

The Holiday Season is Approaching

I am grateful to all volunteers who help make the Christmas and holiday festivities such anticipated events for families all over HRM. Who doesn't enjoy coming out to the Christmas Tree lighting activities offered in Halifax and Dartmouth and various communities all over our municipality. The following dates are important to keep in mind as everyone's calendar fills up quickly this time of year:

Saturday, November 23rd - Halifax Christmas Tree lighting in the Grand Parade from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. featuring the live stage show "Harry and His Bucket of Dinosaurs" and "The Big Fish Band".

The Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia will have volunteers collecting cash donations during the HRM Christmas Tree Lighting. Your donation will help more than 200,000 Nova Scotians who are currently living with mental illness.

Saturday, December 7th – the Dartmouth Christmas Tree lighting event will be taking place at Sullivan's Pond from 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. The schedule of events is as follows:

4:30-6:00 p.m. Enjoy a free ride on the Kiwanis Santa Claus Express Train, visit with the HRM Fire Truck, see local mascots HRP Blue, RCMP Safety Bear and The Holiday Penguin;

4:30-5:55 p.m. Visit with Santa.

4:30 p.m. the Crichton Park Elementary School Choir.

5:00 p.m. ASIA & NuGruv Christmas Show presented by the Shops at Dartmouth Crossing;

5:55 p.m. Christmas Tree Lighting.

6:00 p.m. the BOYNECLARKE Holiday Fireworks over Sullivan's Pond.

6:15 p.m. Join carollers procession down Ochterloney Street to Chirstkindlmarket Festival at Alderney Landing.

LED Light Exchange

Efficiency Nova Scotia is pleased to once again offer the LED Holiday Light Exchange in conjunction with the HRM Halifax and Dartmouth Christmas Tree Lighting events.

Bring two sets of traditional glass holiday lights to the tree lighting ceremony and have them exchanged for one set of energy efficient LED holiday lights at the Efficiency Nova Scotia tent. Quantities are limited, and based on first come, first served.

Last year there were over 100 light exchanges held through the Holiday Light Exchange program and close to 20,000 traditional holiday lights were collected and recycled responsibly. The program resulted in an energy savings of over 270,000 kilowatt hours during the holiday season.

Efficiency Nova Scotia is the independent, non-profit organization helping homeowners and businesses use energy better. More than 100,000 customers have participated in efficiency programs and services since January 2011.

For more information visit www.energycyns.ca/holidaylights

Winter Parking Ban and Snow Removal

During the 2013/14 winter season, HRM's Traffic Authority will continue with the amended winter parking ban. The changes were intended to offer some flexibility to those who are most affected by the ban, such as shift workers, residents without a driveway and business owners, without compromising HRM's snow and ice clearing operations.

The overnight parking regulations will be in effect from December 15 to March 31, and will be enforced during declared snow and ice operations only. When in effect, the ban ran from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Streets and Sidewalks

In regard to winter road maintenance, I should remind residents that not all roads in HRM are maintained by the municipality. Some are under the jurisdiction of the provincial Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal or other group/government agencies. The following link will take you to a map that outlines which government level or group is responsible for winter road maintenance:

<http://www.halifax.ca/snow/documents/WinterMaintenanceResponsibilitymap.pdf>

The following link will take you to the site where you can find what priority level your street has been assigned in regard to winter road work:

<http://www.halifax.ca/snow/StreetPriorityFinder.html>

By visiting the above site and typing in your civic address, the priority given to your street will be shown on the map which will be either Priority 1 or Priority 2.

Priority 1 Streets & Roads

First Priority streets include main arterials, emergency routes to hospitals and fire equipment, major bus routes, and snow routes in major hilly terrain during weather situations. HRM's goal is to have a plow or salt pass every 3 hours and make Class 1 streets safe and clear of snow within 12 hours of the end of snowfall.

Priority 2 Streets & Roads

Second Priority streets include residential and rural routes with medium to low volume traffic, those gravel roads, and private lanes for which HRM is responsible. HRM's goal is to start cut-throughs at intersections to allow access onto the local streets after 10 cm's of accumulation and to make Class 2 streets passable within 24 hours of the end of snowfall.

Sidewalks

Priority 1 Sidewalks

First Priority sidewalks include main arterials and sidewalks within the Capital District. HRM's goal is to clear these sidewalks within 12 hours of the end of snowfall.

Priority 2 School Route and Transit Route Sidewalks

HRM's goal is to clear school route sidewalks within 18 hours of the end of snowfall.

Priority 3 Residential Street Sidewalks & Walkways

HRM's goal is to clear residential sidewalks and walkways within 36 hours of the end of snowfall.

Intersections & Bus Stops

HRM's goal is to clear bus stops (starting with high volume stops) within 72 hours of the end of snowfall.

UNSM – Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities 2013 Fall Conference

From November 5th to November 8th, I attended the UNSM annual conference, hosted here in our capital city of Halifax. The UNSM is a not-for-profit organization mandated

to represent the Provincial interests of municipal governments across Nova Scotia and is an advocacy voice to the province. Total membership is 411 elected officials representing all 54 municipalities. Municipal interests are represented through three caucuses - a Regional Caucus, Rural Caucus and Towns Caucus. The Board of Directors is comprised of twelve elected officials and one appointed non-voting member from the Association of Municipal Administrators. I am pleased to advise that I have been elected to the Board as one of the Regional Caucus Representatives.

Numerous interesting workshops were offered during this conference on a variety of pertinent topics such as Strategic Planning for Municipalities and Community Safety and the Role of Policing. The keynote address was given by Mr. Ray Ivany, Chair, Nova Scotia Commission on Building our New Economy and President and Vice-Chancellor, Acadia University.

I look forward to upcoming Board meetings and representing Halifax Regional Municipality as part of this rewarding municipal-provincial relationship building organization.

E-Newsletter

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 District 3 Newsletter in the subject line. Your email address will not be shared with anyone for any purpose.

Contact Me

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 by email at: chris.newson@halifax.ca. Outside of regular business hours, please contact the HRM Call Centre at 3-1-1.