

Chebucto News

Vol. 10 • No. 9 • February 2009

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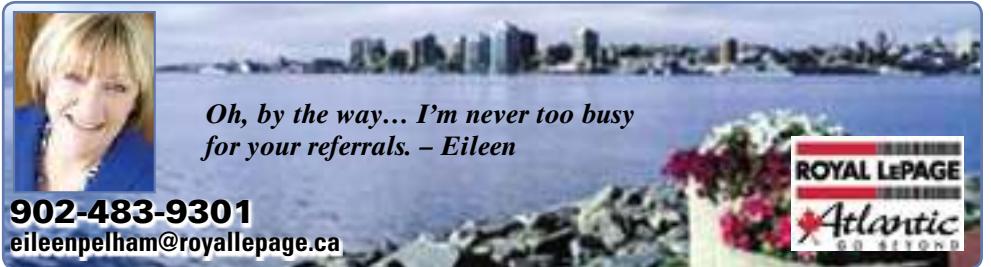
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Mishoo's Variety – A true community store changes hands

by Chris Mills

I'm scheduled to interview Diana Elcheikh at 9:30 on a Monday morning – a quiet time, she assures me – but when I enter Mishoo's store in Sambro, she's already in a meeting with a supplier. Diana apologizes and offers me a coffee, and I settle in near the pizza warmer to

wait for a slice of interview time. A series of small interruptions follows: the phone rings, a customer walks in for a paper and a litre of milk, then another phone call. Diana, energetic and brown-eyed, handles it all with good humour and efficiency.

That's a good thing, considering she owns the store. Diana and her husband Esber bought

Mishoo's in December of 2008, taking over from long-time owner Mike Saoud. Diana's smile and constant good cheer belie the long hours she puts in – she's cleaning up the store at 7 AM, and then she takes a few moments to have a coffee and “just absorb the scenery,” which includes a view of the protected waters of Indian Harbour.

Then it's time to unlock the door and

welcome the steady stream of locals and passers-by who stop in for groceries, videos, cigarettes, a case of beer, or an order from the store's take out.

Diana is there through it all and she admits the line between personal life and business is pretty hazy, especially since her work day wraps up at about 11 PM. Not only does she live above

see “Mishoos” pg. 2



Angie Flemming and Diana Elcheikh. Service with a smile at Mishoo's store in Sambro. photo: Chris Mills

New home for the NSLC in Spryfield

by Chris Mills

The liquor store in Spryfield is on the move. After more than two decades at the South Centre Mall location on Dentith Road, the NSLC outlet will soon be replaced by a state-of-the-art site just up the road at Sobey's.

According to Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation spokesman Rick Perkins, the NSLC spent about two years discussing options for a new outlet with both Superstore and Sobeys. “It turned out in this case,” he says, “that one responded quicker than the other.”

Perkins describes the current liquor outlet as long overdue for upgrades to “standards that people have come to expect.” Those standards include a larger retail area, more selection and what the NSLC says is a more visible location on the Herring Cove Road.

Perkins says other factors influenced the decision to move. “We had no room to expand at South Centre. That store was far too small for the amount of business it's doing.” That “business” represents a hefty chunk of change, at more than \$8 million in sales each year, according to Perkins.

The move would appear to be a blow to the beleaguered South Centre Mall, which has seen several businesses come and go over the past few years. There is no food court anymore. The little Tim Horton's shop closed up a couple of years ago. The place has a well-used feel to it.

But according to mall administrator Tanya Reddick, the loss of the liquor store is not a nail in South Centre's coffin. She concedes that “initially, it will slow traffic.” But Reddick says plans are already underway for a renovation of the NSLC space and after that, she says “traffic will go through the roof.”

She's reluctant to share future plans for the mall, but Reddick says the “re-development” will include more retail outlets. “It's time for a change,” she says.

Across the way at Superstore, grocery store manager Mike MacIntyre says he doesn't anticipate a major downturn in business when the NSLC moves. In the same breath though, he adds, “at least I hope it doesn't affect business.” MacIntyre says he hasn't even heard what business will replace the liquor store.

Back at NSLC headquarters, Rick Perkins is optimistic about a January 29th opening

see “The News” pg. 2

see “The NSLC” pg. 5

Next generation carries on Chebucto News tradition

As you likely already know, the proud owner of the Chebucto News has passed on.

For the past decade my dad, Reg Horner, ran this paper with a dedication and smoothness like no other. I hope to continue to provide the community with a newspaper that reflects the people, the businesses and the issues facing them.

Community papers are an important source of news that isn't negative towards the people they serve. The Chebucto News is distributed to help make you feel good about where you live, to inform you about events

and happenings and to assist businesses in the community.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be a publisher of any newspaper, but when the opportunity came I did what I thought was right.

