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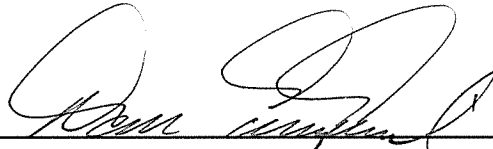


PO Box 1749  
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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**March 7, 2006**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Anstey, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** February 27, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Dissolution of Committee - Deadman's Island

**ORIGIN**

The Deadman's Island Committee was established on April 18, 2000 to "*Advise and assist the Halifax Regional Municipality in the development of Deadman's Island as an international, national, provincial, and municipal historic site*". Since that time, the committee has met on a quarterly basis. At the most recent meeting of the committee on December 1, 2005 the committee agreed unanimously that it had fulfilled its initial mandate and should be dissolved.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that :

1. Having fulfilled its mandate, the Deadman's Island Committee be dissolved by Halifax Regional Council.

## **BACKGROUND**

In February 2000, HRM purchased Deadman's Island and an adjacent ravine. This action was initially taken to prevent development on a site which was believed to contain the remains of American, French, and Spanish soldiers and sailors who died while prisoners of war on Melville Island (current site of the Armdale Yacht Club) during the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812. In addition, it was believed that Black refugees who arrived from the United States during the War of 1812 and Irish immigrants who later died at Melville Island may have been buried at or nearby the site.

In April 2000, Mayor Walter Fitzgerald and Halifax Regional Council established the Deadman's Island Committee as an ad hoc committee to assist in the development and designation of this area as a historic site.

## **DISCUSSION**

Following is a brief summary of the organization and accomplishments of the Deadman's Island Committee:

### **1. Committee Structure**

The committee was organized in keeping with the Terms of Reference approved by Council and included six citizens and the member of Council representing District 17. A list of committee members and their tenure of service is attached to this report. The committee would like to recognize the valuable contributions made by all of its members, especially Dr. Guy MacLean who served as committee Chair. In addition, the committee has been well supported by the Office of the Municipal Clerk and staff of the Recreation, Tourism and Culture and Real Property and Asset Management Business Units and would like to thank them for their efforts.

### **2. Development of the Site**

Prior to developing Deadman's Island as a historic site, the first task of the committee and staff was to provide a means of public access to the island. This was accomplished by the construction of a pathway and bridge from Pine Haven Drive, through a forested municipal corridor, and emerging on the shore of Deadman's Cove. Subsequently, a pathway that encircled the Island was constructed and an area designated for installation of monuments was filled and levelled. The site development work was completed in 2002.

### **3. Historic Designation**

Once public access to Deadman's Island had been secured and other capital projects completed, it was possible to pursue the necessary steps to designate the park as a historic site. Following its acquisition and planned site development by the municipality, feature stories about Deadman's

Island appeared in the New York Times (March 23, 2000) and Boston Globe (May 12, 2000). These stories were subsequently carried by newspapers throughout the United States and Canada via the New York Times News Service. As a result of this coverage, the Tennessee Air National Guard held a memorial service at Deadman's Island to honour the American sailors and soldiers buried at the site. This ceremony received national coverage in Canada and the United States, including a piece on ABC national news. Subsequent to this event and further promotion of the site by the Deadman's Island committee, requests came from the United States for the municipality to erect a memorial to honour the American prisoners of war who had been buried on the island during the War of 1812. The committee's work became focussed on planning a joint Canada / United States commemoration ceremony to dedicate a monument and recognize Deadman's Island as a historic site of International significance.

After significant effort by committee members, HRM staff, staff of the U.S. Consulate, and staff of the Department of National Defence, a ceremony was held to dedicate the monument on Memorial Day, May 30, 2005. The U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, through its Memorial Programs Service, supplied the granite memorial monument with a bronze plaque identifying the 195 American soldiers buried at the site. A number of dignitaries from Canada and the United States attended the special commemorative ceremony, and members of the United States military and the Canadian Armed Forces participated. Since that ceremony, additional signage has been erected at the site to further recognize the historical significance of the area. Three interpretive panels have been installed on Deadman's Island which focus on the commemoration ceremony, the history of the site, and various past uses of the island. Three panels have been installed at Melville Cove, the former prison site, which describe the history of the prison.

