

Chebucto News

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Turn on the taps – water is finally here

Herring Cove – It took less than ten minutes for District 18 Councillor Stephen Adams to move the recommendations of city staff to award tenders for the completion of Phase 1B and Phase 2A of the Herring Cove Water and

Sewer Project. District 17 Councillor Linda Mosher moved each of the motions almost before Adams began reading them. Halifax Regional Council passed the motions unanimously without debate, and 40 years of

promises went down the drain and fresh city water and municipal sewer services became destined for the residents of Herring Cove.

Long time and Past Chair of the former herring Cove Residents Association Brian Dempsey, sitting in the audience to witness the event, mildly mocked "it's been a long time since Premier John Buchanan said you'll have water next year," a comment Dempsey said was made in the late 60s, almost, or more than 40 years ago.

But if the wait has been long the struggle in recent years has been perhaps even more grueling. The project was initiated in part as a requirement of the sewage treatment plant being prepared for Tribune Head. Residents, after lengthy and sometimes pointed debate with HRM officials, agreed to accept the treatment

plant in exchange for water and sewer services.

A Community Liaison Committee was formed to oversee the "integration of the treatment plant into the community. The CLC became embroiled in dispute over the costs of servicing. The project nearly faltered. Estimates were prepared and residents were told the costs would be in the ballpark of \$12,500 per 100 feet of per lot frontage. But the initial phases tendered came in way over budget and the projected resident costs skyrocketed to about \$28,000 per lot.

Adams and the CLC, Chaired by resident Bruce Cooke, dug in their heels. They searched all levels of government for additional funding with little success over the past

see "Water" pg. 2



Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly, seated, District 18 Councillor Stephen Adams, left, former Herring Cove Ratepayers Association President Brian Dempsey, and Community Liaison Chair Bruce Cooke, gathered following a recent Regional Council session to sign the historic documents bringing water and sewer services to Herring Cove after 40 years of debate and promises.

City gets little useful feedback from Rotary information meeting

One of the first slides to be shown during an HRM public information meeting concerning potential changes which would better serve the Armdale Rotary conversion to a roundabout, was one indicating staff at HRM have been proposing changes to the traffic circle since 1965. Not long afterward, the audience of about 200 overwhelmingly agreed with the statement that "the roundabout is working better."

But even before the end of the staff presentation of potential plans was near, it became apparent that even 42 years after the initial foray into change at the Rotary, there are those residents in the city who are going to object and fight change. For this session, it was clear the residents came from the community of and surrounding Chebucto Road.

Some wearing yellow t-shirts identifying them as "Chebucto Neighbourhood Association" members opposed to any widening or lane reversing programs on Chebucto Road between the Rotary and Munford Road, interrupted the presentations from the audience. In particular, they saved their vengeance for Phil Grubb of Paradigm Transportation Solutions, the unfortunate consultant hired by HRM to review the Chebucto Road alternatives. They also soundly booed Ekistics' Urban

see "City" pg. 2

SDBC commits \$5,000 to "business case project"

The Spryfield and District Business Commission committed \$5,000 in February to a joint project with the Greater Halifax Partnership (GHP) and Metro United Way to create a "business case" for economic development.

Each of the partners will invest \$5,000 in the project to start this month with a "trial run"

of the finished product to be ready by June with the final product expected to be online by December this year.

In a joint presentation to the Commission, Paul Shakotko of United Way and Doug Reid of the GHP said the objectives of the project are diverse and include the ability to market

Spryfield as a "targeted business opportunity for investment attraction; to address the negative perception of Spryfield; address community well-being through specific engagement in economic development; and to better equip and

see "Commission" pg. 2

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City gets little useful feedback from Rotary information meeting

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Landscape Planner Rob LeBlanc, hired to provide esthetic drawings of what the new Chebucto Road widening might look like, to a point where he could barely make his escape fast enough let alone complete his presentation. And with the mood now firmly set, person after person lined-up at the microphone to voice their disdain for the city's concept of improving Rotary traffic flow by doing any sort of conversion or widening of Chebucto Road.

All in all the meeting's demeanor left many others interested in discussing proposed changes to the Rotary insecure of their own importance, and nervous about reaching for the microphone to express their views or ask questions. For HRM and its staff, the meeting left behind little if any perspectives about how people felt about making changes, with the exception of Chebucto Road.

Grubb, who suggested the Chebucto Road organization is suggesting that persons in "HOVs" (high occupancy vehicles) should receive priority access to Chebucto Road at peak times, said study indicated that length of time and distance of the roadway would mean little benefit to the problem of congestion. "People in other than HOVs would be diverted to Quinpool Road by law," he said suggesting the step would only create a problem there.

He said his study indicated a reversing lane, and or expansion to four lanes to include an eastbound left hand turn lane, would make efficient use of the existing roadways, prevent gridlock of the roundabout, reduce delays and therefore emissions and

greenhouse gasses, and increase corridor capacity. "HOV solutions," he said, "have more success adding lanes rather than eliminating them, require a general lane as well, will require supporting employer programs, and signage and enforcement at the Rotary which is not productive."

Commission commits \$5,000 to project

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empower the Commission to be a part of promoting and managing potential opportunities for economic development. The document would also serve as a template replicable for other communities in HRM.

Throughout the process the GHP will act as the lead agency in developing the targeted business case, United Way will act as the information and statistical analysis resource and the Commission will act as an information resource at the community level. An involvement or role to be played by the Nova Scotia Business Inc. has yet to be determined.

Information to be gathered by the study will include detailing of facility opportunities for business development and space availability for business, current labour force and market analysis information, information regarding local employers and local business needs and assessment of current financial incentives to attract new business.

Both the GHP and the United Way view the Business Commission as a partner in the economic growth initiative over the long term. "The SDBC in one form or another has

HRM's Traffic Authority Director Ken Reasher explained the city's intention on St. Margaret's Bay Road where widening is also proposed as is installation of a sidewalk on the north side complete with a crosswalk and light system.

