

# Chebucto News

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## J.L. Ilsley expanding programs for students' mental, physical health

By Sandra MacLean Staff

Principal Terry Quinlan has just released her report card for J. L. Ilsley High School with updates on four major projects now

underway. Innovative programs that rely on "partnerships and connections with the community" are the way of the future and she credits the help of so many people from students to parents, staff, all levels of government, and ser-

vice providers as crucial components responsible for recent successful accomplishments in this Chebucto East Peninsula school.

J. L. Ilsley is fortunate to be the only high school in HRM to participate in a joint program between the Nova Scotia Department of Health and the school system in developing an "Active School Committee" now leading the charge in developing non-traditional ways for students to become active.

Realizing that "lack of physical activity for our students is a real problem" led to a school survey last year which concluded there are two main problems - time and cost. A decision was made to create a weight/cardio room on the school premises that students could use throughout the school day. The success can be measured by the variety of comments from

students using the room which range from "I use it all the time" to "this is my first time." The school continues to add equipment and other services to make it an inviting space that students will want to use.

The school has adopted what it calls its "Eight To Go" program which creates activities around students' interests. As long as there are at least eight students interested in participating, the school will organize the activity. So far, popular programs have included martial arts, co-ed team sports and a break dancing demonstration. There is hope the school will be able to get funds for a dedicated skate boarding area.

According to Quinlan, the healthy food

see "J.L. Ilsley" pg. 3



Michael Peace, Chebucto Community Health Board's Andrea Cochrane, Sydney Little, Courtney Johnston, Philip Hatcher, Triston Manson, Meredith Legge, Lindsay MacAskill, Breagh McKeough, Ben Richards, Bronwyn Zuck and Tamara Matheson all participate in the outdoors club, a way for youths to stay active during the winter months. In February they spent the day skating at the Frog Pond on the Purcell's Cove Road.

## Chebucto Heights plan auction for boys who lost mother

By Meghan Stewart Staff

Even though the boys now attend a school in Dartmouth, Chebucto Heights Elementary school staff and students wanted to help Ryan and Steven Mabe so much that they will hold a fundraising event in their honour at the end of March.

When single parent Crystal Mabe lost her battle with bone cancer in December this past

year, Melbourne MacDonald lost his sister. His wife, Brenda lost her sister-in-law and a good friend. Ryan and Steven Mabe, ages 11 and 12, lost their mother.

"She wanted us to take the boys after she was gone, but she didn't want to ask because we already have three kids of our own. We talked about it a lot when she was in hospital," Brenda MacDonald remembers. "But I told her we wanted to take care of Ryan and Steven and have them become part of our family."

MacDonald admits that since the addition of two boys to the household she has more meals to prepare, more dishes to wash and more schedules to organize. But she is trying to make the boys feel at home, keeping their daily routine as close as possible to what it was when they lived with their mother.

"So far, it's been working out really well," MacDonald says. "They're calling each other 'brother' and 'sister' already," says MacDonald making reference to her own two boys and girl she has at home.

But she says the whole family is grieving together and take it day by day. The boys deal with their mother's death very differently. Steven, who has a heart condition, shows his grief every day, while Ryan is quiet and keeps to himself.

When students of Chebucto Heights heard

see "Auction" pg. 2

## Springvale Parent Teacher Association - A model of success

By Des Writer Staff

A school of almost two hundred students, Springvale Elementary can take pride in the activities of its Parent Teacher Association. "We're so blessed," says Principal, Annmarie MacInnes, "there's a wonderful working relationship and a lot of trust between the school and the PTA."

"It's a great group of parents that got together," says the association's events coordinator, Martha Baigent. She says their mission is to do whatever they can for the kids. The mother of two boys, Baigent attributes much of the PTA's success to the leadership of co-chair, Kerry Copeland. "She's incredible, very

motivated, very involved, and a good leader," says Baigent.

Copeland's been involved with the PTA in one way or another for seven years. When asked the secret of their success, she says it's a core group of about 20 parents. "But on every level there's participation." When she mentions the group's activities over those seven years, it's clear where the impetus for that participation originates. A full-time homemaker, and mother of two boys, Copeland says she'll always be involved in one way or another. She's the personification of the oft-quoted maxim "if you want something done, ask a busy person."

Copeland says the PTA has two main functions, fundraising, and bringing the community

together, and they've made a point of involving the whole community in many events. For the last two years, they've hosted a "Community Barbecue." It's not intended as fundraising initiative. "We have a huge turnout," says Copeland, regardless of whether they're parents or have kids in the school. A community notice board outside the school, given by District 17 Councillor Linda Mosher, lets everyone in the neighbourhood know what's going on.

"Generally our fundraising is fairly consistent," says Copeland, almost self-effacingly, as she lists many successful activities including the Christmas wreath sales that raised \$4000,

see "Springvale" pg. 2

# Springvale Parent Teacher Association continued from pg. 1

the Spring Fair, \$7000; an Adult Dance that may bring in \$500, and; cookie dough sales, \$1000. In September, for the first time, they sold entertainment books, raising \$1600, says Copeland. "Last year we raised just under \$14,000," she says. Copeland also acknowledges the generous support of local politicians, HRM Councillor Mosher and Fairview MLA, Graham Steele.

Fourteen thousand dollars goes a long way to supporting school activities and the project list seems endless. Thanks to the PTA's success, each classroom teacher and specialist can spend up to \$500 during this school year on any project approved by Principal MacInnes. Copeland says the School Board doesn't cover needed items, such as paper and glue. Also, the funds allow \$300 for each class's transportation needs. Then, there was \$1500 for the troupe from Neptune, who performed "The Nutcracker" in the gymnasium. The PTA has helped in the purchase of software and up-to-date electronic items, such as two digital cameras, and they've purchased school agendas for all the students. MacInnes says she uses her discretionary budget from the PTA for such things as sending flowers or fruit baskets to hospitalized students.

