



Dog Watch Nova Scotia

What's Happening in the World of Dog politics in Nova Scotia

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Welcome to the 2nd issue of Dog Watch Nova Scotia

For this week we're going to focus on the Halifax Regional Municipality's election on October 18th and give you some background into what your Councilor's have been up to the last few years regarding companion animal issues so that you can go to the polls with a little bit of knowledge and insight into who you may want to vote for.

In some ways its kind of unfair because if your Regional Councilor has done a really horrible job on dog issues – they might just promise that they'll try and do better – which is the same thing that their opponent might say they'll do – but you're going to vote for the up and comer because you're going to be just SO disgusted with how the person who's been doing the job for the last however many years has been representing your interests – and I'm sorry to say – some HRM Councilors – must HATE dogs.

Luckily – at least one of the worst Councilors (when it comes to dog issues) – Harry McInroy – hasn't reoffered – he's decided to retire – so that's one dog hater who's off City Council. Luckily.

In a Regional Council meeting on December 16, 2003 Councilor McInroy – seconded by Councilor Steve Streach – attempted to have any dog in the Municipality muzzled when they were in an off leash area. The topic had come up in relation to Hurricane Juan because Point Pleasant Park was shut down and the only legal off leash area in the whole of the Halifax Regional Municipality was Seaview Park – which was definitely not meeting the needs of dog owners in the City – and Councilor Sue Uteck was trying to put through a motion to have sports fields in the city be off leash from 6am to 9pm rather than their usual 6am to 10am. The discussion became ridiculous because of the amendments that were being put through such as the ones by Mr. Mcinroy that Ms. Uteck hastily withdrew her motion – realizing that off leash dogs or their owners were not what the HRM Council were interested in keeping happy. One interesting thing about those minutes to note is that several councilors – Linda Mosher, Debbie Hum, David Hendsbee, and Dawn Sloane – all stated during the discussion that they believed the municipality needed more permanent designated off leash dog parks. You can read those minutes if you'd like at http://dogkisser.ca/hrm_minutes_2003_12_16.pdf

Upcoming Court Cases

Gail Benoit and Dana Bailey – were in court on June 26th and 27th on charges of neglect after the NS SPCA seized 10 puppies last fall – their trial resumes October 24th, 2008

Noemi Chapman and her husband – are due back in court November 28th, 2008 for their trial on failure to provide adequate care to 4 dogs under the prevention of cruelty to animals act – they run a puppy mill in Kilburn, New Brunswick with over 200 breeding dogs.

Zonda MacIsaac and Alice MacIsaac – Zonda MacIsaac is due back in court September 23rd, 2008 to hear the results of a psychiatric assessment to see whether she is mentally fit to stand trial and Alice MacIsaac is due back in court December 4th, 2008 – they are both charged under the Animal Cruelty Act as well as the Criminal code for neglect to animals and willfully causing pain to an animal.

Sharon Orr – is due in court on December 4th after more than 40 animals were seized from her property near Barr's Corner last October 12th, 2007 – chickens, goats, rabbits, and 2 border collies were seized from her property and she is charged with neglect and abandonment.

Halifax Regional Municipality Elections 2008:

So the HRM's elections are coming up quickly – in a couple week's we'll be deciding who's going to represent us for the next several years on City Council. Last week I talked about Bylaw A300 – the animal control bylaw – and what the city calls their "responsible dog ownership" bylaw, and how it's extremely dangerous legislation for every dog owner in the Municipality because of a couple clauses that our Councilors let go through unchanged – specifically 2.1(a), 2.1(g)(iii), (you can find the bylaw online at <http://www.halifax.ca/legislation/bylaws/hrm/documents/By-LawA-300.pdf>)

This week I'm going to list out which Councilors voted for the bylaw, and who they are running against in their relevant district. There are some districts that are unlucky in that their Councilor has been acclaimed – AND they voted FOR the bylaw – namely District 6 Andrew Younger, District 7 Bill Karsten, and District 15 Russell Walker. Unfortunately if you live in one of those ridings – you won't be given a choice to vote your displeasure about their decision re Bylaw A300. You can however still contact them and tell them that the bylaw needs to be rewritten.