He said the city "isn't trying to increase

the capacity of St. Margaret's Bay Road," but there is a need to install a left hand turn lane heading west so that traffic won't get backed up into the Rotary. This project, and one to divert traffic from Dutch Village Road directly to St. Margaret's Bay Road to avoid the rotary, are expected to start this summer.

been working for eight years to try and improve the image of our community," said Chair Linda MacLaggan. "We've reached out to our municipal politicians and other agencies to encourage steps toward economic development as a means of creating opportunities and improving the economics of the community. This agreement is a major step in that direction."

MacLaggan said the Commission worked diligently through 2005 to convince the Halifax

Regional Planning Committee that Spryfield should be elevated to a "district" status in the 25 year Regional Development Plan. One of the results of this work, said MacLaggan, is a growing recognition within HRM that this area has potential for economic growth. "The city sees the area as an opportunity to improve its overall economic health and we see economic growth as an important aspect of changing the image of the community," she said.

Turn on the taps

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three years, but at Council this month Adams gained unanimous support to move some funds around and, by adding additional sources, including \$1,656,400 from the Harbour Solutions Project Contingency Fund, \$400,000 from the Canada Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program and \$1,410,575 from the Herring Cove Community Integration Fund, the cost per lot was brought back down to \$12,500 for residents.

"This is a great day for the residents of Herring Cove," a jubilant Adams told Council. "No longer will people have to wait up to four hours to have a second shower in their home on any given day and no longer will the community have to suffer with sewage running through their street gutters."

With staff set to move forward as soon as possible with the tendering processes involved as identified in the recommendations, the people of Herring Cove will have city services in the water and sewer systems by Christmas this year.

Chebucto News

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Local students heading west, trend expected to continue

By Ricky Cormier

The governments of the Atlantic Provinces placed advertisements in numerous Alberta newspaper's in December with the plea to "Come Home," urging Atlantic Canadians to find work in their native province. Michael Buckland, 20, was enrolled at Saint Mary's University for a year, then decided to leave and move to Alberta to find work.

"I had no experience and very little university," Buckland said. "So I went where I thought I could make the most money the fastest. I was out there for four days and started work on the rigs." Michael isn't the only student to leave the Atlantic Universities to make more money in Alberta. Studies show that University enrolment in Atlantic Canada is down 5.9 percent, a significant drop. In 2006 Nova Scotia suffered its first population drop in over 30 years (Statistics Canada) while Alberta had the highest provincial increase.

Katherine Boisvert, a Guidance Counsellor at J.L. Ilsley, has noticed the trend. "The majority of students graduating from J.L. Ilsley are planning to remain in the province,"

she says, "but I have had conversations with several students who are thinking of 'heading west.'" Boisvert wrote in an E-mail that some students will be leaving, "and some are planning to take a trade here in Nova Scotia and then head to Alberta for work."

Alberta is in the midst of its biggest economic boom in its history, showing an increase in the amount of employing businesses in the past year, with the Atlantic Provinces showing a decrease.

"I'm not too concerned about it," Buckland said in response to these numbers. "People go out for a year, maybe a few and they are back home again. It's the money factor. Even aside from the oil rigs, you can go out west, work at McDonalds or Tim Horton's for fifteen bucks an hour."

Boisvert agrees that money is drawing these students. "It is appealing for students to think of moving away, having work and earning a substantial paycheck. Many of them know of family members or friends who have already headed out west and are doing very well financially."

While these advertisement may be a step in the right direction, some feel they won't be

enough to persuade Atlantic Canadians away from the money. "I don't see advertisements begging people to come home having an effect," Buckland says. "I think they (the Atlantic Provinces) need competitive wages for workers from province to province to keep people around."

Boisvert feels that people, especially students, must know the facts about where they are going. "I try to give them any information I have so that they can make an informed

decision. For instance, while jobs are plentiful, many boom towns like Fort McMurray, Alberta, have high costs of living — including very high rent. It's important for students to be aware of all of the pros and cons so that they can make an informed decision."

Even with all the information available, many feel their will be no change. CBC news has reported that the trend seems to be upward, with Alberta's population forecasted to rise every year until 2010.



The trend of local youth heading to Albert for work in the oil industry is expected to continue.

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Monday, March 19th – **Transform Your Meal: Orange Glazed Turkey Tenders, Quinoa Salad, Crumbled Broccoli**

Monday, March 26th – **Getting Back Into the Kitchen: Chicken Tomato Soup, Mediterranean Eggplant, Lemon Thyme Pork Loin**

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Sisters of Charity remembered as teachers in three local schools

By Iris Shea, *Historian*
Mainland South Heritage Society

Many former students will remember being taught by Sisters of Charity from the 1940s to the 1970s. Herring Cove School was the first school in Mainland South to have Sisters of Charity teaching in the school system, as early as 1936. They lived in the convent next to St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church. Sister Pius School opened in Armdale in 1946 and the Sisters of Charity taught there until the school, under the name of St. John the Baptist, closed in 1972. During their teaching years, the Sisters stayed at St. Joseph's Convent on Quinpool Road. In Ketch Harbour a convent was built especially for the Sisters of Charity who came there to teach in 1947. During the time the Sisters of Charity taught (from 1947 until the school closed in 1970), the convent was sold and a private dwelling was used to accommodate them. Lay teachers were also hired at all three schools at the same time the Sisters of Charity taught.

In the recent Mainland South Heritage Society Display which focused on teachers in our schools, my research included compiling the names of those Sisters who taught at Herring Cove and Ketch Harbour. The names of those who taught at Sister Pius School in Armdale were compiled by Sister Elsie Martin. Those Sisters who taught in Ketch Harbour were Sister Angela de Lourdes (Mary Josephine MacDonald), Sister Alice Joseph (Ruth Mary Chasse), Sister Mary Seton (Mildred Virginia Healy), Sister Marie Hugh, Sister Elizabeth Joseph, Sister Helen Vincent, Sister Madeline Sophia, Sister Mary Bertille, Sister Mary Ellen Donovan and Sister Sandra McInnes.

