



5th Issue

Councillor Tim Outhit

District 21

Bedford

Halifax Regional Municipality

Winter 2010



BEDFORD COMMUNITY SKATING PARTY

Please join Hon. Geoff Regan, MP, MLA Kelly Regan, and Councillor Tim Outhit on December 27th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the BMO Centre. Come for fun, a tour, or to exercise and work off some of those holiday season treats! There is no cost and light refreshments will be provided.

Dear Bedford Residents,

This is my fifth newsletter/bulletin since being elected as your representative on Halifax Regional Council 30 months ago. My objective is to update you on what has been going on in Bedford and HRM, and to highlight some of the upcoming issues and events that you can expect to hear more about in our community. A significant portion of this newsletter is devoted to updating you on the proposed Bedford Waterfront Design project. I have included the project background, timelines, and FAQs (frequently asked questions). They were prepared by HRM Development staff and the provincial Waterfront Development Corporation Limited to inform residents and solicit feedback. I have participated in the process (as an ex-officio member) of both the Bedford Vision Implementation and Waterfront Steering Committees. I expressed strong support for public buildings, a library, public transit hub, and public spaces all of which

were brought to my attention by Bedford residents, but also your concerns regarding issues such as height, density, views, open space, and increased protection for the western ledges and shoreline.

Over the past year Bedford has benefitted from a number of projects. This is evident by the tremendous amount of paving, patching, painting, upgrades, new facilities, and repairs conducted in Bedford over the past few months. I will highlight some of these projects below, plus others that will be forthcoming. As always, I encourage you to contact me with your ideas, concerns, and questions.

My family and I wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous 2011!

A Proposed Community Centre and Regional All Weather Turf Facility for Bedford/Hammonds Plains

A special community meeting will be held on January 5th, at 7:00pm at the new BMO Centre, located at 61 Gary Martin Dr in Bedford. Residents will receive a presentation and be consulted on a proposed Community Regional All Weather Turf facility for Bedford/Hammonds Plains high school catchment area. These facilities are being proposed as an enhancement to the new Bedford/Hammonds Plains high school which is replacing CP Allen High School.

During both of my election campaigns, many Bedford residents commented on the long time lack of multi-purpose and all-age sports and meeting facilities in our growing community. The BMO Centre was built to address the arena needs of Bedford and HRM, but many believe more is required to address our recreation and sports needs.

The province has accepted the recommendation of the Residents' Committee and has purchased land for the new high school in a central and accessible location. This provides HRM with a once every 30-40 year opportunity to integrate community facilities into our new high school. Integrating a community centre, and upgrading the small, grass school field to a full sized athletic all weather turf facility, results in a significant capital cost saving for HRM versus planning for a stand-alone project at a much later date. However, due to the construction schedule, a quick decision must be made by HRM.

The proposed Community Centre would contain amenities for indoor sports and activities such as basketball, badminton, gymnastics, martial arts, dance and more. In addition, there would be multi-purpose meeting, crafts, and preschool activity rooms. The sports field would

be upgraded to artificial turf, lighted, and used for football, soccer (3 pitches), ultimate frisbee, and rugby. This integrated approach would see the Community Centre providing the facilities needed to supplement the All Weather Turf (i.e. washrooms and change rooms accessed separately from the school's).

My objective and belief is that the upgraded sports field will be paid out of the "general tax rate" by all HRM residents. Like the BMO Centre, it would be a "regional facility" available to all.

The Community Centre is a different matter. Community Centres within the urban core historically have been paid out of the "general tax rate". It is my goal that, if the project goes ahead, some general tax rate funds should be included. However, in recent practice many community centres now use a "local area rate" for at least part of their funding. To ensure this proposal goes ahead, I may be prepared to support a modest area rate, spread throughout Bedford and Hammonds Plains. But, I first wish to discuss it with the community. My research suggests that there is precedent for this in Bedford, as a similar model was used when the Basinview Community School was enhanced.