For all the other ridings – you can take the list – and go to the HRM's website – and start to think about who you'd like to see represent you at City Hall – and whether or not the incumbent should have your vote. And also ask all the people vying for office what their views are on dog issues.

It's also a good time for us to clarify our thoughts on dog issues. Really – how DO you feel about paying \$15 every year for a dog license for each of your dogs? Do you know where that money is going once you pay it to the City? Is it going into general revenue? Or is it going to help pay to get animals home who are found running at large and – because their owners are responsible owners – have city tags on their collars – so instead of being thrown in a cage – actually get to go back home. Shouldn't the money paid for city tags pay for that kind of thing? I think it should! It should go back into Animal Control coffers – not into the snow plow budget.

Some links from the HRM's website that you might find useful are the official list of who's running with the names of their "official agents" – which includes everyone's phone numbers and their email addresses – that's at <http://www.halifax.ca/election/documents/ListingofCandidatesandOfficialAgents2008.pdf>

Maps with all the polling district's boundaries is at <http://www.halifax.ca/municipalclerk/districtboundaries.html>

A page that lets you type in your address so you can find out who your Councilor is – is at <http://eservices.halifax.ca/districtLookup/> - and the page that lists out who all the Councilors are with links to their individual web pages is at <http://www.halifax.ca/districts/index.html>

A questionnaire is going to all the candidates in the next day about dog issues from Dog Watch Nova Scotia – asking them questions about local dog politics, and general questions about dogs. Their answers will be posted here in an upcoming newsletter before the election to give you greater clarity on your voting decision. After I send out the questionnaire to the candidates – I'll have the form available for viewing so everyone can see what questions are being asked at http://dogkisser.ca/dwns_past_issues.html

This is the perfect time to be asking difficult questions – when the politicians want to get elected – so get out there and ask the difficult questions.

The following page is the list of people you should be asking them to:

District 1 - Eastern Shore - Musquodoboit Valley

Bridget Ann Boutilier

Steve Streach (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 2 - Waverley - Fall River - Beaver Bank

Barry Dalrymple

Krista Snow (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 3 - Preston - Lawrencetown - Chezzetcook

Spencer Colley

David Hendsbee (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 4 - Cole Harbour

Mark R. Fernando

Julia MacPherson

Lorelei Nicoll

Barry Smith

(previously led by Harry McInroy)

District 5 - Dartmouth Centre

Gloria McCluskey – ACCLAIMED (incumbent)

District 6 - East Dartmouth - The Lakes

Andrew Younger – ACCLAIMED (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 7 - Portland - East Woodlawn

Bill Karsten – ACCLAIMED (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 8 - Woodside - Eastern Passage

Jackie Barkhouse (incumbent)

Christa Webber

Calland Wells

District 9 - Albro Lake - Harbourview

Brian LeBlanc

Wayne Sitland

Jim Smith (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 10 - Clayton Park West

Nancy Sievert

Mary Wile (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 11 - Halifax North End

Jerry Blumenthal

Patrick Murphy (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 12 - Halifax Downtown

Jerome Downey

Cameron Ells

Dawn Marie Sloane (incumbent)

James Stuewe

District 13 - Northwest Arm - South End

Beverly W. Miller

Sue Uteck (incumbent)

District 14 - Connaught - Quinpool

Katie Campbell

Glenn Dodge

Bill Forbes

Andrea Hilchie-Pye

Ross McLaren

Sean Phillips

(formerly held by Sheila Fougere who is running for mayor)

District 15 - Fairview - Clayton Park

Russell Walker – ACCLAIMED (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 16 - Rockingham - Wentworth

Norman Duncan

Debbie Hum (incumbent)

District 17 - Purcell's Cove – Armdale

Jim Connolly

Linda Mosher (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 18 - Spryfield - Herring Cove

