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Chebucto News

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There's always room at this table



Margo, left, and Sally prepare the 500th meal

by Rebecca Maceachern

It seems only fitting that Joan's Table achieved its milestone 500th meal on March 8, 2021, International Women's Day. After all, Joan's Table honours the life and memory of Joan Mayo, a local woman devoted to serving her community, family and church.

"My mother was of a generation that humbly served in the kitchens and community meeting places...she was a member of the CWA (Catholic Women's League) and took in the church linens," says her daughter,

Catherine Woodman. "Women were the invisible backbone of the community and I think that naming this for her is a way of honouring her with well-deserved profile."

Joan's Table, started in 2017 by Catherine and her daughter, Maura, is a Spryfield-based meal program with over 180 volunteers that provides meals to 12 men who live permanently at the Shelter Nova Scotia-run Herring Cove Apartments. These tenants all previously experienced long-term and chronic homelessness.

It all started when Linda Wilson, the Executive Director of the non-profit Shelter Nova Scotia, said that there was little money available to help feed the men.

"Linda said: 'They're starving up there,' and that really alarmed and concerned me," recalls Catherine. "When I asked what we could do, she (Linda) responded that having a nightly meal would be ideal but my thought was maybe we could do one meal a week."

Step-by step, Joan's Table pro-

gressed from providing that one evening occasional meal to today's achievement of three months of back-to-back donated meals.

"It's thrilling to look at the calendar and to see all of these meals booked," says Catherine. "We hope to maintain this momentum with regular healthy donated meals."

According to Brittney Sinclair, the house manager at the Herring Cove Apartments, the success of Joan's Table is truly making a difference in the lives of the 12 residents while chipping away at the issue of food insecurity at a local level.

"Thanks to Joan's Table we've never been in such a good position with food security that we are in now," wrote Sinclair in an email. "We've seen an improvement in tenants' moods, appointment attendance and sleep. This is all largely thanks to the comfort and wellness that consistent, hearty and nutritious meals have given our tenants."

Margo Kerr, a regular volunteer with Joan's Table, signed-up for that 500th celebratory meal on March 8th.

"It's a privilege to cook for these 12 men and it was totally accidental that we happened to be cooking the 500th meal," wrote Kerr during an email interview. "Nothing better than cooking and delivering a meal with a friend. It's such a good feeling dropping that meal off at the door to be enjoyed."

While a new website, created and designed by Maura and launched in December, has helped to promote Joan's Table and attract new volunteers, it seems the pandemic may also be a reason for the increased interest and involvement.

"Joan's Table lends itself well to the pandemic experience as volunteering in person is constrained," says Catherine. "With this option people (See Joan's table on page 2)

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Joan’s table

(continued from page 1)
contribute from their own kitchens and on their own schedule. It’s a safe way to give.”

The addition of an on-line scheduler has also made it easier for volunteers to book an evening to make and deliver their 12 meals.

“It has been a real game changer... it used to be that I would be there with the phone in one hand and pencil in the other, leaving messages then having to call back and forth, asking will this date work?” says Catherine. “Our work now is promoting and answering questions.”

The beauty of Joan’s Table is that people can volunteer as individuals, partners, families, community groups and work teams to make the meals. Others have donated money for such items as a new freezer or a new barbecue for the Herring Cove Apartments.

“The main objective has been the meals and now new ways of contributing pop up, like putting gifts together for Christmas, Easter baskets, the men’s birthdays...people jump at the chance to contribute...there’s a variety of ways to engage.”

Catherine and Maura marvel at the support they have received from the volunteers near and far as well as local businesses like Sobeys, Mrs. P’s Bakery, the Armview and the Golden Fortune Restaurant.

Shelter Nova Scotia staff are receiving praise for the practice of sending thank you emails to volunteers right after a meal is delivered and enjoyed. This helps volunteers know their donation and hard work is deeply appreciated.



Maura and Catherine celebrate Joan’s Table’s 500th meal

Joan’s Table has “grown and flourished”, says Catherine, and now involves lots of Joan’s extended family members like daughters, nieces and grandchildren who routinely contribute from across Canada.

“My mother taught us the impor-

tance of community service,” said Catherine. “She would be pretty honoured and pleased, especially to see how much her family is involved.”

For more information about Joan’s Table please check out the following link: <https://www.joanstable.com/>

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Dan Doherty 902-479-6397
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Spring has sprung!



CANSTOCK PHOTO

by Lorrie Boylen

Spring has sprung! Plants are peeking out and preparing to put on a show from now until fall. What can you do to help prepare your yard?

You'll notice that a lot of trash has blustered around during the winter months. Do yourself a favour and start cleaning up some of this litter while it's still easily accessible, before greenery starts growing up around it. Just slip on a pair of gloves and take a walk around your yard with a bag and pick up all that rubbish. While you're at it, clean up the ditch and roadside in and around your property as well. Your neighbours and the environment will be grateful!

Take note of any broken deck boards, loose steps or patio stones which have heaved up throughout the winter and take the time now to repair them. The temperatures are comfortable for working outside at this time of year, and there's no annoying mosquitoes and blackflies!

Take your patio furniture out of storage and give it a good scrub. You can assess whether any pieces need to be repaired or replaced so you're not left scrambling as the weather gets nicer.

Thoroughly clean and sterilize your plant pots if you are reusing some from previous years. A mild bleach solution should kill any unwanted germs and fungus so you don't unwittingly infect any new seeds or transplants.

Hopefully you left your plant stems, seed heads and leaf waste in the garden last fall. In addition to providing sculptural interest and food for the birds who overwinter here, they also provide shelter for hibernating pollinators and beneficial insects and their larvae, nymphs, eggs and pupae. To protect these little critters, hold off clearing the plant waste from your gardens now or you'll be doing your garden a disservice.

Ideally, garden debris would be left on top of the soil year 'round, as it provides an ideal habitat for these creatures. When you eventually snap the tops off your stems, leave at least

half the stem intact. These stems will be hidden when your plants grow up around them. Laying the trimmed off stems and seed heads on top of the soil will provide continued protection, and eventually this organic matter will compost down to feed the microorganisms, fungi, bacteria, nematodes, arthropods and protozoa. These all contribute to the soil health and the ultimate wellbeing of your plants, and you won't need chemicals to keep your yard looking gorgeous.

If you really can't stand the untidy look of spent plants on top of the soil, you can cover this later in the spring, after soil has warmed and the sleeping

insects have had a chance to emerge. A good mulch applied later in the spring will help reduce erosion from wind and rain, retain soil moisture during the drier summer months, and will break down over time to create a thriving soil web beneath the surface.

Create a plan for what you're going to grow this year. In addition to your tried and true favourites, why not pick up something new to try? You never know, you might discover a new love to add to your list of must haves for next year. Have a walk around a local greenhouse or few to get some ideas. Talk to your neighbours to find out what works for them. Check out the Spryfield Urban Farm Museum for some ideas.

Start turning your compost pile so that the healthy microbes receive the oxygen they need to do their work. Adding manure or seaweed to the pile can accelerate the process, but if you don't have access to that, there are commercially available compost accelerators available for purchase.

There are lots of different styles of compost setups to explore, including vermicomposting, which utilizes the voracious appetites of red wiggler worms to quickly turn food waste into black gold for your garden. Added bonus: It's a fun and fascinating way to teach kids about the composting process.

With a little sweat equity now, your yard can look spectacular this summer and you'll have more time to sit back and enjoy it during the warm weather.

(Lorrie Boylen is a Freelance Writer, Administrative and Communications Professional and CBC Radio's Community Contact for Sambro)

Williams Lake Dam—fix it now or mud flats again this summer

“The engineering firm YMCL Engineering was requested to submit an estimate and plan for investigation of the dam structure. This investigation was completed early in 2005 with bore holes indicating the substructure of the dam was eroded and effectively there was ‘nothing’ under the visible part of the dam.

This was also evident from observations that the stream behind the dam continued to flow strongly to the Arm even when the lake water was several meters distant from the front of the dam due to drought”- Williams Lake Conservation Company website.



Williams Lake Dam 2016. Credit: Williams Lake Conservation Company website

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DISCOVERING OUR PAST

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Public schools named for prominent citizens

by Iris V. Shea

Several schools in Mainland South were named for the community in which they were located, but the schools mentioned in this article honoured prominent educators and statesmen.

William King School on St. Paul’s Avenue in Herring Cove opened in 1963 and was named in memory of Colonel William King who died in Herring Cove on 11 December 1952. Colonel King’s gravestone in St. James Anglican Church cemetery reads “A native of Clifton, Bedfordshire, England.” He came to Nova Scotia in 1880 as a young man with the Imperial Army, married Josephine Baker of Herring Cove in 1888, served in the Far East and as a volunteer during World War I before settling in Herring Cove. His obituary states he was instrumental in the re-organization of the Herring Cove School and served as secretary to the trustees.

