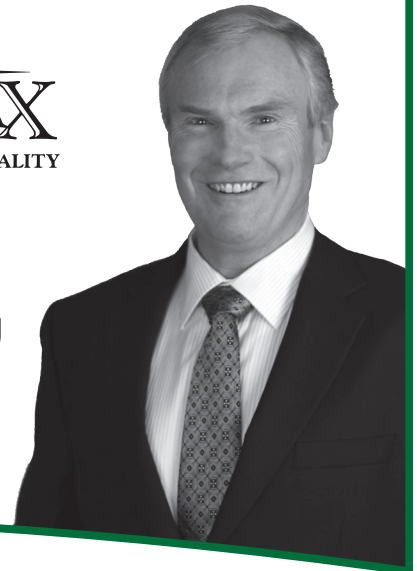




HALIFAX
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY



District 15 Newsletter Councillor Steve Craig Lower Sackville

Dear Residents,

Where has the year gone? When campaigning last year to be your representative on Regional Council, my tag line was “A proven leader; A voice of reason”. I trust that my actions, respect for and engagement of others have lived up to that billing. I believe citizens, staff and businesses are looking for strong leadership and an effective Regional Council, and we are making progress to that end. I thank you for allowing me to serve you.

In this newsletter, I'll update you on some of my actions and accomplishments in Lower Sackville and the broader HRM on issues like stormwater flooding, pedestrian crosswalk safety, school boundary review, solid waste management strategy review, the Sackville Youth Society, and community gardens. There have also been a number of capital improvements and infrastructure upgrades that help benefit our community.

I greatly acknowledge and thank the HRM employees and in particular the Councillors' Support Office staff who work for all of us. Nadine Yuriev who works with me to help serve you, keeps me informed about issues that impact you, while ensuring all responsibilities are addressed appropriately. Without this support, assistance and trust, my job would be more challenging than necessary.

Stormwater Flooding

Working with HRM, Halifax Water and Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) significant work has been done to help reduce the impact of stormwater flooding. Not all areas have been addressed; however, a number have:

1) Halifax Water has completed the concept design for stormwater infrastructure improvements in the Nordic Crescent-Riverside Drive-Lynville Drive area. The project for detailed design and construction will be included within the 2014/15 Halifax Water Capital Budget. The project will require formal funding approval from the Halifax Water Board and the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. Staff anticipates that approvals could be in place for a spring 2014 tender call with construction to start in the summer of 2015.

2) HRM and HRSB identified and completed a number of stormwater management improvements around Sycamore Lane Elementary School. The work is intended to help reduce flooding on Candlewood Court and Aspen Court. More work may have to be done should these efforts not be effective.

3) HRM and Halifax Water completed analysis and design of a major stormwater infrastructure improvement along the 300 block of First Lake Drive. This project is on hold pending Regional Council's decision on how to fund the work.

Concern has been expressed by citizens and some council members about the governance of Halifax Water not being under the control of Regional Council. In January, I introduced a motion that directed HRM staff to submit a report to Regional Council that clarifies the current governance framework respecting Halifax Water and the authorities of Regional Council; and to provide options, including consideration for realignment of the organizational reporting structure, and / or responsibility transfer, to improve governance, accountability, communication, policy, public service and public infrastructure, and the authority of Regional Council to direct such.

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.



Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety

In January, as a result of several crosswalk incidents, I introduced a motion to address overall safety at HRM crosswalks. Crosswalk safety educational programs have been ongoing, but have not significantly changed behaviour - either on the part of the pedestrian or the driver. Inattention is cited as the major reason for injuries and fatalities in crosswalks and as the campaign states: **Distractions Kill**.

The citizen engagement motion outcome was the establishment of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) which meets on a monthly basis. The committee consists of councillors, HRM staff and citizens. The purpose of CSAC is to develop and present input and advice to the Transportation Standing Committee with respect to crosswalk safety in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Lower Sackville's Mrs. Lucille Reid is a member of the committee representing the North West Community Council area. A full staff report is due to Regional Council in the coming months for further debate.

