

Hello there; how's it going?

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The unceasing police-citizen effort to eliminate graffiti in HRM has intensified with the recent arrival of a new supply of new clean-up kits.

These compact kits are free to residents. Just visit any of HRM's five Customer Service Centres and pick one up. They are located in Musquodoboit Harbour; Alderney Gate in Dartmouth; Scotia Square and The Village at Bayers Road in Halifax; and at 636 Sackville Drive in Lower Sackville.

These kits are also available at HRM's three public works divisions: 3825 MacKintosh Street, Halifax; 375 Cowie Hill Road in Halifax; and 11 Turner Drive in Dartmouth.

Graffiti is not only a criminal act of vandalism, it's a blight on the whole community and must be confronted, wherever it appears. To learn more about how you can help HRM's anti-graffiti campaign, go to <http://www.halifax.ca/corporate/Graffiti/> or call 490-4000.

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I'm sure you'll be pleased to learn that preparations are underway for a start on the new Central Library. Construction trailers and electrical services are being established at the site at Spring Garden Road and Queen Street. In addition, an archaeological dig will be checking for historic artifacts and signs of previous structures, including Bellevue House, built in 1801 to be home of the British Army's Commander-in-Chief for Halifax.

The dig may take up to two months, depending on what is found.

The new library is funded by HRM and the federal and provincial governments. A formal ground breaking ceremony is expected in July. Completion will be late 2013 with the opening set for 2014.

If you'd like more information and updates, check out www.halifaxcentrallibrary.ca or phone 490-5744.

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Did you know that, effective May 1, the Province is making it mandatory that drivers must yield to buses when those vehicles are re-entering traffic? Previously, buses have always had to rely on the courtesy of other drivers to merge back into the flow. This new provincial law is aimed at making our roads safer for everyone, not least being the bus passengers themselves. It will also help Metro Transit maintain on-schedule service to its thousands of customers.

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And finally, this weekend is a special one for all Canadians, but especially residents of HRM because of our historic connection with those who go down to the sea in ships. On Saturday, there will be a ceremony at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic to recognize the contribution of Canada's Merchant Navy towards winning the Second World War. The following day, there will be a solemn gathering at the Sailors Memorial in Point Pleasant Park to mark Battle of the Atlantic Sunday, when we honour the Canadian Navy, the Merchant Navy and the Air Force for maintaining vital supply lines to Britain during the war. I shall lay wreaths on your behalf at both ceremonies.

Reach me at kellyp@halifax.ca or www.peterkelly.ca or by phoning 490-4010. You're also invited to join me on my Twitter and Facebook pages.