G.K. Butler School was given the name in memory of a prominent educator. A former principal of Alexander School in Halifax, Mr. Butler became supervisor of Halifax Public Schools in 1916 retiring in 1935. He died 17 January 1937 in Halifax. G.K. Butler School opened under the name of West Spryfield School in 1954 and changed to G.K. Butler in the early 1970s. This school closed in 1981. The Captain William Spry Community Centre is located on the former school site.

Ida Mae Marriott School opened on Lyons Avenue in 1957 and closed in 1983. Named for one of Spryfield’s former teachers, Ida Mae Marriott was born in Spryfield, the daughter of Amos Yeadon and Lalia Bashford. She taught for many years in Spryfield at the Little Red Schoolhouse, the Bungalow, and at Central School. Mrs. Marriott, wife of Otis Marriott, died in Halifax on 30 September 1951 at the age of 63 years.

Captain William Spry School, originally North Spryfield School, was located on Arnold Avenue in Spryfield. Built the same time as West Spryfield School, the name was changed following the 1969 amalgamation. A senior citizens’ housing complex is now located on the site. Captain William Spry was a military engineer and chief engineer for Nova Scotia who, between 1769 and 1780, developed a productive farm on his 1500 acres which became known as Spry’s Field and, eventually, Spryfield. The school was built on part of his 80-acre land grant.

Elizabeth Sutherland School on Rockingstone Road opened in September 1958 and honours the memory of Spryfield’s first schoolteacher,



John W. MacLeod, grade 2 and 3, April 1952. Photograph courtesy Barrie MacLeod
Back Row, Linda Kelly, Bertha Slaunwhite, Sharon Westhaver, Renee Hopkins, Valerie Sabados, Michael Scarfe, Donnie (Duckie) Innes, Harry Gordon, Cecil Mosher; Middle Row, Karen Burns, Hazel Walker, Linda keeping, Ardith Ford, Edith Blois, Suzanne Fpster, Patricia Wade, Linda Hollett, Marilyn Giles, Peggy Cameron, Lynn Houghton; Front Row, Earl Boutilier, David Farwell, Jackie Lilly, Bobby Manuel, Billy Brooks, Errol Pierce, Barrie MacLeod, David Melvin, Donnie Publicover, Feddie Gordon, Wayne Findlay, Keith Innes

Elizabeth “Bessie” Sutherland (1841-1925). Born in Spryfield, she was the daughter of George Sutherland and Mary Ann Carmichael and is buried in Emmanuel cemetery, the site of Spryfield’s first church and schoolhouse where Miss Sutherland taught her first class in 1859.

B.C. Silver School was given its name in honour of Basil C. Silver who was Inspector of Schools for Halifax County for many years. There are many of us today who recall this tall, silver-haired, impeccably dressed gentleman who visited our classrooms each year during the 1940s and 1950s. The school, located at the end of Pinegrove Drive, opened as a high school in 1962 and became a junior high when J.L. Ilsley School opened. This school closed its doors to Spryfield students in 2001 and remained empty for several years. A housing subdivision, named Silver Estates, is now located

on the site.

J.L. Ilsley High School on Sylvia Avenue opened in 1971 and continues to operate as a high school, serving the entire Mainland South area. A replacement school, also named J.L. Ilsley, is due to open nearby in the September of 2021. James Lorimer Ilsley, a Nova Scotian after whom the school was named, was first elected to represent Nova Scotia in federal parliament in 1926. He rose to national prominence during World War II as Minister of Finance in Prime Minister MacKenzie King’s cabinet. Ilsley became Chief Justice for Nova Scotia in 1950, hence the name “The Judges” for the school’s sports teams. Judge Ilsley died in Halifax at the age of 73 years on 14 January 1967. He served his country and his province well.

John W. MacLeod School on the Purcell’s Cove Road opened in 1948. John W. MacLeod was a

former schoolteacher, was founder of the Greenwood Coal Company in Pictou County, and donated the land on which this school was built. He died 23 January 1964 in New Glasgow at the age of 86 years.

Fleming Tower School, is located at 25 Randolph Street in Fleming Heights. Named for Sir Sandford Fleming who owned the property during his lifetime, its first principal was Gladys Redmond. The school opened as an Elementary School in 1962 and operates today under the name John W. MacLeod-Fleming Tower Elementary School.

Old Cunard School in Jollimore was built in 1867 on a one-acre site that William Cunard purchased from John Jollimore for the express purpose of a school. This school was named for William Cunard, son of Sir Samuel Cunard. During his time in Halifax William Cunard paid the teacher’s salary at Old Cunard School. William Cunard and his family relocated to England in 1871 to look after the family business, Cunard Steamship Line, on that side of the Atlantic. William died in England in 1906. Following his death, his heirs sold the one-acre school lot to the trustees of old Cunard School. A municipal playground on the corner of Albion and Kirk Roads is now located on the site of the old school grounds.

Cunard Junior High School on William’s Lake Road opened in 1965 and records show it was named for Sir Samuel Cunard (1787-1865). A native born Haligonian, Samuel Cunard was founder of Cunard Steamship Line, a series of trans-Atlantic steamships that revolutionized the world of 19th century travel.

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If you would like to support the Centre’s pre or postnatal support programs visit www.chebuctofamily-centre.ca.

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Call the Centre 902 479-3031 for a calendar of activities and classes.

Pre and post natal support—smoothing the entry to parenting

by Meg McCallum, Executive Director, Chebucto Family Centre

Pregnancy and the early weeks following birth are precious times for new and experienced parents, but they can also be overwhelming. Physical discomfort, uncertainty, challenges, loss of sleep, and worry can overload parents.

The Chebucto Family Centre, located at 3 Sylvia Avenue, Spryfield, offers a number of free programs that can be helpful for expectant and new parents.

Prenatal Classes for expectant parents run for six weeks per session and cover topics such as prenatal and postnatal care, healthy lifestyles, labour and delivery, the role of the support person, breastfeeding, newborn care, adjustment to parenting, and community resources. The Centre also provides postnatal support for

new parents along with breastfeeding support. A Volunteer Doula Program is also a part of the Centre’s pre and post-natal care and support programs for families throughout the HRM.

The Centre offers free child care during all programming and offers baby and toddler playgroups, story time, and rock and rhyme programs for young families.

A free four week Infant massage class is available at the Centre for all parents of infants. Infant massage is a fun way to interact with your baby, while providing nurturing loving touch that has many benefits. Studies show that regular infant massage promotes growth and development, stimulates nerves, increases blood flow, strengthens the immune system, stimulates digestion and improves sleep. It also helps parents learn to

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Theatre Arts Guild takes steps to create digital content

Reprinted with permission from the TAG March Newsletter
TAG is taking steps to produce digital content by amalgamating The Telescope Theatre Project into its program. On 1 February, 2021, TAG's executive board voted unanimously to accept a proposal by Telescope to assimilate them into TAG. The Telescope Theatre Project is a collaborative company of storytelling enthusiasts, dedicated to the production of lost/ forgotten, and developing works of poetry, prose, and plays through various media, including: live theatre,

and audio and/or visual presentations. Its artistic directors are Joshua Law and Kaylon Fraser. Telescope's digital programming includes Radio Telescope, which produces original and little known plays adapted for radio, and The Poetry Nebula, showcasing original and fascinating poems throughout time. With this amalgamation, community members now have further opportunities to engage in storytelling by submitting pieces, either of their own creation and/or of their interest to direct.

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Pie (Pi) Day at St. Paul’s United Church

by Carolyn Mont
The title of this article is, perhaps intentionally, somewhat misleading. No, we are not selling pies at St. Paul’s. Rather, Pie Day, March 14, is a day celebrated in United Churches across Canada. The date is significant and some of you may remember from those long ago math classes that the number 3.14 is represented by the Greek letter Pi, pronounced pie. That number, 3.14, is a very unusual number in that it goes on to infinity. It makes sense that the 14th day of the third month is Pi day. In the United Church, Affirm United has adopted the day to be PIE/ National Affirming Day. The acronym PIE reminds us that our journey to be inclusive of LGBTQIA2S+ needs to be Public, Intentional and Explicit.

That may sound very complicated but what it really means is that the United Church of Canada, very intentionally, welcomes everyone and on this day, PIE Day, we especially celebrate those in the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

The United Church does not have a communion service every week but we do on PIE DAY. Since we are not yet back to in person worship at St. Paul’s United, communion is a bit different from our norm. The elements of communion, bread and wine, are symbolic and during the pandemic, worship over Zoom has meant that we use elements from our own kitchens for communion. For PIE DAY, however, we made small tarts, or “pies”, for members of the congregation who wished to pick them up from the church the day before. These then served as the bread during communion.

