

Chebucto News

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Spryfield starts New Year with new Recreation Centre

It might be considered a project born out of two necessities. The first being the Spryfield Lions Club's need to revisit how it manages the local bingo hall now that HRM is taking more responsibility for the Lions Rink.

The second is a growing realization in the community about the need for a centre for recreation. King Lion Renee Quigley is about to unit the two.

On January 13 at 10 am the Lions Club,

along with Councillor Stephen Adams and others will unveil the new "Spryfield Lions Recreation and Study Centre," a months long ambition of Quigley which has generated the support of a number of local organizations.

"The original structure was built in 1984," says Quigley remembering that the Province of Nova Scotia added \$50,000 to the Lions Club's \$100,000 to build what has become known as the Lions Bingo Hall. "The building was used for a short time by the then City of Halifax as a recreation centre but it fell to budget cuts in the late 80's."

So after making considerable changes in how it operates both the rink, now owned by HRM, and the adjacent hall, the club determined "and felt a need" for a new recreation facility in the community said Quigley. "We've heard considerable conversations over the past several months about the need here for this

type of thing so the Lions Club went on a campaign to return the bingo hall to a recreation centre."

Armed with an Action for Neighbourhood Change grant of \$10,000, a \$10,000 contribution from Councillor Adams, \$2,000 from the Trailer Park Boys acclaimed "Bubbles Mansion" owner and \$1,000 from the Nova Scotia Building Trades Council, Quigley and the club members got to work.

After studying the floor area and determining what might work crews began to refinish the floor. It was stripped clean and court lines for basketball, volleyball and badminton were painted. Fittings for net posts were installed in appropriate places. The new floor was sealed and waxed and is now ready for the grand opening this month.

see "Spryfield starts New Year" pg. 2

Adjacent residents pleased BC Silver to be single family homes

Residents adjacent to the BC Silver school site who live on Levis, Aldergrove and River Road seem pleased that the former school, left vacant and unused for many years now, is proposed for redevelopment as a single family home subdivision.

District 18 Councillor Stephen Adams organized an informal neighbourhood meeting to

"dispel the rumors" about what potential development might take place at the site. About a dozen or so local residents from the neighbourhood attended the Lions Den meeting to hear developer Kimberley Lloyd's view of what they would like to see happen on the site.

Kimberley spokesmen Rob MacPherson and Brian Harvey brought two proposals to the meeting. The first, and not the preferred proposal, called for slightly more than 53 duplex style housing units. This proposal would require changes to the Levis Street design and require an emergency access to the new neighbourhood from Herring Cove Road via Levis Street.

The second proposal called for development of 40 single family homes on 3,200 square foot lots. The preferred project of the developer, this proposal would require no changes to Levis street and all traffic would enter and exit the

recent demolition of the Avery's Farm Market and Mermaid Car Wash on Kearney Lake Road to make way for an Irving Oil owned and operated Blue Canoe service station and convenience store.

But when she requested staff reports on the issue Councillor Mosher questioned what the intent of the request was. "Are the reports

see "Staff Reports" pg. 2

see "BC Silver" pg. 2



Santa arrived on time to spread his magic powder over the Captain William Spy Community Centre Christmas Tree in the official lighting celebration held in mid December.

Mosher supports call for staff reports

District 17 Councillor Linda Mosher, expecting a future controversy over a St. Margaret's Bay Road site, gave her unqualified approval to a recent Chebucto Community Council request from colleague Debbie Hum, District 16, to require staff to prepare reports on what is known as "as-of-right" developments.

Hum, whose district in Clayton Park is continually under siege from transformation as

developers undertake in-fill development, complained at Council that residents are concerned over changes in their neighbourhood make-up. But since the development are as-of-right because they already fit within the land use by-laws of the Municipal Planning Strategy, there is no requirement for developers to seek any public input before proceeding.

In her case, Hum was responding to the

recent demolition of the Avery's Farm Market and Mermaid Car Wash on Kearney Lake Road to make way for an Irving Oil owned and operated Blue Canoe service station and convenience store.

But when she requested staff reports on the issue Councillor Mosher questioned what the intent of the request was. "Are the reports

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Spryfield starts New Year with new Recreation Centre

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Quigley says equipment for the new facility, which took about half of the entire budget, was purchased. "We didn't want to skimp on the equipment. It was expensive but it's good equipment and should last," he said.

The next portion of the project required a "joint approach" with the Boys and Girls Club of Spryfield. Quigley says the Lions Club agreed to turn what has been the club Board Room into a study centre for an after schools project of the Lions sponsored youth club.

"We stripped the old tiles from the ceiling, painted the walls and replaced the flooring to give the room a brighter appearance. Then we had study centres constructed and mounted along one wall and we'll leave our board room table and chair there for the kids to use for study purposes," he said.

From 3 to 6 pm every day of the week the new study centre will be home to a supervised after school study program for children at the

Boys and Girls Club said Quigley, adding that on Monday, Wednesday and Friday there will be an after school sports program for the kids at the next door recreation centre.

"Our first priority in the project was to make sure it was operated as a community based recreation centre and accessible to the community first," said Quigley. As a result the first program, and the only one so far costing any money, is a Monday to Friday Seniors Drop In program which will cost seniors a mere one dollar a day.

After that, the Club proposes to offer basketball and volleyball programs and badminton instruction Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. Quigley hopes to plan aerobics a couple of days a week, crib and bridge programs and a Parent and Tot program three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

"We're very open to ideas and we're looking for opportunities for physical exercise even if it's just a group of people who want to walk

indoors this winter," said Quigley. "We're hoping to find a person dedicated to sport and we're sure a lot of the programming will grow with the opening of the centre."

He said part of the hope is that private groups, maybe volleyball and basketball teams, will see the facility as good place to gather. "After 6 pm most days the facility will be avail-

able for rent for only \$30 (taxes in) per hour," he says hoping that the price will make the facility affordable and available for all groups.

