

HALIFAX

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

6th Canadian P₂ Roundtable

Québec City - April 25 & 26, 2002

Presentation On:

Strategic and Sustainable Resources
(parks, forests, natural areas) management

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Strategic and Sustainable Resource Management Governance For Sustainability The "Big Picture" Halifax Regional Municipality

- HRM is 6 years old as a single municipality
- A national reputation for leadership on environmental issues: solid waste management; compost/ recycling; pesticide use reduction; sustainable maintenance practices, etc.
- A single government for a large urban, suburban and rural area, a community of communities
- A governance structure that now makes regional responses to environmental issues easier

Government, Environment Linked in HRM History

Examples:

- Second tier regional government failed to resolve landfill crisis in early 1990's
- Metro Authority became a lame duck after failed, divisive incinerator proposal
- Earlier, a provincial crown corporation (HHCI) failed at Harbour pollution control proposal

Response:

- HRM provides a single forum for decision-making on sustainable development issues

The Evolution Towards a More Sustainable Community

Amalgamation was revolutionary, but HRM's progress towards a more sustainable municipality is evolutionary, an issue by issue approach, but with common elements:

- A. Valuing our historic quality of life
- B. Meaningful community participation
- C. Visible municipal leadership
- D. Continuing communication, education

Valuing Our Historic Quality of Life

- Halifax residents are very protective of our lifestyle, and of the environment that surrounds us.
- We are a city of many lakes, rivers, waterfront vistas, farms, fishing and salt marshes.
- Many of our environmental initiatives reflect quality of life concerns for our residents and meaningful community participation.

Strategic and Sustainable Resource Related Corporate Issues “Focused Picture”

■ Highly publicized community wide serious matters affecting health and environmental sustainability

- i.e. Major threats to Parks, Forests, Natural Areas
- i.e. Insect Pests (i.e. BSLB, etc.); fire hazards (successive dry summers)
- Global warming impacts (i.e. droughts, open winters, etc.)

■ Related corporate by-laws, policies, regulations

- i.e. Pesticide use reduction legislation
- Corporate By-law Rationalization Project including all parks and natural resource related by-laws

■ Parks, Forests, Natural Areas Environmental Sustainability - Internal and External

- Internal
 - i.e. Ensure in-house practices are sustainable
 - Sustainable Maintenance Practices Standards, research, etc.
- External
 - I.e Competing interests for land (ie Provincial IRM)
 - Topsoil availability

Action Plan to Focus on Natural Resource Related Issues

■ Corporate recognition of these major issues and implications including

- - healthy community considerations
- - environmental risk assessments
- - financial risk assessments

■ Public Education and Awareness Programs

- Sustainable practices
- New by-laws
- Stakeholders Communication

■ **Lead business group determined**

- Parks & Recreation Services
- Best fits, Corporate priorities
- Internal rebundling, consolidations

■ **Parks & Natural Areas - Strategic and Sustainable Management Unit**

- established within existing resources
- mandate established

Parks & Natural Areas Strategic and Sustainable Management Unit

Initiatives

- 1. Strategic Management and Coordination of resources both
 - external and internal for serious threats to our Parks, Forests, Natural Areas (i.e. BSLB; Fire Threats; Global Warming Impacts, etc.)
- 2. Coordination of resources and implementation of corporate
 - priority environment/ park/ forest/ natural area related by-laws, policies (i.e. Pesticide By-law; Corporate By-law Rationalization Project, etc.)

- 3. Strategic Management and coordination of Resources (external and internal)

- directly linked to major environmental sustainable issues affecting municipal parks, forests, natural areas (i.e. competing interests for land, Provincial IRM Project, Regional Planning, etc.)

- 4. Strategic review and coordination of Internal Resources

- regarding park, forest and natural area sustainable management and maintenance (i.e. internal audit/ review)

- 5. Public Education and Awareness Programs on Initiatives,

- Sustainable gardening and landscape maintenance Practices, etc.

- By-laws

- Sustainable Parks, Forests and Natural Areas

- Stakeholder Feedback

Summary

The establishment of our **Strategic and Sustainable Resource Management Unit** has allowed Halifax Regional Municipality to:

- Focus and take appropriate action on key corporate park and environmental related issues such as the pesticide use reduction initiatives, serious threats such as BSLB and global warming impacts.
- Provide strategic information and coordination for park and environment related corporate by-laws, policies and regulations.
- Provide a recognized forum for the exchange of strategic information on sustainable resource management with other levels of government, agencies, industry, community, etc.

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- Provide an internal watchdog and resource to help ensure in-house practices are sustainable.
 - Provide a high level clearing house for the exchange of technical and science information on resource sustainability research and practices.
 - Provide an effective system for public education and awareness on sustainable maintenance and management issues.

Contacts

Halifax Regional Municipality Corporate Web Site

- www.region.halifax.ns.ca

Naturally Green icon

- information and various corporate initiatives
- links to other sites such as Pesticide By-law

Halifax Regional Municipality Call Centre

- 1-902-490-4000

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Have a Great Day!