



HALIFAX
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**DISTRICT 10 NEWSLETTER
HALIFAX-BEDFORD BASIN WEST
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL WALKER**



Dear residents,

As this is my first newsletter since being elected to represent the new District 10, I extend greetings to all and express my appreciation to you for your support. I look forward to working with you over the next four years to face the challenges that come with a much larger diverse district.

While I am sure we all look forward to putting the winter behind us and welcome the warmer weather, problems will surface such as potholes and snow plow damage. To report these issues, please call 3-1-1.

As your municipal Councillor, I always value your input and ideas. I am always pleased to hear from you and encourage you to contact me with your concerns or suggestions.

Russell Walker

Councillor Russell Walker

Halifax Regional Municipality
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Electronic Updates

To have your name added to the list to receive the District 10 electronic updates which provide information on District and HRM issues and events, please forward an email to lucille.walsh@halifax.ca and include in the subject line 'District 10 Updates'. Keep up to date on what is happening in your neighbourhood. Addresses will not be shared.

Regional Council meetings now live streamed on halifax.ca

HRM citizens can now watch Regional Council sessions live on the city's website halifax.ca. HRM enabled live streaming from its website as part of recent renovations and technology upgrades to the council chambers at City Hall. Previously Regional Council meetings were streamed live on an external party website. To watch or listen to Regional Council meetings live visit halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html. Recordings of previous Regional Council meetings will now be archived at this location along with council agendas and minutes.

HRM has also introduced free Wi-Fi for guests and media in the council chambers and Halifax Hall (network name City Hall Guest, no password required).



Grand Parade Monthly Newsletter

HRM has a new, monthly electronic newsletter that celebrates our city: "grand parade". The grand parade will share stories and focus on topics such as festivals and events, transit, development projects, municipal services, and Council decisions. Why the grand parade name -- the nod to the historic Grand Parade Square - planned as a formal public gathering spot in the mid 1700's and anchored at one end by City Hall - is a natural choice. Grand Parade is one of the oldest public gathering places in Canada, where citizens still come together for planned events or just cross paths going about their daily lives. The grand parade newsletter is intended as a virtual town square for citizens, a place where information is gathered and shared. The use of the word "parade" also signifies the parade of stories, the forward momentum of the municipality, and the positive, celebratory feeling of the publication. You can subscribe to the Grand Parade Newsletter by visiting halifax.ca/grandparade





Pedestrian safety campaign focuses on dangers of distraction



HRM and HRM Partners in Policing launched a pedestrian safety campaign on March 4th. The campaign, 'Distractions Kill', aims to bring awareness to drivers and pedestrians about the importance of being cautious, focused and attentive when driving and when crossing the street.

In 2012, HRM saw an increase in pedestrian-vehicle collisions and the highest rate of pedestrian fatalities in five years. Texting, chatting, surfing the internet and listening to music on mobile devices are just some of the distractions for both pedestrians and drivers that lead to inattention. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness about the dangers of distraction in an effort to change the way people think and act, both when behind the wheel and on foot, when approaching a crosswalk.

The HRP/RCMP Integrated Traffic Unit will continue to focus on enforcement and providing traffic safety education in-person out on the roads, as well as on social media.

For more information visit: twitter.com/HRPTrafficCop or facebook.com/HRPTrafficCop. For more information on the campaign, please visit DistractionsKill.ca.

Sidewalk Updates

In 2012 HRM staff committed to reviewing the engineering aspects with respect to the installation of a new sidewalk on Skylark, Starling and Wren. The necessary surveying requirements have been finalized, and preliminary engineering design work is nearing completion. It is anticipated a decision will be made in the near future regarding the feasibility of this new sidewalk installation.

Mount St. Vincent Motherhouse Property

A transportation study of the Mainland Halifax-Bedford Corridor is currently being undertaken to assess what improvements to the road network and transit system are needed to accommodate this development and other proposals. Southwest Properties Ltd. is expected to make a development application with the Municipality this spring whereupon public consultation processes will be initiated.

