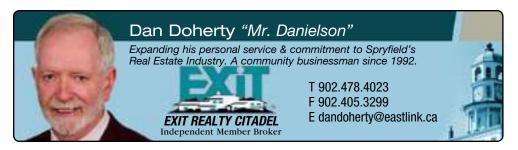
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Sambro Light fog horn won't be turned off without being heard

One of the first actions of North America's first ever elected representative government, the installation of a lighthouse at Outer Sambro Island to help Sheppard vessels into

Halifax Harbour, won't be silenced without being heard.

The Sambro Light was established by resolution of the Nova Scotia Assembly on



Santa, Larry Sinclair, Chair of the Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre, and Mrs. Claus, his wife Jenelle Dirdle, have fun with a couple of the kids during the Captain Spry Community Centre Christmas Lighting ceremony in December.

October 2, 1758. The light and horn, financed by the appropriation of a thousand pounds from duties paid on spirituous liquors and a tax on all vessels entering the harbour, will celebrate its 250th birthday this year in conjunction with the celebration of 250 years of Responsible Government.

In a Resolution to the House of Assembly this past November, Halifax Atlantic MLA Michele Raymond called upon the provincial government to "express its displeasure to the federal government" for silencing the horn. She said the actions shows a "careless disregard for the nation's Maritime heritage

and its history of responsible government" and the provincial government should be requesting that the signal be reinstated immediately. The MLA received the support all three parties of the House of Assembly for the Resolution.

Raymond said the light is the oldest operating lighthouse in the Americas. "The stone building of the Sambro Light is celebrating a quarter millennium this year and it is a sad reflection that we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Representative Government

see "Sambro Light" pg. 2

"Opening the Door to Arts," initial task force formed

A task force, temporarily known as the "Outer City Arts Group," comprised of artisans located through the provincial riding of Halifax Atlantic, has been formed and begun meeting to explore ways to better organize, expose and promote the variety and number of artisans in the community.

The new group was formed informally last month when New Democrat MLA Michele

Raymond gathered nearly 60 artists, poets, crafts folks, sculptors and others together for a one day panel discussion called "Opening The Door on the Arts in Halifax Atlantic" to bring attention to the bevy of talent in the community.

"I've always believed artistic creativity is a large part of Halifax Atlantic's unique colour," said Raymond following the successful meeting held at the Theatre Arts Guild's Pond Playhouse, Canada's oldest operating amateur theatre group. "I believe the arts are one of the things that keeps these communities strong and sure of what they are. The arts are essential to our community health," she said.

Raymond invited three local residents, all interested in the arts, at act as panelists and resource people for the discussion. The panelists included Tim Leary, an actor and director with a long history in Ontario's arts community left that province's arts council to work for the Nova Scotia Arts Council, a professional, arms-length board which used

see "Habitat" pg. 2

see "Opening the Door" pg. 2

Habitat for Humanity HRM is building in Spryfield — Are you interested in becoming a homeowner? Habitat for Humanity Halifax Regional including the need for affordable housing, approved families for a mortgage payment

Habitat for Humanity Halifax Regional Municipality, which has built 24 "Habitat Homes" in HRM since 1992, is working to provide four new townhouse units on Sylvia Avenue in Spryfield this year and the organization is looking for qualified families in need of adequate housing

Strange as it may seem, offering a family a brand new yet affordable home is not an easy challenge says Alexis Ashworth, Habitat for Humanity HRM's Executive Director. "There is no formal deadline to apply," she says suggesting that the organization would like to get this year's families in place by February. "Many people simply don't believe they qualify or don't know what we do, so we sometimes struggle to achieve the level of application response we would like," she said.

Ashworth explains that there are criteria for families to reach before being accepted,

including the need for affordable housing, the ability to repay a Habitat Mortgage and a willingness to partner with Habitat.

She said the need for affordable housing is defined by a family income below the government set "Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)," existing living conditions that are inadequate in terms of structure, cost, safety or size and the ratio of shelter expense to total income.

The ability to pay requirement means a family must have a stable enough income to repay a Habitat mortgage and other expenses which come from home ownership.

And approved families must demonstrate a willingness to partner with Habitat by contributing 500 hours of volunteer labour or "sweat equity" towards the building of their home.

Ashworth says that a home is offered to

equal to 25% of their annual income. If the income changes then the monthly payment increases or decreases accordingly. The local Habitat for Humanity office holds the mortgage. In an effort to keep monthly payments low, encourage long-term

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"Opening the Door to Arts" task force formed

continued from pg. 1

to be in charge of making sure arts funding wasn't controlled by political motivation. That body was dismantled in the late 1990s, to the great concern of many in the province, and has never been reconstituted.

Sabine Fels is an arts administrator who

runs arts programming in the JL Ilsley schools, making sure that some activities make their way into the former County schools of the Halifax Regional School Board. Music, drama and art are not core parts of the NS curriculum, and depend on the varying funding arrangements in different parts of each

in film, museums and as director of a large studio complex in the UK before moving to Herring Cove. She had also developed and run a Turkish-British artists' exchange which was funded by the British Council, the original arms-length arts funding body.

"Perhaps it was the setting but the theatre

Sambro Light fog horn won't be turned off without being heard

continued from pg. 1

by turning off the light," she said suggesting that perhaps a local petition to the federal government opposing the move should be initiated.

And the moved did not escape the attention of the local heritage society. "We would like the coast guard to turn the horn back on," said Leslie Harnish, President of the Mainland South Heritage Society.

"It's a real shame to think that this shabby looking lighthouse is celebrating its 250th year by being decommissioned. The people of Sambro, and the sailors who use the Harbour, are accustomed to the horn's sound. It will be real loss for this community," she said.

The coast guard has determined, after consulting mariners, that the foghorn is no longer needed. Officials of the department have suggested the horn has sounded when it was not needed and that electrical wiring to the building had been damaged.