As events coordinator, Baigent keeps herself and students busy with such things as skating parties, a family swim, tree decorating

and carol singing at Christmas. The PTA also rented the Oxford Cinema for the movie "Shrek." Again this year, she'll be organizing the adult dance with music supplied by "MDS," a group of local physicians who donate their services. "If we make money, it turns around and goes towards the next event," says Baigent.

Scheduled at one time for closure, Springvale was spared thanks to the Fairmount Ridge and Stoneridge developments. Copeland says everyone knows everyone else in the school's fairly tight community. MacInnes calls it a "kind of isolated community." She says all the parents

know all the kids and they'll stop them from misbehaving. In school, she says, parents are in and out all the time. "Different people will pick up the ball at different times," she says and that's why the PTA is so successful.



The Springvale Elementary School Parent Teachers Association has had an active and successful fundraising campaign team in place for several years. Members include Maria Merriam, Kerry Copeland, Martha Baigent, Principal Annmarie MacInnes, Cheryl Acton, staff representative Stephanie Lynch, Vice-Principal Sharon MacKinnon and Susan Moore.

## Auction continued from pg. 1

the news, grade six student Angela Dickinson was concerned and asked her mother what could be done to help the boys. The matter came before the PTA, and PTA Vice President Colleen Murphy looked to Councillor Linda Mosher for suggestions.

Mosher suggested a silent auction be held, the proceeds of the event then donated to the boys. Murphy thought it was excellent idea and mailed, faxed and delivered letters telling the community about the event and asking for support. The community's response, she says, has been immediate and overwhelming.

Murphy's phone began ringing off the hook less than a week after the letters went out. Businesses such as Ultramar and The Hair Dresser have generously donated gift certificates and merchandise. Murphy hopes to have at least 15 to 20 items to bid on by March 26th, the Friday before the event. She was surprised to discover that people in the community were calling to say that their thoughts were with the boys, even if they had nothing to donate.

The boys had to stop attending Chebucto Heights and start going to Caldwell Road Elementary at the end of January because the MacDonalds live in Dartmouth. But the wheels had been set in motion for this fundraiser long before that. MacDonald said Murphy told her about the plan as she was picking up the kids on their last day at Chebucto Heights. MacDonald was thrilled by the idea and hopes many members of the community come out to show their support for the new members of her family.

The annual bingo and the silent auction are being held on Sunday, March 28th at the Royal Canadian Legion on Sussex Street in Spryfield. The event begins at 6 pm. Admission is free. For more information or to donate a prize, please contact Colleen Murphy at 477-2481 or e-mail her at Colleen4002003@yahoo.ca.

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# J.L. Ilsley expanding programs for students' mental, physical health

continued from pg. 1

initiative began when they realized "a lot of students were getting chunky, and the school felt they had a responsibility to do something about it." A cafeteria renovation project carried out during the exam period paves the way for a revised menu and food service that emphasizes healthy food choices which are "tasty, attractive, and affordable." By monitoring the program, she says "we'll see in June how different the food choices have been."

But not all new projects are restricted to those aimed at creating just healthy bodies among the school population. There are other projects which focus on the arts and creativity.

The J. L. Ilsley Performance Centre is well on its way to becoming a community resource for the performing arts. Former principal Michael Nee "went banging on doors to collect funds to transform an old storage area into a modern performance centre for musical and theatrical events," says Quinlan.

"Right now it's a building with no clothing" Quinlan says. There is still much to be done to see the completion of this project and funds need to be raised to complete phase two development of the space. Anyone interested in joining this ongoing venture is more than welcome.

Finally, Forging Links is in the initial stages of a conversion of the former metal

shop into a modern metal arts studio for students in fine arts and technology courses as well as providing opportunities community artists. Quinlan says "we need to validate these skill sets and recognize that students are diverse learners." The Forging Links program gives credibility to hands-on trades skills as a career path. "This school is very different in that regard."

"There's always someone ready to roll with the ball, to take on new ideas Quinlan says summing up the burgeoning new philosophy at the school. "We try to be aware the needs of our students, and we have initiatives you won't see in many other high schools," she says.

And as if in proof and testimony to the positive feelings people have about J. L. Ilsley, Quinlan says that "when staff come to JL they don't seem to want to leave."



Grade 12 students at J. L. Ilsley created some interesting foot fashions during this year's "Shoe Art Project" at the school. Students Katelyn Noakes, Alicia Deveau, Andrew Prince, Ashley Nicholson and teacher Bonita Aalders, were on hand in the "Old Economy Shoe Shop" where the works went on display.

## Members of Chebucto Community Council



Left to Right: Councillor Russell Walker, Councillor Debbie Hum, Councillor Linda Mosher - Chair, Councillor Stephen D Adams



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# DISCOVERING OUR PAST

## Spryfield girl saved from drowning in McIntosh Run

by Iris V. Shea, Historian  
Mainland South Heritage Society

The headlines in the "Halifax Mail" on 11 July 1937 read "Spryfield Girl Saved from Drowning by 10-Year Old Playmate." On 12 June 1937 ten-year old Irene Slauenwhite and her friend, nine-year old Miriam (Mimi/Mim) McNeil, and Mim's brother, Burton, were part of a group of children playing near McIntosh Run. Irene (Renie), born in 1928, was the daughter of Benjamin and Dorothy (Pratt) Slauenwhite; Mim, born in 1929, was the daughter of Dan and Maude McNeil, all of Spryfield.

The Run was located behind the Slauenwhite house on the Herring Cove Road, the same body of water seen today along the driveway of the Captain William Spry Community Centre. This section of McIntosh Run contains very little water at present, but in 1937 the Run was like a wide river, one of the reasons Mrs. Slauenwhite made certain all of her children learned to swim at an early age.