"There has been a lot of volunteer time, effort and donated money dumped into this facility. We will certainly thank everyone who contributed by mounting an honour plaque on the wall," he said.



The former Board of Directors Boardroom of the Spryfield Lions Club has been transformed into a "study hall" for members of the Boys and Girls Club of Spryfield as part of a redevelopment of the bingo hall into a recreation centre. The official opening is January 13 at 10 am.

BC Silver site to be single family homes

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new community through Theakston Avenue. For residents living in the immediate area, the second proposal was by far the most preferred.

The meeting was not a formal gathering as required under the terms of the city's municipal planning strategy. That strategy requires a formal "neighbourhood information meeting" to be held before the project's final design is presented to Chebucto Community Council at a public hearing. It is anticipated the public hearing might be held sometime in April or May of this year.

Under the requirements of the Regional Development Plan the proposal would see a 1,000 foot strip of land along the McIntosh Run to the south of the site have a no less than 100 foot setback from the development. Residents,

recognizing that there is a steep embankment along this side of the site, questioned whether the 100 foot buffer was an "uphill" measurement. They were told it is more of a straight line measurement which takes into consideration the grade from the Run's shoreline.

Residents were also told the project's area is not suited to development or inclusion of any recreational space. But since the city's planning laws allow a project to either include 10% of the area as recreation land or a "cash in lieu" of land area, the developer will have to set aside 10% of the value of the land to be given to the city. Some suggested the money not be directed to the "general revenue" account of HRM but be targeted to help improve walking trails along the McIntosh Run.

Both projects include the continuance of the bridge and walkway across the Run and into the subdivision.

But not all attendees were in support of the proposal. Some of the residents felt the proposal was not in concurrence with the recently adopted Herring Cove Road Streetscape and Planning Study. That report suggests the BC Silver site be used for medium to high density housing as a way to jumpstart the idea of creating high density development in Spryfield to support its growth as a "District Centre" within the Regional development Plan.

Some residents felt the city should maintain the building to be used as a school in the future as population locally increases. Other thought the building should be demolished and the land left vacant until the timing was better for a higher density building. But it is unlikely either of these suggestions will become reality.

HRM views the property as a liability which is costing money every year to maintain and it has been declared surplus. If the land was to remain dormant the city would be required to demolish the building and that's an expense HRM isn't likely to accept easily.

"As long as the intention does not go against the Municipal Government Act and if it helps inform residents then I'm all for it," said Mosher, admitting that her district has a situation on St. Margaret's Bay Road over which the city is likely to have little or no control.

Mosher was referring to the now closed Shell Service station on the Bay Road. Zoned commercial a developer can purchase the property and create something that is within the zoning regulations that local residents don't want to have in their neighbourhood, she said. "So many times residents think we can do whatever we want. If this helps clarify that we must act in accordance with the law then I'm all for it," she said offering her support to the motion to request information from staff which was passed by the Council.

Staff Reports

continued from pg. 1

being requested to try and stop the development," she inquired, suggesting that planning staff are not now required to report on as-of-right developments.

Hum said the intention was only to alleviate the concerns of the local residents. "They continue to ask questions of me and have concerns about the developments and all I'm asking is that staff provide me some information that I can share with the residents to help explain the outcomes of the project," she said.

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"Planning Day" set to discuss children, youth and family needs

By Andrea Cochrane
Chebucto Community Health Board

Children's futures are influenced by their experiences as young children. The Spryfield Family Support Taskforce believes just that, and is taking on the task to work with parents, families, organizations and groups to ensure that programs and opportunities are in place to create positive learning experiences for children, youth and families.

This is about more than just child care and day care spaces. Although there are over 1,200 children aged 0-6 in Spryfield and area and only 155 licensed child care spaces, in the past 6 years two Spryfield child care centres have closed. This has meant a loss to the community

of over 100 subsidized child care spaces. The Taskforce demonstrates innovative thinking and welcomes the challenge of meeting the needs faced by the families.

Facilitated by the YWCA, the Taskforce has been working with the community for the community. It is a proven fact that communities benefit from the coordination of existing early childhood learning, care and parent resource programs. It is the hope of the Taskforce that Spryfield will lead the way in establishing a "one-stop-shop" for child, youth and parent needs. This model of care can identify needs and coordinate, develop and deliver services consistent with community needs and priorities.

Who wouldn't want a supportive, community environment for families with young chil-

dren? Strong families emerge in communities that strive to reduce family isolation, address specific family needs and interests, and provide opportunities for family advocacy activities.

Core programs at this "one-stop-shop" could be a range including full day, part day and drop in, for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Programs could be inclusive of all children, including those with extra support needs. It could develop partnerships with community resources to extend children's and families learning opportunities at libraries, art and other museums, gymnasiums and recreation facilities.

The Taskforce will be holding a community planning day on Thursday January 25th, 9am-3pm, at the Captain William Spry Community Centre. Any and all interested individuals, groups and organizations are encouraged to attend and help the Taskforce to gain further perspective on the reality of the needs, current programs and services, and create a vision for the future of our children, youth and families in the Spryfield area.

To register for January 25th or for more information, please contact Marjorie Willison at 475-3783 or sprycentreboard@ns.sympatico.ca.



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The Greater Halifax Partnership's Brad Smith, left, Vice-President of Business Development; Stephen Dempsey, President and CEO; Linda MacLellan, Chair Spryfield and District Business Commission; and Jacques Farley, Director General of Morguard Investments, owners of South Centre Mall, met recently to try and find ways to help the beleaguered retail facility.



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DISCOVERING OUR PAST



Winter ice conditions provided pleasure, but often hazards as well

By Iris Shea, Historian
Mainland South Heritage Society

Ice on the Northwest Arm and on many lakes in Mainland South provided pleasure and profit for residents in our area. Our ancestors fished through the ice, skated and played hockey on it, cruised on it in their iceboats, and cut it into blocks for refrigeration.

