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# New residential neighbourhood to replace BC Silver soon

It shouldn't be too long before a new 40 unit residential neighbourhood is underway at the site of the now removed B.C. Silver

Junior High School on Theakston Avenue. District 18 Councillor and Deputy Mayor Stephen Adams reports that the site is going



A bevy of skaters are always at the home of Ricky Pyke playing a little "Shinney" on his backyard "Sprydome" Arena. Among the faithful are Logan and Connor MacEwen, Mark Grometbauer, Jack and Falon Fury, Alec and Lochlin Cranston, Nic and Matthew Ormon, Erika and Taylor (missing from photo) Pyke. Kaylie O'Neil, Bailey and MacKenzie Hart, Isabelle Falconer, Katie Fillmore, Patrick MacDonald and Brett

### "Fish Friends" helps kids understand importance of the environment

Grade four students at William King Elementary are learning first hand the beauty of Mother Nature and the importance of environmental consciousness and watershed habitat thanks to the Atlantic Salmon Federation's "Fish Friends" program.

This past month Anthony Heggelin of the McIntosh Run Watershed Association and Lewis Hinks, Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) Regional Director, brought more than

3,000 trout eggs to the school, released them in a temperature controlled aquarium and set a process in motion that will eventually see the students release the fledgling trout into a local stream.

Heggelin took the students through a short slide show presentation to identify the good and bad parts of environmental influences on

see "Fish Friends" pg. 2

through final provincial government approval Silver School which was seen as a hazard, processes before the project can begin. The process, he says, usually takes about a month to complete, which means it's likely construction will begin this spring.

Armco Community's Kimberley Lloyd Developments will manage the project. The company is also committee to developing the 850 plus housing unit project at the other end of Theakston Avenue called Governor's Brook Subdivision. Land is already being cleared to make way for this project which will allow 50 units a year to be developed.

Halifax Regional Council gave its approval of the B.C. Silver site project in late February. The decision was unanimous and followed a public hearing in which many of the local residents voiced their approval of the project. The local community has been anxiously awaiting the removal of B.C.

an area of inappropriate activity and a fire

The Theakston Avenue school closed in 2001. It maintained temporary uses as a day care space and later as a "Free Graffiti Wall" for the expressed use of graffiti artists. But that project, aimed at deterring graffiti vandalism in Spryfield, fell short of the mark after officials determined graffiti vandals were tagging areas of the community on the way to and from the free wall site.

The new housing development will include maintaining of existing "informal" walking trails and will not require a full road width exit via Levis Street to Herring Cove Road. Instead developers have initiated a closed gate entranceway from Herring Cove Road which will serve as an alternative emergency entrance to and exit from the site.

### Am The Zambonie!"

There really isn't much left to say. After joking with Ricky Pyke about the operation of his backyard 30 foot by 56 foot "Sprydome" Arena at 7 Green Acres Road, his "I am the Zambonie" comment not only raised guffaws from the assembled adults but caused many to suggest "there's your headline." So we obeyed, not because it was suggested, but because it tells the story all by itself.

Pyke is however, far more than the Zambonie in this operation. He is also the rink's carpenter, designer and engineer. His efforts over two years have created an outdoor ice surface that has become a gathering spot for at least nine different families and a bevy of neighbourhood kids playing hockey and ringette.

The "rounded" corners of the rink means the pucks and rings flow along the ice just like a real arena and the three foot high boards are sufficient to keep both inside but not high enough to give the kids any thoughts about

body-checking. He has erected netting at the corners to keep pucks and rings inside.

"There's four inches of ice here," says Pyke explaining that he waters it every night, even in sub zero temperatures, with what he calls an "ice rake," a kind of inverted "T" that funnels water down a pipe and out to several vents at the top of the "T" which he drags across the ice surface.

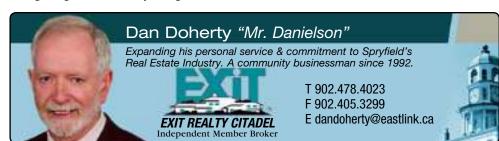
The boards are supported with braces attached to his own garage adjacent the rink and several trees which surround it. The "Christmas Present" of two real steel nets adds to the enjoyment for the kids although Pyke might consider the gift not his own but one for the kids.

Pyke's own son Tyler plays "AAA" Atom hockey for the Chebucto Atlantic team out of Spryfield. His daughter, Erika, plays Tier One Bantam for the Halifax Hawks, only because

see "Zambonie!" pg. 2



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### "I Am The Zambonie!"

continued from pg. 1

not enough girls play out of Spryfield to make a team in her division. "The kids are here everyday right after school," says Pyke happy that they have a place to go and expend their energy. "It's nice that they aren't out hanging around the streets looking for something to do. It keeps them healthy, occupied and out of trouble for sure," he says about the real joy in having the facility.

But it's not only about the kids. Pyke

has constructed a small shed, complete with plexiglass windows to deflect pucks and a small woodstove to keep it warm. The kids use the shed to change into their skates. The adults use the shed to congregate and enjoy the activity encouraged by the heat and a

few "brewskies." On the Friday afternoon of our visit there were nine families, including one with a Czechoslovakian background, Pyke's own mother was on hand, and several members of other families, sitting, joking and laughing while at least a dozen or more kids skated and held a shootout with the only goalie on the ice.

"The kids never get enough of skating and playing around," says Pyke, and is if on cue, two more show up from what they suggested were rigorous hockey practices to come and fool around a little more. All in all, it's a warm and friendly place and to Pyke, worth every hour he's invested in the kid's enjoyment.

# "Fish Friends" helps kids understand importance of the environment

continued from pg. 1

brook trout and other fish species like salmon. In a question and answer session Heggelin asked students what was best and worst for fish environments and explained the importance of watershed areas and natural habitats for fish. He explains the trout life cycle, identified where they live, why they pool themselves in areas of running water and why trout prefer to have branches, rocks and grass to use in their environments for protection and to rest away from water currents.

