

Chebucto News

Vol. 8 • No. 2 • May 2006

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Cowie Hill residents to retain underground power

Residents of Cowie Hill, whose underground wiring system is in need of replacement, are going to keep the majority of their

underground servicing in an arrangement reached between the area's condominium managers, HRM and Nova Scotia Power. The ten-

tative agreement has cancelled a public hearing over the issue at the Utilities And Review Board schedule for this month.

NSP had identified that the cost to replace the underground system was \$2.2 million higher than estimates to replace the system with overhead wiring using poles. But the community's design, with narrow streets and trees along the roadway, was developed originally for underground wiring and was not designed for above ground wiring.

Residents, their condominium managers, Councillor Linda Mosher and HRM legal and engineering staff opposed above ground wiring and have been discussing the issue with NSP since 2000. "The underground wiring was installed by a private contractor in 1973 in a

manner which does not meet today's standards," said Mosher. "NSP claimed that the system had exhausted its useful life, may not continue to be reliable and recommended overhead utilities because they are cheaper to install."

"Cowie Hill residents deserve to continue with underground wiring which not only gives the community a more reliable power source (the community was without power for only a few hours during Hurricane Juan) but increase property values and improves aesthetics," she said.

"I am very pleased that NSP and the resident representatives have reached a tentative agreement to resolve the issue. This will main-

see "Cowie Hill" pg. 2



The students at J.W. MacLeod Elementary School performed "The Jungle Book" as part of their drama program. Lead players in the production included Ben Jackson, Mowgli; Colin White, King Louie; Rebecca Ferguson, Kara; Connor MacAdam, Colonel Hathi; Julia Wry, Shere Khan; Caludia Sekula, Bagheera, and Laura Fox, Baloo.

"We Are Spryfield" — document causes stir

"We Are Spryfield," an 80 page demographic and social profile of very tightly defined areas of Spryfield, produced and distributed by Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC), has raised the hackles of a number of local residents, Councillors

Stephen Adams and Linda Mosher, and has caused a flurry of conversations surrounding the negative image the book has left on the community.

ANC is a federal government sponsored program managed locally in only five communities across Canada by the United Way. Identifying what have been called "The 7 Pillars of Community," the document is considered an overview of each of the pillars. To the dismay of some in the community, each pillar, including Built Environment, Natural Environment, Social Fabric, Economy, Culture, Politics and Person-Spirit, contains a percentage graph of various social, economic, education and environment elements comparing the community to the whole of HRM and

see "Commission" pg. 2

see "We Are Spryfield" pg. 2

Commission elects new Board Members at AGM

The Spryfield and District Business Commission has changed almost half of its nine member Board of Directors following its fifth Annual General Meeting at the Earl Francis Memorial Legion in late April.

Outgoing three-year Chairman Kevin Umlah told members the Commission has established a policy of having nine Board Members with three being considered three year members, three having two years service and three more entering the Board for their first year. "The intention is to encourage membership to the Board based on the understanding that the commitments are for three years. This way people know their commitment going in and when they can leave if they desire in a system which allows new growth and influence to the Board's operation," he said.

As a result of the meeting, Peter Ainslie, Spryfield Animal Hospital, Gwen Armshaw, Paradigm Investments and Allan MacDonald, South Centre Mall are third year members of the Board. Linda MacLaggan, Spryfield Physiotherapy and Neil Rogers, Countrywide Furniture, are considered second year members. But because of the loss of Greg Vandenhoogen from the community, four new members will join for their first year including Erin Jennings, J. Albert Walker Funeral Home; Jacquelyn Smith, Doctors Eye Clinic, Irene Swindells, Melville Heights and Cecil Caines, Cermanco Properties.

The Board of Directors will choose its executive positions at its first regular meeting being held early this month.

Guest Speakers Councillors Linda Mosher,

District 17, and Stephen Adams, District 18, told the gathering that the Business Commission has been beneficial to the city in getting involved in planning for future improvements to the community of Spryfield and surrounding areas. The Councillors suggested the attainment of a "District Centre"

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"We Are Spryfield" document causes stir

continued from pg. 1

the Province of Nova Scotia.

The comparisons are not favourable. According to the report, Spryfield ranks well below, or above, the rest of HRM and Nova Scotia depending on the subject of the graph. According to the report more of Spryfield rents rather than owns housing as compared to the others, less of Spryfield has a university education, less of Spryfield drive to work, Spryfield has more lone parent families and

less population growth, more adults not in the labour force, lower household incomes and more visible minorities.

"Action is a federally funded project based on the belief that communities, with support, can successfully address their own issues," says the opening line of the introduction. The introduction finishes by suggesting that "Spryfield is at a stage in its development where residents can take action towards greater health and well-being for all members of the community, or fail to act and allow the

downward slide of Spryfield to continue. By focusing on all of our strengths and capacities, the residents of Spryfield can plot a realistic course of action to start creating the Spryfield of our dreams."

"The level of harm this document has brought is extensive," said Councilor Stephen Adams. "I would never have expected that the way this portrays Spryfield would come from inside the community from people who know better," he said. (See Adams and Mosher columns on page 8).

Cowie Hill retains underground power

continued from pg. 1

tain the aesthetic quality of the community, create a reliable power source and produce other benefits including reduced wind speed, lower heating and cooling costs, reducing safety risks from downed power lines and lowering fire hazards," she said.

