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# Chebucto News

Vol.24 • No.6  
February 2023

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## Platinum Jubilee Medal presented to Iris Shea

Our very own local historian Iris Shea receiving the Platinum Jubilee Medal from MLA Brendan Maguire. Shea was one of sixteen people who received a Platinum Jubilee Medal in January. Also receiving a medal were, in alphabetical order: Brown, Marlene; Cameron, Gus; Cameron,

Andrea; Doherty, Dan; Fisher, Maryanne (Dr.); Fraser, Hugh; Glazebrook, Jim; Henneberry, Penelope; Khoury-Elcheikh, Diana; LaPierre, Brian; Merritt, Nicholas (Sergeant); Patrick, Nevawn (Sergeant); Saoud, Mike; Slade, Danny; and Woodman, Catherine.

The Platinum Jubilee Medal was created, in February 2022, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952. The medal honours those Nova Scotians who dedicate their time to making contributions to their community through volunteer service.

## Who, me? Volunteer?

Have you sometimes felt you'd like to meet some new people and maybe network? Or wanted to find some way to make a difference, now and for the future? Maybe develop your skills and learn new ones? Or get to know your community better or give back to your community?

Whether you're a long-time resident or fairly new, you may discover that volunteering meets a very human need to belong, to know that you matter.

Spryfield Community Association believes that our community's greatest strength is the people from many different backgrounds who recognize Spryfield as a great place to play, work, and raise a family; to shop, hike, relax, walk, run, swim in natural lakes and indoor waves, eat out, grow food, run a business, have backyard barbecues with friends, garden, sled, go to the library, bowl, bicycle...

Spryfield Community Association engages residents and collaborates with others to help realize the potential of this area of Halifax. The association would love to have you join and become involved, and you can find out more about the group's activities at <https://myspryfield.org/>. So, please come to meet us and hear for yourself what we are about. You can also call 211, or contact Chebucto Connections at (902) 477-0964 or <https://chebuctoconnections.ca/> for help finding more groups that might interest you.

Volunteers do many different things. Broadly speaking, there are four kinds of skills that groups need: practical skills, communication skills, event and program skills, and board (See *Who, me? Volunteer?* on page 2)

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# Credit Union Atlantic's 2023 Community Development Program announced

Applications are now open for Credit Union Atlantic's (CUA's) 2023 Community Investment Grant Program.

With \$100,000 available, small businesses, non-profits, community groups and leaders across Nova Scotia are encouraged to apply.

Since its inception in 2015, the Program has evolved significantly in terms of funding and provincial scope. Over the past eight years, the Program has received over 1,500 applications and awarded funding to 95 grant recipients totaling more than \$350,000.

"We're excited to see it growing alongside our recipients," says Marie Mullally, CUA's President and CEO. "We've discovered these investments are about much more than money to the recipients; it's a vote of confidence that says we believe in you, we value your work, and we want to be part of your future."

Former grant recipient Chelsey Schmuland, owner of Hive to Home, agrees. "It truly felt like CUA was cheering for Hive to Home. The genuine support and encouragement were beyond anything I expected."

To date, the Program has awarded grants to 95 local businesses, initiatives, and organizations across Nova Scotia. For 2023, funds will be allocated in five categories:

1. Small Business (\$30,000): Supports small businesses and social enterprises with a strategic investment to be used for new equipment, technology, operational design or e-commerce.

2. Community (\$25,000): For non-profit organizations and community associations to make a one-time investment to enhance their impact on clients and communities.

3. Health, Wellness and Recreation (\$15,000): Supports programs or initiatives in the areas of financial health, mental health, food security, sport or physical fitness.

4. Sustainability (\$15,000): Supports programs or initiatives that promote positive environmental

impacts and sustainability efforts with a measurable impact on the environment, ecosystem and biodiversity.

5. Arts and Culture (\$15,000): For small businesses, non-profits and community organizations preserving or promoting elements of heritage or artistic expression.

Applications can be submitted online at [cua.com/grants](http://cua.com/grants) and will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. AST on February 10, 2023.

## Who, me? Volunteer?

*(continued from page 1)*  
skills. Most people feel comfortable in one area but not others, which is why it's so important to have different kinds of people volunteering so that groups have a variety of skills on which to draw.

It's normal to feel a bit shy or uncomfortable attending a meeting or doing a volunteer activity for the first time or two, but if you have an

interest in something, it's a good idea to keep participating. It usually takes people about seven times of seeing you to think of you as one of their own, so hang in there and keep attending meetings or doing various volunteer activities if the topic is of interest to you. Volunteering may be right up your alley, but you'll never know unless you give it a try.



## Chebucto News

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**Editor:** Tangelene Ramsay,  
[chebuctoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:chebuctoeditor@gmail.com)

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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.

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**Advertising Inquiries:**

Dan Doherty 902-479-6397  
[dan@dandoherty.ca](mailto:dan@dandoherty.ca)

**Design and Layout:**

Sharon Ward Graphic Design  
Phone: 902-406-1305  
[wards@eastlink.ca](mailto:wards@eastlink.ca)

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# Parkhill United Church passes on

by Sheila and Hugh Kindred

Parkhill United Church, at 5 Kirk Road in Jollimore, has a new future. After thoughtful deliberation, its few remaining active members decided last June to seek amalgamation with its sister church, St James United in Sambro. Members of St James have welcomed the idea and arrangements were made for amalgamation of the two churches on December 31, 2022. Since no more services are being held in the Parkhill Church building, it will be repurposed. Under the directions of the United Church of Canada, it must be sold at a fair market price. It is currently listed for sale as suitable for another faith community or conversion to a new function.

After 70 years of worship and service in the community of Jollimore, a celebration was held on Advent Sunday, November 27, 2022, to recall the passage of those years. An interactive service of remembrance, with hymns and choruses used in different periods of the church's life, was followed by a social gathering around a large cake with tea, coffee and Orange Crush. Here are some reminiscences about life at Parkhill Church that were offered on that occasion.