Hinks showed up about half way through the presentation to bring the fish eggs in a bottle. Following the presentation the students moved to the aquarium area in the school foray where Hinks asked each student to identify how many eggs were in the bottle. To the normal 50 to 60 egg guess, Hinks said the bottle contained about 3,000 eggs before placing the entire container into the tank. He explained that the water temperature in the tank is controlled but the water temperature in the bottle was different so it had to acclimatized to match the tank water before the eggs were dispenses.

The tank had previously been filled with small rocks where the eggs would settle waiting to germinate and grow into "frys" before being released.

William King Elementary is one of about 60 schools which will receive aquarium incubators and pursue the program this year. Hinks says "students learn so much about the environment from the hands on rearing of their charges" before they are released into local streams. He said the kids begin to understand

that the quality of the environment affects how many fish live, how big they grown and even what colours they assume in their lives.

"Fish Friends provides young people with connection to the environment and a positive experience that can last a lifetime. We are proud to be a part of a program that has such a positive influence on our youth," says Jason Potter, President of operation for Sobeys Atlantic Region, a supporter of the program for the past four years.

The Fish Friends program started in 1992 as a government funded five year \$5.7 million public education and awareness project. Hinks said the project "was so popular that ASF strived to keep the program alive when the funding ran out. Because of the interest and support of the private sector Fish Friends has flourished, expanding into Quebec and New England to include 600 schools."

William King students will release their trout frys in June this year.

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Lewis Hinks shows kids at William King Elementary School the fish eggs they will hatch and release as "fry" in the spring.



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## "ESL" Library program rewarding for tutors and students

Do you need to learn English? Or are you looking for a volunteer opportunity? If you answered yes to one of the questions then the Captain William Spry Library has something that may interest you.

The Library offers an "English As A

Second Language" program and, if you need help with your English, you can get help Wednesdays from 10am-12pm or from 1:30-3:30 pm. The program is free and can be accessed by calling Pam at 490-5715 to set up an appointment.

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### **The Future of Community Facilities in HRM**

HRM is creating a master plan for community facilities to indicate what facilities will be constructed and improved over the next 20 years. The plan will also incorporate an arena capacity study and future planning for outdoor facilities.

Open houses will be held from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the following locations throughout HRM. The open house will showcase research and planning to date, and provide an opportunity to speak with those involved in the project.

Monday, March 17th O'Connell Drive School, Porters Lake

Thursday, March 27th Duncan MacMillan High School Sheet Harbour

Wednesday, March 19th Quality Inn, Bicentennial Room 980 Parkland Drive, Halifax

Monday, March 31st Dartmouth Sportsplex, Nantucket Room

Thursday, March 20th Charles P Allen High School, Bedford

Wednesday, April 2nd Halifax Forum, Maritime Hall

If you can't make one of the meetings, we still want to hear from you! E-mail CFMP@halifax.ca or fill out a public survey online at www.halifax.ca/facilities/CFMP.





And for those who would like to make a difference in someone's life, the library is looking for volunteers to tutor in its English as a Second Language Program (ESL). Volunteers are needed to help immigrants improve their English language skills. Learners come to the program with a wide range of skills and abilities. They may need help with basic English survival communication, or they may just need assistance to perfect their written English. Usually tutors are matched with learners on a one to one basis or in a small group. This allows the tutor to set up a program that best meets the goals of the learner.

Program volunteers leave weekly feeling extremely satisfied that they have been able to support another community member. Whether it has been help with new vocabulary, reading, writing, conversing or dealing with cultural issues, the assistance provided is very important and appreciated by the learner.

The learners usually have many questions about their new surroundings and volunteers have an abundance of knowledge in this area. Volunteers who have finished a session may have only taught three new words to the learners, but these three words are a step towards independence.

To become a tutor you must be 18 years old, completed high school, enjoy meeting and helping new people in the community. Tutors should be prepared to commit three hours a week to the program, two hours in the library and one hour to prepare for the session. The Halifax Public Libraries provides free training sessions for tutors.

This is a great opportunity to use your "everyday language skills" to make a difference in someone else's "everyday life." If you would like more information please call Pam at 490-5715 or email barretp@ halifaxpubliclibraries.ca.



ESL Co-ordinator Pam Barrett and two students from the program.



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### DISCOVERING OUR PAST



### Cannons Boomed As Foundation Stone Laid For Memorial Tower

By Iris V. Shea, Historian Mainland South Heritage Society

n October 2, 1908, 150 years following a meeting of the first legislative assembly in Nova Scotia, Sir Sandford Fleming dedicated the Dingle and a tower to the people of Halifax. The foundation stone for the tower was laid by Lieutenant Governor Duncan Fraser while cannons boomed from the Citadel.

On that very rainy and windy day, the men from S.M. Brookfield, Limited prepared the foundation stone. Beneath the stone they placed a copper box (11 by 51 inches) containing the following items: copies of the Halifax Herald, the Morning Chronicle and the Acadian Recorder, all dated October 2, 1908; the 1908 Nova Scotia statutes; debates of the legislative council of 1908; Halifax newspapers detailing the accounts of the unveiling of the tablet at

province House; a pamphlet of the Canadian Club in reference to their fundraising project for the tower; Sir Sandford Fleming's first pamphlet on the subject; and the Canadian Club's constitution. Before the box was sealed, the Lieutenant General tossed a ten-cent piece into the box "just for luck."

The weather forced many people to stay at home. Those who were on hand to watch the Lieutenant Governor lay the stone were Sir Sandford Fleming, J.B. Kenny, D. MacGillivray, Joseph A. Chisholm, KC (President of the Canadian Club), Alexander MacKay (Supervisor of Halifax Schools), G.S. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Critchley of Toronto (Fleming's daughter), Mrs. Hugh Fleming of Ottawa (Fleming's daughterin-law), Sandford and Oswald Critchley (Fleming's grandsons); Rod MacDonald, W.R. McCurdy, S.M. Brookfield, Dr. E.D. Farrell, John W. Regan and James Roue.

