and its existing services, while providing support to a variety of requests. But we have challenges on the horizon. The new convention centre is one. Its delayed completion, budget issues, and low tenancy are all disconcerting. We cannot amend the agreement that Halifax Regional Municipality has made with the other stakeholders, but we can make sure that we do not add to the financial burden, by learning from this experience and not repeating it.

There are a number of ways to reach me. My office is at City Hall and most days I am there taking meetings, sitting on committees, council and working with staff. You can call me, email me, set up a appointment to talk with me, and on Friday afternoons, I like to spend a couple of hours at one of the many Tim's, having a coffee, working on my computer. If you see me there, I would love to have a chat with you.

I hope you find the following summery useful.

For more information go to the Halifax web site
halifax.ca.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD ZURAWSKI

DISTRICT 12

Beechville - Lakeside - Timberlea - Clayton Park Wedgewood

CALL MY OFFICE

For assistance with municipal issues, please contact my District 12 Coordinator - Quentin Hill. email is quentin.hill@halifax.ca, phone 902.490.1463

CONTACT ME:

Cell: 902-579-7453

STAY INFORMED

Visit my web page for up-to-date information on municipal related issues at halifax.ca/District12/

Police Non-Emergency 902.490.5020

Fire 902.490.5530

Mayor's Office 902.490.4010

Council Office 902.490.4050



Due to Canada Post distribution areas, some residences which are not in District 12 may receive this newsletter. I apologize for any confusion this may cause and hope you still find the information useful.



COUNCILLOR RICHARD ZURAWSKI

DISTRICT 12

Environment and Sustainability

I am the Vice Chair of the Environment and sustainability committee. As you are aware, the environment is an important consideration for Council. The issue of plastics, reducing CO2 emissions, recycling, composting our waste, and many other issues are part of the agenda of the Environment and Sustainability Committee. Currently, we are examining, through staff, a way to deal with our compostable waste. Staff has been asked to present a report for council, as to where the best site might be. We are getting ready for a RFP to be sent out.

The issue of plastic in our waste continues to be a major hurdle. China is no longer accepting plastic waste, so we have to deal with it on a local level. Burying it in the ground is not an option, and Council along with the Environment and Sustainability Committee is looking at options.

One of the options that has had great success in other provinces and cities is EPR - Extended Producer Responsibility. I am very excited about EPR - Extended Producer Responsibility. 80% of the Canadian population has EPR and it appears it would solve many of our problems regarding waste. We are already paying for EPR, but receiving non of the benefits. EPR attaches a small sum to the cost of an item, so that private enterprise can create a market for the subsequent waste that is always created. On most items this cost is so small as to be negligible, but it has a huge impact - creates jobs, puts money back into our coffers to ameliorate the sky-rocketing waste costs and cleans the environment. It is a win-win all around.

Other areas that we need to look at is the idling of cars and trucks. We are also awaiting the staff report regarding idling cars and trucks. CO2 is a great threat through climate change, and we need to mitigate the amount of CO2 going into the atmosphere. The question is can we do this internally, or do we contract this out and engage a private contractor?

Then there is the spectre of climate change. It is coming on fast and furious and we are already seeing the effects of it. Currently we are nowhere near meeting CO2 cutbacks to affect a mitigation. In 2015, the fifth IPCC report issued a damning report. We have to cut back CO2 emissions by 80% in the next decade to avoid 2C increase in global temperature. To Halifax Regional Municipality, the effects are numerous, coastal ocean level rise, climate pest invasion (the invasion of Lyme disease carried by ticks is just one such example. Fire ants another), forest fire threats, droughts, decreasing water tables, more frequent and more severe storms, floods, ocean warming, and climate refugees, just to name a few. We must institute meaningful and intelligent cutbacks to protect ourselves, our children and grandchildren. Without a healthy, stable environment we will not have a sustainable future.

halifax.ca/city-hall/standing-committees/environment-sustainability-standing-committee

HRTA - Halifax Regional Trails Association

HRTA is a an organization of community-based volunteers who assist and support community trail groups to develop, build, maintain, and promote a system of interconnecting Active Transportation and other trails in Halifax Regional Municipality. In District 12 it has representation from: Timberlea/ St. Margaret's Bay area, Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails Association, St. Margaret's Bay Area Rails to Trails Association, The Bluff Trail: Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization. Their web site is hрта.ca/wp/members/



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DISTRICT 12

BLT Rec Centre

BLT Recreation Centre Community Consultation Committee Seeks Members

Halifax, NS, April 24, 2018 - A committee charged with conducting community engagement to help inform the design and location of the new Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Recreation Centre is seeking applications for membership.

