

This & That

Hello and welcome. This is my first column for the North Dartmouth Echo and I hope you'll make it a regular stop each issue. I also hope you'll consider this an invitation to let me know what's on your mind. (I'll explain how to do that in a moment.)



Let me start by thanking those of you who took part in the Pixels for Pistols Amnesty Program. This important event ran throughout November and was a combined effort by Halifax Regional Police and Henry's Camera. Anyone who surrendered a working firearm received a Sony digital camera and a gift card for Henry's School of Imaging. If you turned in a non-working firearm or ammunition, you received the gift card. The idea was to get weapons off the street and make our community safer for everyone. Police are still tallying the hundreds of guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition that were turned in.

As HRM's population continues to increase, so too does the traffic on our streets, making it more important than ever for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to be aware of one another, especially as nights get darker. That's why I'm particularly pleased to tell you about a new structure. It's a pedestrian bridge which will span busy Highway 111 at Burnside Drive. Once the necessary walkways are in place, this bridge will provide a safe pedestrian connection between Highfield Park and Burnside.

And speaking of driving, did you know HRM has launched a web-based ride-matching service for commuters? You'll find it at hrmsmarttrip.ca and it takes into account hours of work, travel mode and compatibility preferences. This is part of HRM's leadership role in helping the environment by reducing vehicle greenhouse gas emissions. Not only

that, you'll find it a less-stressful, more convenient and economical way to get back and forth from your work to your home. I encourage you, whether you're a driver or a passenger, to have a look at this service and help HRM meet its environmental goals.

This recent spell of good weather has been delightful, but we all know winter will soon be here, along with all its seasonal delights and frustrations, one of which is always getting around during and after a storm. Your understanding and cooperation is vital to how speedily Dartmouth and the rest of HRM come through this severe weather. The more you know about how our crews tackle the clear-ups, the easier it makes their job. Just as importantly, the more aware you are of what you can do to help, the sooner everything gets back to normal.

With that in mind, HRM has revamped its web site (<http://www.halifax.ca/snow/>) to provide you with all kinds of advice and safety tips about coping with winter. It also includes a list of the most frequently-asked questions relating to winter snow removal as well as information on the order in which streets and sidewalks are plowed. The web site even includes the latest listings of disruptions to Metro Transit operations.

If you prefer, you can get the information you need through our call centre at 490-4000 or toll-free at 1-800-835-6428. (If you're hearing-impaired, try 490-6645.) Incidentally, our call centre operates seven days a week from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m., except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

And finally, don't forget that the sixth annual Festival of Lights will soon be here. This event is a real credit to the community because it honours so many different cultural

traditions and religious beliefs. Kwanza will be celebrated, as will Islam's Eid Al-Adha, Hanukkah and Christmas. There will be craft displays plus foods and presentations by the various groups. The festival will be held December 12 in the Dartmouth North Community Centre, 134 Pinecrest Drive, from 1-3:30 p.m. Among those taking part will be: John Martin Junior High School Jazz Band; John MacNeil Elementary School Choir; Harbour View Elementary School Choir; Jammer Boyz Hip Hop Group; Hip Hop Angels Group; The Magician - Jackson Heart; and The First Baptist Church Choir.

Well, that's it for this time. It's been a pleasure to chat with you and I look forward to doing it again in February. Until then, I wish you and your family everything you wish yourselves over the holidays. May you have a safe and happy time.

It's your turn now. Is there something on your mind about life in HRM? As mayor, I'd really like to hear from you. You can reach me here at City Hall at kellyp@halifax.ca or by phoning me at 490-4010.

Here is the shortened version of the Mayor's column for The Echo. I hope it meets with your approval. If so, kindly let me know and we'll get this issue put to bed.

Thanks so much.

Pam Lutz

----- Original Message -----

From: Gail McNeil

To: Pam Lutz

Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 2:08 PM

Subject: Re: Mayor Kelly's column - This and That

Hi Pam, here is the Mayor's edited column:

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