The Canadian Club took on the responsibility of raising the funds to build the tower after the mayor and council of Halifax rejected the idea. Fleming's meeting with council was said to be one of the longest meetings in council history, but budget concerns prevailed and council members felt

they could not afford to take on the project. They also suggested that, since it was to

Photo October 2, 1908, laying of foundation stone for Memorial Tower (Sir Sandford Fleming in centre with white beard).

commemorate representative government for Nova Scotia, it was a provincial matter.

In the pouring rain, the president of the Canadian Club, Joseph Chisholm, KC, made an introductory speech, followed by Fleming handing over the deeds of his Dingle lands to Lieutenant Governor Fraser, to hold them in trust until the day the tower was built. (It would be another four years before the tower was completed and handed over to the citizens of Halifax). The 100 acres of donated land started on Fleming's southern boundary and stretched as far as his stone wharf (known locally today as Critchley's Wharf). In his speech to the gathering, Fleming emphasized that "both tower and park are designed to remind future generations of the beginning of parliamentary government in Nova Scotia on this day a hundred and fifty years ago, the legislature having first met in Halifax on October 2, 1758."

Newspapers reported the splendour of the view on a hill 90 feet above sea level. "The tower will stand at a point which gives a clean sweep up to the head of the Arm and beyond, and looking straight out to sea. At an altitude of 200 feet when erected, the tower will be a landmark for passing ships, will be a source of

MANUAL AND SEATH HISTORY OF THE PARTY OF THE

The Mainland South Heritage Society celebrate Heritage Day with a reception and display featuring the "Democracy 250" Celebration Theme. Grace Dobson, Treasurer; Iris Shea, Historian; Leslie Harnish, President; and Allan Marryatt, Member, also celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Sambro Light and the 200th anniversary of Melville Island.

a grand addition to the beauty of the suburbs."

pleasure and pride to citizens and visitors and

Crewe, secretary for the colonies." The national anthem was sung and three cheers

and a hooray were given for Sir Sandford Fleming.
This year, 2008, we

celebrate the 250th anniversary of representative government in Nova Scotia, "Canada's First Parliamentary Democracy." An organizing committee has been formed which includes Hon. John Hamm and Hon. Russell MacLellan, to give impetus to "Democracy 250." They are inviting Canadians to join Nova Scotians in a year long celebration. The Mainland South Heritage Society plans to be part of the Democracy 250 celebration "as the spotlight shines on Nova Scotia's rich culture, proud past, and important contribution to our country's national identity.'

Further announcements will be made regarding the planning of public events to honour the 100th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for the Memorial Tower, and the 250th anniversary

of the Sambro Lighthouse. A Democracy 250 website has been set up and will be providing ongoing information on planned events (http://www.democracy250.ca).

A 21 gun salute from the Citadel boomed forth as the foundation stone was laid.

Telegrams of congratulations were read from the Governor General and from "Lord

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### **Local Scout Leaders honoured**

Bob Richey, a long time resident of Spryfield now residing in Fall River, continues to have an active interest in promoting the scouting movement. On Baden Powell Day February 22, Mr. Richey organized a ceremony at Emmanuel Church to honour some former leaders of 1st Spryfield "A" Cub Pack in recognition of their years of continuous commitment to the Scouting program throughout the District of Harbour

Certificates of Merit, signed by former District Harbour West President and retired Senator, John Buchanan, were presented to Frank Oakley, soon to be 90 years old, Bob Richey, age 84, Laurie Umlah, age 79, and

Raymond Wilkie, age 76.

Mr. Richey gave each one a framed 8 X 10 photograph, taken in 1997, of these four men with two other former leaders, the late

Marshall Barrett and the late Betty Gamble. On hand, representing Halifax area, Scouts Canada, was Marilyn Moore to present the certificates.

In the photo below are left to right, Marilyn Moore, representing Halifax area Scouts Canada, Bob Richey, Frank Oakley, Ray Wilkie and Laurie Umlah.

# Melville gets beds

Melville Lodge at 11 Ramsgate Lane has received approval to create eleven new beds thanks to Halifax Regional Council.

Regional Council passed amendments this past month to the municipal planning strategy to allow the project to proceed. But Councillor Linda Mosher, District 17, was not keen on the idea.

"My mind wants to say 'go away'," she told Council recalling a promise she says was made by the building's owners that they would never seek an amendment for their building.

She said that "back tracking" has caused a lot of "hard feelings" in the community. However, she said weighing the request with the need for seniors beds helped make up her mind.

"There are eleven seniors out there who need a home so I guess I'll go with my heart,"



Former leaders of 1st Spryfield "A" Cub Pack honoured at Emmanuel Church for years of dedicated service included left to right, Marilyn Moore, representing Halifax area Scouts Canada, Bob Richey, Frank Oakley, Ray Wilkie and Laurie Umlah.

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As the Spryfield Lions Club works to make our community a better place to live and play in. The Lions Club is always in need of new members to help us carry out that work. Give us a call lets talk about becoming a member of the Spryfield Lions Club 479-2917.



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# Supporting Your Community

### ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

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**WE CARE** 

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### **lisley student working to promote "Earth Hour" for HRN**

An environmentally conscious student at J. L. Ilsley High School is reached as far afield as Australia to try and help Nova Scotia, and in particular Halifax, record valuable savings in energy consumption.

Selena Cotter-Earle became intrigued with the March 31, 2007 project undertaken in Sydney, Australia, which saw 2.2 million people and 2,100 businesses in that city turn their lights out for one impressive energy savings called "Earth Hour."

According to Cotter-Earle the Sydney project set a goal of reducing energy consumption by 5% with the project. To the delight and amazement of the organizers, the savings amounted to more than double the target at 10.2%

"This year it's not just Sydney turning out their lights," says Cotter Earle. "Its cities all around the world! Toronto, Chicago, Copenhagen, Tel Aviv and many more which will be turning out their lights this year." And she says it's not only the cities which will be

turning of the lights for an hour, "but many people who have heard about Earth Hour will be turning out their lights as well," she says. The J.L. student has taken it upon herself to promote and spread the good word about Earth Hour to others. "My goal is to try and get as much awareness about Earth Hour as I possibly can, and to try and get Halifax to put its name on the list of cities which are participating this year," she said.