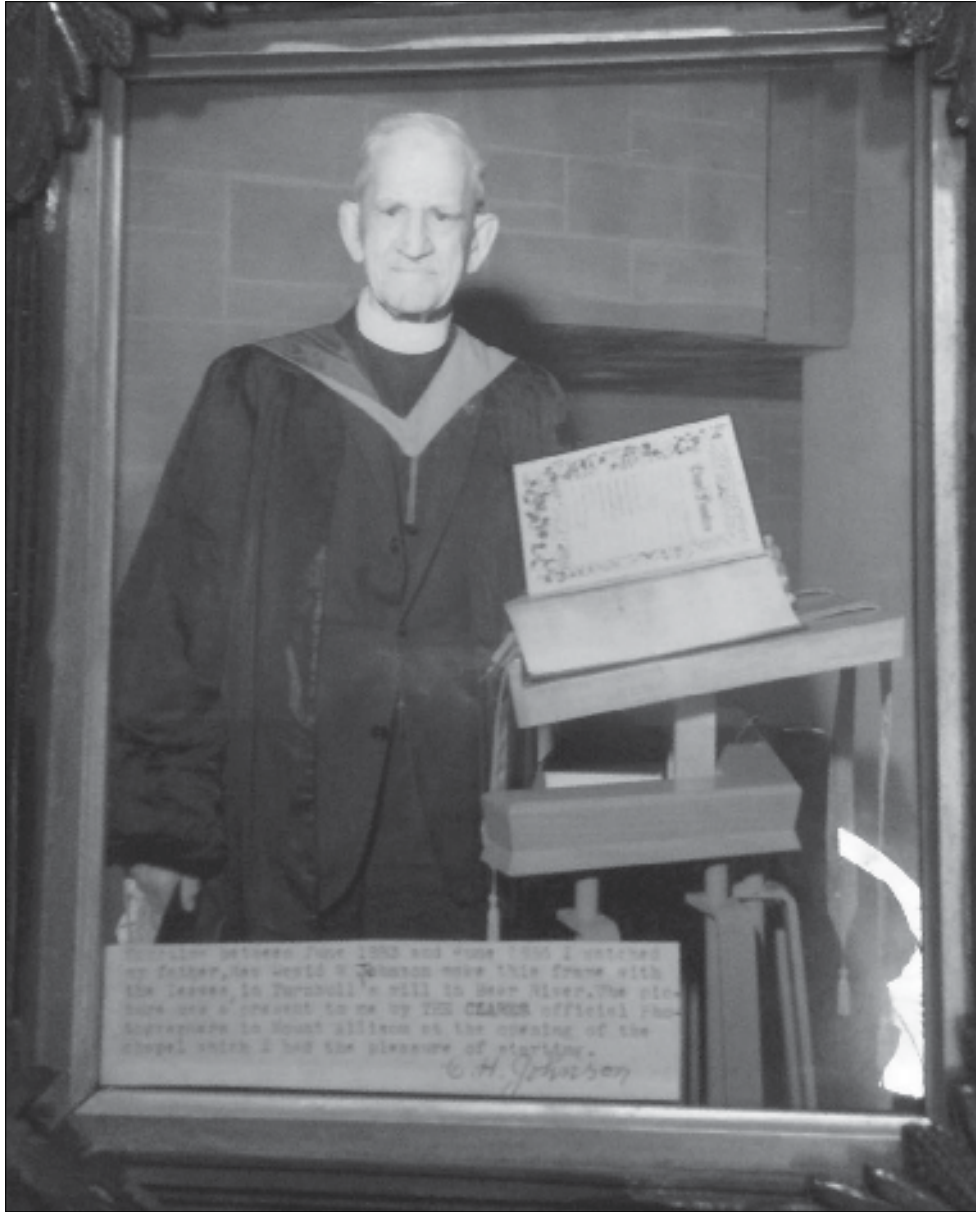
## Ogilvie Flour and Orange Crush: Brave and Dedicated Beginnings

Some churches are built to purpose, according to the wishes of the founding congregation. Other times individuals and families come together to worship in whatever local location is available for their use. The 16 folk who made up the first congregation of Parkhill United made their first church home in a disused Jollimore corner store, the Northwest Arm Cooperative. Amid the signs for Ogilvie Flour and Orange Crush, this dedicated group, under the initial leadership of retired minister Dr. Charles H. Johnson, worshiped together for the first time on December 30, 1951.

It looked different then! On that first Sunday, the worshippers perched on planks covered with brown paper and sang hymns to the accompaniment of an old fashion parlour organ lent by a very supportive neighbour, Fred Bignall. The next year the building was purchased and major renovations began. Soon a fine bell tower and vestry were in place—all due to the vigorous efforts of Fred Bignall, members of the congregation, and the various student ministers who followed Dr. Johnson. A basement was excavated out of bluestone and granite and in this added space a kitchen and Sunday School facilities were built. It has been rightly said that this was a church founded on a rock.

In 1961 the Church combined with Long Pond United and St James United, Sambro to form a Pastoral Charge. In 1995 the Long Pond Church closed and the Parkhill congregation was happy to welcome members of that congregation as part of Parkhill United Church.

Dr Bordon Tupper was the first regular ordained minister, followed by



Founding minister, Dr. Charles H Johnson

Revs James Martell, William van Zoost, James Hicks, Richard Fairchild, Robert Zinck, Dale Chisholm, Anne Singer, Heather Landry, Keltie Van Binsbergen and Helene Burns. Memorable support and leadership was also provided by Rev Ellen Wilson and the late Rev Trevor Phillips.

## Life at Parkhill United Church

The life of Parkhill Church was anchored in the traditional practices of Sunday Worship and Bible study groups, though there was much variety in the way these were conducted over the years. In times past a choir augmented the singing in church and occasionally contributed to special joint services at St James United, Sambro.

From the earliest days the women of the church began fundraising. They became the forebears of Parkhill's United Church Women, a vibrant group held together by bonds of worship, service and conviviality to this day.

For many years the church offered Sunday School to a fluctuating number of children who were taught imaginatively by a dedicated group of church members. The children explored a biblically based curriculum, enjoying the various creative activities it offered. Evidence of their imagination and artistry can be seen in the church's unique stained glass windows. They display Christmas and Lenten themes as well as several exuberant angels and a travelling Magi or Wise Man. Several banners made by the Sunday School also hang in the sanctuary. For many years an in-house written Christmas pageant was a highlight of the Advent season.

A variety of ways were used to tell the Christmas story, a narrative which left space for lots of music, flocks of shepherds and sheep, a host of angels and, of course, the Holy Family.

Each year in June a Sunday School picnic was held, initially in Fleming Park, to which all members of the church and their families were invited. On these occasions a large potluck meal was shared, and many vigorous games were played by young and old together. These included egg and spoon races, three legged races, sack races and tug of war. Teams competed enthusiastically for the Jollimore Olympic trophy. One year there was no winner for the tug of war because the mighty power of the participants snapped the rope and both teams tumbled over backwards!

