

Chebucto News

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Despite rumours, Centre won't close – Adams

Despite the rumours suggesting the Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre

is going to have to close, that isn't likely to happen, says District 18 Councillor Stephen Adams.



The Mainland South Heritage Society held its Annual heritage Tea in celebration of Heritage Day. These Jollimore ladies, including Erva Shaw, Evelyn Craig, Iris Shea, Cecilia Drilio and Mildren Richardson were among the many who attended.

Business Commission determining interest in renewing "Spryfield Days"

With the summer months fast approaching, and thoughts turning to outdoor activities like baseball, soccer, golf and so many other things that encourage people to gather for events large and small, the Spryfield and District Business Commission is studying the collective communities' interest in bringing back "Spryfield Days," a community gathering of selected events and activities held during a specific time schedule.

Commission Chair Kevin Umlah said informal discussions with a variety of community representatives have indicated there may be significant interest in bringing back the community celebration. "We are not exactly sure when the last Spryfield Days event was held and we're not sure just what events were planned during that time but we have an interest in bringing the community celebration back into operation."

He said initial discussions with some have proved encouraging. The Spryfield Lions Club has indicated an interest in maybe holding a duck race on the McIntosh Run in support of the Run Society, he said, and representatives of the Mainland South heritage Society have suggested

holding a display, dressing people in period costumes and holding an antique car show as a way of participating.

Umlah said the intention is to "bring our own local residents out to participate in events but even more importantly to bring people from other communities to our neighbourhood for events. The effort's aim is to help improve our image as a community and we can only do that if we give people an opportunity to visit us and see what we have to offer."

The chairman pledged the support of Business Commission staff to organize, administrate and hopefully help market the event both within the community and outside of the community.

"There are any number of organizations in the communities of the Sambro Loop doing a great number of things," said Umlah. The Commission plans to gather organizations together to ask a simple question – "can your organization hold an event during a specified time period which we (the Commission) can print on a brochure for distribution, advertise to media and promote as a participation in a

"There are rumours that the facility is going to close," he said, "but that isn't sensible given the time and money we've invested in it."

Under normal circumstances, paying off a mortgage is a good thing, but that's what caused the financial issue for the Centre. Years ago, when it began under the former County of Halifax, an area rate was accepted by the community to pay the mortgage. The mortgage was paid in full this past year, which meant HRM and the Centre Board of Directors needed community support to continue the area rate as an operational and capital maintenance funding source.

But staff discovered the area rate was being charged to all residents of the Sambro Loop. A ballot was sent out to residents to determine support for the facility. Residents who live along the Ketch Harbour Road portion of the Loop, who don't see the facility as something they utilize, voted, in apparent majority, against the area rate. That left the Centre without its funding source.

Adams said Harrietsfield, Williamswood and West Pennant residents voted in favour of the rate. If the rate was to remain the same, he said,

the Centre's funding would be in the \$25,000 range, down about \$20,000 or so and insufficient to run the programs and building.

He said in order to maintain the existing budget of approximately \$45,000, the area rate would nearly double if charged only to the Harrietsfield and Williamswood communities. Residents there are not anxious to see their charges doubled.

The Councillor said part of the annual expenses are for capital works. "I will be looking at the capital requirements to see if I can fund some of them through my discretionary budget at HRM."

He also suggested he has established a meeting with Minister of Health Promotion Barry Barnett to see if "there are any grant monies available to help with the Centre."

He suggested there may be several options available. "The issue is usability. We would want to keep some form of area rate and moving the area rate up is a possibility. But we will have to continue dialogue in an effort to find the right solution."

Adams said Harrietsfield, Williamswood and West Pennant residents voted in favour of the rate. If the rate was to remain the same, he said, Spryfield Days concept."

Suggesting an initial organizational meeting needs to be held at the Captain William Spry Community Centre in early May, Umlah suggested potential partners could include softball and baseball organizations that could hold tournaments, dart leagues, soccer teams, lacrosse teams and others involved in recreational sport activities. He also suggested resident associations, history groups, service groups, the local Legion, volunteer groups like Friends of Sir Sanford Fleming Park, craft organizations and event the Ketch Harbour Dorey Race organizers may be willing to become involved.

The Business Commission does not want to manage all of the events, he said. "We would

prefer to be the catalyst to gather people together who can put on an event involving their members that we can include in a list of programs the community could call Spryfield Days," he said.

And he said it is the intention to include any organization from the Armdale Rotary to Sambro in the program. "The term Spryfield Days is being used because it has a history in the community but we have every intention of including all of the communities in the greater Spryfield area."

Anyone who has an interest in participating in an initial organizational meeting should contact Assistant Executive Director Dave Watts by phone at 452-7472 or email at davewatts@eastlink.ca.



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Lions Club sees event as "community gathering opportunity"

The Spryfield Lions Clubs wants to see its efforts to develop a Saturday flea market and craft sale at its Bingo Hall turn into a regular "community gathering" opportunity says King Lion Renee Quigley.

The market, initiated last fall by the Lions Club to take advantage of its hall space, began with a flurry but dwindled a little with the onset of winter. But Quigley and the Club members are returning the event to the community beginning with events April 23 and 30. Doors open for buyers at 9 am and the market is open until 1 pm.

"We want people to realize the facility is available to them," said Quigley of the hall,

"and we believe developing a flea market and craft sale on Saturdays can become a tremendous gathering space for residents to meet each other and interact."

Quigley said the fall markets were quite well attended and some of the products were very unique. "We had things for sale that local residents make themselves and sell world wide. We have home-made baked goods, some crafts and the usual flea market items. All in all we had a good cross section of things for people to look at," he said.

But the most important part is that people would get together, see people they haven't seen in a long time and there would be small

gatherings of people huddled in little circles just chatting away the day.

Seller Ruth Thompson, one of the regulars last fall, intends to return. Thompson, who sells home made fudge and suckers and offers painted rocks from her brother, said she not only made money at the markets but "I ran into people I haven't seen in 30 years while I was selling things."