In most communities in Mainland South, before refrigerators appeared on the scene, ice was cut from nearby lakes and stored in an icehouse. The Kidstons in Spryfield cut their ice from Kidston Lake. Their icehouse, now used for storage, may still be seen near the Kidston homestead on Rockingstone Road. During the 1930s and 1940s there were two private icehouses in Jollimore, one in the backyard of Mr. William Graves, the other on the property of Mr. Roy Hunter. Both families cut their ice from Frog Pond and stored it in layers of sawdust. One year, when Mr. Bill Jollimore was preparing to transport a load of ice from Frog Pond to Hunter's icehouse, his truck went through the ice at the narrows and a "block and tackle" was required to pull it out. Cutting and shipping blocks of ice from Williams Lake was a lucrative commercial business during the last half of the 19th century.

Frog Pond was often referred to as Dingle Lake at the turn of the 20th century. Military bands from the Garrison in Halifax played for skating parties on the lake. The Morning Chronicle, on 9 January 1899, reported excellent skating on Frog Pond. During the 1930s Harrison James of Melville Cove set up a portable canteen for skaters on Frog Pond. George (Nin) Craig of Jollimore provided the same service in later years, employing, on week-ends, young Ernie Scarfe and other local boys to sell chocolate bars, potato chips and cold drinks from a cart on wheels.

Ice boating was a favourite pastime on Williams Lake and on the Northwest Arm. Children from Melville Cove travelled by ice-boat to attend old Cunard School in Jollimore when the Northwest Arm ice was thick enough. Skating on the Arm was common. The Evening Mail, 2 January 1918, reported "There is a splendid sheet of ice in the Northwest Arm, and yesterday a crowd of skaters took advantage of the holiday to spend the afternoon there skating."

Winter ice, however, created hazards for those who ventured on it before it was safe to do so. Residents of Jollimore, doing business in Halifax, often walked across the ice on the Northwest Arm. On the afternoon of 10 February 1861, John Martin Boutilier walked across the frozen Arm from his home near the shoreline to buy a pair of shoes in Halifax. On his return, not far from shore, he fell through the ice and drowned. He left a widow and 11 children.

Another family from Jollimore suffered a great loss on 10 December 1897 when 16-year-old Percy and 14-year-old Francis, sons of Frederick and Emma (Jollimore) Jollimore, drowned while playing hockey on the thin ice of "Coalpit" (Colpitt) Lake. Alice, their 12 year old sister, watched helplessly from the shore. The family lived on a farm located on what is now Forward Avenue.

On 23 April 1874 in Harrietsfield, William Henry Brunt and his two sons, Benjamin and James, aged eleven and nine respectively, were trout fishing through the ice on Dryhill Lake not far from their house when the ice gave away. All three family members drowned.

Chocolate Lake was a favourite skating spot, attracting hundreds of skaters. For several years, from the 1920s to the 1940s, skating "shacks" on the Balcombe and Keddy properties provided a warm shelter for skaters to rest. Canteen and skate rental facilities were also available at the "shacks." Keddy's Shack provided music for skaters. The lake, however, was not without its tragedies.

On 19 Dec. 1893 three children from one family, James Stephen, aged 13 years, John Edward, aged 11 years, and their sister, Mary Catherine, children of Peter and Sarah Ann (McGrath) Doyle, were walking on the thin ice of Chocolate Lake. People heard their

cries and ran to help, but they were too far from shore for anyone to save them. Even their mother, who was called to the scene, attempted to walk out on the thin ice but fell though

1911, when Ainsley, aged 12, and Myles, aged 10, sons of Peter and Jane (Nieforth) Marryatt of Braeburn Road, were returning from Sunday School at St. James Church. They decided to take a shortcut across Chocolate Lake. About 20 feet from shore the boys fell through the thin ice.

Several people in the neighbourhood responded to their yell and immediately launched a rowboat. The would-be rescuers reached Myles, the younger of the two boys, who told them to get his brother first. Ainslie was rescued. When the rescuers turned the boat around to pick up Myles, the young boy had disappeared under the ice. His body was later recovered. Headlines in the newspapers declared him a hero.

Today, the unpredictability of the weather limits winter use of the lakes and of the



Skaters on Frog Pond, ca. 1915: Left to right: George Jollimore, Fred Boutilier, Tiny (Francis) Slaunwhite, Eli Slaunwhite and Joe Boutilier, all of Jollimore.

and was pulled back by her 10 year old daughter, Ellen.

Tragedy occurred again, on 9 January

Northwest Arm. In 2002 the Arm froze solidly enough for skating enthusiasts and ice boaters to enjoy, once again, these winter sports.

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Collective Kitchens, good food, good fellowship and education

St. Paul's Family Resource Centre plays host to "Collective Kitchens," a cooking and social program intended for low-income families in Spryfield and surrounding areas. Meeting each Thursday from 10am until approximately 2pm members learn to plan and prepare nutritious meals that are economically friendly while they learn about health and wellness along the way.

The program is funded by Action for Neighbourhood Change until the end of March 2007. Danielle Goyetche, a recent graduate of the Indigo Skills and Development Program for Women, was hired as the program facilitator for the course of the program.

Besides providing a valuable insight into

food related issues, she says, the program also provides a comfortable, social environment to persons who may not normally socialize with other members of their community. "Since the program has started we have gained twelve regular participants who range in age and gender," she says which reflects the diversity of the local community.

Collective Kitchens participants took part in this year's Santa Claus Parade and the Spryfield Community Christmas Lighting Ceremony. "Our participants definitely appreciate the program and the friendships that have grown out of it," says Goyetche. This years Collective Kitchens feast is just one way that participants come together to share good food

and friendships.

"Collective Kitchens shares its Family Resource Centre space with the United Church Women of St. Paul's United Church. We sincerely appreciate all of the support that we receive from St. Paul's, our sponsors, staff and

volunteers," she says.

For more information on the Collective Kitchens Program, please call Danielle Goyetche at (902) 479-1015 between the hours of 9am-4pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week.