The new high school's "cafetorium" will be paid for by the province, and will help to address Bedford's long-time need for meeting and performing arts facilities. This is a new design concept that CPA Staff and interested community members are working on together.

Time is short for us to consider this proposal, as we are required to confirm our interest in the community centre by the end of January 2011, in order that the design of the new school is not delayed. So, please plan to attend this meeting to learn more about this tremendous opportunity for our community.

Developing Our Waterfront Bedford – Mill Cove (Written by HRM Staff)

In 1983, the Bedford Waterfront Development Corporation (BWDC) was formed to “promote the development of Bedford’s waterfront area as an active, year-round, mixed-use urban waterfront containing public spaces and activities with residential, commercial, cultural and institutional uses that emphasize the waterfront project area’s location, heritage and environment.” We are on course to meet that objective.

Over a quarter century later, Phase 1 lands are nearly complete. This includes developments along Convoy Run, Waterfront Drive and DeWolf Park. The focus now is on the vision for Phase 2 lands and what we might see in the next quarter century.

Since the preferred option within the Ekistics design study was presented to the community this past June, the hard-working members of the Bedford Waterfront Steering Committee - comprised of land owners and community residents - have been reviewing the study recommendations and weighing that information with public input. Once completed, the committee's recommendations - based on all of the evidence presented - will be forwarded to the North West Planning Advisory Committee and the North West Community Council for review and advice. The final report of the steering committee will then go to Regional Council.

After Council input, expected in the New Year, draft policies and regulations will be prepared by Municipal planning staff. These will be presented to stakeholders and the community for input before being redrafted for final consideration by Regional Council. It is important to note that Council is legally required to hold a public hearing before adopting any changes to its planning documents. You can find a more thorough time line below.

Constituents have been very thorough in their review of the issues surrounding our precious waterfront. We were pleased with all of the input received at various stages of the development process - in all forms. We can assure residents that committee members have been very thorough in their review and they are working diligently, balancing everything they have read, heard and seen, in the development of their recommendations. We thank the committee members and everyone who has participated in this process to date.

We continue to receive questions around the waterfront development process, so we are providing some of the questions and answers that may be of interest to you.

Why is fill being put in the Bedford Basin on the south side of Mill Cove?

There are two reasons. Over the longer term, land being created is intended for development and to provide public access to the waterfront. In the interim, this area serves as a disposal site which helps resolve a serious problem related to soils excavated in other regional developments. Much of this unwanted soil consists of a naturally occurring, acid generating pyritic slate which, if not managed in an approved manner, produces a toxic, acidic runoff that can severely impact ground water, adjacent watercourses and aquatic life. Immersing the soils in saltwater prevents the release of these damaging toxic acids.

Both the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Environment Canada approve of the disposal of this acid-generating slate in designated seawater areas. The entire project was initiated by these two levels of government to provide a safe local disposal site for pyritic slate. This procedure is universally-recognized as one of the most preferred methods to ensure the material does not pose a risk to aquatic life.

The Waterfront Development Corporation Limited (WDCL), a provincial crown corporation mandated to develop the strategic potential of waterfronts in Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford and Lunenburg, operates this facility with the required approvals obtained from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The corporation charges a tipping fee for the slate material deposited at the site and uses the revenues from the fee to place capping stone above the submerged slate. The fee also supports some of the on-going design and construction of public infrastructure for the Bedford Waterfront lands.

When will development on this site begin to take shape and when will it be completed?

The 2010 design report, developed from the 2007-09 comprehensive visioning study and public consultation process, describes the broad concept of what the waterfront could look like in 25 or 30 years. Development can only begin once the whole approval and public consultation processes are complete. The boundary for the Phase 2 Infill Project follows the infill boundary from the original 1985 Waterfront Plan. To date, over 60 percent of Phase 2 lands have been infilled. Since the availability and extent of pyritic slate material deposited at the site is unpredictable, the completion date of the infill project is difficult to determine. However, installation of the initial infrastructure could begin prior to the completion of the infill phase.

