

Councillor Steve Craig
District 15
Lower Sackville



Dear Residents,

With the fall season comes cool, crisp weather and shorter days. One of the things we get to enjoy about the outdoors is the beautiful fall colours everywhere around us. Unfortunately, these fall leaves are on the ground before we know it, and cleaning them up can certainly be a chore. Remember, excess leaf and yard material can be placed alongside the green cart using orange or colourless clear plastic bags or heavy paper bags. There is a 20 bag limit, with a 25 kg (55 lb) maximum weight per bag. For more information on seasonal solid waste collection, please visit:

<http://www.halifax.ca/recycle/>.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, and a safe Halloween!

Respectfully,
Steve

Sackville Youth Centre Community Meeting

On October 3rd, I hosted a meeting with interested members of the community to register a Society that will oversee the establishment of a Community Youth Centre for the Sackville Area. I am happy to say that eleven people have signed up to form this society. They have my full support in their initiative to help the youth in the Sackville area. If you are interested in helping in any way with this amazing initiative, please contact me, or the Sackville Youth Society President, Bill Delaney (billdelaney@hotmail.com) for more information.

Cobequid Community Health Centre Fund Raiser – Art Show

There will be a fund raiser for the Cobequid Community Health Centre this Saturday, October 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 252 Cobequid Road, Knights of Columbus Hall, (across the street from Tim Hortons). A portion of all the sales will be going to the Health Center.

Cobequid Community Health Centre – 20th Annual Walk Run

On Sunday, October 20th, the 20th Annual Walk/Run for the Health of Our Community will take place.

This exciting event will help to bring the community together as we work towards encouraging healthy and active lifestyles while also raising funds in support of the Cobequid Community Health Centre. As the signature event for Cobequid Community Health Centre, this event has raised over half a million dollars. These dollars stay in our community and help fund priority medical equipment which shapes the services provided by the Centre each day. The walkers distance is 6 kilometers and the runners distance is 10 kilometers. However, both walk and run participants should feel free to compete whatever distance they choose.

To register or for more information visit: www.cobequidwalkrun.kintera.org or call **(902) 869-6128**.

Below is some helpful information from staff at Halifax Water in relation to sewer back up and prevention.

What To Do In The event of a Sewer Back-Up

In the event of a sewer backup, **call 311 immediately**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to report the backup.

A flooded basement caused by a sewer backup poses a risk of electrical shock, causes significant damage to property, and poses a serious health hazard as the flood likely contains bacteria harmful to your health.

What are the usual causes of a sewer back up?

A sewer backup is most often caused by a plugged wastewater connection. Over time, tree roots, grease and other debris can build up in the connection eventually causing a blockage. Sometimes the connection has actually collapsed.

What can I do help prevent a sewer backup?

Don't flush products such as diapers, sanitary products, dental floss or rags down the toilet as they may cause a blockage; don't pour grease down the drain (let it cool, wipe it with a paper towel and place in your green cart); have your wastewater connection cleaned regularly, and have a certified plumber install a backflow preventer.

What should I do if I do have a sewer backup?

- Call 311 immediately, and your insurance company as soon as possible to report any damage caused by the flooding.
- Be careful when cleaning up your flooded basement. Be mindful of your health and safety.

Consider getting help with clean up. Look up "Water Damage Restoration" in the Yellow Pages or on the Web.

Below is some important information on safe decks and balconies from HRM's Municipal Compliance staff:

The shocking media coverage of the recent deck collapse and personal injuries has many people thinking about the safety of their own decks and balconies. After all, we all should feel safest in our own home.

Before it's built, a safe home depends on many things, like building codes, bylaws and inspections to help ensure safe design and construction. Once it's built to current standards and approved for occupancy, a home depends almost entirely on proactive homeowners to keep it safe.

Most people use their deck all the time without any thought of potential danger beneath their feet. All decks need a responsible management plan, which includes annual inspection and maintenance.

You should perform an annual safety inspection of the deck starting from the ground up, noting any deficiencies that can lead to an accident or personal injury.

If you're not sure you know what to look for, hire a professional builder, an architect, engineer or licensed home inspector to do it for you. The investment will be well worth the peace of mind for you and your family.

Any signs of faulty construction, movement or decay should be fixed by a reputable contractor, who will perform the repairs according to the requirements of the building code.

Maintenance is important, but so are realistic expectations. No deck will last forever and each should be maintained, inspected, repaired and replaced when its service life is over, which can vary in range depending on the materials used and exposure to climate.

Residents building a new deck on their property need a construction permit from HRM. Once the permit is issued, individuals must call first for an initial inspection of the deck footings, and call again for the final inspection of the deck construction.

Permits cost \$5.50 per \$1,000 of the estimated value of your project with a minimum fee of \$25.00 and a development permit fee of \$25.00. Complex projects may cost more. The turnaround time for a deck permit at HRM is usually within five business days, Monday to Friday.

Permit applications can be made at HRM Customer Service Centres at 636 Sackville Drive, 7071 Bayers Road, Suite 2005 or 40 Alderney Drive.

If you have questions about building a deck in HRM, call 311 for assistance, visit www.halifax.ca/PermitsInspections/Documents/Decks2011.pdf or contact one of our Building Officials at 490-7097.