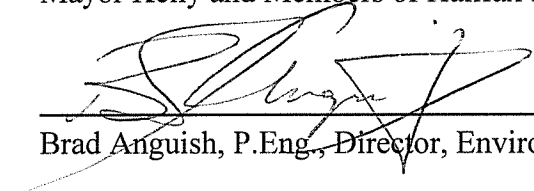


**Halifax Regional Council**  
**August 9, 2005**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Anguish, P.Eng., Director, Environmental Management Services

**DATE:** August 3, 2005

**SUBJECT:** **Litter Prevention**

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

Regional Council, at the May 10, 2005 meeting, directed staff to:

- provide an updated By-Law to prohibit littering;
- review of the former City of Dartmouth By-Law 400;
- assess increasing the fine for a summary offense ticket for littering; and
- assess implementing a program that encourages citizen participation in keeping HRM litter free.

**BACKGROUND**

Litter has been previously discussed at Regional Council. Staff's report(Attachment #1) dated August 19, 2003, provides information regarding litter from the aspect of existing legislation, enforcement, public education, community clean up initiatives, and services provided by HRM business units.

This report updates members of Regional Council of the various elements of the existing HRM litter abatement program, including enhanced services for 2005/06. Although HRM's litter abatement program, supported by various communities and provincial programs, is quite comprehensive, staff will continue to seek opportunities for improved service delivery, stewardship and residents and partnerships.

**DISCUSSION**

As per Council's direction, staff has assessed the four issues, which are:

- 1) the adequacy of existing legislation;
- 2) enforcement opportunities;
- 3) public education awareness and clean-up campaign provided by the Region, and other agencies; and
- 4) HRM's litter prevention infrastructure and services.

**1. Legislation**

A review of the existing legislation applicable to the act of littering has been completed by the By-Law Rationalization Committee. In this review, it is important to make the distinction between the act of littering (e.g. tossing debris/garbage to the ground) and the responsibility for cleaning up of litter once on the ground. Regarding the act of littering, the NS Environment Act enables the issuance of a Summary Offense Ticket for littering of \$387.50, while the Provincial Motor Vehicle Act, for littering from a vehicle on a road or highway, provides for a fine of \$445.00. Regarding the clean up of litter, the HRM Streets By-Law S-300, Part 2, "Littering" Section 10, requires residents to keep the area between the curb and the property line free from waste and debris. The fine for failing to maintain the sidewalk area is a SOT of \$215.00.

The By-Law Rationalization Committee has determined that, based upon the existing Provincial legislation and HRM's By-Law S-300, the framework for effective litter enforcement is available without the requirement for a new HRM by-law or amending the former City of Dartmouth By-Law 400, which staff will be recommending for repeal.

**2. Enforcement**

HRM Police and the RCMP have the authority to issue a SOT for littering as a violation of the Environment Act, the Motor Vehicle Act, and for failing to maintain the sidewalk area. HRM By-Law Enforcement Officers can issue a SOT for failing to maintain the sidewalk area. If litter and other debris remain for long periods on private property, the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises By-Law can be used as a remedy.

As directed by Regional Council, the RCMP, HRM Police and Bylaw Enforcement will provide, as a priority, selective enforcement of littering during critical times of the year (i.e. during the spring and summer) with ongoing enforcement of the more flagrant violations when reported and/or observed. Police and Bylaw Services can best profile the problem of litter and it's impacts on the environment and quality of life in communities by launching a spring initiative ( through media) of enforcement coupled with HRM public education and awareness campaigns. Enhanced enforcement and education campaign launched together could highlight the negative impacts of litter on communities.

**3. Public Education, Awareness and Clean-up Campaign**

Public awareness of the negative impact of littering is one of the key components for the achievement of a litter free HRM. Although many residents are environmentally responsible and do not litter, others are not concerned for the environment and continue to litter. To reach those residents who are not aware of the impact of littering and who are not aware of the fine they could receive, a successful public awareness campaign must go hand in hand with effective enforcement, including profiling (as a deterrent to others) those who plead or who are found guilty.

Since the introduction of a deposit/refund system on most beverage containers in Nova Scotia in 1996, and the very highly successful waste/resource management programs across Nova Scotia (including HRMs), litter has been mainly limited to products from the quick service/fast food sector and/or tobacco products.

The increase in the number of quick service/fast food restaurants who utilize non-environmentally friendly disposable containers, and whose patrons often consume their products in a vehicle, have contributed to the prevalence of litter in society today.

Attachment # 2 provides a brief description of the various Provincial, and community based anti litter campaigns in HRM, including the Executive Summary of the NS Youth Corps. and NSDEL 2004 Litter Survey which revealed that the most common source of litter continues to be from the fast food/quick service, grocery, tobacco and confectionary sectors.