Harnish says that generally the building has been in need of a painting and upgrading for several years. She suggested the coast guard should be having a celebration this year but it would be embarrassing since the place is falling apart.

Over the past several years the coast guard has been slowly divesting itself of wharfs and buildings it has maintained. The guard will first offer the infrastructure to the provincial government, the municipal government or

another non-profit organization before putting the facilities on the market for sale.

engaged audience all ready to open the door for the arts in our community," Raymond said. As a result of the session a task force has formed from the meeting and will be meeting again in the next few weeks," she said. Anyone you're interested in participating should email headurwatts@yahoo.ca, with "Outer City Arts" in the subject line, or call Raymond's constituency office.

was nearly full and the three panelists had an

"I am constantly amazed by the I find living or visiting here and the local people here known across the country as musicians, painters, writers, artists and actors, as well as people who practice a craft constantly and with great originality, without ever considering themselves artists."

Habitat for Humanity HRM building in Spryfield in 2008

continued from pg. 1

commitment and prevent short-term profit, the system works by way of a second mortgage. The first mortgage is the actual cost of the house and the seconds reflects the difference between the actual cost being paid by the Habitat family and the fair market value of the property. When the first mortgage is paid in full, the second mortgage is forgiven.

Ashworth said the program has proven to be an effective way of helping working families living below the poverty line and the

communities in which they live. Once former renters are now homeowners and paying taxes and a safe, healthy living environment contributes to the positive growth and development of children. "Habitat has recorded many examples of children within Habitat families becoming healthier, completing postsecondary education and going on to become homeowners themselves," she says.

Anyone interested in applying for a 2008 Habitat for Humanity home should contact the local office at 464-0274 or search the web at www.habitathrm.com.



The demolition BC Silver School was slowed due to asbestos issues but the project has now met Environment Regulations and is continuing. Soon the space will be a new residential neighbourhood.

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Local resident Skinner receives national scholarship

Kelly Skinner, a resident of Leiblin Park, is the 2007 winner of the Ruth Hammond Scholarship, awarded annually to a public relations student in the final year of the Bachelor of Public Relations program at Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU).

A 2004 graduate with distinction of J. L. Ilsley High School, Skinner has been on the Dean's First Class Honours list at Mount Saint Vincent and has been the recipient of a renewable In-Course Merit Scholarship as well as having been honoured with the Sister Romaine Bates Scholarship, the Public Relations Alumnae Endowed Scholarship, a J.L. Ilsley

Teacher's Award and the Caster Rack Systems Scholarship. She will graduate in the fall 2008.

"I am very honoured to have received this distinction," Skinner told the Chebucto News. "I think when you work hard at something, it's nice to be recognized for your efforts and, in this case, it is especially rewarding. Throughout her career Ruth Hammond made a positive impact on the public relations industry in Canada and she continues to support the growth of public relations education. I am pleased to be able to pay tribute to Ruth by accepting this scholarship."

The Ruth Hammond Scholarship was

established by Ms. Hammond's friends and colleagues in the Canadian Public Relations Society to honour her lifetime commitment to public relations education in Canada. The scholarship, currently awarded by MSVU, acknowledges a student who has completed at least two public relations co-op work terms and who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, leadership abilities and dedication to establishing a career in the public relations field.

"Public Relations is a field I've always wanted to enter," Skinner said, admitting

that she really didn't understand public relations until she began working toward her degree. But she says she has "been told throughout my life that I have strong writing skills and I am also a very outgoing person, both useful qualities for a PR practitioner to possess."

Skinner will continue a work term at the IWK Foundation part-time during the winter months and into spring while she completes the last two semesters of school before graduating with a Bachelor of Public Relations and a Certificate in Marketing in October this year.

"If I am able to continue working at the IWK Foundation after graduation, I would welcome the opportunity but if that is not possible I think I would like to work with another organization in the non-profit sector," she said.

Skinner is also a volunteer at the East Coast Classic, a golf tournament held at the Digby Pines each July that raises money, well over \$1 million to date, for Sport Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame and minor league sports. "I have a special place in my heart for the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame where I completed my first work term and I plan to continue helping them whenever I can."

"I have worked with Kelly at IWK and have seen her in action as a volunteer at the East Coast Classic," says Leanne Beddow, Co-Director, Communications, IWK Health Centre Foundation. "Her public relations knowledge, initiative and professional attitude make her a tremendous asset to any team. The Mount has prepared her well for the workforce."



Kelly Skinner

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DISCOVERING OUR PAST



Milestones in Our History

By Iris V. Shea, Historian Mainland South Heritage Society

everal milestones will be celebrated in Nova Scotia in 2008, most of which have a connection to our Mainland South area. One milestone that is sure to make the headlines is the 250th anniversary of the first General Assembly in Nova Scotia. The election of 19 men (referred to as Gentlemen and Esquires), was the beginning of Representative Government in this province. On October 2, 1758 these 19 representatives convened at Halifax to decide the laws and policies necessary for the "Public peace, welfare and good government," a practice that their successors continue to the present day. One of the 19 elected men

in 1758, John Fillis, Esquire, played a role in the early history of Armdale and the Northwest Arm. He was a wealthy merchant from Boston who, in addition to investing in the lucrative Halifax fisheries, provided mortgages to fledgling entrepreneurs. In 1752 Giles Harris mortgaged his one-third share of the unfinished sawmill and 300 acres of surrounding land at the head of the Northwest Arm. When Harris was unable to make the required payments, Fillis foreclosed, taking possession of the land

and the unfinished sawmill. By the 1780s

Fillis and his brother, James, with John

Hosterman, owned all three shares in the

venture which saw a Chocolate Mill and a

Grist Mill operating on the stream leading

from Chocolate Lake.

John Fillis, Esquire, was defeated as the representative for Halifax in 1770.

