



Councillor Bill Karsten

Portland - East Woodlawn

District 7 Newsletter

Halifax Regional Municipality

Spring 2006



Dear Residents,

The months just seem to fly by. It seems like just a short while ago that I sent you my last newsletter, yet here we are in Spring of 2006. These are exciting times for District 7 and all of HRM! A lot has been done, but there is still much to be accomplished on a go forward basis. Following are some of the issues which have required considerable time, and I would like to thank the many volunteers who have worked on these important projects.

Draft #2 of the HRM 25 year Regional Plan has had considerable public input and will be coming back to Regional Council soon. A new Economic Strategy was launched on November 17, 2005 and is an essential component in defining our future. Quite simply, we want to be the envy of the world!

An Immigration Policy, for which the primary role is to create and maintain a welcoming community, was before Council. The Cultural Advisory Committee, comprised of members of the public and several councillors, brought forth a Cultural Plan recently to Regional Council. This plan includes arts, history and heritage, urban design, leisure and education, cultural economic development and community diversity.

Of course, various development plans and Halifax's 2014 Commonwealth Bid have also been key issues. District 7 is bustling with well planned development. The Russell Lake West development will continue this spring and the Portland Hills area is in the process of continued planning.

As your Councillor, I am committed to the completion of several neighbourhood playgrounds and parks, the construction of a walkway from the Metro Link Terminal to Donegal Drive, and the development of a Bike Park. I will work with you to enhance public safety, and I will address your concerns and suggestions in a timely manner. Together we will make this an even more healthy, sustainable and vibrant District! Have a great spring!

Best regards,

P.S. For further information, contact the following websites:
www.halifax.ca/regionalplanning
www.halifax.ca/communications/ImmigrationActionPlan
www.halifax.ca/culturalplan

How to Reach Me

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

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

HRM Call Centre.....490-4000

24hr Police Non-Emergency:
490-5020
Fire Non-Emergency:
490-5530

Police Launch HRM Traffic Unit



Councillor Karsten receives a mock ticket during a demonstration

Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP have launched the HRM Traffic Unit. The unit featured 10 members in 2005 and will be expanded to include 20 members in 2006.

“Over the past several years at Town Hall Meetings citizens have identified traffic safety as one of their primary concerns,” Chief Frank Beazley said. The newly-created Traffic Unit will aim to improve municipal traffic enforcement and enhance public safety across HRM.

Supt. Gord Barnett of RCMP Halifax Detachment echoes the Chief’s sentiments. “The Traffic Unit provides the ability to proactively target traffic problems throughout the core of HRM. It will also give us the ability to address citizens concerns that have been brought to our attention at the Town Hall Meetings.”

With the increasing number of complaints by residents regarding speeding in residential areas, and the recent tragic event highlighting this serious issue, this new integrated approach by the Halifax Regional Police and RCMP Traffic Services should go a long way towards addressing this concern, and other traffic issues.

Proposed Mount Edward Bike Park



Over the past several years the need for a Bike Park has been evaluated by HRM staff. The need has been determined and preliminary planning is underway.

Halifax has a Bike Park which has been very successful, but there is presently no official site on the Dartmouth side of HRM.

A Bike Park is simply an area where our young residents can enjoy their sport in a safe, protected environment. They use a non-motorized mountain style bike to do their riding and jumping in an off-road environment.

I support this proposal, as I would any project which gives our youth the opportunity to engage in healthy, safe activities. Continuing to work together in the future will result in a better, more vibrant and sustainable community.

The proposed site for this Bike Park is at the far end of the HRM property between the Conrad and Greenough Ball Fields off Mount Edward Rd. I wanted to let you know of our intentions, and should you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself at 490-7032 or Blair Blakeney, HRM Coordinator Capital Projects - Parks at 490-6789.

Public Opportunity to Speak

Harbour East Community Council deals with everyday issues that effect the areas of Dartmouth and Eastern Passage. We meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., using the back entrance of the School Board building at 90 Alderney Drive, (the former City of Dartmouth Council Chambers). It is comprised of all Dartmouth area Councillors including myself, Jim Smith, Gloria McCluskey, Harry McInroy, Andrew Younger and Becky Kent.