For those in the community that I have not met, I'd like to tell you a bit about myself.

I am a full time student at the NSCC Waterfront Campus where I am studying to become an Environmental Engineer. It would be a stretch to suggest there is a link between engineering and journalism, but publishing a

newspaper is a great challenge for me. I'm 21 years old, I have a diploma in Horticulture, and enjoy all sports, especially hockey. Other interests include music, movies and playing pool. If you shop at Sobeys in Spryfield, you have probably seen me working the cash machines there for the past year. I love to be busy and to meet the people that my father held in such high regard.

I moved to Spryfield in 1998 with my dad. That's ten years of documenting everything



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Mishoo's Variety – a true community store changes hands

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the store with her husband and two children, it's open seven days a week. It's a huge investment of time and effort for someone who ran a variety store in Halifax for a decade and had almost decided to make a living in a different way.

"We were getting out of the corner store business, because we wanted a family life," she says. But it turned out that running the store in town, coupled with her job at the hospital and Esber's time on the road as along-haul trucker, were getting in the way of family life.

When Diana learned that Mishoo's was for sale, she told her husband "I'm buying it!" She did, and today, while her husband leaves the house early to open up their Halifax store, Diana

heads downstairs to greet the day.

It's a big job. Diana has to compete with big box stores just 20 minutes away, but the fact doesn't faze her. "If people can get [products here] for the same price, it saves them a trip to town," she says. And she's sure that service with a smile will keep customers coming. "What makes my store stand out," she says, "is that I know you, I know your wife, your kids, I know what movie you rented last night, what [products] you buy. It's my job to know that."

She pauses for a moment and adds, "That means you're not a customer anymore. You're a friend." By all accounts, she's right on the money. Patrick Gray is a local fisherman who stops in at Mishoo's just about every day. He

describes Diana as "a people person with a lot of character." Gray also firmly believes that the store provides an essential service in a coastal community with three fish plants and dozens of hungry workers. "People should support the store and the takeout," he says, adding that the business not only serves local residents, but the crews of the transient fishing fleet, and in the summer, thousands of sun-seekers heading to nearby Crystal Crescent Beach.

Diana admits she has her hands full with a busy enterprise. She also knows she has some big shoes to fill. Former owner Mike Saoud ran Mishoo's for almost five years, and he was known locally for his friendly service and hard work. Diana has plans to maintain Mike's high

level of customer service...while at the same time "personalizing" the store. "I want to get involved in the community," she says, "and help take care of the people." Diana plans to help out with local events such as Sou'wester days, and maintain a relationship with the local elementary school – which buys food from the attached takeout run by Randy and Nada Zakhour.

It's almost 10:30 and it's getting busy at Mishoo's. Clerk and all-around store expert Angie Flemming arrives for work and the customers roll in. Diana is ready for a long day, but to her it's not a chore. "If you love what you do," she says "you don't feel it all." And as the self-described "city slicker" says, her family has found a true home in Sambro.

Chebucto News

continued from pg. 1

that happens in this community. Here is where you, the reader, come in. I need your help.

If there is something going on in the community that you feel should be in the paper, I encourage you to call or write anytime (our contact information is located above the community events). I'd also appreciate hearing any suggestions for improvements or additions to the publication.

Thanks to everyone who continues to read and support the Chebucto News, for helping us keep the community informed. With your help I am hoping the next ten years will be as exciting and rewarding as the past ten years of service to the Spryfield area. Best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2009!



Jonny Horner

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Duties and Area of Responsibilities include:

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| 2. Member Liaison | 5. Financial Administration |
| 3. Marketing and Promotion | 6. Planning and Research |

Person with 2-3 days per week (on average) of time to devote to commission business. Ideal for early trainee or person with a business or professional background who wants to stay active. Excellent communication skills, knowledge of planning, community development, strategic planning and awareness of the political process and all major assets.

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Shriners are more than funny hats and motor bikes

Before you read any further, ask yourself this question. What do I know about the Shriners? If your answer was, the guys that show up at the parades wearing the funny hats and driving the small motor bikes, then your answer was the same as mine.

When I first went to meet with Bassam (Sam) Nahas, the newly elected potentate of the Philae Temple, which encompasses Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, that was his first question to me, and I gave him the same answer as I gave you above.

In only a few minutes with Nahas I knew I was way off the mark.

What you may not know is that the

Shriners are a multi-national, non-profit organization dedicated to helping children all over North America.

The first Shriners temple was organized back in 1872 in New York City. Since then it has grown, with 191 Shriners temples, 375,000 members and 22 Shriners hospitals in North America. There are twenty Shriners hospitals in the United States, one in Mexico and one in Montreal.