The multi-year design study is based on the premise that it be a financially self-sufficient development. To achieve this, there is potential for up to 2,300 residential units, reflecting the requirement to generate revenues to offset the development costs of parks, boardwalks, open green spaces, and multi-use public buildings. This also includes needs for non-revenue infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water, rest facilities, transit access, etc., required to support extensive public access. An appropriate level of commercial and residential development is crucial to supporting these costs to avoid reliance on municipal funding or increases in area rates.

Will there be green space on the new waterfront area for the public?

Yes. The new development will most definitely expand the amount of open green spaces and extensive public access areas such as boardwalks and marinas, as well as create a public multi-use ‘heart of Bedford’ building for all to enjoy.

What is being done to protect the western ledges and natural shoreline of the area?

The current design study is a vision of what a future waterfront development might look like. It is flexible in its physical form and layout. As a result, the WDCL will see how these natural features might be incorporated into more detailed conceptual development plans for the area.

Are traffic concerns being taken into consideration as part of the planning process?

HRM is currently studying the feasibility and costs associated with other forms of transportation including a harbour link ferry, commuter rail service and additions to Metro Transit. Facilities which could accommodate each of these alternatives have been incorporated into the concept plan for the Bedford Waterfront.

Is it true the new complex plan also includes a library?

The 2010 design report offers many public conveniences for the community of Bedford, including the vision of a public multi-use civic building which could house facilities such as a library, a theatre, etc.

Will this affect the views of residents in the area?

The rationale for the road pattern and building placement shown in the 2010 design study was based on maintaining what residents identified as being the most significant public view corridors overlooking the Bedford Basin. These corridors include Hammonds Plains Road and opening up the water views between proposed buildings and at the ends of proposed internal roadways.

Does the design study recognize concerns as to the rise in sea level and storm surges?

The proposed finished grades for the infilled lands address climate-related concerns. Building designs would be subject to sun and wind analysis to help determine the optimum placement, orientation and building form on site to protect against adverse natural conditions.

For additional information, please go to: www.halifax.ca/VisionHRM/BedfordWaterfront or www.my-waterfront.ca/development/project-highlights.

Bedford Waterfront Development Planning Timeline

1983	1985	1992	2000	2004-06	2006-07
Bedford Waterfront Development Corporation set up	Bedford Waterfront Master Plan developed	Municipal Planning Strategy for Bedford initiated	WDCL, with HRM and Halifax Port Authority, conducted preliminary development analysis for the Phase II lands. Established community focus group and completed construction of South Jetty, DeWolf Park, and other infrastructure	Halifax Harbour Discussion Paper launched HRM conducted Regional Planning Process	Regional Municipal Planning Strategy introduced HRM Community Visioning Process begins
2007	2008	2009	Current	2011	2011
Bedford Waterfront Community Liaison Group (CLG) designed, and consulted on community vision and action plan; prepared drafts for Council Community Vision and Action Plan Adopted by Council	Vision Implementation Committee (VIC) formed HRM issued RFP for proposal to lead the design study - contract awarded consulting team led by Ekistics	Phase I - Comprehensive Development Plan began Phase II – III Development Options presented to the public – input received Phase III – Preferred Option presented to the public – input received	The Bedford Waterfront Steering Committee weighing public comments and design study to determine position relative to consultant's recommendations	Steering Committee Recommendations to be presented to the North West Planning Advisory Committee and North West Community Council for input HRM Council – Plan Amendment presentation and decision to be scheduled for input	Planning Amendments based on decision will be drafted and presented to public for input

Action Update

Deer Baiting / Treatment Stations Installed in Admiral Cove Park

Over two years ago, I was approached by a group of Bedford residents regarding the on going and long-time problem of Lyme disease carrying Blacklegged Ticks in the Admiral Cove area of our community. There were several ill people in the area, and numerous pets being treated for Lyme disease. Since that time, I have worked with HRM staff, the Capital District Health Authority, MP Regan, and MLA Regan on a strategy to reduce the tick population and protect our residents. As a result, signage for the park has been improved, brochures outlining prevention and symptoms have been distributed to all households in Bedford, and the three levels of government have worked together to support a project resulting in deer treatment stations being installed.