The Sisters of Charity who taught at Sister Pius /St. John the Baptist School were compiled by Sister Elsie Martin: Sister Margaret Agnes, Sister Jean Catherine, Sister Ann Mary, Sister Anne Joe, Sister Margaret Patrick, Sister Mary Ada, Sister Francis Thomas, Sister Mary Annata, Sister Francis Therese, Sister John Leo, Sister Edward Joseph, Sister Patricia Marie, Sister Leonard Patrice, Sister William Loretta, Sister Joseph Andre, Sister Laura William, Sister Hugh Francis, Sister Marie Pascal, Sister Margaret Charles, Sister Mary Patrice, Sister Catherine Marie, Sister Anthony Patrick, Sister Regina Maria, Sister Rita Michael, Sister Joseph Ambrose, Sister Regina Carmel, Sister Thomas Gregory, Sister Theresa Celine, Sister Gertrude Helen, Sister Leo Marie, Sister Maria Gratia, Sister Angela de Lourdes, Sister Elizabeth Michael, Sister Patrick Michael, Sister Rosemary Heslin, Sister Mary Louise Donovan, Sister Marguerite Hagerty and Sister Elsie Martin who was principal at the time school closed.

The Sisters of Charity who taught at Herring Cove School were Sister Rose Marie, Sister Marie Ursula, Alice Boone (she did not use the title "Sister" but because she lived at St. Paul's Convent in Herring Cove, one might assume she later became a Sister of Charity), Sister Dorothy Walker, Sister Agnes Bernadette, Sister M. Beatrice, Sister Clement Mary (Monica Goldwyn Douthwright) who died in February 2007 at the age of 85 years, Sister Vera Marie (Katherine Agnes McHugh),

Sister Maureen (Mary Margaret Colford), Sister Mary Stanislaus (Dorothy Marguerite Hennessy), Sister Mary Vincentia (Mary Francis Kennedy), Sister Mary Christine (Mary McCarthy), Sister Mary Leonarda (Madeleine Genevieve Powers), Sister Agnes Miriam (Margaret McSween), Sister M. Justa, Sister John Bernard (Gertrude Marie Healy), Sister M. Norbert (Jatherine Roche), Sister Rita Catherine (Anna S. McDonald), Sister Joseph William (Evelyn Moore), Sister Mary Teresita (Carol Downing), Sister Mary Evangeline (Frances Hallisey), Sister Agnes Mercedes (Kathleen Ruth O'Regan), Sister Mary Gilbert (Mary June McNeil), Sister Maria Andrea (Irene Margaret McGuinness), Sister Vincent Joseph, Sister Teresita Marie (Irene Eva Dwyer), Sister Vincent Terese, Sister Thomas Anne, Sister

Mary Leo, Sister Rita maria, Sister Marian Thomas, Sister Anne Veronica, Sister Leo John, Sister Mary Elma, Sister Anna Margaret,

Sister Gerard Majella, Sister Elizabeth Cody, Sister Alma Marie, Sister Carmel DeGrace, Sister Madeleine Keating, Sister Helen Malone, Sister Joan O'Keefe, Sister Genevieve, Sister Winnifred Gallant and Sister Veronica Redden who was the principal in 1975.



This photograph of Sister Veronica Redden and some of her students was taken in 1974 by Ray Bignell, a Department of Fisheries Officer.

The photograph of Sister Veronica Redden and some of her students was taken in 1974 by Ray Bignell, a Department of Fisheries Officer. He was invited to make a presentation to the children of Herring Cove School about the conservation and protection of the fishing industry. A wharf was built in the auditorium, and nets, lobster traps, etc. were set up. Note the lobsters being held by students. Those present include: Roland Harnish, Jimmy Carla, Grant Gilkie, David

Brunt, Greg Dempsey, Dennis Gilkie and Morris Gray. Two students are unidentified.

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Fifth "challenge" raises money for Boys and Girls Club

The Fifth Annual Business Bowling Challenge held at Spryfield Bowlarama by the Spryfield Lions Club netted \$2,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Spryfield.

Chair and organizer King Lion Rene Quigley said 12 teams participated in the event which included games of bowling followed by

a light lunch and award ceremonies at the Spryfield Lions Den.

"More than 60 people came together to support the community based programs of the Boys and Girls Club, have a good time and get to know each other a little better," said Quigley emphasizing that bringing the people

together for fun and fundraising is the dual objective of the event.

The team from Lumbermart raised the most money for the club through their own collection of pledges, he said. The team from Spryfield Bowlarama won the bowling competition followed by the squad from Canadian Tire with the Metro Unions placing third.

"It is often more difficult to maintain an event than to create one," said Quigley. "It is encouraging to note that many of our participating teams and players have returned for all five events. This is what makes the event enjoyable for all of us."



Barb Harnish, centre, with a score of 121, won the ladies single string high in one of the Spryfield Lions Club Business Bowling Challenge to raise money for the Boys and Girls Club of Spryfield this month. Harnish is flanked by Bowlarama staff member Nicole Asprey and Chair Rene Quigley.

Dr. King quiz winners

During the week of January 15, J.L. Ilsley students, celebrating the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., were asked to complete a quiz with questions based on the life and activities of Dr. King.

The contest was a week long event with many students taking part and winners were picked from each grade level. Winners of this years quiz are: Ashley Gero-Shears, Grade 10, Justin Gerrits, Grade 11 and Sonja Macdonald, Grade 12.

The winners will receive certificates along with tickets to a Moosehead Hockey game of their choice. This event was organized by Mrs. Harriet Fagan, African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker, Elisa Teklet, Student Council and members of her committee.

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Young writer brings fantasy and life together

By Heather White Brittain

Mikaela Zwicker has been writing for most of her young life. Only eleven years old, (she turns twelve in April), creative writing has been an inspiration for Mikaela as early as she can remember.

In Grade One, Mikaela received an award from her school for writing a short story. Centering around a theme of snow and clouds, the narrative shares a tale of a young girl seeking 'snow.' Seeing a cloud in the sky, the little girl has a vision of snow, but the cloud is the only thing visible. Engaging the cloud in conversation, she begs the cloud to tell her where the snow is. When Mikaela is asked about these images, she says "I looked outside and I was thinking of places where the snow could be. Imagining a place like Alaska, I felt that

Alaska was somewhere it could be." When she is asked to explain how she would have known about Alaska, the young writer replies "well, I didn't really. I was reading a lot at the time and it must have registered for me that Alaska was a cold place. Later, I told my parents about the image and the story and that's how I learned that Alaska is the coldest place."

