

COUNCILLOR MATT WHITMAN HAMMONDS PLAINS – ST. MARGARETS DISTRICT 13 NEWSLETTER



DEAR RESIDENTS



Welcome to 2015; I wish you all the best for a prosperous year! It is another busy year in HRM as I work on district and regional issues affecting our community and HRM as a whole. I continue to work on many matters that affect you such as emergency services, road construction and maintenance, transportation and planning issues as development in our district continues to grow. We are currently in budget deliberations for 2015/16 at Committee of the Whole.

I am always pleased to hear from you and encourage you to contact me with your concerns or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the year.

Yours in Service,

CROSSWALK FLAG PROGRAM

Is there a Crosswalk in HRM District 13 where you would like to see Crosswalk Flags?

In an effort to reduce pedestrian involved accidents, HRM has permitted crosswalk flags at some marked crosswalks. The crosswalk flag program places a container of flags at each end of the crosswalk. Pedestrians carry a flag with them while crossing the street. The brightly colored flags benefit pedestrians by making them more visible to drivers and the simple act of holding one alerts drivers that the pedestrian intends to cross the street.

Would you be willing to “adopt” a crosswalk and ensure that the flags are taken care of, replaced and evenly distributed? The success of the program will rely on committed volunteers to ensure these sites are maintained. Please contact me by email at matt.whitman@halifax.ca if you are interested in this program.



Opening of
the Halifax
Central Public
Library

MY OFFICE IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

Councillors' Support Office
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Phone: 902.240.3330
Fax: 902.490.4122
Email: matt.whitman@halifax.ca
www.halifax.ca/districts/dist13

My Council Constituency Coordinator:
Melody Campbell
Phone: 902.490.2012
Email: melody.campbell@halifax.ca

HALIFAX



DISTRICT 13 NEWSLETTER WINTER 2015

SNOW & ICE SERVICE STANDARDS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is committed to keeping streets and sidewalks clear and safe from snow and ice. Even before a snow event occurs, HRM's snow operations are set in motion to facilitate safe movement for both motorists and pedestrians. Snow and ice operations, however, do take time. The goal is to set an attainable standard which align the levels of service with the financial constraints of the HRM budget.

In order to achieve this standard, routes must be classified based on their impact on the overall transportation system. HRM has classified all of the routes and will service them (salt, sand and plow) in the following order of priority:

Streets

Priority 1 Streets & Roads

First Priority streets include main arterials, emergency routes to hospitals and fire stations, major bus routes, and snow routes in major hilly terrain during weather situations. HRM's goal is to have a plow or salt pass every 3 hours and make Class 1 streets safe and clear of snow within 12 hours of the end of a snowfall.

Priority 2 Streets & Roads

Second Priority streets include residential and rural routes with medium to low volume traffic and gravel roads. HRM's goal is to start cut throughs at intersections to allow access onto the local streets after 10 cms of accumulation and to make Class 2 streets passable within 24 hours of the end of a snowfall.

Bus Stops

HRM's goal is to clear bus stops (starting with high volume stops) within 48 hours of the end of snowfall.

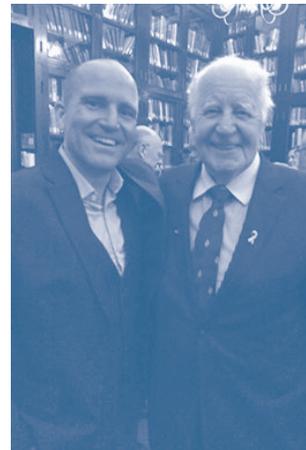
As you know, a number of streets and roads in District 13 are owned and maintained by the Province of Nova Scotia. If you want to know who maintains your street, you can find the information on the HRM website at www.halifax.ca - go to eServices at the top of the page and use the drop down menu and go down to Street Maintenance Directory.

Important Notes on Service Standards

- In snowfalls greater than 30 cm, or in blizzard conditions, service levels may not be achieved. HRM's crews will continue working until all streets and sidewalks are clear and safe from snow & ice.
- During significant snow events "cut throughs" (one lane plowing) may commence on residential streets to allow single lane access prior to full street width clearing.
- In the case of multiple snowfalls, where there has been insufficient time to complete all sidewalks, operations will return to the highest priorities and start over.
- Plowing, from either street or sidewalk operations, will result in snow at the end of driveways. HRM is NOT responsible for removing this snow.