The Community Consultation Committee is expected to have 10 to 12 members reflecting the BLT community. Members will have the responsibility of gathering input from the local community and keeping residents informed, through public meetings, open houses, surveys and other opportunities for local residents to have their say. The information gathered will be shared with Halifax Regional Municipality's Recreation Department, to help inform the development of the facility.

I have asked wo co-chairs, Linda Moxsom-Skinner and Ken Donnelly, to organize and facilitate the committee. A website (www.blrtrec.ca) and Facebook page (@blrtrec) have been established to help engage with the community, and an email list is available for subscription at www.blrtrec.ca.

Moxsom-Skinner explained that now that the Committee has the online pieces in place, it is time to recruit members of the Community Consultation Committee to assist in outreach to local residents. "We are looking for a broad range of people with established networks who can engage our residents. We want to have a committee that reflects the diversity of the BLT community, geographically and demographically," said Moxsom-Skinner.

Councillor Zurawski created the BLT Community Consultation Committee to ensure local residents have a say in the design of the facility. "It is important that Halifax Regional Municipality staff who are developing the recreation centre hear directly from the community it will serve. The Community Consultation Committee connects the residents of Beechville, Lakeside and Timberlea directly to the Recreation staff at Halifax Regional Municipality," said Zurawski. Halifax Regional Municipality staff will attend meetings of the Community Consultation Committee as observers.

Residents interested in serving on the Community Consultation Committee can learn more about it and get an application form at blrtrec.ca/the-committee/, by emailing admin@blrtrec.ca, or calling 902-482-4575.



Attended UNSM Conference in Yarmouth



Elizabeth Mann Borgese Oceanography Lecture



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BLT and other Home Owners/Trail and Volunteer Groups

District 12 is a large and diverse set of communities within the larger Halifax Regional Municipality community. And giving voice to the concerns of each of the of Timberlea, Lakeside, Beechville, Clayton Park and Wedgewood can be a challenge. Not only are the individual regions of district 12 diverse and distinct, but they are also changing. A quick drive through the region illustrates how fast change is happening. We are growing (3rd fastest in Halifax Regional Municipality) with new residents, construction with changing needs every day. To that end I have encouraged a number of community, within community, leaders to take the initiative to set up home owner's groups and other organizations whose purpose is to bring to the district 12 table their needs and concerns that can be addressed in Council by me. Civic minded folks such as Bob Angus, Linda Moxsum-Skinner, Ken Donnelly, Kate Sullivan, Pastor Grant, Rana Zaman, Richard Vinson, Al Monroe, Bob and Wendy MacDonald, Dr. Tom Musial, and many others have been stalwarts of their respective communities and continue to be representatives of the many groups that function within District 12.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them not only for their past work, but for their continued representation and advice, and above all guidance, in providing for their communities. Their advice and consultation helps to fill in the gaps that inevitably occur for as large and diverse district as ours. They also help with the distribution and recommendations for the capital fund distributions for district 12.

Traffic Issues - Pedestrian/Auto/Bicycle

I continue to look at the traffic and pedestrian hot spots in District 12. The problems continue because of existing infrastructure which was originally constructed with only the car in mind, as well, as a development perspective that looked at only a suburban mindset. A key to understanding that massive traffic issues in District 12, is the construction of Bayer's Lake as a suburban shopping region for Halifax Regional Municipality and the role it plays in our district. We are stuck with the bad, short-sighted infrastructure decisions of the past, and we now have to figure out how to mitigate them as we move to the future. Much of the traffic congestion that we experience in district 12 comes from other regions of Halifax Regional Municipality, who see our communities bordering Bayer's Lake as an inconvenience to their needs. They have to travel through them to get to their shopping destination. In the short term that is not going to change. However, we can make sure that we do not add to the problem. Community minded growth that incorporates total, liveable development, where pedestrian, bicycle and automobile traffic can be integrated safely, is the new goal. In addition I am looking at, with staff, ways to calm traffic, that include, slowing through traffic down, speed bumps, cross walks, and narrowing of roads and addition of protected bike lanes and sidewalks.

As a summary - There were 56 vehicle/pedestrian/bicycle collisions reported in Halifax Regional Municipality in January – March 31, 2018. Of the 56 collisions 2 involved a bicycle while the remaining 54 were vehicle/pedestrian collisions, with 58 pedestrian victims.

During the month of March, there were 15 vehicle/pedestrian reported collisions. Month over month, this represents a decrease (6 incidents) from the 21 incidents reported in February 2018. Year over year, there was an decrease (6 incidents) from the 21 incidents reported in March 2017.

