

To: Ken Partridge, Senior Editor
The Burnside News
June 25, 2010

Response to the Burnside News regarding the “end of Burnside”

I don't think there will ever be an “end of Burnside”. Burnside is a vibrant, wide-ranging area that has taken on a “community” sense in the past few years. Burnside may be limited in the amount of developable land but Burnside will keep growing in other ways. The Industrial Park, Business Park, retail area and the transload section – not to mention the residential neighbourhoods make up this massive space called Greater Burnside. Nearly 20,000 people make Burnside their home for half of their waking hours several times a week, if not more. We work, eat, shop, do business, and are entertained in this wonderfully diverse community.

Over the next 10 to 20 years, a great deal needs to happen in Burnside to maintain Burnside's status as one of, if not, THE premiere location to have a business. We need to concentrate on renewing areas of older Burnside, particularly in the Industrial Park, to “modernize” them to match the standards that are in place in other parts of the Park (wider roads, larger turn lanes, sidewalks, lighting, green space, etc.). We need to look at the current tax structure for Burnside and determine a better way to cut through red tape when we want to develop. As well, we must ensure that we have the infrastructure in place to maintain what we already have – extensive power/gas supply, emergency services, widespread transit service, and acknowledgement from the Province and HRM that Burnside is large enough that we warrant conveniences such as Access Nova Scotia and HRM Customer Service centres. Finally, and maybe most importantly, we need to make business more efficient by having the Burnside Expressway open, thus reducing transport waiting time, commuter time and greenhouse gasses.

As for obtaining more land? Absolutely! HRM should look at continuing to expand Burnside ... the taxes they collect from Burnside alone should be a great incentive. However, a really well thought out plan is necessary prior to moving ahead. With the current space that is not completely developed and any new land, you're looking at increasing the employee base exponentially. That means, more bus service, more cars, more services required. Currently, Burnside is close to passing Downtown Halifax as the largest employee base in the Province and look at all the services and conveniences they have.

If HRM wants to reap the benefit of further tax revenue by expanding beyond the current confines of today's Burnside, there will have to be an extensive support network in place.

Respectfully submitted,

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