

New column invites readers' comments 📧



[PETER KELLY \(TAKE FIVE WITH THE MAYOR\)](#) 
Halifax News Net

Hello, and thank you so much for inviting me in.

This is the first of what I hope will become a regular get-together when we can chat about life here in Halifax Regional Municipality.

It's a chance for me, as mayor, to share some ideas and give you an overview of what's happening in our municipality. This is also my personal invitation for you to chat back to me.

Let's start with a positive story illustrating how police and residents in HRM are cooperating to make our community a safer place.

It involves a shooting in a metro neighbourhood during the Thanksgiving Weekend.

A suspect was charged less than 12 hours after the crime, thanks to a combination of speedy police work and citizen involvement.

I find it really heartening that residents are now stepping forward to help police keep their neighbourhoods safe.

This trust says much about the efforts of the community response officers who are based in various metro neighbourhoods and helping bring crime rates down.

These officers don't just patrol, they actually attend neighbourhood meetings; help organize community gardens; and even sit on local boards.

I'll tell you more about these dedicated men and women in future columns.

Good news for all fans of ice sports: HRM has broken ground on the new four-pad arena in Bedford West.

When it's completed next fall, the new centre will house four NHL-sized rinks, one of which will allow players who are mobility-challenged to enjoy sledge hockey.

Another plus for HRM is that, once these new facilities are a reality, activities like figure skating, female hockey and ringette will get their fair share of ice time.

What a wonderful asset this place will be for the entire municipality.

If you take the bus, you'll be happy to learn that expansion plans to eliminate congestion at the Metro Transit terminal at the Dartmouth Sportsplex are moving ahead.

The terminal serves 18 routes and some 17,000 passengers daily, making it one of the busiest transfer points in HRM. Another transit terminal slated for expansion is the one in Highfield Park. Both projects should be complete by early next summer.

Some motorists are wondering why those reversing lanes around the Fairview overpass work site can't be alternated during rush hours.

The thing is, it would be too confusing for motorists and dangerous for crews darting daily into traffic to rearrange everything, especially during the winter. Please be patient; the disruption won't last forever.

Well, there you have it. Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing you again, soon.

Now it's your turn. What's on your mind? As mayor, I'd really like to hear from you.

Peter Kelly welcomes comments through email at kellyp@halifax.ca or by phoning 490-4010.

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