Relying on her imagination and a talent with words, Mikaela feels that she is able to "visualize things and put pictures in 'her' mind." Later, these become the stories and poems that end up on paper.

In Grade Five, Mikaela co-wrote a fantasy story based on a young girl who finds a chess piece on her way home from school. After picking up the chess piece, the little girl is transformed into a different world. There she meets a horse and a series of events follow.

Interestingly, the girl's character doesn't want to return to home. Titled the 'Chess Princess,' the story subtly underlines the challenge of adolescence and how fantasy can be a welcoming escape.

These days, the young writer has been using poetry to portray some profound thoughts. In a day of "feeling bored," Mikaela put her creative instincts to work and turned her boredom into something productive with a reflection of 'happiness.' "There I was sitting on the edge of my bed, thinking of happiness and that happiness is like that at times – on the edge." Later, these thoughts became poetry in an ironical juxtaposing of the edginess of happiness:

Feeling that real life her "life is not always interesting," Mikaela says that it is easy to

make up characters when she is writing with interesting pasts behind them. "I've never been to Paris, and yet I find that the idea of writing about Paris is a lot easier than writing about my own life." Clearly, there is 'a lot' of life in this young writer's words.

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Mikaela Zwicker, a young Herring Cove poet.

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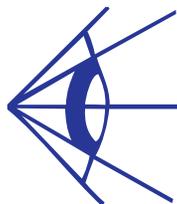
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Long Lake Provincial Park Management Plan a step closer

It's taken four years of research over 5,000 acres of land and numerous meetings but the Long Lake Provincial Park Committee, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources unveiled a "draft management plan" for the area this month.

Speaking to about 20 people attending the unveiling, Brian Kinsmen, a Natural Resources Parks Planner, said the draft plan is an opportunity for people to provide feedback to the ideas. He said most of the people attending have been invited because "you are the ones who have attended our series of community meetings seeking input to the proposal."

Kinsmen told the gathering the province acquired the lands in the 1980s, initiated a process for management which later stalled to be

picked up by the park committee four years ago. The lands are bordered on this side by the Old Sambro Road and Northwest Arm Drive and on the north side by St. Margaret's Bay Road and the Prospect Road. The land goes as far west as Goodwood.

Kinsmen said the proposed plan is a policy document on just how the Department of Natural Resources will provide services in the basically wilderness area. "Before we reach a final draft we will need to have an operational plan which will see the department seek partners in the operation of the park and a more detailed construction plan for trail developments.

The draft suggests the entire area be used as a day park for passive recreation use such as walking, hiking and canoeing. The park's

use can be considered as educational opportunities and environmental study opportunities. The plan also calls for passive shoreline recreation along the beach but there are no plans for a commercial or public boat ramp, an effort to save the lake for canoeing and kayaking.

The proposal includes development of a number of "multi-use park trails," eight foot wide granular walkways some traveling near the western shoreline of Long Lake from Old Sambro Road to a point near St. Margaret's Bay Road and other connecting with "loop configurations" to give people a greater sense of the area's interior wilderness. These trails would

accommodate the needs of disabled hikers.

There would also be what is considered as "urban hiking trails," five foot wide trails with less definition, mostly found on the eastern side of the lake to allow those already using the area for recreation to continue. The proposal also calls for clearer sidewalk connections from urban areas east of Northwest Arm Drive.

Access to the park by automobile would be from Old Sambro Road, likely near the existing entrance presently blocked off by the department, another from Exhibition Park if an agreement can be made with the operators of the facility.

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More than 200 people, including a few "mascots" attended the Frog Pond Skating Party organized by HRM Recreation staff this month.



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Roundabout meeting turns into Chebucto Road widening session

By Linda Mosher, District 17 Councillor

The Armdale Rotary meeting last week was very well attended. Many residents came to look at the displays detailing the conversion to a roundabout and the computer simulation showing how the conversion would work. About 200 people stayed to hear the presentations. Unfortunately, rather than focusing the bulk of the presentations on the matter at hand, the rotary conversion, most of time was devoted to the Chebucto Road lane reversal portion of the project.

The consultant presenting this part of the presentation was too verbose and not a very dynamic speaker. The intention was to address some of the more vocal concerns of Chebucto Road, however, it did take away from the hoped for rotary discussion. This was also translated in the media reports the next day, which focused on Chebucto Road versus the roundabout.

The day of the meeting, the Halifax Herald included an article entitled "City carving up front yards." The reporter had contacted me about the rotary meeting, but the article was negatively slanted towards impacting Chebucto Road residents. I am sure this fuelled the fire for the meeting. I was dismayed that the article omitted most of our conversation, and included inaccuracies and glaring omissions. In order to set the record straight, I sent a detailed letter to the editor of the Herald with a copy to their management. As of this writing, the letter has not been printed.

Many residents who attended the meeting telephoned me afterwards, stating they were in complete support of all aspects of the conversion. They did not go to the microphone to voice this support, as they did not feel comfortable speaking in front of the vocal special interest groups.

Fortunately the HRM staff that spoke at the meeting were able to clearly articulate the main rotary conversion and associated St. Margaret's Bay road left turning lane project. They also clearly articulated the positives of the project, including, but not limited to a new crosswalk with overhead flashers and a new sidewalk on the North side of the Bay Road; a bypass lane from Joseph Howe Drive to the Bay Road; setting back the crosswalks at the rotary, with standard traffic lights to allow vehicles to deal with pedestrians before entering the circle, therefore making it much safer for pedestrians; and angled entry roads into the circle ensuring that drivers enter and drive at slower, safer speeds.

Responding to residents' concern that the conversion would delay transit growth, staff said that the conversion does not preclude public transit initiatives, such as a possible bus rapid transit from the Spryfield Mall to downtown Halifax, and the high speed ferry from Purcell's Cove to

downtown Halifax.

Speaking of public transit, recently HRM Transit decided to change the times of the #15 Purcell's Cove Road bus. They did not consult with Council nor did they seek input from the users of this service. I feel it is unacceptable that these types of changes are made without proper input of those who would be directly affected.