On that particular Saturday afternoon in June, the fast current of the rain-swollen river came close to claiming the life of Mim McNeil. When Mim fell from a rock into the McIntosh Run, only her brother saw her. He yelled out that his sister was drowning, but by this time Mim was caught up in the current and Irene could not see her. When she finally saw Mim's head bobbing above the water

about 20 yards downstream, and knowing Mim could not swim, Irene knew she had to act immediately. She plunged into the Run, which at that point was about 30 feet wide, kicking off her shoes as she struck the water. Mim was going down for the third time when her rescuer managed to grab the straps of her sun suit and pulled her to the opposite shore where it was not as deep.

Irene's uncle, Sergeant Jim Pratt, arrived at the scene as Irene was dragging her unconscious playmate up the opposite bank through the bushes. He jumped into the flowing river, crossing to the other side to help. When the unconscious child began rolling down the bank toward the Run, Sergeant Pratt caught her and put her over his shoulder to expel water from her lungs. A doctor was called to assist and the child regained consciousness.

For her heroic action and presence of mind in the rescue of Miriam McNeil, Irene Slauenwhite received a Certificate of Honorary Testimonial from the Royal Canadian Humane Association, presented to her by the Honourable Robert Irwin, Lieutenant Governor

of Nova Scotia. Both Mim and Irene and their families attended the ceremony.

The heroic rescue created great excitement and admiration as people learned of it. The story was also carried in some United States'

will remember Irene Slauenwhite as an adult when, in the late 1940s and early 1950s, she owned and operated Renie's Tearoom on the corner of what is now Dentith Road and Herring Cove Road. In the 1950s, Irene moved to Toronto where she married and where her three children, Starr, Joanne and Joey, were born. As Irene Bogue, she later returned to live in Spryfield, always a safe haven for her. One of her favourite times of the year was August when she would pick blueberries on the barrens. Irene died in January 2001, in her 73rd year.

Mim McNeil worked at Sears in her adult life. Her father was Spryfield's first fire chief and her mother operated the post office from their house on the Herring Cove Road. Mim married Clyde McAvoy and lived most of her married life in Herring Cove. She never learned to swim and had a lifelong fear of the water. She did, however, make certain her four children, Gary, Ross, Daniel and Colleen, learned to swim at a young age. Mim died in February of 2002, one year after the death of her childhood friend, Irene Slauenwhite. Her eight grandchildren were her pride and joy.



Miriam (Mim) McNeil, Irene (Renie) Slauenwhite and Lt. Gov. R. Irwin, 1937

newspapers. Irene and Mim remained friends throughout their school years. Many local residents

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Girl Guide Samantha Smith has earned the Lady Baden-Powell Award, the highest level of achievement for a Girl Guide. With her in this photo are girl guide leaders Christa Pierce and Lindsay Corkum. Missing is Frances Bannister.

## Lions Club raises \$3,600 plus for kids club

The Spryfield Lions Club, in association with the Spryfield Bowlamara and local businesses raised more than \$3,600 for the Chebucto Boys and Girls Club through this year's Business Bowling Challenge.

Chairman and organizer Rene Quigley said fourteen teams rolled-off this year representing an increase of 40 percent increase in participation from last year. The team raised 80 percent more revenue than last year as well he said, bringing this year's total to \$3,606.75.

Quigley said Clyde A. Paul And Associates was the top business fundraiser at \$712.00 while the Captain William Spry Community Centre was to top non-profit fundraiser at \$528.

The South Centre Bowlamara team finished in top spot in the challenge while members of

the Chebucto News team captured second place. The South Centre Bowlamara Retirees team took third place.

Quigley said the event, only in its second year, is a fun time for all participants and is already showing potential for future and even larger success. Members of the organizing committee included Quigley, Jim Glasbrook, George

Miles, David Parsons and Chebucto Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Kristi Walker.

"We couldn't do this without the ongoing and tremendous support from the South Centre Bowlamara," said Quigley. "This business not only enters teams but its support helps make the event profitable for both the Lions Club and the Chebucto Boys and Girls Club."

## Regan offers personal view

By Geoff Regan, Halifax West MP

Canadians have been outraged recently by the revelations of the Auditor General about the abuses of the Sponsorship Program. Let me give you my reaction, from a very personal perspective.

Many Canadians are interested in following what's happening in government at the local, provincial and national levels. But imagine for a moment that you feel very strongly about politics and what it can be.

Imagine that you are so interested in our democratic process that you get involved in the local organization of a political party. You end up being elected as a Member of Parliament.

But you're a rookie. You still have a lot to learn, so your influence is limited. You're frustrated, but patient. You work hard, but your government makes some decisions that are difficult and some that are just plain unpopular. You are defeated and lose your job.

But you don't give up. For the next few years, you continue to work in your party and in your community. You fend off other contenders and are nominated again by the members of

your party. On election night, you experience the triumph of re-election. In Ottawa, your colleagues jokingly call you "Lazarus."

Eventually, after three more years, the is a change in the Prime Minister's Office and a new leader, one you have great confidence in, takes over. He chooses you for his new cabinet. Finally, you're in a position to make a difference. You're part of a new team that wants to bring a new approach to government. It's an exciting time.

And then, after all this, when you've just gotten started, a report comes out about activities that took place under the old government and you are left with someone else's mess to clean up.

I understood when the new prime minister said that his government feels no less angry and frustrated about the abuse uncovered by the auditor general than the Canadian public.