For January 1- March 31, 2018, 63 per cent (34 incidents) of vehicle/pedestrian collisions occurred in crosswalks.

Of the 58 pedestrians involved:
2 were fatally injured
1 experienced severe injuries
4 experienced moderate injuries
33 experienced minor injuries
8 experienced no injuries
10 did not report their injuries to police



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DISTRICT 12

Canada Games Centre Board of Directors

The Canada games centre continues to operate in the black and is providing wonderful services to the community. Under its Director, Gary Furlong, the CGC is a world-class facility. It offers some of the best athletic services to be found anywhere, for the elite athlete as well as the novice. The CGC is also working actively to become more financially accessible. It has recently accepted new directors who continue the tradition of great stewardship for the centre. I am also happy to announce that the CGC has officially launched their Membership Fee Assistance pilot program for 2018-19. The pilot's goal is to help 150 low-income individuals/families in our community stay active by covering 50% of their annual membership fees. All of the eligibility and application details of the program have been added to the membership section of their website: canadagamescentre.ca/membership/membership-types-rates/fee-assistance/.

Heritage Advisory Committee

Halifax Regional Municipality is among the oldest municipalities in North America, and has a rich and vibrant architectural heritage. As the city grows there are challenges to that architecture. Modern needs are often not compatible with heritage structures. However, there is more than functionality to be considered when looking at our heritage and history. The heritage committee is designed to make sure that we lose as little as possible of our heritage and history, as our municipality moves into the future.

halifax.ca/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/h/heritage-advisory-committee

Membership: Iona Stoddard - Chair , Jenny Lugar - Vice-Chair, Councillor David Hendsbee, Councillor Richard Zurawski, Dylan Ames, Melanie Baker, Derek Bellemore, William Breckenridge, Janet Morris, Blair Philbey, Sandi Stewart, Paul Cole

Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails Association

This is a volunteer organization that manages the 13km trail passing through the communities of Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea, Hubley, and Lewis Lake. For more information they invite you to visit and enjoy the trail. Their web site is blttrails.ca

Community Monitoring Committee

The Community Monitoring Committee for the Otter Lake waste facility continues to provide stewardship and guidance, along with recommendations for the site. The waste facility is an integral part of the handling of our refuse in Halifax Regional Municipality. When it was established more than two decades ago it was a world-class facility. It continues to be among the best in Canada. The challenges related to waste continue to evolve. And there are no easy or cheap solutions to the handling of Halifax Regional Municipality waste. The Board of Directors of the facility continue to examine all options for the future. The two major issues that we face today are what to do with our plastic waste, and what to do without compostable waste. We also need to consider other options as the facility nears the end of its lifetime. Unfortunately, our consumer lifestyle exacerbates the problems we have with waste. And the best solution is not to create the waste in the first place. An additional issue is the creation of methane, which is a very powerful greenhouse gas accelerator. What we have learned from the waste facility at Otter Lake will help us move ahead in the future.

halifax.ca/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/a-c/community-monitoring-committee

Halifax West Community council

The Halifax West community Council meets regularly to discuss issues such as rezoning, land use bylaws and development. Halifax Regional Municipality residents can attend and make submissions, suggestions and requests to the Halifax West community Council on issues pertaining to their needs. The following districts comprise HWCC

- District 7: Halifax South Downtown
- District 8: Halifax Peninsula North
- District 9: Halifax West Armdale
- District 10: Halifax - Bedford Basin West
- District 11: Spryfield - Sambro Loop - Prospect Road
- District 12: Timberlea - Beechville - Clayton Park – Wedgewood

halifax.ca/city-hall/community-councils/halifax-west-community-council



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Transportation Committee

Transportation is a key component to the health of Halifax Regional Municipality and to District 12. Integration of the automobile, public transit, cycling and pedestrian traffic is the ultimate goal to creating a healthy, livable community. A great deal of the problem that we face today is the fact that we are stuck with infrastructure that view the car culture as dominant. We built our subdivisions and communities around the car. That has created substantial problems, issues with cycling and pedestrian safety, and low ridership on our public transit. Some of the major issues revolve around pedestrian safety in District 12. The roads of major concern are Washmill, Parkland, Dunbrack, St. Margaret's Bay Road, Lacewood and Farnhamgate. This is by no means a complete list. Crosswalks, pedestrian safety, speeding, parking continue to be issues that we have to deal with. I will continue to work with staff on the issues that I have outlined above.

halifax.ca/city-hall/standing-committees/transportation-standing-committee

Stadium/CFL

There is a stadium buzz in the air. The long standing issue of Halifax Regional Municipality having a professional grade stadium along with a CFL team has arisen again. At this juncture it remains speculation and there is no proposal before Council, though there has been much discussion about the efficacy of said stadium and team. However, a private group coming up with a proposal with private money is a completely different story. I await a proposal. It is exciting, but we also have to be cautious.