Easter is almost upon us and there will be some changes here as well. On Good Friday, local churches have gotten together and are going to collectively conduct a Prayer Walk through the “village” of Spryfield. They will gather at Emmanuel Church at 8:45am for registration and Covid details. The walk will start at 9:00am and proceed as far as the Captain Spry Community Centre, then back along the Herring Cove Rd as far as Spry Ave. This will be the turning point as the walk continues back to Emmanuel Church. Rev. Anne Hoganson of St. Paul’s United, quoting from last month’s Chebucto News, said “This walk will be an important visible sign that local

churches have been present and active throughout the pandemic, and that we continue to pray and work together for the wellbeing of the whole community.” All are welcome to join for this walk.
Good Friday (7:00pm) and Easter morning (11:00 am communion), services will be on Zoom. If anyone not on our email list wishes to join us on Zoom, please call the church office at 902-477-3937 or email stpaulschurch@EastLink.ca to be added to the list and to be sent an invitation.
For many years, St. Paul’s United has welcomed Easter Sunday with a

Sunrise Service at the Dingle. This year, we will have a Sunrise Service but at the church, at 173 Old Sambro Rd. That will be at 7:00am on Sunday, April 4. We hope to have the service on the pergola in our community garden, weather permitting. Otherwise, it will be under the covered driveway at the front of the church.
On Saturday, May 8, we will be holding a Boutique Flea Market. Lots of people have asked what that means. It will be slightly different from other flea markets in that we will have items divided into departments, as

in a department store. We have been collecting items for sale, accepting only clean items in good condition. Some of the departments are yet to be determined, depending upon what items we receive but there will probably be a pantry, kitchen department, accessories department, book room, decor department, household items, Christmas department and sports department. We would love to have you come to our Boutique Flea Market and bring your friends. The doors will open at 10:00am and we will close at 1:00pm. We look forward to seeing you. Mask wearing and social distancing will be required.

Wildlife corridors—living with nature



Doe and fawn in Whyte’s garden PHOTO: JENNY WHYTE

by Cathy Vaughn
The four-legged, silent marauders mow down your azaleas and roses then decimate your hosta beds. A stand of white birch is chewed to bits and disappears over night. Canadian geese camp on your lawn, leaving their nasty deposits. A murder of crows commandeers your pine trees for their noisy nurseries. You can fight back, or you can move over. You are in their wildlife corridor.
Corridors are well established and frequently travelled routes across lands, highways, and your gardens. These routes allow the movement of animals who need to travel distances to forage on seasonal food, to find mates, and to locate denning sites. Of-

ten, wildlife will follow water courses that connect various grazing habitats. HRM planners are aware of this land use and of the impact buildings and highways have on obstructing these vital wildlife corridors.
“Currently, the municipality is in the process of completing a review of the Regional Plan, which is the document that guides growth and development at a regional scale. As part of the review, we will be working to develop a land use policy to better protect these wildlife corridors during development applications. Additional study is needed to understand how

we can best protect these corridors at a regional scale, while managing the impact of individual developments,” says Kathleen Fralic, Planner III, Regional & Community Policy, Halifax Regional Municipality.
There are three important rezoning applications before HRM council affecting large tracts of natural habitat and wildlife corridors in the Spryfield area - Church of Christ lands on Williams Lake next to the Shaw Wilderness Park, the lot at 48-50 Old Sambro Road, and the Purcell’s Cove Backlands. These lands hold well used wildlife corridors according to the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP).
The HGNP “provides land management and community design direction to: maintain ecologically and culturally important land and aquatic systems; promote the sustainable use of natural resources and economically important open spaces; and identify, define and plan land suited for parks and corridors.”
“Today, more people are living in residential developments that were once relatively undisturbed wildlife habitat. These people are now living with wildlife,” says the Nova Scotia Department of Lands & Forestry’s website. Their website has list of useful topics on how to live with our four-legged neighbours and stay out of their way. To find out more go to <https://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/living-with-wildlife/>
If properly trained, we can be an animal’s best friend.



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What’s Happening at the Urban Farm

Photos: Joshua Barss Donham



From atop a birch tree on the farm a song sparrow sings for all the world to hear

by Joshua Barss Donham
Spring is in the air at the Urban Farm. The mourning doves that have spent most of the time this winter roosting in the north-east corner of the farm are restless. Lately, breeding pairs have been busily engaged in preening each other. The male cardinals have left the winter shelter of the rose thickets and have taken to crooning from the tops of trees. During the winter the song sparrows hunkered down in the alders and multiflora roses that grow along Kidston Pond, across the road from the farm. They are back on the farm now, one announcing his presence in full song from atop a dogwood, another has taken up his post in the upper branches of a maple near the entrance to the farm...nesting season is afoot.

April sees the appearance of the first butterflies. Spring azures, tiny butterflies with a wingspan of about an inch and the color of the sky on a sunny day, emerge this month. The overwintering generation have spent many months as chrysalides deep in the shelter of piles of leaves. After they emerge, this generation will only live for a day or two. They mate almost immediately, and the females lay their eggs on the flower buds of dogwood and early blooming Viburnum on which the larvae feed. The caterpillars hatch just as the shrubs are beginning to bloom in early May.

The great blue herons began arriving in Nova Scotia last month, back from their wintering grounds in southern New England and down the eastern coast to Florida. We may chance to see one at Kidston Pond as they pass through on their way to nesting

colonies. In late July and August, after their young have fledged, the herons return regularly to feed at the pond. Standing at over a meter tall, and with formidable sharp bills, herons feed on fish, amphibians, and insects by stealth and patience. In the space of a half hour, a heron may travel only a few meters along the pond’s edge. From time to time they are seen flying over the farm, heading for the little inlet at Long Lake, where Dunbrack meets the Old Sambro Rd, where they like to feed in the early morning.

Kidston Brook flows out of the pond and right past the farm on its way down the hill and into McIntosh Run. Damselflies of all sort patrol and light on the tangles of multiflora roses that wall the farm on the east side, and on warm summer afternoon dragonflies visit the garden cruising up and down the garden rows in search of flies to eat. Especially striking are the ebony jewelwing damselflies, with black wings and metallic blue-green bodies. In midsummer the female damselfly lays her eggs in shallow, slow moving sections of the brook. These hatch into nymphs which spend the winter in the stream, feeding on aquatic insects and worms, and even small fish. Nymphs go through 11 or 12 molts as they grow. In June they crawl up plants and shed their skin once more, emerging as adult damselflies. Dragonflies, damselflies, and mosquitoes that emerge from the pond and stream provide food for the song sparrows and other birds on the farm before seeds and fruit are available.

Applications for garden plots are accepted in April. You must be a 2021 UFMSS member to apply. Gardening

will begin in late May.

Our Seedy Saturday Plant Sale is May 29. We welcome seedlings, cuttings, plants and seed donations.

The UFMSS 25th Birthday celebration has been moved from April 18 to October 17.

We invite you to become a volunteer board member for a 2 year term. Contact Pat, 902-497-3683 or email patricia.bmaclean@gmail.com. Yearly membership dues: Seniors/ Students \$5, Individuals \$10, Families \$15, Groups/Organizations \$25. Charitable receipts are issued for dues and donations over \$10. Please indicate on your membership form if your family wishes to be part of our CGWU program for 2021. For info and forms contact Ann at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117594394923932/> or email urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com.

Your support for UFMSS is greatly appreciated!



A great blue heron picks its way along the shore at Kidston Pond



An ebony jewelwing damselfly rests in the sun at the bottom of the field

The History of Theatre Arts Guild: 90 years and counting famous names



PHOTO BY WOLFGANG FROM PEXELS

Reprinted with permission from TAG's March Newsletter
by Judy Reade, TAG'S Archivist
With a history of 90 years, Theatre Arts Guild has meant many things to many people over time. The term we generally use to describe TAG's role today is community theatre, with community having two meanings – providing a place of entertainment for the area around us (and beyond) and being a non-profit organization whose members are amateurs and therefore are not paid. (Yes, we're all volunteers, which, given our longevity and achievements, some folk have found hard to believe). Being amateurs however, and not earning a living from the arts does not mean that we lack knowledge and experience! It has been the case that, over the decades, there have always been some members who hold a degree in theatre or music or who have received training within the professional realm. Before such training and opportunities were available in our province (Neptune Theatre opened in July 1963, when TAG had already been in existence for 32 years), the Playhouse provided "ground zero" for those who aspired to make acting their career. Walter Borden will be a name familiar to many and, after bringing his talents to TAG, he joined Neptune Theatre in 1972 and also spent time with the Stratford Festival in Ontario. Perhaps you remember him as His Dark Shadow in the television sci-fi series Lexx, which featured several Hollywood luminaries – Rutger Hauer, Malcolm McDowell, Maury Chaykin and Barry Bostwick among others. This series provided an opportunity for many in the local theatre community to take a (small) part, David Renton and John Dunsworth should be included here – as TAG alumni! Jeremy Akerman, a former President of TAG was a cast member too. Another name familiar to many will be Joan Gregson, who began her long career as an actress at TAG with a role in King of Hearts