Courtney MacDonald, Coordinator of St. Paul's Family Resources Institute; Dorothy Rudolph, Program Coordinator; Danielle Goyetche, Collective Kitchens Facilitator; Tina Manuel, Volunteer Server; Angela Keddy, Volunteer Server; and Reverend Ellen Wilson, Minister of St. Paul's United Church of Spryfield, all helped prepare a festive Christmas Dinner for participants in the Institute's Collective Kitchens Program.



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Spryfield Shoppers Drug Mart contributes to million dollar campaign

Thanks to the generosity of their customers and employees, Shoppers Drug Mart raised over \$1.8 million in support of local and national healthcare charities across Canada through their Tree of Life campaign, including \$2,400 raised at the local Spryfield store.

During the four weeks of the Tree of Life fundraising campaign, customers purchased and signed brightly coloured paper leaves for a loonie, maple leaves for \$5, and apples for \$50 to decorate the "Tree of LIFE" display in each Shoppers Drug Mart location.

Across the country over 120 individual healthcare institutions, programs and chari-

ties were selected by Shoppers Drug Mart Pharmacists/Owners and members of the Shoppers Drug Mart Life Foundation to receive local support for essential health research, treatment, awareness and education initiatives. These organizations range from hospitals and hospices to cancer care and research facilities.

In Halifax the Shoppers Drug Mart stores selected the IWK Health Centre and Cobequid Community Health Centre as their local charity of choice and raised \$23,858.00 for these organizations.

"The results are incredible and a true testament to the generosity of our customers," said Dominic Gniewek, Pharmacist Owner

of Shoppers Drug Mart Spryfield. "Knowing the funds raised were in support of local healthcare organizations was a powerful incentive for people to donate to the Tree of Life. Pharmacists/Owners and employees across Canada take this fundraising initiative to heart in raising awareness for these charitable organizations in their communities."

Since its inception, the Tree of Life Campaign, in addition to this year's total, has raised over \$7-million to support numerous healthcare causes and institutions across Canada.

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is the licensor of full-service retail drug stores operating under the name Shoppers Drug Mart. With more than 960 Shoppers Drug Mart and Pharmaprix stores operating in prime locations in every province and two territories, the Company is one of the most convenient retailers in Canada. Shoppers Drug Mart also owns and operates more than 50 Shoppers Home Health Care stores, making it the largest Canadian retailer of home health care products and services. Together, the more than 40,000 employees including store owner-associates, their staff and corporate employees, work to contribute to the quality of life of all Canadians.



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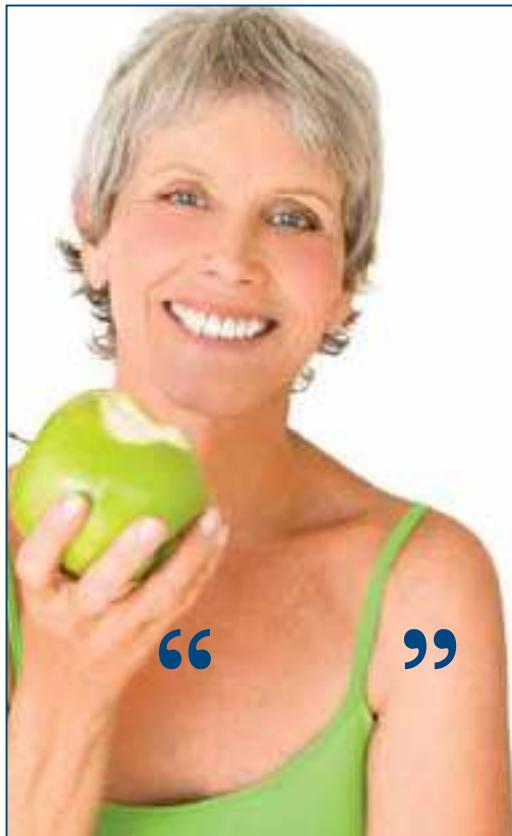
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Some things to look for in District 17 for 2007 – Mosher

By Linda Mosher
Councillor District 17

In 2006 District 17 saw continued growth in residential housing, and issues such as traffic, speeding and youth problems. We saw improvements such as traffic lights, new sidewalk installation, paving projects, parkland improvements and environmental initiatives such as sewage upgrades. The growth has contributed to a healthy sales market which has dramatically increased the property tax assessment of many homes. As discussed in previous issues of The Chebucto News, our district had the highest increases in assessments of all districts in HRM.

Based on the concerns expressed by residents, I brought forward many issues to City Hall. Council agrees that property tax is not reflective of service levels, nor a person's ability to pay. The other issue is that the Province takes the first 25% of your property tax dollars to fund Provincial services. These services should be funded out of Provincial revenue such as income and sales tax. HRM is embarking on a Tax Reform initiative. A committee has been formed and I have been selected as a member. The committee will represent public and business taxation concerns.

Another key issue that I worked on in 2006 is graffiti and in 2007 we will have a

new graffiti bylaw and initiatives to rid our communities of this contributor to neighbourhood decline. The Halifax Regional Police will be directly involved in targeting the areas that are facing youth issues. HRM staff are also working on a retrofit to the Captain William Spry Centre so that it addresses the needs of youth as part of our youth strategy.

2007 will see some major transportation improvements in our district, the largest being physical modifications to the Armdale Rotary. Although the rules have changed, it is still not a roundabout. A true roundabout is not only the yield to traffic in the circle rule. It also has a large entry deflection which forces cars entering the circle to enter and travel at slower safer speeds, rather than "flying" through the circle. Also drivers are consumed with "finding a gap" and not looking out for pedestrians.

The rotary conversion will relocate the crosswalks outside the circle, they will be in each entry leg, but before the circle. Therefore, the driver and pedestrian only have to concern themselves with the crosswalk, not oncoming vehicles and trying to find gaps to enter. The signals will become standard signals, basically regular traffic lights instead of those showing a red light and an arrow. This has been a source of confusion for many. There will be other improvements such as direct access from Joseph Howe to St. Margaret's Bay Road without having to go into the circle. The next issue of my newsletter, The Mosher Report, will have an insert written by the Manager of the HRM Traffic Authority detailing the rotary conversion.