Steve Adams (incumbent)

David Sampson

District 19 - Middle & Upper Sackville - Lucasville

Tim Hosford

Brad (BJ) Johns (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 20 - Lower Sackville

Bruce DeVenne

Bob Harvey (incumbent) – voted FOR Bylaw

District 21 - Bedford

Matthew Christie

Tim Outhit (incumbent)

District 22 - Timberlea - Prospect

Shawn Lahey

Reg Rankin (incumbent)

John A. Stoddard

District 23 - Hammonds Plains - St. Margarets

Deborah Brunt

Gina Byrne

Peter Lund

Doug Poulton

(formerly held by Gary Meade)

Upcoming Dog Events

- The Canadian Kennel Club is sponsoring “Responsible Dog Ownership Groups” all across Canada on September 27th for dog walks. There’s going to be one in Halifax – starting at 10:45 behind the Westin Hotel, and walking to the Historic Properties – for more info you can go to <http://halifaxkennelclub.org/>
- SHAID Dog Walk 2008 "Come out and help us raise funds for the homeless animals at SHAID!" – Saturday October 4th from 1-4pm at the Mahone Bay Ball Field
- Nova Scotia Lab Rescue is holding a Halloween Fest on October 5th from 12-3pm at Seaview Park in Halifax – lots of fun for dogs and humans – dress up your dog and come out – there’ll be treats for dogs – you can find more information on their website at <http://www.labrescuens.booi.com/index.php>
- SPCA Paws for A Cause – November 1st – 6-11pm – a gourmet 3 course meal and an auction run by Neville MacKay - \$75 per ticket – for more information you can go to - <http://spcans.ca/>

Other Places to get local dog politics news:

NS SPCA Newsletter - http://spcans.ca/whats_new/index.html

Cape Breton SPCA Newsletter - <http://www.capebretonspca.com/newsletter.html>

Granny’s Journal - <http://grannysstory.blogspot.com/>

Me and my Dogs in Halifax, Nova Scotia - <http://dogkisser.blogspot.com/>

There’s a ton of **Facebook groups** – I said I’d list some of them out in upcoming issues – if you’re a member of Facebook, belonging to groups can keep you up to date on what’s going on with your local rescue group, volunteer organization, or favourite charity. You should check regularly – because you can pretty much bet that if you have any kind of interests – there’s a Facebook group for it.

Animal Welfare in Nova Scotia - <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=14857090729>

Against HRM Cat By Law (A-300) - <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5530593414>

Hope for Wildlife - <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2377887957>

CTV Atlantic Newstalk - <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2381342576>

CAPS - Companion Animal Protection Society of Annapolis County -

<http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46064465601>

Support a Spay Neuter Assist Program in Nova Scotia - <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=25945943637>

Banned in Nova Scotia? Bill 138 - <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=30490622616>

Download past issues of the Dog Watch Nova Scotia Newsletter at: http://dogkisser.ca/dwns_past_issues.html

If you have a story or a story idea you’d like to submit to Dog Watch Nova Scotia – email me at dogkisser@gmail.com – as well, if you have any feedback – we’d love to hear from you!

Next Issue:

In our next issue we’re going to talk about the Canadian Kennel Club – what exactly are they – are they just a breed registry? Where can we find them locally, where SHOULD we find them locally, and what can they do for us as dog owners? And what does it mean to be “CKC licenced”? What’s so special about that?

I’m going to talk about Gail Benoit – she was in the news again on September 18th or thereabouts – for selling another dying dog on Kijiji – and within 24 hours her ads had reappeared on the website and she was back in business – how can a puppy broker who is currently up on neglect and cruelty charges continue to make money and sell defective product not have a ban on owning or harbouring dog while she’s waiting to go on trial? Shouldn’t that be like a no-brainer?

As well – there’ll be more discussion about the upcoming election(s), and the beginning of results from a questionnaire sent out to all the candidates for HRM Council...