(1956), after being taken by her mother to see a performance. The tale is told that the young Ms. Gregson felt she could do better than those she had watched at the Playhouse and, with determination, became a valued member. The amateur theatre world in Halifax enjoyed her presence for a while (she was known for playing ingénue roles with the Guild), but she moved on to local radio dramas with the CBC, and then to the Neptune troupe for thirty-one years. A move to Toronto in the 1990s was made to explore further opportunities and she has continued with what is now a long-lasting career in film and television series. Perhaps you have seen her in the popular Murdoch Mysteries or in programmes based on the Anne of Green Gables stories. A long career could also be claimed for Joan Orenstein, whose talent TAG was able to enjoy for a while before she travelled to perform at major theatres across the country. I include Ms. Orenstein to be able to point out that she performed in one of TAG's landmark ventures – the performance of The Highland Heart in Nova Scotia in Halifax (with a tour to various towns afterwards) in 1967, as part of Nova Scotia's celebrations for the country's Centennial Year. This play by Donald Wetmore was one of the largest presentations ever by TAG, with a cast of 34, including 6 children. Joan Orenstein has the distinction also of being the only TAG alumna to win a Genie for her role in the Thom Fitzgerald film The Hanging Garden (1967). The individuals I have been able to highlight are examples of those who got their feet wet at Theatre Arts Guild, but then moved on to professional work in theatre, television and films. We have however benefited from those who have taken the reverse path – who have accumulated professional experience first and then enriched our amateur organization by their presence and participation. My husband remembers fondly working with Robert (Bob) Walsh,

who had been a professional actor in both England and Canada and was a good friend of Mrs. Bernice Ross, TAG's fairy godmother, who provided great financial support at the time our move was made to the former St. Augustine's Church Hall in 1966. In fact, it was only the generosity of Mrs. Ross in taking over the mortgage on the property which made the move possible. Austin's introduction to the Guild was assisting on lighting for a production of The Caretaker by Harold Pinter at a Drama League Festival in 1985, featuring Bob as a wonderful snuffling, whining old man in an unhappy existence in a messy flat with two unsavoury youths. Also with professional experience in Britain, including appearances in the popular crime program The Bill, we remember fondly the late Vanessa Walton-Bone, married to Ralph Urquhart, musical director for our pantomimes. Vanessa made a valuable contribution to any play in which she acted and brought attention to our theatre group through her pairing with Phil Reid in The Lover (again by Harold Pinter) both at TAG and at the Liverpool International Theatre Festival in 2008, with Vanessa being awarded the prize for Best Actress and the piece being named Outstanding Canadian Produc-

tion. My favourite memory of Vanessa is her acting in Dancing at Lughnasa in 2005. A particular photograph in our archives captures the essence of her part as she looks out of the window of the farmhouse she shares with her sisters and thinks over the limited life she leads in Ireland. Dancing at Lughnasa is a drama, but Vanessa had great fun in a professional capacity at Neptune Theatre as Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest. It's always gratifying to hear of TAG members and alumni succeeding in a professional career, even though their time at The Pond Playhouse might have been brief. I'm thinking here of Josh Cruddas, who was our young prince in the pantomime Beauty and the Beast (2010) and there's a great shot of Josh enjoying himself at the ball in the finale of this pantomime. Josh's training was in the theatre programme at Dalhousie University and he moved then to parts in local productions (you may remember Call Me Fitz, filmed in New Minas). Now he can claim movie roles in the same films as Jason Mamoia, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (The Silencing, 2020) and Mads Mikkelsen and Vanessa Hudgens (Polar, 2019). Go Josh, go all our stars past and present – go, TAG!



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LOCAL OBITUARIES

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd. 902-477-5601

Marie Louise Burns

Age 80, Portuguese Cove, passed away February 21, 2021 at Parkstone Enhanced Care. Born in Cheticamp, she was a daughter of the late Hubert and Mary (Poirier) LeBlanc. Marie was strong in her faith attending St. Anne’s and St. Peter’s Churches. She loved working in her flower beds and gardens and her trips to Cape Breton. Marie will be dearly missed by her husband, Alex Burns, her sons, John and Eugene (Helen Gilbert), whom she adored; brothers, Jimmy (Linda), Leonard (Annette) and Joseph; sisters, Lillian LeForte, Rose Larade (Peter), Mary McPhee (Cletus), Cecile St. Jean (Armand), Pauline Johnson (Guy), Marie Agnes Gauthier (Robert), Stella LaBlanc, Geraldine LeBlanc and Jeannine LeBlanc; her adored grandson, Eugene Jr.; step granddaughter, Cynthia MacDonald; step great granddaughter, Brendalee MacDonald and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by brothers, Joseph, Lawrence, Leonard and Patrick; sisters, Evelyn Jordan and Helen Aucoin To leave words of comfort for the family please visit www.walkerfh.com.

Anna Amelia Giles

Halifax, passed away February 21, 2021 at Melville Lodge. Born in Fort Augustus, P.E.I., she was a daughter of the late Leo and Annie (Lavery) Savident. Anna was a proud P.E.I. girl. She is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Donald Giles; brother, Henry, P.E.I.; sisters in law, Joan Savident, P.E.I. and Dorothy Rudolph, Herring Cove; nieces, Joanne Roach (Jason), P.E.I. and Naomi Rudolph (Jason), Halifax; Lori Linden, Ont. and nephew, Scot Baker. She was predeceased by sister, Georgina Baker; brothers, Gus and Joe; special aunt Bridget and nephews, David Savident and Rex Baker. Condolences may be left on her tribute page by visiting walkerfh.com.

Earl Archibald Umlah Jr.

Of Halifax, formerly of East Lake Ainslie, Nova Scotia and Holliston, Massachusetts, age 71, died peacefully on February 8th 2021. Husband of the late Charlotte Ann (MacKenzie) Umlah. Survived by his children, Breton of Dartmouth, NS and Ainslee and her wife Joanna of Dartmouth, NS. Loving brother of Donald and wife Lynne of Mesa, AZ, Richard and wife Marie of Inverness, NS and Andover, Mass, Ronald and wife Linda of Mesa, AZ and East Lake Ainslie, NS, and the late John Umlah. Earl was a big man with a big heart. He was a devoted son, husband and father, and deeply dedicated to his family. He loved Cape Breton music and culture, and was a regular fixture at the dances all over Inverness County. Earl could take just about anything apart and put it back together again, from cars to radio transmitters to watches. Although illness marked his recent years, his determination and zeal for life and his wry sense of humour were with him until the very end. A grin from Earl would light up the whole room. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to East Lake Ainslie Presbyterian Church, Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital or St. Vincent’s Nursing Home of Halifax. Condolences may be left on her tribute page by visiting walkerfh.com.

Christopher Allen Morris

Age 63, Halifax, passed away February 25, 2021 at home. Born in Lincolnville, he is a son of Marybelle Morris and the late Charles “Goldie” Reddick. He is survived by his partner Mona Atkins; daughters, Chastity Morris, Shawla Morris Shaylene Morris, Savannah Morris, Christina Simon and Michelle Mosey; sons, David Morris, Tico Morris, Charles Atkins, Fred Gero, Damon Douglas,

Kenneth Simon and Joey McLean; brothers, Barry, Ivan, Charlie, Karl and Perry; sister, Florence; numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother David. Arrangements are under the care of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd. Condolences may be left on his tribute page by visiting walkerfh.com.

Andrea Maria Leimbach

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Andrea Maria Leimbach at the age of 54 due to cancer. Andrea was the daughter of Marlene and the late Horst Leimbach. She is survived by her partner, best friend and love of her life, Barry Hartlen. Andrea was a graduate of Halifax West High School, followed high school at NBCC, completing her accounting and business degree. Andrea worked at Air Liquide Canada for 22 years as a Cylinder Asset Control Agent AKA “The Cylinder Queen” and loved her job dearly. Andrea was an avid sports fan and loved the beach. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. To leave words of comfort for the family please visit www.walkerfh.com.

Mary Theresa Hubley

Of Halifax, we are sad to announce the peaceful passing of our dear mother Mary Theresa Hubley at the age of 91 on March 16, 2021. Daughter of the late Annie and James Callaghan of Fort Augustus P.E.I. Mom grew up on the family farm in P.E.I. with her brothers and sisters. Mom worked at the Camphill Hospital for 35 years where she made many lifelong friends. She was always up for a shopping trip, reading her rag mags and enjoying the many cats and dogs she had over the years. She and Dad shared a great love for animals which passed down to us children. She is survived by her children, Roger, Sandra (Michael), Mary (Kenneth), Janet (Carmen), Allan, Paul and Dianne (Thom); brother, Joseph; sisters, Shirley, Donna and Colleen; seven grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren She is predeceased by her husband of 57 years John Hubley; brothers, Maurice, Edwin, Francis and Vincent in infancy and sister, Ernestine. The family would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the staff at Arbourstone Enhanced Care for the kindness and care they gave our mother. To leave words of comfort for the family please visit www.walkerfh.com.

Joseph Eugene Grandy

Age 61, of Halifax passed away unexpectedly March 15, 2021 in the QEII from cancer. He is a son of the late Eugene and Mary (Fitzgerald)


Schmeisser-Grandy. He is survived by his wife, Stella; and beloved daughter, Katie; brothers, Jim, Paul and Lloyd; sisters, Cecilia, Marion, Susan and Georgina; as well as numerous extended family. He was predeceased by his son, Joseph; brothers, Jack, Billy and Tom; in-laws, George and Kay Leaman; brother-in-law, Cyril; and niece, Tammy. He is a retired Halifax longshoreman, working for over 35 years. Eugene had a great sense of humour and loved the simple life, being home with family, golf, nascar, his ride-on mower, herbs, his kitty cats, and cheering on the Montreal Canadians with his son by his side. With the loss of his son Joseph went a piece of his heart and life was never the same. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. To leave words of comfort for the family please visit www.walkerfh.com.

