
MLRA NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2005

MLRA Celebrates its Incorporation

First Annual General Meeting Held

The McDonald Lake Residents Association (MLRA) welcomes readers to our first newsletter. Approximately, a year ago residents in the subdivision expressed an interest in developing some parkland in the area. After a couple of meetings with McDonald Lake residents, HRM staff and other groups there was a strong support in forming an association.

The purpose of MLRA is to help mobilize the community and to give the residents a recognized voice that will be heard.

On April 11, 2005 the Association held the first Annual General where 53 residents became members of the MLRA. Also, the MLRA Board was elected. The MLRA would like to congratulate the following individuals who have been elected to serve on the Board for a one-year term:

Peter Jollimore, Chair
Bassam Abousamak, Vice Chair
Vicki Morton, Secretary
Elizabeth Jong, Treasurer
Camille Vokey, Communications Officer
Ann Secord, Member at Large

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Citizens on Patrol

Protecting Our Neighbourhood

As residents of the McDonald Lake Subdivision, we are aware there have been a number of break-ins and incidents of vandalism to some homes in the area. At the last MLRA meeting some residents expressed an interest in a Neighbourhood Watch Program. There is such a program in the Prospect area called Citizens on Patrol (COP). This is a program where ordinary citizens supplement police patrols to help reduce crime by keeping a neighbourly watch over their communities. **The role of Citizens on Patrol is to simply observe, make notes and report to RCMP. All volunteer patrollers have official photo ID cards, receive training and log in with the RCMP when on patrol.** There are several C.O.P. signs along the Prospect Road, indicating the presence of a concerned citizens' task force.

If any residents are interested in volunteering and assisting in patrolling the our community please contact **852-2141**, visit the Prospect Road Community Police Office at 2101 Prospect Road, or e-mail prcop@ns.sympatico.ca. C.O.P. meets monthly (except July and August) on the 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m. above the "Rusty Anchor" restaurant, in Shad Bay. The meeting is an opportunity for volunteers to exchange information, receive updates from the RCMP, and receive training. Everyone is welcome.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

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HRM Summer Camps (Ages 6-11.)

A fun way to get out and enjoy the summer! Activities include sports, games, music, dance, crafts, water fun and more! Weeks are theme based. Camps will be running at Atlantic Memorial in July and Brookside Junior High in August. For more information, or to register, call 876-8812.

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Chris Morton, Member at Large
Curtis Robertson, Member at Large
Sonya Locke, Member at Large
David Poirrier, Member at Large

In addition, at the April 11th meeting to understand what is important to McDonald Lake residents all members had an opportunity to write down things they would like to see for the community or any concerns that they may have had.

The suggestions were:

1. Develop park lot on Prospect River Ct. or Nickels Lake. Concern that Prospect River Ct parkland floods. Would also like playground to be developed with parkland.
2. Develop a sign for the subdivision and remove the old sign.
3. Build a tennis court
4. Pave all roads.
5. Access to lakes (Fiddle, McDonald, Nickels) through Park ?
6. Concern about power boats on lakes . (ordinance 158)
7. Issue of owner's not cleaning up after their dogs. Also, dogs roaming at night. No leash etc.
8. Organizing a spring clean-up of community. (ditches etc.)
9. Residents wanting to help to develop parkland-clean-up and construction.
10. Interest in a neighbourhood watch program.
11. Residents willing to help with web site.
12. Maintaining peace and quiet.
13. Having a shelter built over the mailboxes and a spot to post information for residents.

This is an ambitious agenda! This newsletter, in conjunction with our website, will be the source of information on the status of these issues and projects. It is the voice of our neighbourhood, so bring forward your ideas, articles and concerns, and we'll print them here.

If you would like to become a member of the MLRA, please contact any of the Board members listed above. If you have any ideas for the newsletter, questions, and comments we would like to hear from you! You can contact Peter Jollimore at 850-2396, e-mail shirl261@yahoo.ca, or on our web-site at www.summitconferencetools.com/mlra.

Paving Update for Subdivision

When I purchased my home in the MacDonald Lake Subdivision last year, my realtor told me the streets would be paved in the next year or so. This February, I contacted the HRM to find out when construction would start and how much it would cost.

