



6th Issue

Councillor Tim Outhit

District 21

Bedford

Halifax Regional Municipality

Winter 2011



Dear Bedford Residents,

This is my sixth newsletter / bulletin since being elected as your representative on HRM Regional Council. The year 2011 has been one of new opportunities and great progress. I once again want to thank Mayor Kelly and my Regional Council and Community Council colleagues for their tremendous co-operation and support. Unfortunately, these good news stories are over-shadowed by the challenges, controversies, and misinformation that dominate media headlines.

The last year was a very good year for Bedford and HRM residents. In Bedford, we received approval and significant funding for a new community centre, new artificial turf multi-sport field, repairs and upgrades to our pool, a temporary skateboard park, numerous paving and re-surfacing projects for our streets, playground upgrades, path and trails upgrades, improved lighting, and numerous stonewall and fence repairs. A study outlining public transit alternatives for Bedford was undertaken and released, which provided several options for our community and tentative costing. Plus, our BMO 4 Pad arena received recognition and funding for being the most efficient and sustainable 4 pad arena facility in Canada!

As a municipality, we made significant operating budget cuts and saw great progress on policies, facilities, and infrastructure. Highlights include: the opening of our new transit garage, the skating Oval is being made permanent and will remain free-of-charge to users, construction began on the new central library, and work is underway on our new regional transit terminal in Dartmouth. We hosted an incredibly successful Canada Winter Games in our new and existing facilities.

The year ahead will be an exciting and important one for Bedford and for HRM. There are major decisions to be made in regard to the Bedford Waterfront, a proposed new stadium for HRM, improvements needed to public transportation and traffic in our community, and the upcoming budget discussions in which we will continue to implement operational cost cutting. I encourage you to contact me by telephone, email, Facebook, or Twitter to share with me your ideas and concerns as we enter 2012.

HRM Call Centre 490-4000

The HRM Call Centre is open 7 days a week 7:00 am to 11:00 pm except holidays, and is your fastest way to access information on a wide variety of municipal services and information.

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Bedford Volunteer Awards



I was pleased and honoured to participate again this year, along with Mayor Kelly, MLA Kelly Regan, and MP Geoff Regan, in the annual Bedford Volunteer of the Year Awards. Awards were presented to twenty one residents (including three youths).

This year's award recipients were: Heather Travers (Bedford Beavers Swim Team), Joan Cleghorn (Bedford Horticultural Society), Calvin Bechard (Bedford Lawn Bowls), Fred Haley (Bedford Leisure Club), Jane Williams (Bedford Lionettes), Steve Majury (Bedford Minor Football), Sandy MacDonald (Bedford Players), Marilyn Sceles (Bedford United Church), Debbie Townsend (Canadian Cancer Society), Florence Zink (Catholic Women's League), Carmel Carrigan (Fort Sackville Foundation), Margaret Whitehouse (Girl Guides of Canada), Adam Perritt (Canadian Cancer Society), Art Mosher (Multiple Sclerosis Society), David Jackson (Sackville Rivers Association), Brent Newsome (Scouts Canada), Anna & Nelson Pellerin (St. Ignatius Church), Jacob Wilson (St. Ignatius Youth Group), Bob Short (Brookside Cemetery).

Bob Short received the overall Bedford Volunteer of the Year Award and Carmen Lee received the Bedford Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. On behalf of Bedford residents, thank you and congratulations! I encourage residents to contact me or the Bedford Volunteer Awards Committee should you wish to nominate members of these groups, or from other groups not yet recognized, for next year's awards.

HRM Projects in Bedford in 2011 - Your Tax Dollars Spent in Bedford!

