



Councillor Stephen Adams

District 11 Newsletter

Spryfield - Sambro Loop - Prospect Road



Summer 2014



Dear Residents,

I am pleased to provide the first District 11 Newsletter to give you an update as to what has been happening in and around your community.

The past year has been one of the most exciting I have had as a member of municipal Council. The larger District, increased responsibility, new projects and significant community issues have combined to make this year both challenging and satisfying.

I am honoured that you have entrusted me with the privilege to represent you and your interests. I look forward to another year working for and with you to make District 11 better for all to enjoy.

Yours truly,

HRM Citizen Contact Centre



As outlined on the www.halifax.ca website, 3-1-1 is more than a telephone number; it is your direct connection to municipal services and information. It is important to utilize the 3-1-1 service whenever you have a question regarding municipal services as 3-1-1 is also a tracking system for ensuring requests are assigned to appropriate staff for follow-up/action.

Please use 3-1-1 to report all issues as doing so will ensure your concern is addressed promptly. Doing so will ensure your concern is addressed promptly. The 3-1-1 centre is open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (except Christmas and New Year's Day)

HOW TO CONTACT ME

My Office is here to serve you



Councillors' Support Office
Halifax Regional Municipality
P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Home: (902) 477-0627 Cell: (902) 497-8818
Fax: (902) 490-4122
Email: stephen.adams@halifax.ca

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Councillor Adams is a member of the following Boards and Committees:
Appeals Committee
Audit & Finance Standing Committee
Community Monitoring Committee (Otter Lake)
Discovery Centre Board
District 11 Community Champions Committee
Spryfield and District Business Commission
Spryfield Lions Rink and Recreation Society



Due to Canada Post distribution areas, some residences which are not in District 11 may receive this newsletter. I apologize for any confusion this may cause and hope you still find the information useful.

Provincial Representation for District 11

Now that the newly-elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) have settled into their constituency offices, here is some helpful information for you on who to contact at the provincial level for issues such as education, income assistance (help paying utility bills such as heat and electricity), health and wellness issues, transportation and infrastructure renewal (some roads are maintained by the province such as series 100 highways and routes such as #333 Prospect Road) and tourism to name a few. The three provincial representatives covering District 11 – Springfield – Sambro Loop – Prospect Road are:

Brendan MaGuire, MLA Halifax Atlantic (444-0147);
Iain Rankin, MLA Timberlea – Prospect (404-7036);
Denise Peterson-Rafuse, MLA Chester – St. Margaret's (857-3378).

To find up-to-date information on your MLA's please go to the Nova Scotia Legislature webpage at nslegislature.ca or call 424-8637.

Prospect Road – Managing Advertising Signage

Unauthorized advertising signage along provincial secondary-highway, Route 333, (Prospect Road) has been a long-standing issue. Local tourism groups, business representatives and residents have advocated for regulatory control and enforcement to address the proliferation of signs in the community. Since approximately 2009, the amount of signage has more than doubled on the portion of Route 333, near Exhibition Park, referred to as “the gateway”.

In 2011, the Nova Scotia Public Highways Act was amended allowing municipalities to adopt by-law regulation to manage signage (advertising and way-finding) on non-100 series highways. HRM staff commenced work with an ad hoc advisory group in 2012; the group was comprised of representatives from the St. Margaret's Bay Regional Tourism Development Association, St. Margaret's Bay Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, Prospect Road Community Centre and area Councillors. It is important that the objectives of the community and best practices drive the end solution. A public meeting was held in July 2012 to seek input from residents and businesses into the proposed objectives and options for signage and program management.

An Information Report was submitted to the Transportation Standing Committee in February 2013. The Standing Committee's report was before Regional Council on March 19, 2013 with the recommendation, moved by me and passed unanimously, that Regional Council approve Option 1, Uniform Directional Signs, for managing advertising signage on Provincial Highway 333. To view the full report, please visit the March 19, 2013 Regional Council agenda and view Item 11.5.1 at the following website: www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/130319rc.html

Municipal staff is currently working on a draft by-law.

