

## **For the Weekly News Dec. 23/09**

Hello again, and thank you for spending a few moments with me at this busy time.

Today, I'd like to share my Christmas wish-list with you. Some of the wishes are personal; some have political overtones; some are simply wishful.

- I wish the kindness and generosity shown to those less fortunate at Christmas could spill over into the other months of the year. Those we help at this time of year become invisible when Christmas ends but they don't go away. They're still out there; they still need food, shelter and kindness to survive the other 11 months of the year.
- I wish more of us could reach out during the year to a senior or someone living alone. We could invite them to our home for dinner, or take the time to shovel the snow from their walkway. We could offer a drive to get groceries or just have a conversation with them. There's so much we could do, and so many who need us to do it.
- I wish for a construction boom in the downtown in 2010. What a difference all those pending major developments would mean in terms of job-creation, not to mention the boost something like a new conference centre would mean to the tourist and convention business in metro and beyond.
- I wish there was a consortium out there prepared to build a 30,000 seat, multi-purpose stadium in metro, one with a retractable roof. With that in place, the CFL would find it hard to resist our application for a team of our own and let's not forget the many high-profile concerts it would attract.

- I wish the government in Ottawa would replenish the federal Transit Investment Fund to allow us to double our order for new buses and expand Metro Transit routes.
- I wish continued success for the Christmas Daddies campaign. This 45-year-old Maritime institution has brought Christmas joy to countless less-fortunate youngsters in the region.
- I wish CN Rail would offer HRM the use of its right-of-way along the Bedford Basin for a commuter link between Lower Sackville and downtown Halifax - along with a subsidy to run it!
- I wish for a safe holiday season for all our troops in Afghanistan.
- I wish for warm weather on the day I take my dip in Halifax Harbour to celebrate the reopening of the Harbour Solutions wastewater treatment plant. Conversely, I wish for *cool* weather when I run part of next year's Bluenose Marathon. (Hopefully, no more than 10 k!)
- I wish the Pittsburgh Penguins would make Cole Harbour their second home by setting up their pre-season training camp in Sid the Kid's hometown.
- I wish a wish for my staff who are fans of TV's Coronation Street, that there was enough money in the budget to send return air tickets to the entire cast so they could all come visit HRM next summer.
- I wish the world could come together on climate change.
- I wish all those youngsters who are in hospital could be healed and back home in time for Christmas. I'm sure their families long for the same thing, and so do the doctors and surgeons. May all their wishes soon come true.

- I wish the spirit of the season translates into continued goodwill and cooperation among members of Council, when everyone returns from the Christmas break. The year ahead is likely to be as challenging as the one just ending, which means it's as important as ever that we continue to work in harmony for the benefit of taxpayers.
- I wish health, wealth and happiness for my family, my friends and all of you.
- I wish, I wish, I wish . . .

*[] If you'd like to talk to me, reach me here at City Hall at [kellyp@halifax.ca](mailto:kellyp@halifax.ca) or by phoning 490-4010.*

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