

18.




PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**December 13, 2005**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
Carol Macomber, Acting Director of Recreation, Tourism & Culture

**DATE:** December 8, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Celebration of 10 Years of HRM Amalgamation

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **ORIGIN**

At the November 24, 2005 meeting of North West Community Council, during the Public Participation session a brief discussion was held regarding the 10th anniversary of HRM in April 2006. The Councillors questioned whether there were any official corporate celebrations planned for the event.

### **BACKGROUND**

On April 1, 1996 the former City of Halifax, City of Dartmouth, Town of Bedford and County of Halifax joined to create the Halifax Regional Municipality. At that time, a small celebration was held to celebrate the creation of the new municipality, including a bus tour with newly elected Council members to various locations within the Halifax Regional Municipality. Ten years has passed since amalgamation and April 1, 2006 will represent a full decade since the union of the four municipal units.

## **DISCUSSION**

In response to interest in developing a program to celebrate and recognize the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HRM amalgamation, Recreation, Tourism and Culture staff have begun discussions with the Halifax-Dartmouth Natal Day Steering Committee. The purpose of this dialogue is gauge the interest of the committee in delivering the anniversary celebration in conjunction with the 2006 Natal Day Festival.

The Halifax-Dartmouth Natal Day Steering Committee has and continues to organize and deliver the “Municipal Birthday Celebration” on the five days leading up to the first Monday in August within the Halifax Regional Municipality. Since 1997, the Natal Day Committee has been a combined group representing the communities of Halifax and Dartmouth, but has within its Terms of Reference the mandate to organize the event for the enjoyment of all the citizens within the Halifax Regional Municipality. The committee is currently composed of 21 HRM citizens representing an array of diverse individuals living in a variety of geographic regions throughout the municipality.

As well as celebrating significant historical Natal Day events such as the Natal Day Parade(s), Children’s Day, BridgeWalk, and the Natal Day Road Race the Halifax-Dartmouth Natal Day Steering Committee has worked successfully with other event partners over the last two years, including Tall Ships 2004 and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Macdonald Bridge in 2005. This recent experience of combining other significant events with the Natal Day program has proven to be quite successful.

Staff will continue to explore the option of combining the anniversary celebration in conjunction with the Natal Day Festival and report back to Council with specific plans and budget figures when finalized. In addition, HRM will conduct a communications and marketing campaign in late March or early April 2006 to inform the public of the anniversary and plans for celebrating the occasion and achievements over the last ten years.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct budget implications as a result of the material discussed herein. However, upon identification of the funding required to deliver the program, a request will be included in the Special Event Reserve budget for Council consideration during the budget deliberations for the 2006/07 fiscal year.

## **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**

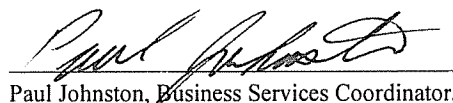
There are no recommended alternatives.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.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 :



Paul Johnston, Business Services Coordinator, 490-5623

Andrew Cox, Civic Events & Festivals Coordinator, 490-4729

Financial Review :

Barb Palmeter, Financial Consultant, 490-7221