So far she has emailed radio stations and has received positive help from NewCap Radio's J C Douglas has passed the message forward to company announcers who have broadcast the ambition to listeners.

She has also managed to have the school's

Student Council to help by letting the school know what Earth Hour is all about, and she has emailed Mayor Peter Kelly about Earth Hour in hopes of persuading the City of Halifax to join in the soon to be world wide project.it.

"The Mayor told me he'd see what it takes to get it organized," she said, admitting that she doesn't believe the project has yet reached more than the bottom part of Kelly's "to do"

She said he'd like to initiate a petition type project whose aim would be to generate more of a support list of people who are willing to participate "so I can take it to Mayor Kelly and show him how big it actually is.'

# Girls basketball team setting solid reputation



McDonald's Mainland South Minor Basketball Association is proud to present the Mini Girls Rep team. This group of girls who started Oct. 1/2007 with ten rookies and two veterans have established themselves as a definite threat to succeed against any worthy

During the St. Margaret's Bay Slam Xmas Tournament they finished 2nd in the final with a 30 - 29 defeat to the host Slam. With a Metro Basketball League record of 11 wins, 3 losses, and a tie they rallied on to capture

the Metro Basketball Association Division 5 Championship. McDonald's, the parents, fans and the coaches are equally proud of these girls and wish them the best as they prepare

Members included in the team photo are front row: Autumn Julian, Kim Finch, Mackenzie Kane, Keanna Rogers, Kelly Umlah, Danielle Cormier and Jessica Umlah: back row: Carol Finch (Manager), Chelsea Finch, Katie Ann Rocheleau, Jenna Jackson, Kelly Hovey, Abigail Morton and Todd Umlah (Coach).



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- · Chocolate Lake Centre Thursday March 6th, 7:00pm

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> To find out more information, please call Andrea Cochrane, Coordinator at 424-5144 or e-mail andrea.cochrane@cdha.nshealth.ca

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Chebucto News ● March 2008

# Poverty and lack of health care related

By Michele Raymond Halifax Atlantic MLA

Thirty-five years ago, I was waiting for the train in a small New England town. Two well-dressed women were sitting near me in the station cafe, talking. One asked after the other's grandson.

"He's all right," said the grandmother.
"But he'll never walk. We can't afford the surgery." I've never forgotten that overheard moment. Even in this prosperous world, people knew that money alone would make the difference between a life fully lived, and one deeply compromised.

Since then, I've had many chances to see what happens when people realize that no matter what happens to them, no one will help, and I've come to believe that once that knowledge is born in a community, it gnaws its way through every layer of society.

The devastated centres of many American cities are the signs of that knowledge. The barred windows and doors of businesses first defended, and finally abandoned, are the immediate backdrop of poverty, but they also form the background of other neighbourhoods, where people live who can afford to move 'away.' Everyone knows they are there, even if they're only the mythical place, 'Don't go there.'

I had the chance to visit Vancouver recently, and to talk with the local representative for the Lower East Side, where the deeply poor and desperate have congregated. The Lower East Side seems to have reached a critical mass, and to have become more than a gathering of individuals,

but an entire community of despair. Lack of health care is a common theme.

Some of the tragedies of the Lower East Side have reached our national consciousness. We know it as the place from which women can be taken with impunity, and simply vanish, and it seems impossible to imagine any such thing happening here.

We're fortunate that in Nova Scotia, until very recently, we haven't seen many such places. Yet even here, people do disappear from the radar, and it makes them vulnerable. There are people living in HRM without birth certificates, without homes, without school for their children, without food, or without heat or electricity.

When I hear that our current provincial government plans to investigate "alternative service delivery" in medical care, and the possibility of giving public funds to private health care providers, I worry. I'm reminded of the Auditor General's 2003 report, which recommended the Department of Community Services should "monitor rents being charged by housing sponsors [landlords receiving public money to provide subsidized housing] and assess them for reasonableness in comparison to the market rates."

In other words, the auditor was saying that if we're going to pay someone to deliver public

see "Lack" pg. 9



The Chebucto Community Development Association held an Open House to celebrate its new space at South Centre Mall. On hand during the day were Allistair Fraser, left; Marjorie Willison, Donna Foley, Carolyn Mont and Rick Grant.



### **All You Can Eat Chinese Buffet**

Saturday and Sunday 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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### Specials 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Saturday

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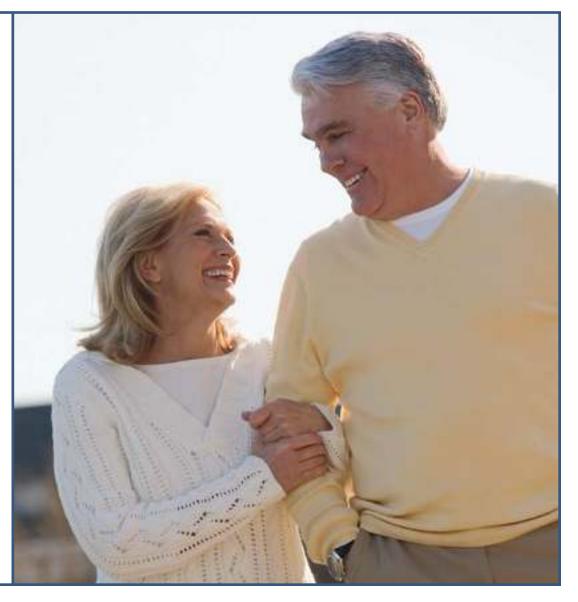
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# "Extensive consultations" will be held if HRM buys rail line

Councillor District 17

Early in 2006, Canadian National (CN) Railway indicated that they intended to discontinue the operation of the Chester Spur rail line that runs from Joseph Howe Drive to Lakeside. In November, 2007, CN notified all three levels of government that it would be discontinuing the use of this line. Under the Canada Transportation Act it provides that if there are no interested parties in operating the rail line, then CN determines the net salvage value of the line and corridor and offers them to successive levels of government.

No one from the private sector came forward and both the federal and provincial governments have advised CN that they don't wish to purchase the line. Per protocol, it is now being offered to HRM and has become a municipal issue.