### **3.1 Existing HRM Litter Awareness and Clean Up Programs:**

In 2004, in partnership with Clean Nova Scotia Foundation residents of HRM were encouraged to participate in the **“Put Litter In Its Place”** campaign. Last year 171 community/youth/sport groups in HRM registered with Clean Nova Scotia and conducted a clean up. The goal for the 2005 campaign, which was officially launched on May 12, 2005 by Mayor Kelly at St. Mary’s Elementary School in Halifax, is to increase the number of events to 200. Residents can register for the HRM 2005 campaign by contacting Clean Nova Scotia at 420-3474. Those that register will receive a free **“Pick Me Up Kit”** consisting of a guide book, recycling and garbage bags, gloves, and a data sheet, to help keep track of the materials collected.

The slogan **“Put Litter In Its Place”** has been used for many years in the former City of Halifax. Most of the (more than 850) HRM litter baskets have a sign attached with this slogan. The slogan **“Slam Dunk Your Junk”**, which was adopted by the former City of Halifax, is attached to many of the larger litter barrels located at HRM parks and playgrounds.

### **3.2 Capital District - Multi Compartment Containers and Enhanced Litter Maintenance:**

This spring, new four stream containers were installed (Attachment # 3) at eleven high profile/pedestrian traffic locations within the Capital District. The containers have clearly identified openings for garbage, organics, beverage containers, paper and have a receptacle for cigarette butts affixed to the side. Additional four stream containers will be installed at other locations within the Capital District and other areas of HRM in 2005 and 2006. The funds approved by Regional Council have enabled the Capital District, in partnership with T&PW, to enhance litter maintenance by two months (April and December) and 24-7 from May to November, plus the installation of fifty (50) additional litter receptacles along main streets in the Capital District.

Surveys conducted by the Capital District revealed a requirement for more resources dedicated to litter, which has been incorporated into an enhanced litter maintenance plan. Capital District has developed an information flyer (Attachment # 4) that outlines the roles and responsibilities of citizens who work and own property in the Capital District. The flyer is posted on the Capital District web site, a newsletter and is distributed throughout to the Business Improvement Districts. The Capital District has incorporated a Civic Pride Award into the Urban Design Awards program to positively reinforce those who commit to good property maintenance practices.

Both the Downtown Halifax and Downtown Dartmouth Business Commissions conducted clean ups in June, both reporting less litter than in previous years.

**3.3 HRM Community Response Team:**

HRM's Community Response Team assists residents and the business community to be good stewards of the environment by keeping their community clean through active litter prevention and participating in clean ups.

**3.4 HRM Publications/Mailouts:**

Publications such as Councillor's newsletters, the "Naturally Green", the HRWC "Water Talk" newsletter, as well as inserts in the tax bills and HRM notices issued from time to time, provide opportunities to raise the awareness and importance of litter prevention and the potential fine for littering.

**3.5. Potential Future HRM Enhanced Litter Prevention Campaign:**

Solid Waste Resources staff will be leading the development of a revised litter prevention campaign for Council's consideration for Spring 2006 that will increase public awareness/education and provide effective selective enforcement and enhanced litter maintenance services. At this time it is felt that the revised campaign can be completed through reallocation of existing resources.

**4 Current HRM Infrastructure/Services - Litter Management**

**4.1 Transportation and Public Works:**

HRM dedicates significant resources for the management of litter. Attachment # 1, staff report dated August 11, 2003, page two, section entitled "Litter", details the level of litter service provided by T&PW (which includes approximately 850 litter baskets located at high demand locations throughout HRM) and Appendix A details "Street Sweeping Service Standards" in the East, Central and West Region. The recent organizational realignment of Transportation and Public Works, with the ongoing duty assignment review, continues to focus on the optimum delivery approach for all services including litter and street sweeping.

It is staff's intention to review the delivery of litter management services within Transportation & Public Works and provide an update to Council with respect to improvements in efficiency and methods of delivery for the services. The review of T&PW services will include the relationship of litter services provided by RPAM, for the purpose of identifying future efficiencies and opportunities for enhanced service delivery.

The 2005 T&PW street sweeping and litter basket service commenced on April 1, 2005, four weeks earlier than in previous years. This early start has resulted in street sweeping services (i.e. removal of litter from the gutter) being provided along HRM streets. T&PW administers requests for litter baskets, which are installed where warranted. If a litter basket is used for a purpose other than intended, (eg, it is used by an adjacent property owner for the disposal of garbage generated from a business), the basket will be removed.

The 2005/06 Transportation and Public Works budget for street sweeping is \$653,000 and for litter management is \$974,000.

The 2004 Capital District Streetscape Study identified a need to improve the service level. Improvements to the litter service level by T&PW for 2005 includes:

- 50 additional pole mounted litter baskets at strategic locations in the Capital District;
- extending the street sweeping operations to include April and December (weather dependent), plus 24-7 from May to November;
- two students dedicated to litter maintenance in the Capital District this summer.

#### **4.2 Real Property and Asset Management (RPAM):**

Attachment # 5 is a detailed list of litter/clean up programs provided by RPAM at HRM parks, playgrounds, and in the Capital District. The 05/06 RPAM's budget for litter management is approximately \$1,060,541 (see Attachment # 6 for breakdown). An assessment in 2004/05 identified the need for improved service levels.