"It's a fun place to be," she said, encouraging other vendors to approach the club for space. "I know there are a lot of cottage craft industries in our neighbourhoods, that there is fresh fish, eggs and other goods that could be sold here on a Saturday morning. I hope more

vendors will participate so the Club can keep the event operating," she said.

She said she has worked in the past with crafts people who live along the Sambro Loop. "There are people out there who do carving, sewing, knitted items and other crafts who are just fantastic with their skills. It would be nice to see them all come out so we can encourage more buyers to attend the event."

Quigley says with the warmer weather approaching it's time for the Club to initiate the event once again. "We hope to be able to give the artisans in our community a place to market their products and provide a venue for people to get together," he said.

Commission heading into 5th AGM

April 24, at 3:30 marks the time and date of the Spryfield and District Business Commission's fifth Annual general meeting. Councillors Stephen Adams and Linda Mosher have agreed to be the guest speakers. Their topic will surround the possibilities of tomorrow's success as a result of literally hundreds of new housing units approved for development at Halifax Regional Municipality.

Past Chairman Fred O'Hearn, Chairman Kevin Umlah and long serving member Doreen Archibald are expected to step away from the Board of Directors. Anyone who is a qualified member of the Commission is welcome to offer their name for nomination to the Board.

"The Commission is doing some very important work in the community," says Chair Umlah, identifying its work with HRM in the Herring Cove Streetscape and Planning Study and its successful effort to have Spryfield's designation with the Regional Development Plan upgraded to that of a "District Centre."

But beyond that, Umlah says the Commission is beginning to put together Business Networking sessions so business owners can gather for informal talks and organize seminars to give business operators insight and

information on topics of interest to business.

A major project for this year is the creation of a "business directory" for residents of the community "to help them uncover and locate our business operators," said Umlah.

The Earl Francis Spryfield Memorial Legion will be the site of the AGM.

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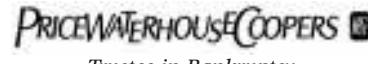
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Want to know what's going on, or let others know? Check the EVENTS CALENDAR. Looking for odd jobs or wanting to hire? Find Job Seekers and Job Offers at LOCAL JOB POSTINGS. GOOD NEIGHBOURS help each other in many ways, such as Wise Elder Advice or Goods to Give Away. GETTING INVOLVED connects you to community groups and welcomes your ideas and input. The wonderful communities in Spryfield's neighbourhood are featured in LIFE AROUND THE LOOP. You can locate services of all kinds under COMMUNITY SERVICES, and CWSCC PROJECTS let you know how the CWSCC Board is working for you.

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SPRYFIELD AND DISTRICT BUSINESS COMMISSION



CWSCC

Northern Ireland youth to attend national Boys and Girls Clubs conference

By Ali Bryan, Staff

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Nova Scotia will host the 2006 Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada National Conference in Halifax, May 31st to June 3rd. While a national conference usually attracts delegates from more than one-hundred clubs across Canada, this year's conference will also include eight youth delegates from the Boys and Girls Club in Omagh, a town in Tyrone County, Northern Ireland.

Jim Connolly, of Stoneridge Subdivision who is Chairman of the Board for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Nova Scotia, recently returned from a trip to the region in preparation for the upcoming visit.

"Excitement is starting to build on both sides of the ocean," he says. The eight sixteen and seventeen year old youth delegates from Northern Ireland will be guests of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Nova Scotia and will be paired with local "Buddies" for the duration of the conference. Club members and staff from Nova Scotia and Omagh have been in regular contact, planning what promises to be "an exciting and memorable experience for everyone involved."

The visiting delegates will attend seminars and workshops, and host a booth at the conference trade show to tell their stories about Omagh and its Boys and Girls Club. When not involved with conference activities, the delegates and their Nova Scotia buddies will be involved in sightseeing, recreational and cultural activities.

Connolly first became aware of the Omagh Boys and Girls Club in 1999. He learned that it's Canadian counterpart, the Omagh Club exists to provide a safe place for youth. But he also learned that the idea of a safe place has a more profound meaning in Omagh. In 1998, 29 men, women and children were killed after a bomb exploded in Omagh's town centre. It was in this troubled context that Connolly first thought of bringing club members to visit Canada.

The idea percolated for seven years, gaining momentum when Halifax was chosen as the host city for a national Boys and Girls conference. With its rich history of Irish settlement, the Halifax region has been very sympathetic to the Omagh project. Support from Irish cultural and charitable organizations has made the visit possible.

There are currently eight Boys and Girls

Clubs in the province. Six are located in the Halifax Regional Municipality, including the Boys and Girls Club of Spryfield. Supported by national and regional resources, each club works with families and volunteers in their community and in partnership with the public and private sectors "to create healthy, community-based solutions that provide youth with the things they need to grow into responsible, contributing and self-reliant citizens," says Connolly.

Connolly has personally been involved with

Boys and Girls Clubs for fourteen years. Working for a communications company in Calgary at the time, he was recruited to join the Public Affairs committee of a local club. He's been hooked ever since, calling the organization "infectious."

For more information on the Boys and Girls Clubs of Nova Scotia, call 450-0010 ext 512. Additional information on the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, including the National Conference, can be found at www.bgccan.com.



Local resident Jim Connolly has been instrumental in bringing a contingent of representatives from Northern Ireland to Canada for the Boys and Girls of Canada conference. Here Connolly is shown in Ireland with the kids including standing left to right Maude Lynn, Tanya Clarke, Angela Kelly, Dayna McCauley and Trish McNally, Leader; sitting left to right: Niall McLaughlin, Shane Taggart, Cormac McElhatton and Colly Burns, Leader.



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DISCOVERING OUR PAST

*By Iris V. Shea, Historian
Mainland South Heritage Society*

At the turn of the 20th century, several houses in Armdale were given names by their owners. Brookdale, The Birches, Edgemere, Lakewood, Melvillewood and Fairmount were well-known in Armdale. Their owners were equally well-known as merchants and business owners. Each house had its own story.

