



Councillor Bill Karsten

Portland - East Woodlawn

District 7 Newsletter

Halifax Regional Municipality

Spring 2005



Dear Residents,

Even though it has been more than seven months since the October 2004 Municipal Election, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your confidence and support in giving me the opportunity to be your Councillor for District 7. I am truly humbled and honoured. It seems like just yesterday that Mayor Peter Kelly welcomed me to Regional Council!

Much has been accomplished over the past many months. Initially, there was an incredible learning curve with more new information that seemed to pile up daily. We worked through that, and then came the many weeks of intense Budget deliberations with lots of debate.

Council has since adopted the Draft for the Regional Plan which will be the blueprint for development within HRM over the next 25 years. It will manage development in a way that will make the most effective use of land, energy infrastructure, public services and facilities. It is a draft plan that I have endorsed on your behalf and proposes a reduction in expenditures related to the Regional Plan estimated at approximately \$250m. This summer the Draft goes to the Public for their input and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me or the Regional Planning office at 490-5857.

Regional Council has also approved the Morris-Russell Lake Master Plan and subsequently, Harbour East Community Council approved the Development Agreement for Russell Lake West. This promises to be an exciting new development for District 7 and will be one of the premier communities in all of the HRM.

The next few years will be very challenging as we continue to strive toward an even more healthy, sustainable, and vibrant community. During these next years I commit, again, to work hard to deal with your issues and concerns and to maintain your trust and support.

Best regards,

How to Reach Me

Councillors' Support Office
Halifax Regional Municipality
Post Office Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5

Cellular 476-1855
Home Office 490-7032
Fax 490-5482
City Hall Fax..... 490-4122
Email karsteb@halifax.ca

HRM Call Centre

490-4000
Seven days a week
7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Boards And Committees

In addition to being your representative on Regional Council and Harbour East Community Council, I was appointed to serve on the following Boards and Committees:

- Alderney Landing Board of Directors
- HRM Audit Committee
- CAO Review Committee
- Program and Services Review Committee
- Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee
- Investment Policy Advisory Committee (Co-Chair)

Did You Know?

We pride ourselves at HRM in having an excellent, professional Call Center. Just call 490-4000 and a Customer Service Agent is waiting to help you. This is your one-stop call centre regarding any issue you have such as by-law enforcement, solid waste schedules, animal control, planning matters, bus schedules, property taxes and complaints. If you require the use of a TTY/TDD line, dial 490-6645.

Welcome MetroLink to District 7

Over the past year you may have seen construction on Portland St. near Portland Hills Dr. HRM and Metro Transit are creating a new specialized service known as MetroLink. Previously known as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), MetroLink will provide a limited-stop direct service to the Halifax downtown core. It is scheduled to be introduced this fall. The entire fleet will be low-floor, wheelchair accessible and offer many extra passenger amenities, such as high back seats, air conditioning, and bike racks.

On May 29th the Portland Hills Terminal began operation, with regular bus service, new schedules, and a new route. Route #72 - Portland Hills is a new fully accessible route from Portland Hills to Burnside's Metro Transit Garage. Use the Park 'n' Ride facilities and do your part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, smog, and traffic congestion!

Residential Property Tax

Halifax Regional Municipality has several different programs that help homeowners. Whether it is paying property tax through a payment plan, a property tax rebate, or deferral of property tax (payment is put off to a later date). These programs are available to all homeowners with a combined household income of \$27,000 or less a year who live within the boundary of the Halifax Regional Municipality. There are different programs to choose from depending on a person's needs. It is important that you know what choices exist. For more information check out the HRM website under Grants Program or call 490-5469 or 490-5454.

Just another way your Municipality is there to help!

District 7 Streets

I know that there has been a lot of media attention on the condition of some of our streets in HRM and I have heard many comments from residents. It is, however, a challenging balancing act between higher taxes and having our older infrastructure replaced. One source suggests that the cost of asphalt has tripled in the past 10 years! I am committed to working with Public Works and Transportation to prioritize the necessary upgrades to our streets in District 7.

I am pleased to inform you that the following streets will be done this 05/06 Budget year at an estimated cost of over \$1M.

Resurfacing:

Flying Cloud Drive (Gregory to Paxton)
Stephen Cross Drive (BelleVista to Spring)

Paving Renewal:

Topsail Boulevard (Digby south leg to Dorothea)
*Poplar Dr. (Circassion to civic #125)

*On shopping list which means will be done if budget allows. Otherwise it will be scheduled in the next Budget.