Prospect Road Business Association

A Business Association has been established for the Prospect Road area. This organization has been working to help increase the profile of local businesses. One initiative brought forward by this group is discussion on a tourism/business kiosk for the Prospect Road. The kiosk would provide information on local business and attractions along the popular route to Peggy's Cove. There is much to do and see between Halifax and Peggy's Cove that sometimes may be overlooked as visitors head to their destination point, Peggy's Cove. Information concerning the local area at a convenient one-stop location would be beneficial to visitors of the area as well as local businesses. Consideration is currently underway in regard to an application for provincial funding to assist with this project.

The PRBA meets monthly at the Prospect Road Community Centre.

Community Champions Committee

A Community Champions Committee has been formed for District 11. This group is comprised of highly involved community leaders who have planned/organized various community events and initiatives over the years. More vibrant and sustainable communities are made possible through their activities on behalf of local sport groups up to and including organizing community BBQ's and events such as the Sambro Sou'Wester Days. The Community Champions group meets quarterly to identify common community issues as well as assisting each other by virtue of their expertise in various areas.

One issue brought forward has been the high cost of insurance. Our staff is working with HRM's Insurance Broker to determine whether there is a group liability insurance policy available as a viable communal umbrella insurance solution to insuring the activities of the various Community Groups of District 11. Due to the variety of activities, roles and responsibilities of each Community Group, it will take some time to determine if there is an insurance program broad enough to cover the myriad of activities while being fiscally practical. At this point, to ensure liability coverage it maintained on their activities and operations, it is recommended that each Group continue to maintain their current insurance regime.



“Oyez, Oyez, Oyez” Town Crier for Districts 9 and 11

Mr. Bob Raoul is now offering his service as Town Crier throughout Districts 9 and 11 for private and public events. Dressed in traditional uniform and ringing a handbell, the Town Crier will gain the attention of your gathering for announcements or message(s) of your choice. Mr. Raoul is a member of the Nova Scotia Guild of Town Criers. In Medieval England, town criers were the chief means of news communication with the townspeople. Modern day town crying in Canada was resurrected in 1974 by the late Peter Cox of Halifax. Please call 477-5023 to speak with Mr. Raoul about your upcoming event.



**Councillor Stephen Adams
greeting residents
during the
40th Annual
Spryfield Santa Claus
Parade**

Development

I have received many calls and emails inquiring what is occurring in regard to development along the Herring Cove Road. There are various projects, all at different levels of the approval process, for “as of right” or “by right” developments. The terms “as of right” or “by right” mean that the proposed use is permitted under the current Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) / Land Use By-Law (LUB) and must therefore abide by existing density and setback requirements. Additionally, applications must include a storm water management plan that would ensure there is no increase in run-off to other properties. Applications may be viewed at the HRM offices located at 7071 Bayers Road, Suite 2005.

“As-of-right” or “by-right” developments do not require a public information meeting or public hearing as those meetings took place previously during the discussion and planning of the MPS and LUB. The area residents had an opportunity at that time to provide input as to how they wished the area to develop. The result was the existing MPS and LUB. As long as a proposed project adheres to the existing MPS and LUB, no further public consultation is required. Many residents are asking why they are not being notified as to what is occurring in their neighbourhood; that is a fair question and the best I can offer at this point is for residents to contact the HRM Development Services office at 490-5660 if you have questions about specific areas.

Chambers Hill – off Herring Cove Road

A new street is under construction on the Chambers Hill lands off Mansion Road. HRM’s Engineering staff has been visiting the site on a regular basis to ensure everything is in order in regard to this development. The final design for the Chambers Hill project has been approved and permission granted for construction to take place. Once the lots are approved, and the plan filed with the Land Registry, the plan will be available to the public. Currently, the proposal includes two cul-de-sacs with a total of fifty-two (52) semi-detached dwelling units.

