



# Councillor Bill Karsten

## Portland - East Woodlawn

### District 7 Newsletter

Halifax Regional Municipality

Summer 2008



### Dear Residents,

The months continue to race by and here we are in the hot days of summer. Let's not forget that it was not many months ago that we had snowstorm after snowstorm, so let's enjoy this weather while we can!

This again will be a busy summer with one of the main highlights being the opening of the East Dartmouth Community Centre. After years of planning, the Opening Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, August 9th , 11:00 am at the site of the Centre, 50 Caledonia Rd. We welcome you to this event and hope that you can attend!

This summer also showcases our Dartmouth Lakes with the National Canoe / Kayak Sprint Championships from August 27th-30th. Let's come out and support our local clubs as they prepare for the World Championship to be held here next summer! Fun events also include the Cole Harbour Harvest Festival which I will reference in more detail in this newsletter.

As stated in previous communications, Regional Council continues to be committed to improving the overall condition of our streets and roads and retains this issue as one of our Council Focus Areas. The major reconstruction projects in District 7 this summer are Ridgecrest Dr. and Robert Dr. along with 9 other streets that will receive upgrades. I do recognize the frustration a resident experiences if their street, such as John Cross Dr., is among the ones that still require attention. However, council has again increased the budget for streets and roads this current year, making the time frame for those streets that much closer. I hope to have John Cross on next year's Capital Projects!

The tender has gone out and children in the Robert Kempt Turner School area will be able to play on a new \$100K playground hopefully before the start of school this September. Thanks to many in the school community who volunteered their time and energy to make this project a reality.

As your Councillor, it continues to be an honour and privilege to serve you, the residents of District 7. I commit to continuing to work towards achieving positive results, not only for our District, but the entire municipality. I encourage you to contact me should you have any questions or concerns on any issue.

Enjoy, and have a safe summer!

### 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

## Launch of Youth Advocate Program

On June 12th I was pleased to be able to attend the official launch of the new Youth Advocate Program, a gang prevention initiative for youth. The first two questions I asked myself were: is there a need for such a program, and is it our role as a municipality to intervene? The answers became apparent after some discussion and I determined there is a need and that this is an issue that is the responsibility of all levels of government.

The primary goal of the Youth Advocate Program is to prevent youth aged 9 to 14 from engaging in gang-related activities, anti-social and criminal behaviour. Six communities experiencing gang related issues will be assigned their own Youth Advocate Worker. Youth Advocate Workers will work with at-risk youth, their families and the community to reduce risk factors that make youth vulnerable to gangs and increase protective factors that support youth in healthy, constructive decision making.

In Spring 2007, HRM submitted a proposal to the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) requesting funding for the Youth Advocate Program. In December 2007, the NCPC approved \$1.9 million in funding for a period of four years. HRM will match this funding through value in-kind support to the program in the form of office space, equipment, facility use, and staff time.

The launch will serve as an opportunity to introduce the Youth Advocate Workers to the communities they serve and raise awareness regarding the responsibility we all share to create a safe community where youth are empowered and valued. We have a dynamic and committed staff who are working this program and we wish them much success!

## Caldwell Rd. Connector

Many of you have asked if there have been any updates on the situation as it relates to the Caldwell Connector Rd. As you are probably aware a proposed connector road from Caldwell Rd. to the new Mount Hope 111 interchange is a strategic and important step in our Regional Transportation Plan. A few years ago DND declared a portion of Shearwater as surplus and the lands were turned over to Canada Lands, a crown corporation which deals with disposal of Federal Lands. It was a portion of these lands that the municipality was interested in using for a road. The Shearwater Advisory Committee which was comprised of key Stakeholders was struck in early 2007 to discuss issues surrounding land use.

On March 20th of this year an announcement from DND certainly surprised all involved that they were once again assessing their operational requirements at Shearwater 12 Wing. The current thinking is that DND will want all of the land back. On March 28th I was able to speak directly to Hon. Peter MacKay, Minister of Defence, in regard to this issue. I was impressed how well versed he was on this file and his understanding of the paramount importance of a connector road to the municipality through these lands. There is a common understanding that an alternate road alignment was identified several years ago which still is a realistic opportunity. The municipality had not planned to proceed for at least another year on this project so the recent events have not delayed any plans at this immediate point. Although the Shearwater Lands are not in our District, the importance of this project has huge implications throughout our District and the Region. Considering the importance, I commit to keeping this a priority issue

## Looking to Carpool or Share a Ride to Work?

In a day with rising fuel cost and a strong focus on environment I am pleased that our municipality is encouraging residents to carpool, walk, bike or take transit to work. Citizens can log onto [www.HRMSmartTrip.ca](http://www.HRMSmartTrip.ca) to find commuters in their area who are looking to share a mode of transportation.

