



**COUNCILLOR
STEVE CRAIG**

DISTRICT 15 - LOWER SACKVILLE



DEAR RESIDENTS



Winter is here, where did the summer and fall go? One of the truly significant highlights for the community of Sackville was being recognized as a 2014 Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award Winner. Congratulations to all the dedicated, community orientated people, organizations and businesses that work together to make our community so very special. Every day I reflect on world and local events and know the instantaneous, often unfiltered communications causes concern for many of us. In Canada we are blessed to live in a free and democratic society, one that comes with challenges and opportunities that require us to be engaged as citizens.

Now halfway through my term, I still thoroughly enjoy representing you. In this newsletter you will see progress on a number of fronts. My campaign slogan was "a proven leader; a voice of reason." I take my commitments as seriously now as I did two years ago, and I endeavour to ensure my positions are well thought out, balanced, open, transparent and communicated respectfully. If you have questions, concerns or ideas, I'm always available at one time or another to meet, and remind you that I am as close as a phone call, an e-mail, a Tweet, a text or a Facebook post.

I sincerely wish you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful Holiday Season. May 2015 bring you health and happiness.

NOVA SCOTIA LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

On June 5, 2014 Sackville was officially announced as a recipient of this year's Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award. On June 29th, 2014, His Honour Lt. Governor J.J Grant, accompanied by Her Honour Mrs. Grant, presented the community of Sackville with the Nova Scotia Crystal award. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the application process, and for the amazing people of Sackville for your long standing contributions to our community. The Community Spirit Award celebrates the power, strength and diversity of vibrant communities across Nova Scotia. We were able to profile our achievements and increase our visibility through this formal recognition program.



Steve Craig, Her Honour Mrs. JJ Grant, Bob Rines, Yvette D'Entremont, Greg Fenwick, His Honour JJ Grant, Lieutenant Governor, and Wade Dooley



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METROPOLITAN/RIVERSIDE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

In September, Halifax Water began the work of installing new stormwater pipes along Metropolitan Field down towards Metropolitan Avenue. This upgrade of the existing system will improve the stormwater infrastructure, and will reduce flooding incidents during significant rain events for residents in the areas of Riverside Drive, Nordic Crescent (N section) and Lennox Drive (L section).

FIRST LAKE DRIVE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

In response to the flooding and property damage from an outdated and inadequate stormwater routing system, I brought forth to Council a request for funding for a new system to address the issue around 311 and 317 First Lake Drive. On September 23rd, Regional Council approved a new stormwater system to address the long-standing drainage and stormwater flooding issues. The project has started and by the time you get this newsletter, it will be completed.

GLENDALE DRIVE TURNING LANES

Thanks for your patience this summer and fall during the road widening and crosswalk upgrades at the intersections of Glendale Drive at Chandler Drive, and Glendale Drive at Pinehill Drive. The new crosswalk infrastructure is complete with pedestrian pushbuttons and both overhead and side mounted flashing lights. Bus stop and stormwater infrastructure improvements were also made.

New zebra stripe marked crosswalks were installed for Metropolitan Avenue at Polara Drive (with a crossing guard) and at Pinehill Drive and Prince Street. These new crosswalk locations resulted from Halifax staff studies following the school boundary and grade changes this fall.

SACKVILLE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

I was happy to provide a donation through the District 15 Capital Funds for the Sackville Business Association's streetscape project. This year, and every coming year, Sackville Drive will be beautifully decorated with both Christmas wreaths and LED snowflake ornaments – you may have noticed them. I would like to thank the Sackville Business Association for their commitment to the beautification and success of businesses along Sackville Drive.

SNOW SEASON INFO

Winter is upon us, and with it comes many issues related to snow that residents and Halifax staff have to deal with. Winter parking bans, snow and ice service standards, damage from snow clearing and snow removal programs, are just some of snow and ice operations that staff oversee while keeping the safety of residents as our top priority.

To ensure the best possible service, Halifax has snow removal standards in place. Service standards require Priority 1 streets, which include main arteries, bus routes and streets leading to schools and public buildings to be cleared within 12 hours after the end of a snowfall. Priority 2 streets, which include residential roads, are required to be completed within 24 hours after the end of a snowfall. If, however, after 36 hours your street has not been cleared of snow or ice, residents are asked to call 311 and file a service request. 311 is your direct connection to municipal services, and is the fastest and most effective way to report snow-related issues and have a crew dispatched to fix the problem.