But this government also believes that when Canadians see our commitment to get all the facts out and to fix the problem they will judge us fairly. Canadians know that Prime Minister Martin announced an independent judicial

see "Regan" pg. 10

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**Deadline for applying is Thursday, May 6, 2004**

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**Deadline for applications is 4:30pm Thursday, May 6, 2004**

Applicants must reside within Chebucto West which includes districts 15 (Fairview/Clayton Park), 16 (Prince's Lodge/Clayton Park West), 17 (Armdale-Purcell's Cove) 18 (Spryfield-Herring Cove) and 23 (Prospect/St. Margaret's Bay)



## Connecting with Communities

# Geneva celebrates and looks back at her past 100 years

By Meghan Stewart  
Staff

Geneva Bourgeois completed school, learned how to sew, and began work as a seamstress at a hat and cap factory in Moncton, New Brunswick before she turned 15 years old. Sitting in a wheelchair in her room at Melville Lodge now, wearing a cheerful pink skirt with matching pink polish on her nails, Bourgeois, or 'Bougie' as her friends call her, reflects on her life. In the middle of February, she celebrates her 100th birthday with her husband, Edward, who is 98.

At the turn of the century, Bourgeois was growing up in Moncton when her father was killed walking on the train tracks on his way to

work, leaving her mother, a dressmaker, to raise her and her eight siblings.

She went to school until the age of 12. She says she'd always preferred work to school. "On days like this," Bourgeois gestured to the window, snow packed high against it, "I would cry my crazy head off rather than agree to go to school. I had it in my head I was a delicate child, even when I outgrew it. To this day, I still think I didn't learn much of anything at school."

At 13, she begged her eldest sister to find her a job at the factory where she worked. Her sister refused, saying Geneva was too young. Persistent, her sister relented and found a job for her. Bourgeois began work at the factory when she was just 14, and worked there for

more than ten years, stopping work to have children after she married Edward (Ned) Bourgeois.

"We ran around together for four or five years before we got 'hitched' as he likes to put it," Bourgeois laughs. "It was a simple wedding, in a church, with family. Because I didn't have much and my mother didn't have much."

Edward Bourgeois was from Nova Scotia, but initially lived in Moncton, where Geneva gave birth to three boys. The first, named after his father, got caught in traffic at the age of five and was hit by a car. Her sons Donald and Gerald have since grown up and now have families of their own.

Despite having to leave work to raise her children, Bourgeois continued sewing, something she dearly loved doing. She made alterations, sewed up fallen hems, and made dresses and pants for her neighbours.

"I needed the money, newly marrieds always need more money," she said. So she helped support her family by taking on these projects as they came to her.

"My friends would say, 'Bougie, I have just the most beautiful fabric, will you make me a dress?' and I would say, 'Well, do you have a pattern?' They would stop a moment, then say, 'No. Do I need one?' I would say, 'Of course you do! Pick out a pattern and I'll make you that dress.'"

Bourgeois also made clothing for her boys and her husband, but sometimes wished she'd had a little girl to make dresses for.

Eventually, her husband got reassigned to work in Nova Scotia, but initially she did not want to go "to that hellhole Halifax." But living in Spryfield now, she says she likes it because

of all the different people from all over the world living together in one city.

She volunteered with the Catholic Women's League and Catholic Social Club for years because she loved showing the church her support and helping other people.

Today, this self-described "regular born dressmaker" lives in Melville Lodge with her husband, visited by friends who live down the hall, with all the tenacity she must have had in the years she was just Bougie, sewing wardrobes for her family, friends and neighbours.



Mayor Peter Kelly and Councillor Linda Mosher were on hand to help Ned and Geneva Bourgeois celebrate milestone birthdays at Melville Lodge. Ned turned 98 while his wife of more than 70 years turned 100.

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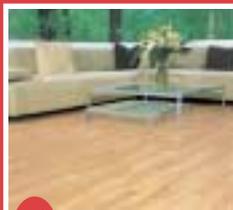
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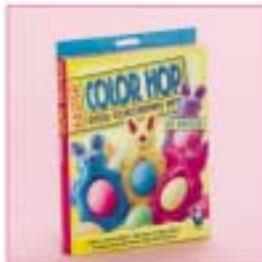
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# Purcell's Cove ferry proposal under review - Mosher

By Linda Mosher  
District 17 Councillor

By far, one of the main topics discussed in municipal politics is traffic. This is especially applicable to the residents who travel through the Armdale Rotary to access Peninsular Halifax. Since being elected, I have been working on many initiatives to help lessen this burden.

Historically, residents in our district utilized our water courses for their transportation needs. People such as Joseph Purcell had vision to provide transportation opportunities on the North West Arm. Joseph operated a ferry from Purcell's Cove to Point Pleasant Park in 1853. The last operator of this ferry was William (Bill) Purcell. The late Mr. Purcell's picture is depicted on our new mural.

Building on the Purcell ferry, I felt that a ferry from Purcell's Cove to downtown Halifax would provide a wonderful alternative for residents to access downtown. In order to lessen the burden on the Armdale Rotary, any viable option must be able to accommodate large volumes of people to reduce large volumes of vehicles. I presented my request to Council in 2001. In 2002, after reviewing staff's analysis, Council endorsed this concept and added the ferry request to the Canada - Nova Scotia Infrastructure request list. This list contains priorities from HRM Council that we would like cost shared between all three levels of government.

Our Chief Administrative Officer, George McLellan, is very supportive of ferries as a key component of an integrated transportation network. He is looking at the possibilities of hav-

ing ferries from not only Purcell's Cove, but also Bedford and Shannon Park. These ferries will not be short term solutions, but viable alternatives for the future.

Work on the Purcell's Cove ferry proposal has been moving forward. HRM staff have approached land owners in the area to look at purchasing land for future docking and wharf area. The initial staff report determined that the ferry ride would take twenty five minutes. It would be operated by Metro Transit. To ensure an integrated transit approach, the bus times could be improved and corresponded with ferry times.

Mr. McLellan made a presentation to the province and requested we establish a Capital Transportation Authority. He described many challenges that we are facing, such as increasing traffic demand, aging infrastructure and

lack of funding for new projects. Growth outside the urban area is causing bottlenecks in existing areas. The Armdale Rotary is a prime example of aging infrastructure being impacted by new growth.