On the St. Margaret's Bay Road, as you leave the rotary, one of those houses, "The Birches," is the first house on the right, high on a hill in a picturesque setting. It was the home of the Bennett family from the late 1880s until 1956. Charles H. Bennett, a bookkeeper, was born in Halifax, the son of Joseph, a merchant who owned Bennett's Wharf on Upper Water Street. Charles Bennett came to the Northwest Arm with his widowed mother, Lydia, and his brother John William Bennett. He married Barbara Muir in 1884, and by 1887 he was a widower with two infant daughters, Mary and Eugenie (Jean). Another child, Edith Knapen, the daughter of Charles' sister, Mary, also came to live with the family at "The Birches." When Charles left the area for long periods of time, he gave his brother Power of Attorney, leaving his daughters in the care of his mother and brother.

Further up the St. Margaret's Bay Road, on the left, an apartment building sits on the corner of Crescent Avenue. This was the location of "Brookdale," the home of Edward Lawson Fenerty who, in 1873, married Eleanor Bennett, a sister to Charles Bennett of "The Birches." E. Lawson Fenerty was a skate manufacturer and held a patent for the Peerless Skate. On the shores of Chocolate Lake (now the foot of Crescent Avenue), Fenerty built his water-powered shovel factory, using the water from the fast flowing brook out of Chain Lake to operate his equipment. The brook crossed the St. Margaret's Bay Road, passing "Brookdale," on its way to Chocolate Lake. In 1894 the two-storey shovel factory burned down, with an extensive loss of inventory and equipment. Within the year a smaller building was erected on the same site. In his lifetime, Fenerty had a continuous battle with the City Engineer of Halifax who controlled the supply of water from Chain Lake, often lowering the flow of water through the dam to a point where it was almost impossible for Fenerty to operate the shovel factory. The courts ruled in Fenerty's favour but still the water power did not improve and he built his own dam in an attempt to procure the much needed water power. He was forced by the courts to demolish that dam after they ruled it illegal. Eventually he was forced to shut down the industry. Following Fenerty's death in 1931, Brookdale was bought by Walter and Stanley Havill who converted it into two flats where the brothers lived for several years before it was replaced by the apartment building.

Leaving the rotary and entering the Herring Cove Road, "Fairmount," with its commanding

view of the Northwest Arm, could be seen high on the ridge overlooking the Herring Cove Road. Built in the 1870s by James Lear, a commercial traveler, he and his wife Harriet had two sons and three daughters. The four eldest children were born in England, the youngest was born in Quebec. Many will remember the three Lear sisters, Isobel, Kate and Gwendolyn, all artists, who taught Sunday School in Jollimore and Armdale. Gwendolyn wrote religious books. Their brother Percy, an actor, was known locally as King Lear. Paintings by the Lear sisters hang in many homes today. This elegant house was destroyed by fire.

Next to "Fairmount" was a cottage known as "Lakewood." That house still stands. It was owned and occupied by Charles Hosterman in the 1880s and later by his widow, Charlotte. The house became part of Dr. Cogswell's estate in the 1890s and in the early 1900s was sold to Dr. Frank Colwell who renamed it "Armvie."

"Edgemere," with its wrought iron gates visible today, is the last house on the high ridge overlooking the Herring Cove Road. Charles W. Outhit named this house at the turn of the

20th century, using it first as his summer residence and finally as a permanent residence. Outhit was a well-known merchant and fruit



Brookdale, about 1931, home of E. Lawson Fenerty

Dealer in Halifax. He and his brother John came from Aylesford, N.S. and set up individual businesses in Halifax. Charles Outhit married Lillian Wetmore of Halifax. Their two sons died as infants, and their two daughters relocated outside of the province after they married. Some of their descendants still live in British Columbia.

"Melvillewood," torn down in the 1970s, was located just past Chocolate Lake on the right side of the Herring Cove Road. It was the home of the Billman family. James Billman, of the firm of Billman and Chisholm, was a bookkeeper. He and his wife Grace purchased the property in the 1880s. Their three sons and three daughters were born at "Melvillewood." The two eldest sons, Ralph Sanderson and William Melville, went overseas in World War I. William Melville was the 1913 Dalhousie University Rhodes Scholar and in 1914 joined the Officer Training Corps at Oxford University. He died of wounds at the Battle of Somme in 1916 at the age of 24 years and was buried in Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, France.

During the summer of 1913 the first feature length film shot in Canada, called "Evangeline," had scenes filmed at "Melvillewood." The house was torn down when the Province of Nova Scotia bought the property for \$300,000 in 1973. It was transferred to the city to be used as a much needed park for Armdale residents. On the site of "Melvillewood" today is a public tennis court. The 300 feet of shoreline property on Chocolate Lake is a supervised public swimming area.

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Natasha Pierno heads to Holland

By Stacey Crowell, Staff

You won't find baton twirling in the Olympics, and it's not even considered a sport. But just try telling that to Natasha Pierno and the other girls of Fusion.

"Have suit, will travel," is the motto of Halifax's newest baton twirling group, headed by coach JoAnne Mason, a veteran baton twirler of 35 years. JoAnne formed Fusion a little over a year ago. "I'm trying to bring back baton twirling to the area because it was dying out," she says explaining why her effort began.

Seeing something special in Natasha, JoAnne took her, along with other girls, to the Nationals at the University of Waterloo in Kitchener, Ontario last July to compete in the Miss Majorettes of Canada Competition. Natasha came in forth place over all, a great accomplishment for a beginner. In August she was asked to join the Canadian Team in Eindhoven, Holland, this April, to compete in the World Baton Twirling Competition held every three years.

"I owe it all to my coach," Natasha says about JoAnne. "Every time I don't want to do my solo, she just makes me want to do it."

"Not true! She's a natural," JoAnne argues, and her natural ability really shows as she performs her free style routine to the "Pink Panther" theme song.

Competitive baton twirling isn't just about marching in parades. These girls have dedication, drive, and determination. They need to

have the style and grace of a dancer and the strength and skills of a rhythmic gymnast, they put in the grueling hours of practice of any athlete and they need excellent hand-eye coordination.

Everything about Fusion is done on a volunteer basis by coaches and parents. There is no funding of any kind as with other recognized sports. It's even hard to find adequate practice space. When the girls aren't busy practicing three nights a week, they are raising money for uniforms, travel, and accommodations. Natasha even tried her hand at busking last summer to help defuse the cost of her \$3,000 trip to Holland.



