



# Councillor Bill Karsten

## Portland - East Woodlawn

### District 7 Newsletter

Halifax Regional Municipality

Spring 2007



## Dear Residents,

Dear Residents,

I am pleased to report that considerable enhancements have been accomplished or are in the execution stage in District 7. Last year we were able to have 30 trees planted at the corner of Portland St. and Caldwell Rd. and 400 trees planted on a lot that was clear cut on Bell Lake after Hurricane Juan. Our neighbourhood beautification continues this year with 40 more trees being planted at strategic community pocket parks.

This past year also saw the completion of our playground upgrades and replacements program. Over the past few years we have been able to replace five community playgrounds, the final one being a toddlers playground at Birches Park. A much needed Bike Park for our youth to enjoy was also built between the two ball fields on Mt. Edward Rd. Major improvements to the trail in Cranberry Lake Park also enhanced that area for the enjoyment of all residents.

## 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

Many positive comments have been received as it relates to the painting of murals by Aliant on the new communications boxes throughout our district. I have commissioned eight additional HRM owned Traffic Signal Control Boxes along the Portland St./Cole Harbour Rd. and Forest Hills Pky. corridors, to have murals painted on them this spring. These murals serve not only to beautify our street scape, but to aid in the prevention of unsightly graffiti.

Although there is still a huge challenge which lies ahead, we have seen positive steps to improve the streets and roads within our district. Regional Council is committed to this issue by keeping it as a council focus area. This year we will see nine streets either totally reconstructed or receive substantial upgrades.

It continues to be an honour and privilege to serve the residents of District 7 as your Regional Councillor. Should you have any questions or concerns on any issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

## Waste Resource Management

The Province recently announced a new disposal target of 300 kg. per capita per year by 2015. This is down from 480 kg. of total waste per person. What does this mean to HRM, our district and every residential and commercial site? Although we have been, and continue to be world leaders in waste diversion, we must do better! We must divert more waste away from our landfill. It is a documented fact that 27,000 households either never, or rarely, recycle or compost. I encourage each household to reevaluate their habits in regards to this very important issue, as it affects us all. It costs the municipality \$15 M to build each cell in our second generation landfill and another \$4M close it. At the current disposal rate, a new landfill cell is required every three years. Although this is a huge environmental issue, it also becomes a financial issue in that anything we can do to extend a cell's life is being fiscally responsible.

Currently, HRM has the highest bag limit of any municipality in Canada with a fully functional waste management system. Studies have shown the average HRM home places 3.5 bags at curbside every two weeks. Therefore, Regional Council amended By Law S-600 on February 28th from a 10 bag limit to 6 bags, effective November 5, 2007.

**To those of us who do reduce, recycle and reuse - a great big thank you! I encourage others to get on board. Together, we can make a difference!**

## DID YOU KNOW?

HRM By-Law C-300 has certain civic number specifications.

1. Civic numbers shall be in numerals only, (not script)
2. The minimum height of numbers on residential properties shall not be less than 4 inches.
3. The minimum height of numbers on non residential properties shall not be less than 8 inches.
4. The colour of the numbers shall clearly contrast with the background upon which the numbers are displayed.
5. Civic numbers shall be displayed in a horizontal orientation.

These rules are in place to better serve you in case of an emergency. Are your house numbers consistent with the by-law?

## Regional Council

You can find Regional Council Minutes and Agendas at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html>  
Regional Council Schedules at <http://www.halifax.ca/Council/documents/c1999.pdf>

## Civic Addressing

HRM is working in cooperation with the Province to improve the 9-1-1 emergency services. While most addresses will not change as a result of these initiatives, some civic addresses will be modified and corrected. The few street name changes in our district are as follows:

1. A small extension of Caldwell Rd. which will be changed to Lodge Crt. This will be named after the "Anchor Lodge" that was built on the site in 1882. This Lodge was used by Cole Harbour Temperance Society until it closed it's doors in the early 1920's.
2. A small portion of Jayden Dr. which will be re-named Crimp Crt. after Freeman Crimp, Dartmouth's first mailman hired in 1901.
3. Another small portion of Jayden Dr. which will be renamed Sarto Dr. in recognition of Condo and Betty Sarto. Condo was an educator, and contributed much to the education of our children. He also served as a Dartmouth Alderman combined with Regional Councillor, for 25 years and, together with his wife, is respected for his work to make our community a better place to live and play. Thank you Condo!