Originally NSP suggested any additional costs, approximately \$2.2 million over the cost of above ground wiring, to replace the system

with new underground wiring would have to be borne by the residents. But in the new agreement, Cowie Hills residents will pay an additional \$3.07 per month for 30 years to have a new system installed in a different location throughout the community.

Mosher said under the agreement there will be "a couple of sections" of overhead wiring but "basically the whole neighbourhood will

see minimal change." She also suggested the agreement contains a clause that the residents will never again have to pay for this even if standards change.

"Cowie Hill is an example of a community that has benefited from underground wiring," she said. "It is a service which needs to be maintained to ensure the continued quality and aesthetics of the community."

Commission elects Board

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status within the Regional Plan is important for the community and that this year there will be some improvements undertaken as a result of the Herring Cove Streetscape and Community Planning study done in 2005.

Mosher highlighted many of the changes including development of a look-off at Winchester Avenue, including interpretive panels providing information on the scene below of Armdale Yacht Club, Dead Man's Island, the former Melville Prison and the Northwest Arm. She also suggested a number of wrought iron earthy green coloured street benches and waste baskets will be placed this year, that the St. Michael's Avenue park will be upgraded and that some steps will be taken to improve a park area along Herring Cove Road in front of the Captain William Spry Community Centre.

Adams told the audience of the number of housing starts expected in the area including Governor's Brook, 870 units; Joyce Avenue, 70 units; Rockingstone Road, 70 units; Catamaran Pond, 30 units; and Green Acres 100 units. He also suggested the city has committed about \$500,000 for upgrades to the pumping station at Roache's Pond to alleviate effluent entering the McIntosh Run.

Mosher cautioned that the Herring Cove Streetscape report is a visionary document and not all of the recommendations can be implemented. She suggested Herring Cove Road would stay at four lanes and that the city is planning to increase the road to four lanes right through to the Armdale Rotary. She also suggested the city is beginning to study improving sidewalk issues along Herring Cove Road and there is possibility of clearly identified bike lanes being added.

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Circulation:

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Agent: The Halifax Herald
Printer: Lighthouse Publishing

Delivered free-of-charge to households in;

Letters to the Editor:

Letters should not exceed 200 words and must include the writer's full name and telephone number. Letters are subject to editing and are printed at the discretion of the publisher. Letters will not be returned.

Write to: "The Editor"

P.O. Box 20141,
Halifax, NS, B3R 2K9

Advertising / Editorial Inquiries:

Please call (902) 479-6397
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Iris Shea – Our community's leading historian

By Heather White-Brittain

Iris Shea, nee Umlah, became an historian in her own right, beginning by researching her own family tree. In the 1980's, Iris and her nephew took on the challenge of researching and recording their family's genealogy. However, Iris laughingly tells the tale of how her nephew "abandoned her to start his own business." So, left to her own devices, she finished what they started, not once envisioning that it would lead her to become Mainland South's premier historian.

Since 1993, Iris has been an active member of the Mainland Heritage Society. In this

setting, she has been instrumental in many things that have brought increased awareness to the history of Mainland South. Concentrating on communities from Armdale to Pennant, The Society focuses on collecting and recording historical information that belongs to their place in time. Iris has chaired many committees and, with a core group of like-minded people, she has enabled residents to view the history of an area that they have come to know as their own. The research has covered such topics as early settlement, heritage buildings, leisure and recreation just to name a few.

Like any historical research, the findings

are often fascinating. In particular, Iris notes how amazing it was to discover that many people in the area are longtime residents and how settlers go back to the early 1700's when residents of Halifax were granted land in areas of Ketch Harbour, Portuguese Cove and Pennant Point. Also steeped in this longevity where residents have lived for several generations, is the community of Spryfield. Iris notes how this community remains consistent and offers its own unique identity. She credits some of this to the way that businesses remain constant in the community's overall presentation. Often times, residential areas are all consumed by housing development. Consequently, traditional landmarks are removed and destroyed so, the newness of an area will erase too much of the old.

Perhaps for some, it is a daunting exercise to think of researching their family tree. Iris

recommends that you should talk to the oldest member of the family and find out what they can remember about their family.

Often times, it is too late because the senior members have died and others are unable to remember or don't know the answers to the questions. If you have the immediate family history, (names of grandparents, community and religion) then, the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management on University Avenue in Halifax is the place to start. There you will find a wealth of information on microfilm and archivists on duty to guide you.

Iris also recommends that you document your sources when doing research, write everything down, and try and record names and spellings accurately. It may be useful later. Also, it is wise to be careful with information

see "Iris Shea" pg. 4

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Mainland South's longtime historian Iris Shea studies one of Peter Saulnier's replicas of historic buildings which once adorned the sidewalks of Spryfield. This model, the Pinegrove hotel, was once operated by Shea's family.

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DISCOVERING OUR PAST

Church and cemetery records reveal birth place of early Irish

By Iris V. Shea, Historian
Mainland South Heritage Society

Information from Roman Catholic Church records and local cemeteries provide the actual counties of origin in Ireland for some of the early settlers in our fishing communities. While there are many other families whose ancestors came from Ireland and settled in our area, I have included only a few in this article, those for whom I found documentation of their county of origin. Descendants of these early Irish settlers, with names such as Dempsey, Gallagher, Johnson, Murphy, O'Connell, Quan, Scallion, and Sullivan, still live in this area. Anyone following these Irish families will find that many of them intermarried in subsequent

generations, so if you are tracing your Irish roots you can be sure they will include most of the surnames mentioned above. Some Irish settlers, like the Powers of Herring Cove, were in Newfoundland before settling in Herring Cove.