Enhanced litter services for RPAM in 2005/06 includes:

- expand weekend shifts to include seven days per week servicing of some of the major Parks such as Point Pleasant Park, Fleming Park, Hemlock Ravine Park, and Linear Park;
- assign staff to Shubie Park on a full-time basis for summer seasons, dedicated maintenance to the park Monday through Friday;
- purchase an additional mechanical pickup broom for a skid steer unit to enhance sweeping within Capital District;
- continue enhanced maintenance season of Capital District to a year round program, with staff exempt from snow and ice duties; and
- four stream containers were added to 20 major parks and green spaces late in July 2005. For a complete list of locations please see Attachment # 7.

#### **Summary:**

Four issues were explored in order to improve the effectiveness of HRM's litter prevention program:

- 1) legislation;
- 2) enforcement;
- 3) public education;
- 4) infrastructure and services.

The current legislative framework provides a sufficient foundation for effective litter enforcement.

The 2005/06 enhanced litter prevention program activity (above regular program activity) includes:

- installation of new four stream containers at eleven high profile traffic locations within the Capital District with extended litter maintenance and street sweeping operations
- installation of new four stream containers at 20 major parks, sports fields or beaches
- commencement of street sweeping and litter basket service four weeks earlier and continued one month longer (subject to weather conditions) than in previous years
- enhanced litter maintenance at major parks
- launch of a spring 2006 Police and By-Law enforcement campaign (with media

coverage), coupled with an enhanced public education and awareness campaign.

Staff will use the 2005/06 program year as a baseline with which to measure the full impact of the enhanced litter management program. 2005/06 baseline efforts will include:

- assessment of service levels including the number and locations of litter baskets on HRM sidewalks, containers at parks, playgrounds and open spaces, and street sweeping services.
- assessment of the impact of the new litter maintenance program by T&PW, RPAM, and Capital District.
- assessment of impact of RCMP and HRM Police litter enforcement.
- review of cross-business unit collaboration for litter management.
- seeking business sector partnerships in order to minimize program costs and raise community/stakeholder involvement.

As a result of this effort it is staff's intention to further improve litter management in HRM with no net increase to the 2006/07 operating budget. Staff will advise Regional Council if any additional requirements for increased litter management are recommended, as part of the 2006/07 budget approval process.

### **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**

One alternative, which is not recommended, is to increase the service level of litter maintenance along HRM streets and in HRM parks, playgrounds and open spaces beyond the enhanced services provided in 2005/06. This is not recommended, as funds are not available in the 05/06 budget and the effectiveness of the 2005/06 enhanced litter maintenance program and enforcement campaign, if desired by Regional Council, should be measured as the first step for an overall assessment of an enhanced, more comprehensive HRM litter campaign in future years.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Council Report dated August 19, 2003
2. External Anti Litter Campaigns in HRM and Executive Summary, 2004 Litter Survey
3. HRM Four Stream Source Separation Parks/Public Spaces
4. Capital District Information Flyer
5. RPAM Detailed List of Litter/Clean up Programs

6. Real Property Operation's Litter/Clean up Programs for 2005/06
7. RPAM- List of Four Stream Source Separation containers that have been installed in Major Parks/ Sports fields / Beaches (Revised - July 26, 2005)

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.

Report Prepared by: Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources 490-6606

Financial Review by: Marlies van der Horst, Acting Financial Consultant, Environmental Management Services 490-4480

**Attachment # 1- Council Report dated August 19, 2003 for Litter Prevention Report August 9, 2005**

**Halifax Regional Council  
August 19, 2003**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services

**DATE:** August 11, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Garbage and Litter on Streets

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

At the Regional Council meeting on May 27th, Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern with refuse along streets throughout the HRM, and requested a staff report on clean up efforts and an increase in penalties for littering. Councillor Hetherington requested that staff explore, as an option, the Restorative Justice Program to have the streets cleaned.

**BACKGROUND**

The volume of litter and refuse along HRM streets is influenced by a multitude of factors, e.g., seasonality, current service levels of the Public Works and Transportation Services, Streets and Roads street litter program, public awareness and education, enforcement, and general public consciousness of the importance and benefits of a clean community. This report will briefly highlight initiatives and programs by various HRM business units currently underway or being assessed for potential implementation in the future.



## **DISCUSSION**

### **19. Refuse on Streets:**

Solid Waste By-Law S-600 specifies that refuse, recyclables, and organics are permitted to be placed at the curb for collection in front of a property after 7:00 p.m. on the evening before collection and not after 9:00 p.m. on the day of collection. Reports of materials curbside outside the approved hours are to be reported to the HRM Call Centre for action by Community Services, By-Law Enforcement.

HRM residential collection contractors commence collection at 7:00 a.m. in the former County of Halifax and 7:30 a.m. elsewhere, servicing downtown streets first to attempt removal prior to noon.