There are concept applications under review with HRM’s Development Approvals department for the properties on both sides (north and south) of the Chambers Hill project. These projects would also be able to proceed “by right” if the proposed uses are permitted within the existing MPS and LUB. As of the writing of this newsletter, the applications are concept only and not yet approved.

Green Acres – off Herring Cove Road

This project area, located off Woodcrest Avenue, is primarily zoned R-1 and R-2 which is low density residential (single unit dwellings and semis). A small section fronting the Herring Cove Road is zoned C-2A, as per the Halifax Mainland Land Use By-Law.

Governor’s Brook – Off Drysdale Road

The Governor’s Brook development has been approved for their next phase and some activity may have commenced such as drilling in preparation for some blasting activity.

Lynnett Road / Autumn Drive – off Herring Cove Road

A concept subdivision application has been received in regard to an extension of Lynnett Road and Autumn Drive, Case #19149, and is under review by our Development Services staff. The proposal is for forty-four (44) R-2 lots (semi unit dwellings). This is a permitted use under the existing MPS and LUB.

White’s Lake – Terence Bay Road

An application, Case 19136, to enter into a development agreement for a Stage 2 Classic Open Space Subdivision has been received in our Development Approvals office. The proposal consists of 195 single unit dwellings on a 195 acre site bounded by Terrance Bay Road and Delmerle Drive in White’s Lake. More information will be available on the HRM website at www.halifax.ca.

Hatchet Lake (Brookside) – off Prospect Road

Development Services recently approved a concept plan for the Walden Lands that includes an extension of the existing Lynwood Drive in Hatchet Lake. The concept proposes to realign the provincially owned public right of way and create a new municipal public street. The Province has agreed to the proposal. The estimated lot yield is for twenty-three (23) single unit dwellings.

For more information on the proposed developments, please contact Development Approvals at 490-5650.

District Activity and District Capital Funds

As outlined in the Municipal Government Act (MGA), Councillors have access to funding that may be dispersed at their discretion for projects of benefit to the community. I have done my very best to ensure that as many community groups and organizations as possible, receive some level of funding. If you have an idea, project or initiative that you would like considered, please contact my office in writing with your request. The two funds available are the District Capital and District Activity funds which are administered based on approved guidelines and policies with final approval provided by the Finance department. The annual (fiscal year) amounts for each fund are as follows:

1. District Capital - \$94,000.00 as of the 2012-2013 fiscal year.
2. District Activity - \$4,315.50.

The **District Capital Fund** is a centralized program, which provides partial or full funding of HRM capital projects to community groups at the discretion of a District Councillor. This fund has two primary goals: completing small-scale HRM projects not included in HRM departmental or capital budget processes, and providing a simple and responsive method of providing modest donations and grants in support of local neighborhood volunteer initiatives.

The following is an accounting of how the District 11 Capital funds have been disbursed for 2013 - 2014:

Community Group or Project Funded	District Capital \$
Sambro Playground	\$2,362.10
Herring Cove Road 500 Block Sport Court	\$10,547.92
Graves Oakley Sportfield – Port-a-Pottie Cage	\$1,622.85
Herring Cove Road – Fence Installation	\$148.93
Halifax Regional Search and Rescue –Field Support Vehicle	\$3,000.00
Prospect Peninsula Residents’ Association Community Wharf Project	\$3,000.00
Atlantic Memorial Terence Bay SAC – Community green space	\$750.00
Hand in Hand – Herring Cove Road – assistance with oil spill clean-up	\$3,000.00
Harbour Authority Sambro – baseball equipment for youth / adult	\$1,000.00
Terence Bay – Community garden/rest area at former fish plant site	\$10,000.00
West Dover – Community Park	\$10,000.00
Terence Bay Fire Hall – Upgrades	\$10,000.00
Herring Cove Recreation Centre – Upgrades	\$10,000.00
Prospect Peninsula Resident’s’ Association – Port-A-Pottie for community supper	\$200.00
Prospect Road Citizens On Patrol – landscaping/signage for Johnnie Mitchell Memorial Park	\$5,055.36
Hand in Hand (Herring Cove Road)– No Smoking Signs	\$75.00
Wendy Meadows Playground/Park Project	\$10,000.00
Spryfield & District Business Commission – planter sign for advertising community events	\$3,249.00
Spryfield & District Business Commission – community beautification projects (flowers/gardens)	\$3,034.00
Sambro & Area Community Association – Port-a- Pottie base/cage- James MacPhee Field	\$3,355.00
Resource Opportunities Centre – picnic tables/ benches for Prospect Road Community Centre	\$5,000.00
Prospect Road Seniors’ Network Group – portable microphone and PA System	\$325.00
Harrietsfield Elementary School Playground	\$10,000.00
1st Prospect Scouts – security system for Miller’s Lake Scout Camp	\$3,000.00
Urban Farm Museum – fencing and garden upgrades	\$6,624.00
Spryfield Lions Rink & Recreation Society – new speakers for sound system	\$2,498.32
Prospect Road & Brookside - beautification project	\$1,695.84

