

As I write this article, many community events will have just taken place, are under way or upcoming. Events such as the basketball tournament at Rockingstone Heights School, the Sambro Sou' Wester Days, the upcoming Prospect Peninsula Residents' Association Lobster Dinner and the 2013 Spryfield Village Harvest Festival coming this fall along with numerous others. The dedication of our community volunteers never ceases to amaze me and I find myself once again offering heartfelt appreciation to all that our volunteers do for us.

TOURISM KIOSK – ROUTE 333

In an effort to assist local groups and businesses with an opportunity to promote local attractions along Route 333, I have written to The Honourable Graham Steele, Minister for the provincial Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, requesting assistance with the installation of a tourism kiosk on Prospect Road near Goodwood. As outlined in my letter to the Minister, dated July 26th, there will be changes made to HRM's By-Law re: signage along this stretch of highway. Many of the existing signs will be removed with only a few replaced with standardized signage. I have offered to work with the provincial department to build a small kiosk at this entry point to assist in promoting what the area has available. As you know, Peggy's Cove is visited by many tourists who travel the Prospect Road and who may not realize how many beautiful and interesting sites and tourist attractions there are just moments away along this well-traveled route. The benefits this kiosk will provide will be immeasurable. In a single stop, visitors could have access to all of the amenities our local communities have to offer.

SEASONAL PARKING CONGESTION

The issue of seasonal parking congestion along Coolens Road, Shad Bay, a route that leads to a very popular shoreline destination, was discussed recently at the Halifax and West Community Council. The Community Council decided to take action by writing to both Corporal Sheila House, Site Supervisor, Tantallon Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and Guy Deveau, Acting Area Manager, Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (DTIR) requesting their assistance in monitoring the issue. Some residents wishing to access the shoreline are illegally parking their cars and blocking the right of way in the process. As this road falls outside HRM's jurisdiction, we have requested the assistance of the proper authorities, the RCMP and the provincial DTIR, as their diligence in regard to this matter will assist with ensuring public safety and normalizing traffic flow.

SPRYFIELD, PROSPECT AND SAMBRO LOOP COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

August 8th was the date of the inaugural meeting of the Spryfield, Prospect and Sambro Loop Community Champions meeting. As noted in my last column, the intent for this group is

to bring together community leaders of varied interests and expertise from throughout District 11 and offer an opportunity for them to discuss common issues such as public wharves, recreation, business improvement, lighthouses and other areas of mutual interest. With residents working together, we can help find long-term solutions, and perhaps find cost-savings for community groups. The meeting was inspiring with much information being shared. We look forward to moving ahead collaboratively to ensure all communities throughout District 11 have a forum to assist in resolving issues that may arise.

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES

District 11, being a vast geographic area, has one municipal representative, me, and three provincial representatives as follows: Michelle Raymond, MLA Halifax Atlantic (477-4100); Bill Estabrooks, MLA Timberlea-Prospect (876-2472) and The Honourable Denise Peterson-Rafuse, MLA Chester-St. Margaret's (857-3378). To determine which representative covers your area, check the provincial website at <http://enstools.gov.ns.ca/edf/edf.aspx> and enter your civic address. You will then receive information on your area MLA. For example, if you have questions/concerns regarding provincially owned/maintained roads in your area you may contact the local Beechville office of the provincial Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal at 424-4328 or your local provincial representative as noted above. The provincial representative can assist you with issues such as health and wellness, housing and income assistance, residential tenancy matters, vital statistics (births/deaths/marriages), employment, immigration, assistance for seniors as well as many other areas under the provincial mandate.

PLACEMAKING

Something exciting being offered in HRM is the Placemaking Program. This started as a pilot project that brought together community members to create public art that activates shared public spaces to give a sense of place and build community. The success of the pilot project has now turned Placemaking into a permanent program, inviting neighbourhoods to apply to paint their street.

One local example is that of the intersection at Black Street and Northwood Terrace. On July 14, 2012, neighbours came together to transform the intersection by painting a large community-created design on the street as part of the HRM pilot project, co-sponsored by the 4Cs Foundation. A group of community members, operating under the name of Placemaking Halifax, spearheaded this project in collaboration with HRM. It was the first municipally-supported, community-driven street painting project in Canada.

The pilot project has enabled HRM to create a clear and accessible application process for other neighbourhoods to initiate Placemaking projects in their community. As part of the new Placemaking Program, HRM provides staff support to seek necessary approvals and works collaboratively with community members to design accessible, creative and successful project plans. HRM also provides staff support for project painting days.

For more information about how to apply for a Placemaking project in your neighbourhood contact our Community Arts Facilitator at Tel: (902) 490-4408.

OPEN DATA PILOT PROJECT

You may have already heard about the Open Data project. The following is information from our HRM website that I think you may find interesting. Back in September, 2012, Halifax Regional Council voted unanimously in favour of a 12-month Open Data Pilot Project that has enabled the public release of 17 HRM datasets free of charge. This is part of Council's commitment towards making municipal information more open, transparent and accessible. The current Data Dissemination Policy limits data access to defined groups and attaches fees depending on the category of clients.

As part of the Pilot, HRM will host an open data application contest from July-November 2013 to inspire the development of innovative, interesting and user-friendly applications using HRM data. Following an evaluation of the initial data release and results of the application contest, HRM staff will bring forward a report to Regional Council with recommendations on how to move forward on expanding HRM's open data program. For more details on this project, please see the website at: <http://www.halifax.ca/opendata/index.php>

CONTACT ME

If you wish to contact me in regard to municipal issues, please do so by calling 477-0627 or by emailing me at Stephen.Adams@halifax.ca. You may also contact our HRM Citizen Contact Centre at 3-1-1 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily (except Christmas and New Year's Day) to request assistance.