

Halifax Regional Municipalities Municipal Councilor's Election Campaign 2008 Candidates Completed Questionnaires on Dog Issues

	Do you own a dog?	Do you think that the HRM is dog friendly?	Do you think that bylaw A300 puts dogs in danger in the HRM?	If you answered yes to above – will you try to get bylaw A300 rewritten?	Do you think that the HRM Regional Council has focused too much on animal issues in recent years?	As far as you're concerned – would you like the mandate of the new Regional Council to stay away from domestic animal issues?	Do you think that the City should spend several million dollars on a new Municipal shelter?	Do you think there is sufficient off leash space currently in the HRM?	Would you like to see some public space dedicated JUST for offleash dogs?	Do you think that dog owners are an important demographic in today's society?	How do you feel about licensing dogs, should income generated go back to Animal control?	And what about the summary ticket offences that Animal Control issues? Should that income support Animal Control too?	Do you think that HRM Animal Control Officers are currently sufficiently trained?	Do you think that local private rescues should have access to Municipal funding?	Do you feel that in-home doggy day cares are an essential service for dog owners in the HRM - and your riding?
David Boyd	no	yes	yes	yes	yes & no	no, just proper focus	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Krista Snow	yes	yes	no	n/c	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
David Hendsbee	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Andrew Younger	yes - a purebred american cocker spaniel	more than it was 4 years ago. There are hotels that accept dogs, there is more of an understanding of "dog culture" by council (one HRM office even had a periodic bring your dog to work day) and there are significantly more off leash areas in place. The new bylaw is also much better than the old one, but it still has issues. So I would say HRM is dog unfriendly, but it has room to grow	As with any bylaw there is the ability for it to be interpreted in a much more strict way than was intended. I am aware of one of 2 cases of this since A300 passed and this perhaps requires amendments. However, it is far less dangerous to dogs than the previous bylaw. The previous bylaw permitted dogs to be put down or ticketed for almost any reason at all in my view. As well there were few controls on the adoption of sheltered dogs, and importantly there is the ability in A300 for the first time for a citizen oversight committee on shelter operations and euthanasia issues.	I already attempted to have council remove this section during two debates and it was refused. I would support therefore of course rewriting this section to be more clear. This particular wording was selected as it was used appropriately in other jurisdictions in Canada and the US. Unfortunately it appears that in some cases this has been used beyond its intended meaning. Its worth noting that this provision also includes the ability for a citizen oversight committee which was intended to moderate interpretations and issues. Its also worth noting that I am led to believe this provision is currently being interpreted by the courts in one local case so the courts could rule that there are very specific issues leading to feeling "threatened" as was intended and thus less re-wording may be required. Obviously the intent was never that someone could say they feel threatened and a dog be put down.	yes, off leash issues, cats, etc were all issues which Council was asked by the public to address, but there was no need for Council to take so much time in doing this	The primary focus of Council should not be on domestic animal issues. However clearly Council needs to address some issues with the bylaws which have resulted in lack of clarity and misinterpretation of bylaws, as well the shelter and animal contract issues will come to needing a decision during this term of Council. As well individuals have applications for animal related businesses before Council. thus it would be impossible to stay entirely away from such issues.	The current shelter contract ends in the near future. Council has already been advised the existing shelter is not suitable for dogs or cats or other animals. Thus a new shelter, whether funded by government or the private sector will ultimately be required. Council will have to look at all options but it will not be able to support any shelter which is undersized or not meeting currently accepted sheltering standards. Hopefully this can be done without spending millions.	Its far better than it was four years ago. The first meeting of Council I attended after being elected I introduced a request to create a region wide off leash policy. The first Parks under this policy are now operating and most seem to be operating well. There are more in the plan as it moves forward. After the existing plan is implemented then a decision should be made on whether there is sufficient space. However it should be noted there is insufficient park space generally, so it stands to reason that there would be in turn insufficient space for off leash, biking, hiking, skiing, etc.	I would like to see some of these. However they would likely need to be funded like playgrounds where the community raises funds to support them. Ones I have been to in New York are often very small and are usually funded by local residents with the City making space available and operational support for emptying garbage, etc.	Yes, they are a very large demographic in HRM. However, it should not be assumed they speak with one voice as on everything from A300 to Animal Control, to off leash areas I have personally heard very different views from different dog owners	I previously asked Council to eliminate license fees as I believe the cost to administer licensing is probably more than the revenue collected. However while license fees are collected, all revenue should accrue to the Animal Control budget, as the Animal Control budget currently exceeds the revenue from licensing and fines combined, all this revenue is currently going to that budget	Actually it does currently, as the Animal Control budget currently exceeds the revenue from licensing and fines combined, all this revenue is currently going to that budget, should a time come when the revenue from fines and licenses exceed the Animal Control budget, either than budget should be increased to provide additional services or fees should be reduced	This is another situation where they are new in the past couple of years and their training is far superior to what was in place before. There are still educational and training issues and these should continue to be worked on. As with any organization some officers are better and more skilled than others. Ongoing training is important in this type of work.	They have access to it now. HRM does not provide operational grants to organizations except through District Activity funds, but does provide Capital Support to organizations of varying types. It is my understanding from letters I have received that grant applications have been received by HRM for the first time this year	In my own area there are quite a few dog day cares operating successfully, though none that I am aware of in homes as there is substantial commercial or combined commercial/residential space in the area. They don't need of Council approval in these spots. In areas where sufficient space doesn't allow, in home operations are an option which should be approved through development agreement so it can be assured there's space for the operation. I'm aware of 4 large, popular ones, within a 5 minute drive of my house which were able to set up because they are in combined commercial/residential areas, so the zoning permitted it.
Wayne Sitland	yes	yes	n/c	n/c	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/c	yes	yes
Nancy Sievert	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/c	no	yes	yes	n/c	yes	yes	no	no
Mary Wile	Mary Wile wrote back to say that there were too many questions and the questionnaire would have taken her too long to fill out. She loves all animals. She grew up with many pets. She's spoken on several occasions about A300 regarding the unfair regulations and attended workshops held by HRM re offleash parks. She feels they're necessary, but the first group of offleash parks weren't respected by some dog owners resulting in failure to pick up after their dogs. The license fees should be put back into Animal Control coffers, and tnr is a good program but should be funded through the licensing of cats.														
Cameron Ells	no	no	n/c		yes	yes	no	no	yes		"licensing" revenue is variable - would like to see a sustainable, dependable funding go into Animal Control coffers		n/c	yes	n/c
Dawn Marie Sloane	no	no	not sure	need to hear all sides first	yes	yes	depends	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	not sure	yes	yes
Beverly Miller	Ms. Miller thought the questionnaire was overly long and there were too many "yes or no" questions for her to be comfortable answering them - she doesn't have a dog at the moment, but she does have a cat. She did have a dog growing up and when her kids were growing up they had a dog who lived to a ripe old age and they hated to see her go.														
Katie Campbell	no	yes	no	n/c	yes	no	n/c	yes	n/c	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes - if funded from animal enforcement revenues	no
Andrea Hilchie-Pye	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	n/c	It would be nice	no
Ross McLaren	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	n/c	n/c	n/c
Sean Phillips	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	when neces.	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/c	n/c	n/c
Jennifer Watts	no	yes	no	n/c	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/c	yes	no

