

Plenty of Parking Choices on Quinpool Road

This letter is in response to the recent controversy surrounding the use of the car boot to combat illegal parking in private parking lots on Quinpool Road.

The Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association was not consulted on this matter, nor is it in our mandate to take a position on the use of the car boots on Quinpool Road. What happened between the motorist, Subway and the company it hired is a matter to be resolved by those parties.

However, As General Manager for the association, there are some facts I would like to state for the record.

Firstly, there are 12 private lots on Quinpool Road that offer parking for business customers. There are also nine side streets that offer (for the most part) free one-hour parking. In many areas on Quinpool, there is also free parking on both sides, with the exception of rush hour, when motorists are permitted to park on the opposite side of the heavier traffic flow.

Secondly, if motorists still feel there aren't enough parking choices on Quinpool Road, there are four buses that service the street. The No. 1 and No. 14 stop on the corner of Oxford and Quinpool, and the No. 80 and No. 7 stop on the corner of Quinpool and Robie.

Thirdly, with respect to parking, there is clearly marked signage to indicate where and when you can and can't park on Quinpool Road, and the surrounding side streets. There are also large warning signs in each of the three lots where the boot is being employed. For example, Subway has four signs stating its parking policy, two of which explain the boot policy

Fourthly, the boot has been used with great success elsewhere in Canada such as: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Fredericton and Moncton in New Brunswick.

Fifthly, the consensus seems to be that the business owners who use the boot are well within their rights.

The business members on Quinpool Road care about their customers and their parking needs. That is why they provide the parking lots, and pay property taxes and hefty fees to keep the lots salted and cleared of snow.

In fact, the use of the boot grew out of exasperation on the part of the lot owners over the fact that so many non-customers were taking their customer's parking spaces.

The incident that created this controversy has clearly shown the need for us to provide detailed information on the many legal parking spots available to customers on and around Quinpool Road.

That information will appear on our website (www.quinpoolroad.ca) in the upcoming weeks.

We, as a business commission, hope to turn this controversy into an opportunity and to work diligently with the Halifax Regional Municipality to demonstrate to the few people who don't already know that we care very much about our customers and the surrounding community.

And it is to be hoped that this issue does not overshadow the \$6 million Quinpool Road streetscaping project scheduled to begin either in the summer of 2009 or the spring of 2010.

Sincerely,
Karla Nicholson
General Manager
Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association