Sam's big goal as the new potentate is to let people know what the Shriners stand for and that is to bring happiness to children less fortunate.

A Shriners hospital offers care at no cost to the families of children in need. This care

includes transportation, housing, food, and hospital bills. A lot of the money comes right out of the pockets of the caring members of the Shriners.

The Shriners care goes out to children up to 18 years of age. The services they provide include burn treatment and care, orthopedic assistance for conditions such as clubfoot, limb deficiencies and spinal cord injuries.

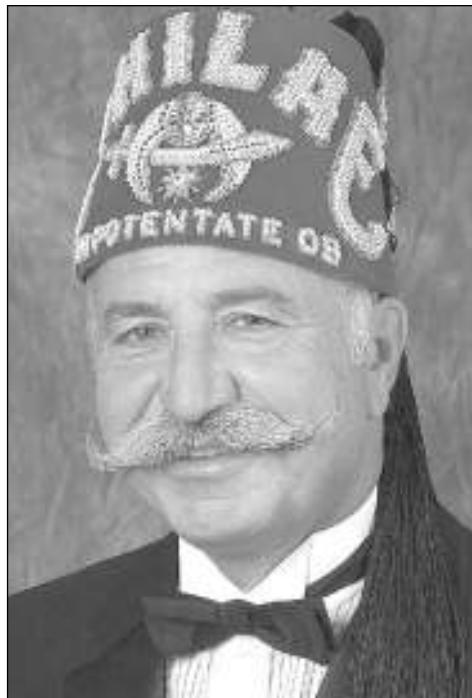
Of course all is free of charge to the children and their parents or guardians.

The Shriners Hospital budget is \$826 million per year, or about \$2.26 million per day. That is just the hospital costs.

Other costs, such as transportation and housing, all come right out of the pockets of the proud Shriners members.

In 2007, the Shriners Hospital treated 125,125 patients. Over 865,000 have been helped overall.

If you would like to get in touch with the organization you can call toll free at 1-800-361-7256. For more information go to the Shriners website at www.shrinershospital.org.



Bassam (Sam) Nahas

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FREE. Monday, February 19th, 1-5pm.

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Monday, February 16th – *Cinnamon Wedges with Apple Salsa; Citrus Quinoa Salad; Salmon with Orange Ginger Marinade*

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Where: Sambro Elementary School

RSVP: Pat Dempsey, school secretary, at 868-2717 or ses@hrsbc.ns.ca

Hosted by Sambro Elementary School, Chebucto West Community

Health Board and Public Health Services.





DISCOVERING OUR PAST



The Pine Grove Hotel — A Spryfield Landmark for 65 Years

By Iris V. Shea

In 1893, William Topple purchased 35 acres of land on the Herring Cove Road from Mary Ann Gray, the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Drysdale) Yeadon. The land was part of the 1771 grant to Captain William Spry, acquired by the Yeadons in the 1830s from the estate of George McIntosh, Esq., and deeded to their daughter just before her father's death in 1849. It was here, on what is now the corner of Herring Cove Road and Pinegrove Drive, that Topple built his hotel. In 2009, a Tim Horton's Coffee Shop is located on the same property.

In 1875, at the age of fifteen years, William Topple emigrated from England to Halifax with his parents and siblings. He became a member of the militia and was part of the Halifax contingent to fight in the Riel Rebellion. By 1893, his family consisted of a wife, five children and a mother-in-law. Four more children were born in Spryfield. An early photograph shows the hotel as a basic two-story house, but it soon became necessary to add more rooms, large enough to accommodate his increasing family and Spryfield's first store. He added a barn, a carriage house and a stable. In 1908, William Topple sold his thriving business to Roland Lockhart, who owned hotels on Quinpool Road and St. Margaret's Bay Road. Topple moved his family to Jollimore where he established the Lower Arm Confectionery and became the first Superintendent of Fleming Park, a position he held for 25 years (from 1913 to 1937). He served as the Councillor for District 14 (Armdale) for seventeen years.

Spryfield was not well populated in 1893. The only other buildings on the Herring Cove Road between Cowie Hill and the hotel were those owned and occupied by the Yeadon family. Just south of the hotel was the home of Frederick and Sarah Jane Oakley and the new public school (the little red school house). At Long Lake Dam the dam-keeper's house was occupied by the family of George and Christie Nicholson. Established family farms were located to the west (Kidston's and Sutherland's) and further south along the Herring Cove Road were Brunts, Oakleys and the Bishop family.

