



Councillor Bill Karsten District 3

Dartmouth South - Eastern Passage

Serving the residents of Portland Estates, Portland Hills, Russell Lake West, portions of East Woodlawn, Eastern Passage, Cow Bay, Shearwater and South Woodside

Dear Residents

For many of you, this is the first opportunity for me to say that it is an honour and a privilege to be your elected representative on Regional Council. I want to thank everyone who exercised their democratic right to get out and vote for the candidate of their choice. I also wish to thank you for your support and can promise you that I will work tirelessly on your behalf.

With a newly elected Mayor and a smaller Regional Council, the next four years promise to be an exciting time as we continue to move our Municipality forward. In December, Council approved what is considered to be our priority outcomes and directed staff to develop plans to advance these outcomes. They are described in a separate article in this newsletter. The priority outcomes are not tactical; they are instead a desired state or outcome sought. The tactics used to advance these outcomes are considered annually by Regional Council as part of the budget and business planning process. This year's budget is well underway and has been vetted through the Audit and Finance Committee which I am privileged to chair. The budget will be tabled at Regional Council on April 30th.

I am encouraged, enthused and eagerly looking forward to working with my colleagues to meet the many challenges that lie ahead. Our approach will be to continue to find efficiencies and have a sharper focus on "priorities."

With the recent Municipal Election, the boundaries for our new District 3 have changed and I encourage you to take a moment to look at the new map online. It can be found at: halifax.ca/municipalclerk/documents/District03.pdf

As always, should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. It will be my pleasure to help in any that way I can.

Regards,

HOW CAN WE HELP?

My office is here to serve you

CONTACT ME

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District 3
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HRM Call Centre



*Seven days a week, 7:00 a.m. - 11:00
Except Christmas and New Year's
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

Electronic Updates

If you would like to receive information on District issues and events through my electronic newsletter, please send an email to lynn.matheson@halifax.ca with 'District 3 updates' in the subject line. Addresses will not be shared.

STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED

In addition to more traditional sources of information, HRM has a strong social media presence and can be found on Twitter (@hrmcivicevents, @hfxregpolice, @hfxpublib, @SkateHRM @halifaxfire), Facebook (search HRM Cultural Affairs, the Annual Clam Harbour and Sandsculpture Contest, skateHRM, HRM Bike Week) and YouTube (youtube.com/HRMNovaScotia). For a complete list, please visit halifax.ca/socialmedia/



HRM Launches Crosswalk Safety Campaign



As Councillor for District 3, I am very supportive of HRM's crosswalk safety campaign which aims to bring awareness to drivers and pedestrians about the importance of being cautious, focused and attentive when driving or crossing the street.

In 2012, HRM saw an increase in pedestrian-vehicle collisions and the highest rate of pedestrian fatalities in five years. Texting, chatting, surfing the internet and listening to music on mobile devices are just some of the distractions for both pedestrians and drivers that lead to inattention. The campaign's goal is to raise awareness about the dangers of distraction in an effort to change the way people think and act, both when behind the wheel and on foot, when approaching a crosswalk. For more information on the campaign and to view the video, please visit [Distractions Kill.ca](http://DistractionsKill.ca).

The HRP/RCMP Integrated Traffic Unit will continue to focus on enforcement and providing traffic safety education in-person out on the roads, as well as on social media. For more information, please visit facebook.com/HRPTrafficCop or twitter.com/HRPTrafficCop.

Federal Budget's Impact on the Municipality

As HRM's representative on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Board of Directors, I was pleased to see that the 2013 federal budget held some great news for municipalities across the country. In particular, the new infrastructure programs will be of tremendous benefit. The indexing of the federal gas tax will generate an additional \$9 billion in new funding nationally over the next 20 years. The requests of many municipalities to expand the eligibility criteria was heard, and virtually all municipal assets will be included in the new gas tax agreement. The Building Canada Fund is being renewed for 10 years, and a review will be done in five years to assess the success of the fund in meeting the infrastructure needs. All municipalities will be assisted by these measures.

More information on FCM's response to the Federal Budget can be found here: fcm.ca/home/issues/federal-budget-2013.htm

HRM Crime Mapping Site Launched

Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District RCMP launched the HRM Crime Mapping site to provide information about crime. HRM Crime Mapping, maps.halifax.ca/crimemapping/, is an interactive site which is updated daily at 12:15 a.m. with incidents of five specific crime types – robberies, assaults, break and enters, thefts of vehicles and thefts from vehicles. These crime types were selected given that citizens can take steps to protect themselves from becoming a victim if armed with information about what's happening in our community.

HRM Crime Mapping allows citizens to view the selected crime types one at a time, several at a time or altogether by three different time frames – yesterday, the past four days and the past week. It also allows citizens to search crime types by street name or community. To ensure people's privacy, crimes are plotted on the mid-point of the closest block and are not associated with any specific civic address.

The site also provides links to HRP and RCMP's social media sites, websites and crime prevention information. HRM Crime Mapping is a pilot project and it is expected that community feedback will assist in shaping the site in future. Feedback can be sent by email to contacthrp@halifax.ca.

Council's Priority Outcomes

At the December 4, 2012 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council adopted a report called 'Recommended Priority Outcomes' which will guide us in budgeting and decision making over the next years. These are the areas that Regional Council will focus on. The recommended outcomes are:

- Regional Plan Review – RP+5
- HRM by Design Centre Plan
- Economic Strategy: Regional Centre, Business Climate, Talent, International Brand, Maximize Growth Opportunities
- Arts and Culture
- HRM Business Parks
- Youth at Risk
- Transportation: Road Network Expansion/Optimization, Expansion and Enhancement of the Active Transportation network, Transportation Demand Management, HRM Parking Strategy
- Transit: Financial Roadmap, Strategic Framework, State of Good Repair, Technical Solutions Roadmap

For more detail, the full report to Council, presentation and background can be found at: halifax.ca/council/agendasc/121204cowAgenda.html



Eastern Passage Wastewater Facility

I recently received an update from Halifax Water staff about construction activities on the Eastern Passage Wastewater Treatment Facility. The project, started in November 2011, is progressing steadily.