At the time of his death in 1792 he was in possession of a distillery and several rental houses in Halifax, his dwelling house on the Halifax waterfront with a wharf, store, and shop where rum, gin, wine, molasses and coffee were sold; a lot in Dutch Village and a "Fish Lott" on the Northwest

Another milestone to be celebrated in 2008 is the 100th anniversary of the Memorial Tower in Fleming Park. Through the efforts and determination of Sir Sandford Fleming, the foundation stone for the tower was laid in 1908 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Representative Government in Nova Scotia.

The 250th anniversary of the Sambro Light is another 2008 milestone. One of the first decisive acts by the 19 representatives in 1758 was to use sums of money from excise taxes to support the cause of a lighthouse on Sambro Island. Joseph Rouse was its first lightkeeper.

One last milestone that is worthy of mention is the 200th anniversary of the house on Melville Island, now occupied by the Armdale Yacht Club. In 1808, the British Admiralty built this three-storey wooden house as a residence for officers

in charge of the French prisoners of war during the Napoleonic Wars. British

warders were transferred to McNab's Island. The large house on Melville Island was



Photo of officers' residence, Melville Island, 1929, courtesy NSARM

officers continued to live in the house during the War of 1812 when American prisoners of war were brought to Melville Island. From 1815 to 1816 the Chesapeake Blacks were housed in the prison building, and civilians like steward William Sutherland, storekeeper Robert Hodges, and turnkey William Kent, and their families, occupied the large house. In 1819 and again in the 1830s and 1840s it was necessary to use the prison buildings as a quarantine station for immigrants who were suffering from typhoid and smallpox...the house was occupied by medical personnel. During the 1820s, when Melville Island was not in use, Joseph Miles lived there as the caretaker and gardener. In 1855 British officers were again summoned to occupy the house when volunteer recruits from New England were brought to Melville Island to train for the British Foreign Legion in the Crimean war.

In 1856 Melville Island and several acres on the mainland were sold to the British Army and the house became home to warders and assistant warders in charge of prisoners on Melville Island. The prisoners were members of the British Army who were sentenced to hard labour on the island for crimes such as desertion, theft, and being drunk on duty. By 1905, the British sold Melville Island and its buildings to the Canadian Government for use by the Canadian Army. The prison buildings were renamed Detention Barracks and the house became the residence of the Chief Warder and his family. Among the officers who served as Chief Warder were Sgt. Major W.R.H. Cox and Sgt. Major John Monaghan.

When the Ordnance Corps took over Melville Island during World War II, the prisoners, the chief warder and assistant used by officers and a civilian secretary who coordinated the distributed of the

ammunition stored in the prison buildings. When the war ended, the island was no

longer needed by the Army. Caretakers were hired to live in the officers' house. Before the Armdale Yacht Club took over in 1947, Andy and Sigritte Anderson were caretakers. The Goodyer family, followed by the MacLeods, were caretakers in the early years of the Yacht Club's occupation of the house.

The clubhouse has had additions and changes to its original structure, but if you look closely at the third storey, you will see the original building rising above those additions. This old officers' residence, now occupied by the Armdale Yacht Club, is the oldest building on the Northwest Arm.

On February 23, 2008, the Mainland South Heritage Society will feature, as part of its Annual Heritage Tea and Display, "Milestones in Our History," including photographs and stories pertaining to all of the milestones mentioned above. Please join us on that date, from

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Royal Bank contributes funding to Boys and Girls Club of Spryfield

The Boys and Girls Club of Spryfield benefited this past month from a \$32,000

grant from the Royal Bank of Canada which Executive Director Darlene MacLean says is



Olympian Hugh Smith and Herring Cove Road Branch Royal Bank Manager Mark Hebert were on hand to present Boy and Girls Club of Spryfield Executive Director Darlene MacLean with a cheque for \$32,000 to help with the club's after school programs.

absolutely crucial to keeping the club open and active for about 100 local children.

The club, which offers After School, evening and weekend programs to children of school age is always at the mercy of grant application for funding to stay open and alive says MacLean.

"Without this kind of corporate support the club would have a very difficult time maintaining its staff compliment and its membership numbers. We have very good staff here and we certainly want to keep them. Through these kinds of donations we can ensure their tenure which means we can keep people working here who are familiar with our children. It's a real blessing," she said.

The grant was provided to the club through the Royal Bank of Canada's "After School Program." The donation represents the second year in a row the club has been recognized as an RBC After School Program. The \$32,000 was awarded to the club to assist in the provision of after school homework tutoring, art programs, music, computer instruction and supervised recreational play components.

The local club was one of only 77 after school programs across Canada to be selected for the grant. Each of the recipients represent a diverse range of community-based organizations and were chosen by panels of local citizens.

To be chosen for the grant the after school programs must offer structures, supervised activities in an environment that provides what RBC has termed the " 3 Ss" – safety, social skills and self-esteem. "We believe the best after school programs compliment the formal education that children receive in the classroom," said Herring Cove Road RBC Branch Manager Mark Hebert who, along with Olympian gymnast Hugh Smith presented the cheque to Director MacLean.

"When kids have an opportunity to participate in activities outside the classroom in a structured and safe environment, there can be a marked improvement in their self-esteem, and that's a gift that can last forever," he said. "We congratulate the Boys and Girls Club of Spryfield and know it will give children a safe place to shine and continue their learning through a wide range of activities that go beyond academics."

For the kids though, the big thrill of the event was meeting Olympian Smith who placed fifth in the last Canada Games, 15th in the last Pan-Am Games and is heading to Beijing for the next Olympics.

Smith, who performed a hand stand and a back flip for the kids, said he has been involved in gymnastics since he was four years old. "Luckily," he said, "there was a gym close to home and my parents, tired of me bouncing around on the furniture, decided I should take structured classes." As a result of following his dreams, he told the children, he has traveled extensively around the world, met many new friends and competitors and learned to compete at a high level. "Always always follow your dreams," he encouraged.