It was apparent that William Topple was aware of Spryfield's potential. Sports enthusiasts from Halifax were attracted to

the surrounding lakes, streams and forests. Halifax newspapers loved to print the stories about the sports fishermen who boasted of the dozens of trout they caught daily in Bennett's and Doyle's Lakes in Harrietsfield and in the McIntosh Run in Spryfield. Residents and visitors traveling along the Herring Cove Road from Halifax to Harrietsfield, and to Herring Cove, Ketch Harbour and Sambro, all well populated communities, stopped at the Pinegrove to rest their horses and partake of refreshments. In particular, visitors to the Micmac Game and Fish Club in Harrietsfield, Halifax's elite, travelled through Spryfield by horse and carriage, stopping to relax at the Pinegrove.

An advertisement in McAlpine's 1907-08 Directory, page 608, appeared as follows: PINEGROVE HOTEL, SPRYFIELD, NOVA SCOTIA. THIS HOTEL IS SITUATED FIVE MILES FROM HALIFAX POST OFFICE. AN EXCELLENT DRIVE, WITH GOOD ROADS. A VERY PLEASANT OUTING IN THE HEART OF A GOOD FISHING LOCALITY. Stabling and all other Accommodations. Licensed house. Meals and Accommodations at all Hours.

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The Pinegrove Hotel, 1907

provided employment for many local and out of town labourers, and the Pinegrove Hotel accommodated them. The hotel was a stopping place for soldiers stationed at Camperdown near Portuguese Cove and others from York Redoubt. A well-traveled road from Ferguson's Cove, across Pine Island Runs and the barrens, emerged about 2.5 kilometres

south of the hotel, near Princeton Avenue. The old road to St. Margaret's Bay was well traveled through Spryfield to Goodwood.

Robinson's Tours of Halifax offered regular sight-seeing tours by wagon to the Rockingstone and to Sambro. The Acadian Recorder, 18 January 1915, reported that the male staff of M.S. Brown and Company, Limited, were holding their annual sleigh drive to the Pinegrove Hotel that afternoon.

During World War I, soldiers were stationed at Spryfield and Harrietsfield, protecting the Halifax water supply at Long Lake and Spruce Hill Lake from possible sabotage and boarded at the Pinegrove Hotel. All of these factors contributed to the popularity and success of the hotel, which was an important part of the social life of Spryfield during the early years of the 20th century.

By the 1930s, as transportation and roads to and from Halifax improved, it became apparent that Spryfield no longer needed a hotel. Although it retained its name, the Pinegrove Hotel was converted to a rooming house, with three apartments added at the back of the building. Progress prevailed, however, and the old Pinegrove Hotel was torn down in 1959 to make way for a service station.

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New home for the NSLC in Spryfield

continued from pg. 1

for the new outlet. "It's our second or third store that's been built at a much higher environmental level than our previous stores," he says. In plain language, that means a "greener" facility, with more environmentally responsible construction methods and materials, as well as reduced heat, water and energy requirements.

Staff at the current NSLC outlet say the move might affect some of their walking customers, but most seem excited to be moving to a larger, more modern facility. Outside, some mall patrons say they won't miss the

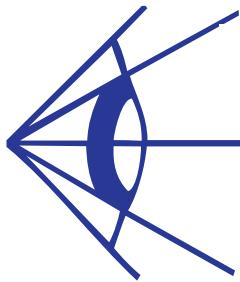
parking snarls and dangerous situations caused by from liquor store customers who park illegally in the fire lane in front of the store, while they nip in for a case and a quart.

The new location has a total of 9,000 square feet of retail space, which is about 1,200 feet more than the current store. Perkins says customers will enjoy their shopping experience, with wider aisles, a walk-in cooler and a larger selection of products.

He is certain that the NSLC and Sobey's will benefit from the pairing of businesses. "We're now a destination shopping location," he says. "It's a big draw for the grocery store that has us attached, versus that one that doesn't."



The NSLC's new location opens on January 29th.



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Housing: A win-win-win investment – Leslie

by Megan Leslie, MP for Halifax

Housing and homelessness have received an unprecedented amount of attention in the media lately. As a committed advocate for housing rights, I am pleased to see so much attention paid to a situation that the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee declared a National Disaster Relief Ten Year ago. Economists and politicians alike are now speaking in unison about the economic benefits of investing in this sector while at the same time helping people off the streets and into stable, safe and affordable homes.

But why this dramatic about-face? How did housing go from being completely absent in the November 19 Speech from the Throne, to being recognized by Members from all parties as a wise investment? The answer: it makes good economic sense.

Nationally, there are about 1.4 million people in “core housing need.” A Canadian is in “core housing need” if he or she spends more than 30 per cent of before-tax earnings on shelter. According to a study by Halifax Regional Municipality from 2003, the number here in our community is around 25,180. This number is dire enough. The added stress of an economic recession and massive job losses means that the existing housing stock will not even come close to accommodating those who will need it.