It is my understanding that the changes were made to have a new low floor bus that can accommodate wheel chairs. A good idea. But this bus would shuttle from the Mumford Terminal to Bayers Road Shopping Centre rather than head directly to Purcell's Cove. When residents questioned the changes, and why the Bayers Road stop was added, the reasoning was to enable peo-

Environment is more than just climate change

By Michele Raymond
Halifax Atlantic MLA

We've all been hearing a lot about climate change lately, and "the environment." The international agreements made in Kyoto ten years ago haven't been followed through, and instead of lessening the emissions that threaten to cloud and overheat our world, most industrialized nations have been steadily increasing their fossil fuel use.

All the signs of climate change are present. Scientists are seeing the bottom of the Antarctic sea for the first time ever, with the melting of major ice shelves. Drought and forest fire have devastated large tracts of Australia, California and sub-Saharan Africa. We ourselves have been experiencing unusually warm, dry winters, at least in comparison with what we're used to.

So now everyone's talking about climate change. Everyone has a "green filter," a promise that all decisions will be made with the environment in mind, first and foremost. But what does that mean?

"Environment" literally means "surroundings." In recent years, it's come to mean our natural surroundings, but even in that narrower sense, it's pretty hard to have a meaningful policy about the entire natural world around us. Maybe that's why we're starting to hear the word "local" so much.

Basically, "local" is good for the environment, but not only because it minimizes transportation. Yes, transportation is one of the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions, so buying local products helps protect the environment by cutting down fuel use, but we are also more likely to know and care what's in local products, and to be able to influence

ple to get to the newly relocated Duffus Street Medical Clinic that has 60,000 patients. It is fine to accommodate them, but not at the expense of residents using the #15 bus.

At first the schedule indicated the last bus would leave Mumford at 9:15 p.m. Many people who work at the malls and surrounding areas, don't get out of work until 9:30, and would miss the last bus of the evening. Transit's schedulers realized their mistake and reinstated the 9:40 p.m. bus. Now residents are contacting me because the 5:40 bus has been changed to 5:15, which they cannot make, and have to sit around for an extra half hour per day.

I have contacted Transit again, asking them to reinstate the entire previous schedule. With bus

local producers.

I worry that the word "local" is going to go the way of "environment," that it's used so often, no one stops to ask what it means, and why it matters. It's common to talk about the virtues of "local food" now, but not so common to know where "local" ends. Is it food produced within walking distance, in the same county, province, region or nation? Does "local" depend on the kind of food? And does the method of production matter?

Nova Scotia farmers need these questions answered. In January, pork producers came to the Legislature to ask for support, since they've been losing money on every hog sold. They were told no help is available, and went away to start culling their stock. In February, the Maple Leaf poultry processing plant in the Valley closed. Yet the NS government hasn't

service only once per hour, it is not appropriate to make schedule adjustments that benefit others who do not live in the area the route was established to serve in the first place.

New community signage has been installed entering and exiting Purcell's Cove. I would like to thank Purcell's Cove resident George Hebb for his input into the signage and the original picture of the pilot boats used in Purcell's Cove.

Congratulations to the winners of the "Nova Scotia Recycles Contest." I had the privilege to attend the Student Awards Banquet. The winners for District 17 and 18 were: Kelly Foster, J.L. Isley High School, Jeremy Francis, John W. MacLeod School, and Jessie Dale, Herring Cove Junior High.

even committed to serving NS food in NS government institutions.

And what about education? Would we rather educate our children in consolidated schools with terrific buildings, or would we rather educate them in smaller, "local" schools, without the bells and whistles, but within walking distance? Will our school boards allow "walking schoolbuses" to escort groups of children to school, instead of driving them? Will community groups get access to school buildings after hours?

Nova Scotia parents need these questions answered. Any school closure policy needs to look at the use of schools in the community, at the usefulness (or not) of educating children in their local area, and at the health and environ-

see "More" pg. 9



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85 percent of Herring Cove residents will have water by Christmas

By Stephen Adams
District 18 Councillor

On Tuesday, February 20th, we reached another milestone in the delivery of sewer and water service to the community of Herring Cove. With unanimous support, Council agreed to award nearly \$8 million in tenders to bring both Phase 1B and Phase 2B to reality. What this means is that homes along Hebridean Drive, Village Road, the remainder of St. Paul's Avenue, Margaret Lorne Drive, the Ketch Harbour Road to Village Road and streets in the vicinity will be serviced. The work will start this spring and is scheduled to be completed by this Christmas. When finished another 150 homes will have access to both sewer and water. In essence, 85% of the community will be serviced.

Last week I spoke with our staff with respect to the remaining 15% of homes in Herring Cove and those on private roads that are economically feasible for service. We will work diligently to identify funding services to ensure all residents have access to services.

As you can appreciate the last year has been challenging for both our engineering and finance staff. With rising tender prices, scarce labour and fewer contractors, they worked tirelessly to make these phases more affordable. We were given estimates last summer that households would have to pay approximately \$28,000 per 100 feet of frontage. On July 5, 2005, Council approved a rate of \$12,500 per frontage. We used that as our target.

After extensive research, exhaustive planning and negotiations with the contractor, we were able to bring the price back to where it should

have been. About 95% of this funding came from municipal sources, with the remaining 5% utilized from surpluses from other projects.

As a reminder, there are different payment options for these services which may help to ease the burden. In addition to paying outright, you may also finance the costs over a period of time at 2% over prime lending rates. As always, if you have any questions regarding this issue, or any issue, please call me.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the efforts of our staff. Brad Anguish and Charles Lloyd committed to deliver these services at the price as approved by Council and they did. We are indeed fortunate to have them working on our behalf.

Fairview MLA seeks input on provincial budget

By Graham Steele, Halifax Fairview MLA

The Legislature will resume on March 19th. I will be there to represent your interests. The main item of business will be to consider the provincial budget.

The budget debate is always important. The budget sets the direction for the next year on all areas of provincial responsibility, including health, education, social services, roads and taxes.

The budget debate is also important because there must be an election if the budget is defeated. That last happened in 1999, when the Liberal government of Russell MacLellan lost a budget vote.

Last year, you may recall, the

Finally, I would like to thank those residents that have been so patient as we worked through this process. I can only imagine the frustration and uncertainties associated with poor quality drinking water.