What is a deer treatment station?

Deer treatment stations are being proposed as a tool to help alleviate the tick population. The stations hold a central bin containing corn. Surrounding the bin are four posts similar to paint rollers treated with the pesticide Permethrin. The deer are attracted to the corn and come to feed from the systems. To reach the feed they must come into contact with the rollers that apply Permethrin to the deer's head and neck area. While the pesticide is not toxic to humans and does not pose a health risk, cat owners are urged to keep their cats away from the stations. If someone were to come in contact with the Permethrin on the collar of the station they should wash their hands, just as people are advised with something like a pet flea collar.

What is the scope of this project?

This is a Federal research study - the first of its kind in Canada. It was launched this fall to help reduce the risk of Lyme disease. Deer Treatment Systems have been set up using pesticides to kill Blacklegged Ticks on white-tailed deer in the areas of Bedford (Admiral's Cove Park/Magazine Hill) and Lunenburg. The project will help determine if the systems are economical and efficient and will be in place when ticks are active - early October to mid-December/ late March, to the end of June.

Does this mean the Blacklegged Tick will be eliminated in these areas?

No. The research project using deer treatment systems is being conducted to see if it can help mitigate the spread of the tick. Ticks are not only carried by deer, but also carried by birds, household pets and humans - virtually anything that they adhere to - so it is impossible for the pest to be eliminated. HRM continues to urge individuals to protect themselves and their family members before entering the park area through measures such as the following:

- Apply insect repellent; (Always follow manufacturers' instructions.)
- Cover as much of your skin as possible by wearing long pants, enclosed footwear, by tucking your shirt into your pants and pant legs into your socks;
- Wear light-coloured clothes (tight weave) to see ticks more easily;
- Walk on well-travelled paths away from high grass and other vegetation; and
- Check yourself, your children, and your pets after walking in grassy or wooded areas. Remove ticks as soon as you find them.

Have there been incidents of residents contracting the disease?

Yes. It is important to note that a tick must be infected and be on a human for 24 hours to spread the disease. If infected, an individual can be treated with antibiotics. This is still a serious disease. While not common, it can affect the nervous system and cause facial palsy, heart problems, or chronic joint problems such as arthritis. These symptoms, when caused by Lyme disease, can also be cured by antibiotics. Occasionally, arthritis may continue if antibiotics treatment is delayed too long. Lyme disease is rarely life-threatening.

More information can be found on the website of the NS Department of Health Promotion and Protection at: http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/publications/06037_LymeDiseasepamphlet_Apr09_En.pdf. or on the HRM website at <http://www.halifax.ca/environment/Blackleggedtick.html>

Bedford Lions Pool Receives Upgrade & Repairs

- a) Rebuilding and enlarging the "learning pool" with plumbing upgrades. This work is in progress.
- b) Rebuilding the concrete retaining wall and fence along the north section of the complex and expanding the sidewalk circulation area. This work is complete.
- c) Rebuilding the concrete steps from the upper parking lot to code. Work is complete.
- d) Replacing the drains and skimmers in the main pool and applying a new polymer/concrete flex coating. Work to be complete over winter.
- e) New solar panel system to off-set heating of pool with oil heat system. Work to be completed over the winter. This project was cost shared under the Recreation Canada Infrastructure Program at one-third cost.



Tennis Courts on Spring St. Replaced

This project involved complete re-construction of the courts with improvements to the sub-based drainage and grading to prevent settlement problems. Currently, the courts are asphalt but in the spring of 2011 they will be completed with "acrylic colour coating." This project was cost shared under the Recreation Canada Infrastructure Program.