On January 9th, a group of local reporters braved the cold to join me for a press conference in an empty lot in the north end. Presently used as a parking lot, the site is actually slated for the construction of affordable housing. The non-profit Creighton-Gerrish Development Association has secured this piece of land and is ready to get started – all that’s missing is a willing funding partner. I wanted to have the press conference here to illustrate that Halifax has no shortage of willing, active community members who are ready to invest time and effort into ensuring that everyone has access to adequate shelter.

To talk about the job-creation benefits of this type of investment, I invited Peter Greer from the Carpenter’s Union (Local 83). He talked about the skilled workers who were out of work during the last recession, and how the lack of apprenticeships and training during this time caused the skill shortage that we find in the skilled trades today. He also talked about construction workers moving west to Alberta for jobs, and how they could be put to work here at home.

And it’s not just the employment line that stands to be affected. Building housing

means that materials can be sourced right here in Canada, preventing the stimulus “leakage” that economists warn us can come from other measures, like tax cuts.

Carol Charlebois of Metro Non-Profit Housing Association was also present at our press conference and made a compelling case for the poverty-reduction aspects of affordable housing. We know that having access to affordable housing allows people to be healthier, keep their jobs and move out of poverty and into prosperity.

The third area in which we can see strong results through smart investments in housing, is in the construction of environmentally sound

buildings, and Jennifer Corson from Solterre Designs shed some light on how building new housing the right way can reduce our carbon footprint. Housing that is energy-efficient helps all tenants and homeowners save money and it helps us all meet our responsibilities of dealing with climate change. It also increases opportunity for our tradespeople to join the ‘green jobs’ workforce and develop skills that are already in high demand.

It’s clear that meaningful investment in affordable housing is a win-win-win situation. It helps address an urgent lack of available units, it helps us innovate while helping meet our environmental goals, and it is one of the

best forms of economic stimulus in a recession. New Democrats have long called for a National Housing Strategy that would help ensure national standards in the provision of housing while respecting the jurisdiction of the provinces. We support an expanded role for the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation and have consistently argued for increased funding. They’re good ideas, period.

Regardless of what happens in Ottawa with confidence motions and political maneuvering, I’m confident that this newfound attention to housing will have a lasting impact on public policy. That’s good news for our community, the environment and the economy.

Community helps fire victims, others in need

by Stephen Adams, Councillor, District 18,

On Wednesday, January 14, 2009, a fire broke out in an apartment building located at 538 Herring Cove Road. With the quick response of Halifax Fire Services and neighbours, no lives were lost. Some residents were taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

When the fire was extinguished many organizations came together to help those residents in need. The Regional Police ensured traffic was well controlled and the Red Cross was on-site to assess the needs of those residents who needed assistance.

Moreover, there were many others who participated to help. Metro Transit had two buses available which served as temporary shelters to keep residents and workers out of the cold.

The buses also offered a comfortable place for the Red Cross to offer their services. My sincerest appreciation goes out to Transit Operators Steven Field and Sean Byrne, and supervisor Jim Fog. Your efforts did not go unrecognized.

As we quickly learned, residents needed somewhere to stay for at least the night. A call to Lion’s Club member Carl White and a subsequent call to Wallace Thompson resolved that dilemma quickly. The Spryfield Lions Club offered the Lion’s Den to house these residents.

Wallace and his wife, Kim, opened the Den, got it ready, put salt outside to clear the ice, and bought coffee an anticipation of a long night. They then took the time to show workers the features of the Den, and stayed

well into the night to ensure everyone was comfortable. All this on an evening which they had planned to be off.

The SPCA was on-site to help care for the pets in the building. Sadly, one cat did die as a result of the fire, and one is still missing. He is white with grey dabs. Please call the SPCA if you see him.

Tim Hortons as always, were very generous. They supplied a large carafe of coffee, donuts, muffins and biscuits for workers and residents alike. My thanks goes to Judy, Sam and the staff at the Osbourne street location. Shoppers Drug Mart supplied comics, see-a-word and crossword puzzles, free of charge. Thank you Ruthanne and Dominic.

Michele Raymond was also on hand, working tirelessly to ensure residents were comfortable and to look for resources for the long-term as well. I am sure that displaced residents took comfort in knowing they were not alone, and that they had an entire community on their side.

Finally, a sincere thank you to Platoon Chief Mike Blackburn of the Regional Fire Services. At the scene, his professionalism and demeanor gave a feeling of confidence and security to all those affected.

