



Councillor Bill Karsten

Portland - East Woodlawn District 7 Newsletter

Halifax Regional Municipality

Fall 2011



Dear Residents,

Another summer has ended and we have quickly moved into the autumn season. How the months just seem to fly by! If I were to look back at the past six months, I would suggest that one of the many positive initiatives Regional Council can be proud of is the hiring of our new CAO, Richard Butts. As we all know, municipalities including our own, are reliant on Property Tax as our most predominate and almost sole source of revenue. Recognizing that and also realizing our need to continue to provide quality, reliable and cost-effective services and infrastructure to you the taxpayer, we need to continue to find new ways of doing business. Continuing to work with staff and finding efficiencies in the organization is a commitment I make to you! I know with certainty this is a commitment shared by our new CAO. One example is that just a few weeks ago, Regional Council approved a new model for snow removal referred to "Performance Based Contracts" on a trial basis in certain regions. It is anticipated this move alone will have cost savings of \$2.2M over the next three years. It is looking at creative initiatives like this that will allow us to be sustainable without the burden of increased taxes in the future. This should not mean however, that we don't continue to strategically grow. This can be with new infrastructure, enhancing transit or revitalizing the many existing assets we currently own. However, we need to balance the demands of the two and to work towards realizing that balance is another commitment I make to you.

How to Reach Me

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District 7 Portland - East Woodlawn

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Dartmouth, NS
B2W 5X6

I am pleased with the progress made in several areas during this past summer in District 7. We opened a new playground in the Pioneer Court area, a new outdoor/adult gym in Birches Park, finished 11 various paving projects, continued with our tree planting program, replaced all the pole-mounted garbage receptacles and finished some of the final enhancements to the Active Transportation Trail in Portland Hills/Portland Estates. Also, development continues in the Russell Lake area and the final phases of the Portland Hills project. We live in a great Municipality and have so much to be proud of!

It is always a pleasure to meet with many of you who are able to attend various community events or public meetings. However, for those of you who do not have that opportunity please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions, ideas or concerns.

Because we are approaching the Holiday Season on behalf of my wife Muriel and me, we extend to you our wishes for a very Merry Christmas, Peaceful Holiday Season and an upcoming Happy New Year!



Bridge Terminal Project Underway



Preliminary clearing of Metro Transit's new Bridge Terminal site by Pomerleau

Inc. is now almost complete, after getting underway the week of September 20th. The signage pictured above is being erected at the site on fences on both Nantucket Ave and Thistle Street, behind the current Bridge Terminal. The existing Bridge Terminal will continue to operate regularly during construction. It is the busiest transit terminal in HRM with approximately 23,000 passengers travelling through it or making connections there on a daily basis. The new, fully accessible terminal is expected to be completed by late summer 2012.

Please don't feed the ducks (even if they ask nicely)



Over the last few years, there has been a huge increase in the duck populations in areas frequented by people feeding the ducks. Large amounts of bird seed and bread have been

spread out daily along the lakes and trails in our area. This observation and concern has also been documented by a recent evaluation of the Russell Lake Brook and Ellenvale Run by Clean Nova Scotia. This unnatural population leads to increased total coliform and fecal coliform levels (from the duck poop) in our waterways and on our trails. In turn, this puts human health and pet health at risk on the trails, and puts swimmers, boaters, and fisherman at health risk from E. Coli contamination in our lakes and waterways.

The second issue with the increased duck population caused by feeding is damage to the fragile ecosystem. The overabundant population is wearing away key vegetated areas of the shoreline in the lakes and streams. This creates erosion and sediment loading which is harmful to the fish, amphibian, and invertebrate habitat. Many people, including Clean Nova Scotia, have put a lot of effort to

protect our valuable stream habitat; let's not undo the good work. The use of bird seed also attracts and increases the populations of unwanted pests such as rats and mice. Most importantly though, is not harming the wildlife that we so respect and admire. When ducks are fed by humans they fill up on the one food and will not receive adequate nutrition for proper growth and development, and they lose their natural ability to forage for food. For these reasons, and that HRM By-Law A-300 (www.halifax.ca/legislation/bylaws) prohibits the feeding of waterfowl (the fine is \$220), please respect our community and the natural wildlife community by keeping your distance and not feeding the ducks.

2011 District 7 Volunteer Award Winners

HRM held its annual Volunteer Awards on April 20, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth. Mayor and Councillors recognized over 90 volunteers at the event.

Congratulations to District 7 winners: Bernice Arsenault, Kathy Cook, Hana Hicks Redden, George H.H. Kwan, Brandon Porter, Devan Porter and Kathryn Wiley.

2012 HRM Volunteer Awards

Do you know an outstanding individual who gives back to his or her community? Do you want to recognize a community group that is making a difference in the lives of many? Nominate them for the 2012 HRM Volunteer Awards!