Natasha Pierno, 9, and her coach, JoAnne Mason of Fusion Baton Twirling Team are heading to Holland for competitions.

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Health Board offers grants

Have you ever had a great idea for making your community a better place to live? "Come Grow With Us," a group of volunteers with the Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield did. These volunteers saw an opportunity to build on the knowledge and skills of people living in the Greystone community.

So, they worked with other members of the Urban Farm to develop a pilot community garden project in Greystone. One volunteer, Martha Leary said "creating a garden is both a gentle and powerful force for building community. Gentle in the easy way people get to know each other while planting a row of seeds. Powerful in the way community pride grows as the plants mature and green, creating a showcase for people's work and a focus for cooperative activity."

To make this initiative happen the Society applied for, and received funding through the Chebucto West Community Health Board's (CWCHB) Community Development Fund. The Community Development Fund is made available to local groups and organizations to assist them in addressing priorities in their communities. The Fund is designed to be easy to use and to reflect local priority health and community issues. Over 50 local groups have received support through this fund since 2002. Initiatives have included community gardens, cultural health

interpretation, after-school programs, and much more.

Using a community based approach, the CWCHB invites organizations to design and run activities and programs that would not otherwise be available. The Fund also challenges community groups to use a cooperative approach to address issues in their community.

Groups can also leverage the Fund to seek other partners and funding sources. One group, using an initial \$2,000 from a Community Health Board, was able to attract other partners and raise in excess of \$59,000 for their project. As another example, the purchase of a commercial dishwasher for a breakfast program allowed many other groups to use the facility, and increased the possible uses for the space.

If you have an idea of how to make your community a better place to live, learn, work and play, the Chebucto West Community Health Board invites you to apply for a grant, up to \$5,000, through the Community Development Fund. To find out more about funding criteria, call 424-5144 or e-mail cheryl.nickerson@cdha.nshealth.ca. The deadline for applications is May 11. Funds are provided by Capital Health, with contributions also from Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Active Halifax Communities.



Action for Neighbourhood Change and the National Film Board of Canada donated 45 "Let's Read Together" family literacy kits to Rockingstone Heights School. Christina Carter, left, and her daughter Chelsie presented the books to teacher Sue Little.

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But what if we planned our communities with our physical and mental health in mind? This question was at the centre of the recent "Building Bridges to Health Roundtable" held

at the Captain William Spry Community Centre and organized by Spryfield's Healthy Housing, Healthy Community project. Residents and people working locally in health, planning, development and related fields met to take part in lively discussions about putting health on the agenda when planning our communities.

Roundtable attendees learned about the most recent research, which confirms that communities designed for vehicles, rather than people, are damaging to our health. Our culture's addiction to the use of the private car has produced places where it is difficult, if not dangerous, to walk or cycle. In the sprawling

suburbs of North American cities, obesity is becoming an epidemic.

But lack of exercise is only part of the problem. Roundtable panelist and local resident Nancy Wooden said she believes "our emotional and physical well-being is tied to our homes and our neighbourhoods. A child who lives in a poorly designed and badly maintained apartment building, whose only

playground is the asphalt parking lot and who must walk to school along busy streets lacking sidewalks and trees, probably does not feel safe or cherished."

Indeed, a recent Canadian study revealed that our feeling about how healthy we are is related to whether we feel connected to our communities, a connection that is reinforced by the kind of neighbourhood we live in.



Mary, John and William represent three generations of the Sparlings involved with the Urban Farm Museum Society's "Come Grow With Us" program. The Sparlings were attending the Society's annual Seedy Saturday event gathering seeds for this year's crop.



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HRM installs history panels

New interpretive panels depicting the story of both Deadman's Island and Melville Island have been installed at two sites overlooking the Island and the historical Melville Island prison.

Councillor Linda Mosher, HRM staff and the Deadman's Island Committee worked together to develop the content for the panels and to have them installed on the sites in an effort to have Melville Island and Deadman's Island designated as a site of international historic significance. An official ceremony to mark the grave sites of American prisoners of war was held at Deadman's Island in May 2004.

"Interpretive sign panels will enhance the public's understanding of the history of these areas," says Councillor Mosher. "Also, we thought it appropriate to emphasize the involvement of Chesapeake Blacks, Irish immigrants and French prisoners of war in the history of Melville and Deadman's Island. It is important to highlight and remember the other groups in the history of the area and these panels help to do that."

The interpretive panels tell the story of Melville Island from the early 1800's to the present day. Melville Island, now home of the Armdale Yacht Club, formerly served as a military prison for French and American prisoners captured in conflicts between the British and French prior to, and during, the War of 1812.

The story is also told of black refugees, known as the "Chesapeake Blacks," fleeing slavery in the United States, who were quar-

tined in hospital on Melville Island, and Irish immigrants, who fled Ireland during the Great Famine of 1847. A number of those prisoners, immigrants and refugees died of illness during their time on Melville Island and are believed buried on nearby Deadman's Island.

HRM purchased Deadman's Island in 2000 and designated it as a public park to ensure this historic site would not be threatened by development in the future.

Visitors to the sites will be fascinated by the rich history that is told on the panels and will learn more about the significance of the two islands, as well as, enjoying the natural beauty. One set of panels is located on Purcell's Cove Road just north of the Armdale Yacht Club. The other set is located on Deadman's Island itself, just south of the yacht club.



Councillor Linda Mosher and resident Pete Buell study the interpretive panels near Armdale Yacht Club.

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HRM sidewalk snow removal program inequitable – Mosher

By Linda Mosher, Councillor District 17

In the ten years since the HRM amalgamation, Council had discussed the matter of sidewalk snow removal many times. However, we still have different services levels in different areas of HRM. Back in August of 2005, Council passed a motion that directed HRM staff to prepare a report recommending sidewalk snow removal for all HRM streets and that this service be funded through the general urban tax rate. It was great to know that we would finally have equity and fairness throughout the municipality, and I looked forward to staff bringing back a report on how

this would be accomplished.