Moreover, there is a second part to Platoon Chief Mike Blackburn’s activity. After the scene had been secured, he went to the Lion’s Den to see what he could do to help. There was one gentleman who had come from work. Because of the weather, he had wet feet and was chilled. He went to his vehicle and gave this gentleman a clean pair of socks and a clean t-shirt. That is as close to giving someone “the shirt off your back” as I have seen.

I am pleased with the efforts of all involved. I am proud of those “unsung heroes” who helped make a difference.

The lights at Old Sambro Road and Northwest Arm Drive are now installed and flashing. After the appropriate time frame has lapsed, they will be fully functional.

Our Capital Budget deliberations will be held in March, which will provide a framework for projects throughout HRM for the next year. I have asked for a playground and park upgrades and monies to build a storm sewer for Ivylea Crescent. I will have a better idea of the projects that will be recommended as we approach our deliberation.

On January 20th, council approved a motion to give \$100,000 to the Spryfield Lions Club for a new zamboni and oil tank/line replacement. This will ensure reliable ice surfacing, and could help prevent possible oil contamination.

HRM identified gravel roads in a former County of Halifax to be considered for paving. This is a program known as “Aid to Municipalities,” whereby HRM submits possible streets for paving and the province prioritizes these to become part of the overall paving program.

The following streets, in no particular order, have been submitted for consideration: Francie Drive; Steven Murphy Drive; Sarah Ingram Drive; Charles Mills Drive; Charles Meade Drive; Gordon Stewart Drive.

Once the provincial government determines their priorities the paving will begin. We hope this will start this year.

Stephen Adams

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Volunteerism, Sportsmanship and Great Role Models

by Linda Mosher, Councillor, District 17,

Nova Scotians have a history of being caring and dedicated volunteers. This distinction is very prevalent in HRM and in our district, where we have many people who spend countless hours in community involvement and volunteer efforts. We are very fortunate that residents expend their time and energy volunteering in our communities and without their assistance, many programs and services would simply not be possible.

Recently District 17 resident, Bassam (Sam) Nahas was installed as the Potentate of the Shriners of Philae Temple for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Sam has retired from his business duties for one year to devote his time to Shriners. They provide assistance to send children and their parent or guardian to our hospitals. They provide unique health care to children and support costs such as transportation, lodging, food and any required medical expenses. Congratulations Sam and Mrs. Nahas (Linda), we appreciate your generosity, hard work and dedication.

There are many volunteers in sports. Their participation is vital to the success of recreation programs and events. Volunteers also serve as positive role models for youth who are taking part in activities. It is imperative that all adults involved in the sports are cognizant that their actions can greatly impact the youth. We have either seen or heard stories of violence that has erupted from parents in rinks over a kid's hockey game. Fortunately our local hockey associations have adopted standards such as the Rink Behavior Policy, adhering to

the Hockey Canada Mission statement: that "We dedicate ourselves to the advancement of amateur hockey for all individuals through progressive leadership by ensuring meaningful opportunities and enjoyable experiences in a safe sportsman-like environment." The Central Minor Hockey Federation policy is to "ensure the environment in which minor hockey activities take place is as positive as possible for all participants." The Chebucto Minor Hockey Association Code of Conduct for Coaches includes the vow: "I will be a positive role model to my players. I will maintain my self control at all times and be alert to the physical safety of players... I will show respect for on-ice and off-ice officials, players on both teams, and coaches at all times."

Last summer I took my nine-year-old nephew to his soccer game in Fairview. The coach from the opposing team yelled and

screamed at his players the entire game. It was not only embarrassing to watch but heart-breaking to think that those kids had to endure his verbally abusive and aggressive manner. His continual screaming at them made it seem like a life-or-death match. It was a 10-and-under soccer match! It is important that children who participate in sports have fun, are active, and have a positive experience. The long-term affects of having a coach like this are unmeasurable but certainly his behavior will have an impact. At a tournament in December I witnessed another incident in my chosen sport, taekwondo. One of the coaches verbally berated the three judges and the referee and the head-referee. He was verbally abusive during the entire match and following the match. He felt that the fighter from his school should have been awarded more points. Fortunately in our sport they now have electronic scoring and in

order for a point to be awarded at least two out of the three judges must score a point within the time limit. This ensures fairness in scoring.

Unfortunately the coach displayed un-sportsman-like conduct and people in the entire gym had to endure it. The children that were present may now think that whining and complaining is part of the sport. The fighter may have mistakenly thought that he should have won. In any sport, it is important to carry oneself in a manner that positively impacts the sport and encourages good sportsmanship. Hopefully soccer and taekwondo in HRM will adopt appropriate Codes of Conduct.

It is an honour to have so many dedicated volunteers in our district and it is greatly appreciated when they are appointed to such prestigious positions, such as Mr. Nahas, and his recent installment to the position of Potentate to the Philae Shriners Temple.