**\* These changes take place on June 18th and a ribbon cutting ceremony is planned to officially rename Sarto Dr. at 1:00 p.m. on that day. Mark it on your calendar and attend if possible. All are welcome!**

## District 7 Streets

Residents often ask me how we determine which streets are to be paved or resurfaced each year. HRM staff assess and evaluate streets using pavement management software, that ultimately assigns a Surface Distress Index (SDI) to each street within the municipality. The SDI is an indicator of the condition of the asphalt and plays an integral role in the pavement management strategy. The range of the SDI rating system is from “0” (worst) to “10” (best) condition. However, because of the cost of reconstructing an entire street, HRM often uses a blended approach. This is where some streets that don’t appear as bad as others do receive pavement upgrades at an early stage to extend their life at a reasonable cost, which protects our investment. Meanwhile, staff works within budget capacity to renew some of the worst streets. Following are the streets in our District which will receive upgrades this budget year:

- Spring Ave. (Belle Vista Dr. to Mount Edward Rd.)
- Spar Cres.
- Flying Cloud Dr. (Gregory Dr. to Forest Hills Dr.)
- Cranberry Cres. (Valkyrie Crt. to Mount Edward Rd.)
- Woodlawn Ave. (Spikenard St. to Mount Edward Rd.)
- Portland St. (Regal Rd. to Spring Ave.)
- Donegal Dr. (thin overlay)
- Plaza Dr. (thin overlay)
- Wexford (thin overlay - as budget allows)

## Volunteer Awards

On Wednesday, April 18, 2007, HRM hosted the 2007 Volunteer Recognition Awards Reception at Alderney Landing. District 7 recipients are:

Will Vickery, (photo unavailable)



*Councillor Bill Karsten, Sally King, Mayor Peter Kelly*



*Councillor Bill Karsten, Christian Browne, Mayor Peter Kelly*

## The Battle Against Litter

Litter continues to be a social problem that persists on a daily basis. Recently, I was asked why a certain area had not yet been cleaned after this past winter. My response was, “Why is it covered with litter in the first place?” It seems to some that it is acceptable to litter because the municipality will clean it up! Last year our Solid Waste Resources staff kicked off a Litter Prevention & Education Campaign entitled, “Can You Afford to Litter?” Other than the important element of education, the campaign focussed on the financial burden littering imposes on taxpayers, costing us in excess of \$2M annually. In addition, the campaign also increased enforcement of existing anti-litter legislation. Did you know that you are subject to a fine of \$387.50 under the Nova Scotia Environment Act, and \$445.00 through the Motor Vehicle Act if caught littering from a vehicle? I know we all want our municipality to be clean and free from the cluttered litter we see everywhere. This year, HRM’s Transportation and Public Works have hired 30 students for summer employment, some of whom will be dedicated to the Battle against Litter. Congratulations and thank you to the many individuals, Residents’ Associations, and volunteer groups, who work so hard to keep our municipality clean. Let’s all pitch in and do our part to make this the best litter free summer ever!

## Fast Facts About HRM

- Population - 358,000.
- 1,645 km of streets.
- 810 km of sidewalks.
- 825 parks; 480 playgrounds.
- 759 litter baskets throughout the urban areas.
- HRM has removed approximately 300,000 sq. ft. of graffiti since 2003.
- 62 fire stations housing 200 pieces of apparatus
- 432 career staff (firefighters and civilian); approx. 800 volunteer firefighters.
- 467 Halifax Regional Police officers.
- 17.2 million transit passengers annually.
- 240,000 ferry passengers annually.
- HRM Corporate Call Centre processed 51,000 calls for the month of April 2007; current average number of calls per day is 1,800.

## Property Tax Reform

In the past several years, there has been increasing debate over the relevance of using property assessments values for municipal tax purposes. Currently, HRM residents pay taxes on the “market values” of their property. Many agree there is really no connection between that value and services provided. For this, and many other reasons, Regional Council has given staff direction to explore different tax systems and in December 2006, Council appointed 7 residents and 6 Councillors to establish the Tax Reform Committee (TRC).

## Crosswalk Safety

Did you know that under the provincial motor vehicle act, every place where one street intersects another is legally considered a crosswalk - whether it is marked or not. The same legislation requires that drivers yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk. Failure to do so can result in a fine and loss of points on your drivers' license.

Pedestrians must also take care to ensure their path is clear, before walking out into traffic. Even where there are overhead lights which you have engaged, always check to ensure drivers see you before proceeding across a roadway.

Klik on <http://www.halifax.ca/traffic/reports/marked-crosswalks.html> for more information on crosswalk safety.

## 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.