



COUNCILLOR STEVE CRAIG
DISTRICT 15 - LOWER SACKVILLE



DEAR LOWER SACKVILLE RESIDENTS

Since the Winter 2015 newsletter, activity continued in both HRM and Lower Sackville that deserves sharing and updating. First though, welcome and thank you to all the residents and businesses that moved into our wonderful community. Second, congratulations to Sackville High School's Class of 2016 graduates - I wish you every success in whatever the next phase of life brings you.

The four month long 2016-2017 HRM budget work and debates resulted in my vote to approve the budget. For most residents and many businesses this resulted in a property tax freeze. The budget focuses on supporting healthy living, diversity and inclusion, improved snow removal, public safety, accessibility and street improvements. I asked Regional Council and HRM staff for more money to repair the many streets in Lower Sackville that are in very poor condition; however, they reported back that HRM staff and the contractors could not do more because of the short construction season and available resources. The good news is that money is approved to improve streets. The bad news is there are streets that will not get done as quickly as we want.

I continue to ensure my decisions are well thought out, balanced, open, transparent and communicated respectfully. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, I'm always available to meet. I'm as close as a phone call, an e-mail, a Tweet, a text message or a Facebook post.

I wish you a wonderful summer and fall, and hope to see you around enjoying our community and municipality.

Sincerely, Steve

HOW CAN WE HELP?

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 902.490.1577.

CONTACT ME:

Cell: 902.240.0441
Fax: 902.490.4122
Email: Steve.Craig@halifax.ca

STAY CONNECTED

Facebook: steve craig
LinkedIn: steve craig
Twitter: @stevecraig4hrm

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

STAY INFORMED

Visit my web page for up-to-date information on HRM related issues at halifax.ca/District15/

Police Non-Emergency 902.490.5020
Fire 902.490.5530
Mayor's Office 902.490.4010
Council Office 902.490.4050



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.



COUNCILLOR STEVE CRAIG

DISTRICT 15 - LOWER SACKVILLE

District Capital Fund

Councillors receive a \$94,000 annual budget to use in their District for community development and infrastructure projects. This taxpayer funded budget is used to assist organizations and results in benefits to both the group and the community they serve. Providing the requests meet the criteria stated in the district capital fund policy, I make the final decision on fund distribution in Lower Sackville.

These contributions could be the only way a group could achieve their goals, or complete a project. Being involved in so many organizations before being a Councillor, I understand the challenges and use the money to help many organizations and volunteers. These funds assist projects like main street beautification, signage, seasonal community decorations, path & trail maintenance and enhancements, community gardens, pedestrian safety, and playgrounds such as the Sycamore Lane Elementary School playground.

Sycamore Lane Elementary New Playground

I'm happy to announce the installation of a new playground for Sycamore Lane Elementary School. Through a donation from the District 15 Capital Funds and the hard work of the Sycamore Lane Playground Committee, we now have an amazing play structure for the school and neighbourhood. Sincere thanks to the committee members: Lindsay Desjardins, Susan Haley, Brenda Rafuse, Mandy Chaisson, Roxanne Natte.



Playground Committee Co-chairs Lindsay Desjardins and Susan Haley at the opening ceremony

Old Sackville Road – Highway 101 Bridges

The two bridges on the Old Sackville Road that cross Highway 101 need the railing systems replaced, the curbs relocated and the sidewalk widened for enhanced accessibility. The safety to pedestrians has been my concern for years. The problem has been that the province and municipality could not agree as to who was responsible (who owned the bridges). In May, small patchwork was completed by the province to fill a hole in the sidewalk and roadway on the bridge.

HRM staff worked with the province for the past few years to come to an agreement. The unresolved dispute with the province about ownership and responsibility for the structures is still outstanding; regardless, I was pleased to bring forward a motion on June 14, 2016 to fix the bridges. Halifax Regional Council unanimously approved staff's recommendation to proceed with the design and subsequent tendering of the capital improvements required for the two bridges. The work is expected to be completed in the 2016-17 construction season.

Citizenship Awards

Each year, HRM presents an award to outstanding grade 9 students in the municipality. The recipients are chosen based on qualities of leadership in their school and community, and commendable performance in the courses in which they are enrolled. In 2016, Kailey Webber of Sackville High School was our recipient.



Kailey Webber



Lower Sackville paving, patching & sidewalk construction update for 2016

LOCATION	Limit From	Limit To	Construction Type
Beaver Bank @ Sackville			Planer Patching
Intersection			Patching
Cobequid Road	Glendale	First Lake	Planer Patching I
First Lake Drive	Metropolitan	Ball Park Entry	Planer Patching
First Lake Drive (SL)	Crimson	Cobequid	Recapitalization
Glendale Dr	Smokey	Rankin	Recapitalization
Glendale Drive	McDougall	Metropolitan	New Sidewalk
Glendale Drive	Riverside	150m SE McDougall	Recapitalization
Glendale Drive Turn Lanes (Riverside/Rankin/Smokey)			Recapitalization
Glendale Drive Turn Lanes (Riverside/Rankin/Smokey)			Traffic Improvements
Lydgate Drive	Metropolitan	Lumsden	Recapitalization
Lynnville Drive	Lennox	Lydgate	Recapitalization
Metropolitan Avenue	Glendale	End	Planer Patching
Old Sackville Road	Sackville	Sackville Cross	Microsurfacing 1
Old Sackville Road	Beaver Bank Connector	Walker	Microsurfacing
Tillock Court	Tillock	End	Recapitalization
Tillock Drive	McDougall	Prince	Recapitalization

Eddie LeBlanc Sports Field

The upgrades to the Eddie LeBlanc Sports Field are now complete and fully operational, and they look amazing! To book the fields at this location, or any other facility around HRM, please contact HRM Recreation through our Citizen Contact Centre at 311. I would like to extend thanks to staff and the residents/users who gave their input on the process.