Over the past few months, our community of Spryfield was hit with a number of violent incidents. As a result of these our Regional Police have assigned additional resources to deter further outbreaks or to catch those responsible. This exercise proved ineffective. As a result I spoke with the Chief of Police and asked for more resources. I am confident you have seen a significant increase in police presence. The traffic division is patrolling the streets with additional marked and unmarked vehicles

traveling throughout the neighbourhoods.

As of the writing of this article, no arrests have been made. However, with the increase in patrols and your help, I am confident this will end. If you see anything unfamiliar or something that doesn't seem right, call the Regional Police. Although it may seem insignificant at the time, I encourage you to bring it forward.

The issue around the Commonwealth games has been a topic of great interest over the past number of months. On March 6, we, as a Council will be given the information necessary to determine if should proceed with our bid. If we can afford the Games and if there are both short term and long term benefits, I will support the bid. Otherwise I will not.

Conservatives under Rodney MacDonald introduced a budget, but then called an election before it could be voted on. The Conservatives came out of the election on June 13th with fewer seats (23) than before, but they still had more seats than the NDP (20) or the Liberals (9), so they continued to be the government. They then recalled the legislature in July, and passed the budget then.

Needless to say, the current Conservative government and premier are very unpopular. They have appointed their friends to highly-paid jobs, they have increased the premium and co-pay for Seniors' Pharmacare, they dealt very badly with the Ernie Fage hit-and-run fiasco, and on and on.

And yet it is a grave responsibility to consider defeating a government on its budget.

Let me say immediately that I don't really expect the budget to be defeated this year. In order to defeat the budget, both the Liberals and the NDP would have to vote against it. The Liberals are choosing a new leader on April 28th, which is a couple of weeks after the budget vote. Without a leader, they are in

no position to force an election.

Still, it is my responsibility, as the elected representative of some 19,000 people in Halifax Fairview, to give the budget my most earnest consideration. If I believe the budget is good for the people I represent, I will vote for it. If not, I will vote against it.

I would love to hear your thoughts on the budget. The more people that I hear from, the better I can do my job. Tell me what you think should, or should not, be in the budget. Once the budget is released (probably on March 22nd), tell me what you think of it, and in particular, whether you think I should vote for it or against it. My contact information is in my ad on this page.

On a different topic, I note that Halifax Clayton Park MLA Diana Whalen is one of four people running for the Liberal leadership on April 28th. Since we represent neighbouring constituencies, and frequently attend the same community events, I have gotten to know Diana reasonably well over the past few years. She would be an excellent choice for the Liberal leadership. Good luck, Diana.

More than just climate change

continued from pg. 8

mental impacts of locating schools near or far from homes.

What about garbage? Should we dispose of it "locally," or ship it away? Should we burn tires in Nova Scotia, or truck them out of the province for shredding and recycling? Should we drop off contaminated soils nearby, or truck them away to a

disposal facility? If we can't safely get rid of the waste, should we stop using the product?

Nova Scotians need to answer these questions. Protecting the environment isn't just about climate change. If we're going to use a green filter, let's make sure it's a good one, and let's use it consistently, in all our decisions. They affect us locally, and they affect the world around us.

Stephen Adams

HRM Councillor, District 18

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LOCAL OBITUARIES

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd.

WHITEHEAD, Arthur Welsley "Art" - 84, Spryfield, passed away in Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building, QEII, surrounded by his family. Born in Harrietsfield, he was a son of the late William and Eva (Marryatt) Whitehead. At the break of the Second World War, Art enlisted with the Princess Louise Fusiliers. He was part of the D-day landings and fought in France and Germany. He was with the Cameron Highlanders during the liberation of Holland. When the war was over, Art was anxious to get out of his uniform and start a new life. He took a job with Macdonald Construction and worked on the building of the Victoria General Hospital and St. Mary's University. Later he was lucky enough to get on as a driver with DND and retired after 36 years of service. Art had a great appreciation of his community and never hesitated to volunteer when the need arose. He was very active in his church, a long-time member of the IOOF Lodge, spent years taking part in the Scouting activities and introduced many young men to the pleasures of hunting and fishing. Art is survived by his wife, Mable (Hampton); sons, Stanley (Charlene), Halifax; David (Elisa), Harrietsfield; daughters, Sandra (Rene Quigley), Harrietsfield; Heather, Spryfield; Valerie Blackmore (Carl Burgess), Fall River; Beverley (Busch Dubay); 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brother, Robert "Bob," Salisbury, N.B. He was predeceased by his sister, Gertrude (Victor Grant); brothers, Fred, Gordon, Jack, Jim, and Stan. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601).

ROALD, Joan "Denise" - 63, Herring Cove, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Lethbridge, Alta., she moved to Burnaby, B.C., at a very young age, where she was raised by the late Dennis and Helen (Zacharias) Murley. For many years, Denise was a radiological technologist at the Halifax Infirmary, and later with QEII Health Sciences Centre, from where she retired. She was a past president of the Kinette Club of Halifax. Denise loved her family dearly, and she will be remembered fondly by all who knew and loved her. She was a friendly and generous lady who had a strong will and brave spirit until the end. Throughout her 41 years of marriage, Bruce and Denise enjoyed one another's company, and family was always most important. Denise was a very dedicated and devoted daughter, who happily spent endless hours with her mother, Helen. She will be sadly missed by her husband, Bruce; treasured sons, Colin, Somerville, Mass., and Mark, Montreal; and her brother, Robert (Sue) Murley, Vancouver, B.C. She was predeceased by her parents. Arrangements were under the care of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601).

STRONG, Howard Edward - 65, Halifax, in QEII Health Sciences Centre. Born in Halifax, he was the son of the late John and Nettie (Lightle) Strong. Howie was an active 30 year member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 152, Spryfield, and the Purcell's Cove Social Club. He was also a member of the Spryfield Q Billiards, where he was often found enjoying a game of pool. Howie loved to play darts and cards. He worked for DND for 20 years, from where he retired in 1991. He is survived by his loving companion of 33 years, Shirley; sons, Howard Jr., Stephen, Calvin; daughters, Doris and Corrine; granddaughters, Latisha, Kayla, Kelsey; grandsons, Tristan, Dennis and Leonard, as well as great-grandchildren, Haley and Marshall. He was predeceased by his first wife, Greta (Sanderson). By request, cremation has taken place under the care of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield, 477-5601.

