

Welcome to August! I hope you were able to enjoy some of the wonderful events that were held to celebrate our natal day, as well as other events: from the kick-off on July 31st, with free birthday cake in the Grand Parade, to the August 1st Bluesfest and 50th Anniversary of the Sea King helicopters, to the 4th Annual Natal Day Comedy Night on August 2nd, to the Mother Goose Festival, presented by the Dartmouth Kiwanis Club, and the Mayor and Council Garden Party on August 3rd to the Maritime Heart Centre's MacDonald Bridge walk/race on August 4th to the numerous concerts such as the Rotary Club of Dartmouth/Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission free concert at Sullivan's Pond, to the much-loved fireworks wrapping up the festivities. Many thanks go out to all the volunteers who helped to ensure such a variety of family-fun events were available for all.

You may be wondering about all the road construction you see not just in your own neighbourhood but across our municipality. Have you ever wondered how the decisions are made on what projects will be done and why? Our website (<http://www.halifax.ca/designcon/cons/infra.html#pms>) provides a wealth of information on pavement and sidewalk projects. Residents often inquire as to how we decide which streets and sidewalks will be built, or worked on, in a given year, so; on our website we have provided a list of quick facts and commonly asked questions to help you to understand the decision-making process. Perhaps I can share a little information here that may help to clarify this process for you.

The Infrastructure Management Services (IMS) is a section of our Design and Construction services division that manages the street surface infrastructure for our Transportation and Public Works department. Inspections of our streets, sidewalks, and curbs are done using an Infrastructure Management System that has three modules: Pavement Condition Management System; Sidewalk Management System; Curb Management System. The ratings are then used to develop capital projects and provide network level analysis on our assets. The computer programs enable our staff to see how these various asset conditions change over time depending on the amount of money allocated in the Capital Budget. We can also run various computer simulations to determine how we can get the most assets rehabilitated for the least amount of money.

Following amalgamation, road network data from the former Municipal units was combined into a single database and loaded into the Pavement Condition Management System (PCMS) software. Using this system and its evaluation criteria, the entire road network within the core area of HRM has now been assessed. Some interesting statistics on our road network as of April 2013 for the core area of HRM are: we have 1684 km of asphalt paved roads, 3 km of concrete pavement, 80 km of stone and oil/chipseal, and 22 km of gravel roads. Our total road network includes 1789 km.

In regard to sidewalk and curb management, HRM's sidewalk inventory consists of a database of approximately 5684 existing sidewalk sections and approximately 12,307 existing curb sections. Our website explains the rating system as follows: The condition rating is done by our staff physically going out into the field and walking the sidewalk section/curb section to be rated. The percent defective determines whether or not a sidewalk/curb will be considered for capital work. Usually the higher the percent defective, the greater the chance it will make it into the capital budget.

I hope this information helps to add some clarification into the process of how HRM decides which road, sidewalk, curb projects are to be done and when.

A District 3 electronic newsletter is in the works, so if you would like to receive it, please send an email to Chris.Newson@halifax.ca with Newsletter in the subject line. Your email address will not be shared with anyone for any purpose.

As always, I am available to address your concerns. My phone numbers are 490-7032 or 476-1855, and my email is bill.karsten@halifax.ca. I will always respond as quickly as possible, but if you need to contact someone more immediately, please contact my Council Constituency Coordinator Chris Newson at 490-7184 or chris.newson@halifax.ca. Outside of regular business hours, please contact the HRM Call Centre at 3-1-1.