

# Working Towards a Cleaner Harbour



## Harbour Solutions Project

1. Atlantic School of Theology Pumping Station - August 2005
2. Dartmouth WTP Access Road - August 2005
3. Halifax WTP site - August 2005
4. Upper Water Street CSO & outfall - August 2005
5. Tower Road Pipe Bridge - December 2004
6. Trencher at work, Dartmouth Waterfront - August 2005

### The Sewage Collection System

CONVEYING UNTREATED EFFLUENT to the 3 new wastewater treatment plants (WTP's) is a complicated business. This component of the Harbour Solutions Project is termed the sewage collection system or SCS.

Beginning in November of 2003, construction on the Halifax SCS got underway. The construction of many components of the SCS are complete or are scheduled for completion by the end of 2005. The main components of the SCS include such things as 3 new pumping stations located in south-end Halifax, a 1km tunnel under downtown Halifax, outfalls, combined sewer overflow screening chambers (CSO), diffusers which disperse the treated effluent into the harbour & associated outfalls, and piping infrastructure.

This summer, Harbour Solutions began SCS work on the Dartmouth side of the harbour. This new front will involve construction of many of the same components seen on the Halifax side.

The present focus of Dartmouth SCS work is along the waterfront area of north Dartmouth.

Work on the Herring Cove SCS will get underway in 2006.

### The Treatment Plants

Work on the Halifax wastewater treatment plant (WTP) got underway in the fall of 2004. Construction at this site, located at the corner of Barrington and Cornwallis streets, is full speed ahead. The Halifax plant is scheduled for completion in early 2007.

In Dartmouth, construction of a new gated access driveway to the wastewater treatment plant is moving ahead. Initial plant site preparations are on-going. Work is scheduled for completion in late summer 2007.

The Dartmouth wastewater treatment plant is located on the south end of the Dartmouth Coast Guard Base lands.

Work on the Herring Cove WTP will begin in the spring/summer of 2006 with completion slated for summer 2008.

### Biosolids Management

Construction of the Biosolids Processing Facility, located at Aerotech Park, is well underway. The site has been cleared and foundation work is moving along.

The Biosolids Management Facility is scheduled to be up and running when the Halifax WTP is ready in early 2007.

CONSTRUCTION . . . continued next page.

## Harbour Water Sampling



Water Sampling - Bedford Basin, May 2005

The Halifax Harbour Solutions Project is intended to meet defined water quality objectives for different parts of the Harbour. In order to assess the achievement of these objectives, and as a requirement of the federal Environmental Assessment approval of

the project, HRM is conducting a water quality sampling program in Halifax Harbour. Covering approximately 30 locations from Bedford Basin, the Inner and Outer Harbour, and Northwest Arm, the program provides weekly samples for bacteria and biweekly samples for water chemistry from surface and 10 metre depths. Nutrients, metals, suspended solids, oxygen, conductivity, temperature and depth are being measured, as well as chlorophyll from algae. The data collected will give a detailed picture of water quality throughout the Harbour. Comparisons will be made with the water quality objectives for the Harbour, and the effects of the new treatment plants can be assessed.

The sampling program began during the summer of 2004, and will continue for approximately 5 years. Water quality sampling will continue through this period and into 2009, to measure water quality prior to the new plants, during commissioning, and after full operation of all three plants.

For more information on the Harbour Solutions Project visit [www.halifax.ca/harboursol](http://www.halifax.ca/harboursol) or call 490-4604.

## How Can You Help Our Harbour

The 3 new wastewater treatment plants, and the 13 existing plants, are designed to treat human effluent only. The treatment technology does not exist to handle many of the chemicals and household hazardous products that presently enter our lakes, rivers, and harbour from our homes, businesses and storm drains.



PROPERLY DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS


You can help protect our harbour's eco-system by reducing or eliminating your use of hazardous chemicals/products at home and work; properly disposing of hazardous products (residents can take household hazardous waste to the Hazardous Waste Depot, 50

Chain Lake Dr., see [www.halifax.ca/wrms](http://www.halifax.ca/wrms) or 490-4000 for hours of operation) and never pouring anything down storm drains.

By all working together we can protect this valuable natural, economic, recreational and tourist asset and make our harbour a source of community pride.