Policing

While serving on many committees, boards and commissions on your behalf, I still look for ways to make a positive impact. Earlier this year, Regional Council elected me to serve as one of six members of the Halifax Regional Municipality Board of Police Commissioners. The Commission provides civilian oversight over our two police services – Halifax Regional Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

This past March, I requested a report be brought back to the Board of Police on the possibility of providing free Criminal Records and Venerable Sector Records checks for volunteers.

I will be attending the Canadian Association of Police Governance 2016 conference on ethics in policing and the role of governance. This will help me to gain more knowledge as to how to provide the best policing. I would also like to remind residents that if you are concerned about speeding in your neighbourhood, please report it the police through the non-emergency line at 902.490.5020.



PARTNERS IN POLICING

The Urban Forest Master Plan: New Trees for Armcrest Estates

Halifax Regional Council approved HRM's Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) in 2012. Since then, over 4,600 new street trees have been planted. This year's goal is to plant an additional 1,600 trees. HRM's urban forest consists of all trees within the urban core, including street trees, park trees, and trees on private and public land. The goal of the plan is to ensure a sustainable future for our urban forest and to create awareness about the many benefits that we all gain from the trees in our neighbourhoods.

In July, in Armcrest Estates, one hundred (100) new street trees were planted on sections of Armcrest Drive, Haddad Drive, Oakhill Drive and Taleen Drive. Earlier trees were planted along First Lake Drive. Nineteen hardy tree species have been selected. In years to come these trees will beautify the neighbourhood and grow tall to form a protective canopy cover.



COUNCILLOR STEVE CRAIG

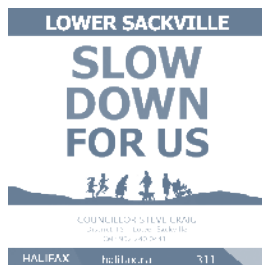
DISTRICT 15 - LOWER SACKVILLE

Monitoring crews will be visiting your neighbourhood soon to evaluate the condition of our new street trees and to note any diseased or dead trees to be removed under the replacement warranty provided by our tree planting contractors. In the meantime, please remember that you can report street tree damage to our Citizen Call Centre at 311.

Our UFMP website will be updated on a regular basis to help you stay informed about upcoming planting schedules and volunteer opportunities in your neighbourhood. Visit the website at halifax.ca/Property/UFMP/index.php

Slow down signs

If you've noticed the "Slow Down For Us" signs on lawns across Lower Sackville, and would like one for your lawn please contact me directly. Please be informed that the District 15 "Slow Down For Us" signs are NOT a traffic calming measure, and they have no authority to direct or slow down traffic or make children safer on the streets.



Sackville River Greenway Trail Update

The plan is to complete the Sackville Greenway between Sackville Drive and Glendale Avenue with the tender and construction in late summer/fall 2016. The Project Planning and Design of HRM Transportation and Public Works, working with the Sackville Rivers Association, is finalizing the engineering plans and getting the regulatory approval from PNS Department of Environment.

Work will include the section at the Kentucky Fried Chicken and behind the Sackville Lions Club to be incorporated into the work from last year. A steel structure bridge, in keeping with other greenway bridges in the Municipality, is being planned for the crossing of the Little Sackville River behind the Lions Club. A crossing of Rankin Brook will also be built in 2016. The entire greenway will be completely paved from Sackville Drive to Glendale Avenue. It is hoped that the paving can take place in late fall, but if it is not possible to pave this

season due to weather conditions, the asphalt will go in place first thing in the spring.

Following the 2016 work, the plan is to continue the Sackville Greenway from Sackville Drive to Old Sackville Road. Once complete this greenway will provide an off road option for cyclists and pedestrians to access transit, residential and business districts making active transportation a reality in Sackville.

I would like to thank the Sackville River Association for their long range planning, their community consultation over the years and their current cooperation and collaboration with HRM Project Planning and Design to help make this dream of active transportation a reality in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Changes to the Route 88 Bedford Commons

Regional Council recently approved the *Moving Forward Together Plan*, a plan to improve transit service across Halifax. While it describes changes to most every route in the Halifax Transit network, it specifically outlines improvement to the level of service on Route 88 Bedford Commons.

Under the recently approved plan, the Route 88 will operate approximately every hour from 6am – 10pm during the week, between 7am – 11pm on Saturday, and 8am -10 pm on Sunday. Currently, this route's last trip departs Bedford Commons at 6:45pm during the week, approximately 10:15pm on Saturday and 9:30pm on Sunday. Under the plan, this route will also continue from Cobequid Terminal along Old Sackville Road and Walker Avenue to the Sackville Terminal (see map). This will bring transit to Old Sackville Road which currently does not have bus service, and provide improved connections for both shoppers and employees heading to and from the Bedford Commons area.

These changes are slated to take place in 2020. For more information on the Moving Forward Together Plan, including a more in-depth description of the changes to transit in Sackville, visit maketransitbetter.ca/moving-forward-together/about/.