Halifax Regional School Board

By now, those of you who will be affected by the closure of Gertrude Parker Elementary and Sackville Centennial in September 2014, are thinking of the changes to the transportation needs of students to their new schools. For the walking students, there is a need for clear communication from both the School Board and HRM to address the different aspects of student pedestrian safety and concerns.

In March, the Halifax Regional School Board approved recommendations that the schools in the Millwood and Sackville family of schools be reconfigured as follows: the high schools accommodate grades 9-12, the junior high schools accommodate grades 6-8, Cavalier Drive and the elementary schools accommodate grades P-5, Sackville Centennial and Gertrude Parker elementary schools close effective September 2014.

With this in mind, I have been working with HRM and HRSB to identify, analyze and address HRM responsibilities with such issues as crosswalks, crosswalk crossing guards, sidewalks, signage and other factors related to pedestrian and vehicular travel as a result of these HRSB changes. I, along with the appropriate staff are partnering together to help make the transition as safe as possible for the students.

Solid Waste Strategy Review

I have personal knowledge of the Sackville Landfill, having lived nearby and served as Chair of the Highway 101 Sanitary Landfill Closeout Committee. In May, I visited both the Sackville Landfill and Otter Lake facilities - The most obvious differences I noticed first hand between the Sackville and Otter Lake landfill operations: no gulls, no rodents, no leachate running from sides of cells, no flying plastic or odour in the Otter Lake operation. The Otter Lake facility is not the Sackville Landfill - never was and never will be.

That being said, until the release of the HRM commissioned Stantec report, there was little discussion on the future of solid waste management in HRM. With Regional Council's direction there has been public engagement. This is a good thing. Some say that HRM has a world class system, and in order to ensure that remains the case it must be reviewed from various perspectives over time. Now is that time. Regional Council has not made any decision on the Stantec report nor the recommendations. For more information see shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/solid-waste-management

Kinsmen Park Bridge

The Friends of First Lake Society have replaced the bridge in the Murdock MacKay Park with a structure that is in keeping with the park setting, aesthetically pleasing, safe and accessible to all citizens. The bridge is located between Kinsman Beach and Kingfisher Way near the Sackville High School. I was happy to donate \$20,000 from the District 15 Capital Funds toward this project.





District Activity & District Capital Funds at Councillor's Discretion

Each fiscal year, Councillors receive a set amount of money for two separate funds that are governed by two separate policies. The District Activity Fund funds smaller-scale community events and activities, or provides funding for local organizations. Recipients of discretionary funds must be a charity or local non-profit community group. The District Capital Fund is used to fund larger-scale capital developments and infrastructure enhancements that are deemed to benefit the entire community. Examples of capital projects eligible to receive funding include park and community facility upgrades, or maintenance projects for common areas.

Below are the donations that have been made from the District 15 funds to date.

Discretionary Funds

Under the Municipal Government Act, each Council member is permitted to approve funds of up to \$4312.50 per budget year designated as District Activity Funds for use in the District. Since becoming Councillor, the following organizations have received donations:

2nd Sackville Scout Group, \$200
Acadia Recreation Club, \$250
Canadian Diabetes Association, \$200
Lake District Recreation Association, \$600
Muscular Dystrophy Canada, \$100
Navy League of Canada/Sea Cadets, \$200
Nova Central U14 AA Ringette, \$100
NS Peewee Lacrosse Team, \$100
Sackville Flyers Midget Girls hockey Team, \$100
Sackville Flyers Peewee AAA, \$500
Sackville High School PTA, \$200
Sackville Rivers Association, \$100
Sackville Waves Aquatic Team, \$100
The Children's Wish Foundation, \$100
Emergency Services Achievement Program, \$150
Halifax Downtown Business Commission, \$200
Metro Boston Pizza Midget Hockey Team, \$100

Capital District Funds

Each Councillor is allocated \$94,000 each year in District Capital funds as outlined in the Municipal Government Act. Since becoming Councillor, the following projects have received donations from the District 15 Capital fund.