Other social activities were held during the year in the church hall below the sanctuary. These included celebrations after baptisms and other special occasions, and social evenings at which films were shown or the singing of "old favourites", both spiritual and secular, took place. For nearly twenty years, Sid Hughes orchestrated a festive brunch on the Sunday after Easter which he dubbed the Big Boys Breakfast. The men of the church sang a unique chorus, also of Sid's devising, before serving a choice of hot or cold meals that included porridge, pancakes, kippers, scrambled eggs, muffins, breads, cold meats, cheese and fruit with fruit juices, tea and coffee. What a choice!

## Connecting in the Community

In many ways, the Church connected with all ages in the neighbouring com-

munity. It celebrated Christmas with the spirit of the season. Members and neighbours carolled together in all weather, for many years as a strolling group from door to door. More recently, the carol singing began outside in the parking lot around a snowy Christmas tree. Then the assembled party went inside the warm sanctuary for more Christmas songs and subsequently downstairs to the hall for a hot drink and treats. On these occasions, a star was lighted on the church tower and the Christmas tree was illuminated, all as a fundraiser for the Family Resources Institute, Spryfield. During the COVID pandemic, on Christmas Eve 2021 a record number of over 100 neighbours gathered in the parking lot to celebrate Christmas in song.

The church provided a welcome space for community activities. In earlier years it hosted lively mother and tot play groups; in recent years it provided space for musical activity, especially for the local quintet, Fifth Wind. At various times, it was used for rehearsals by Theatre Arts Guild productions, for practice by a local bagpiper, for singing harmony workshops with Betty Belmore, and for community meetings. Joyful Meet and Greet Concerts were held in the church and the popular Little Neighbourhood Library was located in the woodland on the property.

Spring and Fall Sales were successfully mounted, offering the community a variety of donated goods at bargain prices. They always included a large, attractive and popular garden stall. The food was also a great attraction, be it a chance for coffee and a muffin with a neighbour or the opportunity to store up on delicious Jollimore jams and jellies, loaves, cookies and pies. Games were also played, notably the chance to win a cake or a jar of jellybeans by estimating its weight or their number.

The church bell, formerly a train bell, was rung in moments of grief and in remembrance in the presence of community, such as at the time of the Portapique mass murders, and on the anniversaries of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Lastly but not least, for decades Parkhill United Church has provided financial support to many causes, including the United Church's Mission and Service Fund, the Family Resources Institute, Spryfield, Phoenix Youth Programs, the Spryfield Food Bank, The Rev Trevor Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund at Dalhousie, and more recently the Halifax Refugee Clinic.

Share your thoughts and opinions with us: [chebuctoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:chebuctoeditor@gmail.com)

## DISCOVERING OUR PAST

### History of Number 10 Kirk Road in Jollimore

by Iris Shea

In September 2010 approximately 80 people attended a public meeting to hear about plans for the subdivision of the property at 10 Kirk Road in Jollimore. Its new owners, Marterra Incorporated, applied for and were given Municipal Heritage Status for the four houses on the property. The main house is an Arts and Craft Design built by architect William Brown in 1914 for Dr. R. Evatt Mathers who gave it the Gaelic name, Finntigh Mara. To make the subdivision a viable “bare land condominium” project in 2010, it would be necessary to build 11 new single family dwellings. The proposed development, however, did not happen and a few years later the property went on the market, as did the company known as Marterra, Inc.

What four buildings were on this heritage property in 2010? The oldest building was built in 1864-65 as a summer cottage for world renowned conchologist (shell collector) John Robert Willis. He donated some of his shell collections to Acadia College in Wolfville, the Smithsonian Institute, Kings College in Windsor, the British Museum, and Boston’s Natural History Museum. In his collections were many shells from the North West Arm. Willis was Superintendent of Halifax’s Industrial School and Secretary to the Board of School Commissioners. The two-story wooden structure had been moved to this property in 1916 from its original location on the neighbouring lot. It was called the “Pool House” or “Shanty” by previous owners.

The second house on the property was the Gatehouse or Gardener’s Cottage which could be seen from the Kirk Road entrance to the property. This was also a two-story wooden structure, built in about 1906 by Amos Slaunwhite who owned and occupied the house with his family for many years. Slaunwhite was an expert stone cutter. Throughout the community of Jollimore one may see some of his handiwork in the old stone walls, especially the walls along McManus Road, Kirk Road, and the massive stone wall beside the Arts and Crafts house at 10 Kirk Road. Amos Slaunwhite died in 1927 and his heirs sold the Gatehouse and lot to Dr. Mathers.

A 3rd cottage on the property is known as The Roost, built by Amos Slaunwhite as a rental cottage during the first decade of the 1900s. Dr. Mathers leased the Roost and the shoreline property before purchasing it from Slaunwhite in 1913. The Arts and Craft house was built on the property in 1914. Dr. Mathers was born in Halifax to Irish parents, was educated at Dalhousie University, studied Medicine in New York, and completed his Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat



Gatehouse, photo credit Iris V. Shea 2010. This former Heritage House at 10 Kirk Road was demolished in 2022



Pool Shanty, photo credit Iris V. Shea 2010 This former Heritage House at 10 Kirk Road was demolished in 2022

specialty at Bellevue Hospital. He returned to Halifax in 1901 and went into partnership with Dr. A.E. Doull in 1904. They set up their practice in 1909 in a new building, now called the Mathers and Doull Building at 518 Morris Street. That building now has municipal heritage status.

Dr. Mathers built a cement salt water pool in 1937, one that, according to Halifax newspapers, “would rival those in Hollywood”. The young people of Jollimore certainly welcomed the pool, using it for a swim when they thought the doctor was not at home. Dr. Mathers bought a dog, hoping to deter the uninvited guests, but the dog, whose name was Ballard, thrived on the extra attention that the intruders gave him. On one occasion a group of girls pooled their money and bought a pound of hamburger meat which certainly took care of the dog that day. The pool remains on the property in 2023.

In 1944 Gerald Martin, Chartered

Accountant, purchased the three-acre property as his permanent residence and bought another half-acre in 1955 from his neighbor John Cruickshank. In 1964 Martin’s daughter Kathleen Finley and her family became the owners of 10 Kirk Road, moving into the Arts and Craft house. The property and houses were well maintained, and two additions were later added to the Arts and Craft house. In 2009 the Finley sons put the property on the market. Marterra Inc. was just what they were looking for, someone who had an interest in conservation and in heritage properties.