There are three categories: adult, youth (ages 13-19) and community group. Successful nominees will be notified in March 2012 and invited to a ceremony and reception on April 18, 2012 to be presented with their awards by Mayor Kelly and Councillors. The award ceremony coincides with and is in celebration of National Volunteer Week, April 15-April 21, 2012.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, December 9, 2011. To nominate someone, visit:

<http://www.halifax.ca/volunteerservices/awards/index.html>

Congratulatory Certificates

If you know a District 7 resident who will be celebrating an 80th (or more) birthday or a 50th (or more) wedding anniversary, please let me know and I will be happy to present a certificate on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Citizenship Awards 2011

On June 15, 2011, 48 outstanding youth were presented with a 2011 HRM Citizenship Award at a special ceremony at the outset of the regular HRM Council meeting at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

The recipients are chosen by teachers and principals based on demonstrated qualities of good citizenship. Those chosen have shown that they not only excel academically, but are also committed to giving back to their school and their community at large.



Councillor Karsten, Katherine Norris, and Mayor Peter Kelly



Councillor Karsten, Shane Kovacs, and Mayor Peter Kelly



Councillor Karsten, Jessica Parsons, and Mayor Peter Kelly

On the Internet: www.pehra.ca



The Portland Estates and Hills Residents' Association (PEHRA) was established for the purpose of promoting and improving the quality of life in the Portland Estates

community. The goal of PEHRA is to promote construction and maintenance of trails linking HRM parkland in the Morris and Russell lakes areas, and to provide trail linkages to adjacent communities and the Trans-Canada Trail.

This site was created as a communication vehicle for the community; it serves as well for visitors to the Portland Lakes Trail system.

Recycle all Your Plastic

As of September 1, HRM residents can place ALL PLASTIC CONTAINERS in the blue bag for recycling. No more checking for numbers on the bottom. This includes:

- Plastic bottles, jugs and jars for beverages (including milk), shampoo, lotions, cleaners, windshield washer fluid, and other household liquids
- Plastic food tubs and containers for yogurt, margarine, sour cream, cottage cheese, cookies, fruit & vegetable trays, salads, plastic clamshells and ice cream containers
- Plastic Bags and wrap from grocery, bread, produce and frozen vegetable bags, bubble wrap and other plastic film/wrap items
- Place all bags and wrap in a grocery bag, tie, then place in the blue bag with other recyclables.

These items go in the garbage:

- Styrofoam (Garbage)
- Non-container plastics such as: bottle caps, toys, DVD cases, plastic cutlery, coffee/pop cups and lids, cereal box liners, straws, pipe, packaging that is made of a combination of plastic plus paper, bulky items that do not fit in the blue bag.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Municipal:

HRM Call Centre	490-4000
*Seven days a week, 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. (except holidays)	
HRM Call Centre TTY/TDD	490-6645
Emergency (Police/Fire/Ambulance)	911
Police - Non Emergency	490-5020
Councillors' Office, City Hall	490-4050
Clerk's Office	490-4210
Mayor's Office	490-4010
Halifax Regional School Board	464-2000
Halifax Water	490-4820

Provincial:

Member of Legislative Assembly, Dartmouth South - Portland Valley:	
Minister of Education, Hon. Marilyn More	463-6673

Member of Legislative Assembly, Dartmouth East:

Andrew Younger	406-4420
Member of Legislative Assembly, Cole Harbour:	
Premier of Nova Scotia, Hon. Darrell Dexter	462-5300

Federal:

Member of Parliament, Dartmouth - Cole Harbour:	
Robert Chisholm	462-6453

Active Transportation in District 7

Active Transportation includes a variety of self-propelled modes of transportation which use on and off-road facilities (e.g. sidewalks, multi-use pathways, bicycle lanes, etc.). Walking (including wheelchairs and scooters) and bicycling are typically considered the principal modes of Active Transportation, but other modes include jogging, in-line skating, skateboarding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

In District 7, the opportunities for bicycling and walking to transit in the district, particularly with the recent recapitalization of the Portland Hills Trails system, which leads to the Baker Drive multi-use pathway, which now connects to the Woodside Ferry Terminal since the Mount Hope Connection recently opened.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.halifax.ca/TDM/activetransportation/index.html>



HRM on the web

Thinking of having a block party or starting a neighbourhood association? Check out www.myhrm.ca

More information about programs and events can be found on the Internet. Please visit us:

On YouTube: www.youtube.com/HRMNovaScotia

On Facebook, look for: HRM Cultural Affairs, the Annual Clam Harbour and Sandsculpture Contest, skateHRM, and HRM Bike Week.

On Twitter, follow: @hfxgov, @hfxtransit, @hrmcivicevents, @hfxregpolice, @hfxpublib, @SkateHRM and @halifaxfire



Birches Park has been upgraded with outdoor gym equipment.



Due to Canada Post delivery routes, some residents who do not live in District 7 may receive this newsletter. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.