Cannabis

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) (formerly UNSM) is adding its' voice to those in policing and health care, expressing concern with the proposed legislation permitting public consumption of cannabis similar to tobacco. The Province has left it up to municipalities to do the heavy work in protecting crowds, home owners and children through the creation of municipal bylaws.

Councillor Shawn Cleary, Chair of the Municipal Cannabis Working Group, pointed out that both cannabis and alcohol are intoxicants and need to be treated in the same way. The Committee feels the permissions for public consumption as provided in the amended Smoke-Free Places Act will normalize the consumption of cannabis and send the wrong message to children and youth.

UNSM had recommended a province-wide approach consistent with the Liquor Control and Smoke Free Places Act. Councillor Geoff Stewart, President of UNSM noted the provincial changes make it clear municipalities may enact new bylaws providing further restrictions, and he believes many will, responding to their citizens concerns. "Allowing municipalities to establish their own bylaws will lead to confusion and inconsistencies throughout the province, making it difficult for the citizens and visitors to know the rules in place in each community." Municipalities are examining the potential implications arising from the legalization of cannabis. Concerns have been raised about policing costs, easy access to cannabis plants growing outdoors by children and pets, fire safety, nuisance complaints and odours, public events, etc.

The capacity of municipalities to enforce cannabis regulations is also of concern – a lack of capacity to enforce the rules will erode public trust in the institutions established to protect them. Municipalities do not have access to new revenues as the Province does. Municipalities will be consulting with their citizens in the development of any new bylaws.

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Community Design Advisory Committee (CDAC)

CDAC as most are aware, is rolling out the centre plan for Halifax Regional Municipality. This has been a long term effort by staff and Council to bring together a comprehensive plan for the future development of the Regional Centre of Halifax Regional Municipality. Early this year, staff briefed Council on the draft plan and the consultative process for the public. The Centre Plan is looking to focus on housing affordability and increased urban density and design. CDAC also wants your feedback. On the Halifax Regional Municipality web site there is more information on the Centre Plan and how to be involved in the process.

halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/regional-plan/centre-plan

Membership: Fred Morley, Chair, Councillor Sam Austin, Deputy Mayor Waye Mason, Councillor Lindell Smith, Councillor Shawn Cleary, Councillor Richard Zurawski, Willam Book, Eric Burchill, Christopher Daly, Dale Godsoe, Jenna Khoury-Hanna, Reg Manzer, Rima Thomeh, Gaynor Watson-Creed

In addition to Regional Council (sits every second Tuesday), and the community committees (usually once a month), I also am actively involved with a various community groups and organizations. Here is a quick summary of just a few.

Blue Mountain Birch Cove Wilderness area (BMBC)

Many thanks to our Minister of the Environment Iain Rankin and MLA Raffa deConstanza who have been working with Halifax Regional Municipality to make this park a reality.

On the Halifax Regional Municipality side - Staff is actively planning, budgeting, and creating a schedule for the BMBC park acquisition. Staff already budgets for land acquisitions and parkland development separately within the Capital budget. For example, development of the Western Common Wilderness Park has its own Capital budget account, as does Parkland Acquisition. As the need to develop acquired BMBC parcels draws nearer, you will see specific capital budgets created for those lands in accordance with an overall plan that will have been approved by Council. Staff is seeking potential land donations in the acquisition plan. We will continue to actively pursue the potential for land swaps with landowners and there has been some initial interest in this regard.

Safety issues within the proposed park area continue to be a priority. In spite of recent rains, fire concerns, lost hikers and ensuring safe use of the area for all, I have also been consulting with Minister of the Environment Iain Rankin about getting funds for students to monitor the region. We hope that this can be set into place relatively soon, in time for the summer season.



*Blue Mountain Birch Cove Hike with
Councillor Blackburn/Nicoll and Hon. Diana Whalen*

In addition a new support group has been established for the proposed park and help shape its future in conjunction with Halifax Regional Municipality. Its working name, until a new, more suitable name is chosen, is 'Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove'. It will be setting up a facebook and web page. The group has already selected a board of directors and is embarking on an ambitious programme of support.