William Johnson first appeared in Bear Cove in 1801 when he bought 200 acres of land granted earlier to Thomas Clarke. He later bought the Bracket grant at Halibut Bay with Andrew Scallion. A cemetery stone in the Old St. Paul's Cemetery in Herring Cove for William's son, Lawrence, states that he was a native of County Wexford, Ireland.

The following marriages were found in St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church (later called St. Mary's) in Halifax:

On 3 Jan. 1815, Daniel Gallagher, son of Daniel and Elizabeth of County Tyrone, Ireland, to Eleanor Hacket of Ketch Harbour.

This couple settled in Ketch Harbour.

On 4 July 1820 William Dempsey, son of Patrick and "Bridgit," a native of the parish of Castle-Ellis, County Wexford, Ireland, to Catherine Latter, daughter of Henry and Catherine (McCleane) of Herring Cove, in the presence of John Loughman, Michael Hacket and Anne Philpot. The church record neglected to say that Catherine was the widow of James Philpot at the time of her marriage.

On 17 Nov. 1820, Walter Murphy, son of Stephen Murphy and Mary Doyle of County Wexford, Ireland, to Mary Connors, daughter of Denis Connors and Ruth Lister of "Catch" Harbour. Witnesses were Moses Brooks, Charles Grennel and Jane McDaniel. The Murphys settled in Ketch Harbour.

On 1 Feb. 1821, Andrew

Scallion, son of Joseph Scallion and Margaret Doyle of County Wexford, Ireland, to Elizabeth Edwards, daughter of George Edwards and Catherine Brown of Lawrencetown, Halifax County. The couple settled in Halibut Bay.

On 12 Oct. 1823, John Quan of the parish of Ballyconnick, County Wexford, Ireland, to Anastasia Murphy, d/o John and Mary (Casey) Murphy of Mirimachie, N.B. Signed Luke Kehoe, Elizabeth Kehoe, William Brophy and John Kehoe. This family settled in Portuguese Cove.

On 20 Jan. 1830, James O'Connell, son of James and Mary (Young) O'Connell to Sarah Louisa White of Portuguese Cove, daughter of Joseph White and Sarah Rouse. James O'Connell's gravestone in Old St. Paul's Cemetery in Herring Cove, was inscribed "a native of Glasshouse, Parish of Slaive, Rhue,

County Kilkenny, Ireland, born 23 July 1810." His daughter, Susan, married 15 Jan. 1851 Andrew Scallion, Jr.

A gravestone in Holy Sepulchre cemetery in Ketch Harbour, was inscribed with information about Timothy Sullivan's origin... Timothy O'Sullivan, from the Parish of Borehaven, County Cork, Ireland, aged 98 years, died 11 Aug. 1875. His wife, Catherine Harrington, died in 1880 at the age of 103 years. The Sullivans lived in Portuguese Cove. Their son, Michael Sullivan, married Margaret Scallion in 1837 and drowned off Herring Cove in 1854 when he fell overboard from his fishing boat. Michael's brother, John Sullivan, married Margaret Scallion's sister, Ann.

The photograph included here, courtesy of Sandra Coleman, is that of Patrick Scallion and his family in Herring Cove, taken about 1900. Born in 1857, Patrick was the son of Andrew Scallion, Jr. and Susan O'Connell. He

married 5 May 1882 Catherine Purcell, the daughter of Francis Purcell and Sophia Selig of Portuguese Cove. Patrick died in 1904 at the age of 47 years, leaving behind a wife and nine children. Two of their sons, Gerald C. and J. Alfred, were champion oarsmen. Gerald moved to the United States where he continued to compete. Alf Scallion competed in shell races for many years out of St. Mary's Boat Club on the Northwest Arm.

I apologize for an error in last month's article regarding the location of "The Birches," home of the Bennett family. It was located on the left side of the St. Margaret's Bay Road, not on the right, as you leave the rotary. An apartment building called "The Birches" is now on the site of the Bennett family home-stead. Thanks to those who remembered that and drew my attention to it. I appreciate input from readers, especially if I have provided misinformation in my articles.



This photograph, courtesy of Sandra Coleman, is that of Patrick Scallion and his family in Herring Cove, taken about 1900.



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Iris Shea – leading historian

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that you find on websites. She cautions that these are useful guides but they are not always accurate.

Professionally, Iris has worked as a nurse and raised a family. Along the way she and her husband were successful entrepreneurs and started their own business. Perhaps it is the coupling of being a trained nurse, one who nurtures and understands efficiency, and the business side of Iris, paying attention to detail and seeing things through, that impelled her toward a personal interest in genealogy and

heritage. But for whatever reason, it has been a good thing for her community, and its an interest that has greatly benefited many.

In the end, what started out as a personal interest in her own family's history turned into a wonderful example of how one can make a significant contribution to their community. Iris has become a tireless worker and a strong advocate in her attempt to enable young and old to be more aware of where they live, and what is important to remember and save. It is a process that maintains and builds tangible memories and monuments, which may be the very essence of our heritage.

