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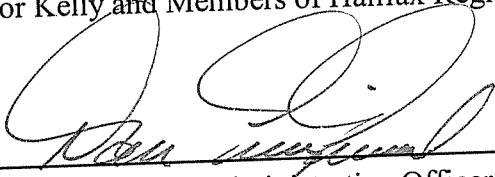


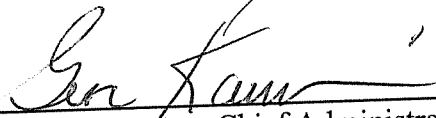
PO Box 1749  
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Halifax Regional Council  
September 12, 2006

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Corporate Services  
and Strategy

**DATE:** September 1, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Revision to Area Rate Catchment Area for District 2 Recreation  
Centre

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**ORIGIN**

On June 20, 2006, Regional Council approved a new area rate to fund the construction of the District 2 Recreation Centre (referred to in the approved recommendation as the Fall River Recreation Centre).

**RECOMMENDATION**

**It is recommended that:**

**Effective with the 2006-07 Fiscal Year, the catchment area for the District 2 Recreation Centre be revised so as to depict the mapped area in Appendix C of this report thereby excluding those properties which are within District 6. Any property in District 6 that has been billed for the District 2 Recreation Centre area rate will receive a credit to entirely offset any such amount billed.**

## **BACKGROUND**

An extensive public consultation process in District 2 cumulated in April 2004 with a ballot in favour of an area rate to fund the cost of constructing a new recreation centre located in District 2. However, because of site specific issues, the implementation of the area rate was delayed until the 2006-07 Fiscal Year. The catchment area for the area rate, which was approved by Regional Council on June 20, 2006, is shown in Appendix A of this report.

Subsequent to the public consultation, the district boundaries were redrawn resulting in 106 taxable properties from District 2 being included in District 6 effective November 2, 2004. These properties are indicated in the map in Appendix B of this report.

In January 2005, planning began for the development of the East Dartmouth Recreation Centre to serve Districts 6 and 7. Based on the current district boundaries as depicted in Appendix B, the 106 taxable properties that are currently included in the District 2 Recreation Centre area rate catchment area are inside the service area for this new facility.

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## **DISCUSSION**

Staff are recommending that the 106 taxable properties transferred from District 2 to District 6 be removed from the catchment area for the District 2 Recreation Centre area rate for the following reasons:

1. To recognize the impact of the 2004 district boundary changes;
2. To provide equity and transparency to the impacted residents; and
3. These residents are inside the service area for the East Dartmouth Recreation Centre to be located in District 6;

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The area rate revenue foregone from removing these 106 taxable properties from the catchment area is about \$12,400 in 2006-07 or about 2% of the total revenue of \$536,000 projected for this fiscal year. Even with this revenue reduction, HRM will still be able to meet the commitment to fund the capital debt at the current approved area rate of \$0.063 per \$100 of taxable assessment within 10 years.

HRM's debt obligations towards the District 2 Recreation Centre is entirely funded by an area rate. There is no impact on the approved 2006-07 general rated Operating Budget.

**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**

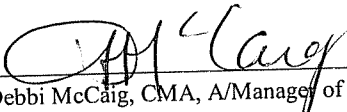
Council could choose not to change the catchment area for this area rate. Once the East Dartmouth Recreation Centre is completed, that would result in a situation whereby 106 property owners in District 6 are outside the service boundary of a recreation centre for which they are paying an area rate. This is not a desirable situation and is therefore not recommended.


**ATTACHMENTS**


- Appendix A: Map of catchment area approved by Council on June 20, 2006  
Appendix B: Map of properties located in District 6 which are currently billed the area rate for the District 2 Recreation Centre  
Appendix C: Map of proposed revised catchment area for the District 2 Recreation Centre area rate

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.