Where material is reported at the curb on a non collection day, By-Law Enforcement staff visit the property and provide twenty-four-hour notice to the property owner for the removal of the material. Should the material not be removed within twenty-four hours, HRM can remove the material at the property owner's expense. Of the 430 properties visited by By-Law Enforcement in the 12 months ending June 30, 2003 for materials at the curb (other than on collection day), 73% of the property owners had removed the materials once notified, HRM removed the materials from the remaining properties at the owner's expense.

To effect an improvement in compliance by the public, By-Law Enforcement has implemented (as a trial for the summer) a schedule of Friday evening and Saturday enforcement. The success of this pilot project will be assessed for potential continuation, subject to funding availability in fiscal year 2004-2005.

### **2. Litter:**

Public Works and Transportation's yearly budget is \$969,000 for litter pickup and \$608,000 for street cleaning. These totals include the following services:

- Approximately 850 litter baskets serviced on a one or two day cycle, depending on the demand;
- Two person litter crew between 12 midnight and 8:00 a.m., five days a week in the downtown Halifax area;
- Street Sweeping Service Standards table detailing the areas and time frame of this operation is attached as Appendix A (during tourist seasons, street sweeping occurs three times a week in the Halifax downtown core);
- In conjunction with the Capital District, coordinate a litter collection/maintenance program over the summer months (funding for two students);
- Adopt-A-Highway program, working with community groups to clean up roadways;
- Clean up litter on the urban/suburban roadsides on a demand basis and budget allows;
- Mayor's Community Cleanup campaign: material pickup, advertising, and items to be used for the cleanup (e.g., gloves, bags, etc.).

In addition to the HRM services, the Downtown Halifax Business Commission engages summer staff who, as one of their duties, provides litter pickup along streets in downtown Halifax. An HRM mechanical sidewalk sweeper is in service in downtown Halifax on a regular basis during the tourist season.

### **3. Community Clean Up Campaign:**

To date a total of 46 groups have registered with the HRM Call Centre for the 2003 Community Clean Up campaign. More than 2,800 residents have participated in the clean up of side roads and ditches. HRM benefits greatly from the efforts of many residents who are concerned in and take pride in their community. The Community Initiative Group is also organizing some neighbourhood clean up as part of their program.

### **4. Enforcement & Penalties:**

Enforcement is the last tool to effect a resolution of the complaint. Provincial legislation provides for Summary Offence Ticket (SOT) fees of \$387.50 for littering on a highway and \$445.00 for releasing litter into the environment. Staff believe these fines are high enough to provide a general deterrent to potential littering, but that fines are only one element in reducing the prevalence of litter on streets. Many jurisdictions have successfully implemented a sustained campaign highlighting the benefits of clean streets and encouraging residents to become actively involved. Many have adopted a catchy slogan, one of the best known is "Don't Mess In Texas". In 1990, the City of Halifax ran a campaign called "Slam Dunk Your Junk" with signs, newspaper advertisements, and notices as communication pieces for the public.

### **5. Restorative Justice:**

The HRM Community Initiatives group is using Restorative Justice for community street cleaning and is working with the youth as well as the John Howard Society for adults. This approach has been used for two cleanups in Clayton Park as well as four cleanups in Dartmouth. Three others were cancelled due to weather. As an option for more regular clean up of on-street litter, the Restorative Justice Program has limitations, particularly the degree of supervision required by the participants to complete a project.

The best success with Restorative Justice occurs when a community leader agrees to assist with a cleanup and the community takes ownership of the problem. This was done on the Montague Road in Dartmouth partnering with the RCMP, community and other HRM business units. The community also brought in two of the local businesses to assist and set up a Neighbourhood Watch utilizing City Watch.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

An increase over the current level of service requires additional funding allocation in future year budgets.

## **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**

No alternatives apply, report for informational purposes.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Street Sweeping Service Standards Table**

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.

Report Prepared by:                      Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator 490-7176  
    Wayne Legere, Manager Streets & Roads 490-6034

Report Approved by:                      \_\_\_\_\_  
    Brian Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources 490-6605

**Appendix A**

**Street Sweeping Service Standards**

	<b>EAST REGION</b>	<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>	<b>WEST REGION</b>
Downtown & Business Districts	1 time / 2 weeks	1 time / 2 weeks	2 times / week
Main Arteries	1 time / month	2 times / month	2 times / month
Residential Streets	2 times / year + on demand	2 times / year + on demand	Signed Routes - 2 times / month # Routes & other 1 time / month
Industrial Parks/Business Parks	4 times / year	5 times / year	5 or 6 times / year
Traffic Islands	On demand, as debris build-up requires	On demand, as debris build-up requires	On demand, as debris build-up requires
Special Events, Emergencies & Unforeseen Occurrences	On demand	On demand	On demand

## **Attachment #2- External Anti Litter Campaigns in HRM and Executive Summary, 2004 Litter Survey for Litter Prevention Report August 9, 2005**

### **External Anti Litter Campaigns in HRM**

#### **Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour (NSDEL)**

In 2004, the NSDEL commissioned a follow up litter survey to the 1998 survey. The 2004 litter survey (see attached Executive Summary), confirmed that the composition of litter has not changed in the interim, with the quick service/fast food sector, grocery sector, and the tobacco industry, once again being the most common source of litter. Although some members of the quick service sector have initiated their own/or supported municipal and local non profit clean up campaigns, these programs have generally focussed on the short term clean up, rather than the prevention of litter.