Other Public Tennis Courts

I am working with HRM staff to increase the number of public tennis courts in Bedford by repairing the court in Ridgevale, exploring the possibility of re-claiming and upgrading the former public tennis court on Shore Dr.

Bedford Transit Alternatives Study

"An Operational and Life Cycle Cost Analysis of Transit Service Alternatives in the Bedford-Halifax Corridor." This study provides high-level examination of three transit modal options in the Bedford to Downtown Halifax corridor. These options include Fast Ferry, Commuter Rail, and MetroLink Bus Rapid Transit. It compares the life-cycle cost and travel-time implications of each service option. These are two key pieces of information that will factor into an overall evaluation in determining the best method to provide higher-order transit service to Bedford and the surrounding areas. The study is expected to go before Regional Council in January 2011.

Lighting projects

During the last few months progress has been made on some long time lighting issues in our community. These include additional lighting at the intersection of Dartmouth Rd and Eaglewood Dr., improved lighting on the Shore Dr. bridge and entrance to Fish Hatchery Park, and the crosswalk leading across the Bedford Hwy to Bedford United Church. I am working with staff on other areas, including pathways in Moirs Mill and Paper Mill areas, the pathway connecting Shore Dr. to Waterfront Dr. (until the boardwalk is extended), and a number of streets in the older areas of Bedford.

DeWolf Park storm damage repairs

Unfortunately, Hurricane Earl caused over \$300K in damage to the rock retaining walls that protect the boardwalk and homes in the DeWolf Park area. I am working with staff to ensure this work is included in the 2011 budget and carried out in the spring. I am advised by staff and independent engineers that the boardwalk, park and homes are not in any immediate risk, but upgrades will be undertaken.

Emergency Pumps

During the recent heavy rain storms, residents in several areas of Bedford experienced flooding in their basements. I was surprised to learn, while responding to these floods with HRM staff and Fire Services, that we do not have pumps available to assist residents. I am presently working with HRM and Fire Services staff to investigate the type of pumps required and how they could be made available to residents during an emergency.

Paving, Patching, and Re-surfacing Projects

There were numerous patching, paving, and re-surfacing projects undertaken in our community this past season. These included: the Bedford Highway, Smith Rd, Meadowbrook Dr., Union St., Brockwell St., Lister Dr., North St., and Nelsons Landing. The one remaining portion of the Bedford Hwy (within District 21) that has not been upgraded by HRM over the last three years will be undertaken next season. This is the final rough area of the highway, running between Lindsay Hill and First Ave. I regularly tour Bedford with engineering staff and meet with them several times per year, to voice my concern of other streets (such as Wimbledon, Douglas St, North St, Meadowview, First Ave, and Ridgevale Dr.) where work will be required over the next two seasons. I am also working with HRM Engineering & Design staff to launch a cost effective method to seal or re-surface the remaining gravel roads in Bedford. This includes streets such as Minshull, Emerson, Frederick, Main, and Borden.

Supporting Bedford Schools

In response to requests from parents and staff from Bedford South School, I was pleased to use some of my district capital (jointly with HRM Parks) to have a sidewalk, signage, and painted lines installed on the turning circle leading from Southgate Dr. to Bedford South School.

I was also pleased to be able to use my district capital fund to contribute to additional playground equipment for Fort Sackville School. Basinview School received support for bicycle racks and a new scoreboard for use during school and regional basketball games.



Moors Mill Pumphouse

HRM is looking for your ideas on how to use this heritage building in our community. It will continue to be owned by HRM, but we are looking for a creative uses for it. Please forward your ideas and suggestions to me!

Leadership Update & FAQ's:

Did you support the proposed downsizing of HRM Council?

Yes. While I have tremendous respect and admiration for my Council colleagues, I believe that there would be significant benefit to reducing the size of Regional Council. It is my intention to appear before the UARB hearing in 2011 to continue to advocate for a reduction in Council size.