Moving forward to 2022, the following remarks may be seen on the HRM website under Active Development Applications: “An application by McKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects on behalf of a property owner has requested to enter into a heritage agreement on lands at 10 Kirk Road, Halifax, to permit a 15-unit bare land condominium on a registered heritage

property.”

In 2022 the two oldest buildings on the property, the Pool Shanty and the Gate House, were demolished. The HRM website has this to say: “Upon review by HRM building officials in 2022 it was determined that the Pool Shanty and the Gatehouse are in a serious state of disrepair and would require extensive intervention and renovation to be brought up to Building Code standards, which would compromise the structures. As these out-buildings were not considered Character-Defining Elements on the property registration, heritage staff gave permission for the applicant to apply for a demolition permit for both the Pool Shanty and the Gatehouse. The applicant intends to retain the outbuilding known as the Roost.”

Before Regional Council can make any decision about the application, a public open house and a public hearing will be held. Stay up to date on news about this property by accessing Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) website under Active Development Applications, Case 24505 - 10 Kirk Road, Halifax.

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# A Rotary moment



## From The Rotary Club of Halifax North West

Welcome to the newsletter from the Rotary Club of Halifax North West, where we share the club's and Rotary's news and activities with the communities we serve. This issue highlights Rotary's Area of Focus for February, Peace Building and Conflict Prevention. We also include exciting information about our Adventure Club - 2023 Edition.



that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts. By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peacebuilding today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

Rotary has four roles in promoting peace:

- Practitioners working to build optimal conditions for peaceful societies by fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, supporting education and improving the health of mothers and children;
- Educators in Rotary Peace Centres who train peace fellows to become catalysts for peace through careers in government, education and international organizations;
- Mediators who negotiate humanitarian ceasefires to allow polio vacci-

As Rotarians, we refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Today, over 70 million people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children. As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.

Rotary projects provide training

# The Maguire Report

by Brendan Maguire, MLA for Halifax Atlantic

This past month saw the passing of Victor Eisan. Victor, who passed away at age 88, was a lifelong Spryfield resident and volunteer. He was a dedicated member of the Spryfield Lions Club and spent his days volunteering, making our community a better place. I started this month with the passing of Vic because he was special to many people, including myself. I will miss his laugh, smile, and conversations. RIP, my friend.

### Healthcare concerns

This past month saw two NS healthcare stories make national news for tragic reasons. We now have a healthcare system where every single metric has gotten worse. NS went from first to worse in Covid stats. Wait times have gotten worse, and the need for a family physician wait list has doubled and is climbing faster than ever. Nova Scotia, under Tim Houston, has stopped reporting healthcare numbers and statistics. Tim Houston's first action when he got elected was to fire the Nova Scotia health board, which consisted of doctors and healthcare workers. This board was internationally recognized for its work, was nonpartisan, and was working on solutions that were showing results and improving our healthcare system.

Tim Houston then hired Karen Oldfield. Karen has no healthcare experience; she was a senior member of Tim's campaign and has helped raise

millions for Houston. Since this political hire, healthcare has gotten worse, faster than at any other point; this is the opinion of healthcare experts, not me. This is what happens when you put politics before healthcare. Leaders must be able to reflect and admit when they are wrong.

I get that Karen Oldfield raised money and got Tim Houston elected Premier and that he is committed to her. But he has to put the people of Nova Scotia before his ambition.

Admit you made a mistake, hire the right people, and we will ALL support you. I plan on holding a community healthcare conversation in the near future. I plan to invite Premier Houston and Karen Oldfield. We need to take the politics out of healthcare and all work together.

### Snow removal

We finally got snow! During and after snowstorms, I drive the entire community to check on the condition of the roads. I then report it back to the Department of Transportation and HRM. If your road has been missed or not done promptly, text me on my cell at 902-499-5500, and I will report it for you.

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nators to reach children at risk;

• Advocators who are respected and impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction – creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive and resilient.



After a very successful Rotary Adventure Club launch in 2022, we are launching the 2023 version, with

more exciting trips including Niagara Falls (\$2,600 value), a New York City getaway (\$3,300), Hockey Night in Las Vegas (\$3,000), Cabo San Lucas (\$4,700), Ireland (\$5,500) and a Sailing Trip off Croatia (\$7,200)! Tickets are \$100. The first draw for 2023 takes place on 14 March. To join and for more information, go to: <https://rotaryadventureclub.ca>

Our Rotary Club of Halifax North West welcomes everyone to explore community service with us! We pride ourselves on being diverse and inclusive – and we're friendly! We currently meet virtually every Tuesday from 11:45 to 1 pm. at Freeman's on Dutch Village Road in Fairview. For more information contact Roger Chiasson at [rogerchiasson305@gmail.com](mailto:rogerchiasson305@gmail.com) or 782 234 9408.

# Sammy says

The Sambro Area Community Association ("SACA") is pleased to be able to host their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper this year, after Covid put a damper on things the past few years.

On Tuesday, February 21 from 5-6:30 p.m. at St. James United Church Basement, 3811 Old Sambro Road in Sambro, SACA will serve up scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, juice, tea or coffee for just \$7 for Adults, \$4 for Kids age 5-12. Children under 5 are free!

This meal is eat-in, with takeout available upon request. Funds raised will go towards a future community centre and a mobility accessible fishing dock and picnic area at Grand Lake.

Save the date! SACA will be hosting the Shay & Mackay Memorial Fishing Derby on Sunday, May 28 at Grand Lake in Williamswood. Prizes, raffles, barbeque and more! Stay tuned for further details as the date draws closer.

And finally, we're excited to announce that Sambro Sou'Wester Days

WILL happen this year! Mark your calendars for August 11-13, 2023. Several of our event organizers have had to step back this year, so in the coming months we will be seeking volunteers to step in to fill those rolls. If you're interested in getting involved as an event organizer or volunteer, please reach out to Kim at 902-475-1583.

We hope you'll join us as we resume our event schedule post Covid restrictions. Any Public Health precautions that are in effect at the time of our events will be followed.

Sammy Sambro is SACA's mischievous mascot. You can follow him on Twitter and Facebook.



