



## COUNCILLOR BILL KARSTEN

### DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER

SERVING RESIDENTS OF PORTLAND ESTATES, PORTLAND HILLS, RUSSELL LAKE WEST, PORTIONS OF EAST WOODLAWN, EASTERN PASSAGE, COW BAY, SHEARWATER & SOUTH WOODSIDE

# DEAR RESIDENTS



It is hard to believe that we are already two years into this term with our new Mayor, Mike Savage, and a Council that was reduced from 23 to 16 members. With the reduction in Council size, there were also boundary changes that saw our new District 3 increased to almost 30,000 residents, making us the largest electoral district/riding in the province with the exception of our Federal ridings. It also seems like only a few months ago that Regional Council approved the 2014-2015 budgets and now we are in the process of starting our deliberations for the next budget cycle. How time flies!

Currently, the Operating Budget of the Municipality is \$844 million and the Capital Budget is \$144 million. I strongly believe that one of the most important responsibilities I have as your elected representative is to make sure that your tax money is spent wisely.

You can be involved with the budget process. Simply go to [www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca](http://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca) and check out the informative videos and Budget Allocator option, it will be self-explanatory. Tell us how you think the municipal budget should be allocated - shape your city, shape your budget.

The Budget Allocator provides residents with a unique glimpse into the experience of balancing the city's budget. It allows you to simulate adjusting the municipal tax dollars allocated to various services like transit, parks and policing – and see the potential impact this has on both service delivery and the overall budget. To get a better understanding of the budgeting process and why the Municipality is asking for your input please watch the videos posted at the website including Mayor Mike Savage's introduction video.

If you do not have access to the internet, give me a call. I would be pleased to get you any information you wish on the budget.

Most residents would agree that Council is working together cohesively to get the business of the city done effectively and efficiently. It continues to be my honour to serve you and my pleasure to represent you on Regional Council on municipal issues. I will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf and to work together with you to make our Communities even better places to live, work and play!

Yours truly,

*Bill Karsten*

## BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Councillor Karsten is a member of the following HRM Boards and Committees:

- Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council
- Appeals Committee
- Audit & Finance Standing Committee, Chair
- Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee
- Executive Standing Committee and CAO Review Sub-Committee

Councillor Karsten also serves on the following Boards/Committees:

- Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission
- FCM Board of Directors
- FCM Environment Issues and Sustainable Development - Vice Chair
- FCM International Relations
- National Zero Waste Board Member
- Ocean View Continuing Care Board Member
- Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities



Councillor Karsten with Mayor John Dooley in Centre Block, Parliament Hill, Ottawa at a Federation of Canadian Municipalities event – fulfilling his duties as your FCM representative.

Councillor Karsten with MLA Joyce Treen, Shauna Williams and Becky Kent of Ocean View in Eastern Passage.

# HALIFAX



## Councillor Bill Karsten

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bill.karsten@halifax.ca www.halifax.ca/District03/index.php

### Eastern Passage and Cow Bay Municipal Capital Projects

The following information table outlines capital projects completed or underway in the past two years within the Eastern Passage and Cow Bay area:

Project	Cost
<b>Enhanced gymnasium at new High School.</b> Funded by the general tax rate rather than an area rate approach as originally recommended by staff. Eastern Passage High School (site to be determined)	\$600,000.00
<b>Culvert Replacement</b> Cow Bay – near Samuel Danial Drive	\$515,000.00
<b>Tree Planting</b> (Funded from the Urban Forest Master Plan) Eastern Passage	\$80,000.00
<b>Breakwater Armour Stone Causeway Upgrade Project</b> Cow Bay Road	\$800,000.00
<b>Paving Project</b> Caldwell Road from Hines Road to MacDonald Beach	\$670,000.00
<b>Cow Bay Road Deep Storm Water Project.</b> Recommendation by staff for proposed 1/3 of funding to be covered by residents was overturned by Regional Council.	\$6.3 million
<b>Community Projects</b> Funded by the District 3 Capital Fund. Various contributions to community groups such as Fisherman's Cove, Buffalo Club, Eastern Passage Cow Bay Summer Carnival, Cow Bay Hall, Lion's Club, Ocean View Foundation.	\$100,000.00
<b>Complete Paving (2nd Phase)</b> Caldwell Road from MacDonald's Beach to Atholea Drive	\$460,000.00
<b>Chip Seal Process</b> Green Bay Road – Cow Bay Road to end.	Part of budget bundle allocated to Streets/Roads
<b>Planer Patching</b> Main Road from Hines Road to Shore Road	Part of budget bundle allocated to Streets/Roads
<b>Planer Patching</b> Cow Bay Road from Caldwell Road to Buffalo Club	Part of budget bundle allocated to Streets/Roads
<b>Micro-surfacing</b> Cow Bay Road – Civic #1276 to Dyke Road (North End)	Part of budget bundle allocated to Streets/Roads
<b>New Paving</b> (gravel road to new paving) Flandrum Hills Road	\$245,000.00
<b>New Paving</b> (gravel road to new paving) Flandrum Court	\$40,000.00