Brayden Andrew William Murray

It is with heavy hearts the family announces the passing of baby Brayden, on March 13, 2021. He was a son of Valen Forrest and Brandon Murray. He is survived by his brother - Landen; sisters - McKenna and Maci; Grandparents - Derrick and Faye Forrest, Billy and Shirley Murray; Great-Grandmother - Geraldine Forrest; Aunts - Sabrina (Blake) Forrest, Brittany (Bobby) Delaney, Alicia (Shaun) Faulkner; and many loving cousins. He is predeceased by his Great-Grandparents - Alexander Forrest, Linda and Wayne Slaunwhite, William Murray; and Cousin - Andrew Forrest. The family would like to thank the EHS Paramedics, and nurses Theresa, Veronica and Freda from the 7th floor IWK. To leave words of comfort for the family please visit www.walkerfh.com.

Beverley Anne DeYoung


Age 73, Halifax, long time resident of Kline Heights, passed away March 13, 2021, with her family by her side, at the V.G. Site, QEII. Born in Halifax, she was a daughter of the late George and Mary Anna “Anna” DeYoung. She was a resident at Cowie Hill Lodge, where she enjoyed bingo, pool, fixing cars and other activities with her many friends and neighbors who she loved like family and loved her. She was a country music fan and also loved walks and picnics with her friends and family at the Dingle Park. She is survived by daughter, Paula; son Paul “Fuzzy” both of Halifax; granddaughters Shelbie and Kaylee (Tyler); fur babies Meko, Jaxx and Charlie; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and one special niece Barbara. She was predeceased by sisters, Kay, Eileen and Margaret; brothers, James, Michael, Donald
(See Obituaries on page 11)



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Sports Page

Spryfield Attack playoff roundup



Game one of the playoffs took place on March 13 at the arena in Spryfield. The Attack beat Sackville 6-0. According to Steve Adams, “Our scoring was balanced, with all lines contributing.” Justin Hubley stopped 31 shots for the shutout. Newly acquired Gabe Walters scored in his first Junior C game and John Shubaly was steady on Defence, breaking up plays and moving the puck with precision.

Game two of a three game play-off series took place on March 14th at the Sackville Arena. The Attack defeated the Sackville Knights 5-1. Justin Hubley kept his impressive scoreless streak intact, stopping a penalty shot in the second period. However, it ended at 108.43 the third. Dylan Macdonald had 2 goals, while Luke McOnie and Achim Duerr-Farrell added singles. Kae-gan Murphy scored his first play-off goal, rounding out the scoring.

The next round of the playoffs saw the Attack face off against the

East Hants Ryson Construction Penguins. On Friday March 19th the Spryfield Attack hosted the Penguins for game one of the Semi-finals. The Attack had a 2-0 lead after one period of play, and built it to 3-0 after two. Final score was 4-1 in favour of the Attack.

On Saturday March 20th the Attack were in the East Hants area for game two of the semi-finals. At the end of the first period, the Attack trailed 2-0. With a big second period, they had a 5-3 lead going into the third. The team held off a relentless effort by East Hants to hang on for a 5-4 win and a 2-0 series lead.

Update at publication deadline:

- Saturday, March 27 results: East Hants 4, Spryfield 1; Spryfield leading best of seven playoffs 2-1.
- Sunday, March 28 results: East Hants 6, Spryfield 3; Series now tied 2-2.

WANTED: Sports Writer

Chebucto News is looking for a new reporter to cover sports events in Spryfield! If you have an interest in writing, the time to cover and report on at least one event a month, and are interested in this **volunteer position**, please email the editor at: chebuctoeditor@gmail.com.



OBITUARIES

(continued from page 10)
and Gordon and many aunts and uncles. To leave words of comfort for the family please visit www.walkerfh.com.

Don Hopkins

Age 89, passed away suddenly at home on March 11, 2021. Born in Halifax, he was a lifelong resident of Melville Cove. Don was the son of the late Ralph and Renee Hopkins. After retirement from his career at Simpsons and The Bay, he enjoyed his daily walks to the Dingle and Frog Pond to visit friends and bring treats for his crows. He was an avid sportsman and a star hockey player. The “famous Halifax line” of Hopkins, Cruickshank and Bailey became provincial champions going semi-pro winning the Memorial Cup. Don sailed and raced out of the Armdale Yacht Club and participated in the Marblehead race. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and was for many years a member of the Mayflower Curling Club. When he married Doris, he became a devoted

husband, loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather to her family. Don was never happier than when surrounded by children including his many nieces and nephews. Don

is survived by daughters Heather Boudreau (Al), Marion-Anne Tobin (Ken); grandchildren, Suzanne Boudreau (David Fader), Andre Boudreau (Michelle), Sheri Tobin, Kevin Tobin (Tanya); and many great-grandchildren. Don was predeceased by his wife, Doris; brother, Ralph (Ginny); sisters, Mitzi Scarfe and Renee Flemming (Claude). To view or place an online message of condolence, please visit: www.jasnowfuneralhome.com

Shirley Mae (Freeman) Adams of Greenfield, Queens County (formerly of Spryfield), passed away suddenly on Monday, March 1st, 2021, in South Shore Regional Hospital, Bridgewater.

Born in Greenfield, she was a daughter of the late Harley and Alice (Wentzell) Freeman.

Shirley worked as a bank teller and a school teacher for a short period, but her most loved and dedicated time was spent raising her two boys. She was a wonderful mother, who always put her boys first and tremendously enjoyed their every accomplishment. She and her husband, Doug, did everything together, from raising their boys to travelling the world.

The family lived in Spryfield for many years, where Shirley made many friends. Shirley was a very kind and caring woman, who had a great sense of humour and positive outlook on life. In her later years, she and Doug moved back to Greenfield, where Shirley was very active in the local church, fire fighters’ ladies auxiliary, Jolly Ponoquers Seniors’ Club and the Spryfield Lioness Club. She treasured time spent with her sons and grandchildren. She and Doug often cooked large meals together to celebrate any occasion in order to bring her family and friends together. You would never leave

Shirley’s home without some of her famous cookies, pies or brownies. She always looked forward to her daily phone call from her son, Stephen. Shirley was also very close to her sisters’ families, and visited with them often. She had many friends in the community with whom she enjoyed spending time.

She is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Doug, her son Stephen (Colleen), as well as her grandchildren, David and Amanda, and her step-grandchildren, Alanah and Matt.

Shirley was predeceased by her son, Tim; sisters, Freda Theakston, Marilyn Munroe and a brother, Melvin Freeman.

Donations may be made to the Greenfield United Baptist Church or the Greenfield District Fire Department. To share memories or condolences, please visit www.chandlersfuneral.com

The family would like to send a special thank you to Jamie Theakston, Jennifer and Andrew Moir for their help and kindness

High marks for high functioning wetland Church of Christ Lands—Williams Lake



Church of Christ lands on Williams Lake, March 2021

PHOTO: CATHY VAUGHAN

by Cathy Vaughan
Ducks Unlimited Canada, in a recent report, awarded the land owned by the Church of Christ Development Company (CCDC) on Williams Lake high marks for being the site of a high-functioning wetland. The 137 acres of rocky barrens and wetlands in the Williams Lake watershed received a high rating for water bird nesting; songbird, raptor and

mammal habitats; as well as being a pollinating habitat. Top benefits of these wetlands were the nitrate removal and retention factors, resident fish habitat, and water bird feeding habitat.

Ms. Emma Bocking, Conservation Programs Specialist with Ducks Unlimited Canada conducted a Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol (WESP) on a wetland located on the Church of Christ land where the river from Colpitt Lake flows into Williams Lake. The WESP is a standardized method used in Atlantic Canada for rapidly assessing important natural functions of wetlands. The WESP report was submitted by Williams Lake Conservation Company (WLCC) to support their rezoning application of the Church of Christ lands.

The Church of Christ Development Company, whose headquarters are in Alberta, own three parcels of land on Williams Lake. CCDC is a lending institution that, according to their website, “provides low-interest capital loans to congregational churches from several affiliations in Canada that fit with its Statement of Beliefs and Practices.” Congregations who align with CCDC’s goals and values of building churches and growing their ministry can apply for loans without going through a mortgage broker. Their website link is <https://churchdevelopment.ca>

The CCDC was established and registered as a lending group in 1957 in Alberta. Nova Scotia was the first to receive funds to build churches when the Wyndholme Christian Church and parsonage was built in Dartmouth. This was followed by the Maritime Christian Missionary Society in South Range and the Mill Village Church of Christ.