Northcliffe Property

A staff report to Regional Council is expected early this spring respecting the Northcliffe Property. The report will bring forward the feedback from the community meeting and seek direction from Regional Council on proceeding with the building demolition, and the municipal requirements remaining for the property.

Tremont Development

The appeal period has expired on the rezoning application for this development and there were no appeals. The Halifax and West Community Council will now be in a position to vote on the development agreement application. It is expected that staff will bring this back to Community Council in the near future.

Halifax & West Community Council

District 10 Halifax-Bedford Basin West joins with 5 other districts to form the West Community Council. Meetings are normally held every two weeks at the Canada Games Centre. When a public hearing is scheduled the location of the community council will be held close to the community affected by the proposed development. For updates on meeting dates, locations and agendas visit halifax.ca/commcoun/index.html

HRM's Citizen Contact Centres

We Can Help!
3-1-1
HRM SERVICES

Replacing the former 490-4000, HRM's new 311 is more than a telephone number; it is your direct connection to important municipal services and information. Our 311 Citizen Contact Centres include a call centre, five customer service centres and a new resource for submitting online service requests. Whether you prefer to phone-in, walk-in, or connect with us on-line, our 311 Citizen Contact Centre staff can help! The Citizen Contact Centre is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



Police Launch HRM Crime Mapping Site

Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District RCMP launched the HRM Crime Mapping site to provide citizens with contextual and timely information about crime in the areas where they live, work and play.

HRM Crime Mapping, maps.halifax.ca/crimemapping/, is an interactive site which is updated daily at 12:15 a.m. with incidents of five specific crime types – robberies, assaults, break and enters, thefts of vehicles and thefts from vehicles. These crime types were selected given that citizens can take steps to protect themselves from becoming a victim if armed with information about what’s happening in our community.

HRM Crime Mapping allows citizens to view the selected crime types one at a time, several at a time or altogether by three different time frames – yesterday, the past four days and the past week. It also allows citizens to search crime types by street name or community. To ensure people’s privacy, crimes are plotted on the mid-point of the closest block and are not associated with any specific civic address. The site also provides links to HRP and RCMP’s social media sites, websites and crime prevention information.

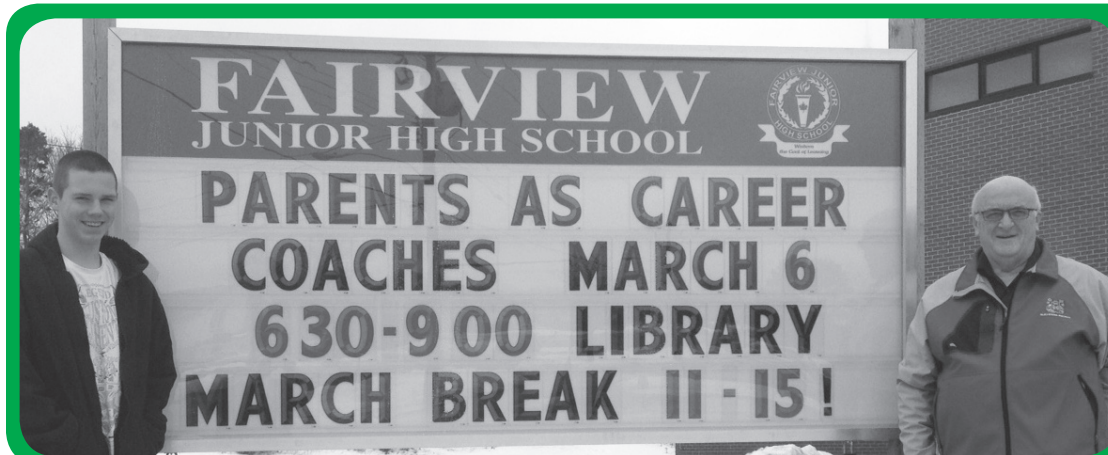
The project relates directly to the Roundtable on Violence, during which citizens requested more contextual and timely information about crime in our community so they can make informed decisions about their own safety and strive to prevent crime.