Did you support the expansion and added empowerment of Community Councils?

Yes. I believe a number of the issues presently handled by the full Regional Council could be more effectively handled by our existing Community Councils within their "community of interest." Expanded and empowered Community Councils would more than compensate for any local influence lost by the proposed downsizing of Regional Council.

Did you support property tax reform for HRM?

Yes. I believe we should have continued the process toward property tax reform for HRM. The present assessment-only based system neither recognizes the services received or available, nor one's "ability to pay." Further, I believe that the existing system is unfair to condo owners, new residents, many rural residents, and first-time home buyers.

Do you support the proposed new convention centre?

In theory, yes. I believe that our downtown needs a shot in the arm and the proposed convention centre, hotel, and financial office tower could accomplish that objective. However, to date I have supported only the continuation of negotiations with our provincial government. As many of you have indicated to me, you have great concerns over the proposed property tax exemption, the lack of equity in the facility after 25 years, and any requirement that would force HRM to purchase the existing trade centre. As well, the project will move forward without an upfront \$47M contribution from the federal government.

Did you support the new Central Library?

Yes. I believe that HRM needs and deserves a 21st century library, both in style and functionality. This project will also help to bring our downtown core back to life. What you may not know is that HRM's share of this \$55M project will fall between \$5M - \$10M. This is due to federal and provincial government contributions, plus HRM had a reserve in place for this purpose. HRM is also selling land near the library to help fund our 1/3 of the capital cost.

The 4 Pad Arena has been built in Bedford for hockey, public skating, and ringette use. So, now what about facilities for other sports and purposes?

Yes, the BMO Centre addresses those sports, but it also contains multi-purpose meeting space and facilities for sledge hockey and beach volleyball. My next objective is to work with my Council colleagues and HRM Community Development staff on a community centre and artificial turf field upgrade integrated with the new Bedford & Hammonds Plains high school. This idea was approved in principle in 2008 by Council in the HRM Facilities Master Plan. It is proposed that HRM would add a second gymnasium, meeting and practice rooms, and an upgraded sports field. Our goal is to address the great need for additional facilities for sports such as basketball, soccer, gymnastics, dance, badminton, and football. The washrooms in the facility would be accessible for those using the two soccer pitches or football field, without entering the school. However, the school must be located in an area that is accessible by public transit, sidewalks, and bike lanes to meet the criteria for an HRM community centre location. Until very recently, Bedford has suffered from the lack of new facilities and infrastructure to service our growing community. We must continue to deal with this long time need and prepare for future growth.

Is the Paper Mill Lake area going to be developed?

This area (approximately 23 acres opposite Brookshire Court and below the Hwy 102) was approved for commercial development by the Town of Bedford in 1995. The owner and developer recently applied to HRM to change the zoning from commercial to a mixed use of residential and commercial known as "new urbanism." This approach is common in sustainable communities in Europe and Scandinavia. I am working with HRM staff, the developer, and the Northwest Planning Advisory Committee to ensure this development is creative and environmentally responsible. I believe that most of us do not want to see this area used as a mall or traditional commercial area. Neither Council nor a Councillor can halt a previously approved development or zoning, but we can (and will) influence the design based on forward thinking and your input!

The more environmentally sensitive 200+ acre area containing waterways, the bluffs, wonderful old hemlock trees, islands, and the lake are not included in this development. They are part of a previously approved residential zone and project, approved by the Town of Bedford. This project is not moving forward at this time. However, if / when it proceeds, stringent rules were put in place by the Town of Bedford and HRM to protect the bluff, waterways, and lake. A 22% park designation is required, versus the normal 5% - 10% practice throughout Bedford and HRM.

Will Shore Dr. be connected to Waterfront Dr. as part of the Bedford Waterfront Design plan?

No. There are no plans to connect the two streets. There is a chance that there could be a barricaded emergency entrance, but no public road.