The overnight winter parking ban will take effect December 15th, 2014 and run through March 31, 2015. The ban will only be enforced between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m., and only during declared snow and ice events. The easiest way to stay informed is to sign up for notifications by filling out an online registration form at www.halifax.ca/snow/parkingban, email a request to contact@halifax.ca or call 311. If you signed up last season, then you do not need to register again. Subscribers will receive timely alerts by phone, email and/or text message when the ban is in effect and again when it is lifted. Winter safety is a shared responsibility, and I'm confident that by working together, clearing crews and residents can be better prepared for whatever this winter may bring. Residents can always call 311 with questions or concerns relating to snow removal, or visit www.halifax.ca/snow for more information.



RANKIN DRIVE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Below is a summary of what has been done to date. It is in Halifax Water's staff's hands, and there is movement and ongoing plans to identify what to do.

- Halifax Water CCTV'd the sanitary sewer line within Matador Court, as well as one additional section of sanitary line within Rankin Drive from the intersection with Matador to the intersection with Glendale Drive. The video identified some areas where the pipe was in poor condition. Operations made repairs to this pipe and some associated laterals in the fall.
- Last December, Halifax Water installed two flow meters within the sanitary sewer system at the intersection of Rankin Drive and Matador Court. The meters allowed them to capture flow data from both Rankin Drive and Matador Court. They learned there is fairly significant inflow & infiltration in this system, and the flows coming down Rankin Drive during heavier rain fall events is quite large.
- In a Matador Court resident meeting with staff a while back, the main point learned was it was diluted sanitary sewage that was backing up into the basements and not strictly stormwater. That prompted them to refocus the investigation onto the sanitary system rather than the stormwater system.
- The work done on Rankin Drive was part of an integrated project between Halifax and Halifax Water. The work involved the replacement of the water line as well replacement of the storm sewer services to the individual properties. No work was performed at that time on the sanitary system. They believe, with some certainty now, the problem rests with the sanitary system.
- There are historical complaints of issues with stormwater drainage along Matador Court going back to 2000. However, at that time, it had to do with an icing issue on the street in the winter. Work was done around that time to add some catch basins and new stormwater lines to mitigate the icing problem. As far as staff are aware, the fixes seem to have worked.
- Staff's best information right now indicates that heavy rainfall events trigger a response in the sanitary system that results in surcharging. As far as they are aware, the previous time flooding occurred in basements was another extreme event in excess of 100mm of rainfall. They are continuing their system investigation efforts. These will include additional flow metering at a different location; additional CCTV inspection downstream of the intersection of Rankin Drive and Glendale Drive; and potentially modeling part of the system to try and better understand the downstream system hydraulics and how they may impact Matador Court.

While not all stormwater management issues are related to Halifax Water or Halifax infrastructure, rest assured, they will all be looked at.

TRAFFIC STUDIES IN LOWER SACKVILLE

With all the proposed new developments for Lower Sackville, concerns about the impact on local traffic must be taken into consideration. Traffic Authority staff have conducted traffic studies in the past couple months, and the results will be available shortly. Staff has produced a detailed plan of the area that encompasses the roadway and pedestrian networks including, and within the limits of, Cobequid Road, Old Sackville Road, Glendale Drive and Beaver Bank Road.

The detailed plan will show signalized intersections, crosswalks, bus stops and terminals, known capacity constraints, historic residential asks, sidewalk and pedestrian networks, future development and/or capital projects, collision data, traffic counts, etc. Upon conclusion of the data collection phase, staff will then develop a traffic modelling to look for efficiencies and possible ways to further connect the community for all users. I will update residents with the findings/decisions when they become available.

UPGRADES TO EDDIE LEBLANC MEMORIAL BALL FIELDS

A plan is underway with Parks and Recreation staff to make much needed upgrades to two of the three Eddie LeBlanc ball fields on First Lake Drive. The third field will remain as an off leash dog area. These upgrades, such as lighting, new fencing, resurfacing and field expansion, possible bathroom facilities, etc., will ensure that what was once an underutilized asset to the community will be brought up to more favourable and accessible standards for public use and enjoyment. It is estimated that the project will begin in the 2015-16 fiscal year.



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2014 CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Each year, Halifax presents an award to outstanding grade 9 students in the municipality. The recipients are chosen based on qualities of leadership in the school and community, and commendable performance in the courses in which they are enrolled. In 2014, Kathleen Lane from Leslie Thomas, Chloe Goulden from Cavalier Drive, and Sarah Dika from A.J. Smeltzer were the recipients of the award.



Kathleen Lane



Chloe Goulden



Sarah Dika

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](#)

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STAY INFORMED

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

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.