Paving & Re-surfacing:

- Bedford Hwy. between Dartmouth Rd., and Fourth, North St., Borden St., Emmerson, Wimbledon
- Numerous concrete and asphalt curb repairs throughout Bedford
- Concrete gutter repairs in several areas of Bedford

Other Projects:

- Completion of the upgrades and repairs to the Lions Pool
- Several stone retaining wall repairs and replacements along the Bedford Hwy.
- Wooden fence repairs along the Bedford Hwy.
- Completion of the re-surfacing of the public tennis court on Spring St.
- Security fence for the playground on Southgate Dr.
- Security upgrades to the Bedford Leisure Club
- New community centre and artificial turf sports field
- Construction underway for the new Bedford Skate Park in Range Park
- Sidewalk between Convoy Run and Mill Cove Plaza on the Bedford Hwy.
- Repairs to the rock barrier that protects DeWolf Park, as a result of damage sustained during Hurricane Earl

On the To-Do List for 2012 and Forward:

- Completion of our new community centre and sports field
- Completion of the temporary skate park
- Re-painting of the wooden fences and bridge railings along the Bedford Hwy
- Repairs and upgrades to paths, walls, and steps around Paper Mill Lake
- More concrete curb and gutter repairs throughout Bedford
- Upgrades to facilities in Range Park
- A new public Library in Bedford

I am working with HRM staff to ensure more paving or re-surfacing of a number of streets in our community over the next 2 -3 paving seasons. These include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Bedford Hills, Douglas, First, Peregrine, Ridgevale, Monarch, Nelsons Landing, Orchard, the lower portion of the Hammonds Plains Rd, and portions of Basinview Dr.

It Wasn't From "Bringing Home The Bacon"!



Many thanks to Halifax Water, on behalf of Ridgevale residents, for installing a new emergency shut-off valve and also for correcting the pipe shifting to resolve the sewer back-up issue.

BMO 4 Pad Arena Receives Recognition and Federal Grant



The BMO 4 Pad arena received recognition and funding for being the most efficient and sustainable 4 pad arena facility in Canada

In-Camera Council Meetings

One of the questions and concerns that I receive from residents quite frequently involves In-Camera meetings. There is a perception in the municipality and media that secrecy is increasing and a belief that there has been an increase in the number of meetings. I was pleased to see the press release from Mayor Kelly, in which he calls for a long-overdue increase in transparency. This initiative continues to have my full support. From now forward, Regional Council will have to vote in public on when to take an issue In-Camera.

I will now respond to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding In-Camera meetings and their enabling legislation. These include: why do we meet In-Camera; what sorts of issues do we discuss In-Camera; do other City Councils meet In-Camera; do I support meeting In-Camera and are there risks and penalties to HRM or Councillors for leaking In-Camera discussions and decisions?

In-Camera meetings are permitted and regulated by the Halifax Charter, Municipal Government Act, Administrative Order One, and Regional Council's new Code of Conduct for Elected Municipal Officials. Generally speaking, Council discusses personnel, legal, contractual, public security, and real estate transactions. This is a very common practice throughout Canada and North America to avoid risks to the municipality and Councillors. However, Council can vote not to discuss a matter In-Camera, to discuss portions of an issue In-Camera, to release the issue to the public after it is finalized (i.e. a contract is signed), or to release a media advisory sharing a portion of the information discussed. You will recall that Council did regularly release updates after In-Camera discussions regarding the sewage plant malfunction, while not getting into specific details that might have resulted in litigation or in repair work stoppage.

Council receives guidance from HRM Legal Services on what should be conducted In-Camera, but ultimately Council decides what is discussed In-Camera and then what is communicated to residents. The sections of the Halifax Charter and HRM Administrative Order #1 relating to In-Camera sessions can be viewed at <http://www.halifax.ca/legislation>. I have also posted relevant sections of all legislation as a Note on my Facebook site. I welcome your comments and suggestions on In-Camera meetings, better communication, and increasing transparency.

Bedford 5K



The Gerald St-Amand Memorial trophy for the winners of the Bedford 5k to Beat Lung Cancer was installed in the trophy case at the BMO Centre. From left to right: Mayor Peter Kelly, Paul St-Amand, Jean St-Amand (founder of the Bedford 5k to Beat Lung Cancer), Penny St-Amand and Councillor Tim Outhit

Update on the Bedford Waterfront Development Project

In my last newsletter, significant attention was given to the Bedford Waterfront Development project that began in 1983. If you would like to review it, my last newsletter is available on my website at <http://www.halifax.ca/districts/dist21>. Proposed plans for Phase 2 of the project, the area being in-filled, are available on the HRM website at www.halifax.ca.