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Seventeen students undertake "Black Belt Testing" at local school

The students of Chimo Taekwondo showed how it is supposed to be done in December when seventeen of them were promoted to various degrees of black belt in the largest Black Belt test ever held in the community.

Promoted to 1st Poom (Junior Black Belt) were Alex Pace, Braeden Drysdale, Luke

Smeltzer, Hunter and Jackson Carroll, Grace Kingsbury, Cassidie Delaney, Tia and Delle Anderson and Kayla Sage. Promoted to 2nd Poom were Jessica Brown, Katie Berakos and Kennedy Theriault. Promoted to 2nd Dan (Adult Black Belt) were Andrew Saulnier, Mark Theriault and Shelise Morgan. Promoted to 4th

CCDA undertaking "Wise Elders" Program

The Chebucto Communities Development Association (CCDA) has been awarded funds for their Wise Elders in Our Neighbourhood project.

Senior citizens hold a wealth of experience and skills. Wise Elders will encourage seniors and recent retirees, who may or may not have volunteered before, to become engaged in volunteering and other activities in their community.

The project will also encourage young people to volunteer to help seniors in their neighbourhood, and will help to connect senior volunteers with youths volunteering for the

Part of the Wise Elders project will help community groups each develop their own strategies to recruit, support and retain senior volunteers. This will build on the work begun

by CCDA this past summer, when Robin Steed

interviewed close to 40 groups from Armdale

to the Pennants Wise Elders will help to create stronger communities. The project will promote volunteering among seniors to contribute their experience, skills and wisdom to make their community better, by connecting senior volunteers to volunteering opportunities in

It will also help reduce the risk of social isolation, by encouraging more connections of seniors with youth volunteers, and exploring ways and communication methods to connect seniors with activities in their community.

their community

If you are interested in becoming involved in the project or as a volunteer in your community, please call CCDA at 477-0964, or e-mail ccda.info@ns.sympatico.ca.

Dan was Mr. Doug Large, owner and Head Instructor of Chimo Taekwondo.

The test was graded by 7th Dan, Master Woo Yong Jung. Master Jung awarded a number of straight "A" marks during the test, almost unheard of in Black Belt grading, and honoured Mr. Large with the title Young Master."

Chimo Taekwondo is a locally owned and operated martial arts club which has been offering traditional and Olympic style Taekwondo training in Spryfield for more than four years.

Chimo, Halifax's largest dedicated martial arts facility, welcomes students aged 5 and up with any level of fitness. The club boasts 110 members from ages three on up and programs have ben developed for Adults, Children and Youth, plus "Little Dragons," three and four year old children, as well as programs for people interest in non-competitive training.

Black Belt testing consists of a fitness challenge, kicking demonstrations, traditional forms of Poomse, Olympic style sparing, self defense techniques and a series of breaking combinations with boards and concrete bricks.



A number of muralists have been commissioned by Councillors Stephen Adams and Linda Mosher to cover graffiti defacing junction boxes in the community. The Councillors are interested in knowing which boxes



The Royal Canadian Earl Francis Memorial Spryfield Legion gives bursaries each year to graduating students aat J.L. Ilsley. Legion Executive Members Maureen Connors, Stella Connors, President Betty Neville and Lois Bergeron pose with some of this year's winners of the \$500 post secondary education assistance.



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City undertaking "Community Facility Master Plan"

Halifax Regional Municipality is embarking on a Community Facility Master Plan (CFMP) to map the future of community facilities throughout HRM. Community Facilities are those facilities that are accessible to everyone for use of sports teams (arenas, courts, fields, pools, etc), and various community groups and clubs.

The CFMP is an extension of the Indoor Recreation Facility Master Plan (IRFMP). The CFMP will build upon the public opinion and analysis research, ensure cooperation with the Regional Plan and support the planning, development and operations relative to community recreation facilities.

The objective of the CFMP is to specifically indicate where facilities will be

constructed, which existing facilities will be improved, and recommend joint school use agreements and partnerships for community facilities throughout HRM over the next 20 years. From continued and extensive research, the Master Plan will detail the needs of each community and user group, and provide viable solutions. The CFMP will be completed and presented to Council for approval in June 2008.

Continued public input and participation is an integral part of the planning process. Community open houses will be held throughout HRM and a Public Opinion Survey will be available for public input and feedback. For more information, please visit www.halifax.ca/facilities/CFMP or email CFMP@halifax.ca.

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Ring in the "Year of Democracy" - Raymond

By Michele Raymond Halifax Atlantic MLA

As we enter this year, 2008, Nova Scotia will be celebrating the Year of Democracy, the 250th anniversary of the first representative government in Canada.

On October 2, 1758, when 22 men met at Halifax, as the first elected assembly in Canada, it was the birth of parliamentary democracy. Nova Scotians take pride in that fact, though 'democracy' is a word we hear often, and think about rarely. We assume it's always there when we need it, but it takes work and attention to keep a democratic system on track.

In a truly democratic society, everyone knows it. All are aware that their elected representatives are answerable (or responsible) to their constituents for the decisions made, and that they will have the chance at election to deliver their verdict on whether or not these decisions have been good ones. It's a self-correcting system.

You can guess that self-correction isn't

working though when any candidate tells electors they will suffer if they don't vote for him or her. In a functioning democracy, people don't Vote Fear, and they don't believe the pothole at the end of their driveway is a personal punishment for not having voted the 'right' way.

I have been elected to represent the people of Halifax Atlantic, and I'm saddened every time someone prefaces their request for help with "I voted for you." Obviously there's a deep history of believing representation is only for certain people. That's not democracy; it's vengeance politics.

I hope eventually I won't hear people say that their elected representative "gave" them money for a project, or "built" a new bridge or swimming pool. In a working democracy, people have confidence that government decisions are based on the merit of the project and the need of the community, for reasons that anyone can understand. Nova Scotians have too long a history of believing in the personal, feudal largesse of their politicians.