Residents surrounding the St. Margaret's Bay Road will be pleased that we are finally

getting a crosswalk between Keating and Douglas, approximately across from the Needs store. Council pre-approved the funding for this project, which will include new sidewalk installation on the North side of the Bay Road. There will be a turning section to allow vehicular traffic to access the hotel and the Needs/Subway complex. As the roadway will be wider than two lanes the crosswalk will have an overhead lighted crosswalk signal.

Capital budget requests have also been made for the new year including, but not limited to the seawall around North West Arm, paving projects, sewer upgrades, playgrounds and parkland enhancements. The residents' request for water and sewer extension to Purcell's Cove will be assessed by staff and come forward to Council for consideration. Bus service extension to Stoneridge is being considered, as is the high-speed ferry location in Purcell's Cove.

The oil contamination issue at the former C.A. Beckett site is on-going. HRM is suing the School Board for not removing the oil contamination from the site when it was operating as a school. Recently Mayor Peter Kelly and I met with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Environment to discuss the Province's role in ensuring that this contamination is removed and the neighbourhood is restored. We also had a meeting with the (former)School Board Chair and several HRSB staff members. It is our hope that this urgent issue can be resolved in January without going to court.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year, all the best for 2007.



The Doctor's Eye Clinic on Dentith Road held a Business Networking meeting recently where business folks from the community gathered to share information on recent events. Attending the meeting were Kevin Clowater, Royal Flush and Royal Disposal; Dr. Judy Martin; Dr. Jacqui Smith; and Tishe Petite of the Creative Learning Place.

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Legislature not dealing with your priorities, says Fairview MLA

By Graham Steele
Halifax Fairview MLA

On January 8th, and continuing for a week or so, the Legislature will meet to deal with a single piece of legislation. This is highly unusual. 'What is the urgent priority that is prompting the government to call back the Legislature? Is

it to give you lower taxes, better health-care, improved access to college and university, or enhancements to the education system? Is it a cleaner environment, more jobs, or smoother roads? Those are your priorities and you should expect your government to work on your priorities.'

But no. The Rodney MacDonald government

is calling back the Legislature to change the election financing law. The purpose of the law is to give the Conservatives and Liberals a better chance to beat the NDP in the next election.

Allow me to explain why this should matter to you.

This law does three things. It puts a limit of \$5,000 on any one donation. It gives the Liberal party lawful access to funds raised, at least in part, through corruption in the 1970's. And it pays to each party \$1.50 per year for each vote received in the last election.

The government says that this law will "clean up" election financing. But it won't. Quite the opposite.

First, the law was negotiated, in secret, between the Conservatives and the Liberals.

That hardly sounds like a good start to cleaning up politics, does it? It's not right.

Second, the government says the law is "similar" to laws in other provinces, like Manitoba. The problem is that important details are different. For example, the donation limit in Manitoba is \$1,000. A \$5,000 limit, which is what the Nova Scotia law proposes, means that the Conservatives and Liberals in this province get to keep almost all of their corporate donations. It's not right.

Third, the law allows the Liberals to keep, and use for non-election purposes, millions of dollars raised during the 1970's from kick-backs on government contracts. The Liberals

see "Legislature" pg. 10

With much accomplished in 06, NDP committed to doing more in 07

By Alexa McDonough
Halifax West MP

In January 2006, Canadians elected their second minority government in two years, signalling once again that governments can be more effective and more accountable with a bigger presence and stronger role by the New Democratic Party. The NDP provides an effective opposition aimed at making Parliament work for Canadians.

I am proud to be part of this NDP team, and proud of the concrete results we've been able to deliver to you.

During the Fall of 2006, New Democrats dad our 'Veterans First' motion adopted; mobilized in the community to fight federal cuts to women's programs; kept the issues of homelessness and poverty on the public agenda with a cross-Canada "End Poverty in Canada" campaign; lead the way to ensure that the last living Canadian soldier from WWI receives a state funeral; helped write and see the completion of the Accountability Act - a major step forward in cleaning up politics in Canada; helped pass anti-scab legislation at second reading; introduced, and pushed past second reading, our childcare bill to enshrine a national child care program in law - once and for all; fought against the senseless \$1 billion in cuts for literacy, court challenges, museums, youth employment and other federal program spending; demanded and received a Parliamentary debate and vote on Afghanistan, and asked the hard questions about an increasingly unbalanced mission in southern Afghanistan, while supporting our troops and urging money go to Afghanistan's reconstruction; tabled a bill to re-unite immigrant families through the 'Once In a Lifetime' bill; introduced a motion to place a moratorium on unsustainable bottom trawling of Canada's groundfish; fought Conservative cuts to international scholarship

programs; tabled a bill to enshrine the right of every Canadian to accessible, affordable, and secure housing in the Charter of Rights; worked with victims of Canada's tainted blood tragedy to have the Conservatives commit \$1-billion in hepatitis C compensation; tabled a bill to extend EI benefits for caregivers from the current six weeks to 26 weeks, and compassionate care leave for 52 weeks; supported the call to develop a National Strategy on Autism; tabled a bill to re-instate the federal minimum wage and set it at \$10 an hour; publicly embarrassed the Harper government on the impact of a consumer price index error that short-changed Canadian seniors by more than a billion dollars; called for a national transit and a green urban strategy; won victory on payday loan regulations; tabled 8 bills amending and improving Employment Insurance; secured the right of veterans to have their Silver Cross (Memorial Cross) go to members of their immediate family; demanded the Minister of Health keep his party's promise to create a patient wait times guarantee for treatment and surgery across the board; introduced bill to make Remembrance Day a legal holiday; gained support for special emergency session on Darfur; announced a 3 step plan to reduce student debt in Canada by 25%; rejected an inadequate Clean Air Act ("Hot Air Act") and instead of simply defeating it - had it sent to a special legislative committee to be re-written.