#### **Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB)**

Litter has been recognized as an environmental issue by RRFB. The RRFB has initiated a comprehensive multi-media litter prevention education campaign, in conjunction with Environment Week, consisting of:

1. ads in the daily newspapers and community newspapers in NS between May 28<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup>;
2. a TV ad on Atlantic Television commencing May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Residents of Nova Scotia are encouraged to contact the RRFB at ([www.rrfb.com](http://www.rrfb.com)) to learn more information about litter.

#### **Clean Nova Scotia Foundation (CNSF)/Business Improvement Districts**

For more than ten years, each spring, the CNSF's "Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up" has encouraged and inspired thousands of residents of HRM (and all NS) to be good stewards of the environment and pick up litter. As detailed in Section 3.5 of this report, for 2004 and 2005, HRM has partnered with CNSF in an effort to combat litter. The Downtown Dartmouth and Halifax BID's participate in the annual CNSF spring clean up event.

#### **Spring Garden Road Merchants Association**

In 2004 the Spring Garden Road Merchants Association initiated a program of employing the less fortunate to ensure that a section of sidewalk is clean and free of debris and litter. The program, which continues for 2005, has been very successful in maintaining the cleanliness of HRM sidewalks, and has benefited self worth and pride of the participants.

#### **NS Dept. of Transportation and Public Works (T&PW), Service NS Motor Vehicle Compliance/RCMP**

Although the primary focus of the NS Dept. of T&PW is highway safety, annually, they have a campaign of removing litter/debris from the shoulders and embankments along 100 series highways, and (where resources allow) other secondary highways. During the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>, staff of NS Dept. of T&PW completed the removal of litter and debris from the shoulder and embankments along the 111 Highway between the Parclo and the Portland Street exit. This service will continue along the 111 Highway over the next month. Similar services are provided by NS Dept of T&PW along the 103 highway corridor to exit 4.

Service NS, Motor Vehicle Compliance section, assisted by the RCMP, regularly monitor and (as appropriate) issue a ticket for uncovered/unsecured loads on open top vehicles. Highway 103, between the 102 and the Otter Lake exit, is a priority for open top vehicles on the way to the landfill.

### **Adopt-A-Highway**

In 1993, the Lions Club and Women's Institute of NS met with NS Dept. of T&PW to discuss a program (Adopt-A-Highway) to combat litter on highways. After a three year trial period, the program became province wide, with more than one hundred and fifty (150) groups having adopted a section of highways across NS, of which six (6) are located within the HRM.

In 2004, more than 4,950 bags of refuse and 250 bags of recyclables were collected by 6,733 volunteers. Adopt-A-Highway commenced an advertisement campaign on nine, including in the HRM on May 23, 2005. Adopt-A-Highway program welcomes new partnerships. Theresa Osborne, Coordinator 902-893-6520, or [www.gov.ns.ca/usaf/wi/projects/adopt.shtml](http://www.gov.ns.ca/usaf/wi/projects/adopt.shtml) is the contact person for this program.

### **Ad-Bulk Mail- Home Delivery**

One source of litter is the home delivery of ad/bulk mail. The Chronicle Herald contracts two companies for the home delivery of ad/bulk mail. In response to recent reports of ad/bulk mail being left at the foot of driveways or on door steps, at residences where the owner is away, the Chronicle Herald has advised their two delivery firms of the terms of the contract, which is to only place the bulk mail in the mail slot, and when a previous weeks delivery is observed, and to halt delivery at that property until the bulk mail is retrieved by the resident. Mr. Len MacKeen (426-3350) is the contact person at the Chronicle Herald.

**Attachment #2 (continued)- External Anti Litter Campaigns in HRM and Executive Summary,  
2004 Litter Survey for Litter Prevention Report August 9, 2005**

**Executive Summary, 2004 Litter Survey**

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**A Characterization of Nova Scotian Litter**

**2004 Litter Survey**

**Presented by:**


**Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps.  
&  
Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour**

**Submitted By:  
Sarah R. Allen  
Laurelle Saccary  
Jessica G. Wishart  
Anne M. Vigneau**

**Supervised By:  
Kathy Palko**

**Oct 1, 2004**

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## **Executive Summary**

A province-wide litter survey was conducted in the summer of 2004. The study was conducted by a four member Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corp team and supervised by the Solid Waste Management division of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour. Its objective was to characterize Nova Scotian litter by material, origin and brand.