District Activity & District Capital Funds Continued

The District Activity Fund is managed by HRM Finance and administered by staff at the Councillors' Support Office. The fund, at the discretion of a Councillor, provides modest cash grants, most of which would either be ineligible for the HRM Community Grants Program or too small to be well served by the program's decision-making process and time frame. Policies and procedures for this program guide councillors and staff on appropriate types of eligible expenses. These funds are for smaller-scale community events/activities or funding for local organizations such as sport teams. Requests for funding must be submitted in writing to the Councillor explaining the project and how the funds will be used.

The following are the District Activity Fund projects approved for 2013-2014:

Community Group or Project Funded	Discretionary Fund \$
Chebucto Minor Hockey Association	\$454.25
Fun in the Fog Day 2013	\$200.00
Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre	\$200.00
Metro Boston Pizza Midget AAA Female Hockey Esso Cup Nationals 2013	\$100.00
Greyhounds Friends of Nova Scotia	\$37.25
Special Olympics Halifax	\$150.00
Mainland South Heritage Society	\$300.00
New Life Community Church	\$100.00
Greystone Youth Day	\$300.00
Metro Boston Pizza Hockey 2013-2014	\$100.00
Halifax Dunbrack Soccer Club U18 Tier 1 Girls Soccer	\$150.00
Sambro and Area Community Association	\$115.00
Spay Day HRM	\$200.00
White's Lake Legion	\$300.00
SS Atlantic Heritage Park Society	\$150.00
Herring Cove Polar Bear Dip	\$100.00
Spryfield Lions Club	\$260.00
TASA/Chebucto Pee Wee Female AA Minor Hockey Team	\$100.00
Fun in the Fog 2014	\$400.00
Feline Groovy Cat Rescue	\$225.00
Greyhound Friends of Nova Scotia	\$200.00

Otter Lake Waste Processing and Disposal Facility

As of the writing of this newsletter, the Otter Lake Landfill issue remains a topic of discussion, and significant controversy at Regional Council.

Last year, a consultant's report recommended that changes be made to the Otter Lake facility with respect to some of the environmental protection measures in place. In fact, it was recommended that the Front End Processor (FEP) and Waste Stabilization Facility (WSF) be removed. The FEP removes materials that do not belong in the landfill and the WSF heats materials to help prevent decomposition in the landfill. These two components are integral to the success of this facility, and were key to the initial agreement with the local community.

Council is considering the removal of these safeguards. Councillor Rankin and I, along with our Community Monitoring Committee and members of the community, have been fighting vigorously to ensure these components remain in place.

Halifax Water – Stormwater Infrastructure Charges

There have been many questions raised recently as a result of the new bill from Halifax Water in regard to stormwater infrastructure charges. Many of the questions are in relation to who regulates Halifax Water and who approved the charges.