And as Foreign Affairs critic, I launched the Africa Series on Parliament Hill to raise awareness and mobilize action on emerging and ongoing crises in Africa. As Chair of the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament, I hosted strategic sessions on the Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty and on nuclear verification. As International Development critic, I extended support to

see "NDP" pg. 10

MICHELE RAYMOND, MLA

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NUTRITION for JANUARY

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Bone Health

Did you know that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 8 men develop osteoporosis? Join the Dietitian to learn how to maintain strong and healthy bones for life!
FREE. Thursday, January 18th, 2-3:30pm.

Diabetes Label Reading Tour

Confused about reading labels? Join the Dietitian and learn how to make smart food choices to control diabetes.
FREE. Thursday, January 25th, 1-3pm.

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Monday, January 8th - **Kick Start Meal for 2007 Lentil Salad, Smoked Haddock Soup, Carrot Bran Muffins**

Monday, January 15th - **New Year, New You Pine Nut and Pear Salad, Garden Chicken Stir Fry, Vanilla Pudding**

Monday, January 29th - **Rush Hour Suppers Mandarin Salad, Kick'n Bean and Rice Wrap, Fruit Salad**

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Spiritual life and politics both take time – Raymond

By Michele Raymond
Halifax Atlantic MLA

All of us, eventually, come to a holiday, or "holy day." It may be a shared celebration, or a shared time of reflection, or it may be deeply solitary. It may be something we choose, and look forward to, or it may be forced on us by illness, crisis or a natural disaster that puts all normal life on hold for a while.

Whatever else it may be, a holy day is a time set aside for rest, and thought. It may be marked by elaborate celebration, and beloved rituals, but it always includes a time for contemplation.

North Americans today come from many different religions, and have few shared holidays. Many that are widely shared have taken on a commercial life of their own, and leave little time for reflection. The one holiday that's nearly universal, though, is the observation of New Year.

Human beings saw long ago that the seasons are a predictable cycle, repeating over and over again. Most cultures have chosen a time to interrupt the relentless cycle for reflection and celebration, and many have chosen the "bleak midwinter," when days are short, and plants and animals seem to have died and gone forever, to look back on the past year, and remind themselves of new light coming, new birth, and a New Year.

Most cultures also observe a shorter cycle, weekly or monthly, for rest and reflection. Until this year, Sunday was a uniform day of rest guaranteed to Nova Scotians of all religions.

Life in Nova Scotia changed this past year.

Like the rest of Canada, we now have "Sunday shopping," despite the public consultation and plebiscite held last year. This plebiscite was a farce; the Supreme Court of Canada had already told the other provinces that Sunday closings must end, as based in the Christian tradition only, and therefore discriminating against others. Note that there's no rule against a uniform day of rest.

Spiritual life is not the business of elected bodies, but democracy is. Like religion, though, democracy doesn't work if there's no time to think.

Democracy is not supposed to be based on farce. It's not based on pretending to consult about "done deals." It's based on the free election of representatives, chosen by the majority

of people as most trusted to make good decisions, and then being able to trust those decisions are made well.

Sadly, 2007 opens with the loss of another chance for reflection. The Legislature is being rushed back in early January, which is nearly unheard of, so it can approve changes to party financing.

This change, being hurried in before the public has a chance to think, will affect every individual's right to choose the representatives they trust most. It will ensure each vote in the most recent election takes money from the public treasury, directly, and through tax advantages to political donors, into the coffers of political parties each year, starting this January 1st, the day you're probably reading this article.

If you want your tax money to finance a hospital instead of a political party, you may well stay home on election day, but you won't have the chance to tell anyone why. It's not democracy to pay people to stay home, and it's not democracy to change the rules without asking. If citizens had time to reflect, it wouldn't be happening.

Many North Americans complain about the commercialization of holy days, and the loss of time for rest and reflection. Many Nova Scotians miss Sundays, and the loss of shared time for rest and reflection.

New Years is still a holiday though, and my New Years' wish is that we will all find the time we need for rest and reflection. Happy New Year!

Snow clearing and a bright outlook for 2007 – Adams

By Stephen Adams
Councillor District 18

In early December we were hit with an unexpected and rather heavy snowstorm. As always, I received a number of calls, raising concern with snow-clearing efforts. This particular event was especially problematic, as rain was predicted. However, we all know the results – almost 20 cm in just a few hours. Although plows were out, they, along with many other vehicles, were stuck in traffic. This hindered the snow removal effort and made effective plowing and salting nearly impossible.

However, there is some good news. First of all, the initial storm of the season is over, and we can learn from the experience. In

speaking with DoT personnel, their equipment had mechanical breakdowns, which helped to explain the slower removal in and around the Sambro Loop.

As well, residents living on bus routes had their sidewalks cleared by HRM. Although some lawns were damaged, we are working to address this issue.

As always, should you have concerns regarding snow removal, please give me a call at 477-0627.

As we approach the upcoming budget year, we will be submitting our list for road resurfacing, playground upgrades, and other capital projects. In discussions with staff, a new playground has been given a top priority to be built in 2007. As well, I have requested that a new BMX bike park be considered for the Williamswood area. My sincerest thanks goes out to those residents who are working to make these projects come to fruition. If you have any requests, please contact me.

There seems to be some confusion with respect to the process to be followed for those streets and roads serviced by DoT. In discussions with our engineering staff, the procedure is relatively simple. If a street is already paved and is in need of repair, DoT will determine the necessity for repaving. If the street is gravel, then HRM sends the street along with numerous others in HRM to be considered for repaving. If you live on an unpaved road and it is in poor repair, please call DoT to report your concerns. The more complaints they receive, the better the chances of success in paving. However, in the past years, only two or three roads in HRM are paved. Let's hope there is more money put aside this year.

As the New Year approaches we look forward to 2007 with renewed hope in our personal lives and for our respective communities. I will share with you some of the projects I hope to see next year.