The line runs through Fairmount and

Fairview; therefore, Councillor Russell Walker and I sent out both an information piece to residents and a notice for a community meeting. The meeting hosted about 200 people who came out to view the displays, talk to HRM staff, listen to the presentation, ask questions, and provide feedback. A second meeting was held in Bayers Lake which was attended by primarily business owners from Bayers Lake and Lakeside. Last week Councillor Walker and I sent out a letter requesting written submissions by February 28th.

In early 2007 Council discussed whether or not we wanted to take over the responsibility of a rail line. As the line was not often used and CN wasn't making a profit, I obtained Council support not to pursue this option since HRM is not in the business of operating a rail line. In June, 2007 I obtained Council approval to direct staff to undertake a land appraisal of the rail corridor, look at

alternate uses of this rail line and acquire input from all stakeholders. It was specifically requested that residents living adjacent to and near this rail line be consulted if the federal and provincial governments did not wish to purchase the line.

Our correspondence with residents indicated that now that HRM was in a position to purchase the line, the next step is for our staff, with the assistance of a consultant, to assess the issue and obtain resident feedback on the options. These options for the rail line include: purchasing the corridor and selling all land to adjacent landowners; purchase the corridor and use it only for active transportation (non-motorized transportation), and selling excess width to adjacent landowners; purchase the corridor and use it for rail, trucking or buses, or use it for active transportation in the interim while preserving the full width for future transportation opportunities; or not acquire the corridor.

Although many different opinions were expressed, the consensus was that residents want HRM to buy the corridor. Residents stated that by retaining public ownership of the land we can control the use. The proposed

uses varied from a paved trail that would allow walking, biking, in line skating and skateboarding, to having a natural trail, to operating it as a trucking or bus route. We appreciated the feedback from people from throughout the municipality. It should be noted that particular attention was paid to residents whose homes abut the trail. It is imperative that we consider their concerns so that they can continue to enjoy their own properties.

Based on the extensive feedback we received, Councillor Walker and I will be recommending to Council that we purchase the line. CN's stated value of \$3.6 million is excessive and the municipality does not have this budgeted. In other areas CN have sold abandoned lines for much lower prices or for \$1 and the municipality can give them a tax receipt for their stated value. Also, we could tell CN to rip up the tracks and sell the scrap metal as salvage as this is worth a considerable amount of money. I will keep you informed on any decisions made regarding municipal ownership of this rail line. If we purchase the line there will be extensive consultation on the future use and design.

# Rail line abandonment offers trail opportunity says Fairview MLA

By Graham Steele Halifax Fairview MLA

As many of you will know by now, CN is abandoning the rail line in Fairview and Fairmount

This is the line that starts behind the Joseph Howe Superstore, then runs parallel to Joseph Howe Drive before heading around the Fairmount subdivision, under Northwest Arm Drive, and out to the Lakeside Industrial Park.

The Halifax Regional Municipality is currently pondering whether to purchase the line. Under federal law, it has a right of first refusal. The deadline for its decision is March 6th. The asking price is \$3.6 million.

In my view, the abandonment of the line presents a golden opportunity to create a multi-use recreational trail. The trail would connect to the BLT trail (www.blttrails.ca) and go from there down the South Shore. The trail could be used for walking, running, biking, and rollerblading, and could be accessible for wheelchairs.

I recognize that the purchase decision is not necessarily an easy one for HRM. There are many other projects competing for the same money. I would have been a lot happier if the provincial government had put some money on the table to help HRM with its decision, but it didn't. Nevertheless, the possibility of a recreational trail in the heart of our community is too good to be missed.

HRM sponsored two public meetings to hear from the public. The meeting at St. Lawrence's Church Hall on February 18th was very well attended by local residents, some of whom went to the microphone to express their views. Another meeting on February 21st in Bayers Lake Industrial Park was attended mainly by organized groups and Bayers Lake business owners. In both cases, the discussion was lively and interesting.

The benefits of a recreational trail are pretty obvious, so I won't try to present the arguments here.

Opposition to the trail comes from two places. First, people whose properties abut the line are fearful of the change. In particular, they are fearful of the possibility that crime will increase if access is increased. These are real concerns, and I do not wish to minimize them. I would have plenty of concerns if I lived beside the line. One lady from the BLT area spoke at the public meeting to say that homeowners there had the same fears, but that crime has in fact gone down since their rail line was converted to a trail. The more eyes and ears on the trail, the less likely there are to be problems. I am confident that crime concerns can be dealt with by a combination of design and policing.

The second source of opposition comes from those who would like to see the rail corridor used for some form of mass transit. such as rail or bus. These proposals strike me as more theoretical than practical. A freight-rail line cannot be converted quickly or cheaply to other uses, nor is it obvious that commuter rail (for example) could be financially self-sustaining. At best, we can perhaps maintain the physical integrity of the corridor for possible future uses; but for the foreseeable future, mass transit is not in the

For me, the issue comes down to this: CN is going to abandon the line. The question, then, is who is going to control the future of the line. I would far rather see us control our own destiny, through our municipal government, than to see the future use of the line decided by private interests. And that is what will happen if HRM declines to buy the

If you support purchase of the rail line for conversion to a recreational trail, please consider signing the on-line petition here: http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/cnr trail. At the time I'm writing this, over 1100 people have already signed. My sense is that there is a significant groundswell of support in favour of the recreational option.

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# HRM slow on capital projects but progress is being made

By Stephen Adams Councillor District 18

Although most capital work done outdoors is slow, if non-existent, this time of year, a few projects have continued on. For example, the B.C. Silver School demolition is complete and the first step of the new development approval process is finished. I was under the impression that Council could approve the zoning and Development Agreement in one step, however provincial approval is necessary for the zoning before the Agreement can proceed. According to our staff, the province usually takes a month for this process to be completed. It has been a slow process, but it is nearing the final approval stage.

