

By Mayor Peter Kelly

Halifax Regional Municipality

Here it is June, with all the good things of summer waiting to welcome us. How sweet it is!

And speaking of summer, as a resident of metro, you'll be happy to hear that that your green cart will be picked up weekly during the months of July and August.

This Council-approved change in frequency affects Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford, Sackville, Beaverbank, Kinsac, Cole Harbour, Westphal, Eastern Passage, Cow Bay, Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea, Herring Cove, the Sambro Loop, Williamswood, Harrietsfield, Hammonds Plains area to Highway #103 and the Fall River area.

In September, the schedule goes back to the regular two-week green cart/garbage collection schedule. For more information, please visit our website at www.halifax.ca/wrms or call 490-4000.



There's going to be a healthy living fair happening on the Dartmouth waterfront June 11 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and HRM's recreation department will be there with lots of neat activities for young people. This free family fair is called Step It Up, Dartmouth! and it's being put on by the Dartmouth Community Health Board, Alderney Landing and the Alderney Farmers Market. As its name suggests, the event will encourage healthy living and feature cooking demonstrations, nutritional information, dancing, yoga, taekwon do, games, races and arts and crafts. If you'd like more information, please call 460-6869.





Next time you're passing through the Grand Parade in downtown Halifax, I hope you'll take a moment to check out my herb-and-vegetable garden. Well, actually, it's "our" garden because I'm getting lots of help from some eager pre-schoolers who attend nearby Saint Joseph's Children Centre. Together, we grew our first Mayor's Garden last summer and had a series of good harvests which we donated to the Parker Street Food Bank. Not only are we planning to do the same again this summer but we've doubled the size of the growing area. I really enjoy getting my hands dirty and then watching things grow. If you're an enthusiast, too, but don't have access to the soil, here's a suggestion: join a community garden! It's easy to do in HRM. To learn how, go to www.halifax.ca and enter the words Community Gardens in the search box or phone 490-6666. Let's get growing!



Should HRM have a new stadium? Personally, I believe we should but the final decision belongs to Council and to you, the residents of HRM.

I mention this because the Council-appointed Stadium Analysis Steering Committee wants your input to help decide if there's a viable business case for a stadium. A series of public open-house sessions have been held already around metro but it's not too late to share your thoughts. To learn more, phone 490-5713, go to www.halifax.ca/stadium or visit Halifax Stadium on Facebook or follow Halifax Stadium on Twitter. Your input is welcomed and encouraged.

The Steering Committee's report and recommendations for this first phase will go to Council later this summer. At that time, a decision will be made whether to proceed to

Phase 2, namely: Site selection, building program, design and more detailed facility costing. Public consultation would also be included as part of that. Phase 3, actual construction, would only proceed with Council's further approval.

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And finally, I'm hoping to visit as many community events throughout HRM as possible this summer. If you have a festival or other occasion planned, please feel free to let me know. I'd love to drop by and maybe lend a hand.

Reach me at kellyp@halifax.ca or on my personal website www.peterkelly.ca or by phoning 490-4010. You're also most welcome to join me on my Twitter page. Or try my blog at <http://mayorpeterkelly.wordpress.com/>.