



# Councillor Bill Karsten

Portland - East Woodlawn  
District 7 Newsletter



## Happy Holidays

Halifax Regional Municipality

Winter 2009



### Dear Residents,

As the winter months approach I am pleased to be able to take this opportunity to wish you and your families Peace and Happiness throughout this Holiday Season. I also wish you Prosperity and Health for the upcoming New Year!

Once again, the months have flown by quickly, and we find ourselves finishing a very positive year for our District and Municipality. On the municipal end we did acquire \$11.2 million in stimulus dollars, which will go a long way toward helping as many as 11 Capital Projects in our Region. This is 1/3 of the total eligible costs of \$33.6 million.

We are also pleased that the Federal Government announced its contribution of \$18.3 million towards the Central Library. The new library is intended to replace the current Spring Garden Road Library and will serve as a much needed resource centre for all HRM residents. Council is also moving forward with our Transit Strategy, and our New Transit Garage in Ragged Lake is on schedule for completion in summer 2010. There have also been positive steps forward with phase one of our Arena Strategy, with the October 9th ground-breaking ceremony for our new 4 - Pad Ice Complex. Phase two of this strategy will be coming back to Council within the next few months, for further decisions. Although, these projects are important as our Municipality continues to grow, I assure you that I, along with my Council colleagues, am always aware of our fiscal responsibilities and we are pleased that HRM staff will deliver a projected surplus in this year's budget.

The past few months also saw the results of several years of effort by Councillor Gloria McCluskey and the Audit Committee, who recommended the hiring of our new Auditor General, Larry Munroe. You will be hearing much more about the work of Mr. Munroe in the months to come as he presents his first annual business plan to Council. In our District, I continue to work on the overall issues of increased Transit which is moving ahead, and improvements of our aging infrastructure, be it streets and roads, or our stormwater or wastewater assets. I also continue to work towards improvements and beautification of our neighbourhoods, parks and playgrounds, and of our trails systems.

It continues to truly be an honour to serve you as your Councillor, and I encourage you to contact me should you have any questions, comments or concerns. In closing, on behalf of my wife Muriel, my family and myself, I again wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### 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

## Winter Safety Operations

Safety of residents in HRM is a top priority. HRM crews and contractors will be working hard to keep our neighbourhood streets and sidewalks as free as possible from snow and ice, for the protection of all residents. This will be done as expeditiously as possible and within the current Service Standards which are listed below for your review. Please try to remember that we have over 3300 km. of streets and roads, and cannot logistically do them all immediately.

We encourage residents and business owners to support safety and our service delivery standards by helping us in the following manner:

~ **Please keep your vehicles off the street in compliance with the winter parking ban** ~

The Motor Vehicle Act Section 139, provides that parked vehicles obstructing snow removal or winter maintenance operations may be removed at the owner's cost, regardless of time of day or the date of the snow event.

Residents are also asked to adhere to the HRM's Winter Parking Ban which takes effect on December 14th, 2009 and remains in effect until March 12th, 2010. The parking ban restricts on-street parking each night from 1:00 am - 7:00 am.

## Woodlawn Library Spring Opening



It was initially anticipated that the new Library at the former Empire Theatre site on Eisener Blvd. would be ready for occupancy sometime in November. However, the new 17,000 square foot library is now scheduled to open in March 2010. All negotiations are finished, extensive work is well underway, and the current landlord who has managed the work contract, has four months to complete the redesign and construction of the site. It will be a beautiful resource centre for our area and I look forward to seeing you at the opening of our New Library in the spring!

## Community Group Does Great Work

At this time of year I would like to draw attention to a community group that does great work and offers an invaluable service to our community.

**Operation Red Nose** volunteers will get you home safely during the Holiday Season. This service is available for those who have driven their car somewhere and need do the responsible thing when they have had too much to drink and they must get themselves, and their vehicles, home safely. Last year the dedicated Halifax group comprised of 313 volunteers, hit the road 428 times.