We've been seeing another telltale sign

of failure: people are voting with their feet, by leaving the province. Out-migration means Nova Scotia is 'graying' faster than any other province. Young people and immigrants may start here, but they're not staying.

Like many others, I am deeply offended by the provincial immigration policy that has required highly skilled people from other countries to pay huge sums of money for the privilege of arriving here and doing service as volunteers and unskilled labour. The message is not welcoming, and it's not democratic.

By the same token, we hear about a labour shortage, but it's largely in the service sector, where salaries often don't meet the cost of living. Our students pay the highest tuition fees in the country; how can they afford to stay and work for some of the lowest wages?

It's also a sign of trouble when too many people are exhausted by consultations, and can't be bothered to attend another meeting. A democratically elected government doesn't need to hedge its bets by obsessive, inconclusive consultations, since voters will be consulted at the polls. By the same token, a

confident government doesn't keep changing the electoral rules at short notice, or even retroactively, with no consultation at all.

Above all, democracy doesn't work in secret. Joseph Howe famously referred to the Legislature as the People's House, where the people are always welcome to see their representatives at work. It was a profound failure last month when the Minister of Education expressed 'disappointment' that the people of Fall River came to the People's House to watch debate on their promised high school.

I am deeply honoured to sit in the People's House as the representative for Halifax Atlantic. We have much reason to be proud of our place in the history of democracy, but a 250th anniversary is also a good time to make sure we are properly observing this essential value. Happy New Year!

Work underway on intersection signals

Northwest Arm Drive at the Walter Havill Drive and Albert Walker Connector intersection will be reduced to one lane for signal upgrades from Monday, Nov. 26 until Friday, Feb. 29. Work takes place from sunrise to Sunset.

For information motorists can contact the Local Area Office at 835-2702 or by facsimile at 835-1860.

A successful 2007 and snow removal "pet peeves"

By Linda Mosher Councillor District 17

2007 was a very busy year in our district as we saw many changes. There were new developments in areas where it was hard to imagine that there was room for any more. We saw the Armdale Rotary physically change to a roundabout. There were a few safety improvements such as a new flashing crosswalk and sidewalk on the St. Margaret's Bay Road and a left turning lane that also enhances flow. We held a public hearing and Halifax Regional Council unanimously agreed to initiatives that will provide protection from infilling in the North West Arm. We had some upgrades to our community parks, trails and playgrounds. We had security upgrades at the Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre and heaters were installed at the Spryfield Lions Rink to make it a little more enjoyable watching games. Steve Adams, Recreation staff and I held an open house at the Captain William Spry Centre to showcase the many exciting changes that we will see starting in the Spring of 2008.

Already we have had the most winter like conditions in recent memory. The first snowfalls always generate questions about snow removal and our procedures. Due to limitations such as staff, equipment and cost, Council has established "standards" for snow removal. If you wonder when your road will be cleared of snow after a storm, it may take up to 12 hours after the end of a snowfall for crews to plow main roads and bus routes. It may take up to 24 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow residential streets. You may notice one of your neighbouring streets being plowed earlier than yours. This street may be a bus route, or part of a different plowing route, or it may be a higher priority because it is on a steep hill.

This year we are plowing sidewalks on all main arterial roads, collectors and bus routes. The standards for sidewalks on main arterials is 12 hours after a storm and 18 hours for school routes and bus routes. Of course in most instances these standards are exceeded and therefore residents expect snow to be

cleared much quicker than the standards set. If you would like to report an issue please contact our Customer Service Centre at 490-4000. This centre is open 7 days a week (except Christmas and New Year's Day) from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Councillors were asked to call this number as well instead of calling a Supervisor directly. Public Works wants to gauge the number of calls, ensure our service standards are met, and that we have adequate resources. If you do not receive satisfactory service please feel free to contact me directly.

I contacted one of the Senior Supervisors and we discussed snow removal issues and pet peeves. The number one problem that hampers efficient snow removal operation is people parking on the street during a snow storm. The plow has to go around the vehicle parked on the street. It can't go too close to the car (liability issue) so it makes a wide turn around it. The snow on the street also makes it dangerous for motorists not expecting chunks of snow or ice in the middle of the road. When the vehicle finally moves, the snow/ice gets plowed and eventually some of it will end up in someone's driveway. When you see someone shoveling snow from their driveway onto the road, where does that end up? Often in their neighbour's driveway. The same goes for people that park their vehicles at the very end of the driveway. Many people do this to prevent the plow from plowing snow in their driveway after they spent the time shoveling it. The plow has to avoid the car, so it takes a wide swing and as above, this snow will eventually end up in a neighbours driveway. It is important to note that even if the Winter Parking Ban is not in effect, it is illegal, under the Motor Vehicle Act, to park on a public street during a snow storm and vehicles are subject to ticketing and/or towing.

Although it may not seem like a big deal to park a vehicle on the road, there can be serious consequences. Already this year an Access-A-Bus could not make it up a street in our district to pick up a disabled resident, as there was no room due to parked cars and

the road wasn't plowed as the plow couldn't enter either. There are many narrow streets in our area and if a car is parked and a plow cannot get in, neither could a fire truck or an ambulance. Let us all do our part to ensure the safety of our communities.

Feliz Navidad, Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year.

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Linda Mosher

HRM Councillor, District 17
Purcell's Cove - Armdale

Office: 490-4050 Cell: 476-4117 Home: 477-8618

E-mail: mosherl@halifax.ca

www.halifax.ca/district17



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Adams "delighted" with prospect of traffic signals next year

By Stephen Adams, Councillor District 18

In last month's edition of The Chebucto News, I reported that I had written to the Minister of Transportation regarding the intersection at Old Sambro Road and Northwest Arm Drive. This has been an ongoing issue with residents suggesting that they have had to wait upwards of 20 minutes to enter onto Old Sambro Road. Surprisingly, the responses I received said that the traffic volumes were not high enough to warrant

With a new Minister in place, I felt another try might prove successful. In a response from Minister Murray Scott, he

• Acupuncture

• Sports Medicine

• Manual Therapy

wrote "staff have investigated this location and have determined the intersection meets the warrants for installation of traffic signals." He further writes, "The Department will endeavor to make provision for its contribution to the project on its capital budget for the upcoming construction season.'