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# What's Happening



Hair Ice forming on a beech log along a woods path at the Farm. Photo: Joshua Barss Donham

by Ann Hart and Joshua Barss Donham

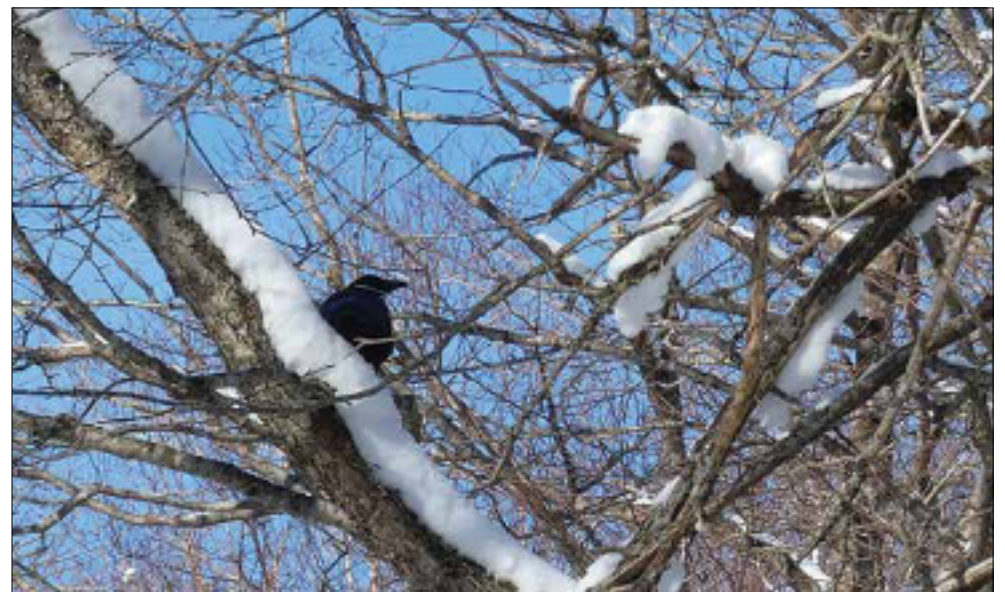
In February when the ground is frozen, snow and ice and cold are all around us, it is time to PLAN. We have seed catalogs spread out with checkmarks for our favourite plants, and for some new plants to try. There is still March and possibly April to daydream through before the real season for a gardening person can begin.

In the south-east corner of the Farm, on the woods path passing behind the shed, is a spot that is shady and humid in the summer. It is the place most favoured by the red-spotted salamanders who thrive in the moist environment. In winter this spot affords a glimpse of a beautiful, rare ice formation called hair ice. Hair ice requires specific conditions to occur: humidity, wet dead hardwood, a temperature just above freezing, and the presence of a specific fungus in the wood. The fungus prevents ice crystals from reforming, as in a layer of frost, but instead ice forms long thin strands, rising in clusters from the surface of the logs along the path like plumes of silk thread.

In winter, in the absence of leaves and vegetation, things hidden become visible; a robin's nest in an apple tree is marked with a dollop of snow, and a small cup woven by sparrows from grass and bark in a bush mere feet from a woods path entrance. High in a tangle of branches on a yellow birch, a crow's nest, previously obscured by leaves, stands out against the pale grey of the winter sky. Tracks in the snow reveal the movements of deer on the Farm, the shortcut they take between the apple trees and the woods, their visits to the perennial herb bed to dig beneath the snow for tender vegetation.

The Brown Creeper, a tiny bird that feeds by working its way up the tree trunks in a spiral in search of insect larva, inhabits the Farm year-round. In the summer, so well does it blend in with the tree bark on which it spends its time, it is rarely seen. In winter, when the trees are bare and

Below: A crow's call rings out in the stillness of the woods after a heavy snowfall. Photo: Ann Hart



The well-traveled path past the Farm after an overnight snowfall. Photo: Ann Hart

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# at the Urban Farm...

against a backdrop of white snow, it sometimes can be spotted in profile clinging to the side of a tree. However, often it is only in the stillness following a heavy snowfall that the thin shrill call it makes moving from one tree to the next betrays its presence.

There is colour on the Farm in midwinter. In the woods, evergreen ferns protrude from the snow and rows of turkey tail fungi sheathed in ice still show bands of blue and orange. Near a stone wall a Hobble bush already displays pale pink leaflets and flower buds which began forming in the fall. In the spring it leafs out weeks ahead of the maples that tower above it. A Japanese Andromeda bush by the perennial herb bed retains its leaves, dark green in winter. It too has flower buds, bright pink stemmed clusters of yellow buds, ready to bloom in April alongside the forsythia...a reminder of the colours of seasons past and the promise of warm days and growth to come.

The Urban Farm members are meeting, conferring, deciding directions to develop and grow for a new year of enjoyment and mutual endeavours. There are families, children, seniors who come to share the hillside with us when we open the gates as soon as the ground thaws and the green begins to appear. Not yet! This is a time to prepare. Spring is still a dream away.

“We are looking for board members and volunteers to help out in the upcoming growing season. We need to do garden repairs, but I’m excited to see what comes this growing season at the farm.” - President Matt Hawes

Farm Memberships available: Individuals \$10.00, Seniors/Students \$5.00, Families \$15.00, Groups/Organizations \$25.00. For info: [urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com](mailto:urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com), Pat MacLean: 902-497-3683, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117594394923932/> Website: [urbanfarm-museumspryfield.org](http://urbanfarm-museumspryfield.org)



Right:  
A Brown Creeper works its way up a tree trunk searching for insect larva.  
Photo: Joshua Barss Donham



Japanese Andromeda develops floral buds in late summer which bloom the following spring. Photo: Joshua Barss Donham



A bird's nest, previously hidden by foliage in summer, in a bush next to a woods path entrance. Photo: Joshua Barss Donham

# Environmental Stewards of Spryfield

by Cathy Vaughan

The United Nation's COP15 summit on saving the world's biodiversity was hosted in Montreal in December 2022 and was attended by key global decision-makers, international scientists and environmental conservationists from all over the world. Their mission was to identify attainable goals to protect nature and develop an action-plan to stop the loss of biodiversity on our planet.