The goal of the Capital Transportation Authority would be to ensure that we have an efficient transportation network. The province should be very open to our CAO's proposal, as this was part of the Progressive Conservative's platform during the last election.

In 2002, HRM had a consultant prepare the Halifax Peninsula Traffic Capacity Opportunities Study. Part of the analysis included options to improve flow through the Armdale Rotary. I am working with HRM staff to find the best options which will be implemented in the near future.

# MLA supports Cowie Hill's "under-ground" battle with NSP

By Graham Steele  
Halifax Fairview MLA

There are lots of great people and community spirit. The tidy townhouses are organized into condominium corporations, which I think of as a kind of neighbourhood democracy.

One of the things first-time visitors don't usually notice, until it's pointed out to them, is that the neighbourhood is free of power poles and overhead power lines. That's because Cowie Hill's electrical system was buried underground when the neighbourhood was developed 30 years ago.

All of this gives Cowie Hill a unique look

and feel.

Not only that, but the below-ground system means that Cowie Hill's power is virtually unaffected by hurricanes or blizzards or other less severe weather systems.

But that's all under threat from Nova Scotia Power.

The 30-year life of the buried wires is coming to an end. So far, NSP has refused to bear the cost of replacing the below-ground system. They say they're willing to pay for an above-ground system (with poles, wires, etc.), but they'll replace the below-ground system only if Cowie Hill homeowners pay for it. The total bill is estimated at over \$2 million. It's a bill

Cowie Hill homeowners cannot afford.

Several years of discussion between the Cowie Hill Condo Corporations and NSP have been fruitless. The only place left to go is the Utility and Review Board (UARB). The UARB is the government body that regulates NSP. The UARB is the only body with the power to tell NSP what it can and cannot do.

Hearings before the UARB were scheduled for the end of March, but they've now been postponed for at least a couple of months.

It looks like the Halifax Regional Municipality will weigh in on the side of Cowie Hill homeowners at the UARB hearings, and that will be a great asset. I'm told the city

believes below-ground cables are a progressive and desirable feature of the urban landscape, and wants to support one of Halifax's earliest below-ground systems. Kudos to HRM on this one.

I've also offered to help in any way I can, whether using my background in law or on the political level.

Cowie Hill's below-ground power system was ahead of its time. The below-ground system is an integral part of Cowie Hill's townhouse design, which features narrow streets and relatively small front yards. An above-ground system will change Cowie Hill's look for the worse, and forever.

# Regan offers personal view *continued from pg. 5*

inquiry into what occurred under the sponsorship program, which was killed the day after he took office. That the Public Accounts Committee is holding hearings and calling witnesses to explain exactly what happened and who is responsible. That a special counsel was appointed to recover lost funds and that whistle-

blower legislation will be introduced.

This government believes Canadians will realize we are taking full responsibility for managing this important issue. We also hope that Canadians hear our real message. The one that was in the Speech from the Throne and will be amplified in the upcoming budget.



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# Let's work together on development issues - Raymond

By Michele Raymond  
Halifax Atlantic MLA

Congratulations everyone! As I write this, we are in the second state of emergency in six months. As usual, the people of Halifax Atlantic are being resourceful and good-humoured, even when days of snow are blocking most of us from our workplaces.

Right now, it seems it will take anyone months just to find the soil, before being able to excavate it, and it's hard to think of new development as a very live issue in Halifax Atlantic. But spring will soon be here, and with it renewed debate over development plans in the area.

Earlier this month, I met with an arbitrarily assembled group of people from various commu-

nities here, to find out what are the most immediate concerns in their area of Halifax Atlantic, as the city grows.

Almost everyone expressed worries over development. At Herring Cove, there is a long history of water quality problems, since the trunk sewer from Spryfield is overloaded and overflowing into the water table, contaminating wells along the way. At Harrietsfield, the expansion of the dumpsite also poses a threat to well water and local lakes. (The Department of Environment has denied RDM a permit for disposal of construction and demolition waste, but this decision is being appealed).

At Williams Lake, in Fleming Heights and behind Purcells Cove, proposed large new developments fall within the serviced area of the city, but spot rezoning nevertheless permits develop-

ments which will put even more pressure on sewers, traffic squeezing onto the peninsula, and threaten the water quality in local lakes. The sparseness of public transit also drives up the cost of living in these new developments.

Many people in Halifax Atlantic are finding their property tax assessments climbing sky-high, however, as properties around them are sold for higher and higher prices, and the demand for new municipal services grows.

At Ketch Harbour, there are concerns about the fate of the Chebucto Head Lighthouse and the fragile barren lands nearby, and who will assume responsibility for road maintenance, once the federal government abandons the light. Everyone has plowing on their mind this week, but in some parts of Halifax Atlantic, there are chronic problems with integrating city and provincial plowing routines.

In Spryfield, as we all know, there is concern

about the number of abandoned buildings, at the same time new development is filling in green space and encroaching on bodies of water. There is good news, though, in that some of the larger empty buildings have changed hands recently, and are being readied for new commercial uses.

These are the kinds of re-use that need to be fostered by government and private initiative alike. Provincial, federal and municipal governments can work together to help develop a 'smart community' - one where we use the resources at hand, before starting on new ones. It's less expensive in the long run, and goes a long way to making sure there is reasonably priced housing available in Halifax, in sustainable neighbourhoods. To plan development is not to stop it, but to improve it, and in time, we all reap the benefits - today's families, and tomorrow's.

In the two great storms that visited us this year, Halifax Atlantic has already shown that we can all work together. Let's not save it for emergencies!

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# The work of snow clearing crews "will not go unnoticed" - Adams

By Stephen Adams  
Councillor District 18

The clean-up from Hurricane Juan has yet to be completed and we get hit with the "winter version." It is amazing that one area would have such severe weather is a relatively short period of time.