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Linda Mosher	no	no enough	no		no	yes	no								
Steve Adams	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Tim Hosford	I would like to begin by saying thanks for the info & email personally speaking We after 13 years lost our dog recently on July 05th. I can without any hesitation tell you it was the 2nd hardest day of my life.														
Tim Outhit	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes						
Shawn Lahey	yes	yes	maybe	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
John A. Stoddard	no	yes	yes&no	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	A law is supposed to regulate behavior not turn otherwise law abiding citizens into law breakers. Its my understanding that a good portion of people do not license their dogs. If that is the case then perhaps the law should be revisited. The second part of your question would require further study before I could give an answer.	I would have to look at the figures and budgetary law. If the control budget is lacking then it may be a way to help provide the service.	There are training issues all over HRM. There has to be a commitment to have the best workforce available for servicing HRM.	yes	
Deborah Brunt	Ms. Brunt said - As an owner of a wonderful Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever and an HRM Council Candidate for District 23, I would love to fill out your survey except for one thing. The world is rarely black and white, so yes/no just doesn't do it for me. I don't like to say no comment because that implies I don't want to answer, which of course is not true. So I will regrettably have to abstain.														
Doug Poulton	I'm a dog lover as well, and they add so much to a persons life. Responsible dog lovers, should take offense to the way some dogs are treated and cared for by some individuals and something should happen to them. I do sympathize with the people who complain about the messes are friends leave behind and do think it is the responsibility of the owner to clean up after them. I couldn't get at your questionar on my computer so I hope this will tell you where I'm coming from. Living in the rural area of H.R.M. gives us the security that our well being is protected by a loved one, who only asks for love and attention in return. Hope this answers your concern from my perspective														

Candidates who chose not to participate in the survey:

Sheila Fougere, Peter Kelly, Bridget Ann Boutilier, Steve Streach, Barry Dalrymple, Spencer Colley, Mark R. Fernando, Julia MacPherson, Lorelie Nicoll, Barry Smith, Gloria McCluskey, Bill Karsten, Jackie Barkhouse, Christa Webber, Calland Wells, Brian LeBlanc, Jim Smith, Jeff Campbell, Jerry Blumenthal, Patrick Murphy, Jerome Downey, James Stuewe, Sue Uteck, Glenn Dodge, Bill Forbes, Russell Walker, Norman Duncan, Debbie Hum, Jim Connolly, David Sampson, Brad John, Bruce DeVenne, Bob Harvey, Matthew Christie, Reg Rankin, Gina Byrne, Peter Lund

Questionnaire questions available at <http://dogkisser.ca/Questionnaire%20for%20HRM%20Candidates%20September,%202008.pdf>
 Survey brought to you courtesy of Dog Watch Nova Scotia - http://dogkisser.ca/dwns_past_issues.html
 Any questions - email dogkisser@gmail.com

