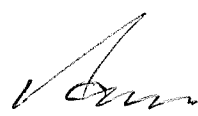




PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
April 26, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Bob Nauss; Acting Director; Recreation, Tourism, & Culture

DATE: April 18, 2005

SUBJECT: Request for Lifeguard Service at Martinique Beach

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council meeting of October 5, 2004, Item 8.2.4

BACKGROUND

At the October 5, 2004 Halifax Regional Council meeting, Deputy Mayor Streach submitted correspondence from the Department of Natural Resources requesting that lifeguard service be reinstated at Martinique Beach. The Deputy Mayor requested that the correspondence be referred to staff for review and comment. An Information Report on this item was previously provided to Council on June 24, 2003 and is attached to this report as additional background.

DISCUSSION

During review of the above-noted correspondence and a subsequent site meeting on September 29, 2004 attended by members of HRM aquatics staff and staff of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, it has been determined that the responsibility to approve and/or provide lifeguard services at the beach rests with provincial government. As a result, HRM sent a letter to the provincial Department of Natural Resources on October 29, 2004 asking for a decision on whether

**Request for Lifeguard Service at Martinique Beach
Information Report**

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April 26, 2005

or not Martinique Beach would be eligible or authorized for use as a supervised beach area. The letter clearly stated that authority to place supervision on the site would need the approval and endorsement of the Department of Natural Resources before the Province and HRM could actively engage in further dialogue on the issue of staffing the beach. Moreover, the letter recognized that there are some issues of environmental sensitivity inherent in this area's designation as a provincial park and therefore the amount of traffic that may be generated by a supervised waterfront may not be viable for the site.

A copy of the letter sent to the provincial Department of Natural Resources is attached to this report for further detail. To date, no response to this letter has been received by HRM.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This issue will have no direct impact on Recreation, Tourism and Culture's operating budget in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipalities 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

Determined upon Council direction.

ATTACHMENTS

- June 12, 2003 Information Report to Council titled "Petition - Councillor Streach - Supervised Swimming at Martinique Beach;
- October 29, 2004 letter from Lew Rogers, Director of Recreation Tourism and Culture to staff of the provincial Department of Natural Resources

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:

Paul Johnston, Business Services Coordinator, 490-5623

John Henry, Coordinator - Aquatic Services, 490-4690



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
June 24, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Lewis M. Rogers, Director, Recreation, Tourism & Culture

DATE: June 12, 2003

SUBJECT: **Petition - Councillor Streach - Supervised Swimming at Martinque Beach**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the June 10, 2003 meeting of Halifax Regional Council, Councillor Streach submitted a petition on behalf of approximately 162 residents of the Eastern Shore who would like to have supervised swimming restored to Martinque Beach. Councillor Streach referred the matter to staff for a report.

BACKGROUND

The Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service (NSLS), contracted by the Province of Nova Scotia - Nova Scotia Sport & Recreation Commission (NS-S&RC), supervised the beach from 1972 - 1995 inclusive. In 1996 the supervision was stopped. The rationale provided by the Nova Scotia Sport & Recreation Commission was:

9.2.1 Petition - Councillor Streach - Supervised Swimming at Martinque Beach

Council Report

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June 24, 2003

“Due to the relatively safe beach and low populations, as well as fairly close proximity to Clam Harbour and Lawrencetown, we recommend we not supervise this site during the 1996/1997 budget year.”

This was as a result of provincial funding reductions. A decision was made at that time by the Provincial Government/Sport & Recreation Commission to stop services.

DISCUSSION

Martinque Beach is owned by the Province of Nova Scotia and operated through its Department of Natural Resources.

Even though lifeguard services were discontinued, many persons continue to visit the waterfront. There still remains a small percentage of swimmers mostly due to the cold temperatures of the water throughout the season. Therefore, there are a lot of people at the site using it for leisure (walking/sunbathing), but very few swimming.

In order to bring this site on line, it would be recommended that visits be done throughout the summer of 2003 to deem how many "swimmers" use the water. It would also be necessary to inspect the area to ensure it is still safe and conducive to swimming. As well, the Province of Nova Scotia would have to provide permission to use the site. In addition, the province would have to maintain the site and its washhouse facilities.

With the many alternatives for supervised swimming in the geographical area (as outlined in the “alternatives” section of this document), a need would have to be established to restore previous services.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None at this time. If HRM were to fund the service in future years, there would be the need to have storage for safety equipment in a secure site. To bring this site on-line would mean a one time expenditure of approximately \$5000 - \$7000 for rescue equipment & storage facilities. To operate this site as part of the standard HRM Beach operations, it would cost approximately \$10,000 annually in wages and seasonal equipment.(July/August.)

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

1. The province could be asked to re-instate the service halted by them in 1996. As outlined above, the province continues to offer supervised lifeguarding at Clam Harbour as well as Lawrencetown. HRM Aquatic Services offers supervised lifeguarding at various locations in the area (Pleasant Drive, Government Wharf & Lake Charlotte.)

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

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:

John E. Henry, Coordinator, Aquatic Services

490-4577

Ms. Gail Geddes
Caretaker, Martinique Beach
Nova Scotia Natural Resources
PO Box 190
Musquodoboit Harbour, NS
B0J 2L0

October 29 2004

**Reference: Correspondence, Councillor Steve Stretch, September 28 2004
On-site meeting, September 29 2004**

Dear Ms. Geddes,

Thank you for setting up a meeting with John Henry and Chad Wadden September 29th 2004. The purpose of coming together was to consider lifeguard services at Martinique Beach. As per that discussion, I would like to capture the items explored and considered:

Location: During the tour of the beach site area several locations were discussed where it would be most effective to place lifeguard supervision. Two locations were suggested, however, it was recommended that if supervision were to be established, services would be better located at the furthest site along the waterfront.

Equipment needs: A structure for the storage of equipment and staff use would need to be placed somewhere close to the supervised site to assist lifeguards in performing their job on inclement days as well as allow for easy access of rescue equipment.

Signage: The need for appropriate signage was established. This would include signs stating waterfront swimming guidelines & regulations as well those restricting parking for the use of medical transportation and care in event of an emergency.

Financial Costs: The approximate costs for a standard six hour day of supervision, with two lifeguards at a cost of \$9.00/hour @ 61 days would be approximately \$7500. No commitment of funding was established by either party and it was realized that a partnership agreement would need to be addressed.

Mr. West indicated that neither of you had authority to place supervision at this site and that such decisions would have to be approved through your supervisor and your department. It was recognized this provincial park was one that was environmentally sensitive, and therefore, the amount of traffic influenced by a supervised waterfront may not be viable and therefore may not be endorsed. With this being stated, it was suggested that before proceeding any further with our discussions, the next logical step would be for you to establish if Martinique Beach would be approved for such activity as a public, supervised waterfront.

I understand that you have sent letters petitioning various HRM Council representatives for funding.

I would suggest to you that this should be endorsed by your own department before we can actively engage in further dialogue. I know it is inappropriate for HRM staff to contact provincial politicians and am surprised that provincial employees would contact HRM politicians; at least until the basis of an agreement is available. Your department may have an opinion on this.

Please contact us when authorization is available from your department for this site's use as a supervised beach has been granted; and your commitment to fund the service is in place.

Sincerely,

Lewis M. Rogers, Director

cc: Councillor Steve Streach
William Lahey, Deputy Minister
John Henry, Manager Aquatics
Chad Wadden, Outdoor Aquatic Specialist
Winston West
Mike Coady