Will high-rise condos be built at the end of Shore Dr. near DeWolf Park?

No. The Bedford Waterfront Steering Committee has recommended a continuation of low rise buildings, townhouses, or executive style homes. I support their recommendation.

What is the status of the provincial government's proposed Bedford – Burnside Bypass?

As I have previously stated, this bypass is essential if we are going to see a reduction in the car and truck traffic congestion on the Hammonds Plains Rd., Bedford Hwy., and Dartmouth Rd. Below is the latest update.

HRM Transportation Planning staff were recently advised by Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal that work is ongoing on this project. This work consists of field surveying, land acquisition and an environmental screening to meet the environmental assessment requirements, and to update the original environmental impact work. That work is expected to be completed in the spring, at which time engineering design will begin. A tender is expected to be issued late in 2011. Clearing will begin early in 2012 with a construction start in the spring of 2012. A study on the effects of the roadway on traffic patterns on Highway 102 and Glendale Drive is just being finalized.

Are Giles Drive residents going to receive city water?

Yes. I am very pleased to report that Halifax Water and HRM have designed a temporary and cost-effective solution for the residents of Giles Dr. The cost of the project will be significantly reduced by funding contributed by Clayton Developments and HRM.

Did you support the last HRM Budget?

No. Although HRM staff and Council did an outstanding job of cutting approximately \$35M from our operating budget, and Bedford projects fared well, I believe that we should have cut an additional \$3M. By doing so, we would not have had to raise the general tax rate by approximately 1%. This, in my opinion, would have been a tremendous accomplishment at a time when Council had also invested in new projects and services. By this I mean capital projects for tomorrow, such as the new transit terminal, new transit garage, new central library, Canada Games Centre, and the BMO Centre. Most of these were once- in-a-lifetime opportunities made possible by a significant stimulus funding contribution by the federal government and province.

Why doesn't HRM mow the land around the new Bedford waterfront boardwalk?

HRM does not own the new boardwalk or the land around it. They are owned by the Waterfront Development Corporation. The area around the new boardwalk was designed to be an "urban meadow." I have voiced your concerns to the WDCL, and they are taking steps to remove weeds, trim the borders, and add wildflowers.

Are we getting a sidewalk and bike lane for Moirs Bridge?

Yes. Unfortunately, the responses to the tender issued came back at more than four times the budgeted amount for the project. Neither staff nor I could justify the exorbitant cost. As a result, the project is being re-designed for construction next spring.

When will work begin on the new public washrooms in DeWolf Park?

Work should have started by now, but we encountered some challenges with the design, location, and anticipated cost of the project. The project was sent back for revision, at my request, but will resume shortly.

Highway 102/Larry Uteck Blvd. Interchange Opened!

The new interchange project was funded by the three levels of government, Federal, Provincial & Municipal and private developers in Bedford South and Bedford West. The developers were required to pay a Capital Cost Contribution (CCC) prior to developing their land. Capital Cost Contributions are collected from developers to cover their share of the capital cost infrastructure needed to provide municipal services.

The Highway 102/ Larry Uteck Blvd. Interchange design incorporates three roundabouts. The modern roundabout is safe, economical and saves time. Roundabouts are proving to be the safest type of intersections around the world. Statistics show that roundabouts reduce fatal and injury collisions by as much as 76% in the United States, 75% in Australia, and 86% in Great Britain. The project also included a multi-use trail which will provide pedestrians and cyclists a safe and convenient crossing of the Bicentennial Highway. The crossing, which has been identified in HRM's active transportation plan, will provide a vital link between the Bedford South and Bedford West communities.



BMO Centre Opened!



The largest sport-and-recreation centre of its kind in Eastern Canada officially opened its doors in Bedford in November. Mayor Peter Kelly, MLA Mat Whynott, Councillor Tim Outhit, BMO VP Nova Scotia District, Laura Charlton, Gavin White, VP of Project Development with Nustadia Recreation, and others were on hand to cut the ribbon at the \$40-million BMO Centre, located in Bedford on the Hammonds Plains Road.

