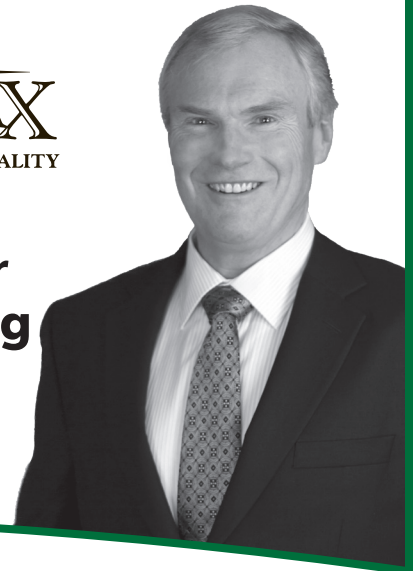




HALIFAX
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

District 15 Newsletter Councillor Steve Craig Lower Sackville



Dear Residents

Thank you for the support you have placed in me as your elected representative on Regional Council. I will do everything I can to honor your trust. I look forward to working with you, as well as Mayor Savage and my colleagues on Council, for the benefit of our wonderful community and the broader HRM to make our municipality an even better place to live, work and play.

On November 6, 2012, I took the Oath of Allegiance and Office "I truly, faithfully and impartially execute the duties of the office to which I have been elected to the best of my knowledge and ability". I embrace the oath and encourage you to contact me with any issues, concerns or ideas you may have.

This newsletter is intended to update you on issues/events happening in Lower Sackville and HRM. It is not all encompassing. I also use twitter, Facebook, HRM District 15 Councillors' webpage and e-mail to ensure you have access to timely information.

If you have concerns, questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

HRM Focus Pedestrian Safety

In light of the number of pedestrian incidents in the HRM, I brought forth a motion to Regional Council on January 29th, and Regional Council approved a request for a staff report providing the information requested, before the end of fiscal year 2012-2013.

One of the responsibilities of Halifax Regional Council is to "develop and maintain safe and viable communities". With growing concern and increased pedestrian – vehicular incidents, HRM needs to better ensure, and be seen as ensuring, that pedestrian safety is an ongoing focus. My motion is summarized as follows:

Council directed staff to provide a report which provides:

- An understanding of how HRM focuses and performs on all factors related to pedestrian safety – HRM engineering, public education, law enforcement, public engagement and evaluation;
- HRM pedestrian safety statistics and how HRM statistics compare relative to other municipalities; and
- A short-term HRM action plan to address pedestrian safety and any impacts on the 2013-2014 budget.

Staff has also been asked to develop and present for

consideration by Regional Council, a long-term comprehensive HRM pedestrian safety action plan to help ensure, and to be seen as ensuring, overall pedestrian safety for HRM citizens based on:

- The analysis of factors which may be contributing to pedestrian accidents;
- Options considering both process and organization structure that focuses on engineering, education, enforcement, public engagement, such as a Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee, overall evaluation, policy and legislation, interagency/departmental coordination and cooperation elements;
- A mechanism for continuous reporting and evaluation of the foregoing; and
- Ongoing budget impacts to the proposed action plan.

I would like to remind residents that both pedestrians and the drivers have a responsibility when it comes to crosswalk safety. For more information on crosswalk safety, please visit the HRM website at halifax.ca/traffic/CrosswalkSafetyVideos.html



HRM and HRM Partners in Policing have recently launched a pedestrian safety campaign. The campaign, "Distractions Kill", aims at bringing 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: [facebook.com/HRPTrafficCop](https://www.facebook.com/HRPTrafficCop) or twitter.com/HRPTrafficCop.

For more information on the campaign, please visit DistractionsKill.ca.

Open House Meet Your Councillor

Please join me as I host an Open House with the residents of District 15.

I encourage anyone with municipal issues/questions to attend to speak with me directly. Any feedback or suggestions will be welcome.

Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30 pm

Place: Sackville Public Library – Fenerty Room 1
636 Sackville Drive

Sackville Storm Water/Flooding Issues

In November, I, along with staff from HRM and Halifax Water hosted a public information meeting to address the flooding issues in certain parts of Lower Sackville. The meeting was well attended and a great number of issues and concerns were brought forth. Staff provided excellent information and established a general understanding of stormwater problems in the neighbourhood and reviewed current activities being undertaken. Staff also provided clarification related to flooding issues, such as environmental causes, infrastructure, and how homeowners can better protect themselves against flooding.

On, February 26th 2013, HRM Regional Council approved a proposal to start fixing some flood prone areas of HRM due to storm water. Seven other Councillors and I voted not to have residents pay for any work done in the interim period; however, the majority of Council voted to have residents cover some of the costs depending on the solution.

Staff is now looking at projects and hope to start public meetings sometime in May, with approvals by Regional Council in June. Staff anticipates at least one project will be in Lower Sackville.

As information related to funding possibilities, who will actually be involved in catchment areas, or the process itself becomes available, I will ensure it is made accessible to residents on the HRM District 15 Councillors' webpage.

Acadia Recreation Society Community Garden

Although Acadia Recreation Society had a great campaign for the Aviva Community Fund project, they were not in the top 10 and therefore did not receive the \$150,000 grant for the Inclusive Playpark. They are however, forging ahead. They have 3 more grant proposals in the works, and now have a tax number so anyone wishing to donate to the redevelopment can do so. Pending results of the grant application, it may be possible that a play structure can be purchased and installed this summer.