Litter has become a noticeable problem in Nova Scotia. Its most visible effects are impacts to the beauty of the province's natural landscapes, and cityscapes. However, it can also affect industries such as tourism and agriculture, impact public health and safety, and cause harm to wildlife.

In 1988, a Minister's task force was assembled to develop a litter strategy for Nova Scotia. The group recommended an increase to littering fines, public education, and recycling programs to divert some waste and litter to reusable materials. As a result, many programs were initiated. In 1991, a deposit-refund system was established for all alcoholic beverage containers. In 1996, the program was expanded to include all beverage containers, except milk. One important outcome of this program has been fewer beverage consumers littering the landscape.

Community groups and non-governmental organizations were also established to combat litter. Clean Nova Scotia and RRFB Nova Scotia are particularly active in such initiatives. These organizations are sponsors of The Great Nova Pick Me Up and the Adopt-a-Highway Program, which are two of the provinces' most successful litter clean up programs.

Private industries have only recently begun to address the issue of litter in a serious manner. For instance, in 2001, Tim Hortons began sponsoring a yearly community clean up. Other quick service restaurants also help in campaigning against litter.

While many positive changes have been made, it appears that greater action needs to be taken to combat the problem of litter. The present study contributes to a better understanding of the problem, which is an important step towards alleviating the litter situation.

The 2004 characterization of Nova Scotia litter uses statistically proven and recognized methodology which was derived from the 1993 directive from the Florida Legislature in which the Florida Centre for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management developed a methodology for surveying litter.

Sites were randomly selected throughout the seven solid waste regions, using the 2000 Canadian Census and a random number database. A total of 55 sites were surveyed, with approximately one site for every 20,000 residents of Nova Scotia (Appendix 1).

Each litter item was categorized according to material, source, and brand. Material categories included plastic, expanded polystyrene, metal (aluminum, steel, and miscellaneous), glass, paper, wood, rubber, cloth and composite (more than one material). Source categories consisted of:

quick service, snack food, tobacco, grocery and drink container.

A total of 4093 items of litter were collected during the course of the study. Total litter composition by material showed plastic, paper and composite to be the most prevalent materials collected. These three materials made up 86% of all litter collected. Plastics and composites (which are often made up of plastic and another material) present particular challenges in waste management. These materials are difficult, if not impossible to recycle. They also breakdown extremely slowly, so that littered items remain in the environment for long periods of time.

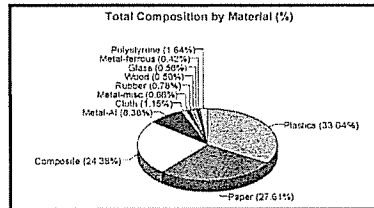


Figure 5.1.1 Total composition of litter by material type.

By source, litter from the quick service industry made up approximately 40% of all identifiable litter, followed by snack foods at 27% and tobacco products at 22%.

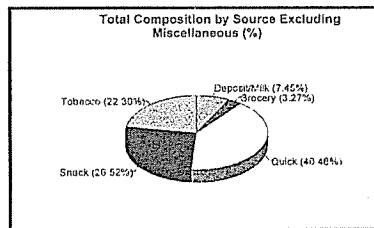


Figure 5.1.2 (b) Total composition of litter by source, excluding miscellaneous.

Tim Hortons, McDonald's, and Cadbury were the three most common brands collected, accounting for approximately 18%, 6%, and 5% of all brands respectively. The majority of Tim Hortons litter consisted of disposable drink cups.



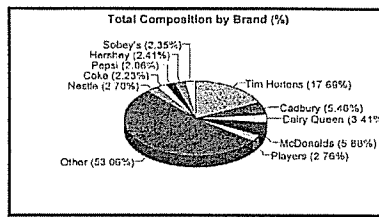


Figure 5.1.3 (a) Total composition of litter by brand, excluding 'unknown' brands.

As the number one identifiable source of litter, disposable drinks cups were further broken down according to material, and contribution to total drink container litter. Together with lids and straws, disposable cups made up 15% of all identifiable litter. 86% of the cups collected were made of composite material (primarily paper with a plastic coating). Disposable cups, lids and straws made up 72% of all drink container litter.

Litter abatement strategies are recommended in three key areas: education, clean up and monitoring, and enforcement. Specific recommendations include an increase in the number of receptacles for waste, recycling, and cigarette butts, as well as increased enforcement efforts.

Stewardship initiatives by industry are also encouraged. Litter abatement strategies which have been successful in other jurisdictions may serve as a model for Nova Scotia.

It is hoped that this survey will help in understanding the litter problem in Nova Scotia, and ultimately aid in the campaign against litter.