In 2020, the CCDC’s three parcels of land on Williams Lake were listed for \$4.5 million by Sutton Group Professional Realty but removed suddenly from the market

in the fall. One of the three parcels is zoned “Urban Reserve” and therefore is protected from large-scale development at this time. The two remaining parcels are zoned RDD (Residential Development District) and are of particular concern to the Williams Lake Conservation Company.

Councillor Shawn Cleary’s motion asking for a staff report on rezoning the two properties to Urban Reserve passed last spring. A staff report, responding to this rezoning request, is expected at the Halifax and West Community Council meeting March 30.

Having these three parcels of this rugged terrain and high-functioning wetlands zoned as Urban Reserve will help protect the fragile Williams Lake watershed, the wetlands on the Church of Christ properties, and preserve them as being of environmental and recreational value to HRM.

“The Williams Lake watershed

and the new Shaw Wilderness Park are tremendous assets to HRM as wilderness and for recreation,” said Murray Coolican, President of the Williams Lake Conservation Company. “Now is the time for Council to back Mr. Cleary’s leadership to protect these assets.”

The Ducks Unlimited Canada Site Summary of the Church of Christ lands says “This wetland has a high public use value because of the presence of an active volunteer stewardship organization and the proximity to hiking trails and residential areas.”

The Church of Christ lands receives top marks for their rugged beauty, wilderness and wildlife habitats. But also, high praise for the stewardship of conservation organizations and citizen-action groups for their determination to protect this unique wild land on Williams Lake, in Spryfield, for everyone.

Sidewalk snow clearing near schools a priority

by Patty Cutteli, HRM Councillor, District 11

Spring is here, which is always an exciting time with longer days and the promise of summer. This is made all the more exciting with the re-opening of the Atlantic Bubble and the vaccination rollout. I am hopeful we will be back to some kind of normal soon.

At Council
This is a very busy time at Regional Council as we work through the 2021/22 budget process. HRM staff is looking at an overall budget increase of 1.9%. This is not a proposed 1.9% increase to the “tax rate”. If approved, it would be a 1.9% increase over the amount you paid in property tax last year, which for the average homeowner will be about an extra \$28 in 2021. That being said, an increase to taxes is not something I am aiming for, or taking lightly. This has been a difficult year for many. Please note, nothing in the budget is approved until Council hears from each department and considers the budget as a whole.

Throughout the budget process, I am looking to support projects that advance priorities in District 11 and those Council identified in December. You can follow budget talks and share your thoughts by sending a letter or signing up to speak. Just go to HRM’s website at www.halifax.ca and search “Budget” and “Budget Committee” for more information.

Last month I made two motions (my first!) that passed at Regional Council. The first was to get a staff report on making sidewalk snow clearing a priority in school areas. As a winter city that promotes active transit, this seems to make sense in terms of safety, especially since many kids have no option but to

walk to school. The second motion was similar in spirit and added the McIntosh Run Community Trail to the list of Regional Parks to be considered for winter maintenance. This trail is listed as an accessible trail, and winter maintenance would provide people of all abilities a great place to get outdoors year round, as well as provide a safe and enjoyable way to move through some of Spryfield’s fast-growing neighbourhoods.

These motions are just two small steps toward creating safe streets for all. I am very pleased to see funding in the 2021 budget for flashing crosswalk signals along Herring Cove Road at Woodcrest. Accidents should never be the trigger for improvements. I want to thank everyone who has been active in highlighting problem areas and pushing for changes in traffic safety. I will continue to advocate for the needs of our District and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Litter doesn’t belong here
With the spring melt all the winter litter is starting to emerge. In March, Council passed a motion to prepare changes to the Solid Waste By-law (S-600) to address illegal dumping and litter. While HRM receives many complaints about illegal dumping, very few summary offence tickets get issued. Changes to the by-law will ensure illegal dumping is taken more seriously, and hopefully start to address some of the causes, like requiring drive-thrus to have garbage bins. I also hear calls for more bins around parks to deal with dog waste (can I say poop-bags?), and will be working on that

(See Sidewalk on page 13)

Supporting Your Community

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Earl Francis Spryfield Memorial Branch 152

WE CARE

The Armdale Report

by the Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, MLA for Halifax Armdale

As the MLA for Halifax Armdale, I want to wish a very Happy Easter to everyone who celebrates! April is going to be an exciting month, with so much on the go and the promise of spring’s warmth on our doorstep. For me, I’m participating in our first ever virtual legislative sitting where we’ve introduced important new legislation and started the process to pass a budget. I want to sincerely thank the legislature staff and all my colleagues for the patience and hard work that it has taken to make this sitting run smoothly. This is also the month where our vaccination campaign will ramp up significantly, and I want to remind everyone to stay tuned to my Facebook page where I share all the latest updates on vaccine appointment booking and eligibility.

Recently, Premier Rankin and I shared some big news for Nova Scotia’s growing digital economy. The province is making a \$16.8 million investment that will allow four Nova Scotia universities to expand and enhance their computer science programs. The digital future is here, and we know that digital skills are essential to creating the jobs we need to compete internationally. By producing more digital talent in Nova Scotia, we will strengthen our start-up ecosystem, benefit our young people, and deepen our local talent pool, making the province an attractive destination for employers. I want to thank Dalhousie, Acadia, Saint Mary’s, and St. Francis Xavier for their respective roles in this expansion, and for helping to ensure we have the workers we need to push our economy forward.

In health care news, the province continues to make investments to improve the facilities Nova Scotians rely on for care. In partnership with the federal government, Nova Scotia has announced \$19 million for projects at the IWK Health Centre, Halifax Infirmary, and QEII Health Sciences Centre – as well as \$5.7 million for projects at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital. These investments are focused on improving patient care, and include repairs and upgrades, hand-washing sinks, privacy barriers, generator systems, expanded supplementary spaces, audio-visual infrastructure, and more. Collectively, these projects make our facilities more efficient, modern, and comfortable, as well as more attractive workplaces for current and future staff.

In my role as Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, it’s been very important to me to ensure that our post-secondary students are supported as they navigate the challenges of completing their studies during a global pandemic. Though the province has already provided

a COVID Response Grant to Nova Scotian post-secondary students receiving student assistance, we know that students with permanent disabilities have had even greater challenges and require more support. That’s why I was proud to share that the province is introducing a one-time COVID-19 Accessibility Grant to help about 3,000 Nova Scotia post-secondary students with permanent disabilities by providing them \$800 in financial assistance. This grant will help ensure equity of access to training and other educational opportunities, reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and opportunity for all. This funding could be used for individualized supports, equipment, training and tech support for assistive technology, computer upgrades, iPads, extra note-taking, tutoring, and other expenses that students need to make to succeed. Eligible students do not need to apply for these grants, and they have already begun to be issued.

The Maguire Report

by the Honourable Brendan Maguire, MLA for Halifax Atlantic

I am pleased to announce that the construction on the new brewery and taproom is now complete. Serpent Brewery, located in back of the Spryfield Shopping Centre at 16 Dentith Road will be fully operational by the time you read this column. Support local business and stop by for a drink. While you are there, you can enjoy their brand new table service. They are a fantastic new addition to our community.

This past month, I was proud to introduce a bill that will make changes to the Municipal Governance Act and the Halifax Charter to allow Municipalities to provide financial assistance to businesses to help make their vehicles and businesses accessible. We are making changes to the Municipal Government Act and the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter that will enable local governments to help businesses become more accessible and support Nova Scotia’s goal of being barrier-free by 2030. The changes will give municipalities the ability to provide financial assistance directly to businesses that are making changes to support accessibility for people with disabilities.

Spring is here and the sun is shining. Provincial parks, including Long Lake will be opening soon. I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy all that Nova Scotia has to offer. A friendly reminder to use local trash cans and if they are full take your trash home with you. Remember our parks are beautiful, please keep them that way.

Happy Easter to everyone, I hope

I also want to take this opportunity to give a shoutout to the Herring Cove Road Guardian Pharmacy team. Last month, they helped facilitate one of Nova Scotia’s very first prototype pharmacy vaccine clinics. This was an important milestone, not just because members of our community were getting their shots, but because the prototype clinic was a key test of this model of vaccine delivery. I remember early on in the pandemic when the Guardian team reached out to update me on how their services would adapt to the threat of COVID-19, and it was wonderful to see this full-circle moment where their team was administering the shots that will help us end the pandemic in Nova Scotia.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who attended, and presented at, my virtual Small Business Connect event in March. If other interested small business owners would like a copy of the presentations given, please e-mail my office at lena@metlegediab.ca. As always, please reach out to my constituency office if I can assist you with a provincial concern.

you get to spend time with your family and loved ones.

There isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t appreciate being your MLA.

I will continue to spend my days working on your behalf to make our communities better.

Proud to be your MLA
Brendan Maguire
Brendan@brendanmaguire.ca
902 444 0147

Sidewalk

(continued from page 12)

more this spring. In the meantime, I want to give a BIG shout-out to all the incredible folks who make a point to pick up litter, call in issues, and keep our communities clean. You seriously rock. If you feel inspired to help clean up, visit www.halifax.ca/litter to get free Pick-Me-Up kits. If you come across illegal dumping, please call 311. And if you own a dog, don’t leave those baggies behind!

