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Western Region Community Council
January 16, 2006

TO: Chair and Members of Western Region Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

DATE: December 21, 2005

SUBJECT: Protocol for Runners on St. Margaret's Bay Road

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 12.2 raised at the September 26, 2005 meeting of Western Region Community Council.

BACKGROUND

At the September 26, 2005 meeting of Western Region Community Council, it was moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Meade that staff provide a report on the protocol or lack thereof for safety of runners/joggers on the St. Margaret's Bay Road and whether safety is jeopardized unduly.

DISCUSSION

The request for a report was initiated by a concern expressed by an area resident subsequent to the 21st annual running of the Rum Runners Relay on September 24, 2005. This relay race from Exhibition Park to Lunenburg along Routes 333 and 3 was authorized by the Provincial District Traffic Authority under a permit issued pursuant to Section 90(8) of the Motor Vehicle Act. The permit conditions require the participants to obey all applicable provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act at all times (the permit does not convey any special privileges or rights to exempt any portion of the MVA). It is also the responsibility of the permit applicant to ensure that all necessary safety precautions are taken to ensure the safety of the entrants and all other road users.

To this end, the number of participants is intentionally limited to a maximum of 60 runners on the road at any one time and start/finish points for various legs of the race have been adjusted over the years for safety as well as convenience reasons. The organizers of the relay require all participants to sign a waiver agreeing to comply with long established rules including: no obstruction of vehicular traffic; running on the left side of the road only; running in single file as close to the shoulder as possible; pulling off on the shoulder to allow for oncoming traffic and overtaking other runners only when it is safe to do so.

The run starts early in the morning when traffic volumes on Saturday are relatively lower than normal along this section of Route 3. The event has been monitored closely over the years by the Provincial Transportation and Public Works Department and by RCMP to ensure compliance with permit conditions and established safety provisions.

Several Halifax Regional Police officers participate in the relay annually and have encountered no safety concerns. Although runners are ultimately responsible for their own safety, organizers have instituted a system of time penalties for safety rule infractions that results in teams being refused acceptance for future relays if they fail to comply.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no recommended alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Further information regarding the contents of this report may be obtained by contacting Vaughn Perrin at 490-4822. Additional copies of this report and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Financial Review:


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