



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2019

Community Monitoring Committee

YOUR WATCH DOG

The Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) was born on February 16, 1999. It was created through a legally binding agreement between The Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and The Halifax Waste/Resource Society (HRWS). CMC, is therefore as permanent as the Otter Lake Landfill operates.

CMC is 'An Arms Length Committee', unlike other Committees listed under HRM. CMC's essential mandate is to be the environmental 'watch dog' in service to both the 'defined' Affected Communities surrounding the Otter Lake Landfill; and on behalf of all citizens of HRM.

HRWS, provides annually 9 Directors of the total 15 Directors that constitute the CMC Board, while HRM Council provides the other 6 Directors. The HRM Council appoints 3 Councillors, The Mayor and 2 citizens at large. HRM Council is also required to provide to CMC reasonable resources to enable the delivery of their prescribed mandate.

The Otter Lake Landfill and Landfill Facilities



Facilities - FEP WFS

The Landfill (green /brown area)

Pollution Control

CMC's Mandated Communications

Importantly, the center of the HRM/HWRS Agreement is the CMC mandate to maintain Communications with all their different public stakeholders; namely, HRM, HWRS, NSDOE, MIRROR, HRM Citizens, and in particular, the citizens of the 'defined' Affected Communities.

The Agreement sets out a number of defined rights for CMC to undertake in communicating on both the operations of the Otter Lake Landfill and on any other matters that may affect the operations of the landfill facilities.

The Agreement explicitly supports this right with a number of provisions that obligate HRM to provide any and all information to CMC that is pertinent to the operations of the Otter Lake Landfill facilities.

"Defined" Affected Communities

The HRM/HWRS Agreement defines clearly the "Defined" Affected Communities residing within a 5 kilometre radius of the Otter Lake Landfill's Front End Processor (FEP) and Waste Stabilization Facility (WSF).

Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) monitors the operations at the Otter Lake Landfill on behalf of the local Affected Communities of Lakeside, Beechville, Timberlea, Hubley and Prospect Road. As part of this responsibility, CMC is dedicated to engaging with these communities, keeping them informed on landfill developments and addressing their concerns.

As an independent committee, it has the ability to raise these concerns with both the municipal and provincial governments, and all other stakeholders, to ensure the health and safety of these communities.

BOARD MEETING
6:30PM APRIL25,
2019
COMMUNITY
MONITORING
COMMITTEE

Find out more about
the Society by visiting
the Society's website.
Directors of the
Society will be elected
at the meeting,

FOLLOWED BY ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING HALIFAX
WASTE/RESOURCE SOCIETY



Location:
TIMBERLEA
BRUNELLO
ESTATES
CLUBHOUSE
120 BRUNELLO
BLVD

There are 9
Directors, and each
becomes a
representative on
the CMC

CMC Board Directors - Community Monitoring Committee Board of Directors comprises 15 members, including the 9 Directors of the Halifax Waste-Resource Society CMC (HWRS) and 6 members from HRM Council comprising the Mayor, 3 Regional Councillors from Districts 11 and 12, an appointed member of Council, 2 council-appointed members-at large.

HRM COUNCIL Appointments

Mayor Mike Savage, - Mayor
Councillor Steven Adams, - District 11
Councillor Richard Zurawski, - District 12
Councillor Matt Whitman, - District 13

Council volunteer appointments

Kate Sullivan, - Clayton Park
Mike Becigneul, - Timberlea

Staff

Reg Rankin - Executive Director
Don Mason - Communications Consultant

the HWRS Directors are:

Scott Guthrie, Acting Chair - Prospect
Bob Angus, - Timberlea
Andrew Giles, - Dartmouth
Frank Johnston, - Prospect
Peter Lund, - Dartmouth
Murray Power, - Hubley
Tom Robertson, - Hubley
Maureen Yeadon, - Prospect
1 vacancy

Effects of HRM Solid Waste Policy Changes in the last 5 years

The Otter lake Facilities operational management company, MIRROR, files statistics on the tonnage going into the landfill. From one report covering 2012 to 2018, CMC identified several changes occurring from HRM solid waste policy changes.

This year, 2019 is the 20th anniversary of the signing of the agreement between HRM and HWRS. The expectation of residents in the Affected Community and HRM was a 25 year landfill usage.

The Policy introducing clear garbage bags was strongly supported at Council. Residents appear to support that clear bag policy. Garbage collection in 2018 reduced by 10% to 45687 tonnes compared to 50373 tonnes in 2015. Total garbage Residential and ICI (Industrial/Commercial/Institutional) in 2018 was 50373 tonnes about half of the amount of 108190 tonnes in 2015.

The Policy on free flow disposal was narrowly approved by Council. The ICI (Industrial/Commercial/Institutional) collectors have supported that policy by disposing garbage at landfills outside of HRM. The total tonnage has reduced by approximately 60% to 45904 tonnes in 2018 from 108190 tonnes in 2015.

Maintaining good relations with Nova Scotia Department of Environment

This year CMC Board Executive and staff meet with Senior staff at Nova Scotia Department of Environment to review the past year and discuss expectations for the coming year. This interface is useful as it provides an opportunity to discuss the landfill operations, and to hear from the Department staff what they expect from CMC with respect to communications with the local community.

A Brief History of the Otter Lake Landfill, Community Monitoring Committee and the evolution of “Halifax Solid Waste Management Strategy” by the citizens of HRM, it’s formulation and implementation and over 20 years. The History was written by Ken Donnelly, a long time part of the process.

The evolution of COMMUNITY MONITORING COMMITTEE. Local Councillor Reg Rankin led an initiative to ensure that these communities received covenants ensuring they would not be adversely affected. To safeguard the covenants, Councillor Rankin insisted that there be oversight of the facility’s operation by members of the local community. This oversight would be defined in a contract between the community, Halifax Waste/Resource Society, and Halifax Regional Council. He was successful in convincing HRM staff and his colleagues on council that a Community Monitoring Committee would be an integral feature of the landfill.

The historical focus begins in 1995, provides landfill background from the 1970’s and is published now on the Otter Lake CMC website.

HRM awards Operations Management Materials Recycling Facility

A key element of Halifax Waste Recycling includes the processing and marketing of recyclable materials. This is done through a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), which has always been managed by an experienced contractor. A tender was publicly advertised for bids for a five year contract.



HRM Council in January 2019, awarded a management contract for five years to Royal Environmental, the highest scoring tender proponent.

IT’S ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HRM had attempted several years ago, without CMC consultation, to remove two key environmental facilities – a Front End Processor (FEP) and a Waste Stabilizer Facility (WSF). These facilities are instrumental to the reduction of raw organics to be buried in the landfill.

In September 2018, the CMC Directors directed it’s Chair to write HRM that it would be a clear breach to HRM Council’s written Agreement with The Affected Communities (1997); and against the NSE Operating Permit to even consider the notion of removing the Otter Lake’s Landfill FEP and the WSF.

And today, in the interests of verifiable trust with the Affected Community; for HRM to openly confirm this truth. Rather than hold onto this notion as an unjustified threat.

See the CMC’s position letter to HRM on status of FEP, WSF on the CMC website, under the news section: <https://otterlakecmc.ca/?p=646> locator for History on the web.