Unfortunately, staff did not come back with the recommendation and motion that Council passed. The staff report recommended continuing the full service only in the districts which currently receive it, and continuing a reduced area rate in those districts. In the districts in the former City of Halifax which do not currently receive sidewalk snow removal service, staff recommended taking over responsibility for sidewalks on arterial roads and transit routes. During the debate, Council did manage to increase this to include sidewalks in front of schools, and possibly collector roads. The funding for these services is

coming from the general urban tax rate.

In my opinion, there were serious problems with the staff report that was prepared by Senior HRM Managers. First, despite the issue having come to Council more than 9 times in 6 years, we waited over 6 months for the report.

Secondly, and the most glaring issue, is that Senior HRM Managers did not supply the report that was specifically requested by Council, but chose their own direction. This is in conflict with the basis of municipal government whereby the elected Council makes policy and the staff executes that policy. As I have publicly stated, this incident was reminiscent of the days when Senior Solid Waste staff dug in their heels over Council's request for weekly green bin pick up. When that report arrived, it also contained a totally different recommendation, with no supporting documentation for the original recommendation. I also believe the cost estimates were not accurate either.

In the current case, Councillors ultimately

chose to keep the status quo in their respective districts and added a small enhancement to the districts currently without any service. Unfortunately, this means there will still be a disparity of services within HRM. As well, it has not been made clear which additional sidewalks or collector streets qualify for this service.

The report indicated that the operating budget would have to be increased to the extent that the general urban rate would increase by 0.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value. This rate was set, despite not knowing what sidewalks will qualify. Although I voted against the motion, it did pass, and residents will now pay that increase. Since District 17 has only 25 kilometres of sidewalks, and some of those arterials were already being cleared by HRM, the 0.7 cent increase from our district will be used to subsidize the cost of sidewalk snow removal in other areas such as

see "Snow Removal" pg. 15

Stephen Adams

HRM Councillor, District 18

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Cutting off an arm

By Alexa McDonough, MP Halifax

An important legacy inherited from the Mi'kmaq people, the North West Arm's first settlers, is a philosophy that we must consider in our deliberations the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.

It's crucial that we apply that philosophy to the issue of infilling of underwater lots on the North West Arm which threatens to destroy habitat, spoil scenic and historic view planes, deny future generations public access to the shoreline and privatize and limit recreational and navigation rights on the Arm.

To discourage this infilling, the Halifax Regional Municipality has proposed amending its land use policies and planning strategies. Reaction to the proposed amendments has been almost unanimously positive. That includes support from the water lot owners themselves. Unfortunately, HRM can only act after the infilling has occurred.

Decision-making authority for management of coastal development below the high water mark lies presumably with federal departments and agencies.

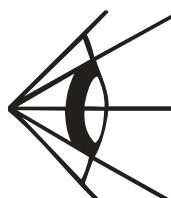
The Nova Scotia government has been largely missing in action on this issue. This fragmentation and abdication of responsibility has opened the door for haphazard, incremental and too shortsighted approvals for infilling and "monster homes" with enormous wharves in the Northwest Arm.

A committee of federal, provincial and municipal agencies responsible for approving infill activities on Halifax Harbour has been meeting to address jurisdictional issues.

Leonard Preyra is working with the Northwest Arm Coalition, who advocate a comprehensive, integrated and enforceable management strategy to regulate activity on submerged lots on the Northwest Arm. The Coalition wants consideration of water lot infill applications deferred until HRM and the committee develop an effective stewardship plan for protecting and preserving this legacy for all Nova Scotian families and for future generations.

With development pressure along Nova Scotia's coast, infilling of coastal areas and access to the shoreline have become critical issues.

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Support world class fishery here at home – Raymond

By Michele Raymond
Halifax Atlantic MLA

Living in Halifax Atlantic, where fish trucks roll down the Herring Cove Road every day, it's easy to take things for granted, and forget Nova Scotia's importance in the world's fishery. This past month, though, I had a striking reminder, when I visited the Boston International Seafood Show, and saw firsthand what our fishery means today.

The Boston Seafood Show brings thousands of exhibitors and visitors to the city every year, to buy, sell and trade in millions of pounds of seafood, farmed and fresh, for the coming season. The prices set here determine many futures. And it's obvious by the crowds around the Maritime booths, that our North Atlantic products have real star quality in the seafood world.

Even today, six hundred years after the Grand Banks first lured Europeans to our waters, and then to our shores, seafood is Nova Scotia's second-largest export (after fuels and nonmetallic minerals). NS ships nearly \$1.1 billion of fish products around the world each year, making us Canada's largest seafood exporter.

More than half of our exports go to the United States, but another significant portion makes its way to Japan as a luxury good, flown fresh to the other side of the globe within hours of landing. Much of our export trade is the valuable "wild" shellfish and crustaceans - lobster, crab, scallop, oyster - so it's not surprising that most Nova Scotia seafood leaves the province as either live product, or frozen "round" or whole fish.

Nova Scotia's early settlement was based on the fishery, and fish processing. Cod could be cured dry here, then shipped to Europe or traded in the Caribbean for rum and molasses. Salt cod was integral to the Triangle trade that drove the development of European North America.

Today, however, there is a new triangle trade, which places many fisheries in jeopardy. More than 3000 processing jobs disappeared from Nova Scotia between 1991 and 2001. Fish landings are down from the highs of 2001 and 2002, and the rising costs of fuel, vessels, bait sheds, trucking, gear and insurance are steadily eating into profits. Add to this the fact that many licenses are now held not by individual owner-operators, but concentrated under trust agreements, and there's a recipe for disaster. Many large corporations find it less expensive to have their catch processed out of the province, often as far away as Asia, before it returns to North America as frozen entrees, soup and fishburgers.

Those trucks on the Herring Cove Road mean we are in a privileged position. We have viable fisheries, and a local processing plant. Sambro and Ivy Fisheries alone land shark, mackerel, swordfish, halibut tuna, lobster, hake, haddock, cusk, crab and cod. Fishermen, processors, shippers, and service industries give extra impetus to the local economy.