For more information on HRM's environmental initiatives such as composting & recycling, Harbour Solutions Project, Pesticide By Law and Pollution Prevention Program, check your HRM Stewardship Calendar, visit [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca) or call 490-4000.

Please think before you pour it down the sink...and remember;

*Only Rain in the Storm Drain.* 

# A LONG RANGE PLAN FOR HALIFAX HARBOUR



for over 3400 direct and another 5,600 indirect jobs.

Halifax Harbour is a vital asset to our tourism industry. Cruise traffic has doubled since 1999 - a record 122 cruise ships, carrying 212,000 passengers, visited in the 2004 season. The harbourfront boardwalks draw hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Sailing and other boating activities attract still more people.

At the same time, the fascinating mix of activities and the stunning vistas are drawing more and more people to live around the harbour. This attraction will increase further when people start to see the environmental benefits of the Harbour Solutions Project.

The needs and expectations surrounding Halifax Harbour call for a careful balance. We must ensure economic viability and accommodate new opportunities. Yet we must try to avoid conflicts between different activities. The draft Regional Plan proposes to reserve strategic harbour lands and water lots for marine dependent industries, locations for new housing close to the water and proposes new parks, trails and other forms of public access to the Harbour. It recommends an inter-governmental approach for harbour management.



Taking in the sights along the Halifax Waterfront

## REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

This past spring, a series of public workshops generated many helpful comments on a first draft of the Regional Plan. Staff and the Regional Planning Committee are considering these comments and preparing a second draft which will be presented to Council for a public hearing this Fall. Watch for upcoming announcements as we enter the final step of the regional planning process!

For more information contact:

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**H**ALIFAX HARBOUR is an international gateway, an economic engine and a regional centrepiece. The Harbour is critical to the port, the military, marine industry, tourism, recreation and housing. Our harbour is also an environmental ecosystem offering marine habitat.

Fourteen million tonnes of cargo are shipped through the Port of Halifax every year. In 2004, approximately 2000 vessels and half a million containers passed through. Marine fabrication and repair along the Harbour are critical to the offshore petroleum industry. The port accounts



# Pollution Prevention

## Our Harbour Our Rivers Our Lakes Our Community Our Environment Our Responsibility

**T**HE SOLUTION TO POLLUTION IS HAVING EACH ONE OF US IN HRM doing what we can to reduce the impact from our homes, yards, schools, and place of business. If we each act responsibly in handling and disposing of our waste chemicals and other matter we can positively affect our environment.

Too often, we are discovering that individuals dispose of vehicle fluids, paint, solvents, cooking oil, pet waste and other matter into storm drains or onto the roadways throughout our communities.

When it rains these chemicals will enter the storm sewer system and discharge into the nearest river, lake or our harbour.

Disposal of waste materials into the storm sewer is prohibited by Halifax Regional Municipality By-Law W-101.

The best way to reduce the risk of polluting our water is for all of us to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain in the first place.

### *Here are some tips for residents to help prevent pollution –*

- Properly dispose of products such as paints, solvents and vehicle fluids. Residents may take these wastes to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot located at 50 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake Business Park. Latex and oil base paints are accepted at your local Enviro Depot™. Do not dispose of these wastes down the storm drain.
- Storm sewers are designed to carry rainwater and snow melt only from our streets and roads and discharge this water to the nearest river, lake or directly into the ocean.
- Dispose of excess fertilizer & litter from your driveway and sidewalk in your trash. Do not wash them onto the street and into the nearest storm drain. Mulch mow or backyard-compost yard trimmings.

• Report any illegal dumping into the storm sewers in your community by contacting HRM's Pollution Prevention Office at 490-3684 or HRM's Call Centre at 490-4000.

• Do not litter. It is estimated that over 4 tons of trash washes up on our beaches each year. Much of this material could have been recycled. Please dispose of trash properly and recycle and compost at home and work.

• Pick up after your pets. One of the biggest contributors to water pollution in HRM is the improper disposal of pet waste. Pet waste carries numerous bacteria which will make its way into the storm sewer system and ultimately into our rivers, lakes and harbour. Please dispose of pet waste by flushing it down your toilet or double bag and place in your regular garbage.



*A sign of the times*

Keep an eye open throughout HRM for our storm drain sticker program. This new program is designed to raise awareness of the impacts of improper discharges into our storm drains.