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Report Approved by:   
Debbi McCaig, CMA, A/Manager of Budget & Financial Analysis 490-7203

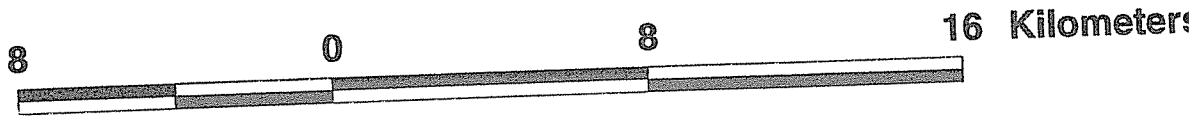
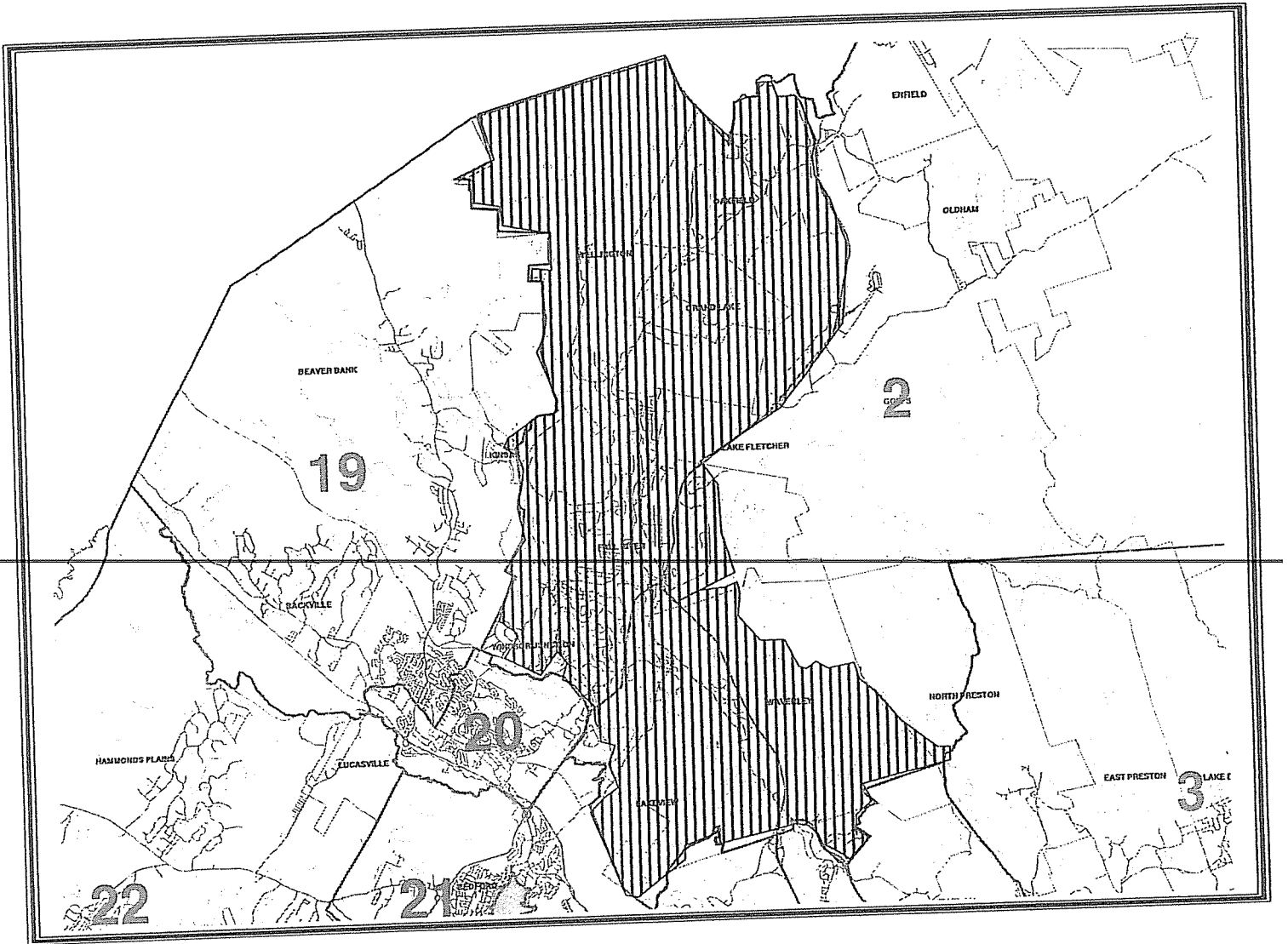
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
# Appendix A