We need to support the fishery as it supports us. The NDP has pushed the Fisheries Loan Board to raise maximum loan amounts

so smaller operators can afford competitive vessels. We are also pushing for tax relief when licenses are transferred between family members, and as always, working to keep a lid on fuel costs. We're also working for imple-

mentation of "buy-local" programs, so that NS government institutions are serving NS food.

Closer to home, I am working with the Department of Transportation towards safer intersections on provincial roads in the Sambro

area, where 18-wheelers are daily visitors; Sambro fish may be going to market in town, or headed for the other side of the world.

We're lucky to have a world class fishery here; we must do everything we can to keep it.

NDP launches campaign for more long-term care spaces

By Graham Steele
Halifax Fairview MLA

NDP Leader Darrell Dexter and I want to bring greater public attention to the immediate need for more long-term care spaces in communities across the province. It's a key issue for today's families. You'll be hearing us talk about it more in the coming weeks and months.

The shortage of places for people needing long-term care (usually referred to as a "bed shortage") has been ignored for far too long. The lack of needed beds has created a huge bottleneck in the healthcare system, yet the government says it will be another year before it even has a plan to address it. While the government "studies" the problem, the lack of needed beds has an impact throughout the system by extending waiting lists in other areas.

We have known about this issue for well over a decade, and successive governments

have promised to make the beds available. The Conservatives made a promise to make more nursing home beds available during the 1999 election, and Nova Scotians are still waiting. In fact, there are fewer long-term care beds today than there were in 1999, when the Conservatives came to power.

The urgent need for more beds has been felt in communities across the province. In Lower Sackville, for example, the need was identified more than 10 years ago and the beds are still not in place. One of the two long-term care facilities in my own constituency is one of the oldest in the region, if not the province. The owner would love to renovate and build more spaces, but so far the government has refused permission. Like too many other necessities, the beds have been promised but not delivered.

A lack of beds adds a tremendous cost to the healthcare system. It can cost as much as 10 times more to house the elderly ill in acute care beds than it does to place them in other areas.

a nursing home facility. The government has tried to obscure the growing reality that far too many people across the province are in dire straits, living in environments inappropriate to the level of care they require.

There is a great, and unknowable, human cost to those who have been forced into long waits for nursing home beds. For those who eventually get placements, but as a consequence end up far from home and family, quality of life issues can lead to a decline in health.

The delay in providing more long-term care beds costs the healthcare system millions of dollars a year. Perhaps more importantly, it costs families precious time with their loved ones.

Seniors will make-up more than 20% of the population of Nova Scotia in the next ten years. Studying this problem will not make it go away. Communities have identified their needs, and it is up to the government to make sure the beds are provided.

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Cornerstone Family Centre <i>Fourth Monday of each month</i>	9:30 - 11 am



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From area rates to recreation facilities, there are many issues in District 18

By Stephen Adams
Councillor District 18

On March 2nd, I attended a meeting at the Williamswood Harrietsfield Community Centre which was called to discuss issues around an area rate to help fund the maintenance and operation of the centre. This area rate, which was implemented before amalgamation, had been used to pay the mortgage and help in the operations. However, the mortgage is now paid, and a request was sent to residents affected to approve the new charge. During the discussions, other issues, including transit and taxation, were raised. As I had discussed in previous articles, there wasn't enough support to proceed with the service. However, there is a new program forthcoming from the federal government to enhance and expand service. I will be meeting with our senior staff next month to discuss our needs and explore all options.

Within the month, I will be distributing a newsletter which will offer some clarity with respect to taxes. This will outline services, area rates, base rates and will also offer some comparisons.

Residents in Thornhill, Lieblin Park and Kidston Estates are in the midst of a flurry of development. Affected residents were sent information regarding blasting. Should you have any questions regarding the blasting, you can contact Kevin MacDonald at 490-4653. Questions regarding the subdivision applica-

tion can be directed to Rosemary MacNeil at 490-4650.

As of the writing of this column, tender documents have been issued for Phase 1B, and are being prepared for Phase 2A of the water and sewer project for Herring Cove. Our schedule for installation is as we expected. The early tender call is designed to obtain the best possible pricing. In this year, we are planning to have construction of the remainder of phase 1A and phases 1B and 2A completed. Phase 1B will service part of Ketch Harbour Road (from the Fire Hall to civic 165) and part of

Village Road (from Ketch Harbour Road to Civic 121); and Phase 2A will service the remainder of Village Road, Hebridean Drive, part of John Brackett Road (from Hebridean to Civic 1569) and Margaret Lorne Drive.

In the proposed budget, \$10,000 has been earmarked to determine the existing and future needs of indoor recreation facilities in the Sambro area. This does not guarantee a new facility will proceed. It does, however, allow our staff to explore any and all opportunities. As the HRPS have assumed responsibility for policing in and around the Sambro Loop, a

new program to help in crime prevention, called City Watch, is now available. This is voluntary, will cost you nothing, and will offer some security for all who participate. Should you have any questions, please contact Gary Martin at 490-4070.

In closing, there has been some confusion with respect to snow removal and road maintenance throughout the Sambro Loop. Even though the provincial Department of Transportation is responsible for these services, I would be pleased to offer assistance with any issues you may encounter.

Letter To The Editor

Clarifying snow removal responsibilities

Dear Editor

I am writing regarding an article by Halifax Atlantic MLA Michele Raymond, which was published in your March edition of the Chebucto News.

1) The amalgamation of the former cities of Halifax and Dartmouth, the former Town of Bedford and the former County of Halifax to form Halifax Regional Municipality took place in 1996, not in 1995 as stated. What took place in 1995 was the Service Exchange between the Province and the all of the municipalities in Nova Scotia which would have resulted in

some 640 kilometres of Class "J" roads (local subdivision streets) situated throughout the entire Halifax County Municipality being transferred between the DOT and Halifax County Municipality. Between April 1, 1995 and April 1, 1996, the County and the Province had an interim arrangement whereby the Province agreed to maintain municipal roads outside the Urban Core Area in exchange for County maintaining Provincial roads inside the Core.

