

I am still learning a lot about the newer areas in District 11 and thoroughly enjoying meeting residents and community groups to continue finding ways to make all communities in District 11 better areas in which to live and play.

As I travel throughout the district, it is clear the issues brought forward are similar to those I have been working on for the past few years. Whether it be lighthouses, community wharves, recreation facilities or other issues, the concerns are one in the same.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all groups to work together and to help each other. For example, the Prospect Peninsula is having issues with their wharf; no different than the issues that faced the residents of Ketch Harbour. The Terence Bay Lighthouse Committee is working to save their light which is very similar to that of Chebucto Head and Sambro.

I will work to bring community and business groups together, to share information and more importantly, solutions.

Recently, the Prospect Road area created a Prospect Road Business Commission (PRBC). This group will be invaluable in providing a unified voice to local business owners. A few meetings have already been held and the PRBC is progressing nicely. Generally their meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month.

Some projects I am working on for you include but are not limited to the following: an inventory of local playgrounds, parks, ball fields; clean-up and enhancement of our existing facilities such as the Reg Knight Memorial playground and the former Terence Bay fish plant site; and, a recreation area for West Dover. As well, I will continue with existing work plans for improvements to the Atlantic Memorial Terence Bay School playground and the Bill Zinck Memorial –Hatchet Lake park/ball field. With your assistance, I will also continue to identify opportunities for small pocket parks for all to enjoy. Work with the Brookside Community Homeowners Association will also continue as they develop new recreation areas.

Over the past month, I have brought a number of motions forward to enhance our communities while offering additional amenities to all residents.

The first issue, one that has been discussed over the past few years, is that of a boat launch for Grand Lake in Williamstown. Although access was available, it was truly an adventure to back a trailer to the water. The rocks were a big problem with some injuries occurring every now and again. I asked Council to support a motion for HRM to purchase this land. By doing so, our staff can work with the appropriate provincial departments to obtain the necessary permits and fix-up the property. As this project progresses, I will ensure you are updated accordingly.

The second issue, access to Long Lake Provincial Park from the Old Sambro Road, has been a source of frustration for the past six years at least.

This property was a popular swimming area for many years. The provincial Department of Natural Resources placed boulders at the access to the lake from the Old Sambro Road, thereby blocking access to the area, because of issues with illegal dumping occurring at that time. The province also ceased mowing the grassy area at the intersection of Dentith Road.

In previous correspondence from provincial departments, I was told that a committee had been established to manage the Long Lake Provincial Park. However, I was unable to find a contact for the group, or even find someone who knew of its existence. Although I had seen draft plans years ago, I have been unable to obtain any actionable information.

To that end, I again asked Council for help. Our motion was to ask the Minister of Natural Resources to consider a partnership with HRM (or better yet, turn over this section of land to HRM) so that we could improve the area, and allow access for all to enjoy.

It saddens me every time I drive by to see this beautiful piece of property deteriorate. I welcome your input and thoughts on this project.

Another long standing issue has been the maintenance of the Chebucto Head Road. In February, I put forward a motion at Regional Council recommending a letter be sent requesting that the Federal government, Department of Fisheries and Ocean (DFO), take immediate action to upgrade their portion of Chebucto Head Road to HRM Fire and Emergency Services accessibility standards.

Recently, you will have heard of the Halifax Regional Water Commission's (HW) rate application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board in regard to water, wastewater and stormwater services. These services are provided by Halifax Water to customers within a defined service boundary. Residents outside this service boundary area will not be impacted by the proposed changes.

Ditches are part of the stormwater infrastructure; however, for those areas outside the HW service boundary, ditches are the responsibility of the Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (DOT). Therefore, those of you who reside in an area covered by the DOT will not be impacted. For more information on the stormwater infrastructure, the service boundary area and proposed changes, please visit Halifax Water's website at www.halifax.ca or call their customer service line at 490-4820.

There have been extensive discussions on the Otter Lake Landfill matter up until April 24th in regard to the commitment to the community for the Front-End Processor (FEP) and Waste Stabilization Facility (WSF) that have had many interpretations, opinions and a lot of emotion.

During our Council deliberations on this issue, both Deputy Mayor Rankin and I looked at different strategies to convince Council to continue with the public consultations; however, remove any and all discussion with respect to the FEP and WSF.

During the debate it became increasingly clear that many Council members had a pre-determined position. Given that I had attempted to illustrate what the result of removing the FEP would have on the waste management facility, I simply asked the following question, *“If the FEP were to be removed, what would happen to potato peelings (the first organic substance that came to my mind) if they were put in a green garbage bag?”* No one would answer that very simple question. This non-answer spoke volumes.

I had distributed a motion to Council members that was passed in 1995 by the Halifax County Council. This 1995 motion banned organics from the landfill and, in my opinion, takes precedence over any changes that could be contemplated. Our Legal staff will offer an opinion as to its validity in the near future. The significance of the motion has far reaching effects. The ruling of our legal department would set a framework for all motions passed previous to amalgamation.

I was pleasantly surprised to read the letter from the provincial Minister of Environment stating that no changes to our (Otter Lake) landfill were to be permitted. As the Department of Environment (DOE) is a partner with HRM, who ultimately controls the legislation, this ruling is appropriate.

I look forward to hearing from you in regard to suggestions for our communities and how to make District 11 an even more vibrant and appealing part of this municipality. You may contact me at Stephen.Adams@halifax.ca .