Since then, the in-filling project that was approved by the provincial government, federal government, and the Town of Bedford continues. The in-filling is now approximately 70% complete. The proposed plans for Phase 2 of the development have been reviewed and approved by the volunteer Bedford Waters Advisory Committee, and reviewed and approved by the volunteer Northwest Planning Advisory Committee. The proposed vision and plan have not yet been reviewed or approved by Northwest Community Council or HRM Regional Council.

I am working with residents, community groups, the committees listed above, MLA Kelly Regan, and the staff and Board of the Waterfront Development Corporation (a provincial crown corporation) to communicate the concerns and ideas that you have expressed in response to the proposed plan. Many residents have made it clear, to both MLA Regan and I, that you look forward to restaurants, cafes, more boardwalks, public buildings, marinas and boat launches on our waterfront. However, many have expressed a strong desire for more green space and also concerns regarding height, density, public transportation, increased traffic, creation of a marine park or facility, and protection of marine life. I am working on your behalf to negotiate a plan whereby your ideas and concerns are addressed by the plan and that the cost of improving traffic, building public facilities (such as a new library) and expanded public transportation are contributed to by the developers. HRM and I will be contacting you this winter to invite you to participate in further public consultation on this project.

Construction Underway for new Community Centre, Sports Field, and Performing Arts "Cafetorium"



Community Centre Groundbreaking

DeWolf Park Washroom



Work is well-underway for the much requested new public washroom in DeWolf Park.

New Sidewalk



HRM installed a new sidewalk this summer to connect Convooy Run to Mill Cove Plaza.

Let's Bring Back the Dayliners

As many Bedford and HRM residents likely know, I am a strong supporter of improving our public transportation. In particular I have been championing the need to have a thorough and final investigation of commuter rail. Our community was designated a growth area in the Regional Plan of 2006. We have used our existing and anticipated growth to leverage support for our facility and infrastructure needs. I am now switching my focus, on your behalf, to using our growth to leverage improvements to our traffic congestion and public transportation solutions.



Commuter rail has long been proposed as a long-term solution for our community and our municipality. It has support from Mayor Kelly and several of my Council colleagues. While most agree that we cannot afford, nor do we have the population base for, Light Rapid Transit (that requires separate infrastructure such as tracks, tunnels, bridges, etc.) commuter rail using existing infrastructure needs to be investigated. It is critical that we conduct this final study into the use of refurbished dayliners. Some road widening and new lanes are required, but other methods of transportation could help reduce the cost to taxpayers.

Throughout North America and the world, more and more countries and cities are investing in rail. Rail is viewed as green, is scaleable, requires less manpower per commuter to operate than other types of public transportation, and recognizes the ever increasing cost of buses and production wait times. One full size bus now costs over \$550,000 per unit, and there is an eighteen month waiting period for delivery. Buses, of varying sizes, will always be part of our overall public transportation strategy. I will always promote and support any and all methods to improve traffic and public transit in Bedford. I believe one final investigation into commuter rail is essential. I look forward to your comments and suggestions!

Susan Tremills, a Bedford resident, is organizing a petition to gather support for the Dayliner. She is interesting in hearing from people who'd be willing to canvass / co-ordinate canvassers in various neighbourhoods. If you are interested in signing a petition or are willing to gather signatures, please contact Susan at 835-3589 or stremills@yahoo.com.

Bedford Skate Park



Fourteen year old Bedford resident Craig Retson, is the person behind the facebook page that helped start a committee – Bedford Skate Park Action Team (B SPAT) – dedicated to building a skateboard park in Bedford. Pictured here at the future site of the park with Committee Chair Mark Ward, Bedford Councillor Tim Outbit and fellow boarder 16 year old Matt Turner, Retson helped resurrect the project that had previously been brought fourth to HRM, cementing the desire of the youth in Bedford to have a park of their own.