Rural stabilization a hopeful message

by Michèle Raymond, MLA, Halifax Atlantic

Last Tuesday, when a million people filled the Washington Mall in a dense, breathing, jubilant mosaic like none ever seen before, they were celebrating many things.

Many were celebrating the near-miracle that an African-American had been elected president of the United States, in a country whose history has been largely defined by the relationship of its black and white inhabitants.

Others were rejoicing because the election of

Barack Obama also represents the triumph of accommodation over polarization, in a country whose history has been largely defined by the polarization of the relationship between different races.

Over and over again, people spoke of 'hope,' even in countries whose most profound dramas are not about race, but about other conflicts between opposing groups.

Watching the celebration, and seeing how it was echoed around the world, I thought of how polarization has been used in our own province, and how, in the political world, one sometimes watches the deliberate creation of conflict.

One of the most persistent attempts to create conflict is in the past few years' talk of the 'urban-rural split' among Nova Scotians, as though those who live in 'cities' are different people from those who live 'in the country,' with utterly different beliefs. I deeply disagree with this opportunistic attempt to set the province's people at odds.

I first heard this great divide invoked during the Law Amendments Committee hearings on the Off Highway Vehicles Act; there was a constant undercurrent from the governing party that 'urban' people were trying to tell 'rural' people what to do. Yet when asked, farmers, foresters and hunters – rural dwellers – had the same comments as urban dwellers on the impact of the vehicles.

Later, in the hearings on downtown development, there was an attempt to claim that built heritage matters only to city-dwellers. Yet people from all over the province had comments

on the historic core of Halifax, and felt it should be protected as a provincial resource. The mere fact that the Citadel is in HRM does not make it purely the concern of its neighbours.

Most recently, the creation of the new Department of Economic and Rural Development seems aimed towards an artificial distinction between rural and urban dwellers.

I have always argued that we should be talking not about "Rural Development" (after all, the conclusion of development is an urban centre), but about "Rural Stabilization".

The lack of public transit between rural centers, the closing and consolidation of small, local schools, the closure of hospitals, restrictive zoning in outlying areas of larger municipalities, the lack of access to seniors care, are the real threat to rural lifestyles. If we maintain these basic community resources, rural communities can survive in a relatively self-sufficient fashion, as they always have.

"Development" raises the spectra of competition for resources, of one's growth at another's expense. A new industry, or economic development vehicle (like a new port facility or call centre), may be available to only one community at a time. It may be placed in a rural or an urban area. Yet if we talk of development as the only key to survival, we have lost on many fronts – not least in setting one community against another, and in the polarization of rural vs urban.

If we work to accommodate our various communities, then there is real reason for hope, in Nova Scotia, and in the world at large.



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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 rhorer@ns.sympatico.ca

Urban Farm Monthly Meeting

The Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield will meet on Monday, Feb.9 @ 7pm at the Capt.Wm. Spry Community Centre. Everyone Welcome!! For information concerning membership and events please call Pat 477-6087 jamac@ns.sympatico.ca or visit our web site www.urbanfarmspryfield.com

Mid-winter Tea

Saturday, February 14, 2009 1:00 TO 3:30 PM
Emmanuel Church Hall, 322 Herring Cove Road, Spryfield. \$6.00 Sandwiches and Elegant Desserts

For advance tickets call Sarah 477-7304 or Liz 477-7992 Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon! Also The Emmanuel Church hall will be having a Pancake supper on Tuesday February 24 from 4pm to 6pm.

Encore

Encore program is an exercise and information program for women who have survived breast cancer. It is free of charge and is held at the Captain William Spry Centre starting January 20 for eight weeks from 7:00 to 9:00PM. There are pool and land exercises each week and guest speakers or special activities. To register please call Carolyn at 479-1111.

Valentine's Dance

Earl Francis Spryfield Legion is having a Valentine's dances on Saturday February 14 from 9 to 1am.

Winter Walk Day

Any day in February, 2009. Schools or youth groups may register at <http://www.taketheroofoffwinter.ca> and receive a kit along with ten free toques. Winter Walk Day is a partnership of Active & Safe Routes to School and Take The Roof Off Winter, which promotes healthy outdoor winter activity in Nova Scotia.

Let's Do Lunch!

Interested in earning income in the New Year? Is so, the EXCEL Child Care Program is currently recruiting additional lunch monitors for our lunch program at William King Elementary. Shifts average approximately 1 hrs per day. The hourly wage is \$10.59/hr plus 4% vacation pay. Call Angela George at 464-2000 ext. 2493 or email him at ageorge@hrsb.ns.ca for more details on the job opportunities available. More info on our opportunities can also be found on the HRSB website at www.hrsb.ns.ca.