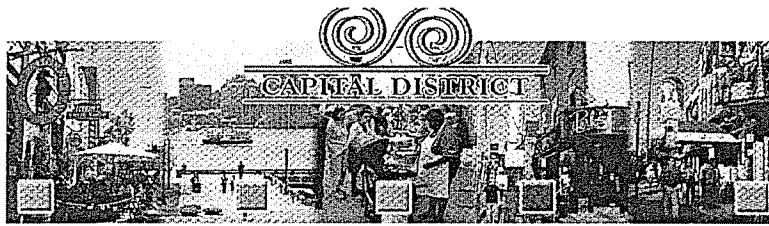
**Attachment # 3- HRM Four Stream Source Separation Parks/Public Spaces for Litter Prevention Report August 9, 2005**



<b>HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY                      FOUR - STREAM SOURCE SEPARATION                      PARKS / PUBLIC SPACES</b>			
CAPITAL DISTRICT AREA (March 2005 Phase in Date)			
Location / Facility Name:	Region:	Park / Open Space Description:	Maintenance Season:
1. Grand Parade	West	HRM City Hall	Year Round
2. Sp. Garden Rd. Library	West	Public Plaza	Year Round
3. Sackville Landing	West	Halifax Waterfront Park	Year Round
4. Chebucto Landing	West	Halifax Waterfront Park	Year Round
5. Public Gardens	West	Historical Commons Area	May - November
6. Halifax Commons / Central Commons	West	Historical Commons Area	May - November
7. Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Park - south	East	Dartmouth Waterfront Park (1 <sup>st</sup> of 2 locations)	Year Round
8. Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Park - north	East	Dartmouth Waterfront Park 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2 locations)	Year Round
9. Leighton Dillman Park	East	Dartmouth Commons	May - November
10. Sullivan's Pond	East	Historic Shubie Canal Area	May - November
11. Quinpool Road	West	Pocket Park	Year Round



# Attachment # 4- Capital District Information Flyer for Litter Prevention Report August 9, 2005



## What are MY RESPONSIBILITIES in keeping the Capital District clean and litter free?

Although HRM has regular processes in place for keeping the streets clean and attractive, according to legislation, this responsibility is shared with businesses and other property owners.

- ❖ Businesses and residential property owners are responsible for keeping the area between the curb and their property free of garbage, waste or debris. This includes regularly emptying HRM waste baskets on the property.
- ❖ Businesses, including commercial and institutional properties, are responsible for arranging the removal of recyclables, food waste and other refuse, usually through a private waste management company. Complaints of materials left in front of a property can be reported to HRM at 490-4000.
- ❖ Businesses in the Capital District wishing to arrange private collection services can either check the yellow pages for a local waste management company or contact the Downtown Halifax Business Commission at 423-6658 to subscribe to their Curbside Waste Management Program.
- ❖ Eating establishments are responsible for emptying all garbage receptacles on the property immediately prior to closing each day.
- ❖ If the area in front of a commercial and institutional property is not kept clean, a notice will be served indicating that the



recyclables, food waste or other refuse must be removed within 24 hours or it may be removed at the expense of the business, in the form of a lien on the property.

- ❖ For more information, consult HRM Bylaw S-300; Bylaw S-600 and the Provincial Environment Act. Copies of bylaws are available at [www.region.halifax.ns.ca](http://www.region.halifax.ns.ca)

## What should I do if I find graffiti, stickers or posters on my property?



- ❖ Report it to Halifax Regional Police at 490-5016 immediately. It's a crime, similar to having a window broken, and police need to be aware of it.
- ❖ As the property owner, you should remove the graffiti/sticker as soon as possible. Studies show if the damage is addressed within 24 hours, those responsible are less likely to return to the same location. If you catch someone in the act, call HRP at 490-5020.

### HRM Street & Sidewalk Cleaning Schedules

Street Cleaner – Sunday, Wednesday & Friday Nights  
MadVac Sweeper – Wednesday to Sunday  
Pick-Up Broom – Monday to Friday

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# Attachment # 5- RPAM Detailed List of Litter/Clean up Programs for Litter Prevention Report August 9, 2005

RPAM, Real Property Operations - Parks & Open Spaces Section  
(Jane Nauss / Council Report - Litter)

## 1) 2004 Litter / Cleanup Programs:

### Major Parks / Staff on Site - Year Round (ie. Point Pleasant Park)

- permanent full time staff assigned to perform regular park maintenance which includes emptying trash containers and litter pick up on a daily basis Monday to Friday year round (pending snow & ice control operations during winter);
- students and seasonal hired during summer maintenance season; augments number of employees assigned to litter;
- extra efforts / concentration on litter around holiday weekends and special events;

### Major Parks / Staff on Site - Seasonal Basis (ie. Public Gardens / Fleming Park)

- during winter months staff check park for litter one to two times per week Monday to Friday (pending snow and ice control operations);
- during summer months students and seasonal staff hired to assist with park maintenance, extra trash receptacles placed out in parks, staff assigned to empty trash containers and litter pick up on a daily basis Monday to Friday;
- extra efforts / concentration on litter around holiday weekends and special events;