Let's Waste Less in HRM - 10% Challenge



As a member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee I am extremely proud of our Waste Resource Management Strategy. Did you know that more than 40 countries and several provinces have visited our world class waste facilities? The program, in operation since 1999, was a massive undertaking due to the size of our Municipality. The long term goals of the Strategy were:

- 1) Maximize the 3 R's (reduction, reuse, and recycling)
- 2) Maximize environmental sustainability and minimize costs
- 3) Foster stewardship and promote conservation

A goal was set of diverting 60% of our waste from landfill. We've been close, but we have yet to reach our target. In fact, we seem to have reached a plateau and have hovered around the 55% mark for several years. That's where you come in and everyone can help! The 10% challenge asks us all to reduce the amount of garbage placed by the curbside by one bag every 2 weeks.

How can you meet the 10% Challenge?

- Maximizing use of Blue Bags and Paper Recycling Programs.
- Maximizing use of your Green Cart and Backyard Composting.
- Choose products that use less packaging.
- Grasscycle & Mulch and Mow.
- Lead by example - challenge family, friends and co-workers.

Together we can make a difference!

Weekly Green Cart Collection for July & August

Starting Monday, July 4th and running to Friday, September 2, weekly green cart collection will be available in District 7. You can place your Green Cart out for collection weekly, even if it's not full. Upon completion of this summer service, collection returns to the regular 2 week green cart/regular refuse collection schedule. Please refer to your 2005/2006 Organics Green Cart and Regular Refuse Collection Schedule for regular collection information.



For more information, please go on-line at www.halifax.ca/wrms or call 490-4000.

Harbour Solutions Update

The Halifax Harbour Solutions Project is continuing to move along with construction activity throughout Halifax's southend and downtown areas as well as preliminary work in Dartmouth. 2005 will see work on the Halifax sewage collection system (SCS) reaching completion. Work on the Halifax waste water treatment plant site is continuing and on target for a late summer/fall 2006 completion. In Dartmouth design work on the Dartmouth sewage collection system is nearing completion and some preliminary work has begun. The Dartmouth SCS will be completed in the summer 2007. Construction of the Dartmouth waste water treatment plant will begin this spring/summer and be operational in the summer of 2007.

Residents can keep informed of up coming construction by checking the two daily newspapers, listening to FM 97.9 and visiting the HRM website www.halifax.ca/harboursol.

Community Information Radio

Want to know where the latest road construction is taking place? Where traffic is tied-up due to motor vehicle accidents? How the traffic is moving on the two bridges? For all of this and more...tune into Community Information Radio at 97.9 FM on your radio dial. Get up to the minute details every hour on what is happening in HRM.

Harbour East Community Council

Harbour East Community Council meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Former Dartmouth City Hall, 90 Alderney Drive. For up to date information call the Community Council line at 490-6080 or visit our website at www.halifax.ca. Community Council agendas include matters that are local in nature. Examples are zoning changes, development applications and parkland issues. Residents are welcome to address Community Council and have five minutes to speak.



A True Jewel in our District - Cole Harbour Heritage Farm

This small farm museum, at 471 Poplar Drive, has something to offer everyone. The farm showcases heritage buildings dating from 1790, as well as farm and household objects, livestock and gardens. Original to the site is the 150-year-old farmhouse in which The Rose and Kettle Tearoom and Gift Shop are located. The farm periodically offers craft or farm related demonstrations and hands-on activities such as wool carding and butter making. Special events throughout the year include concerts, theme dinners, workshops, and craft sales. Whether it is a prearranged group tour or if you bring your family, make it a point to visit "The Farm" this summer.

Contact Numbers

Emergency (Police/Fire/Ambulance).....	911
Police - Non Emergency.....	490-5020
HRM Call Centre - Open seven days a week (7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.).....	490-4000
Call Centre TTY/TDD.....	490-6645
HRM Homepage:.....	www.halifax.ca
Animal Control.....	468-9219
Community Council Information Line.....	490-6080
Councillors' Office, City Hall.....	490-4050
Mayor's Office.....	490-4010
MLA, Dartmouth South - Portland Valley Marilyn More.....	463-6673
MLA, Dartmouth East Joan Massey.....	464-3805
MLA, Cole Harbour Darrell Dexter.....	462-5300
MP, Dartmouth - Cole Harbour Michael Savage.....	462-6453
School Board Member, Debra Barlow.....	462-3556
Water Commission - General Inquiries and Billing Info.....	490-4820
Public Works, after hours.....	490-6203

Please 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.

Please Recycle