HRMSmartTrip.ca is a state of the art ride-matching system that allows commuters to quickly and securely find carpool partners. The system matches people based on proximity to origin and destination points and travel route, as well as similar working hours and compatible carpooling preferences.

A match list is returned instantly when you search for carpool partners. No personal information is released to potential matches. Simply e-mail the individuals on your match list and then it's up to you to discuss the arrangements so that your new carpool will work for you!

If you have any questions about the program, please visit [www.HRMSmartTrip.ca](http://www.HRMSmartTrip.ca), click on "Contact Us" in the left hand menu and fill out the contact/question form. Also, do not hesitate to contact me with any comments or thoughts about this initiative.

## Citizenship Awards

A great event that I enjoy each year is when the Halifax Regional Municipality's Citizenship Award is presented to outstanding Grade 9 students. Recipients are selected by the school and are chosen based on qualities of leadership and service in the school and community, and commendable performance in the courses in which they are enrolled. Each school is permitted to select only one award recipient which must be a real challenge as there are so many who could qualify. On June 17th at a Regional Council meeting it was my pleasure along with Mayor Kelly to present awards to recipients in District 7.



*Mayor Kelly and Councillor Bill Karsten present the 2008 Citizenship Award to recipient Sarah MacKinnon from Eric Graves Memorial.*



*Mayor Kelly and Councillor Bill Karsten present the 2008 Citizenship Award to recipient student Becky Kerr from Sir Robert Borden.*

## Summer Safety

As we know hot summer weather translates in to swimming for many. Residents are strongly encouraged to swim at one of HRM's many supervised locations. Information regarding the HRM Beach program, you may contact the Beach Office by calling 490-5458. Or for a complete list of supervised beaches in HRM, please visit [www.halifax.ca/recreation/beaches](http://www.halifax.ca/recreation/beaches). Even though these beaches are supervised, safety should always come first in and around water! One of the many advantages of swimming at a supervised beach is that water quality tests are regularly done and should it exceed the safe level for swimming, public notice will be issued immediately and the beach closed until further notice.

There are also 62 other lakes and freshwater bodies that, although not HRM supervised, undergo what is referred to as Baseline Testing. These samples are collected and analysed three times a year, typically during the spring, summer and fall seasons. Test results on these lakes can be found on our web site at [www.halifax.ca/environment/lakesanddrivers.html](http://www.halifax.ca/environment/lakesanddrivers.html)

## Council Meetings

Several months ago a resident asked me if Council meetings were open to the Public. It made me think that we do not often actually go out of our way to advertise this fact, so ever since I have been trying to encourage people to come to Regional Council meetings and see a meeting for themselves. They are held on most Tuesdays and often begin during the day with Committee of the Whole, at a time that depends on the length of the agenda. At Committee of the Whole meetings business can be discussed but no motion can be ratified or any money spent. This can only be done at a Regional Council meeting.

**Regional Council meetings and public hearings generally start at 6:00 pm and usually can be seen on Eastlink Channel 10.**

Agendas for all council meetings are posted at least 48 hours in advance of a meeting and can be found at the following website.

<http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html>

You can also call the Municipal Clerk's office for any information relating to the time of meetings. The number is 490-4210 (general inquiries)

Give it some thought and come out to see a Council meeting!

## Cole Harbour Harvest Festival

Congratulations to a dedicated and committed group of community volunteers for taking the initiative to organize this major community event to take place on Saturday, September 13, 2008 from 2pm to 10 pm on the Cole Harbour Place commons. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

The festival will include Music Concerts on the Main Stage and will feature not only Cole Harbour talent such as Black Moor and The Stance but also John Campbelljohn, Skully and many more!

In conjunction with the Festival, Cole Harbour Place will be holding its Annual Health Fair and the Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society will be conducting a Farmer's Market.

Other activities will include:

- Multicultural Show
- Basketball Tournament
- Skateboard Competition
- 2 mile and 6 mile run
- Games and Fun for all

This promises to be a great event! Mark it on your calendar and plan to attend. I hope to see you there!

## Thanks to our volunteers

Every time I attend an event, it is always inevitable that behind the scenes there are volunteers who, without their effort and help the event would simply not be possible. Although HRM does recognize our volunteers at special times throughout the year, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the many who just keep unselfishly giving of their time and effort. Recently, I counted no less than 12 volunteers at our Canada Day event at Sullivan's Pond. Job well done and thank you!



*Councillor Karsten and Granddaughter Lauren along with RCMP officers enjoying Canada Day events at Sullivan's Pond*

## 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

Public Works, after hours.....490-4000

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

Animal Control.....468-9219

Water Commission -  
General Inquiries and Billing Info.....490-4820

Civic Events.....490-6776

Victim Services.....490-5300

Subdivision & Development,  
General Inquiries.....490-4435

Permits & Inspections,  
General Inquiries.....490-4490

HRM Aquatic Services -  
Beach Program.....420-SWIM (7946)

Please Recycle



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