There is still much work to do and many important projects worthy of our attention. I will work relentlessly, with your assistance, towards identifying these projects and bringing them forward.

### 311 HRM CITIZEN CONTACT CENTRE

As outlined on the [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca) website, 3-1-1 is more than a telephone number; it is your direct connection to municipal services and information. It is important to utilize the 3-1-1 service whenever you have a question regarding municipal services as 3-1-1 is also a tracking system for ensuring requests are assigned to appropriate staff for follow-up/action.

Please use 3-1-1 to report all municipal issues as doing so will ensure your concern is addressed promptly. The 3-1-1 centre is open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (except Christmas and New Year's Day).



Councillor Bill Karsten –  
Happily participating in a SEASIDE FM fundraising event for the important community asset that keeps the community informed.

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### URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN – EASTERN PASSAGE TREE PLANTING

On Tuesday, September 25, 2012, Halifax Regional Council approved HRM's 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 goal of the plan is to ensure a sustainable future for our urban forest and to create awareness about environmental stewardship. The plan was developed in cooperation with Dalhousie University's School for Resource and Environmental Studies (SRES) after many years of research, public engagement, workshops and reports.

Five neighbourhood areas were selected to take part in a pilot program to significantly increase the number of street trees planted: Colby Village, Connaught/Quinpool, Eastern Passage, Fairview and North End Halifax.

Earlier this spring, one hundred and forty-one new street trees were planted in the Eastern Passage urban forest neighbourhood. Fall planting began in mid-October. In years to come these trees will beautify the neighbourhood and grow tall to form a protective canopy cover.

The UFMP website will be updated on a regular basis to help you stay informed about upcoming planting schedules and volunteer opportunities in your neighbourhood. Visit the website at: [www.halifax.ca/RealPropertyPlanning/UFMP](http://www.halifax.ca/RealPropertyPlanning/UFMP).



*Baker Drive Tree Planting – Councillor Karsten with daughter and grand-daughter, the youngest branch on the family tree, planting a sapling.*



*Portland Estates Tree Planting – Councillor Karsten with HRM Staff and Community Volunteers - Protecting the Riparian Buffer.*

### REDECKING THE MACDONALD BRIDGE – THE BIG LIFT

Beginning in mid-2015, with a duration of approximately 18 months, "the big lift" project will take place. This project involves replacement of the suspended structure of the MacDonald Bridge and will include replacing the road deck, the floor beams, stiffening trusses and suspender ropes.

The bridge is safe, but after 60 years the deck is reaching the end of its functional life. The project needs to be completed now to ensure it remains safe and to extend the life of the bridge.

The project will commence near the Dartmouth shore. The bridge deck segments, in either 20 or 10 metre lengths, will be replaced overnight. A lifting gantry will be positioned on the suspender ropes and the existing segment will be lowered to a barge in the harbour. A new segment will be lifted into position in the same manner. Every third or fourth day, a deck segment will be replaced during an overnight closure. On the Halifax side, the bridge deck segments will be replaced in 10 metre lengths because they will be brought in by truck rather than barge.

This is only the second time that the suspended spaces of a suspension bridge will be replaced while keeping the bridge open to traffic during the day. The first time was on the Lions Gate Bridge in Vancouver, BC.

Halifax Harbour Bridges (HHB) maintains and operates the MacDonald and MacKay bridges. With approximately 41,000 crossings a day, HHB recognizes the importance of the MacDonald Bridge to the transportation network and will work to minimize the disruption to the public. There will be approximately 10 full weekend closures during this project.

The bridge will be open to vehicular traffic during the project, the bike lane and sidewalk must be removed prior to the first segment being replaced. A new sidewalk and bike lane will be added as the new segments are installed and will open when the project is complete.

Recognizing that the MacDonald Bridge is the only form of active transportation across the harbour, HHB will provide a 24-hour a day shuttle service; three 20 to 24 seat passenger buses with racks for bikes with pick-up and drop-off locations on each side of the bridge. This service will be free of charge to the users.