The state-of-the-art building contains four NHL-sized ice surfaces for hockey, ringette, sledge hockey, and skating enthusiasts throughout the HRM. It brings advanced technology to the most basic Canadian activity! The large complex includes 4 NHL sized ice pads, ample change rooms, a spacious foyer, a large multi-purpose meeting room, a sport retail store, food and beverage services, free parking, and offices for its administration and Bedford Minor Hockey. The facility was built to LEED Silver equivalency standard (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design). The 4 ice services were designed to operate at the cost of 2.3 traditional ice services. The heat generated from ice making is used to heat the facility.



Presenting certificates of recognition and appreciation to the youth committee of B-SPAT (Bedford Skate Park Action Team). Also in the picture are adult volunteers Mark Ward and Rob MacLeod. The group was founded to raise money for a skateboard park in Bedford, and has my full support!

HRM a Solar City?

The Community Solar Program is a proposed pilot program in the development stage. Currently, HRM staff are conducting community information sessions to gauge interest in the program, developing a detailed financial model, and seeking approval from the Province of Nova Scotia to amend the HRM Charter to allow participants to be billed as part of their annual tax bill.

Through the proposed pilot program, between 500 and 700 HRM homeowners would be eligible to sign-up on a first-come, first-served basis, to have two solar hot water panels installed on their property. They would repay the cost for panels and installation as a supplement to their tax bill. An updated project plan will be submitted for final Regional Council approval early in the New Year. If approved by Council, the proposed community solar project would help residents take advantage of the municipality's significant solar energy potential without having to become an expert in the technology or navigate the technical and financing options. More information can be found online at www.halifax.ca/solarcity.

Contact Information

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Let's Keep in Touch!

I am always looking for ways to keep residents up-to-date on issues and events. Therefore, I have expanded my personal Facebook site. Please "friend me" on Facebook for regular updates. I have also been invited by the BedfordBeacon.com to contribute a monthly column to keep you current on events and issues.



Delivery Note

 Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these Newsletters may appear in other Districts. Please accept my apology for any confusion.

Winter Parking Ban

The overnight winter parking ban came into effect in the Urban Core on Wednesday, December 15. This ban was not approved by Council, but approval is not required for this matter as our Traffic Services team has provincial authority to implement a ban.

The parking ban restricts on-street parking each night from 1 am to 7 am. This means that within the service core, no vehicle can be parked on the street during these times. The fine amount is \$50 if paid within 60 days and \$82.96 after that.

In times of heavy snowfall on days leading up to December 14th, HRM asks residents and business owners to support safety and service delivery standards and not park on the streets as it interferes with snow clearing operations. Residents are reminded that Section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act provides that parked vehicles obstructing snow removal or winter maintenance operations may be removed at the owner's expense, regardless of time or date.

Safety of residents is HRM's top priority. HRM crews and contractors will be working to keep the streets and sidewalks in our neighbourhoods as free as possible from snow and ice for the protection of all residents. HRM thanks you for your cooperation and patience during and after snow events.

Working together we can have a safe and enjoyable winter season.

What are the service standards for snow removal in my area?

In the event of a snow storm, HRM asks that residents please allow 12 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow main roads and bus routes and 24 hours for residential and rural streets. For sidewalks, please allow 12 hours on main routes, 18 hours on school and Metro Transit bus routes and 36 hours for sidewalk clearing on residential and rural streets.

What can residents do to help?

- In the fall, please ensure any catch basins on your property are clear of leaves and debris.
- In heavy snowfall, place a marker at the end of your driveway or property where it meets the road or sidewalk to help avoid damages.

For information on service standards, driving tips, HRM's Smart Trip Program, frequently asked questions and more, please visit us at www.halifax.ca/snow or contact HRM's call centre at 490-4000.