This service is offered on Friday and Saturday nights during the Holiday Season. You can get more information by calling 481-RIDE (7433) Job well done!

**Remember... if you drink - DON'T DRIVE. If you drive - DON'T DRINK!**

## Snow Service Standards

**Have you ever wondered when your ROAD will be cleared after a snow storm?**

I do get asked that question often, and although dependent on the amount of the snowfall, the majority of the time these service standards are in the most extreme cases.

HRM asks that residents please allow 12 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow main roads and bus routes. HRM asks that residents please allow 24 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow residential and rural streets.

**Have you ever wondered when your SIDEWALK will be cleared after a snow storm?**

HRM asks that residents please allow 12 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow sidewalks on main arterials. HRM asks that residents please allow 18 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow sidewalks on school routes and bus routes. HRM asks that residents please allow 36 hours after the end of a snowfall for crews to plow sidewalks on residential and rural streets. HRM's management and staff thanks you for your cooperation and patience during and after snow events. Working together we can have a safe and enjoyable winter season!

For information on service standards and frequently asked questions and more, please visit us at [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca) or contact HRM's call centre at 490-4000.

## What a Summer and Fall 2009!

Over the past many months since my last newsletter in June, many events have taken place in the Municipality. To mention just a few won't do it justice, because I am certain to miss some, however, I immediately think of the following.

Two concerts on the Commons (Paul McCartney and Kiss) were huge successes! Tall Ships 2009 and great Canada Day and Natal Day Events, saw many tourists and residents enjoying the festivities. Sidney Crosby and the Stanley Cup Parade brought thousands and thousands to the streets. We hope that we see Sidney bring home the cup many more times!

World Senior Canoe Championship on beautiful Lake Banook was truly a World Class Event and the Pride Parade and Parade of Lights are annual events that drew huge crowds.

I would be remiss if I didn't add the most recent, fantastic Olympic Torch Relay Days. This, perhaps once in a lifetime event, was capped by a huge celebration with Sidney Crosby and Sarah Conrad carrying the last two legs of the relay before reaching City Hall.

## Disposal of Christmas Trees



Natural Christmas Trees will be collected after the holidays, on the same day as your green cart. Remember to remove all:

- **Decorations**
- **Tinsel**
- **Nails**
- **Stands**

**Trees that are in plastic bags will not be collected**

## What is the Councillor's Job?

There are times when members of the public ask me to describe what it is that their District Councillor actually does. There have also been residents who have concluded that the elected position largely looks after the interest of their particular District. Although that is part of it, the Councillor should also always keep in mind, and weigh the best interest of the entire Municipality when making decisions. It is at best a very diverse position and I trust that the following gives you a 'bird's eye' explanation.

Municipal Councillors have a broad range of responsibilities and work load. As a Councillor you have a representative, policy making and stewardship role to play in the municipality. Elected officials are responsible for governance where the focus is on what is to be done, while the administration is focused on how it will be done. Council members are charged with setting the course and allocating the necessary resources to get the job done. The Municipal Government Act (MGA) directs that the Chief Administrative Officer is the head of the administrative branch of the government of the municipality, and is responsible to the council for the proper administration of the affairs of the municipality in accordance with the by-laws of the municipality and the policies adopted by council. Regional Council provides direction on the administration, plans, policies and programs of the municipality to the Chief Administrative Officer. In addition to the above, there are many other responsibilities that Councillors have; one example would be participation on Boards and Committees.

I currently sit on the following Boards and Committees.