This is the largest project HHB has undertaken since the opening of the MacKay Bridge in 1970. For more information about the BIG LIFT visit [TheBigLift.ca](http://TheBigLift.ca) or email [thebiglift@hdbc.ns.ca/](mailto:thebiglift@hdbc.ns.ca/).





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### COW BAY ROAD - DEEP STORM SEWER INSTALLATION PROJECT

By now most of you are aware that the Cow Bay Road Deep Storm Sewer Installation project has met with some challenges that have resulted in delayed completion of this necessary infrastructure upgrade. I have been in constant communication with Halifax Water in regard to this project, ensuring that your concerns are being addressed.

In the December edition of our community newspaper, The BEACON, I provided a detailed accounting of the project and its delays. Upon my request, Halifax Water provided a detailed construction schedule of activity planned for the remainder of 2014 and into 2015. Construction activities will halt for the winter months and Cow Bay Road will be reinstated to allow for normal traffic flow.

Unfortunately, for approximately 8 weeks in May and June, full street closure of Cow Bay Road between Ridding Road and Oceanlea Drive will be required to complete the pipe installation. By the end of June 2015, Halifax Water plans to have one lane of traffic open along the Cow Bay Road.

Your continued understanding and patience during the completion of this project is appreciated.

### SNOW REMOVAL & WINTER PARKING BAN

In preparation for this year's snow and ice removal season, I thought back on what a challenging winter we had last year with more than 20 storms, some of them full-out blizzards, making it one of the worst in about a decade. Our crews were certainly kept busy clearing snow and ice to ensure our streets and roads were safe for travel.

Do you know that every time it snows, our municipal and contracted crews are responsible for clearing 3,800 lane kilometres of roads, 950 kilometres of sidewalks and walkways, and 3,600 bus stops across the municipality? That's a lot of kilometres to cover.

Winter safety is a shared responsibility and by working together we can be better prepared for whatever this winter may bring. Securing off-street parking during the winter months is one way residents can assist our crews and accommodate the snow removal process.

The overnight Winter Parking Ban will be in effect during the winter months from December 15th to March 31st during the hours of 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. The ban will be enforced only during declared snow and ice events. You may sign up for notifications of when the ban is in effect by filling out an online registration form at [www.halifax.ca/snow/parkingban](http://www.halifax.ca/snow/parkingban); email a request to [contact@halifax.ca](mailto:contact@halifax.ca); or call 311. If you signed up last season, then you do not need to register again.

### HALIFAX TRANSIT'S NEWEST HARBOUR FERRY

Halifax Transit is eagerly anticipating the arrival of a brand new passenger ferry in the spring of 2015. This new vessel will replace one of the existing ferry vessels and will bring more continuity and efficiency to the harbour ferry service.

Based on the success of our 2013 Ferry Naming Contest, that saw the name of Christopher Stannix placed on one of our ferry vessels, Halifax Transit once again provided residents of Nova Scotia the opportunity to name the new harbour ferry. The submission deadline was October 12, 2014.

The submissions will be reviewed and a final short-list of five proposed names will be posted on [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) for residents to select their favourite. The most popular finalist after the selection process will be submitted to Transport Canada as the name of the new harbour ferry and the individual who submitted that name will be awarded a one-year Halifax Transit conventional transit pass.



Councillor Karsten testing out the Captain's seat on the new Christopher Stannix Halifax Transit harbour ferry.

### CLIP & SAVE CONTACT INFORMATION

Municipal Contacts	Citizen Contact Centre	311
	Councillor Bill Karsten	902.490-7032 902.476.1855
	Police Non-Emergency	902.490.5020
	Fire Non-Emergency	902.490.5530
Miscellaneous Contacts	Office of the Provincial Ombudsman	902.424.6780
	Halifax Regional School Board (Administration)	902.464.2000
	School Board Representative – Nancy Jakeman	902.717.0777
	Halifax Regional Water Commission	902.490.4820
	Halifax Regional Water Commission Emergency	902.490.6940
Provincial Representatives	Nova Scotia Power	1.877.428.6004
	MLA Tony Ince, Cole Harbour – Portland Valley	902.406.3288
	MLA Allan Rowe, Dartmouth South	902.429.7693
	MLA Joyce Treen, Cole Harbour – Eastern Passage	902.465.1888
Federal	MLA Andrew Younger, Dartmouth East	902.406.4420
	MP Robert Chisholm, Dartmouth – Cole Harbour	902.462.6453
	MP Peter Stoffer, Sackville – Eastern Shore	902.861.2311