### Major Parks / No Staff on Site (ie. Hemlock Ravine Park / Linear Park / Shubie Park)

- parks which do not have year round or seasonal Depot on site;
- during winter months staff are assigned to check park for litter one to two times per week Monday to Friday (pending snow and ice control operations);
- during summer months students and seasonal staff hired to assist with park maintenance which augments number of employees assigned to litter and cleanup crews, extra trash receptacles placed out in parks, staff are assigned to check park for litter two to three times per week Monday to Friday;
- extra efforts / concentration on litter around holiday weekends and special events;

### Capital District

- permanent full time staff assigned to empty trash containers and litter cleanup (park areas) up on a daily basis Monday to Friday year round (pending snow & ice control operations during winter);
- students and seasonal staff hired for Weekend Shift (May to October) augments number of employees assigned to litter and , program extended to mid-December for 2004; - - Madvac Sidewalk Sweeper Unit provides scheduled sweeping to Capital District parks and sidewalks of the Business Associations;
- extra efforts / concentration on litter around holiday weekends, special events and festivals;
- coordination with Transportation and Public Works / Waterfront Development Corp and Downtown Business Commission staff and students to maximize efficiency and reduce duplication of services;
- restorative justice programs / projects applied as Capital District Area when available;

**Attachment # 6- Real Property Operation's Litter/Clean up Programs for 2005/06 for Litter Prevention Report August 9, 2005**

**June 14, 2005**

**Real Property Operations: Litter / Clean up Programs: 2005 / 06**

**Parks and Open Spaces (wages & benefits)**

Litter / Clean up - Major Parks	\$ 95,510
Litter / Clean Up - Horticulture (Public Gardens)	\$ 64,520
Litter / Clean Up - Capital District	\$131,750
Sidewalk / Park Sweeping - Capital District	\$ 29,450
Litter / Clean Up - HRM Cemeteries	\$ 8,250
Sub total	<u>\$329,480</u>

**Sports Fields, Playground and Green Belts:**

Litter / Clean up Sports fields	\$128,064
Litter / Clean up Playgrounds	\$326,997
Litter / Clean up Green belts / Green Spaces	\$240,000
Sub total	<u>\$695,061</u>

**Contract Services**

Servicing of Source Separations Bins - Capital District / Parks and Public Spaces  
- emptying bins three times per week plus monthly power washing

Sub total \$ 36,000

Note: Grass Mowing Contracts

- service levels include; 1) spring clean up
- 2) policing for litter before each mowing
- 3) fall clean up of HRM Cemeteries (leaves)

**Total Budget for Real Property Operations \$1,060,541**

**Attachment 7- RPAM- List of Four Stream Source Separation containers that have been installed in Major Parks/ Sports fields / Beaches (Revised - July 26, 2005) for Litter Prevention Report August 9, 2005**

<b>HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY FOUR - STREAM SOURCE SEPARATION PARKS / PUBLIC SPACES</b>			
OTHER URBAN CORE PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES : Major Parks / Sports fields / Beaches (Revised - July 26, 2005)			
<u>Park / Facility Name:</u>	<u>Region:</u>	<u>Location / Description:</u>	<u>Maintenance Season:</u>
12. Point Pleasant Park	West	Tower Rd. Parking Lot	Year Round
13. Point Pleasant Park	West	Pt. Pleasant Dr. Parking Lot	Year Round
14. Fleming Park	West	Canteen Parking Lot	Year Round
15. Mainland Commons (at new Senior Ballfield)	West	Parking Lot - new Ballfield (locked gate)	May - October
16. Tremont Plateau Park	West	Main Parking Lot	May - Year Round
17. Halifax Commons (outside fence of Senior A)	West	Central Commons - walkway	May - October
18. Seaview Park	West	Main Parking LOT	May - October
19. Hemlock Ravine Park **	West	Kent Ave. Parking Lot	Year Round
20. Cornwallis Park	West	Public Plaza Area	May - October
21. Range Park	East	Main Parking Lot	May - October
22. Maybank Soccer Fields	East	Parking Lot - near Out-building	May - October
23. Dewolf Park	East	Entrance - Main Plaza Area	May - October
24. Metropolitan Field	East	Fence - entrance gate near Out-building	May - October
25. Birch Cove Park	East	Main Parking Lot	May - October
26. Graham's Grove Beach	East	Main Parking Lot	May - October
27. Sullivan's Pond	East	Park Entrance	May - October
28. Shubie Park - Fairbank Centre	East	Main Walkway Entrance - off Main Parking Lot	Year Round

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
FOUR - STREAM SOURCE SEPARATION  
PARKS / PUBLIC SPACES**

OTHER URBAN CORE PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES : Major Parks / Sports fields / Beaches (Revised - July 26, 2005)

29. Spectacle Lake Trail	East	Park Entrance off Main Parking Lot	May - October
30. Albro Lake Beach	East	Parking Lot Area	May - October
31. Beazley Field	East	Walkway Entrance - off Parking Lot	May - October

\*\* - will be place out once construction on Kent Ave. has been completed.