



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

4.

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**June 24, 2003**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lewis M. Rogers", written over a horizontal line.

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:

“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

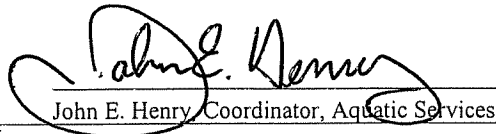
1. The province could be asked to re-instate the service halted by them in 1996. As outlined above, the province continues to offer supervised lifeguarding at Clam Harbour as well as Lawrencetown. HRM Aquatic Services offers supervised lifeguarding at various locations in the area (Pleasant Drive, Government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