I am absolutely delighted at the prospect of having lights installed at this intersection. As details come forward, I will be sure to make them known.

There is a new development in Spryfield and another that is an extension of an existing project. The new development is the project approved by Community Council a few years ago, known as Governor's Brook. After some

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amendments were made to the development agreement, residents were reasonably satisfied as to the outcome. Over the next few months. you will be seeing trees cleared and fill moved about to prepare for the first of two phases of this project. As well, initial preparation and preliminary construction of a bridge across McIntosh Run will begin connecting Drysdale Road to this subdivision. The first phase will allow semi-detached units, with approximately 50 buildings to begin.

As well, the extension of the Havill Development just off Rockingstone Road has begun. Some neighbours have expressed concern regarding blasting. Although the charges are all within the allowable limits, I will have staff monitor the ongoing activity.

To date, we have had more snow falls than all of last year. Generally speaking, the snow clearing efforts have been good, except for Olie Street and areas of Thornhill Park. I have met with our staff to discuss these short comings, and am confident that future snow clearing will be very good. Should you have any issues you would like to report, please call

490-4000 to ensure it is registered. As well, you can also call me so that I am also able to help. By having the issue registered, it helps to provide better service and tracking of problem areas.

2007 was an exciting year for me personally and for our communities. I was married on July 14th to Colleen Kelly (and her two children Matt and Alanah). From a personal perspective, I can't think of anything that could be more special or exciting.

In looking at our communities, we had some great projects completed and others just beginning. Two more phases of the Herring Cove Sewer and Water project were completed, providing nearly 200 households with fresh, clean drinking water. Some playgrounds have been enhanced, we have some new parks and controlled development is

Although 2007 was a great year, I see 2008 as being even better. I am excited as to what lies ahead and look forward to working with you. I wish you all peace, prosperity and good health in the upcoming year.

• MVA Injury Management • Work Conditioning Programs • WCB Approved Provider **MLA looks ahead to New Year** • Home Medical Equipment

By Graham Steele, Halifax Fairview MLA

Another year is upon us, and the old one fades away. It would not surprise me if we were to have a provincial election this year. I do not wish for it, but I will be ready for it.

Around the constituency, I find remarkably little sympathy for the Premier or his government. Like you, I am losing faith in his ability to manage the government

in the best interests of you and your family.

Let me give a few examples.

The Premier promised a Pharmacare program in the June 2006 election. In November 2007, the Premier announced some details, but delayed implementation until March 1, 2008. Even then, there is a premium and co-pay that will be prohibitive for most working families. Fear of losing prescription drug benefits is the biggest barrier for moving people from welfare to work. For most people, an upfront premium of even a few hundred dollars is too much. We will continue to press the government to get the details of the program right.

Another example is the work being done at the intersection of Northwest Arm Drive and Walter Havill Drive. You probably noticed that the government was quick to erect big signs on Northwest Arm Drive, prominently featuring the Premier's name, announcing the work was being done. The problem is that the work being done is a small fraction of what needs to be done. The government seems interested in doing the least possible, and taking the maximum credit. This intersection continues to be too dangerous, and needs serious re-alignment.

Another example is the restoration of statutory holidays for retail workers. On the first day of the legislative session, NDP Leader Darrell Dexter introduced a law to do just that. This is an issue on which he has been speaking out ever since the government's Sunday-shopping decision. Two weeks later, the Liberal leader introduced virtually an identical bill, and the Premier announced immediately he would make the Liberal bill law. We're glad the government finally did the right thing, but the Premier seemed more interested in making sure that the NDP wouldn't get any credit.

At least they're taking NDP ideas, which is a good thing. When the government takes NDP ideas, like the HST rebate on home heating fuel, things go better for you and



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LOCAL OBITUARIES

DICKSON, Albert Edward "Manny" - 61, Spryfield, passed away in the VG Site, QEII, Halifax. Born in Halifax, he was the eldest son of Mary E. (Mombourquette) and the late Reginald Dickson. Throughout his life, Manny had been a tractor trailer driver, having been employed with Hoyt's Moving and Storage for many years. He lead a simple life, loved his family dearly, and his passions were cars and computers. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Doris S. (Shirley); son, Albert (Margaret "Tina"), Spryfield; daughter, Joanne Nix, Spryfield; his mother, Mary, Halifax; brother, Reginald "Bubby," Sackville; sisters, Doris Sarty (Richard), Sackville; Mary Shute (Ralph), Hammonds Plains; Joanne Dorton (Leo), Sackville; Margaret Hodges (David), Halifax, and Charlene Dickson, Sackville; his grandchildren, Ryan Dickson, and Kathy, Drew and Alec Nix, as well as several aunts and uncles, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Reginald, and niece, Kristy Cleveland. By request, cremation has taken place under the care of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601).