The headworks building is the first portion of the new plant being constructed and it's expected to be finished and fully operational later this spring. Other systems such as the primary clarifiers, electrical building and secondary clarifiers/blower building are now complete. Equipment installation continues. The project remains on budget, at just under \$64,000,000, and on schedule with substantial completion by January 2014.

The Urban Forest Master Plan: Get Ready for Spring Planting



On Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012, I was pleased that Halifax Regional Council approved the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP). HRM's

urban forest consists of all trees within the urban core, including street trees, park trees, and trees on private and public land. The Plan's goal is to ensure a sustainable future for our urban forest and create awareness about environmental stewardship. The plan was developed in cooperation with Dalhousie University's School for Resource and Environmental Studies after many years of research, public engagement, workshops and reports. The pilot program will include improved tree planting and maintenance programs, as well as opportunities for volunteers to get involved.

This year, five neighbourhood areas have been selected to take part in a pilot program to increase the number of street trees planted. The areas are Eastern Passage, Colby Village, Connaught/Quinpool, Fairview and North End Halifax. In Eastern Passage, 141 new street trees will be planted along Cow Bay Road and Caldwell Road. A variety of hardy native tree species will be selected. In years to come, these trees will beautify the neighbourhood and grow tall to form a protective canopy cover.

Planting starts in early April and will continue throughout the spring. The UFMP website will be updated on a regular basis with planting schedules and volunteer opportunities in your community. Visit the website at halifax.ca/RealPropertyPlanning/UFMP

Open Data Pilot Project

Council is fully committed to making municipal information more open, transparent and accessible. As a result, in September Regional Council approved HRM's 'Open Data Pilot Project'. The project was recently launched and enables the public release of a selection of 17 HRM data sets such as geographic data, free of charge.

HRM will be looking to citizens to provide feedback on additional data sets they would like to see released in subsequent phases of the project.

Please visit: halifax.ca/wrms/CGAW.html

Metro Transit Campaigns to Increase Ridership

As identified in December's priority planning session, Transit is one of our top priorities. With that in mind, an integrated, multi-media marketing campaign has been developed to encourage commuters to take the bus.

The campaign entitled "Do it on the Bus" is purposely provocative so as to catch residents' attention, and is a multilevel engagement campaign, intended to improve the relationship and eventually, ridership, between Halifax residents and Metro Transit. The campaign has drawn considerable discussion on Twitter and attention in the local media in its first week.

Throughout the 12-week campaign, "Do It on the Bus" will be in print, on the buses, on TV and online. The campaign highlights the benefits of using public transportation and features some of the new and improved services the Metro Transit offers.

Do it on the Bus

Do more while you get around
Check out our improved bus and ferry service at doitonthebus.ca

MetroTransit
New Rides. Better Service.



Dial 3-1-1 for Municipal Government Information



I am pleased to announce that we are now providing improved services for residents, visitors and businesses with our 3-1-1. This one number provides quick access to HRM information and services. Citizens should continue to dial 911 for emergency calls. The 3-1-1 phone service offers the following improvements:

- Service in over 150 languages using a telephone interpretation service
- Return of holiday call taking (closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day)
- More efficient routing of calls through self-service options
- No long distance call charge from anywhere in HRM (regular pay phone and cellular phone charges apply)

Residents can call the 3-1-1 citizen contact centre from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Calls related to illegally parked vehicles or urgent transportation, animal services, municipal operations, or wastewater service issues will be accepted outside of these hours. Hearing impaired teletypewriter users can continue to call (902) 490-6645.

For more information on 3-1-1 telephone service, visit halifax.ca/311.

Boards and Committees

As your elected representative, I represent your interests on a variety of local and national boards and committees:

- Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council
- Appeals Committee
- Audit & Finance Standing Committee, Chair
- Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission
- Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee
- Executive Standing Committee
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors

Curbside Give Away

June 8 & 9, 2013 is the Curbside Give Away Weekend. Reduce your home's clutter; give someone the chance to Reuse things you no longer need, by Recycling your clean and working goods! halifax.ca/wrms/CGAW.html



At the Woodlawn Library

Gaelic Style Fiddling

Tuesday, May 21/7 p.m.

Explore the roots of Gaelic Style fiddling, and its evolution, brought by Gaels to Nova Scotia as they immigrated. Demonstrations of the style will be provide

Be sure to visit your local library for free events. More information, can be found online at halifaxpubliclibraries.ca or by calling 490-5744.

Your Community Council

In addition to Regional Council, HRM is made up of three Community Councils. District 3 is part of Harbour East - Marine Drive Community Council which meets once a month. At these meetings, we consider local matters, make recommendations to Regional Council, and provide opportunities for public input. If you would like to attend and see how decisions that impact our community are made, please visit halifax.ca/Commcoun/east/index.html or call Jennifer Weagle at 490-6517.

Bridge Traffic Updates

Commuters can receive bridge condition updates by dialing 5-1-1 on any traditional landline or mobile phone. Bridge-specific information is available by dialing '3' when prompted. The same information is available on the 511 website at 511.gov.ns.ca/.

The 511 service automatically generates updates to HHB's Twitter feed (@HHBridges) and the RSS feed.



Please note: Due to Canada Post delivery routes, some residents who do not live in District 3 may receive this newsletter. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.