Sack-A-Wa Canoe Club, \$10,000
Sackville Masonic Building Society, \$3,000
Hammonds Plains Minor Baseball, \$400
Friends of First Lake, \$20,000
Sackville Lions Club, \$12,075
Riverview, \$8,900
Acadia Recreation, \$5,614.94

2013-2014 Budget - Improvements & Infrastructure

- Streets and Sidewalks

HRM's Public Works crews were busy this summer completing the following capital projects in Lower Sackville:

- (1) Hillcrest Drive (Hillside to Hillside)
– paving upgrade
- (2) Old Sackville Road (Walker to Sackville Cross Roads)
– paving upgrade
- (3) Riverside Drive (Sackville to Glendale)
– paving upgrade
- (4) Hallmark Avenue (Old Sackville to Loop Itself)
– paving upgrade
- (5) Cartier Crescent (Cavalier to Cavalier)
– paving upgrade
- (6) Cobequid Road (First Lake to Civic 764)
– micro surfacing
- (7) Old Beaver Bank Road (Sackville to Glendale)
– micro surfacing (Superstore to Sackville in 2014)
- (8) First Lake Drive (Metropolitan to Quaker)
– micro surfacing
- (9) Old Beaver Bank Road New Sidewalk
(Superstore Property Line to Sackville Drive)
- (10) Aspen Crescent to Glendale Drive (185 Aspen)
– Walkway upgrade

Work carried over to 2014 as follows:

- 1) First Lake Drive (Cobequid to Crimson) - micro surfacing.
Delayed due to HRM staff report request to examine "Circle of Safety" impacts from Judy Anne Court to Crimson Dr.
- 2) Construction of two left turning lanes on Glendale Drive onto Pinehill Dr. and Chandler Dr. Delayed in part by my concern with stormwater management concerns and possible flooding.

Metropolitan Avenue Skateboard Park

For skateboard enthusiasts in the Lower Sackville area, you know that the quality of the layout and surface adds to the overall enjoyment of the sport. This year's budget was approved to provide surface improvements to the skate park; however, the work will not be completed until the spring of 2014. At the same time, HRM staff will be looking for opportunities to establish an indoor skateboard facility for HRM.



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 Update

The budget is approved and we now have the submissions for the Splash Pad project. The deadline for submissions was increased by one week at the request of the bidders. It will be awarded soon and built in the spring of 2014. 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, and promote 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.

Community Garden

Several residents have talked to me about a public community garden. On my Facebook profile, I asked if Lower Sackville residents would support a community garden like the one at the Common Roots Urban Farm in Halifax. I was pleasantly surprised to receive an overwhelmingly positive response. I encourage interested residents to submit applications to HRM expressing their interest in starting a local community vegetable garden.

This initiative would be an exercise in community building, and it doesn't take a huge swath of land to yield a significant amount of produce. HRM staff and I are open to all suggestions. If you are interested, you can get the application at www.halifax.ca/rec/Gardens.html.

Sackville Youth Society

In response to concerns and interest raised by residents over the years, and subsequent meetings with concerned organizations and individuals, it was decided that a society should be formed to oversee the work of forming a Sackville Youth Centre. This past October, eleven interested, committed citizens have volunteered to form the Sackville Youth Society, and they have my full support. The objectives of the society are to support the engagement of Sackville area youth through the facilitation of services and activities that will enable them to realize and reach their full potential, and be advocates for and with the youth through a coordinated, established service.

If you are interested in helping in any way with this exciting initiative, please contact me or the Sackville Youth Society President, Bill Deluney at sackville_youth_center@outlook.com



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.