2) During the months leading up to amalgamation on April 1, 1996, negotiations took place between Bill Hayward, the Amalgamation Coordinator and the Province to rationalize the road inventory holdings. These negotiations culminated in an agreement in principle, subject to working out the details, between Mr. Hayward and the Province. This ultimately resulted in the Agreement HRM-01 approved by Halifax Regional Council on June 18, 1996, whereby it was agreed that the actual roads transferred to HRM by the Province would be only the roads situated within the Urban Density Area. As a result, the Province would continue to maintain all local streets outside the Urban Core area, in exchange for HRM providing maintenance of former NSTPW arterial and collector roads within the former Halifax County Municipality, located inside the Urban Core.

3) HRM does not contract road maintenance in Districts 17 and 18 with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation at \$5,000 per kilometre. The Province maintains the

roads they own outside the Urban Core, and maintains them to Provincial Service Standards.

4) As far as HRM-owned roads outside the Core in District 18 are concerned, there are only five. They include Curto Court, Portuguese Cove (0.2kms); Kestrel Court, Halibut Bay (0.21kms); Kittiwake Ridge, Halibut Bay (0.25kms); Portovista Drive, Portuguese Drive (0.8km portion); and Sarah Ingram (extension), Williamswood (1 km at end of NSTPW-owned portion). The total is 2.46 kms of HRM-owned roads in this district, which result from residential subdivision activity and street acceptance after December 1997. HRM is responsible for maintenance on these roads. We perform non-winter maintenance ourselves, and have NSTPW perform winter snow and ice on our behalf under a winter service exchange agreement whereby both parties service an equal length of roads on the other's behalf on a revenue neutral basis.

5) Ms. Raymond's statement that NSTPW has been unable to get a list of private roads from HRM is inaccurate. In fact, HRM is working with NSTPW on an updated list of private roads within the municipality. The Core area is nearly complete and they are now working on the outside Core listing.

I hope this information is helpful to your readers.

John O'Brien Manager, Corporate Communications Chief Administrative Office, HRM

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LOCAL OBITUARIES

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd.

FLEMMING, Francis Daniel - 84, passed away in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Halifax, he was a son of the late Emmanuel and Eva (Greenwood) Flemming. Francis was a veteran of the Second World War serving in the navy from June 26, 1941, until October 9, 1945, and was a gunner overseas. He served for Canada, Newfoundland and on the high seas in the English Channel. His sea time commenced October 24, 1943. He also worked at the Halifax Dockyards for 25 years as a refrigeration technician. He is survived by his wife, Corinne (Wilkie) Flemming; daughters, Brenda Farrell and Jacqueline Flemming, both of Spryfield; son, Clarence (Cheryl), Prospect Bay; grandchildren, Nicholas, Kirk, and John. He was predeceased by a daughter in infancy; brother, Basil. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601). Burial will be held at a later date.

PURCELL, Mary Agnes - 87, Portuguese Cove, passed away in the VG Site, QEII, Halifax. Born in Portuguese Cove, she was a daughter of the late Hildred and Daisy Aldora (Naugle) Purcell. Mary loved going to flea markets on Sunday. She loved bingo and animals, especially dogs and cats. She was a devoted wife and mother; she loved her son Raymond dearly. She also loved the Catholic Church. She is survived by her son, Raymond, Portuguese Cove; sister, Muriel Gray, Spryfield; brother, Frank, Tantallon; many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Everett Purcell; sister, Winnifred; brothers, Douglas and Kenneth. Funeral arrangements are under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield. Interment was in St. Anne's Cemetery, Portuguese Cove.

DREW, Elsie Aileen - 76, Sambro, loving wife of the late James Cecil Drew, passed away in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII, Halifax. Born in Sambro, she was the daughter of the late Harris and Lucy (Smith) Cook. Elsie was faithful lifelong member of St. James Church in Sambro, where she was also a member of the choir. In her younger years, Elsie had been a school teacher at various schools and had also been employed with the telephone company. Elsie treasured her family, and loved her children and grandchildren dearly. She loved to knit and will be fondly remembered for all of the mittens she had donated throughout the years. She will be sadly missed by her children, Beth (George) Kelly, Sambro; David (Lori) Drew, Timberlea; Annie (Kevin) Drew-Purcell, Sambro; Bernard (Nancy) Drew, Portuguese Cove; Alan (Anne) Drew, Williamswood; Paul (Christina) Drew, Sambro; and her beloved grandchildren, Sonja, Christian, Dorothy, Emily, Jordan, Ryan, and Lucy. She was predeceased by her parents, and her husband, J. Cecil Drew. Interment has taken place in Sambro Cemetery.

MURPHY, George - 72, Spryfield, passed away peacefully surrounded by his wife and family in

the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Grand Banks, N.L., he was a son of the late Edward and Hanna Mary (Rose) Murphy. He worked for A.M. Smith's and Company for 35 years until he retired. A.M. Smith's was a fish plant at first and then they closed down and became a painting company. Loved by all, he was a loving husband, father, grandfather and special friend to everyone. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen "Kay"; son, George; daughters, Diana (Doug), Bernadette (Jimmy), Darlene (Paul), Madonna (Paul), and Belinda; brothers, Stan (Mabel), Tom (Betty), and half-brother, Bruce (Joyce); 15 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren in the months to come. George was predeceased by brothers, Henry and William; mother-in-law, Margaret Vickery; father-in-law, John Vickery; sisters-in-law, Barbara and Jean. Special thanks to his physician Dr. Hugh Matheson, and the nurses and staff at the QEII. He will be sadly missed by all. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601). Interment was held in St. John's Cemetery, Halifax.

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Chebucto News Community Events

To have your Community Event listed call or fax us at 477-NEWS or send e-mail to rhorner@ns.sympatico.ca

Benefit Dance

There will be a Benefit Dance and Silent Auction for Alan Hart, a recent spinal cord injury victim, Saturday April 8 beginning at 7 pm in the Spryfield Lions Hall. There will be a live band, cash bar, snacks and door prize. For information contact Jackie Hart at 479-2162, Penny Hart at 479-1273 or Peggy Hart at 477-1995.

Craft and Bake Sale

The Calvary United Church will hold a Spring Craft and Bake Sale April 8 beginning at 9 am at South Centre Mall. For information contact Marion Keddy at 477-8180.