Our crews worked tirelessly to open streets and keep them clear. As we can all appreciate, the amount of snow played havoc with our efforts. In fact, plows, police cars and busses were taken off the road as a safety precaution during the height of the storm.

Generally speaking main arteries are cleared first so that access throughout the district can be gained. Once this is achieved then the side roads are done. This schedule is subject to change according to the amount of snow that falls, and that was the case with this storm. As a result of the significant amount of snow, side streets were delayed in getting cleared. Unfortunately, some residents had to wait upwards of three days for service.

I was very pleased with the patience and understanding displayed by residents. For the most part, everyone appreciated the situation we faced. I had numerous calls from residents stating how pleased they were with the plowing. I want to thank our crews both HRM and DOT for their tremendous efforts. They worked around the clock, facing insurmountable odds to make

our streets passable. And a special thank-you to Larry Drummond and Lewis Stewart, These fine gentlemen are snow supervisors with HRM and were available 24 hours a day. They coordinated crews, identified trouble spots and acted accordingly. Their efforts, along with everyone working in this storm will not go unnoticed.

The Herring Cove CLC for the Sewage Treatment Plant is now a reality. On Thursday February 12 the community of Herring Cove elected seven members to represent their concerns with regard to the plant and its integration into the community. One of their main responsibilities will be to ensure the plant fits with the historical flavour of Herring Cove. This is another huge step in the process of cleaning the harbour which has been talked about for years. Slowly all of the talk is turning into action.

Throughout District 18 a few issues have been raised, and our staff is exploring options for resolution. The property next to the Harrietsfield Irving is causing some concern with respect to blowing snow. On February 17 I asked for a snow fence to make this stretch of road a little safer. The recent blizzard enhanced the impact and significance of blowing snow.

Our civic addressing group is working to rename streets that are duplicated in neighbouring District 17. Although inconvenient, this is necessary to ensure a more accurate response time for 911 and other emergency services.

## Stephen Adams

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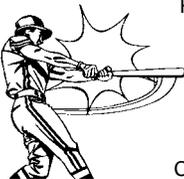


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# The challenges of living with an older pet

As animals move into the geriatric phase of life, they go through changes that are similar to the aging in humans - hair turns grey, the body begins to wear out and the senses dim. Diseases that are commonly known to afflict humans also afflict our furry friends - kidney, heart, liver disease, tumors, cancers, diabetes, depression, Alzheimer's and neurosis.

Since breeds and individuals have different lifestyles and different expectations, it is impossible to predict at what age you can expect to see changes. Generally, smaller breeds of dogs live longer than larger breeds, and cats live longer than dogs. Beyond that, the life span will vary with each individuals and your veterinarian will be able to help you determine what stage of life your furry friend

is in.

Geriatric care, which starts with a yearly physical exam, is needed to catch and delay the onset or progression of disease and for the early detection of problems such as organ failure. A "baseline" blood and urine profile is highly recommended once your pet reaches seven years of age. This gives you an excellent indication as to your pet's current health and serves as a benchmark against which to measure future test results.

If your dog or cat has a history of serious chronic medical problems they will need to see a veterinarian for a routine exam more often.

The health and quality of your pet can be greatly enhanced by feeding premium and prescription diets. Veterinarians, receptionists and

technicians all receive special training regarding nutrition. They welcome the opportunity to discuss proper feeding for your pet. When you make your regular visit to purchase pet food hospital staff will be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

There are many signs of a problem including sustained, significant increases in water consumption and/or urination; weight loss; decreases in appetite or failing to eat for more than two days; sustained increases in appetite; repeated vomiting; diarrhea lasting more than three days; difficulty in passing stool or urine; change in housebreaking; lameness lasting more than five days or lameness in more than one leg; noticeable decreases in vision; open scores or scales on the skin that persist for

more than a week; foul mouth odour or drooling that lasts more than two days; increasing size of abdomen; increasing time spent sleeping; hair loss especially if accompanied by scratching, particularly in specific areas; excessive panting; inability to chew dry food; sudden collapse or bout of weakness; a seizure; persistent coughing or gagging for dogs and breathing heavily or rapidly for cats.

Recommendations for the aging pet include keeping vaccinations current, frequent brushing, clipping toenails, keeping plenty of fresh water available and monitoring consumption, keeping your pet indoors and taking your pet's weight every 60 days.

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# What is the "Multi-Service Office" and why I write this column

By Linda Roberts, Multi-Service Coordinator  
Captain Spry Community Centre

From time to time people stop in my office and ask me about "Multi-Service." My office is on the main hallway between the Library and the Pool in the Captain William Spry Community Centre. There is a table right inside the door that has pamphlets and flyers on local events and initiatives.

"Home of Multi-Service" is on the sign just as you turn into the Community Centre parking lot. We are the fortunate recipients of a

30-year legacy of local residents and staff at agencies working together to make this a better place to live. The idea of "Multi-Service" is that the resources and support of the Multi-Service Office and other community services enables local action on local needs. This seems to be working since Spryfield received the "Sustainable Communities Award" from the Ecology Action Centre in 2000 and the 'Model Volunteer Community of 2002' award.

The role of the Multi-Service Office is to facilitate communication and cooperation. Since 1975 we have had a Coordinator to work

with groups on local issues. The issues can include health, our heritage, poverty, the environment, economic development, education, culture, and recreation. When the Community Centre was built in 1985, this unique multi-service role was deemed so important that it was put into the provincial legislation to establish the building. Although the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) took over the management of the building with amalgamation in 1996, we struck a unique partnership with the municipality to ensure that the multi-service system would continue under the guidance of a volunteer board of directors with resources provided by the HRM. The Captain William Spry Community Centre board of directors is a registered charity that governs multi-service and advises on the operation of the building. This relationship has been documented in a written agreement called the "General Service Agreement." Through this unique relationship, we are able to continue to build on our culture of cooperation that has evolved over time.