The process for paving is a long one. Anne Reid, Roads Paving Clerk for HRM, indicates the first step is to get all residents on the street to register their position (for or against). This is now done through a survey (used to be done through a petition). If the majority of residents want to have their roads paved, the street will go on the waiting list for paving. If streets go on the list this year, they will be paved approximately 7 to 10 years from now. No bill for paving will be sent out until 30 days after paving is completed. The bill can be paid over a decade and cost should not be more than about \$30 per linear foot of frontage (persons on corner lots will pay 50% of what others pay because they will be billed for both streets when paved). For example, 260' frontage x \$30/ft = \$7800 paid over 10 yrs (\$780/yr). Should all residents want paving, it will not be started for approximately seven years and no bill will come out until that time.

Here is the paving status of the streets in the MacDonald Lake Subdivision:

- **Park Court:** Being paved soon (announced at the MRLA General Meeting that it would be this summer)
- **Sunset Court:** Was petitioned in January 2003 and is now on the list to be paved. The HRM is working on the roads petitioned in 2000. However, the HRM will only get to two of the roads petitioned in 2000. Expect three or more years before Sunset Court is paved (unless there is additional funding from the Province or HRM).
- **Forest Glade Drive:** Survey was sent out April 2005, to have been returned by 16 May. As of 12 May there were not been enough returns to make a decision on street paving. Streets must pass the survey phase to be considered for paving.

The Prospect Road and Area Recreation Association meets every first Monday of the month (except July and August) at the Prospect Elementary School at 7:00pm. Representatives from community groups and organizations are welcomed. Currently, the Association is assisting HRM in recruiting a Steering Committee in the development of an indoor recreation facility for the community. The Steering Committee will consist of 6 community members, 3 youth from the community, and 3 members from the Recreation Association. For those interested in a Steering Committee position, applications are available from Darren Hirtle @ 869-4204 or hirtled@halifax.ca. Also, on the application there is an opportunity to apply for many different sub-committee positions.

Commentary:

The Wag 'in Tail

Being the mother of young children I am always teaching them about using good manners, being neighborly, and respecting their things, especially other people's things. In addition, is that the children must respect their dog by gentle touching, giving the dog space and not touching her things (especially her food!). Of course, this teaching process is a day-to-day battle of constant reminders.

Well, this got me to thinking as an owner (parent) of a dog, for many years now, have I taught her good manners and respect for others. In many ways no matter how old or well trained your pet is they are very much like taking care of young children. They love to play, visit other homes, tear things (for example, as I am writing this article my youngest son tore a couple of pages from a library book!), chew on things, and do the "their business" whenever and wherever. That is why I believe in the statement: If you want to have a little experience of parenthood then own a pet.

This brings me to the point of this article. We live in a neighborhood with a lot of pets that we care about. As owners to these pets let's try to help them follow some manners such as:

- ~ Disposing of "their business" in appropriate places
- ~ No wandering away from home
- ~ Not to damage other pets' or people's things
- ~ To use their quiet voices, especially at night
- ~ Visits or play dates at neighbors when invited

Pets with good manners make good neighbors!

Submissions to the 'Commentary' section of our newsletter are welcomed! Share your thoughts on an aspect of our community that has special meaning for you. Commentaries must be fair, balanced reflections and will not be published if they are mean-spirited, accusatory or libelous. They must be signed, although you may request your byline be withheld. Only submissions from MLRA members will be published in this section. Submissions from non-members regarding relevant issues may be included in other sections of the newsletter. Please submit via email to: shirl261@yahoo.ca

The MLRA board will be meeting the 2nd Monday of every month (Sept – June or as needed). In addition, the Association will meet every three months at a general meeting or community event. Our next board meeting will take place in September. An agenda will be circulated to members before the meeting. If you are not a member and would like to have an item added to the agenda, please forward your item to any board member who will make sure it is included. Board Meetings are open to all Macdonald Lake residents, but we ask you RSVP so we can ensure we have space for all who wish to attend. Members of the board will be present at community events.

Campbell Point Beach will be Supervised from June 30-Aug 30 inclusive. Hours of supervision are: 11:00am-5:00pm
4 Instructional Sessions:
July 4 Mon-Fri 2 weeks
July 18 Mon-Fri 2 weeks
Aug 1 Mon-Fri 2 weeks
Aug 15 Mon-Fri 2 weeks
Beaches Office 490-5458



SUMMER CLEAN UP!

**First Annual
McDonald Lake Road Side Clean Up!**

Saturday, July 9th, 2005
Meet 10am @ Prospect Elementary School
Playground

Volunteers of all ages needed! The MacDonald Lake Residents Association (MLRA) will provide the necessary supplies.