Museum's 10th birthday speaks to Spryfield's healthy heritage – Raymond

By Michele Raymond
Halifax West MLA

This month, the Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield celebrated its 10th anniversary, a happy reminder of all that is, and can be, best about this community, and the importance of our past to our future.

Spryfield's long agricultural history dates back to the 1780s when Captain William Spry, chief Surveyor for the British Crown, decided to establish a farming community here, where soil was richer than on the stony peninsula, and fresh water more abundant. The city thrived on produce from outlying farming communities like Spry's Field, Cole Harbour and Sackville.

Over time, though, the tradition was diluted and largely forgotten. In the 1850s, hundreds of acres of farmland were expropriated when the Long Lake dam was built and watershed lands reserved. Further expropriations followed in the 1950s. By the middle of the 20th century, the Hyland and Rockingstone dairies were gone, and the lumber camps closed. It was no longer wise to eat fish from the Northwest Arm or the Macintosh Runs, and the lure of inexpensive land near the city was attracting new residents, many of whom drew their livelihood from the city. The oldest buildings disappeared.

Land was fairly cheap, but food was not. As food comes from greater distances, transportation and processing costs are added to the cost of nutrition. There's less reason to con-

sume produce in season, taking healthful variety out of the diet. Pesticides, antibiotics and preservatives become standard fare as the scale of production is 'optimized.' In Spryfield, as in many other communities, the cost of 'safe' food became prohibitive.

Spryfield kept its identity, however. In the early 1990s, the Mainland South Heritage Society was formed to revive interest in local history, enormously aided by the efforts of Peter Saulnier, who had been diligently rescuing old photos of the area wherever he found

them. Members researched and wrote about all aspects of the history of eastern Chebucto Peninsula, compiled an enviable photo archives and collected oral history. Heritage Day displays, guided tours, heritage projects in the schools and an annual calendar added to public awareness and community pride.

In April 1996, I called a public meeting to ask the questions: What could an Urban Farm Museum be? Does Spryfield need one? Would it be an appropriate way to commemorate Spryfield's rural past, enrich the present,

and help ensure a self-reliant future for the city's children?

In the following months, a loose group explored old farmlands and organized public talks on gardening and food production. The Mainland South Heritage Society was generous in supporting the group, as we met in parking lots, overgrown fields, schools and government offices.

Since then, that small group has grown, has incorporated, negotiated for the use of land, written grant proposals, supervised student research projects, published a cookbook and numerous how-to brochures on gardening, engaged school groups, families and young offenders, won awards, marched in Santa Claus parades, thrown huge tea-parties and hosted harvest fairs and annual plant exchanges.

It's been five years since the Kidston family generously agreed to allow us to use the historic Rockingstone Farm lands, and a team of oxen ceremonially broke ground. Now, with the field largely cleared of brush and a shed built, the war with hungry deer isn't over yet, but family garden plots are yielding a healthy crop each year, and there is food left over for the Food Bank. The society is expanding to a new garden in Greystone.

All of this speaks to the generosity of Spryfield with time, energy, and finances. It speaks to the lively imagination and back-breaking hard work of seniors, children, and everyone in between. Spryfield is using the local past to improve the local future. That's a healthy heritage!



MLA Michele Raymond, left, recognized in the community as the initiator of an urban farm museum concept, Janet Kidston, Councillor Steve Adams, Urban Farm President Pat MacLean and Marjorie Willison, a long time supporter, gathered to cut the Society's 10th Anniversary cake at the Captain William Spry Community Centre this month.

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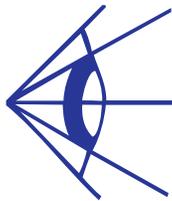
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NEW PATIENTS WELCOME



The Hart family held a silent auction and dance to raise funds for their father Allan who fell from a roof, leaving him disabled. Members of the family include Peggy Hart, mother; Joe Hart, son; daughters Cathy and Penny and granddaughters Bailey and MacKenzie.



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"Action report" well intended but data "skewed" – Mosher

By Linda Mosher,
Councillor District 17

Residents may have seen or heard about a recently released document, "We are Spryfield. Our Community Profile 2006," which is part of the Neighbourhood Action for Change initiative, (ANC), sponsored by the United Way and the Federal government. After reviewing

the document, Councillor Stephen Adams and I had concerns and met with United Way's Project Manager and CEO, to ensure the efforts would be translated into positive outcomes for the community of Spryfield.

The most glaring issue is that the document refers to the community of Spryfield, but in fact utilizes only a small portion of this community for its findings. It does not include

subdivisions such as Leblin Park, Thornhill or Clearview. In essence, it only included "Central Spryfield," causing the results to be skewed and thus presenting a flawed representation of the community. It is necessary that new data be generated, utilizing the proper community boundaries, encompassing all of Spryfield.

Supposedly, this project followed commu-

nity development principles. As a municipal government, HRM follows appropriate community development principles which include: community involvement, creating partnerships and harmony, engaging citizens to positively impact the quality of life within communities, achieving self sufficiency, increasing citizen responsibility and providing strategic direction to identify community needs while supporting sustainable community based projects and initiatives. This project is not in unison with these principles, so any consideration of a "next step" as referenced in the profile, ought to be lead by qualified community development professionals.

The purpose of the document was set by the Calendon Institute of Social Policy and it included a positive, collaborative approach; however the Spryfield profile is lacking in this regard as the entire community and its leaders were not adequately engaged in the process. I concur that the purpose for the Spryfield ANC was a good one, and in fact believe that the community could benefit from this process and intended outcomes.