Speaking of slow progress, the heaters at the Lion's Rink continue to be nonfunctional. The reasons are numerous and I will not list them all. However wiring, coin mechanisms and questionable equipment are but a few road blocks mentioned. Our staff have been working with the electricians and the suppliers to remedy the situation. I am hopeful they will be functional for the upcoming Atom "B" Provincials.

HRM has submitted a tender request for Phase I of the Captain William Spry Community Centre interior renovations. This will close on March 14. It is truly exciting to visualize the improvements and see the centre transform into a true community facility. As budget deliberations come upon us, we will work to ensure the final phases are tendered. The irony of this situation lies

in the fact that Councillor Linda Mosher and I initiated the process over a year ago.

Most folks in Herring Cove now have access to clean drinking water. As we approach spring, Council waits patiently for Federal and Provincial Infrastructure Funding announcements. Once we have a better understanding of the criteria, you can be assured I will do my best to secure funding for the next phase of the sewer and water for Herring Cove.

Recent meetings have been held in

Williamswood and Harrietsfield to discuss the BMX Park, playground equipment and transit. We are working closely with staff to bring these to fruition. I have secured funding for the park and playground. Additional community meetings will be necessary to explore funding opportunities for transit.

There have been some complaints regarding the blasting at the Havill Development at Kidston Pond. Our permitting and by-law staff are well aware of

the situation and are monitoring it to see if charges are warranted.

Again I end this column on a solemn note. Council colleague, former police officer and former HRM staff member, Councilor Gary Martin passed away due to pancreatic cancer. You may have remembered Gary at the William Spry Centre or on a ballfield. His immense stature was equaled by his big heart. Gary's courage, compassion and sense of fairness will be missed but never forgotten.

# New Democrats fighting for neglected infrastructure

By Alexa McDonough Halifax MP

Most of Canada's public infrastructure was built between the 1950s and 1970s. Nearly 80% is near the end of its service life. Today, after years of federal neglect, New Democrats have been trying to avert catastrophic failures, but rebuilding infrastructure could cost \$123-billion more than municipalities have to spend.

New Democrats have provided national leadership around this issue for many years. As the former President of the Canadian Federation of Municipalities, New Democrat leader Jack Layton has led the fight for stable infrastructure funding for Canada's communities. In 2005, New Democrats tackled chronic underfunding head-on by demanding a significant additional infusion of infrastructure investment in the then-Liberal government's minority budget.

Nova Scotia's communities have the oldest public infrastructure in the country - whether our bridges, transit system, water treatment plants, or sewage. In dollar amounts, Nova Scotia communities are \$8 billion short in what is needed to fix our crumbling infrastructure. The residents of Herring Cove know all too well the penalty they have paid for years of neglect by all three levels of government to solve the infrastructure crisis. What's at stake is the safety of our drinking water, roads and bridges, access to affordable. quality public transit, and the quality of our parks and arenas. What's at stake is the entire physical foundation of the communities where we live and raise our families.

We need national leadership now. Waiting for catastrophe is unacceptable, but that's what

the Harper Conservatives are doing. Spending just \$2.2-billion a year for the entire country on municipal projects barely grazes our own \$8 billion funding gap, to say nothing of communities in other provinces. Yet this same government is happy to squander \$190-billion on tax cuts favouring corporations and the rich.

The current federal government is asking our communities to choose between two impossible options: we can watch and wait for catastrophic infrastructure failures; or we can push property taxes through the roof to pay for needed repairs—passing the cost on to small businesses, middle-class homeowners, and ultimately tenants of rental units. No community should be asked to make this choice.

Harper's government has the wrong priorities. That's why you have my unwavering commitment to work with my New Democrat colleagues to ensure reliable, long-term funding so our communities can fix failing infrastructure before catastrophe strikes.

# Stephen Adams HRM Councillor, District 18

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### **Lack of health care**

continued from pg. 7

services, we'd better at least have a handle on what's being charged. That recommendation was made five years ago, and to the best of my knowledge, the province hasn't acted on it yet.

Now the province is talking about expanding that approach to include access to health care, where the stakes are even higher.

It's not that long since Canadians had to save up to pay for medical care. Some of the children whose parents couldn't afford it, are still suffering the effects.

It's not as far away as it seems. Lack of access to medical care is one of the surest and straightest roads to the deepest of poverty, and that road runs through every part of the community.

## MICHÈLE RAYMOND

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### LOCAL OBITUARIES

LANDRY, Mary Kathleen "Babe" - 83, Halifax, passed away peacefully in the Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Halifax, she was a daughter of the late James Walter and Mary Ellen (Monaghan) Skerry. Mary was a kind and positive person who loved being with her family and friends. She was an avid bingo player and loved her garden. She is survived by her sons, Joe, Halifax; Tom (Cheryl), Herring Cove; John (Brenda), Sydney; Robert, Alberta; brothers, Frank (Mary "Chris"), Goodwood; Joseph O. (Marie), Halifax; grandchildren, Christine, Dean, John Wayne, Aaron, Carrie Anne; four great-grandchildren. Mary was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Landry; sisters, Ellen F. and Barbara A.; brothers, Frederick and James W. Cremation has taken place under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Rd., Spryfield (477-5601). Interment was held in Sunrise Park Interfaith Cemetery, Hatchet Lake.

YEADON, Brenda Mae - 77, Halifax, passed away following a lengthy and courageous struggle with Alzheimer's disease, at the VG Site, QEII, Halifax, NS. Born in Halifax, she was the daughter of the late Alfred and Dorothy (Graves) Power. Throughout her life. Brenda had a career in the cosmetic industry, last working at Robert Simpsons Ltd. cosmetic counter until her retirement. She will be sadly missed and fondly remembered as a loving mother and a lady who was loved by all who knew her. She is survived by her only daughter, Brenda Allen (Donald), Falmouth, NS, brother, Robert Power, Halifax, sister Venita Conway (Robert), Halifax, grandchildren, Kenneth, Christine, and Heather, as well as her great-grandchildren, Robert, Donnie, Tiffany, Tori, Nicole, Cady and Violet. She was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Kenneth B. Yeadon, and sisters, Helen Power and Joan Thibeault. Funeral arrangements were under the direction