LOCAL OBITUARIES

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd.

JOHNSTON, Karl Lewis – 59, Williamswood/Rawdon, passed away December 29, 2008, in Colchester Regional Hospital, Truro. Born in Halifax, he was a son of Vera (Swinehammer) Johnston, Upper Rawdon and the late Donald Johnston. Karl was an avid hunter and fisherman. He served as an altar boy at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. He served with the Armed Forces Artillery Division for five years. Karl was employed at the City Field for seventeen years. He was also employed with Corp of Commissioners for several years and was posted with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. He was a founding member of the Harrietsfield Volunteer Fire Department, he also volunteered with many other organizations such as the Para Olympic Games, Red Cross and E.M.O., Scotian Bowman Archery Club. Karl enjoyed fishing at Two Lakes in back of his home and especially

in Sambro with his friends on the fishing boats. He is survived by a sister Karen and brother-in-law Keith King, Rawdon; nephew Brian King and partner Toni-May Sullivan, Rawdon; other friends and family. Cremation has taken place under the care and direction of Ettinger Funeral Home, Shubenacadie. No funeral service by the request of the deceased. The family will have a gathering on Saturday, January 3, 2009, beginning at 2 PM at the home of his mother and sister, 4127 Hwy 14, Upper Rawdon. Memorial donations may be made to Conservation Nova Scotia, Canadian Cancer Society or to his family. Family and friends may send condolences at www.MeM.com

PETTIPAS, Frederick Douglas: 90, Halifax, NS, passed away on Sunday, December 7th, 2008, at Northwood Manor, Halifax, NS. Born

in Portuguese Cove, NS, Fred was the son of the late Arthur and Ada (Fry) Pettipas. Fred enjoyed Northwood social activities, especially music and dancing. He is survived by sister, Laura Millington, brother, John niece, Geraldine Flemming, and nephews, Kevin Oakley, Wayne Shipley and Ken Shipley, all of Halifax, as well as great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, sister, Kathleen, and brother, Gerald. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make Fred comfortable with his stay for many years at Northwood.

Resting at J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Road, Halifax, NS (477.5601), where visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 from 12-2 PM, followed by a celebration of Fred's life beginning at 2PM in the funeral home. Interment will take place in St. Ann's Cemetery, Portuguese

Cove, NS. The family would appreciate remembrances to the charity of one's choice. Words of comfort may be sent to the family by visiting www.walkerfh.com

DERRING, Carol – 64, Spryfield, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, November 29, 2008 at home. Originally from Cape Breton, she was a daughter of the late Bernard Lewis and Marion (McIntire) MacKay. Carol is survived by her loving daughters Careylyn and Cheryl (Chris Saulnier) Derring; granddaughter Taylor Dawn Derring, all of Spryfield; sister Karlene (Richard) Boutlier, Toronto; brother Keith MacKay, Cape Breton; several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by brothers Bernard "Chubby" and Layton MacKay. Arrangements are under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Road, Spryfield (477-5601), where visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 2 from 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral service will be held Wednesday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m. in Emmanuel Anglican Church, with Rev. Diana Brett-Frye as celebrant. Donations in Carol's memory may be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association or the Heart and Stroke Foundation. On-line condolences may be sent to the family by visiting: www.walkerfh.com

NICHOLSON, Lydia Marie: 62, Spryfield. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing on Friday, November 28, 2008 in the QEII Hospital, Halifax, of our dear wife, mother, grandmother, and sister, Lydia Marie (Short) Nicholson. Born on May 27, 1946, in Port-aux-Basques, Newfoundland, she is the youngest daughter of Hezekiah William Short and Ella Ruth (Kelly) Short. She was a graduate of BC Silver High School, and then graduated from Miss Murphy's Business College. Lydia had been employed with the Provincial Government as a secretary. She is survived by her husband, Aubrey, sons, Brian (Shelley), Glenn (Janice), and Jimmie (Ruthann), brother, Clarence (Gail) Short, her grandchildren, Ashley, Jessica, Chad, Raymond, and Ryan, her nephews, Robert, Clarence, Shawn and Vincent, as well as many other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by brothers, Dennis and Herman Short, and sister, Dulcie Short.

Resting at J. Albert Walker Funeral Home (2005) Ltd., 149 Herring Cove Road, Halifax, NS (477.5601), where visitation will be held on Sunday from 2-4 and 7-9 PM. The funeral service will be held on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 10 AM from Emmanuel Anglican Church, with Rev. Dianna Brett-Frye as clergy. Interment will take place in Emmanuel Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's choice. Words of comfort may be sent to the family at www.walkerfh.com

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