By working together we have initiated a number of "firsts." The first pre-natal program in the province for single parents was developed at the Single Parent Centre in cooperation with other agencies. The Teen Health Centre at J. L. Ilsley High School was the first school-based teen health centre in Nova Scotia and was used internationally as a model for the peer education programs in The Gambia, West Africa. "Parent Abuse- the abuse of parents by their teenage children" was the first accessible guidebook on this topic and we still receive requests from all over the world for this research. These projects came about because someone with an idea or concern brought it to

the Community Centre - Multi-Service, we discussed it with other groups then proceeded as a joint community effort.

This past year we have had a lot of examples of community cooperation: planting trees and shrubs, the annual McIntosh Run clean-up, the Holiday Family Social and Swim, the Community Health Fair, and the Spryfield Family Fun Day. The Hurricane Juan Community Response resulted in a food drive and public awareness of emergency services. The Mainland South Heritage Society worked with the Youth Action Team and the Teen Health Centre on the History of Spryfield challenge.

In addition, the Multi-Service Office provides a communication link between community groups as well as with the public. There are many networks of groups such as the Multi-Service Roundtable (an interagency group) that meet regularly to share information and work together on common projects. To provide information to the public, I write this column on what is happening in our community. A community directory listing non-profit groups in Districts 17 and 18 is also produced to let residents know about local services. And coming next month will be a new website of groups in the Chebuco East area.

My job is Multi-Service Coordinator at the Captain William Spry Community Centre. The Community Centre supports the multi-service approach of community action by community groups through the donation of meeting space, some photocopying, a mailing address, fax services and my staff time to organize meetings and assist groups with everything from grant writing to project management.



Linda Roberts, Captain Spry Community Centre; Gordon Power, Addictions Services; Kristi Walker, Chebuco Boys and Girls Club; Leslee Blatt, Single Parent Resource Centre, and Jenny Powell, Family SOS Health Kidz Program, were among those participating in this year's "Community Health Fair" held at South Centre Mall by the Mental Health Round Table.

K.N.

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# LOCAL OBITUARIES

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd.

**DRAKE**, Hollis Michael - 58, Halifax, passed away in the VG Site, QEII. Born in Halifax, he was a son of Alfred and Frances (McPhee) Drake. Surviving are brother, Jeffery, Spryfield; sisters, Joanne Ashley, Spryfield; Lorna (Richard) Russell, Porters Lake. Hollis was predeceased by brother, Gary, and sister, Debra in infancy. Cremation has taken place under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**SCALLION**, Brian Vincent "Jim" - 67, Halifax, passed away in the VG Site, QEII. Born in Halifax, he was a son of the late Arthur "Fred" and Marguerite (Marsden) Scallion (Herring Cove). It is with heartbreaking sadness that the family announces the passing of a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. Above all he was a family man devoted to his wife, children and grandchildren, each of whom was precious to him. He loved to travel and looked forward to the summers spent with family at the cottage. Before his retirement, he worked for DND as a Job Planning Officer, Ship Repair Unit (Atlantic). He received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in recognition of worthy and devoted service. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Corrine (Bastie) Scallion; son, Kelvin (Carol), Halifax; daughters, Deborah Kedy, Halifax; Colette Scallion, Timberlea; brothers, Wallace (Janet), Herring Cove; Harold (Anne), Woodville; Ed (Kennetta), Herring Cove; Fred (Corliss), Beaver Bank; Terrance (Linda), Hammonds Plains; Bob (Carole), Halifax; Calvin (Gayle), New Minas; sisters, Marguerite (Lewis) LeBlanc, Dartmouth; Carole Scallion, Herring Cove; half-brother, Ronald (Vaunda) Keating, Halifax; grandchildren, Jessica, Patricia, Sean, Brendon, Kimberley, Kelly, Emily and Lindsay;

numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by half-brother, Gerald Marsden. Funeral service was held in St. Pauls Roman Catholic Church, Herring Cove. Burial will be held at a later date in the parish cemetery.

**DEMPSEY**, David Matthew - 67, Halifax, formerly of Herring Cove, passed away at home. He was a son of the late Carleton and Elsie (Brackett) Dempsey. He was a tool and die maker, and retired after 35 years of service at DND Dockyard, and he was recently employed with Home Depot. He loved playing cards, and had a great love of sports. He was a very enthusiastic and proud volunteer driver for the national and international events held at the Metro Centre in recent years. He is survived by his wife, Gloria (Gentles); daughters, Terry (Greg) Boss, Waverley; Sharon, British Columbia; Jennifer (Jim) Hubley, Herring Cove; brothers, Larry (Noreen), Murray (Lucy), Peter (Lorraine), Keith (Jeanette); he was the loving grandfather of Jacqueline, Matthew and Jeffrey Boss, Jade, Mikayla and Kiana Moore, Emma and Justin Hubley; brothers-in-law, Don, Laurie, Leonard, Jack, Ron; sisters-in-law, Beverley and Paulette; a friend of B.W. for 32 years. Funeral service was held in St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Herring Cove.

**BEAMAN**, Iola Marion - 83, Halifax, died in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Halifax, she was a daughter of the late Archibald and Louisa (Auld) MacVicar. Iola was a long-time resident of Captain William Spry Manor, Spryfield, and was active in the Spryfield Seniors Clubs, choir, bowling and a number of charities. She is survived by her daughters, Barbara (Gordon) Jennings, Hammonds Plains; Marion

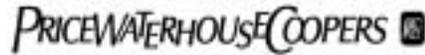
Warren, Halifax; Elizabeth (John) Chiasson, Hammonds Plains; Kathleen (Andrew) Lloy, Halifax; Jean (David) Starling, Prospect; sons, George, Hammonds Plains; Gary (Beverly), Halifax; Robert, Halifax; James (Mary), Halifax; Perry (Bernice), Calgary, Alta.; David (Tori), Ottawa, Ont.; grandchildren, Shawn, Gregory, Darryl, Anne, Terrilyn, Derrek, Janis, Jennifer, Richard, Brandi, Nancy, Jimmy, Trevor, Johnathan and Gillian; great-grandchildren, Morgan, Arica, Kody, Sarah, Kristen. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family. She was predeceased by her husband, George; sisters, Edna and Jessie; two brothers in infancy; son, Donald. Cremation has taken place under the direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home.