DOLAN, Terry Michael "G.H.F.F." - 73, Spryfield, passed away in the Halifax Infirmary, QEII, with his family by his side. Born in Toronto, he was a son of the late Edward "Michael" and Mildred (Cook) Dolan. Terry grew up in Toronto, and upon completion of high school, he attended Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., where he was a member of the Golden Gaels Football Team. It was also during his time in Kingston that Terry met Joyce. After they finished their respective studies in Ontario and married, Terry and Joyce moved to Halifax where they worked, raised their children and lived happily for over 40 years. Terry's interests were varied. He was very athletic his whole life and played old-timer's hockey up until the age of 70. He was also involved with local amateur theatre, such as Theatre Arts Guild and Nova Scotia Drama League as well as the Nova Scotia International Tattoo Choir. He volunteered for the VON Meals-On-Wheels and Dial-A-Ride programs. He loved to putter in the garden, swim laps in the pool and relax on the "lower deck" during the summer. Even after Joyce's passing, Terry continued to live a full life. He traveled extensively, visiting Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, France, England and Italy. Terry will be missed by his daughter, Heather (Chris) Avery, White's Lake; son, Michael (Karla), Timberlea; grandchildren, Ryan, Robyn, Liam, and Felicia; sister, Judy Kelly, Toronto; brother, Brien (Gretchen) Campbell River, B.C.; mother-in-law, Ruth; sister-in-law, Carolyn, both of Kingston, Ont.; brothers-in-law, Ernie (Rosie) Chisamore, Landsdowne, Ont.; Ken Newcombe, Victoria, B.C. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 38 years, Joyce; sisters, Linda Newcombe and Diane Hilton; brother, Ed. Cremation has taken place under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601). In lieu of flowers, donations in Terry's memory may be made to Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia (423-7530).

BROWN, Henry Maxwell "Max" - 81, Spryfield, passed away in the Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Burin, N.L., Max was a son of the late George and Suzanna (Pitcher) Brown. He loved his family and enjoyed many friends in his home. He enjoyed life and loved pranks. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Wavey (Grandy); daughters, Susan (Phillip) Webb, Halifax; Carol-Anne

(Larry) Pieznski, Texas; sons, Wallace (Christine) and Robert, both of Halifax; grandchildren, Alana, Tanya, R.J., Maxwell, Juliaanne, Kevin, Kelly, Patrick, Shawna; great-grandchildren, Alicia, Cheilse, Gabriel, Kennedy, Mia. He was predeceased by his sister, Dorothy; brothers, William, Albert, and Wallace. Funeral arrangements are under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601). Interment was held in Oakridge Memory Gardens, Lower Sackville.

GRAY, Arthur Augustus - 79, Sambro Head, passed away in the Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Sambro, he was a son of the late Samuel and Margaret (Gaskin) Gray. For many years, Arthur was employed with the Halifax Shipyard as a rigger, from where he retired in 1990. He is survived by his loving wife, Violet (Billard); his daughters, Ann Marie Smith, Sambro Head; Frances Harnish (Matthew), Duncans Cove; Rosemary Deschamps (Paul), Portuguese Cove; Margaret Louise Gray, Lethbridge, Alta.; brothers, Breton, Pennant; Murray (Phyllis), Sambro Head; and Wayne, Sambro Head; sisters, Goldie (Sherman), Sambro; Mary (Winslow), Halifax; and Shirley (Garry), Fall River; granddaughter, Emily Morgan Smith; great-grandson, Owen Oliver Schnare Smith, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and brother, Donald. The family wishes to extend a very special thank you to the VON and Palliative Care nurses and doctors for their care and compassion, the staff of 6.1 of QEII Health Sciences Centre for all the kindness given, and to the staff of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home. By request, cremation has

taken place under the care of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601). Interment has taken place in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

ISNER, Frances Marion - 84, Halifax, passed away peacefully in the Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Halifax, she was a daughter of the late Wilfred and Mary (Ryder) White. Frances is survived by her son, David (Kim), Hantsport; grandchildren, Mark, Lindy, and Laura; great-grandchildren, Shara and Christopher. Frances was predeceased by her husband, Joseph; sister, Doris Murray; brothers, Harry, Clarence, Gordon, Reg, Walter, Clyde, and Richard. Arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601), where a funeral service will be held on December15 at 11 a.m. in the funeral home chapel with Rev. Jeanne Manning Stright officiating. Burial followed in Fairview Lawn Cemetery.

LeBLANC, Bernice Joan - 74, Halifax, passed away in QEII Health Sciences Centre. Born in Sussex, N.B., she was a daughter of the late Otty and Grace Geldart. She was also predeceased by her husband, Roger LeBlanc, and brother, Ralph Geldart. She was a loving mother and had a very large heart when it came to all of her friends. She was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 156, Lakeside, and a life member of the Air Force Veteran's Club in Moncton, N.B., as well as the Resolute Club in Halifax. She was a devout Catholic, and was a dedicated parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Fairview. She is survived

by her loving companion, William McElroy; her sons, Phillip, British Columbia, and Michael (Cathy), Newfoundland; her daughter, Tammy, Elmsdale; grandchildren, Christopher, Amanda, and Jennifer; brother, George (Anita) Geldart, British Columbia; sisters, Marilyn Legere (Jack), Moncton; Charlotte Bell (Lloyd), Sussex Corner, N.B., and Ruby Swift (Keith), Brier Island; as well as nieces, nephews and cousins. She will especially be missed by her very close friend, Mary Jane Snow. The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the staff of the QEII for all of the care and compassion given to Bernice while in their care.

Steele looks ahead to New Year

continued from pg. 9

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd.

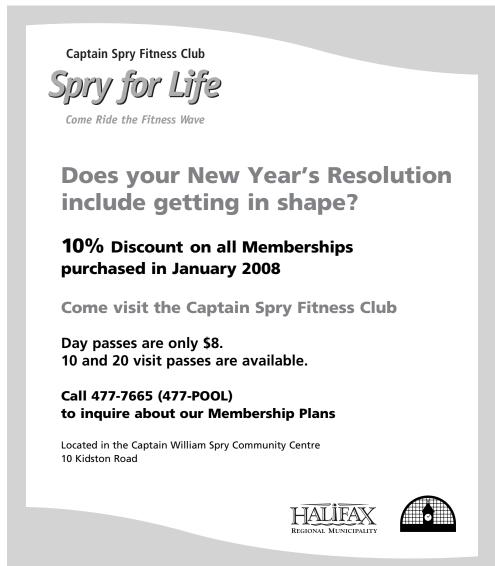
your family. Things don't get better when the Premier follows his own ideas, like the immigration fiasco, or the anti-strike legislation that will make health-care waittimes worse.