Although well intended, the Spryfield report is a negative depiction of the community and is fuelling a stigma that leaders in the community, such as Councillor Adams and the Spryfield Business Commission, have been working very hard to reduce and eliminate. It is imperative that leaders in the community

see "Action Report" pg. 10

"Hopefully benefit may arise" from report – Adams

By Stephen Adams, Councillor District 18

Over the past month many residents of Spryfield have been discussing the recently released "We Are Spryfield" booklet, issued by Action for Neighbourhood Change, a United Way managed project, which was intended to illustrate strengths and weaknesses in the community. Once identified, these weaknesses would be addressed, utilizing external monetary resources and out internal community support systems.

However, this publication has portrayed our community in a very negative, and unfair manner. The tone was set on the second page with the following statement – "we can fail to act and allow the downward slide of Spryfield to continue." Almost everyone who hears this reacts with shock and disbelief. Then they list of the great changes we have seen including, but not limited to, single family housing starts, the new businesses on Herring Cove Road, the low crime rate and even the Santa Claus Parade.

I along with Councillor Mosher have met with the United Way. We discussed our concerns and offered suggestions. In addition, I met on three other occasions to illustrate the shortages of this document and how it has adversely affected our community.

As I was excluded from the original

process, I had no opportunity for input. However, the United Way has agreed to form a committee to help oversee this project. I will be a member and will ensure the data and information is accurate! As well I am working with them to bring forward a true reflection of Spryfield which would include data from the entire community not just a portion of it. We will focus on family income statistics, educational achievement and crime statistics. Further, the United Way will be issuing a clarifying letter to help address the report's shortfalls.

As with any community in Nova Scotia, there are some neighborhoods that need some help whether it be learning job skills, getting a better education or reading and writing. Some are less fortunate than others. This document was intended to identify those that need some form of intervention, however, it did not. It simply made broad all-encompassing statements with little if any data support. As I write this column I am continuing to research the methods and data used.

With some hard work, and efforts to rebuild confidence in this project, I am sure that some benefit may be realized. The first step is to include all residents, not just a few.

One of the main reasons I chose to offer for Councillor in 1991 was to help address the negative and unfair portrayal of Spryfield.

Never did I think I would have to tackle this from inside the community.

The tenders for the next phase of the Herring Cove Water and Sewer Project have closed and staff is evaluating them. I expect that we will be approving these at Council in the very near future.

There have been rumours circulating regarding the Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre and suggestions that it was going to close, although the recent area rate ballot found there is enough support in the community to ensure its ongoing success. As well, money has been set aside by HRM and the Centre will not be closing. Further to this you can expect to see additional improvements in the next few months.

In closing, I wish to extend my heartfelt sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Ron Kidston in the tragic loss of their son Ryan. My thoughts and prayers are with the families.



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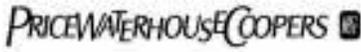
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Cowie Hill power issue almost resolved, says MLA

By Graham Steele, Halifax Fairview MLA

The Utility and Review Board has set aside the first week of May to hear evidence and make a decision about the Cowie Hill power line issue. Things are coming to a head, so I thought this would be a good time to provide an update.

To understand the issue, we have to go back to when Cowie Hill was built in the early 1970s. Electrical wiring was buried in trenches. This left Cowie Hill without power poles or overhead wires, making the neighbourhood look good and cutting down on power outages.

NSP bankrolled the underground installation, and recouped its costs by charging a little extra on every resident's power bill. This extra charge lasted for 30 years and has only just ended.

For the past several years, NSP has been saying that the underground electrical system must be replaced. Their position has been that they will replace the underground system with poles and overhead wires. NSP's position has been that, if the residents want to keep an underground system, the residents will have to pay for it. The cost: over \$2 million.

Needless to say, \$2 million is a financial burden that the homeowners of Cowie Hill would find very difficult to bear. Fortunately, Cowie Hill is organized into four condominium corporations. And the corporations have banded together to fight for fair treatment of Cowie Hill's homeowners.

A few representative homeowners filed a complaint with the Utility and Review Board,

which has to approve NSP's capital spending. After several lengthy delays, the hearing has been set for May 1 to 5. Since I have taken a great personal interest in this issue, I applied to be a "formal intervener," meaning I have the right to present evidence, question witnesses and make submissions. It also means I get a copy of all documents pertaining to the hearing. With the support of Councillor Linda Mosher, whose district includes Cowie Hill, the Halifax Regional Municipality is also a formal intervener.

Let me compliment the Boards of Directors of the four corporations for their professional approach. Among other things, they jointly hired a lawyer. Most importantly, they have united to protect their members' interests.

Recently, NSP very substantially revised its proposal. I do not have the space here to describe the new proposal in detail. Let me say only that, if the condo corporations and the UARB reach agreement, it will leave most of the wiring underground, at a very low or possibly no cost to Cowie Hill homeowners. There

are still some questions about the proposal that need to be answered, but it is a big, big improvement over what was on the table before.

I very much encourage any Cowie Hill homeowner who may be reading this to pay very close attention to any information you get from your condominium corporation about the NSP proposal. Your Board of Directors has been working hard to get NSP to this point and they need you to help "close the deal." And then, once and for all, the Cowie Hill power line issue will be resolved.

