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Regional Council  
June 11, 2002

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

*Karen MacTavish*

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Karen MacTavish, Director Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** June 7, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Update: Hovercraft Use On and Around McNabs/Lawlor Islands and MacCormacks Beach

## INFORMATION REPORT

### ORIGIN

An agreement has been drawn up to renew the licence for the Outdoor Adventure Company to allow them to continue their hovercraft operation at Chebucto Landing. The licence requires the signature of the CAO. Prior to that signing, staff wish to inform Council of the regulations which have been put into place by the Department of Natural Resources pertaining to the landing of hovercraft on McNabs Island.

### BACKGROUND

Last winter, Councillor McInroy presented a petition from the Friends of McNabs Island Society and requested staff to comment concerning a commercial hovercraft tour which travels near and onshore at McNabs and Lawlor Islands and MacCormacks Beach. On March 26, 2002 Regional Council received an information report regarding the concerns and the course of action that the Department of Natural Resources, who own the island were taking to address the issue. Further, Regional Council heard a presentation from the Friends of McNabs Island regarding the operation of hovercraft on McNabs Island on April 23, 2002. At that time, Regional Council approved a motion to write to the Department of Natural Resources supporting their efforts to develop regulations and guidelines for the operation of hovercraft on or near McNabs Island and other pieces of crown land.

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**DISCUSSION**

This week the Director of Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, informed HRM that landing of hovercraft upon McNabs Island is prohibited. DNR has transmitted this information to area hovercraft operators. Further, guidelines and an application process pertaining to the use of hovercraft on other crown lands have been developed and are in the process of being approved at the senior level of DNR. HRM staff, Friends of McNabs Island and hovercraft operators have been given the opportunity to comment on these guidelines.

On a point raised outside of Council, the operator has assured staff that when departing and approaching Chebucto Landing that speeds will be kept low to prevent spraying people walking on the waterfront.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The WDCL is suggesting that the license revenue received from this operation be reinvested into the waterfront for public infrastructure improvements that are mutually agreeable to by HRM and WDCL. This has been the practice in the past.

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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