Heritage Meeting

The Mainland South Heritage Society meets the last Thursday of the month at 7PM, Captain William Spy Library. Next meeting April 27.

Farm Society Meets

The Urban Farm Museum Society meets the second

Snow Removal

continued from pg. 11

Peninsular Halifax.

Snow removal is a standard service in many municipalities, such as Montreal, Saint John, Moncton, Ancaster, London, and Charlottetown. They understand that there are many people who are virtual prisoners in their homes following a snow storm until the sidewalks are cleared. This is just not fair to many

Wednesday of the month at 7PM, Captain William Spy Community Centre. Next meeting April 10.

Birthday Celebration

Please join us at the Captain William Community Centre on April 22 as the Urban Farm Museum Society celebrates its 10th birthday. Reception 2 PM, Cake Cutting 2:30 PM, and Guided Walk to Farm Field 3 PM.

Residents Meet

The Spryfield Residents' Association meets the last Wednesday of the month at 7PM, Captain Spy Community Centre. Next meeting April 26.

Primary Registration

Central Spryfield is now registering for Primary for the upcoming 2006-2007 school year. A child must have reached his or her fifth birthday on or before October 1, 2006. Parents and Guardians must present the child's birth certificate, proof of residence, health card number and expiry date at the time of registration. The school

will announce the date for primary orientation at a later date. For more information, please call 479 4286.

Scout Supper

Emmanuel Scouting Groups Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper will be held Sunday, April 30, 4 - 6 pm at Emmanuel Church Hall, 322 Herring Cove Road, Spryfield. Adults: \$9 ; Children 12 and under: \$6

Action Meeting

We would like to welcome everyone to a community meeting being held at J.L. Ilsey High School Saturday April 29 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. There will be on-site childcare provided for ages 3-11 years. A free lunch will be served along with prize giveaways. So come share your ideas about Spryfield and get in on the action! If you have any questions contact the Action office at 475-3783 or e-mail us at spryfieldaction@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Ham and Scallop Supper

St. James Anglican Church in Herring Cove, 1 Harrigans Road, will hold a Ham and Scallop Potato supper on Saturday, April 29 from 4 to 6 pm. A bake table and sewing table will open at 2 pm and there will be a social evening starting at 7:30pm. For further information please call 446-8168.

Dinner Theatre

St. James Dinner Theater, Sambro, will present "Whose Garden" May 5, 6, 12 and 13. Your choice of lobster or roast beef. Tickets are \$25.00 and go on sale March 13th. Contact Eva Mae at 868-2660 for tickets or information.

Young at Heart Club

The following are monthly events at the Young at Heart Club. For information call Joan at 443-1067.

First Saturday each month – Dance – 8 to 11 pm – Old Time Country and Fiddle Band:

First Tuesday of each month – General Meeting – New Members welcome:

All other Tuesdays – Choir 1 pm; Thursdays – Crib 7:15 pm – Darts 7 pm. For Hall rentals call Lynn at 477-2778.

Ecumenical Service

The Young at Heart Club will hold an Ecumenical Service April 30 at 2 pm. A time of fellowship will follow. For information call Joan at 443-1067.

Next at TAG

Red Hot and Cole April 27 to May 13 – Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 pm with matinees Sunday May 7 and Saturday May 13 at 2 pm. Box office opens April 6. For reservations visit www.tagtheatre.com/ or Call 477-2663.

Class Reunion

The J.L. Ilsey Class of 1986 is planning a 20-year reunion this summer to be held August 10 to 12. For more information the website is provided or you could contact Peter Jollimore or David Jollimore at djollimore@yahoo.com.

Legion Notes

The following events will be held at the Earl Francis Memorial Legion:
 Bingo – Every Sunday beginning at 1 pm – doors open at noon;
 Karaoke – April 3 and 17 - 9 pm to 1 am – Members and Guests welcome
 Senior Dances – April 3 and 17 - 1 to 5 pm – Featuring Newfie George.
 Cadet Adult Fundraiser Dance – April 29 – 9 pm to 1 am
 Election of Officers – April 11 beginning at 7 pm.

Chebucto News Business Directory

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NUTRITION for APRIL

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FREE. Thursday, April 13th, 1-3pm.

Controlling Blood Pressure

Join us to learn how to control your blood pressure by adding certain foods to your eating plan.
FREE. Thursday, April 13th, 5-6:30pm.

Confused about Reading Labels?

Join the dietitian for a store tour and learn the truth behind the nutrition label!
FREE. Thursday, April 27th, 1-3pm.

Healthy Cooking Classes

Spring Up New Ideas!
(\$5.00 each, 6-8pm)

Monday, April 3rd – Zesty Orange Poppy Seed Salad, Chinese Beef, Berry Empanadas

Monday, April 17th – Roasted Garlic and Yam Soup, Indian Rice and Lentils, Citrus Berry Mimosas

Monday, April 24th – Eggplant Dip with Toasted Pitas, Roasted Red Pepper Goat Cheese Pasta, Whole Wheat Blueberry Muffins

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Physiotherapy is the health care profession dedicated to enhancing and restoring physical function. They assist their patients in preventing disability and managing pain due to various medical conditions. Physiotherapists have the education, applied knowledge and treatment techniques to help you improve your physical mobility and independence, manage and reduce pain, and improve your overall fitness, health and well-being. Physiotherapists are primary care professionals, just like doctors and dentists. You can go directly to a physiotherapist to get assessment and treatment for your condition.

Occupational Therapy is a century-old health care profession which began during WWI when the wounded soldiers required rehabilitation of the mind and body at the bedside. Establishing or restoring daily function through meaningful activity is the core focus of the profession. With our educational backgrounds in both science and the arts, the occupational therapist is able to customize the client's treatment for the best outcome. The

term "occupation" often conjures up thoughts of paid employment but this is not always the case, especially when you consider our work with seniors and young children. Any activity, role, habit or duty which a client wants or needs to accomplish on a daily basis, regardless of condition or injury, is the main priority for the therapeutic relationship between the client and their occupational therapist.

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