In addition to the international dedication of the site, the committee applied to the Federal Government for National Historic Site status and great effort has gone toward the achievement of a National Historic Site designation for the site. The current occupant of the former prison site, the Armdale Yacht Club, has granted their agreement to this application. However, the designation of this site has yet to be approved by the Department of National Defence, the current landowner of Melville Island. Staff will continue to monitor the status of this application.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct budget implications as a result of the material discussed herein.

### **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**

Attachment A - List of Deadman's Island Committee Members and Committee Terms of Reference

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.


Report Prepared by:

  
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Attachment "A"

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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DEADMAN'S ISLAND COMMITTEE  
MEMBERSHIP  
2000- 2005

<u>Member</u>	<u>Term</u>
Guy MacLean, Chair	September 2000 - December 2005
Michele Raymond	September 2000 - September 2003
Wayne Adams	September 2000 - December 2005
Derm Dunphy	September 2000 - December 2005
Jack Hartnett	September 2000 - December 2005
William MacLennan	December 2001 - January 2005
Judy Robertson	April 2004 - December 2005
Councillor Linda Mosher	October 2000 - December 2005
Councillor Graham Reed	September 2000
David Flemming	January 2001 - January 2002

## TERMS OF REFERENCE Deadman's Island Committee

### MANDATE:

The Deadman's Island Committee hereinafter called "**the committee**" is a volunteer body of citizens appointed as an **ad hoc** committee of council by the Mayor and Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality to:

*"Advise and assist the Halifax regional Municipality in the development of Deadman's Island as an international, national, provincial and municipal historic site"*

The Committee will be supported by the Culture and Heritage Unit and the Office of the Municipal Clerk of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

### 1. **Composition of Committee**

The Committee shall be composed of 7 individuals as follows:

- 6 citizens from the Halifax Regional Municipality one of whom will serve as the Chair
- 1 Halifax Regional Municipality Councillor representing the District 17

To the greatest extent practically possible the composition of the Committee shall maintain the above representation. A quorum will be three (3) members. Meetings shall be quarterly.

### 2. **Terms of Office**

1. Citizens Appointments - The 6 citizens shall be appointed by the Mayor and Council and shall serve until such time as the Committee's work is complete, resignation or request of Council.
2. Council Appointments - The 1 member of the committee appointed by the Halifax Regional Municipality Council shall serve for such term as may from time to time be decided upon by Council, and the Council member of the Committee can only be replaced by a decision of Council

### 3. **Vacancies**

Persons appointed to the Committee to fill vacancies shall be deemed to have been appointed to complete the unfilled portion of the term of the vacancy they are appointed to fill. Vacancies shall be filled in the following manner:

#### *CITIZENS:*

- The Committee shall contact the Clerk requesting the vacancy be filled. The Committee may nominate an appropriate candidate.
- The Clerk will forward all nominations to the Selection Committee.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE Deadman's Island Committee

- The Selection Committee will recommend to Council and Council shall make the appointment to the Committee

### *COUNCIL MEMBER:*

- The Chair shall make a written request to the Mayor and Council to fill such vacancy
- The Mayor and Council shall be asked to fill such vacancy immediately
- The Mayor and Council shall make the appointment(s) to the committee

#### **4. The Chairperson shall:**

1. Preside at all Committee meetings. If the Chair is unable to attend, an alternate may be appointed by the Chair.
2. Act as primary liaison between the Committee and the Mayor and Council including any and all staff persons of the HRM.
3. Perform any and all duties incidental to the Chairperson's office.
4. Be enabled to make such immediate decisions as may be necessary in an emergency situation, when time to meet with the full committee is not practical, provided that such decision is made after the Chairperson shall have sought and received the advice of the Council member of the committee.
5. Seek ratification by the full committee of any and all actions taken pursuant to the preceding paragraph at the next meeting of the Committee following that date on which such decision was made or action taken.
6. Act as the official spokesperson on behalf of the Committee.

#### **5. Report to Council:**

1. The Committee shall prepare and present to the Mayor and Council such reports as they deem necessary to fully inform Council. An interim report of the Committee, including a recommendation regarding the development of Deadman's Island, to be submitted no later than September 18, 2002.

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COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED:

April 18, 2000