Council has approved a request that our staff come back with a recommendation to withdraw \$1.5 million from the Halifax Harbour Contingency Fund to help with the Herring Cove Sewer and Water. If successful this will allow us to award tenders to complete Phase 1B and 2A of this project, which will serve Hebidean Drive, Village Road and some of the surrounding streets. I am working with our staff to explore other funding options.

Early in the New Year, we will be holding an open house to introduce the new Spryfield Recreation Centre at the Lion's Rink. Details will follow regarding the date and time. Rene Quigley of the Spryfield Lions Club has worked tirelessly to bring this project forward. We are indeed fortunate to have him working on our behalf.

I expect to have information from our staff regarding transit for the Sambro Loop. Although our first attempt was unsuccessful, I am trying another approach.

We also had a small neighbourhood in December to discuss the future of B.C. Silver. I am pleased to say that this building will be demolished this year to make way for a well planned small scale residential development. The adjacent neighbours have been very helpful with their suggestions.

I see 2007 as a breakthrough year for all of District 18. I hope you will join in my enthusiasm, and help to make this our most prosperous year ever.



Linda Mosher
HRM Councillor, District 17

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LOCAL OBITUARIES

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd.

JENKINS, Walter Jeffery - 84, Spryfield, passed away in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born March 6, 1922, Walter will be remembered as a kind and generous father. He was a veteran of the Second World War. Walter was employed with Armdale Taxi for 35 years. He is survived by daughter, Melanie; grandsons, Derek and Chance, and grandchildren. He is also survived by his children, Cecilia Isaac, Walter Jenkins (Paula), Susan (Clarence) Martin, Shirlene (Walter) Rose, Belinda Jenkins, Nelson, Gerald, Keith (Pam), Paul (Darlene), Kenneth, and Michael (Leola), as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Betty Faulkner; son, Charles; grandson, Jeff; his former wife, Marjorie Jenkins; great-granddaughter, Marissa. By request, cremation has taken place under the care of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield, (477-5601), where a memorial service was held. Interment has taken place in Fairview Lawn Cemetery.

HENEbury, William Walter "Bill" - 60, Spryfield, loving husband of 36 years to Judith "Judy" (Beazley) Henebury, passed away at his residence. Born in Point May, N.L., he was a son of Effie (Noseworthy) and the late Thomas Henebury. For 11 years, Bill had been employed with Crans Supply as a receiver, retiring in 2000. He was an avid sports fan who loved watching sports on television. He will be especially remembered as a lifelong Montreal Canadiens fan. Bill loved his family dearly, especially his special grandsons. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by his wife, Judy; his mother, Effie, Halifax; his sons, Bill, at home; Bruce (Elizabeth), Halifax; and Raymond, at home; his brothers, Raymond (Kathleen) Noseworthy, Harbour Breton, N.L.; James (April) Henebury, Lower Sackville; John (Valerie) Henebury, Beaver Bank; Arthur (Sharon) Henebury, Upper Sackville; Carol (Paulette) Henebury, Bridgewater; and sister, Margaret Pye (Patrick), Lower Sackville. "Grampy" will also be missed by his grandsons, Alexander and Daniel, as well as many cousins; his special nephew, Jonathan; his special niece, Katie; many nieces and

nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Thomas, and sister, Kathleen (Gordie) Drysdale. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., Spryfield (477-5601). Interment was held in Fairview Lawn Cemetery.

Zivanovic, Ivan "Iko" - 71, Spryfield, husband of the late Irene (Haines) Bouchie, passed away in the VG Site, QEII, Halifax, following a courageous battle with cancer. Born in Imotski, Croatia, he was the son of Josip and Ana Zivanovic. Ivan immigrated to Canada in 1968 and upon his arrival he was employed as a carpenter with various companies in the construction industry, retiring in 1992. Iko was a very proud and protective father and grandfather, who loved his family dearly, and had always remained loyal to his family in his home country, Croatia. A generous and giving friend, he will be remembered for his beautiful vegetable garden, and for his love of western movies. Ivan will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by his son, Tommy Zivanovic (Daphne Williamson), Halifax; his daughter, Michelle MacIntosh (Donnie), Stormont, and grandchildren, Andrew, Chelsea, Emma, and Jordan. His is also survived by his brother, Slavko (Ana); sisters, Danica (Jozo), and Mara (Tino); a sister-in-law, Iva, all who are left to mourn his passing in Croatia. He is survived by many cousins, several nieces and nephews, both in Canada and Croatia. Iko was predeceased by his parents; his wife, Irene, and a brother, Tomoslav. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield, NS (477-5601). Interment has taken place in Little Dover Cemetery, Little Dover.

SLAUNWHITE, Winona "Mae" - Spryfield, wife of the late Ellsworth Slaunwhite, passed away in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Truro, she was a daughter of the late John and Laura (Linkletter) Clark. Family was very important to Mae and she always enjoyed having her family to Sunday dinners. She will be remembered for always having baked goods on hand for all to enjoy. For many years, Mae had been a member

of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Spryfield Volunteer Fire Department. She was an avid bingo player who also loved to play cards, especially cribbage. Mae will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by her son, Wayne, Spryfield; daughters, Carol Eleanor, Scarborough, Ont.; Sandra Slaunwhite, Halifax; Linda Jewkes, Halifax; Shauna Slaunwhite, Calgary, Alta.; sister, Lillian Ellis, Halifax; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents; husband, Ellsworth; daughter, Lorraine Pottie; brother, John Clark; sisters, Ruby McMillan, Marguerite Weissent, Eddie Bowser, Georgina Robinson, and grandson, Keith Eleanor. 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 in St. John's Cemetery, Halifax.

WHISKIN, Rose - 72, Halifax, passed away in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII, Halifax. Born in Montreal, Que., she was the daughter of the late Isabel (Cameron) and Herbert Sudds. Throughout her life, Rose was a registered nurse, who lovingly nursed many patients, and later retired from private nursing. She was a resident of Cowie Hill Lodge, where her neighbours were her "extended" family. She loved to play bingo and often called the numbers. She will be remembered as a friend to many. Rose is survived by her many family members in British Columbia as well as many friends. She was predeceased by her parents, her husbands, Michael Burnstun and Michael Whiskin, and her brother, Thomas. By request of Rose, cremation has taken place under the care of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601), where a memorial service was held.