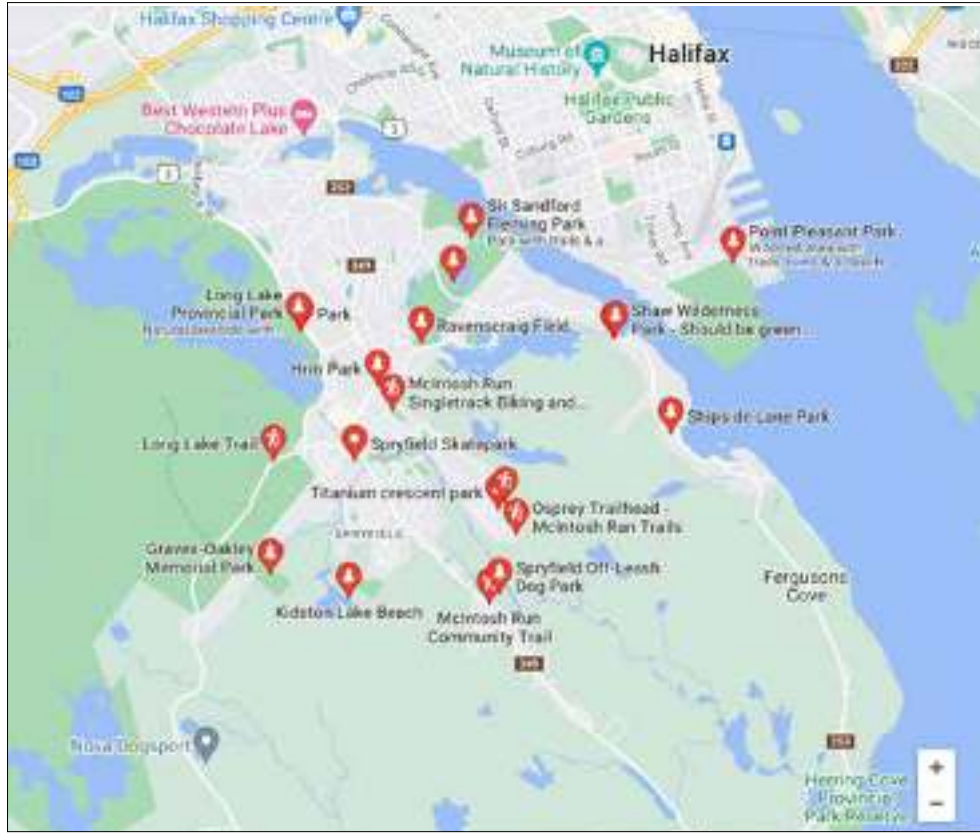
Biodiversity is a relatively new buzz word that we now frequently see in our daily social media. The scientific term is now firmly entrenched in our plebeian lexicon as we are bombarded with evidence of the impact of global climate change on our local wetlands, coastal shorelines, forest habitats and species at risk here in Nova Scotia.

In broad strokes, biodiversity refers to living plants and animals you can see all around you. Biological diversity also involves ecosystems which are the living habitats and the physical areas in which these plants and animals thrive. On a microscopic-scale, biodiversity also includes bacteria, fungi, and spores interacting with air, soil, water and sunlight. These simple interactions provide essential services to the health of each habitat they occupy. You don't have to understand all the science-y bits, but biodiversity acts like a science lab and looks like your favourite fishing spot on Williams Lake; the challenging biking trails in the McIntosh Run; the rock and root paths around Long Lake or the granite barrens in the Purcell's Cove Backlands. Spryfield is surrounded by unique biodiversity and active ecosystems that need us to speak up for them and continue to preserve and advocate for vigilant conservation of our wild lands.

The global ramifications of the United Nation's COP15 meeting will certainly rely on world leadership to do the heavy lifting on charting legislation to preserve and protect our planet's biodiversity and its habitats. But at our own ground zero, active environmental stewards of Spryfield have their boots on the ground and are collaborating with politicians, citizen-action groups, government parties and landowners to protect our many natural parks, accessible lakes and wild lands.

Environmental stewards' efforts are evidenced by the number of public parks, green spaces, accessible recreational lakes and culturally historical spaces that surround Spryfield. These spaces are available to everyone in HRM because citizen-environmentalists got off the couch, connected with other caretakers of the land and put their collective shoulders into preserving the lands in their neighbourhoods.

The Shaw Wilderness Park (SWP), 379 acres of wild lands in the Purcell's Cove Backlands and on William Lake, exists because of the unique collaboration of Halifax Regional Municipality, the Nature Conservancy of Canada



How many green parks can you count in the Spryfield area? Photo: Google map

(NCC), The Shaw Group and the Williams Lake Conservation Company (WLCC.) With buy-in from municipal, provincial and federal governments coupled with donations from partners, citizens and businesses, NCC established the permanently protected wilderness park in 2020. According to their website, SWP is one of the signature land conservation projects in NCC's national Landmark Campaign and the largest charitable fundraising campaign for conservation in Canadian history! The SWP was selected for inclusion in the campaign for its high conservation value and proximity to a large urban population, and to help meet one of NCC's goals of connecting more Canadians to nature. Environmental stewardship all starts with an idea of what the big picture could be and the will to collaborate to protect our lands in Spryfield.

Long Lake Provincial Park is 5,180 acres of protected wilderness park with relatively untouched forested rocky lands, pristine lakes and important watershed wetlands. It is a protected wilderness park mainly because the Spryfield community formed an association of environmentally committed citizens and campaigned for the province to protect it. The community valued the recreational and ecological potential of the land and the lakes as well as their importance as habitats for biodiversity.

"People in our Spryfield community care about biodiversity," says Dr. Martin Willison, Spryfield resident and retired professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie. "They don't need to know the complicated science behind it but their concern to protect the land and the lakes comes from their hearts." Willison worked with like-minded community residents to form the Long Lake Provincial Park Association. They collaborated with the NS Department of Natural Resources to ensure the park had a comprehensive management plan and was permanently retained in the province's system of protected parks. Spryfield's

environmental stewards scored a huge win for us at Long Lake.

The Kidston family of Spryfield saw the value in protecting their farmland and, spearheaded by Janet Kidston, licensed part of their heritage property to the Urban Farm Museum of Spryfield. In 2000, community activists began clearing the land to bring it back to its historical and cultural value as a working farm. By 2016, an adjacent parcel of old growth forest was added to the farm through the persistence of Patricia MacLean who convinced the landowners to donate their property to the Urban Farm. Two environmental stewards, generous landowners, plus the community, saved the land. When nature thrives, we thrive.

The McIntosh Run Watershed Association (MRWA) has been involved in stewardship projects that started as conversations about protecting the Spryfield land and river since 1994. The goals of MRWA are to further conservation and community stewardship and to facilitate sustainable public access to the McIntosh Run watershed according to their informative website. They have led long-term stewardship projects within the watershed, partnering with local schools and universities to engage youth to survey ecological communities, and to restore and rehabilitate habitats around the river to protect biodiversity. This volunteer-fuelled membership built a multi-use trail next to the McIntosh Run river through Spryfield to open a wilderness experience for all trail users, to learn and appreciate the biological diversity of the landscape and the plants and animals that live in this beautiful, rugged landscape. The Duck'n Run trail took 3,589 hours of volunteer labour to build!