Happening in District 11
Finally, I am pleased to share the District 11 2021/22 road, sidewalk, and bike lane paving list at www.halifax.ca/city-hall/districts-councillors/district-11/communications. Staff will make every effort to design, tender and construct in 2021, however, unforeseen circumstances may arise that could impact the scheduling of projects and potentially cause delays. For those on provincial roads, I will look for an update to share with you soon!

Let’s connect
Thank you to everyone who has

called or emailed with concerns or issues. Your messages are very important and keep me informed about what is happening around District 11. I am here to work with you toward solving problems and finding opportunities for our community. The best way to connect with me is by email (patty.cuttell@halifax.ca) or phone (902) 221-6893, and through the Councillor support office at (902) 490-7184. Follow me on social media [@pattycuttell11](https://www.facebook.com/pattycuttell11) for regular updates. And check the Communication link on my HRM Councillor Patty Cuttell page for more district information. (Please note, social media is not regularly monitored for messages, please send any official correspondence via email, thanks!) Happy Spring everyone!

Religious Services

(continued from page 14)

Stella Maris Church at St Michael’s Catholic Church

All welcome, wherever you are on your faith journey! Saturday 4:00 pm and Sundays 10:30 am. Registration required at www.stellamarishalifax.com and all COVID protocols must be followed.

Salvation Army
(328 Herring Cove Rd)
Regular Sunday worship at 11:00am. Preceded by a prayer meeting at 10:30am

The Sambro-Jollimore Pastoral Charge (Parish):
St. James United Church: 3811 Old Sambro Rd, Sambro
Parkhill United Church: 5 Kirk Rd, Jollimore

In-person Sunday Services at Parkhill United Church at 9:30 am; St. James United Church at 11:15 am. For those unable to attend in person the service will be live-streamed at 11:15 am on St. James Facebook Page. Information 902-868-2791 or <https://www.sambrojollimorepc.com>

Schedule of Holy Week Services
Good Friday Prayer Walk 2 April 9 am Start at Emmanuel, Spryfield
Good Friday Virtual Service posted on St. James FB in the afternoon
Easter Sunrise Outside Service 4 April 7 am St. James
Easter All-Age Communion Service 9:30 am Parkhill; 11:15 am St. James
Information 902-868-2791 or <https://www.sambrojollimorepc.com>

If you have a comment or a question, send them along to:
chebuctoeditor@gmail.com.

The Jason Doherty Memorial COMMUNITY EVENTS PAGE



To have your Community Event listed call or fax us at 477-NEWS or send e-mail to chebuctoeditor@gmail.com. Check our Facebook page for updates & late arrivals

COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR APRIL

Food Banks:

- Emmanuel Anglican Church (322 Herring Cove Rd)
- St. Paul’s Family Resource Institute (173 Old Sambro Rd). Food Bank clients call the Food Bank line, 902-477-5090, on Monday and leave a message. Those messages are answered on Tuesday and then the food orders are filled
- Chebucto Family Centre (3 Sylvia Ave) has an Emergency Food Cupboard which can be accessed every two weeks.

Free meals for those in need:

- Salvation Army offers Breakfast To-Go Bags Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am-10:00am
- St. Paul’s Family Resource Institute (173 Old Sambro Rd) Our Tuesday lunch program, Soup’s On, is still operational but as takeout only
- Free Lunch 2 Go every Wednesday at noon, Chebucto Family Centre, 3 Sylvia Avenue, Spryfield

Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre events:

- Tai Jitsu accepting students for Lil Samarai classes ages 4 – 6 on Saturday’s. Contact Natasha Poirier for details – 902 293 7427
- Hiring students for our summer day camp program. Send resumes to HWCC@outlook.com

Spryfield Lions Club events:

Regularly scheduled meetings on the 2nd and fourth Tuesday evenings, 7 pm at the Lions Rink Den. We are encouraging anyone who might be interested in attending to call ahead so we can ensure

COVID health code regulations are met - 902-479-2917. We will also be starting up our bingos in the future but need more time to work out details. We want to thank the community for their support and wish everyone the best of health.

Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield events:

- Due to Covid19 restrictions on numbers at indoor gatherings, the 25th Birthday celebrations of the UFMSS have been postponed from April 18th until Sunday, October 17th at the Capt. Wm. Spry Community Centre from 2-4pm
- If you are interested in the future of the Urban Farm in Spryfield, you are invited to join the Board of Directors for a 2 term position. For further information, please call Pat at 902-497-3683 or email patriciabmaclean@gmail.com
- Families wishing to participate in the Come Grow With Us gardening program are asked to call 902-497-3683 for membership and plot information.
- Seedy Saturday/Plant Sale will be held at the Urban Farm on Saturday, May 29th (10am-Noon) Raindate Sunday, May 30th. Donations of plants would be appreciated and can be dropped off at the farm on Friday.

City Church (276 Herring Cove Road) events:

- City Church Telephone #: 902-479-248 c.citychurch@ns.sympatico.ca www.citychurchhalifax.ca
- City Church Christian Radio Station Life 94.7 FM

Emmanuel Anglican Church Hall (322 Herring Cove Rd.) events:

- Food bank is open, with pick up on Wednesday, 10 - 11 am. Orders may be

called in up to 10:00 am Tuesday each week. Call 902-477-1954 and leave a message. We are grateful to our volunteer staff for their faithful work for the food bank and its clients.

- We are cautiously resuming activities, with Covid protocols in place. Everything is subject to change without notice so please call or email to confirm or check our webpage for updates.

Our website: emmanuelanglicanchurch.net

Salvation Army (328 Herring Cove Rd) Events:

- Family Services by phone call or walk in 902-477-5393 ext 0.
- Immigration Support by limited appointments call 902-477-5393 ext. 226

St. Paul’s United Church (173 Old Sambro Road) Events:

With Covid, the church is largely closed but Kristen Hollery, our Community Ministry Director will be on site on Wednesdays, Thursdays and on Friday morning and can assist those who rely on the church for clean drinking water.

- Chase the Ace ticket sales will be starting up again at the Spryfield Legion at the bar on March 30.

The jackpot is set presently at \$7,228.00 with 22 cards left in the deck. Ticket draws will be on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. as in the past.

There will also be ticket sales at the Spryfield Legion Chase the Ace ticket booth on Monday evenings from 5 p.m. to 6:45 prior to ticket draw.

Ticket holders are not required to be at the draw and if your ticket is drawn you will receive a phone call.

You will have the option to arrive at the legion in 15 minutes to make your

own card draw or have one of the Chase the Ace supervisors to make the draw for you.

Developmental Pickup Hockey


Looking for players 40+ years old. Spryfield Lions Rink Fridays 12-1pm. Starts Friday, Oct 16. Skills sessions first week, next 3 weeks pickup. We call it Developmental Pickup Hockey. Skills to increase puck time on your stick and improve your game. Pickup at a bit slower pace.

Let me know if you’re interested. 902-497-2068 or ronaldbulmer@gmail.com

Improve your reading, writing and math skills, work toward the GED in person or from home. The Halifax Community Learning Network is here to help! We offer free adult learning programs in several locations. COVID protocols are in place for your safety. Call 902-422-7648 for more information. Let’s get learning together!

Chebucto Family Centre (3 Sylvia Ave.) Events:

- Free Lunch 2 Go every Wednesday at noon, Chebucto Family Centre, 3 Sylvia Avenue, Spryfield
- Free Pancake Breakfast, March 19 at 10 am, Chebucto Family Centre, 3 Sylvia Avenue, Spryfield



Check our Facebook page for late arriving events and changes or updates to listed events.

Chebucto News looks forward to returning to a robust community events page when the current crisis ends. In the meantime, we will endeavour to keep you informed.

Religious Services Directory for April

****To have your church/synagogue/mosque added to our directory, please contact the editor: chebuctoeditor@gmail.com by March 19 for April’s issue****

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO COVID-19, MANY OF THESE SERVICES MAY BE POSTPONED OR CANCELLED.

CALL AHEAD TO CHECK WITH YOUR CHURCH.

St. Augustine’s Anglican Church (2010 Purcell’s Cove Rd)
Service of Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 am

City Church (276 Herring Cove Road)
Sunday Prayer Time: 10:00 am;
Sunday Family Service: 10:30 am;
Nursery & Children’s Ministry 10:30 am; Wednesday Night Prayer: 7:30 PM

Spryfield Christian Community Church (91 Thornhill Dr)
Church services Sunday 11-12 am

Oromo Gospel Church
Sunday worship service: 3 pm and Tuesday prayer: 10 am.

Emmanuel Anglican Church (322 Herring Cove Rd.)
We are open for in person worship and also livestream our 10 am services on our Facebook page and webpage.

Sunday Worship: 8:00 am: quiet, contemplative, traditional service of Holy Communion.

10:00 am: Contemporary, lively communion service with choir.

April 4, Easter Sunday: Please pre-register for the 10 am service this week.