This year, like last year, I will continue to keep your best interests at heart. I will always ask myself "Will this make things better for the people of Halifax Fairview?"

My very best wishes to you and yours for 2008.



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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

Cunard Junior High School is having a bottle drive on January 5th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help raise money for sports equipment. It will be held at Cunard Junior High on Williams Lake Road. Come on out and support the kids in their drive.

Public Health Services - Healthy Beginnings Program will hold a family health drop-in at the Captain William Spry Library in Spryfield the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 1 to 2:30 pm starting January 18. It will be facilitated by a Public Health Nurse. A

range of services will be offered including breastfeeding support, parenting education, health and community information for parents, babies and children up to 5 years of age. For more information call 481-5800. Tell a neighbor and bring a friend! **World Religion Day** World Religion Day Multi-Faith Celebration

with music, dance, prayers and chants on Sunday, January 20, 2008 at 3 p.m. at St. Matthew's United Church, 1479 Barrington Street. Sponsored by the Baha'i Community of Halifax and St. Matthew's United Church. Reception to follow. Free will donation to Feed Nova Scotia and the St. Matthew's Breakfast Program. For information email worldreligiondayhalifax@hotmail.com or call 425-8188.

Health Fair

The Annual Spryfield Community Health Fair will unfold from 10:30 am to 2 pm Monday, January 29, at South Centre Mall. Admission is Free and Guest Speakers will make presentations between 11:30 and 12:30. Valuable health information, snacks, beverages and free giveaways will be available to the public.

Sambro Ketch-Harbour Elementary School's Grade 6 class has initiated a recycling fundraiser to raise money for their school trip. An account has been set up for the School at the Beaver Enviro-Depot in Spryfield. Anyone wishing to donate money from their recyclables towards their trip would be greatly appreciated.

Legion Notes:

Seniors Days – Mondays, – January 7 and 21 – 1 to 5 pm - featuring Newfie George. Bingo every Sunday – Doors open at noon – Bingo starts at 1 pm

Super Star Bingo - Sunday evenings - Doors Open at 5pm

Library Happenings:

Volunteer Tutors Needed Captain William Spry Library is looking for Tutors in the ESL (English as a Second Language) For Adults Program. The program runs on Wednesdays in the morning from 10

- noon and in the afternoon from 1-3 pm. If you enjoy meeting and helping new people in the community please call Pam at 490-5715 or email barretp@halifaxpubliclibraries.ca. ESL at Captain William Spry Library Get help with your English Language skills at Captain William Spry Library on Wednesdays from 10 – noon or 1-3 pm. This program is free and open to permanent residents, refugee claimants and Canadian citizens. For more information call Pam at 490-5715 or email barretp@halifaxpubliclibraries.ca.

Preschool Programs

Rock, Rhyme and Read Preschool Family Drop-In Tuesdays 10:30am - July 3 -Children's Programs

Teen Program

Teen Drop In Thursdays 6:30pm Ages 12+ -Drop by the library to find out how you can make a difference in Spryfield. It's a chance to hang out with friends, play games, use computers, make crafts and have fun! Teen Computer Drop In - Ages 12+ - 6:30pm -Hang out and use a laptop to play, surf or chat. Adult Programs

Book Club

The libraries' book clubs are a great way to meet people, explore new authors, share ideas and celebrate the joy of reading.

New to the area? Come and meet new friends at the Newcomers' Club of HRM! We have our monthly meetings at the Keshen Goodman Library on the second Thursday of every month starting at 11 am. The library is located at 330 Lacewood Drive in Bayers Lake. There are lots of social activities to join. For more details, please contact Linda at 429-1897 or Pam at \$64-7006. Hope to meet you there!

Public Speaking, successful presentations and self confidence tips. Come visit a Toastmaster demonstration meeting every Wednesday Evening at 93 Chain Lake Drive at 7 pm. There is no charge and you do not have to participate. If you are a salesman, a facilitator or just want to overcome nervousness you cannot afford to miss this. For directions or more info call Jim at 865 2297 or just show up. Guests are very welcome.



We spent a little time on a Sunday afternoon at St. Michael's Fall Fair. The event has a long history but no one seemed sure of whether it was 30 or 40 years old. If anyone knows send us the answer

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FOUR-BANK

TRIPLE BANKS

48"w x 67"h Triple • 1 only 60"w x 54"h Triple • 1 only 50"w x 107"h Triple + 2 only 64'w x 105'h Triple • 1 anly 64'w x 105'h Triple • 1 anly 64'w x 105'h Triple • 1 anly 65'w x 105'h Triple • 1 anly 67'w x 48'h Triple • 2 anly 72'w x 48'h Triple • 1 only 72'w x 60'h Triple • 1 only

06'W # 34'h Quad + 1 anly

48"w x 56"h Triplo + 1 only

ALL TRIPLE UNITS ... NOW 66'w x 100'h Quad • 2 orly 68"w x 91"h Quad • 1 only 76"w x 91"h Quad • 1 only

96"w x 36"h Triplo • 1 only

36'w x 77'h • 2 only Rest-Cut Details: Our building has been add and we must vacate the premise remark must be flightated, including our window warnfrowse next door. Contract calors, and built purchases are invited to contact our management team to dis-user promises. Everything must op, no exceptions.



HARDWOOD FLOORING

as low as 99¢ sq.ft

PAINT (5 gallon bucket)



AREA RUGS (Rug Rack For Sale)



LOOK FOR OUR HUGE · HARDWARE · FASTENERS PLUMBING · TOOLS Off Table IT'S ALL GOTTA GO!

All In-Stock European **Vanity Sets**

NOW AN EXTRA OUR ALREADY DISCOUNTED

Display Kitchen Cabinets

Even our display (You dis-assemble)

This is not just a Sale.