**MACDONALD**, George Francis - 55, White's Lake, died January 30, 2004. Born in Halifax, but originally from Kline Heights, he was a son of Flora and the late Earl MacDonald. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife and friend of 35 years, Dorothy (Mitchell); daughters, Cindy (Edwin) Corbin and Kelly (Terry) Comeau, both of White's Lake; grandsons, Cody, Dillian and Shane; granddaughters, Lori and Kaitlyn; brother, Melbourne, Halifax; sister, Sandra (Dennis) Merry, Dartmouth; nieces, Ann and Angela, Halifax; nephew, Bob, British Columbia. He was employed by Dexter Construction, Bedford.

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# Community Events

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**Heritage Tea Rescheduled**

The Mainland South Heritage Society's Heritage Tea and Display has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 6, from 1pm to 3pm at the Captain Spry Community Library. Please contact Iris Shea at 479-3505 for further information.

**Seedy Saturday**

Come and swap seeds and garden talk at the Urban Farm Museum Society Seedy Saturday, March 13, 2 to 4:30 pm at Emmanuel Church Hall, 322 Herring Cove Road. Bring seeds to sell, or come just to buy. Hot chocolate, cookies and conversation in quantity! Admission by donation.

**Fundraiser Bingo**

Chebucto Heights School will hold a fundraiser bingo at the Earl Francis Memorial Legion, Spryfield, March 28, in aid of the Mabe family's two sons who lost their mother to cancer. Doors open at 6 and Bingo starts at 7 p.m.

**Lighthouse Society**

The Chebucto Head Lighthouse Society will hold a General Meeting on Monday, March 8, at 7:30 pm in the Herring Cove Fire Hall at 57 Ketch Harbour Road. Guest speaker will be Captain Andrew Rae of the Halifax Marine Pilots Association. All those interested are welcome to attend.

**Residents Meeting**

The Spryfield Residents Association meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Captain William Spry Community Centre. Everyone welcome. Spryfield needs your help.

**Urban Farm Museum**

The Urban Farm Museum Society will meet on Monday, March 8, at 7 pm in the Multi-Service Room at the Captain Spry Community Centre. Everyone Welcome!

**Functional Yoga**

Functional Yoga class starting March 2, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 am. Fee \$50 for 10 classes. Call Fran at 477-0170.

**TAG Workshop**

The Theatre Arts Guild will hold a "Sound For the Amateur Theatre" workshop at the Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, Saturday, March 13, with a morning session from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and an afternoon session from 2-5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided, however participants will supply their own lunch. Cost: \$25.00 non-members; \$20.00 members, to include all course materials. The instructor will be Charles Culver, who spent 15 years of his career as the sound technician at Neptune Theatre. For further details, or to register, contact Judy Reade at 423-5086, e-mail: jreade@hfx.andara.com

**Dance Through March Break**

The Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts 'School of Dance' is offering a March Break Program 'Dress Up and Dance Through Time'. Create costumes of the era and dances that go with them. This unique program combines dance and historical costumes. March 15 - 19, 1- 5 pm, for ages 7 - 11. For further information or to Register call (902) 423-6995 or drop by 6199 Chebucto Road

**TAG's New Play**

The Theatre Arts Guild Pond Playhouse, at 6 Parkhill Road, off Purcell's Cove Road, will present "The Wisdom of Eve" by Mary Orr, from February 19 through March 6, with plays beginning Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., with one Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m. on February 29th. For Reservations and further information, please call 477-2663 (24 hours).

**New Singing Group**

The newly formed "Quarter-Note Singers will meet every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Captain William Spry Community Centre. For information call 479-2764 or e-mail mackjoc@hotmail.com.

**Legion Notes**

The following events will be held at the Earl Francis Memorial Legion in January:  
Bingo - Every Sunday beginning at 1 pm - doors open at noon;  
Senior's Day - March 1, with Newfie George at 1 pm;  
St. Patrick's Day Dance March 13 beginning at 9 pm featuring "Big Deal." Cost is \$5 per person and \$8 per couple.

**All ages Puppet Shows**

Captain William Spry Library alternate Saturdays 11 a.m. Patrick the Pig and Moe the Crow invite you to bring the whole family and all your friends for a half hour of hilarious entertainment with a show featuring your favourite puppet characters. For group bookings, call Cindy Sampson Fleet at 490-5796.

**Preschool Family Drop-In**

Tuesdays at 10:30 am preschoolers and an adult friend are invited to come by the library for puzzles, playdough and crafts followed by stories, songs, finger-plays and rhymes. For information call 490-5796.

**Puppet Workshops**

The Spry Library will hold puppet workshops Saturday February 29 beginning at 10:15 and noon. For information call 490-5796

**Ages 3-5 Storytime**

Stories, songs and finger-plays introduce tots to the joy of reading at the Spry Library Fridays at 10:30 am beginning February 6. For information call 490-5796.

**Book Discussion Group for Adults**

The Captain Spry Book Discussion Group meets the third Wednesday of the month and is a great way to meet new people and share in the enjoyment of good books in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. Be ready for an hour and a half of animated discussion and a lot of fun. Books for discussion are a mixture of genres, decided upon by the group. For more information call Scott Taylor at 490-5774.

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