

Hello again.

Here's your chance to make an important contribution to the way our municipality operates and perhaps even leave your mark for future generations.

Council and I are looking for members of the public to serve on the 17 boards and committees which help us guide our community forward.

Opportunities exist on all of them: from the Heritage Advisory Committee to the Grants Committee to the Board of Police Commissioners. How about a position on the Halifax International Airport Authority Board, or one with the Halifax Regional Library Board?

We need to hear from you no later than Monday, January 31, 2011. To learn more, go on-line at <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/index.html>. You can also call 490-4000 or contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at 490-4210.

Your community needs you. I hope we'll hear from you.

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Speaking of volunteering, just a reminder that nominations for HRM's annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony close on Friday, January 28.

Each year, Council and I recognize exceptional volunteers and community groups who make outstanding contributions towards strengthening HRM communities. If you know a person or a group making a difference in your area, please nominate them.

You can obtain the form by calling 490-4535 or at www.halifax.ca/volunteer.

The awards ceremony will be held in April, during National Volunteer Week.

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If you're free on Saturday afternoon, here's my personal invitation to join me and members of Council for a special Open House Celebration at the BMO Centre in Bedford. From 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., you can tour this wonderful new 4-pad ice facility, located at 61 Gary Martin Drive.

There will be demonstrations of sledge hockey and synchronized skating; two free public skates (between 2 and 3:30 p.m.); an exhibition hockey game and an exhibition ringette match.

This is your facility; please bring the family and enjoy it.

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I was privileged last week to be part of an historic ceremony at City Hall. It was the official transfer of 2.5 acres of land in Seaview Park to the Africville Heritage Trust Board.

This land will be the site of a reconstructed Seaview United Baptist Church which will become a memorial to Africville. This fulfills another of the official commitments made by Council and the province to the people of Africville and their descendants.

Another positive step forward.

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And finally, I'm sure you're getting as excited as I am about the approaching Halifax 2011Canada Games, set to start February 11. I'm pleased to say all the event venues are almost ready, especially after recent snowfalls, and more than 5,000 enthusiastic citizen volunteers are ready to welcome the thousands of athletes and spectators heading our way. All that remains is to practise our cheers for the home team!

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 Facebook or Twitter pages. Or talk to me on my blog at <http://mayorpeterkelly.wordpress.com/>.