Weekday services:

April 1, Maundy Thursday, 7 pm, communion service (please pre-register for this)

April 2, Good Friday: 9 am Good Friday Prayer Walk starting at Emmanuel.

1:30 pm Good Friday liturgy. (please pre-register for this).

April 3, Holy Saturday Vigil, 8 am. Thursday, April 15, 10 am Mid-week service followed by Bible Study on the Resurrection.

Our 10 am services are live-streamed on our webpage and facebook pages. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information as things change quickly with Covid. And of course, we are following precautions and ask people to join us online if they are sick. Everyone is welcome to our services. We are an affirming church.

Open Door Community Church (11 Aldergrove Drive)
Church services - Sunday 10:30 to 11:30 AM.

We welcome you to come worship with us. Standard Covid-19 protocols

in effect, please wear a mask. www.opendoorhalifax.ca

St. Paul’s United Church (173 Old Sambro Road)
Rev. Anne Hoganson does the church service alone and posts it on our Facebook page. She is available if you wish to speak with her, at 902-237-3318.

We now have a paid Zoom account and members of the congregation will be able to be a bit more involved in the worship service. As had previously happened, the service will be posted on our Facebook page for those who couldn’t join the 11:00 am service. If you would like to be part of that service but are not a member of the congregation, or if you are a member but we don’t have your email address, please call the church at 902-477-3937 to be added to our list.

(See Religious Services on page 13)



Sharon Kenney REALTOR®
902-483-7325
 Sharon@alreadyhome.ca
 www.alreadyhome.ca





Dan Doherty REALTOR®
902-478-4023
 Dan@DanDoherty.ca
 www.DanDoherty.ca





Donna Flemming REALTOR®
902-4330-3833
 donna@donnaflemming.com




The Nova Scotia Association of Realtors just released their statistics for real estate sales in Spryfield for single family homes and condos.

Some interesting statistics to note:

In the single family homes category, there are

- more new listings,
- more pending sales and
- substantially more sales that closed in February 2021 than February 2020
- a major trend is Days on Market Until Sale: **68.2% fewer days to sale of property**
- average sales prices have **increased by 10.4% over February 2020**
- **but the number of houses on the market has gone down**

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The condo market, while smaller, remains strong with sales price increases there as well.

Local Market Update – February 2021

A Research Tool Provided by Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS®



7-Spryfield

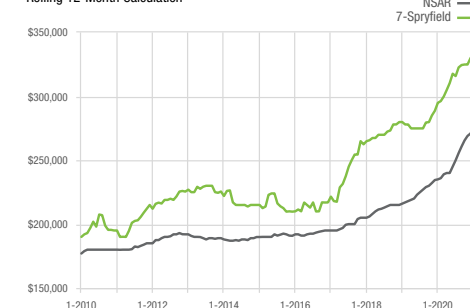
Single Family	February			Year to Date		
Key Metrics	2020	2021	% Change	Thru 2-2020	Thru 2-2021	% Change
New Listings	14	20	+ 42.9%	73	55	- 24.7%
Pending Sales	27	35	+ 29.6%	58	81	+ 39.7%
Closed Sales	25	47	+ 88.0%	54	76	+ 40.7%
Days on Market Until Sale	220	70	- 68.2%	160	55	- 65.6%
Median Sales Price*	\$330,066	\$369,900	+ 12.1%	\$323,150	\$379,900	+ 17.6%
Average Sales Price*	\$341,322	\$376,828	+ 10.4%	\$336,335	\$379,289	+ 12.8%
Percent of List Price Received*	98.0%	103.0%	+ 5.1%	99.7%	102.6%	+ 2.9%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	94	5	- 94.7%	—	—	—
Months Supply of Inventory	3.6	0.1	- 97.2%	—	—	—

Condo	February			Year to Date		
Key Metrics	2020	2021	% Change	Thru 2-2020	Thru 2-2021	% Change
New Listings	0	2	—	0	3	—
Pending Sales	0	2	—	0	3	—
Closed Sales	0	3	—	0	3	—
Days on Market Until Sale	—	2	—	—	2	—
Median Sales Price*	—	\$210,500	—	—	\$210,500	—
Average Sales Price*	—	\$219,167	—	—	\$219,167	—
Percent of List Price Received*	—	114.7%	—	—	114.7%	—
Inventory of Homes for Sale	1	0	- 100.0%	—	—	—
Months Supply of Inventory	0.4	—	—	—	—	—

* Does not account for sale concessions and/or downpayment assistance. | Percent changes are calculated using rounded figures and can sometimes look extreme due to small sample size.

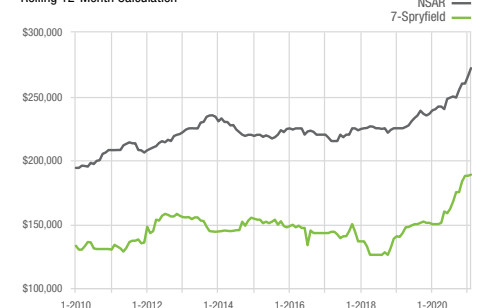
Median Sales Price - Single-Family

Rolling 12-Month Calculation



Median Sales Price - Condo

Rolling 12-Month Calculation



A rolling 12-month calculation represents the current month and the 11 months prior in a single data point. If no activity occurred during a month, the line extends to the next available data point.
 Current as of March 3, 2021. All data from Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS®. Report © 2021 ShowingTime.



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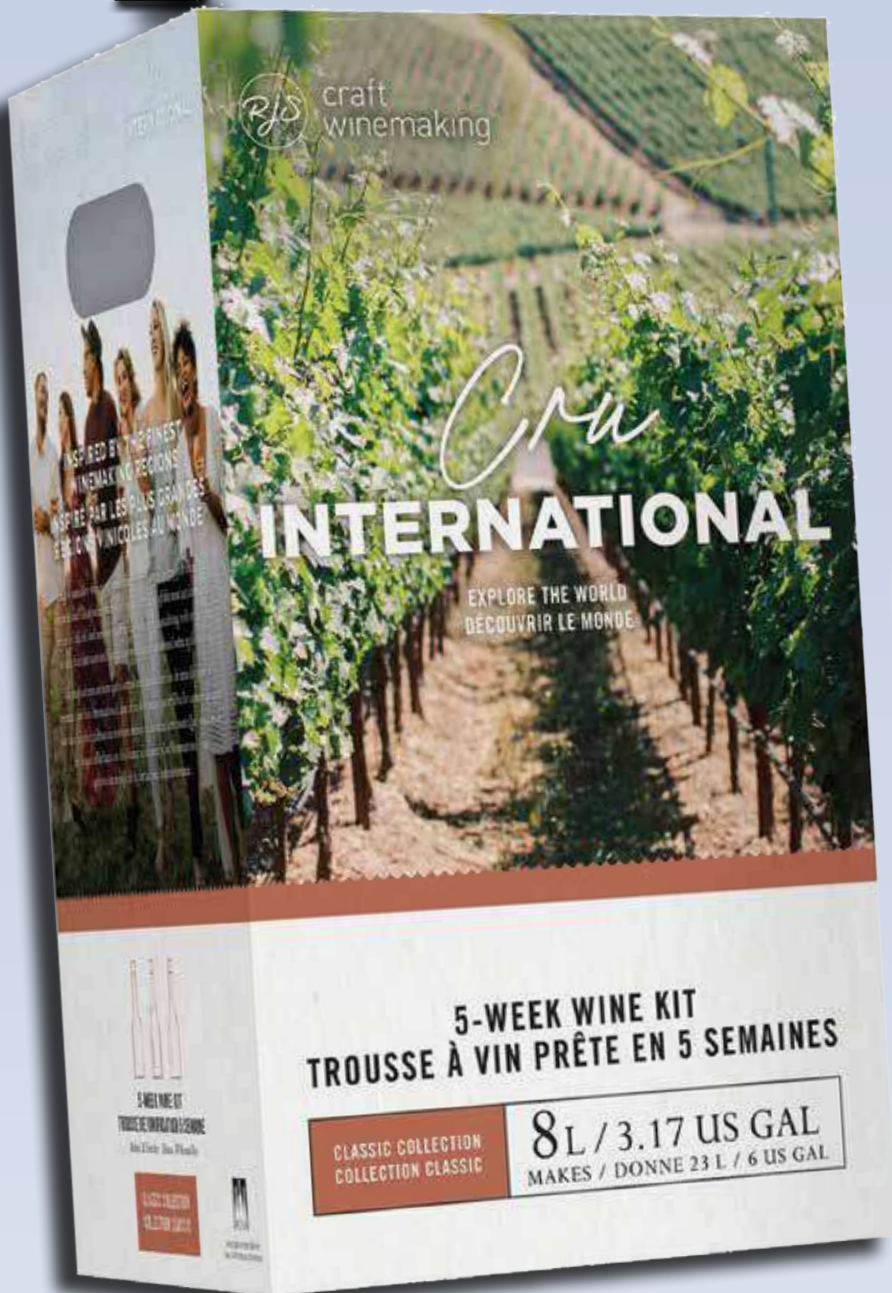
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