

## Greening in HRM goes underground

Projects take an integrated approach to clean air, land, water and energy

HRM continued its greening efforts in 2008. Corporate Knights magazine ranked Halifax as the second most sustainable medium-sized city in Canada.

"Sustainability is one of the greatest challenges facing every community - we must ensure that our decisions and actions today do not compromise those of future generations," says Mayor Peter Kelly.

One of the biggest success stories was the grand opening of both the Halifax and Dartmouth sewage treatment facilities which then, after decades of closure, allowed for swimming at the Halifax Harbour beaches. Commissioning of additional sewage treatment plants will continue this year. On a daily basis, approximately 200 million litres of sewage is now diverted and treated.

The Alderney 5 Energy Project, a \$3.6 million energy-efficiency retrofit of five waterfront municipal buildings, continued in 2008. This project, expected to be completed this year, is the first large-scale application of geothermal seasonal cold-energy storage anywhere in the world. The project uses a highly innovative, world class cooling technology, demonstrating a new borehole heat exchanger with a 300 per cent more efficient design enabling seasonal geothermal cold energy storage. The harvesting and storage of 100 per cent renewable cold energy without using heat pumps is revolutionary. The advanced building cooling technology also saves on water consumption and eliminates all air conditioning noise.

HRM benefited from a knowledge exchange with Sweden, when Dr. Sofie Adolfsen Jörby, Environmental Coordinator with the Swedish Board of Housing, Housing and Planning (Boverket) came to share her expertise. Her work with HRM included the development of a corporate sustainability filter and Vision HRM community visioning process with the Penhorn Community Liaison Group. Through a number of presentations to HRM Council, Conserve Nova Scotia and the community at large, Dr. Adolfsen Jörby shared examples of Sweden's successful initiatives and efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Additional sustainability efforts include two major society-related initiatives. The first of these is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), in November 2007, Halifax Regional Municipal Council adopted the use of CPTED principles in all future development on HRM owned property. The other initiative is HRMbyDESIGN, an urban design study developing a compelling and sustainable vision for the City's future through the encouragement of liveable, compact development utilizing green design and construction techniques.

HRM has a number of clean air, land, water and energy initiatives underway and information is available on-line at [www.halifax.ca/environment](http://www.halifax.ca/environment).