MARTELL-GOODALL, Helena Frances - 72, Halifax, passed away suddenly at her residence, Northwood Manor. Helena was born in Cheverie, Hants Co., and later moved to Halifax. She was a very strong and giving lady, who loved to help anyone in need. She loved her family and her many friends at Northwood dearly. She will always be remembered for her willingness to do things for others, especially at Northwood. Helena is survived by her partner, Fred Goodall; her sons, Donald Justin "Donnie" (Pamela) Martell, Harrietsfield, and David Martell (Irene), Dartmouth; daughter, Carolyn Martell, Dartmouth; brother, Donald Kerr (Edna), Ottawa; sisters, Margie Benjamin, Kentville, and Judy (Hank) Frank, High River, Alta.; her many beloved grandchildren including, Donald, Chris, Alicia, Giselle, Kathy, Traymane, and Chantal; as well as her numerous treasured great-grand-

children, cousins, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Lawrence Edward Martell, in 1998; her father, George Kerr and stepmother, Mabel Kerr; her mother, Annie (Greenough); sisters, Rita and Trudy, and brother, Darrel. By request, cremation has taken place under the direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601). Interment was held in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Lower Sackville.

ICETON, Ruth Emily - 83, Halifax, passed away in Northwood Terrace, Halifax. Born in Purcell's Cove, Ruth was a daughter of the late William and Alice (Purcell) Icton. She is survived by her sister, Hilda Alice Tanner, Eastern Passage. She was predeceased by her parents and brothers, Bruce Darrell, Albert William, and Douglas in infancy. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601). Burial was in St. Phillip's Anglican Church Cemetery.

HENNEBERRY, Norman Patrick "Normie" - Sambro, passed away peacefully. Born in Sambro, he was a son of the late Augustus and Lena (Twohig) Henneberry. Normie will be remembered as a wonderful family man who loved his family and community. He lived to work, but also enjoyed playing cards and bowling. He enjoyed commercial sword fishing, especially harpooning, but truly loved to hunt, particularly at his cottage in Stewiacke, with his best friends and brothers-in-law, Gordon and Murray. Normie is survived by his companion, Sandra Tough; daughter, Dianne (John) Gillis, Amherst; sons, Pat (Sandra) and Bob (Joyce), both of Sambro; stepchildren, Heather, Carolyn, and Natalie; sisters, Thelma and Nettie, both of Sambro; brothers, Harold, Gussie

(Margaret), Cyril (Pearl), Allan, Danny (Agnes) and Lewie, all of Sambro; brother-in-law, Lindy Duggan; grandchildren, Leanne (Ireland), Neil, Dennis, Darren, Kyle, Brad, and Gabrielle; great-granddaughter, Abigail; stepgrandchildren, Caitlyn, Donnie, Alex, Haley, and Chris; his sisters-in-law, Frances Monk, Helen Gray, Joan Tough, and Donna Marryatt; brothers-in-law, Gerald Jennex and John Jennex; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Avis (Jennex) Henneberry; sisters, Nora Baker and Vera Duggan; brother, Charles; sister-in-laws, Amy (Murray) and Dot Henneberry; and brother-in-law, Gordon Reyno. Funeral arrangements are under the care of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601). Interment was in St. James United Church Cemetery. Remembrances in memory of Normie may be made to the IWK Health Centre Foundation, St. James United Church, Sambro, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia, QEII Foundation or to the charity of the donor's choice. On-line condolences may be sent to: wfh2005@ns.sympatico.ca

SLAUNWHITE, Lester Auldon - 62, Terence Bay, passed away, in Hants Community Hospital, Windsor. Born in Terence Bay, he was a son of the late Lillian Slaunwhite. Lester enjoyed spending most of his time at his camp in Terence Bay. He is survived by his father, Auldon Slaunwhite; sisters, Sylvia Billard, Joanny Little, and Dorothy Slaunwhite, Spryfield; Geraldine Smith, Terence Bay; brothers, Rickey, Terence Bay; Johnny (Belinda), Dartmouth; David, Sackville. He was predeceased by his brothers, Cecile and Joe. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601).

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Heritage Display

If you happened to miss the Mainland South Heritage Society's Heritage Display "Remembering our Teachers" it is now at the Captain William Spry Library in Spryfield and may be viewed by the public until Sunday, March 18th. Don't forget to check out the Mainland South Heritage Society's photograph binders that are always on display at the library in Spryfield.

History For Sale

Historian and columnist Iris Shea has compiled Volume II of monthly historical columns prepared for the Chebucto News in 2001 and 2002. The Volume is avail-

able for purchase from the Mainland South Heritage Society. All funds raised will support the work of the organization.

Seedy Saturday

The Urban Farm Museum Society's Seedy Saturday will be held March 18 at Emmanuel Anglican Church Hall, Herring Cove Road.

Free Diabetes Testing

A Free Diabetes Testing and Information Clinic will be held at St. Paul's Family Resources Institute, 173 Old Sambro Road, on Friday March 9th. Registration is from 8-9:30am and you must not eat or drink after mid-

night. Please allow two hours for your appointment. There will be a free breakfast, childcare provided, transportation if necessary and lots of great information. To pre-register and for more information call 479-1015.

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 on Wednesday, March 14, at 7pm at the Captain William Spry Community Center. For more information please call 473-4366 or visit <http://tinnitussupport.tripod.com> (website) or tinnitussupport@eastlink.ca.

Breast Cancer Program

Encore classes for breast cancer survivors will be starting up Sunday, March 18, at the Captain William Spry Centre, from 7 to 9pm, for eight weeks. Pool and floor exercises, guest speakers and lots of fun and information. Free of charge. Please call Carolyn at 479-1111 for more information.

Free Meditation Classes

An opportunity to learn simple and effective exercises to still the mind, increase concentration, creativity and happiness. Instructor Ashirvad Zaiantchick has taught meditation in North and South America, Asia and Europe. There will be 4 classes in 3 locations including the Keshen Goodman Library, March 13 to 22 - Tuesday and Thursday at 7 pm: Cole Harbour Place, March 19 to 28, Monday and Wednesday at 7 pm: and at Dalhousie University SUB, March 17 to 25, Saturday and Sunday, 2 pm (Friday March 23, 7 pm). Presented by the Sri Chinmoy Centre of Halifax as a community service. Please feel free to join us. Pre-registration and information can be obtained by calling 429-5234.