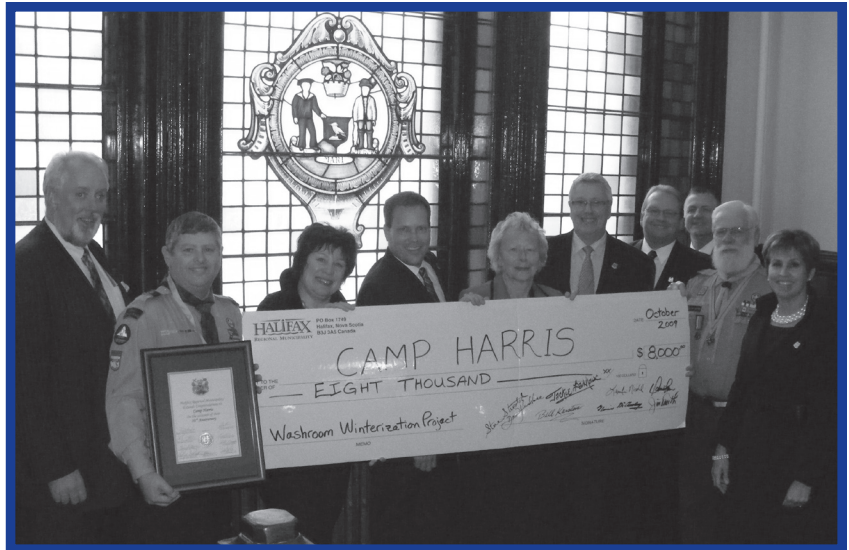
- Alderney Landing Board
- Audit Committee
- Board of Police Commissioners
- CAO Review Committee
- Halifax Regional Water Commission
- Harbour East Community Council
- Halifax- Dartmouth Natal Day Committee
- Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee
- Nova Scotia Solid Waste Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee





Harbour East Community Council along with Councillors Hendsbee and Streach, were pleased to present a cheque to leaders of Camp Harris for washroom facility upgrades.

Camp Harris is a marvelous resource that benefits youth in our communities.



## Increase our Diversion

Several weeks ago each household received a copy of our quarterly newsletter, "Naturally Green." In it, there were some great ideas about recycling around Christmas time. The article entitled, "Christmas Waste, Bah! Humbug to Waste," and the entire newsletter can be found on line at: [http://www.halifax.ca/environment/documents/NG27\\_Changes.pdf](http://www.halifax.ca/environment/documents/NG27_Changes.pdf) should you have misplaced your copy.

Included with this quarter's newsletter was also a chart entitled, "Householders Guide to Waste Management." This breaks down for each resident what should go where in our "at source" recycling programs, including Organic Green Carts, Blue Bag and Paper Recycling, Regular Garbage and HHW - Household Hazardous Waste.

Although the majority of our citizens recycle in some form or another, statistics show that 19% rarely or never recycle. As a world leader in Waste Management that is an alarming number and the only way we are ever going to continue to increase our diversion from landfill is by encouraging our friends and neighbours who are not involved, to get involved. The easiest thing to start with is to make sure none of your newspaper, flyers, magazines, catalogues, envelopes, paperback books, phone books and shredded paper, ever goes in the regular garbage again. It is to be separated and placed in a retail or grocery bag or in a clear bag. Of course, the most important reason we have our Waste Management System is that it is simply the right thing to do for our environment and future generations. Many of you will remember the first generation landfill in Sackville where odours and seagulls were bountiful. The second reason is that it is a fiscally responsible thing to do. Each second generation landfill cell costs the municipality \$15 million and \$4 million to close the cell once full. The more we divert by recycling, the longer our cells will last! Please let's work together and increase our diversion from the current 60%!

Should you require more information, please call 490-4000 or visit: [www.halifax.ca/recycle](http://www.halifax.ca/recycle)

## Phone numbers you may find useful:

Mayor's Office: 490-4010

MLA, Cole Harbour:

Darrell Dexter, 462-5300

MLA, Dartmouth East:

Andrew Younger, 406-4420

MLA, Dartmouth South - Portland Valley:

Marilyn More, 463-6673

MP, Dartmouth - Cole Harbour:

Michael Savage, 462-6453

Animal Control: 468-9219

Bullying Hotline: 490-7283

Councillors' Support Office: 490-4050

Halifax Water: 490-4820

Public Works - after hours: 490-4000

Seniors Service Centre: 465-5578

Subdivision & Development:

General Inquiries: 490-4435

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.