In the garden section they are looking for people in the community to purchase trees, large bushes, picnic tables, park benches, garbage recycling centres, etc. either in memory of someone, or sponsored by a business, family, or a person. Help with weeding and planting, or donations of good topsoil, bark mulch, crusher dust, or sods are always welcomed.

Anyone wishing to help, donate, or just have questions can either call Dave at 864-1739 or Linda at 488-8070.



Lower Sackville Community Youth Centre

In response to concerns and interest raised by residents over the years, I have begun the process of organizing meetings with various leaders in the community to discuss the possibility of a Youth Centre in Lower Sackville. I stress this is however, in the initial stages. Please contact me if you have interest in this project. Your input is welcome, and I look forward to discussing the possibilities of this endeavour with all stakeholders.

Metropolitan Avenue Skateboard Park



For skateboard and bicycle enthusiasts in the Lower Sackville area, every hour that the outdoor skate park can be used is valuable. In December, HRM staff installed timed lights for the Met Skate Park. The lights are timed according to park hours and will shut off at 10 pm. Park

hours and rules are still in effect. In addition, Councillor Nicoll and I have asked HRM staff to start thinking about an indoor skateboard park within HRM.

Sackville Patriot Days June 26 - July 1, 2013



Sackville Patriot Days is a community, family-oriented celebration organized around Canada Day. Please join us as we celebrate Sackville.

For more information, schedule, and events, please visit the Sackville Patriot Days website at:

sackvillenovascotia.ca/patriotdays/index.htm

School Board Boundary Review

On March 28, 2012, the Halifax Regional School passed the following motion:

That the Board recommend to staff a grade reconfiguration for the Sackville and Millwood Families of schools as follows: the high schools accommodate the 9-12, the middle schools accommodate the 6-8 and the elementary schools accommodate the P-5 effective September 2014, and a boundary review take place for all schools within the Sackville Family of schools taking into account the new grade configurations and the existing inventory of schools as soon as possible.

When schools close or are reconfigured, it can be very emotional for both students and parents, and I understand the impact these changes may have in your everyday lives. Although School Board Reviews are strictly within the jurisdiction of the Province, HRM provides the following information for their consideration:

HRM Development Approvals works closely with the Halifax Regional School Board to ensure they have accurate information regarding development in advance of development happening. Through the subdivision and planning application processes, detailed information regarding future residential growth areas is provided to the Board on a regular basis. This information includes the affected parcel(s), unit type and number of dwelling units. The Board would then use their statistics to determine future demands on schools. When the Board is contemplating major reviews, the Board will typically consult the Municipality to verify and review projected development numbers to ensure their numbers are accurate.

For up to date information on how your school may be affected, please contact your School Board Representative, Dave Wright at 902-717-0618 or wrightd@hrsb.ca or the Halifax Regional School Board website at: www.hrsb.ns.ca



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





HOW CAN WE HELP?

My Office is here to serve you

CALL CENTRE



Call 311 toll-free from anywhere throughout HRM and our friendly and knowledgeable agents can provide you with a wide variety of municipal information and services in over 150 languages using a telephone interpretation service.

Hours of operation: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily
Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day

CALL MY OFFICE



For assistance with municipal issues, please contact my Constituency Coordinator, Nadine Yuriev by email at Nadine.Yuriev@halifax.ca or by calling 490-1577.

CONTACT ME:

- Cell: 902-240-0441
- Fax: 902-490-4122
- Email: Steve.Craig@halifax.ca

STAY CONNECTED STAY INFORMED

- Facebook: [steve craig for hrm council](#)
- LinkedIn: [steve craig](#)
- Twitter: [@stevecraig4hrm](#)

The information or opinions on these sites are not necessarily endorsed by the Halifax Regional Municipality

Please visit my HRM web page for up-to-date information on HRM related issues at halifax.ca/councillors/district15/profile.html

- Police Non-Emergency 490-5020
- Halifax Fire 490-5530
- Mayor's Office 490-4010
- Council Support Office 490-4050

Kinsmen Splash Pad

A primary goal of the Kinsmen Club of Sackville is to install a water park (Splash Pad) in Kinsmen Park, Lower Sackville to enhance community strength, promote health, recreation and family activities. The goal is to have the project started this year. On behalf of the residents of Lower Sackville, I was happy to donate an additional \$10,000 from the District 15 Capital Funds for the splash pad project.

The Splash Pad is proposed for the beach side of Kinsmen Park next to the playground area. It will provide for all ages and will include a large base pad incorporating several age specific areas and water fixtures. This project will improve the recreational facilities for our community, promoting healthy living and exercise. A splash pad is an area for water play that has no standing water (pool). This is said to eliminate the need for lifeguards or other supervision, as there is practically no risk of drowning.

Volunteer Appreciation

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all volunteers being recognized in upcoming volunteer award events. Winners of these awards will be identified in the next newsletter.

Each year, Halifax Regional Municipality, the Mayor and Regional Council recognize the extraordinary contributions of individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in HRM communities. This year, the Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

Locally, the Lake District Recreation Association will host its 34th annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on May 1st. Many community organizations recognize their volunteer of the year at this event, including Sackville Volunteer of the Year.

Electronic Newsletter Sign Up

With so much happening in the HRM, and in our community, I will be updating residents of Lower Sackville on a regular basis through my electronic newsletter. To sign up for my E-Newsletter, please email Nadine Yuriev at Nadine.Yuriev@halifax.ca with "District 15 E-Newsletter" in the subject line, and you will be added to my distribution list. E-mail addresses will not be shared.



Due to Canada Post distribution areas, some residences which are not in District 15 may receive this newsletter. I apologize for any confusion this may cause and hope you still find the information useful.