For more information on HRM's Pollution Prevention Program, contact the Pollution Prevention Office at 490-3684 or HRM's Call Centre at 490-4000.

## *Remember, Only Rain in the Storm Drain*



*Kim Fawcett & Tanya Cholmondeley take water samples from an HRM storm drain.*



**FAT  
Oil  
Grease**

**Don't  
contaminate  
our lakes,  
streams  
and  
harbour!**

**Just Cool it!  
Wipe it!  
and  
Toss it!  
in your  
Green Bin.**

For more information  
call the HRM Pollution  
Prevention Office  
at 490-3684 or visit  
[www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca)



# Watersheds



Above: The Frog Pond, Purcell's Cove Road

**T**HE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH of Halifax Harbour is a key priority for our residents. With the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project, HRM has come a long way towards addressing the critical problem of sewage treatment for the harbour. However, the harbour is not just affected by what comes out of our sewer pipes. The surrounding watersheds which drain into the harbour also provide significant inputs of water to the harbour. The quality of the water which drains from these watersheds can be affected by a large range of human activities, such as: clearing of land; siltation and sedimentation; nutrient runoff from lawns and pet wastes; oil and chemical runoff from streets and roads; and any other contaminants which people discharge into streams, rivers and storm drains. Most storm sewers drain to the nearest surface water, a stream or lake. These waters all drain into the ocean, and large areas within HRM drain into Halifax Harbour. The major drainage is the Sackville River and its tributaries, covering much of Bedford, Lower and Upper Sackville, and surrounding communities. Large areas of south Dartmouth drain into the harbour or into Cow Bay, while mainland south drains to the outer harbour through Macintosh Run. Areas surrounding the east and western shores of Bedford Basin drain directly to the Basin.

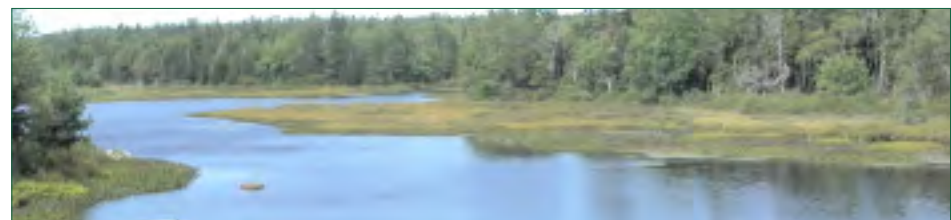
At right: view along Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea Trail

All of our activities which affect the land also have indirect effects on our lakes, rivers and the ocean waters they drain into. Simple individual actions can help to preserve and improve the quality and health of these waters.

**Avoid pouring used cleaners, paints, chemicals or other materials down your drains or into stormwater systems such as gutters, ditches, storm sewers, or streams. Remember to pick up after your pet. Limit your use of lawn fertilizers, or try alternatives such as compost. Remember, "Only Rain in the Storm Drain", and that the harbour is connected to all the lands which drain into it.**

For more information on watersheds please call: Tony Blouin, PhD, Manager, Environmental Performance (Water), HRM 490-4610  
[www.halifax.ca/environment/waterres.html](http://www.halifax.ca/environment/waterres.html)

For more information on HRM's Pollution Prevention Program, contact the Pollution Prevention Office at 490-3684 or HRM's Call Centre at 490-4000.



Shown above (left to right, top to bottom): (1) Albro Lake, (2) Birch Cove, (3) Kidston Lake, (4) Long Pond, (5) Paper Mill Lake, (6) Penhorn Lake, (7) Sandy Lake, (8) Kearney Lake.



SPECIAL EDITION

### What do you think?

Please share with us any thoughts or comments that you may have about this Special Edition of the Naturally Green Newsletter. Hopefully, you enjoyed it and found it informative and easy to read.

*What did you like most about it?*

*What features would you like to see included in future issues?*

Please send your comments. The editor's contact information is located in the right column of this section.

### If you have a question about something you've read in this newsletter?

Please refer to the contact information located in the last paragraph of each article.

**Layout & Design:** HRM Corporate Communications

*Do you wish to give feedback or have a question about the newsletter itself?*

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**Naturally Green & Naturally Green Special Edition** are Municipal newsletters reporting on environmental news and initiatives within the Halifax Region. The goal of the newsletters is to raise public awareness and provide a wide variety of useful information on environmental issues.

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