

Dog Watch Nova Scotia Survey (2008.09.29)

Joan Sinden,

Thank you for your emails of Tuesday September 23 with the initial survey, and Wednesday September 24 with a simplified survey.

Do you own a dog? No

Do you think that the HRM is dog friendly? No

Do you think that bylaw A300 puts dogs in danger in the HRM? No comment (As of September 29, 2008, I do not know enough about this topic to have an opinion. Many years ago I visited many properties as a Paper Boy and as an Electric Power Meter Reader. There are memories of a distinct difference between a physical attack by a few dogs, the territorial intimidation efforts of some dogs, and the clever playfulness of many dogs.)

Do you think that the HRM Regional Council has focused too much on domestic animal issues in recent years? Yes

As far as you're concerned – would you like the mandate of the new Regional Council for the next four years to stay away from domestic animal issues? Yes (It seems worthwhile to try and have domestic animal issues addressed at the HRM staff level - provided HRM staff decision making is influenced by performance policy objectives.)

Do you think that the City should spend several million dollars on a new Municipal shelter? No (A more effective alternative might be through capacity building of facilities such as the new Bide Awhile one in the Woodlawn area)

Do you think there is sufficient off leash space currently in the HRM? No

Would you like to see some public space dedicated JUST for offleash exercise for dogs, rather than the multi-use parks that currently exist? No (Not in favour of reducing current multi-use park space. However, perhaps arrangements could be made that involve the use for now of some other public or private undeveloped lands for this purpose (ie. Former DND lands, Canada Lands Company properties, NS Lands properties, large inactive properties that might be developed at some time in the future)

Cameron Ells for Councillor - Downtown Halifax

Do you think that dog owners are an important demographic in today's society that's growing – and a demographic that needs to be listened to? Yes

How do you feel about licensing dogs, do you think the income generated from that money should go back into the Animal Control coffers to pay for that department's budget? No My sense is that sustainable, dependable funding is more important than the particular source of that funding. Licensing “revenue” may well be variable. An alternative would be to have evolving expectations of likely licensing “revenue” influence budgets, but then make and finance those commitments with confidence from general revenue. Waiting to see what fine licensing “revenue” came in, before selecting the spending that goes with it, would likely occupy staff time when their time can probably be spent on more useful activities.

And what about the summary ticket offences that Animal Control officers issue? Do you think that fine income should also support the Animal Control budget? It currently doesn't. No

If you answered no – why not? My sense is that sustainable, dependable funding is more important than the particular source of that funding. Fine money “revenue” from tickets may well be variable. An alternative would be to have evolving expectations of likely fine “revenue” influence budgets, but then make and finance those commitments with confidence from general revenue. Waiting to see what fine money “revenue” came in, before selecting the spending that goes with it, would likely occupy staff time when their time can probably be spent on more useful activities.

Do you think that HRM Animal Control Officers are currently sufficiently trained for the jobs that they are required to do? No Comment (As of this date, September 29, 2008, I do not know enough about this topic to have an opinion. That may well soon change.)

Do you think that local private rescues should be given access to Municipal funding for the work that they're doing – ie applying for grants to start up and or maintain trap, neuter and release cats in the HRM? Yes (If this means organizations such as Bide Awhile)

Do you feel that in-home doggy day cares are an essential service for dog owners in the Halifax Regional Municipality – especially in your riding? No Comment (don't know)

If you answered no to the above question – why not? I am not (yet?!) a dog owner.

- Cameron Ells

HRM Regional Council Candidate for Downtown Halifax (District 12)

Cameron Ells for Councillor - Downtown Halifax

On Wed, 24 Sep 2008 20:45:29 -0300, "Me and my dogs" <dogkisser@gmail.com> wrote:

- > Hi again from Dog Watch Nova Scotia - I've had some feedback from
- > candidates for the HRM's upcoming election - and the questionnaire I
- > sent out was a bit too long, and the questionnaire too hard to fill
- > out - so I took out a few questions and put the questions in the body
- > of this email - so all you have to do is hit reply and put an "x"
- > after "yes" or "no" to tell us what your answer to the question would
- > be and then send it back and we'll develop our spreadsheet so that the
- > voting dog owning residents of Halifax will have greater insight on
- > October 18th. For those of you who already sent in your answers - I
- > sincerely thank you.
- >
- > Andrew Younger has been in contact with me about the results that I
- > gave out about who voted for Bylaw A300 and I am currently researching
- > the information he gave me and I'll av the corrected information in
- > next week's newsletter.
- >
- > Thank you to everyone for giving dog owners in the HRM this great
- > information for October 18th.
- >
- > Joan Sinden
- >
- > Do you own a dog? Yes No
- >
- > Do you think that the HRM is dog friendly? Yes No
- >
- > Do you think that bylaw A300 puts dogs in danger in the HRM? Yes No
- > No Comment
- >
- > If you answered yes to above – will you do anything to try and see
- > that Bylaw A300 gets the controversial parts of it rewritten after you
- > are elected? Yes No No Comment (ie the section that states a
- > dog attack only has to include a person needing to feel "threatened"
- > to constitute an attack – no actual physical interaction needs to take
- > place).
- >
- > Do you think that the HRM Regional Council has focused too much on
- > domestic animal issues in recent years? Yes No No Comment
- >