After each meeting concludes the Public has an opportunity to speak for 5 minutes in regard to issues or concerns of importance to them. I encourage you to attend whenever possible and hope to see you there!

Nova Scotia Recycles Contest



Councillor Bill Karsten and Lindsay Laidlaw

RRFB Nova Scotia is a non-profit corporation managed by a board of directors, with representatives from the private sector and government. This organization works closely with HRM Solid Waste Resources, a department under our own Environmental Management Services. Together, with HRM's own initiative and policies, we made HRM a World Leader in Solid Waste diversion programs. There is still much to be done!

Each cell that we construct at our landfill costs approximately \$15M. and another \$4M. to close. The average life expectancy per cell is 3 years for a total cost of \$19M. You can see the importance of waste diversion! Our goal is to increase cell life to 4 years, thus achieving tremendous savings of our tax dollars. Are we all doing our part?

Each Fall, a contest is organized which promotes challenging our youth to think about the 3R's (reduce, reuse, recycle). The 2005 Contest received a record breaking 8500+ entries from students in every corner of the province. Our Region #4 was well represented, and had winners from all over HRM. We are particularly proud of Lindsay Laidlaw, a Grade 2 home school student, who lives in District 7. Lindsay's theme was, "Composting Makes Our World Beautiful," and it was a job well done! Congratulations, Lindsay!

Portland Hills Transit Terminal Update

As we are all aware, the Metro Link Rapid Bus project from Portland Hills Transit Terminal to Downtown Halifax has been a major success! With it, however, there have been some issues related to parking. I am pleased to announce that three quarters of an acre of land has been purchased south of the existing parking area, that Metro Transit plans to develop for parking. This land will add approximately 50 parking spots, in addition to the 170 currently available. Staff have developed a layout for the area and propose to tender work this spring so that construction can begin as soon as weather permits.

Many of you are aware that a walking trail was to be constructed from the Portland Hills Terminal to Donegal Dr. This trail would connect the terminal to the Innishowen community. I assure you this is an issue I have brought forward on your behalf, and have assurance from Metro Transit staff it will be constructed this spring.

New Online Service Request

HRM residents are now able to report burned out street lamps or dangerous potholes in their area, through the Internet.

You may request a limited number of services or access information by simply logging on to the HRM website, www.halifax.ca and filling out an online service request form. Initially, services offered range from reporting a litter problem to requesting the removal of a household appliance, such as a stove or refrigerator, no longer in use. It's quick, easy and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You will still have the option of contacting HRM for service requests or information by calling the Corporate Call Centre at 490-4000, or by visiting one of the many walk-in customer service centres in the region.

Neighbourhood Watch

Recently, residents of the Plaza Dr. area of District 7 organized a community Neighbourhood Watch. We very much appreciate their efforts, and they are to be commended for their involvement.

What is this Halifax Regional Police program, and how does it work? Neighbourhood Watch is a program aimed at reducing crime in the community. It involves getting to know your neighbours and introducing them to the program's concept. The program can be summarized as good neighbours working together and being alert to the potential of crime in their area before it starts.

Neighbourhood Watch provides more than that. Citizens are taught how to make their homes less inviting as a target for thieves; how to participate in Operations Identification; and how to be alert to suspicious activity in their community. Signs are also posted advising that your community is also active in this program.

All members of Neighbourhood Watch are assigned a personal identification number. This protects you when reporting a crime as you are only obligated to identify yourself with your number. All other information is kept on file and restricted to your Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

This program is reporting some success and interest is on the rise. This year it is anticipated that more communities will get involved. I encourage this type of community based activity, and if you and your area would like to be involved or obtain more information, please feel free to call me at 490-7032 or contact our Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Cst. Tanya Chambers, at 490-6977.

District 7 Town Hall Meeting

On Thursday, April 20th from 7pm to 9pm, I will be hosting the first annual District 7 Town Hall meeting at Bel Ayr Elementary School on Bell St. in the school gymnasium. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have, and also discuss issues of concern with myself and HRM staff. Hope you will be able to attend!

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 Recycle



Due to Canada Post mailing zones, some residences may receive this newsletter that are not in District 7. I apologize for any confusion caused and hope you still find the information useful.