

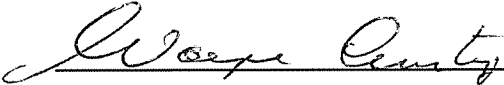


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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**December 13, 2005**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Wayne Anstey, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** December 13, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Capital District Enhanced Maintenance Strategy, 2005

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **ORIGIN**

In June, 2005, Regional Council approved operating funds in the amount of \$100,000 to be spent on enhanced maintenance initiatives within the Capital District. This report provides Council an update on those projects to be addressed under the scope of this funding.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Capital District Task Force has developed a strategy for use of the enhanced maintenance funds (\$100,000) which were approved by Council as part of the 2005/06 budget. The approach which was recommended, focusses on enhancing seasonal maintenance within the urban core.

Since its creation in 2001 and as an outcome of the vision for the Capital District, one of the key priorities of the Capital District Task Force has been to lead an integrated approach to service delivery particularly in the areas of maintenance, urban design, and safety. The focus of HRM efforts to date include:

- the delivery of an enhanced maintenance plan for the Capital District during the high tourist season (early May to mid December) to improve litter cleanup and graffiti. The program is delivered by pooling resources and coordinating municipal work crews from Real Property and Asset Management (RPAM) and Public Works with external agencies including downtown area business commissions and Waterfront Development Corporation
- coordination with the Capital District Business Commissions around spring and summer maintenance programs and their enviro team students.
- the creation of a maintenance reserve in partnership with downtown area business commissions to fund future maintenance requirements for streetscape amenities
- the completion of an Urban Design Project to enable better design and more strategic investment in public spaces within the Capital District.
- focus group meeting with the commercial property and business owners located within the Capital District to discuss approaches to graffiti removal and strategies aimed at keeping it at bay as well as responsibilities related to maintenance in the right of way
- coordination of the installation and ongoing maintenance of four stream recycling containers located in various parks and open spaces throughout the Capital District.
- coordination of the Civic Pride Award as part of the Annual Capital District Urban Design Awards which recognizes business or property owners for their extraordinary efforts related to maintaining their properties.
- Community Projects hired three additional By-Law Enforcement Officers. Community Projects now has a complement of ten officers.

The above initiatives provide a solid foundation for maintenance planning within the Capital District. As highlighted in the Capital District Urban Design Project which was adopted by Council in 2004, there is a need to promote a higher standard of excellence and continued investment in the maintenance of Capital District streetscapes. In addition, the HRM Economic Development Strategy calls for the establishment of new and enhanced maintenance initiatives and standards with a focus on year-round, 24/7 accessibility as an action item. This can be engaged through a public/private approach that emphasizes individual and business responsibility and stewardship.

Well maintained public spaces reinforce the distinct character of communities and result in safe, attractive, and comfortable places that all citizens and visitors can enjoy. As a result, public and private investment goes further over the longer-term and communities and regions flourish.

## **DISCUSSION**

Once Council approved the funding for enhanced maintenance, Capital District staff met with a number of internal and external stakeholders over the summer months to identify augmented maintenance priorities outside of the regular maintenance program. These consultations included staff from Real Property and Asset Management (RPAM), Public Works, and Solid Waste, as well as the downtown area business commissions and the Waterfront Development Corporation.

The 2005/06 strategy, which has been recommended and endorsed by the Capital District Task Force and the Capital Commission Society, focuses on the following key services:

1. The continuation of extending the enhanced seasonal maintenance plan currently coordinated through RPAM by lengthening the season to mid December, and increasing services in key areas.
2. The installation and maintenance of 50 additional pole mounted garbage cans in the right of way throughout the main commercial streets in the Capital District and the ongoing maintenance of the four stream recycling units within various CD parks.
3. A Spring Graffiti Clean Up Kick off Event in coordination with the four business improvement districts within the urban centre. The BIDs have agreed to administer the ongoing maintenance of graffiti on private properties in each of their districts over the longer term.
4. New Sidewalk/Street equipment by Public Works and Transportation and enhanced street cleaning program resulting from that additional resource.
5. The Capital District will be working cooperatively with Solid Waste Resources to develop communications around an anti-litter and waste reduction campaign.

Other initiatives under way which will assist in improving the overall maintenance in the Capital District, include an enhanced level of service resulting from outside worker contract efficiencies in relation to snow and ice clearing, including sidewalks, curb cuts and parking metre access. As well, the proposed operational changes around graffiti removal staff being coordinated by RPAM

The effectiveness of the enhancements developed and implemented this fiscal year are instrumental in determining future operational requirements to be considered as part of the budget deliberations for 2006/07 and beyond. As the enhanced maintenance funds are meant to improve upon existing services delivered by HRM, the above projects will be incorporated into

future operating budgets of the respective business units in association with the regular business planning process.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The projects referenced in this report were funded from the Capital District enhanced maintenance funds approved by Council in 2005/06.

### **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**

Council could provide direction on the scope of work to be addressed under the enhanced maintenance funding.

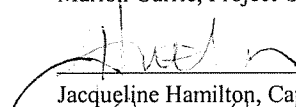
### **ATTACHMENTS**

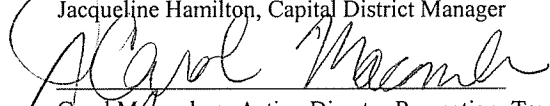
None.

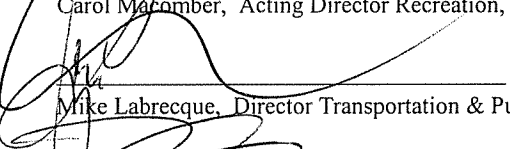
Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

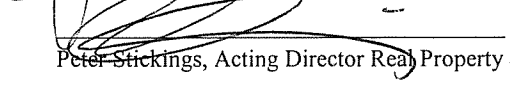
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