Afghanistan – Where are the answers?

By Alexa McDonough, MP Halifax

Even after April's special debate in Parliament, Canadians are still looking for a clear plan from government for our soldiers in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper spent weeks calling debate unnecessary, even "dangerous." To his credit, he changed his mind, though he didn't permit the vote he'd promised before the election.

Since 2003, Canadian Forces had been part of an international security force around Kabul. In late 2005, our troops moved to the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom, a controversial counter-insurgent mission in the rural south. That was part of a reorganization that would see NATO take over this mission, which has not happened.

In debate, Jack Layton, NDP Defence Critic Dawn Black and I put a dozen straightforward questions to Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor. What is Canada's specific plan in Afghanistan? What does success look like? How long will it take? What's our exit strategy?

The Minister's responses were disappointing, especially since he'd asked many of the same questions mere months ago in opposition. Merely repeating that he "supports our troops" can't substitute for specific answers about our goals in Afghanistan.

Canada has committed troops to this mission until February 2007. Canada will keep that commitment, all parties agree. But Canadians still need to see a plan they can support. The NDP is also calling for a vote in Parliament on any new military commitments.

I am pleased to share with you, excerpts from my remarks during that important debate in the House of Commons:

"At the outset I want to associate myself without reservation with the expressions of support by my leader and my colleagues for the brave men and women who are now serving in Afghanistan, particularly under the desperately dangerous conditions in Kandahar.

I want to add my heartfelt condolences to the loved ones of the 11 soldiers and the one senior diplomat who lost their lives in Afghanistan. As the mother of two sons, each with two young families, I can identify with the agony and the grief felt by the families of our soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Halifax is a military town. The city I represent is home to a vast number of military personnel who have served our country and who are committed to going on serving our country. There are no armed forces in the

world better trained or more committed than the Canadian military.

My understanding is that the majority of troops who will be deployed in Kandahar in the second half of the current mission will be deployed from the Maritimes primarily.

Some people ask, if I support the troops in their mission, how can I and my colleagues ask questions? I have to say that throughout my 26 years in public life, it has always been my belief that the ultimate loyalty to our troops and to their families is to ask the very questions that they are not free to ask. They are not free to ask those questions. They accept that when they enter the military and are deployed, they serve without asking questions. They trust their parliamentarians to ensure that the mission is achievable, that it is in accordance with Canadian values and that it is also in accordance with our international obligations.

I have concerns around the whole question about the mixing of war fighting and peace support operations. When we raise those concerns we are told that this is not like Pearsonian peacekeeping and that we are stuck in the past. We understand that it is not Pearsonian peacekeeping, but we also understand that there is a very negative legacy throughout south and east Afghanistan from the heavy-handed tactics of the Americans. When Canadian Forces go into those villages where the Americans have been, they face desperate, desperate conditions. It is very hard to hunt down Taliban at the same time the Canadian forces present themselves as the ones who are rebuilding Afghanistan."

Do not hesitate to share with me your issues and concerns. Hearing from you remains the most rewarding part of my job!

Graham Steele

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Harrietsfield Community Centre Third Monday of each month	9:30 - 11 am
Cornerstone Family Centre Fourth Monday of each month	9:30 - 11 am



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LOCAL OBITUARIES

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd.

CAMPAGNA, Marjorie Christina - Enfolded in the compassionate care and love of her family, Marjorie Christina Campagna, died at home. A loving wife, mother, and a cherished friend, Marjorie had a spirit and zest for life that brought joy to all who knew her. Born in Halifax, she was a daughter of the late Charles Seymour and Christina May (Richard) Brown. She was the last surviving member of her Brown family, and was predeceased by her siblings, Wallace, Walter, Edith and Charles. She is survived by her husband, Donald J.; son, Wayne (Cathy Ryan), Fort McMurray, Alta.; daughters, Sharon (Clary) Croft, Halifax; Darlene Charron, Toronto; Marie (Robert) Corbett, Ketch Harbour; stepson, Donald (Jean Scott), Halifax; and grandson, Steven Charron, Toronto. Marjorie was predeceased by infant children, David and Diane.

SLAUNWHITE, Joseph Basil "Joe" - 57, Dartmouth, passed away in the VG Site, QEII, Halifax. Born in Halifax, he was a son of Auldon Slaunwhite and the late Lillian Slaunwhite. Joe worked for Metro Transit. He is survived by his

loving daughter, Sylvia Slaunwhite and grandchildren Anthony and Diamante, Toronto; he will be missed by his soul mate, Donelida Slawter, Dartmouth; sisters, Sylvia Billard, Spryfield; Geraldine Smith, Terence Bay; Dorothy Slaunwhite, Spryfield; Joanny Little, Prospect; brothers, Lester, Halifax; Johnny (Belinda), Dartmouth; Rickey, Terence Bay; David, Sackville. Joe was predeceased by his wife, Josephine (Hollett) Slaunwhite; brother, Cecile. Joe will also be missed by his extended family and friends that he acquired over the years from Toronto. Cremation has taken place under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., Spryfield.