The land can't speak. A lake can't vote. Forests can't advocate for themselves – we must do it! Martha Leary of the Backlands Coalition summed up their stewardship work by saying, "The forests and lakes can't advocate for themselves. We need to speak up

to protect our land. Our government needs to know the central role that the wild lands play in our lives. The land is deeply embedded in our culture in Spryfield. Our work and social networks are tied to the land and water. We form coalitions, consult local experts, conduct the studies, write the documents, prepare the presentations to council and represent our land. We are the stewards of Spryfield."

Stewards work in tandem with local politicians and government representatives. Our MLA Brendan Maguire lives in the community and is actively involved in supporting citizen-activists on environmental issues. Maguire stated "When I advocate for better schools, safer streets, and the protection of our wild lands in my riding, it's not political. It's personal. I live in this community and just like you, I hold a deed to all our public parks, forests, trails, and lakes. These lands are ours. Our job, together is to continuously add to, and protect, these natural wild lands and the biodiversity they support."

Profile of Environmental Stewards.

Doers – you are the ones who get off the couch, round up a bunch of like-minded pals and patch, repair and maintain the biking/hiking trails along the McIntosh Run Community trail system. You are the volunteers who survey and record the biodiversity of the wetlands, and present qualitative and quantitative evidence to HRM Planners on the value of protecting ecosystems and habitats in Spryfield.

Donors: you give financially to groups like the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to help acquire unique wildlife habitats and rare plant ecosystems that add to, and keep, our wild lands accessible to everyone in HRM. You are the enlightened landowners who gift your properties for the common wealth of all citizens.

Practitioners: you are our action-heroes working in the environmental conservation sectors, consulting, educating, petitioning for the preservation of green spaces. You are our politicians and government representatives who bring our agenda to the legislative floor and advocate for results that your constituents want, to enhance and protect biodiversity and ecosystems in their neighbourhoods and communities.

Pick one.

Terms:

COP15: Conference of the Parties, 15th meeting, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, a two-week summit hosted in Montreal from December 1-19, 2022.

Biodiversity: biological diversity is plants, insects, animals, birds, fungi, bacteria, and tiny organisms that all work together in ecosystems.

Ecosystem: physical area like a forest, wetlands, lakes, ocean or granite barrens, where organisms, plants and animals live together.

Watershed: area of land where water from rain and snow flows down hill via streams, ponds, wetlands and underground rivers into a larger body of water.

# The Jason Doherty Memorial COMMUNITY EVENTS PAGE



To have your Community Event listed call or fax us at 902-477-NEWS or send e-mail to [chebuctoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:chebuctoeditor@gmail.com). Check our Facebook page for updates & late arrivals

## COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY Food Banks:

- St. Paul's Family Resource Institute (173 Old Sambro Rd). Food Bank clients call the Food Bank line, 902-477-5090, on Monday and leave a message. Those messages are answered on Tuesday and then the food orders are filled with pickup on Wed. between 9:30 and 10:30 am

- Chebucto Family Centre (3 Sylvia Ave) has an Emergency Food Cupboard which can be accessed every two weeks.

- Emmanuel Food Bank: If you would like help with food, please call 902-477-1954 and leave a message. Our volunteers will call you back on Tuesday. Pick up time is Wednesday, 9:00-10:30 am, at the lower church hall behind the church.

If you would like to donate food, please drop it off on Tuesday morning before 10:30 or Sunday morning at the church.

## Free meals for those in need:

- Salvation Army offers Breakfast To-Go Bags Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am-10:00am

- St. Paul's Family Resource Institute (173 Old Sambro Rd) Our Tuesday lunch program, Soup's On, is being offered as eat in or takeout

- Twelve Baskets, Stella Maris Parish outreach ministry, will provide a free, light take-out meal every Friday evening, between 5:30 and 6:30 PM, out of the St Michael's Church Hall site. (while supplies last).

## Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre events:

- Currently taking bookings. Please

call, email or message us through our FB page (902) 446-4847, email [hwcc@outlook.com](mailto:hwcc@outlook.com)

- We are always looking for new Board members and volunteers!

- Pre-teen Valentine's Dance Thursday February 9th, 6:30 PM-8 PM Grades 3-5. Wear red or Pink! Door Prizes!

## Spryfield Lions Club events:

Regularly scheduled meetings on the 2nd and fourth Tuesday evenings, 7 pm at the Lions Rink Den. We are encouraging anyone who might be interested in attending to call ahead so we can ensure COVID health code regulations are met - 902-479-2917. We will also be starting up our bingos in the future but need more time to work out details. We want to thank the community for their support and wish everyone the best of health.

## City Church (276 Herring Cove Road) events:

- City Church Telephone #: 902-479-248 c.citychurch@ns.sympatico.ca [www.citychurchhalifax.ca](http://www.citychurchhalifax.ca)

- City Church Christian Radio Station Life 94.7 FM

## Emmanuel Anglican Church (322 Herring Cove Rd) events:

emmanuelanglicanchurch.net, 902-477-1783.

- Prayer Group: Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month for an hour of prayer for each other, the world and the church. All welcome.

- Messy Church This is an informal event aimed at children and their families. It includes social time, dinner, craft and informal worship. Anyone is welcome but please RSVP to 902-

477-1783 so we can plan food. The next two will be on Saturday, February 4 and March 4, from 4 - 6 pm in the upper hall.

## Salvation Army (328 Herring Cove Rd) events:

- Family Services by phone call or walk in 902-477-5393 ext 0.

- Immigration Support by limited appointments call 902-477-5393 ext. 226

## Stella Maris Roman Catholic Parish events:

- Twelve Baskets, Stella Maris Parish outreach ministry, will provide a free, light take-out meal every Friday evening, between 5:30 and 6:30 PM, out of the St Michael's Church Hall site. (while supplies last). For further information contact Stella Maris Parish office at 902 477-3530 or [stellamaris-twelvebaskets@gmail.com](mailto:stellamaris-twelvebaskets@gmail.com)

- Saturday, February 18th, Spaghetti Supper & Valentine's Day Dance: Supper: 6-7:30 pm, Dance: 8-11 pm with cash bar: Price: \$20.00 per person. Band: Knee Deep Please purchase tickets by February 15th. Call 902-477-7118 (Paula) or call Parish office 902-477-3530 extension 2.