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NDP committed to doing more in 07

continued from pg. 8

existing groups and new chapters of Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers movement which helps African Grandmothers struggling to raise 13 million HIV-AIDS orphans.

I was also pleased to host the gender and equality session at the World Microcredit Summit held in Halifax. At the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, I gained support for special emergency session on Darfur, and pressured the Conservatives to reverse

Canada's position at the UN to support small arms and light weapons treaty.

I was also pleased to play an important role in shepherding international aid legislation through the Foreign Affairs Committee and I also had an opportunity to participate in public forums and town halls to create public space for respectful debate on Canada's future role in Afghanistan.

This list is by no means complete. If you would like more details on any of these initiatives, please let me know. May this new year bring you peace, good health and happiness.

Legislature and your priorities

continued from pg. 8

say that these funds were "cleansed" in the 1990's, when they returned over \$1 million to the provincial treasury. But the source of the remaining funds can't be identified either. It's not right.

Fourth, taxpayers like you are on the hook for the millions of dollars in public funds that will now be paid to political parties each year. We had an election only last June, and Rodney MacDonald didn't breathe a word of this policy during the campaign. So why is

Mr. MacDonald now in such a hurry to get this bill through? It's not right.

I know it's hard for you to relate to an election finance bill that, on the surface, appears to have little or nothing to do with the daily struggle of providing for your home and your family.

But make no mistake about it. This bill, which is likely to become the law of Nova Scotia in the middle of January, is an attempt by Conservatives and Liberals to keep doing what's right for them, instead of what's right for you.

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

Recreation Centre Opening

Spryfield Lions Club is inviting the community to attend the opening of the new Lions Recreation and Study

Centre at the former bingo hall Saturday January 13 at 10 am at 25 Drysdale Road. RSVP Rene 477-9364.

School Bottle Drive

The Grade 6 class at Sambro Ketch Harbour Elementary School will be holding a bottle drive from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, January 6th. Some children will be going house to house in the community while others will be stationed at the Sambro School for Drop Offs. As well, if people wish to drop bottles off on or before January 6th at Beaver Redemption and Recycling, (3748 Herring Cove Road) you may do so and ask that they be credited to the Sambro Ketch Harbour Elementary School account. The support of the community is greatly appreciated!

Library Open House

The Captain Spry Library will hold an open house Jan 20 from 2 to 4 pm. Library staff welcome "family and friends of the library to visit to meet and greet our wonderful staff and discover all the extra services the library provide to the community."

Tinnitus Meeting

Do you suffer from tinnitus (ringing in the ears) or know someone who does? If you do, plan on attending the next meeting of the Tinnitus Support Group of Atlantic Canada. It will be held on Wednesday, January 10 at 7 pm at the Captain William Spry Community Center. For more information please call 473-4366 or visit: <http://tinnitus-atlantic.tripod.com> (website) or e-mail tinnitussupport@eastlink.ca.

Seniors Skate Club

Do you like to skate? Skating for Seniors and Adults takes place every Tuesday and Thursday morning at the Lions Rink in Spryfield from 10 am to 12 Noon. Admission \$1.

Join Canada's Oldest Skating Club!

Are you a future Olympian or do you want to learn to skate for the fun of it? The Halifax Skating Club, founded in 1862, again offers our nationally known Canskate Program, Thursdays at 4 pm and Sundays at 1: 05 pm and 1:50 pm at the Centennial Arena starting on January 4. Complete beginners welcome. Children must be age 4 or older. Figure skating lessons are available for skaters with Canskate level 4 and up. For further information call Sheila Rae @ 443-1707 or www.halifaxskatingclub.com

Mardi Gras Talent Night

St. Michael's Church will feature The MacLean Sisters Friday, February 16, at 7 pm with a Mardi Gras Talent Night. Tickets are available, but space is limited. For ticket information please contact Annie at 446-7123.

Crather's Market

The Herring Cove Crafters Market is held weekly at the Herring Cove Fire Hall from 9am-2pm. All locally made items; baked goods, photography, paintings, jewelry, coffee/tea, preserves, knitted items, live acoustic music etc. Limited number of tables available for interested vendors. Vendors from all surrounding areas welcome. This will be a weekly Saturday event until Christmas, frequency of market to be determined post-holidays. Contact info: Amy Kilbride 405-0008.

Searching for Musical Instruments

The Arts Express Coordinator for the J.L. Ilsley Family of Schools is looking for new, used or old musical instruments, which can be restored and then re-distributed to the schools band programs in our community. For each donation of a usable instrument, you will get a charitable donation receipt issued by the HRSB. Simply bring the instrument to your child's school, along with your name and home address and a receipt will be mailed to you. If the instrument is too large to be transported or should you have any further questions about this "Musical Instrument Re-Use Program," please feel free to contact Sabine M. Fels, Arts Express Coordinator, J.L. Ilsley Family of Schools, 479-4612 ext. 570-2008 or sfels@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Weekend of Grace

The First Annual Regional Catholic Women's Conference to be held the weekend of April 20 – 22, 2007 at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We invite you to join women from across the Atlantic Provinces and experience the transforming power of God's love. Explore the gift of your femininity. Learn practical strategies for living the abundant life God has in mind for you. Call (902) 423-9759 or visit www.stacm.ca select "Programmes" and click on "Weekend of Grace." Pre-Registration Only. Early-bird deadline December 31, \$99.00. After December 31, \$119.00. Deadline for all registration January 15.



The Royal Bank of Canada dished out \$35,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Spryfield recently. Executive Director Darlene MacLean; RBC's Regional Vice-President Tammy Holland and local Branch Manager Mark Hebert were on hand for the presentation.

Chebucto News Business Directory

Community businesses serving community needs.

Spryfield Denture Clinic

Service direct to the public

Melville Professional Centre
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