Cameron Ells for Councillor - Downtown Halifax

- > As far as you're concerned – would you like the mandate of the new
- > Regional Council for the next four years to stay away from domestic
- > animal issues? Yes No No Comment
- >
- > Do you think that the City should spend several million dollars on a
- > new Municipal shelter? Yes No No Comment
- >
- > Do you think there is sufficient off leash space currently in the HRM?
- > Yes No No Comment
- >
- > Would you like to see some public space dedicated JUST for offleash
- > exercise for dogs, rather than the multi-use parks that currently
- > exist? Yes No No Comment
- >
- > Do you think that dog owners are an important demographic in today's
- > society that's growing – and a demographic that needs to be listened
- > to? Yes No No Comment
- >
- > How do you feel about licensing dogs, do you think the income
- > generated from that money should go back into the Animal Control
- > coffers to pay for that department's budget? Yes No No Comment
- >
- > And what about the summary ticket offences that Animal Control
- > officers issue? Do you think that fine income should also support the
- > Animal Control budget? It currently doesn't. Yes No No Comment
- >
- > If you answered no – why not?
- >
- > Do you think that HRM Animal Control Officers are currently
- > sufficiently trained for the jobs that they are required to do? Yes
- > No No Comment
- >
- > Do you think that local private rescues should be given access to
- > Municipal funding for the work that they're doing – ie applying for
- > grants to start up and or maintain trap, neuter and release cats in
- > the HRM? Yes No No Comment
- >
- > Do you feel that in-home doggy day cares are an essential service for
- > dog owners in the Halifax Regional Municipality – especially in your
- > riding? Yes No No Comment
- >

Cameron Ells for Councillor - Downtown Halifax

> If you answered no to the above question – why not?
>
> Please email back completed questionsnaires to dogkisser@gmail.com by
> hitting reply to this email.
>
> The voting, tax paying dog owners of the Halifax Regional Municipality
> of Halifax sincerely appreciate you taking the time to answer these
> questions – thank you very much – and good luck on October 18th!!
>
>
> On Tue, Sep 23, 2008 at 12:56 PM, Joan Sinden <joan_sinden@yahoo.ca>
> wrote:
>> Hi there - I am a local dog advocate who has been writing a newsletter
>> going out to a little less than a 1,000 local dog owners and local
>> politicians about dog politics - and I've developed a questionnaire
>> that I'm sending out to every candidate in the upcoming HRM election
>> on October 18th.
>>
>> I was hoping that you could take a minute to answer the questions and
>> send them back to me and I will publish your answers before the
>> election so that local dog owners will have some background when they
>> go to the polls on October 18th.
>>
>> I'm sure that a lot of you are dog owners yourself and you realize how
>> important our canine life companions are to us - there is a steadily
>> growing group of people in the HRM who are fiercely dedicated to a
>> lifestyle that includes spending as much time as we can with our dogs
>> - and also ensuring that we give as high quality a lifestyle as we can
>> to the animals that we've pledged a lifetime of love and support to.
>>
>> If you could have the questionnaires back to me by October 5th - that
>> would be absolutely super.
>>
>> I would like to wish you luck on October 18th and I look forward to
>> all your replies back. If you have any questions at all, or if you
>> have any problems opening up the attachments, don't hesitate to reply
>> back to this email or call me at 456-2843.
>>
>> Thanks so much for any attention you can give to this.
>>
>> I am also attaching the latest newsletter that is going out about the

Cameron Ells for Councillor - Downtown Halifax

>> upcoming election. You can read the previous issue at
>> http://dogkisser.ca/dwns_past_issues.html
>>
>> Sincerely,
>>
>> Joan Sinden
>>
>> -
>> --
>> <http://atlanticcanadarescue.ca/>
>> <http://www.youtube.com/user/imadogkisser>
>> <http://picasaweb.google.com/dogkisser>
>> <http://dogkisser.blogspot.com/>
>> <http://charlieloveshalifax.ca/>
>>
>
>
>
>