Volunteering for the
Salvation Army Kettle
Campaign



Councillor
Whitman
with John
Buchanan



VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT

Would you like a challenging and rewarding volunteer experience?

The Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) is an organization dedicated to saving lives and protecting property through fire prevention, suppression and public education. They are committed to continuous learning and superior customer service. If you like helping people, appreciate continuous learning, and are physically fit, you may be an ideal candidate for a position as a volunteer firefighter.

Volunteer firefighters are expected to:

- Perform firefighting duties and other related work as required
- Successfully complete Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training
- Respond to and work in all types of weather under less than ideal conditions
- Work in a safe manner, in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations, Policies
- Participate in community events as required
- Carry a pager and respond to emergencies when available
- Participate in weekly training
- Be conscientious and dependable
- On average, attend 25-35 hours per month for training, emergency responses, and meetings

If you have:

- A valid driver's license, minimum Class 5
- A driver's abstract demonstrating a safe driving record
- A clean criminal record check
- Canadian citizenship or landed immigrant status
- Ability to communicate in English
- Normal vision and hearing
- Are physically and medically fit
- No phobias of confined heights or spaces

HRFE will provide you with:

- Free Level I firefighting training
- Free medical first responder training
- Firefighter and family assistance program
- Life insurance
- Annual honourarium based on your participation level

The volunteer firefighter intake process consists of the following steps:

- Completion of the application
- Medical assessment
- Interview
- Physical Fitness Test
- Training
- Graduation

If you are interested in applying to become a volunteer fire fighter, please contact Heather McKay, Volunteer Program Manager, at 902.490.5611 or e-mail mckayh@halifax.ca



Councillor Whitman with Don and Alice Gardiner at the Bring the Wow Event



Councillor Whitman and Peter Stoffer MP at the New Year's Day Levee



ICE SAFETY

If you plan to venture out on to the ice, check conditions first! Be Safe.

There are many factors affecting ice thickness including the type of water, location, time of year, and other environmental factors, such as:

- Water depth and size of body of water
- Currents, tides and other moving water
- Chemicals including salt
- Fluctuations in water levels
- Logs, rocks and docks absorbing heat from the sun
- Changing air temperature
- Shock waves from vehicles traveling on the ice

The colour of the ice may be an indication of its strength:

- Clear blue ice is strongest
- White opaque or snow ice is half as strong as blue ice; opaque ice is formed by wet snow freezing on the ice
- Grey ice is unsafe - the grayness indicates the presence of water

Ice thickness should be:

- 15 cm for walking or skating alone
- 20 cm for skating parties or games
- 25 cm for snowmobiles

Random ice thickness testing is done on each pond and lake in HRM, providing general ice conditions which can vary over the ice surface. Please use extreme caution in areas where streams flow in and out of lakes. Persons using the ponds and lakes do so at their own risk. You can find HRM Ice Thickness Reports online at www.halifax.ca

TWEETS & QUOTES

Be strong, but not rude. Be kind, but not weak. Be bold, but don't bully. Be humble, but not shy. Be confident, but not arrogant.

The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. And the first to forget is the happiest.

You make a living by what you get; but you make a life by what you give. - Winston Churchill

Commuter Rail Feasibility Study

Open House

Thursday, February 26th, 2015
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sunnyside Mall (near Shopper's Drug Mart)
1595 Bedford Highway, Bedford

The commuter rail technical study, directed by HRM Regional Council, is now well underway, and we invite you to attend a public open house to view the information compiled and the analysis that has been completed to date. Information boards will be on display, and representatives from CPCS will be present to answer questions and discuss the preliminary analysis.

For more information on Halifax Transit's Commuter Rail Feasibility Study, visit halifax.ca/transit






Delivery Note:
Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.

You can reach the HRM Citizen Contact Centre by calling 311. The Citizen Contact Centre hours are 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week except New Year's Day and Christmas Day.