Girl Guide Fundraiser

The Armview District Girl Guides will be selling cookies at the Spryfield Sobeys parking lot on Sunday April 1 from 11am to 3pm. Cookies are the Vanilla Chocolate and are \$4.00 a box. Please come out and support your local Girl Guides!

Sambro Dinner Theatre

The Sambro Dinner Theatre will present "Seacruise" May 4, 5, 11 and 12th at 6:30 pm in St. James United Church, Sambro. Lobster or Roast Beef Dinner \$30.00. Tickets go on sale March 12th. For information call Eva Mae 868-2660 or Donna 475-1053.

Legion Notes:

Seniors Days - March 5 and 19 - 1 to 5 pm - featuring Newfie George.
St. Patrick's Day Dance - March 17 - 9 to 1 am - Band Bingo every Sunday - Doors open at noon - Bingo starts at 1 pm

Library Happenings:

MARCH BREAK SPECIALS
Puppet Show - Ages 3+ - Saturday March 10th - 11am - Join us for an hour of fun featuring the puppet show "Laprechaun's Gold" followed by a special St. Patrick's Day craft.

Beach Storytime - Ages 0-5 - Tuesday March 13th - 10:30am - We're having a beach party with stories, activities and crafts. Bring your beach towel and sunglasses for an hour of fun!
Harry Potter Party - Ages 8-12 - Wednesday March 14th - 2:30pm - Games, crafts, trivia and prizes make this a wild party you won't want to miss! Registration required.
Fun With Puppets - Ages 5-10 - Thursday March 15 - 10:30am - Make your own puppet and perform in a puppet play. Registration required.
Super Silly Us! All ages - Friday March 16th - 10:30am - Library staffer, Carrie and Cindy, return with a wild and wacky program featuring stories, songs and zany. Warning: not for serious people!
Baby's First Books - Ages 0-18months - March 29th - May 24th - Let your little one experience the words and pictures in books, the rhythm and rhyme of music and the fun of play. These are the first steps to learning and literacy. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. Registration is required.
Children Programs:
Storytime Fridays Ages 3-5 10:30 am - Develop a love of reading and learn how to listen and participate independently in a group setting.
Puppet Show Saturdays All ages 11 am - Puppet shows bring our favorite stories to life!
Children's Reading Support - Tuesdays to Thursdays 3:30 - 7:30 pm - Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. Reading support volunteers needed. Please call Dorothy at 490-5714 for more information and registration.
Adult Programs
Book Club Wednesdays - 7pm - The Library's book club is a great way to meet people, explore new authors, share ideas and celebrate the joy of reading. February's book is "Suite Francaise" by Irene Nemirovsky.
Adult Literacy and upgrading Tuesdays 1 to 3 pm - Tuesdays 5:30 - 8:30pm - Thursdays 9:30 - 11:30am Thursdays 1-3 pm. Volunteer tutors needed please call Linda at 490-5715 for more information and registration.

Crafter'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. Feis, Arts Express Coordinator, J.L. Ilsley Family of Schools, 479-4612 ext. 570-2008 or sfels@staff.ednet.ns.ca



The Mainland South Heritage Society held its Annual Tea and Display in recognition of Heritage Week in February. This year's display centered on schools and teachers. Grace Dobson, society treasurer, left, is shown with a copy of the LaTribune year book of Herring Cove Junior High; Historian Iris Shea holds the Cunard Clipper; President Leslie Harnish holds J. L. Ilsley's The Verdict; and Archivist Marilyn Moore holds B.C. Silver's Expectations.

Chebucto News Business Directory

Community businesses serving community needs.



MIND & SKILL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES ATLANTIC

Individual & Family Counselling
In person, by phone or online
Harrietsfield/Williamswood Area
Affordable rates/20 years experience
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phone: Sandi444-2494



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Phyllis Hayden, Proprietor

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phyllis@touchstonebookkeeping.ca

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The Chebucto West Community Health Board is part of Capital Health

Would you like \$5,000 to make a difference in your community?

Have you ever had a great idea for making your community a better place to live? If so, we'd like to hear from you.

The Chebucto West Community Health Board invites you to apply for a grant through their Community Development Fund. This fund is made possible through Capital Health, Nova Scotia Health Promotion & Protection and Active Halifax Communities.

To find out more about funding criteria or to discuss your idea, please call: Andrea Cochrane, CHB Coordinator at 424-5144 andrea.cochrane@cdha.nshealth.ca

Deadline for applications: Thursday May 3, 2007, 4:30pm.

Applicants must reside within Chebucto West which includes districts 10 (Clayton Park West), 15 (Fairview-Clayton Park), 16 (Rockingham-Wentworth), 17 (Armdale-Purcell's Cove) 18 (Spryfield-Herring Cove) parts of 22 (Prospect Communities) and 23 (St. Margaret's Bay- Hubbards)



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REAL ESTATE NEWS

Selling \$mart — with Jan

Recouping Your Reno Dollar: Where to Spend for Top Returns.

Thinking of selling your home this year? Investing in home improvements could potentially add thousands of dollars in profit. However, you must choose wisely: although most projects will certainly make your home more attractive, not all will translate into increased returns to your bottom line.

According to the Appraisal Institute of Canada's 2004 Home Renovation Survey, the improvements that offered the highest payback potential for homeowners were Bathroom and Kitchen Renovation (75-100%), and Interior Painting (50-100%). Installing a fireplace or adding a recreation room, while certainly making a home more attractive, offered only average returns (50-75%). The lowest returns resulted from adding a swimming pool (10-40%) and installing a skylight (0-25%), in the opinion of those surveyed.

When planning your project, ask yourself: Will the improvement be enjoyed regularly? Will it result in a more efficient use of space? Will the finishes appeal to a wide range of tastes? A 'yes' to these questions will increase the buyer's perception of value, and raise your return on the cost of the project.

Need help deciding on what improvements to make before selling? Contact me for a no-obligation consultation...I'm here to help!

Jan MacAuley

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