HRM Crime Mapping is based on the crime mapping from the City of Naples, Florida which provided HRM with crime mapping technology to assist in the creation of the HRM site. HRM Crime Mapping is a pilot project and it is our expectation that community feedback will assist in shaping the site in the future. Feedback can be sent by email to contacthrp@halifax.ca

MetroTransit Schedule Adjustments

Effective February 25, 2013, Metro Transit implemented the following schedule adjustments (please check Metro Transit website at halifax.ca/metrotransit/schedules for change in schedule)

- > Route 2 Wedgewood (Saturday and Sunday) - Schedule adjustments
- > Route 4 Rosedale (Saturday and Sunday) - Schedule adjustments
- > Route 16 Parkland (Weekday and Saturday) - Route extended to provide service to Regency Park Drive and Thomas Raddall Drive in both directions to and from Lacewood Terminal. Schedule adjustments for both arrivals and departures at the Lacewood Terminal to accommodate new routing.
- > Route 18 Universities (Saturday only) - Schedule adjustments
- > Route 21 Lakeside/Timberlea (Saturday only) - Schedule adjustments to improve connections with Route 2 Wedgewood and Route 4 Rosedale at the Lacewood Terminal.
- > Route 35 Parkland Urban Express (Weekday only) - Travel time adjustments made between downtown Halifax and Mount Saint Vincent University on the Bedford Highway during evening rush hour trips.
- > Route 80 Sackville (Weekday only) - Schedule adjustments
- > Route 81 Hemlock Ravine (Weekday only) - Schedule adjustments
- > Route 90 Larry Uteck (Weekday) - Schedule adjustment to morning rush hour trips to improve connections with the Woodside Ferry.



Councillor Russell Walker and Michael Acker, a grade 9 student, set up messages on the new community sign at the Fairview Junior High School



Deposit-refund Program for Beverage Containers

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, Regional Council approved a report recommendation requesting that Mayor Savage submit a letter to the Minister of Environment for his consideration for changes to the deposit-refund program for beverage containers. Some misinformation and confusion has stemmed from this report.

HRM would like to reassure residents that HRM is not looking to collect more money from anyone. HRM has outlined a scenario which reduces what residents have to pay at the checkout. The NS Department of Environment requested HRM provide feedback on the Province's proposal to increase what residents pay at the checkout to sustain the RRFB operating model. HRM is looking to work with the Province to evolve the model to support municipal operating costs as originally planned when the model was created in 1995. Without change, the only way to support the current model is to increase what residents pay for beverage containers.

Some residents have concerns that this is just another tax which is inaccurate. HRM is suggesting a reduction in what people pay at the cash. Currently, a person pays 10 cents on a beverage container. Five cents goes to the RRFB for operating costs, and the other five goes back to the consumer when they drop the bottles off at the Enviro depot. HRM is proposing a person only pay five cents at the cash and instead of returning bottles for a refund, putting them with recyclables curbside for municipal pick-up. This reduces the cost to the consumer and results in fewer people driving to the depots which has less negative environmental impacts.

HRM is aware that through this hypothetical model change there would be impacts to certain groups and businesses and doesn't want to dismiss in any way what the deposit refund system means to them. In working with the Province, HRM would look for options on how best to evolve the system to minimize the impact to these groups.

Residential Property Tax Exemption, Deferral & LIC's Program

Halifax Regional Municipality can help homeowners pay their property tax through a payment plan, a property tax rebate, or deferral of property taxes (payment is put off to a later date). These programs are available to all homeowners who fall within a low household income level and who live within the boundary of the Halifax Regional Municipality. There are different programs to choose from depending on a person's needs. It is important that you know what choices exist. Details on the program for 2013-14 will be available after June 1st. For more information and details on this program, or to find out whether you qualify for this program, please contact Sue Fitzgerald at 490-5454.



Councillor Russell Walker honors our veterans on Remembrance Day by placing a wreath on behalf of the residents of District 10



Please 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.