MARRIOTT, James Douglas "Doug" - 80, Halifax. It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to our family patriarch and historian, mentor and much-loved father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. Born in Halifax, he was a son of the late Reuben and Elizabeth (Bellefontaine) Marriott. Doug's strong commitment to family and generosity to all touched

many lives. His stories of early days in Kline Heights and Spryfield are a legacy that will be long-remembered. Throughout his career in the Army Wear-Ever, Ben's Bakery, and as operator of Marriott's Esso, his work ethic and loyalty was well-known to those with whom he worked and his customers. He is survived by his children, Angela (Andy Cataford), Kapuskasing, Ont.; Joanne (Wayne Thorne) and Janet (Charles Weir Jr.), Halifax; Jerry, Toronto. He will be greatly missed by siblings, David (Beverly), Bruce (Marion), Bernadette (Harry Irons), all of Halifax; Marjorie (Gordon Breton), Hantsport; Viola (Jack MacIntyre), Moncton; Edna (James Pardy), British Columbia; sisters-in-law, Doris and Lorraine; brother-in-law, Keith Wells; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Beatrice (Doucette) Marriott; brothers, Joseph, Reuben; sister, Madeline. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., Spryfield (477-5601). Interment was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Lower Sackville.

SMITH, Douglas Edward - 68, Duncan's Cove, passed away at home. Born in Sambro, he was a son of the late Arthur and Hilda (Gilkie) Smith. Douglas worked at the dockyards as a sheet metal worker for 20 years. He is survived by son, Douglas Jr.; daughters, Cheryl and Donna; step-daughter, Lynn; brother, Allen Smith, Massachusetts; sisters, Margaret Fraser, Portuguese Cove; Vel (George) Franz, Long Island, N.Y.; Barbara Cook, Digby; Dorothy Topple, Halifax; Linda Gray, Pennant; and very close friend, Perry Smith, Duncan's Cove.

Action report skewed

continued from pg. 8

and credible organizations such as the United Way work diligently towards creating a positive vision for Spryfield, as opposed to perpetuating negativity. There has already been expressions of dissatisfaction with the negative slant of the report from community members.

If the United Way's purpose is to develop a community then it should encourage a process that focuses on building upon community assets and a go forward approach.

The "7 Pillars of Community" outlined in the report are a good framework for asset mapping and initiating positive change. Unfortunately each of these pillars are diminished with arbitrary statements that foster negativity and therefore defeat the purpose. While on one hand it is necessary to recognize a community's weaknesses, along with its strengths, it's quite another to tell residents that they are obese, inactive, uneducated, poor people that have health problems, no influence, and live in run down housing. This is not a "balanced" approach.

The municipally owned Captain William Spry Centre has been providing office space, capital funds and in kind services for the Board of Directors and ANC. Recently Councillor Adams and I, as ex-officio board members, met with the rest of the Board who indicated that they did not endorse the ANC report, nor had input. Therefore it is misleading that the report includes endorsement from the Captain Spry Centre Board of Directors. Since this is not an accurate depiction, I have insisted that the logo and references be removed or covered from all existing and future copies of this document.

I personally feel that the report was well intended, but unfortunately the end product perpetuates the very issues that it was intended to assist the community with. It is my hope that proper data can be generated and analysis can be made based on fact, not skewed data

and people's opinions. If one segment of Spryfield requires specific resources to assist residents than this can point the community in the right direction. It can also assess Spryfield as a whole and the community can move forward in a positive direction, building on the many strengths that already exist.

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Lions Club Events

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 Doors Open - Sellers - 8 am
 Doors Open - Buyers - 9 am to 1 pm
 For Tables Please Call 479 - 2917

Bingo

Thursday and Sunday evenings
 Recreation Centre - Behind
 Spryfield Lions Rink
 Doors Open 6 pm
 Mini Bingo 6:30 pm
 Regular Bingo 7:30 pm

Crib Play

Call for details

Lions Club Objectives

Our Motto - 'We Serve'

- L - Liberty
- I - Intelligence
- O - Our
- N - Nation's
- S - Safety

The Spryfield Lions Club meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. For information or to book space in our Club Board Room, Recreation Centre or Den call 479-2917

The Spryfield Lioness Club meets the First Tuesday of each month. For more information on the Spryfield Lioness please call 479-2917.



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

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

Minor Softball Registration

The Harrietsfield Williamswood Minor Softball registration for five to twelve year olds will be held at the Harrietsfield Community Centre May 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. For more information contact Tim Rose at 475-1739 or Greg Finanders at 475-1440.

Plant Sale

The Urban Farm Museum Society will hold its Annual Plant Sale at the Captain William Spry Community Centre May 13 from 10 to 11:30 am. For information contact Pat MacLean at 477-6087.

Spring Bingo

The Ecole Chebucto Heights Elementary Home and School Association will hold its Annual Spring Merchandise Bingo and Silent Auction at the Spryfield Legion on Sunday, May 28. Doors open 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Twenty-two games will be played, many wonderful items and gift certificates to be won! 50/50 Draw, Canteen available. Please note this is a non-smoking event. For further information, please contact Janice Purdy at 477-1859 or Tara Irons at 479-2417. All welcome.

Concerned about your use of Tobacco?

Addiction Services will be holding one of their "Getting Started" sessions on Wednesday May 10, from 6 to 7 pm in room number 3 at the Captain William Spry Centre. This is an excellent information session for people wishing to quit smoking. Information will include: approaches to quitting, services available and what to expect from quitting. No registration is required nor is there any fee. Everyone is welcome. For more information you may call our smoking cessation line at 424-2025 or Gordon Power, 479-4494 at the Spry Centre.



Calvary United Church members held a craft and bake sale this month at South Centre Mall.