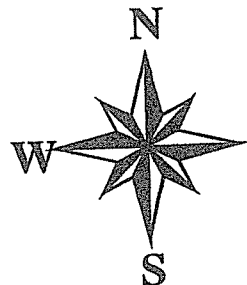
Catchment Area Approved by Council on June 20, 2006

## Halifax Regional Municipality



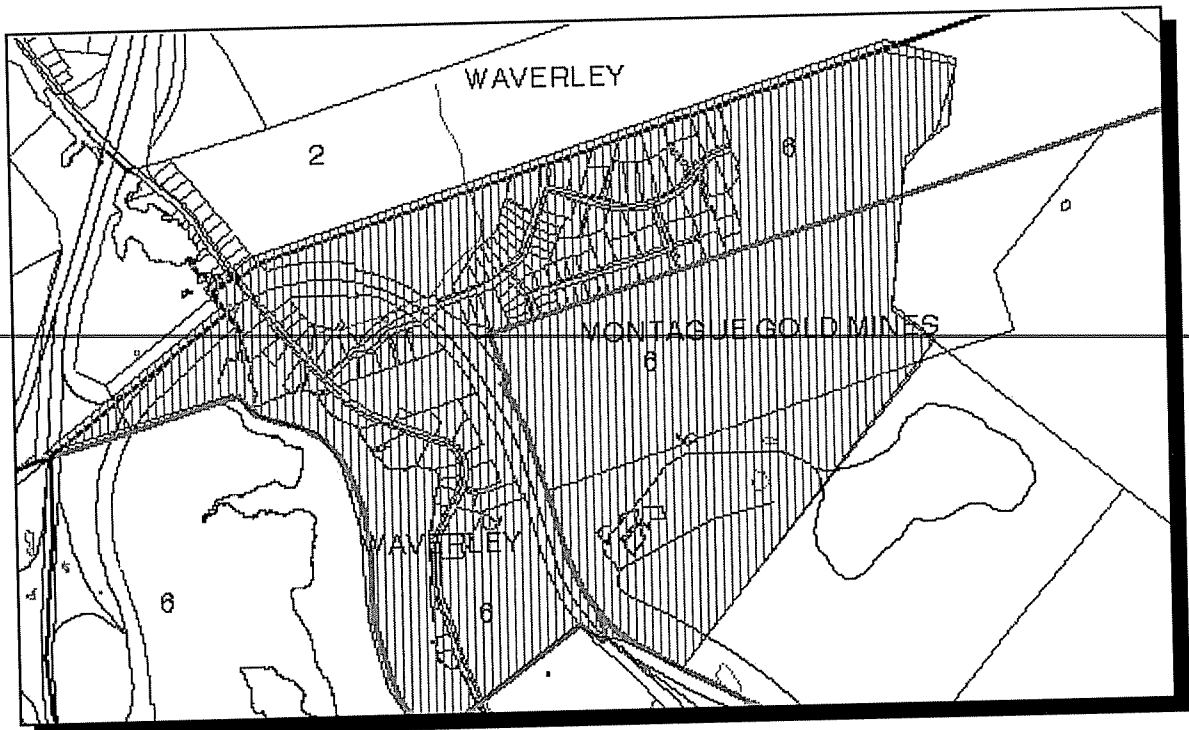
### Fall River Recreation Centre Properties to be Area Rated

-  Fall river recreation.shp
-  Street
-  GSA Boundary
-  Districts



## Appendix B

**Properties in District 6 charged the Area Rate for the District 2 Recreation Centre**



## Appendix C

### Revised Recommended Catchment Area for District 2 Recreation Centre Area Rate

