

Hello again. Last week, I told you about two controversial proposals which have come before Council, aimed at changing the way HRM residents handle their garbage. I also mentioned that a public hearing would be held but that a date had yet to be set.

Well, it has been: It will be at 6 p.m. March 8 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. You may speak or make a written submission to the Clerk's Office no later than 3 p.m. that same day.

I encourage you to make your opinion known to the hearing and also to your local councillor, because these proposals will affect everyone. If they pass, residents will have to start using clear bags as part of their garbage disposal and will also have to cut back by a third (from 6 to 4) the number of bags they put out.

These proposed changes are not sitting well with the majority of citizens who are contacting me, particularly the proposal for clear bags. People are upset that the clear containers mean a loss of privacy and that the bag reduction comes with no reduction in taxes.

Please contact your Councillor and express your view. For the appropriate phone number or e-mail address, call 490-4050 or 490-4000 or go to <http://www.halifax.ca/> and click on the icon for Councillors.

Let your voice be heard in this debate while there is still time.

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Those of us who live here know how much there is to see and do in HRM and now, it seems, the rest of the world is catching-on as well.

Feedback posted by international travellers on the world's biggest travel web site (TripAdvisor.Com) has made us a Top-10 destination in Canada. It has also confirmed us as one of this country's Top-10 culture and sightseeing destinations.

This is a ringing endorsement of the many assets and resources that we have here. Most of all, however, it's a well-deserved salute to our famous down-home hospitality. In other words – to you. Take a bow, everyone!

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And finally, here we are in the home stretch of the 2011 Canada Games. I do hope you've been able to catch some of the events and cheer on all the athletes. They are such phenomenally talented young people; I think every one of them deserves a gold medal, don't you? (Ditto all the officials and volunteers!)

Let's also pay tribute to all the talented people entertaining us in Celebration Square. There have been big crowds there, enjoying the music and the fellowship of the Games. Yes, these Games are a great experience for HRM and my thanks again to all those who are making them such a success.

And don't forget, the People's Oval is open again so, grab your skates!

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