According to the Halifax Regional Water Commission website, Halifax Water is an autonomous, self-financed utility; a fully metered water utility providing water, fire protection, wastewater and stormwater services as regulated by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board and pursuant to the Public Utilities Act. Halifax Water is a body corporate, incorporated under the Halifax Regional Water Commission Act, authorized to own and operate water supply and wastewater facilities for the benefit of the residents of HRM. Halifax Water has a Board of Directors whose membership does include members of the Halifax Regional Municipal Council, however; the rates for water, wastewater and stormwater services are regulated/ approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) not HRM Council.

On July 11, 2013, the NSUARB approved the separation of the stormwater charges from the combined wastewater / stormwater charge to provide a more equitable user-pay system. The cost to operate, maintain, repair and replace the stormwater infrastructure was paid for solely by Halifax Water customers with piped wastewater service. The new rates are designed to ensure equitable treatment of all customers who receive the service and are based on the actual cost of the services provided.

According to Halifax Water, stormwater is rain and/or snowfall that runs off all properties. All surfaces generate runoff. The runoff that drains into the Halifax Water stormwater system (catchbasins, pipes, manholes, ditches, culverts and stormwater ponds) results in a cost to Halifax Water in regard to operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating and/or replacing the infrastructure. Stormwater from most private properties drains into Halifax Water's stormwater system at some point.

Residents who have received a stormwater infrastructure bill from Halifax Water, but do not have drainage infrastructure, should contact Customer Service at Halifax Water by phoning 490-4820 or by email at customerservice@halifaxwater.ca.

To view the Halifax Water Stormwater Boundary map, please go to the Halifax Water website at: www.halifax.ca/hrwc/. Private roads and roads owned and maintained by the province are not included in this stormwater infrastructure charge.

For more information and/or clarification on the new charge, please contact Halifax Water at 490-4820.

Potholes

Pothole "season" is upon us. Please call 311 to report potholes in order for our staff to log and track requests for repairs. HRM staff in Municipal Operations have been actively addressing potholes throughout the winter months by using a "cold patch" method. Standards for pothole repair are as follows: 7 working days for potholes deeper than 8 cms on main roads and arterials, 14 working days for potholes on streets that feed main roads, and 30 working days for potholes on local streets. Potholes cannot be repaired in wet conditions, so if there is a storm or weather conditions that leave the roads wet, service standards allow up to three days for things to dry before repairs are done. The increased regularity and severity of storms this winter (with freeze/thaw/rain/freeze) has not only contributed to more potholes forming earlier in the season, it also makes it incredibly difficult to perform repair operations. More than 5,000 potholes were reported by the end of January (April - January). By comparison, between 5,000 -5,500 potholes are typically reported in the run of a year (April - March).



CONTACT INFORMATION

Clip & save

Municipal Contacts

HRM Citizen Contact Centre	3-1-1
Councillor Stephen Adams	477-0627 or 490-4050
Police Non-Emergency	490-5020
Fire Non-Emergency	490-5530

Miscellaneous Contacts

NS Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (Beechville)	424-5328
NS Environment and Labour	1-877-9ENVIRO (1-877-936-8476)
NS Natural Resources	424-5200
Halifax Regional School Board (Administration)	464-2000
School Board Representative - Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison	252-0306 or 430-8313
Halifax Regional Water Commission	490-4820
Halifax Regional Water Commission Emergency	490-6940
Nova Scotia Power	1-877-428-6004
Office of the Provincial Ombudsman	424-6780



Provincial Representatives

MLA Brendan MaGuire, Halifax Atlantic	444-0147
MLA Iain Rankin, Timberlea – Prospect	404-7036
MLA Denise Peterson-Rafuse, Chester – St. Margaret's	857-3378

Federal Representatives

MP Gerald Keddy, South Shore – St. Margaret's	1-888-816-4446
MP Meagan Leslie, Halifax	426-8691
MP Geoff Regan, Halifax West	426-2217



Councillor Adams and volunteers laying sod at Johnnie Mitchel Memorial Park, Prospect Road