### Church **Services and Programs**

The Congregation of Gospel Light Baptist Church extends a warm invitation to all to come out and share this beautiful building with us. Programs include Sun. 9:45am - Family Bible Hour for everyone (infant to adult); 11:00am - Worship Service (junior church for children); 7:00am - Young Adults Meet (singles and couples); Wed. 7:30pm - Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting (quality supervision for children); Thurs. 6:30 – 8:30pm - Youth Group Fun Night (12 yrs.+ or grade 7+); Fri. 6:30 – 8:00pm - Kids Club (5 – 12 yrs.); Upcoming Special Events: Sun. Feb 3-6:00pm - 8:00pm - Variety Show (fun for all ages); Dress for the Tropics! Sat. Feb.16 6:00pm; Adult Valentine Dinner (great food and fun) - Sat. Feb. 23 12:00 - 4:00pm; Kids Korner (crafts, games, etc. for Ages 4yrs.-12yrs.) This is something we are expecting the kids to really enjoy. You can drop the kids off or come in and enjoy with them. For information please call 479-3322.

of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Road, Spryfield, (477.5601). Interment has taken place in Oakridge Memory Gardens, Lower Sackville.

FORBES, James MacLean "Jimmy" - 73, Hatchet Lake, passed away at the VG Site, QEII. Born in Summerside, P.E.I., he was a son of the late Cecil and Sadie Lulu (MacLean) Forbes. Jimmy was in the Navy and is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, White's Lake, Branch 153. He worked for Irving Oil for many years as a furnace mechanic. He then went on to work with his son Wayne, until his retirement in 1995. He loved to work around his yard and tinker with different projects. Jimmy is survived by his sons, Brenton (Karen), Stoney Creek, Ont.; Wayne (Debbie), Hatchet Lake; Steven (Terri), Caledonia, Ont.; Kevin (Lynn), Burlington, Ont.; companion, Marilyn Bernard and her family, Sackville; sisters, Helen (Bruce) Small, Summerside, P.E.I.; Mary Houston, Kensington, P.E.I.; Barb (Bob) Baldwin, Mississauga, Ont.; brother, Wilfred (Mariam), Dartmouth; grandchildren, James, Colleen, Ross, David, Jason, Christopher, Billy, Elizabeth, Candice, Jennifer; four great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by an infant son, Frederick; his sister, Lillian and brother, Sidney. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Road, Spryfield (477-5601). Interment was held in Kensington, P.E.I.

#### Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd.

BRIAND, Jack Bernard - 70, Halifax, passed away at the VG Site, QEII. Born in Halifax, Jack was the son of the late George Briand. He worked on the Gypsum and Imperial Oil Boats for many years. He loved to play his guitar. He is survived and loved by his wife, Juanita (Nee Ross) Ritchie and

her family; mother, Kathleen Briand; son, Peter Briand and family; sisters, Alice and Nancy and family; brother, Roy and family. Cremation has taken place under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Road, Spryfield (477-5601).



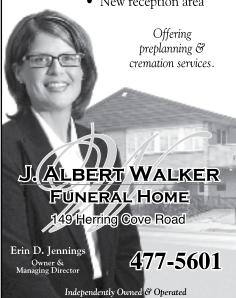
Students at Cunard Junior High School have held two bottle drives now to support the purchase of gym equipment. Shown at this month's drive are students Elizabeth Perry, Hope Goddard, Thuvaa Vithiy, Alanah Higgins, Katie McKenzie, Danielle Hinds and P.E. Teacher Mary Lou Buckle.

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Located in the Captain William Spry Community Centre 10 Kidston Road





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# Chebucto News Community Events

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

The regular Annual General Meeting of the Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre will be held April 9 at the Centre beginning at 7 pm. The meeting will discuss matters of concern, an update from the past board and the election of officers for the incoming board. A light lunch and refreshments will be served. All residents from Harrietsfield, Sambro, Williamswood and Ketch Harbour are invited.

The Sambro Dinner Theatre will be presenting the production "Seacruise II, Terence Bay or Bust!" at St. James United Church, Sambro, May 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10. Lobster or Roast Beef Dinner \$30.00. Tickets go on sale March 10

For tickets call Eva Mae 868-2660 or Donna 475-1053.

A Roast Beef Supper will be held at Emmanuel Church,



Provincial Minister Ron Chisholm stopped into the Theatre Arts Guild to present the Guild with a \$25,000 cheque to help with the completion of renovations at the Pond Playhouse. Nick Jupp, Director, and Past President Debora Post accepted the donation.

### **Chebucto News Business Directory**



Community businesses serving community needs.



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1275 OLD SAMBRO RD. HARRIETSFIELD, HALIFAX, N.S. B3V 1B2 PHONE: 477-9995 FAX: 477-0534 322 Herring Cove Road, Sunday March 9 from 4:30 to 6 pm. Adults \$10; Children aged 5 to 12 \$5; Children under

#### School Trip Fundraiser

The Grade Nine Students at Cunard Junior High School are fundraising for a trip to Montreal. The School Custodian has a 4 wheel scooter, 6 months old - was \$2600, and he is selling it for \$1,500.00. He will give the school \$200 towards our trip if we are able to sell it. Anyone interested can call evenings and week-ends - 477-7971 and ask

William King Elementary School is in need of Lunch Monitors to help with lunchtime chores Monday to Friday from noon to 1 pm. A child abuse and criminal records check will be required. For information call the school at

'Setting Sail Again", written and directed by Carol MacDonnell, a dinner theatre, will be performed at Emmanuel Church Hall, 322 Herring Cove Road, April 18, 19, 25, & 26 Tickets \$25.00; (Wine \$4.00). Doors open at 6:15. For tickets and information call Alecta

"A Night in the Theatre" is a modern comedy that will sweep away the winter blues and completely entertain our audiences. Walter and Donna, along with their friends Stanley and Margaret, are off to see a production of Hamlet but unfortunately none of them are really up to the task. Between this foursome, you will meet every annoying character you have ever sat close to at a theatre or cinema! Despite their hilarious all around ignorance and best efforts to destroy the performance, a little of Hamlet does get through with surprising consequences. Perhaps even for Walter, Donna, Stanley and Margaret things just might not be the same once Mr. Shakespeare has woven his timeless magic. The play runs February 21st to March 8th. Book your tickets early. The annual holiday presentation sells out every year. Tickets go on sale January 31st through the TAG Box Office 477-2663 - 0r book on the web at www.tagtheatre.com.