TAG Yard Sale

The annual TAG Yard Sale in support of the Building fund will be held on Saturday May 27, rain date May 28. TAG is looking for "quality" items for the upscale section of the sale. If you have items to donate, or want to volunteer to help, please call John Gratwick at 423-1606.

Primary Registration

Central Spryfield is now registering for Primary for the upcoming 2006-2007 school year. A child must have reached his or her fifth birthday on or before October 1, 2006. Parents and Guardians must present the child's birth certificate, proof of residence, health card number and expiry date at the time of registration. The school will announce the date for primary orientation at a later date. For more information, please call 479 4286.

Dinner Theatre

St. James Dinner Theater, Sambro, will present "Whose Garden" May 5, 6, 12 and 13. Your choice of lobster or roast beef. Tickets are \$25.00 and go on sale March 13th. Contact Eva Mae at 868-2660 for tickets or information.

Heritage Society AGM

The Mainland South Heritage Society's AGM will take place Thursday, May 25 at the Captain William Spry Community Centre at 7 pm. Following a short meeting, guest speaker Heather Watts will give an illustrated talk called "Polar Bears and Ptarmigans: Down's Zoological Garden, 1847-1872." All welcome.

Residents Meet

Spryfield Residents' Association will meet Wednesday May 24 at 7 pm, Captain William Spry Community Centre.

Farm Society Meets

Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield will meet Monday, May 8 at 7 pm at the Captain William Spry Community Centre.

Young at Heart Club

The following are monthly events at the Young at Heart Club. For information call Joan at 443-1067. First Saturday each month - Dance - 8 to 11 pm - Old Time Country and Fiddle Band: First Tuesday of each month - General Meeting - New Members welcome: All other Tuesdays - Choir 1 pm: Thursdays - Crib 1:30 pm - Darts 7 pm. For Hall rentals call Lynn at 477-5195. May 10 7 pm - Penny Auction. A light lunch will be served.

Next at TAG

Red Hot and Cole April 27 to May 13 - Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 pm with matinees Sunday May 7 and Saturday May 13 at 2 pm. Box office opens April 6. For Reservations visit www.tagtheatre.com or <http://www.tagtheatre.com/> or Call 477 2663.

Class Reunion

The J.L. Ilsley Class of 1986 is planning a 20-year reunion this summer to be held August 10 to 12. For more information the website is provided or you could contact Peter Jollimore or David Jollimore at djollimore@yahoo.com.

Lacrosse Registration

Halifax SW Hurricanes Lacrosse Club is currently taking registrations for the upcoming lacrosse season. Registration forms are available on-line at www.eTeamz.com/HalifaxLacrosse. For more information contact Michelle Brewer at 479-2257.

Legion Notes

The following events will be held at the Earl Francis Memorial Legion: Bingo - Every Sunday beginning at 1 pm - doors open at noon; Karaoke - May 12 and 15 - 9 pm to 1 am - Members and Guests welcome: Senior Dances - May 1 and 15 - 1 to 5 pm - Featuring Newfie George.

Library Happenings:

Children's Programs
Baby's First Books - Ages 0-18 months - Wednesdays/1:30 p.m.
Let your little one experience the words and pictures in books, the rhythm and rhyme of music and the fun of play. These are the first steps to learning and literacy. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. Registration required -30 mins.
Board Game Night - Ages 11-18 - Thursday, May 4 and June 1 at 6:30 p.m. - Love to play board games? Join us for an evening full of fun and laughter as we play the night away. Board games will be supplied. -90 mins.
Teen Zone - Computer Drop-in - Thursdays May 18 and June 22 - 6:30 to 8:30 pm - Ages 13 to 18 - Bring your friends and play on computers fully equipped for chatting, web surfing, word processing, e-mailing and more. No library card needed.
Reading Support
Children's Reading Support-Tuesdays to Thursdays 3:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 pm - Call 490-5818 to register.
Adult programs:
Book Discussion Group for Adults- The Captain Spry Book Discussion Group is a great way to meet new people and share the enjoyment of good books in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. Wednesday, May 17 - 7 p.m. - Felicia's Journey by William Trevor.
Literacy and Upgrading - Tuesdays/9:30 am -12:30 pm and 5:30 - 8:30 pm - Thursdays/9:30 am-12:30 p.m. - Improve your reading, writing and math skills with Halifax Public Libraries and the Halifax Community Learning Network. The programs are free and open to all adult learners in need of basic education upgrading. Call Linda at 490-5715.

Lions Club Meets

Want to be part of a great tradition and help make your community a better place to live and work. The Spryfield and Area Lions Club meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month to learn and work toward making this community a better place. For information on becoming a member contact King Lion Darrell Wentzell at 477-3664.

Air Cadets Meet Weekly

The Armdale Kiwanis Air Cadet Squadron 529 meets each Monday evening at Elizabeth Sutherland School from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. All new members, both male and female, between the ages of 12 and 19 years, are welcome to attend and join.

Business Commission Meetings

The Spryfield and District Business Commission holds monthly meetings the second Monday of every month at the Captain William Spry Community Centre. The meetings are open to interested persons.

PACED Meetings

The People Around Communities Every Day organization meets the fourth Monday of every month at the Captain William Spry Community Centre at 7:30 p.m. People interested in improving their local community are encouraged to attend.

Chebucto News Business Directory
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