You have hopefully noticed new winter banners that I had created and installed along the Bedford Hwy. My objective was to help brighten the holiday season and our upcoming winter, as well as to promote and celebrate the wonderful community in which we “live” and “play”.

My other objective was to encourage you to support the many fine shops, restaurants and services located in Bedford during the holiday season and throughout the year. Shopping and buying local, and supporting local professional services, is critical to our economy and to the vibrancy of our community.

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 periodic updates and announcements to keep you current on events and issues.

 **BedfordBeacon.com**
NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS



Help is on the Way to Relieve Burnside Truck & Commuter Traffic on the Hammonds Plains Rd., Bedford Hwy., Dartmouth Rd. and Magazine Hill!

I am pleased to confirm for you that the Province of Nova Scotia continues to move forward with its long discussed plan to build the Burnside Connector and to extend Highway 107 from Burnside to Sackville. A controlled access 4-lane highway between Akerley Blvd. and Duke St. is expected to be completed by the province during the fall of 2013. HRM is contributing \$1M to this project for the construction of active transportation bike lanes and walking trails along the Connector.

HRM's Winter Parking Ban

HRM's Traffic Authority is implementing a one-year trial period for an amended winter parking ban. The changes are intended to offer some flexibility to those who are most affected by the ban, such as shift workers and business owners, without compromising HRM's snow and ice clearing operations.

This year, the overnight parking regulations, which can be implemented anytime between December 15 and March 31, will only be enforced during declared snow and ice operations and, when the parking ban is in effect, it will run from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. - ending one hour earlier than in previous years.

Weather conditions and clearing operations will determine how long an overnight ban will be in effect. HRM will issue public service announcements to alert the public when the ban is in effect and when it has been lifted and timely information will be posted on www.halifax.ca.

As the ban can come into effect at any time, it's important for residents to take responsibility by keeping themselves informed and to plan ahead by securing off-street parking for the winter season.

HRM's Winter Works Operations for 2011-12

The season of snow is upon us and the safety of residents is HRM's top priority. During the winter season, it's especially important that we watch out for one another. In times of inclement weather, HRM crews will be busy working to keep the streets and sidewalks in our neighbourhoods free from snow and ice for the protection of all residents. HRM encourages residents and businesses to plan ahead when snow and ice are in the forecast and to keep your vehicles off the street in compliance with the winter parking ban. This will improve conditions for everyone's safety and will help HRM to meet service delivery standards for snow removal.

Service Standards

Road Classification/ Priority	Service Level After Operations	Start Times and Frequency	Time to Completion from End of Snowfall
Priority 1: Main Arterials	Bare pavement driving lanes	After 2 cm of snow, 3 hour turnaround	12 hours to full driving lanes
Priority 1: Transit Routes & Collector Roads	3m centreline bare	After 2 cm of snow, 3 hour turnaround	12 hours
Priority 1: Residential Street with greater than 10% slope that serve as snow routes	Centreline bare	After 4 cm of snow, 3 hour turnaround	12 hours to 2 lane width
Priority 2: Residential Streets	Snow Covered, Passable	After 10 cm of snow	24 hours to 2 lane widths
Priority 2: Gravel Roads	Snow Covered, Passable	After 10 cm of snow	24 hours
Priority 2: Private Lanes	Snow Covered, Passable		24 hours

Sidewalk Priority

Classification Priority Classification	Materials Used	Start Time	Duration Until Cleared
Priority 1: Main Arterials Capital District	Salt or Salt/Sand mixture	After 5 cm of snowfall	12 hours from end of snowfall
Priority 2: School Routes and Transit Routes	Salt or Salt/Sand mixture	After 10 cm of snowfall	18 hours from end of snowfall
Priority 3: Residential Streets/ Walkways	Salt or Salt/Sand mixture	After completion of first 2 priorities	36 hours from end of snowfall
Intersections / bus stops	Salt or Salt/Sand mixture	After sidewalks are complete	72 hours from end of snowfall



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.