#### Seedy Saturday

The Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield is holding its 10th Seedy Saturday at Captain William Spry Community Centre, Spryfield, on Saturday, March 15, 2-4 PM. Swap and or buy seeds, visit seed and plant vendors, Kids' Corner, displays and speakers with focus on Seeds of Diversity, and heirloom seeds. Admission by donation. Door prize! For more information or to book a table contact Jean Henshall White (902) 477-2933, email: jphwhite@ ns.sympatico.ca

Public Health Services - Healthy Beginnings Program will hold a family health drop-in at the Captain William Spry Library in Spryfield the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 1 to2:30 pm. It will be facilitated by a Public Health Nurse. A range of services will be offered including breastfeeding support, parenting education, health and community information for

parents, babies and children up to 5 years of age. For more information call 481-5800. Tell a neighbor and bring a friend!

#### Recycle for Funds

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

Seniors Days - Mondays, - March 10 and 24 -1 to 5 pm - featuring Newfie George Bingo every Sunday – Doors open at noon – Bingo starts at 1 pm Super Star Bingo - Sunday evenings - Doors Open

#### March Break at the Library

Rainy Day Magic! Ages 0-5 yrs. Tuesday March 11at 10:30am - Rainbows, puddle stomps and more! Stories, games, singing, and crafts to celebrate the magic of a rainy day! Registration required.

Fire and Ice Ages 5+ Wednesday March 12 at 10:30am - Presented by Mad Science of the Maritimes, featuring foggy ice storms, bubbling potions and ends with a BIG BANG! Registration required.

Geronimo Stilton Café Ages 7-12 yrs. Wednesday March

12 at 2:30pm - Geronimo Stilton has set up his restaurant at the library and is searching for lots of help! We need cooks, servers and designers. Fun, games and grilled cheese await you. Allergy alert: please be aware we will be using cheese and other food in program. Registration

Kids Make Music Magic! Ages 5-7 yrs. Thursday March 13 at 10:30am - Making and playing with home-made instruments, rhythm, sound games...we'll make music magic and have lots of fun together! Registration required.

Homemade Magic! Ages 8-12 yrs. Thursday March 13 at 2:30pm - We'll make magic using everyday objects and preform our new tricks for each other in our own magic show! Registration required.

Puppet Shows bring favorite stories to life! All ages Saturday March 8 and 22 at 11 am. Baby's First Books Ages 0-18 months Thursdays at

10:30am - March 20 until April 24. Let your little one experience the words and pictures in books, the rhythm and rhyme of music and the fun of play. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required. Preschool Family Drop-In Tuesdays at 10:30am - March 25 until May 27 - Join us for stories and songs. As well enjoy some play time with playdough, puzzles and crafts and

Storytime Ages 3-5 Fridays at 10:30am - March 27 until May 30 - Come join us for a half hour of stories, songs, rhymes and fun!

TÉEN PROGRAMS:

Teen Drop -In Ages 12+ Jewelry making - beads and strings provided - Thursday March 6 at 6 pm; Meet and greet Mike Hirschbach Thursday March 13 at 6 pm; Clay Café with Marlene Fitch Friday March 14 at 3 pm; Computer social Thursday March 20 at 6 pm; Making the big bucks Tuesday March 11 6 pm Information session with Craig Cromwell from YMOVE program, that will help you to learn how to successfully job search, put your resume together and email it to potential

Entrepreneurship Workshop Thursday March 27 6 pm -Learn the skills you need to get the job you want this summer - creating resumes, interview tips and how to dress for success presented by Shelly Penton from OFB/CEED

Training Team.
ADULT PROGRAMS:

Book Club Wednesday March 19 at 7 pm. The libraries' book clubs are a great way to meet people, explore new authors, share ideas and celebrate the joy of reading. The reading for March is "Inheritance of Loss" by

Children's Reading Support - Tuesdays to Thursdays 3:30 - 7:30 pm - Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. For more details or to become a volunteer please call Dorothy at 490-5714.

#### **Fundraising For Guides**

Beaver Enviro on Herring Cove Road has set up an account for the Armview District Girl Guides. Every time you recycle you can make a donation to the organization.

Emmanuel Anglican Church on the Herring Cove Road is looking for an Organist. Our musical equipment includes an Allen Organ and a Roland Digital Piano. Closing date is Dec.15. Phone 477-1782 for more information. Forward resume to Rev. Dianna Brett-Frye, 322 Herring Cove Rd., Halifax NS B3B 1V4

St. James Church Hall, Sambro, will be the site of Auction 45s every Monday at 7 pm. Admission \$2.50. For information call 868-2660.

#### ners' Club

New to the area? Come and meet new friends at the Newcomers' Club of HRM! We have our monthly meetings at the Keshen Goodman Library on the second Thursday of every month starting at 11 am. The library is located at 330 Lacewood Drive in Bayers Lake. There are lots of social activities to join. For more details, please contact Linda at 429-1897 or Pam at 864-7006. Hope to meet you there!

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

Anyone who has a spare ukulele which can be used to help jump start a lesson program for children should contact Judy at 477-1228.



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- BASE CABINETS · UPPER CABINETS
- . NEW COUNTERTOP
- STAINLESS STEEL SINK NEW FAUCET

THE FINE PRINT: Cobinets are sell, including wood interiors (not presend board) and are unassembled. Choose from our 4 spiles of new countertals and 2 handle tops. Kitchens "by the floot" program will be all inclusive of finige, stave and window to qualify.

EZ BACKSPLASH KIT

Toned White - Milon Marble
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White Carea COMPOSITE ARTCHER Even the Kitchen Sink

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 F/J pine, primed white . Ideal for windows/doors A/I 8' lengths Available in:

A Grade. B Grade.....

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To Clear

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