## St. Paul's United Church (173 Old Sambro Road) events:

Outdoor tap has been turned off for the winter. Those who need water are invited to come by when the church is open and fill their bottles inside

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# Religious Services Directory for February

**\*\*To have your religious services added to our directory, please contact the editor: [chebuctoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:chebuctoeditor@gmail.com) by February 17 for March's issue.\*\***

## City Church (276 Herring Cove Road)

Sunday Family service: 10:30am

Nursery and Children's ministry: 10:30am

Wednesday night prayer: 7-8pm

## Spryfield Christian Community Church (91 Thornhill Dr)

Church services Sunday 11-12 am

## Oromo Gospel Church

Sunday worship service: 3 pm and Tuesday prayer: 10 am.

## Emmanuel Anglican Church

(322 Herring Cove Rd.)

[emmanuelanglicanchurch.net](http://emmanuelanglicanchurch.net), 902-

477-1783.

8:00 am: Quiet traditional service of Holy Communion.

10:00 am: Lively, contemporary service of Holy Communion with choir. This service is livestreamed.

Prayer Group: Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month for an hour of prayer for each other, the world and the church. All welcome.

Saturday, February 4, 4-6 pm Messy Church, an informal time of worship, crafts and dinner, aimed at children and their significant adults. In the church hall. The next one will be March 4.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 11:00am and 7:00pm Ash Wednesday liturgy, with communion. The evening service will have music.

Masks are optional, but if you are sick, please join us online.

We are an affirming church. Everyone is welcome to all our services.

## St. Paul's United Church (173 Old Sambro Road)

Worship at St. Paul's United Church is now in person, at 11am on Sunday mornings. Masks are still required, however. One will be provided if you have forgotten yours.

## Stella Maris Roman Catholic Parish at St Michael's Catholic Church

Weekend Masses: Saturdays 4:00 pm Sundays at 10:00 am

Weekday Masses: Tuesday to Friday 9 am

Monthly Tuesday Night Prayer: 7 PM each month

First Tuesday: Healing Mass

Second Tuesday: Upper Room Praise and Worship

Third Tuesday: Mass and Adoration

Last Tuesday (Sept-May): Evening Candlelight Prayer

All are welcome, wherever you

to help! We offer free adult learning programs in several locations. COVID protocols are in place for your safety. Call 902-422-7648 for more information. Let's get learning together!

## TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

Tuesdays from 6 to 7pm at the Golden Age Centre, 212 Herring Cove Rd. Call for information: Colleen 902-868-2214 or Bev 902-477-4335 or check us out on the web at [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org)

## Spryfield Legion/Forever Young

**Seniors Club Chase the Ace** draws on Mondays at 7 pm. Ticket sales at the bar during Legion open hours as well as Mondays by volunteers from 5 pm to 6:45 pm. Tickets \$5.00 each.

## Mainland South Heritage Society

**Heritage Tea and Display**, Saturday, February 11, 2023, from 2 to 4pm, Captain William Spry Community Centre, 16 Sussex Street, Spryfield, NS.

## Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield

Would you like to know more about the Urban Farm in Spryfield? We would like to invite you to attend our board meeting on Monday, February 13th (6:45-8:45) at the Capt. Wm. Spry Community Centre. The 2023 Memberships will be available - Individuals \$10.00, Students & Seniors \$5.00, Family \$15.00, Groups & Organizations \$25.00. We look forward to sharing our ideas and hearing your suggestions for the future. For further information, please call Pat at 902-497-3683 or email [urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com](mailto:urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com)

are on your faith journey!

## Parkhill United Church (5 Kirk Rd, Jollimore) and St. James United Church (3811 Old Sambro Rd)

Sambro-Jollimore Pastoral Charge consists of Parkhill United Church (5 Kirk Rd, Jollimore) and St. James United Church (3811 Old Sambro Rd, Sambro). Sunday services at 9:30 am at Parkhill and 11:15 am at St. James. We may ask that people wear face masks. Our 11:15 am service is live-streamed on St James United Church Sambro NS Facebook Page. Bulletins at [www.sambrojollimorepc.com](http://www.sambrojollimorepc.com), 902-868-2791.

## Open Door Community Church (11 Aldergrove)

You are invited to join us for a time of contemporary worship and Bible based teaching. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM.

# LOCAL OBITUARIES

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd. 902-477-5601

## Vivian Ruth Goulden (Cox)

20 Aug 1929-17 Dec 2022. The family of Vivian Ruth Goulden is saddened to announce her passing. Mom passed peacefully, at home, surrounded by her loving family. Our mother was known and loved by many, for her kindness, and her willingness to put the needs of others ahead of her own. Mom always looked to the positive rather than wasting time on the negative; regardless of the situation. Mom demonstrated these fine qualities right up to her last moments. Mom was always extremely grateful for the kindness and exceptional care that was consistently given to her. The family would like to thank Dr. Sutherland and Tori, Dr. Rajda and Michelle, the entire Crowell's-Guardian Spryfield Pharmacy Staff, the Paramedics that came to give support in times of need and all others that provided her care. We the family are truly grateful. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to someone in need or a charity of choice.

## Dwight Richard David

David, Dwight, Age 49 of Halifax. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our father, brother, uncle and friend. He was the son of the late Evelyn (Thompson) and Leroy David. Dwight attended J.L. Ilesley School and Community

College. Dwight was a kind person who was fun to be around. He was a great baseball player and break dancer. Dwight loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them. At family events, he could be a bit of an entertainer, his specialty dance was the Carlton impression. Dwight is survived by his partner, Jeanetta Cameron; daughters, Courtney (Joey) and Mya; sons, Tyson, Lynden (Alyssa), Kendrin (Ashley) and Araya; four grandchildren; sisters, Patsy, Tracey (Raymond), Velma and Diane (Darren); brothers, Fenwick, Michael, Terry (Vivian), Leonard (June), Paul (Joan), Calvin, Terrence (Kelly) and Darrell (Kelly); special nephews/brothers, Nathan, Mikey, Jamaine and Carlow; many nieces and nephews. Dwight was predeceased by his sister, Donelda; brother, Kenny.

## John Joseph Reyno

Reyno, John Joseph "Jackie", age 72, of Herring Cove.

It is with great sadness that we, the family announce the passing of Jackie at home on Dec. 21, 2022. Born in Magog, QC, on May 14, 1950, he was the son of the late Carvel Walter Reyno and Frances Marie (Power) Reyno.

Jackie worked a full career on the Halifax waterfront as a member of the ILA Local 1341 as a checker.

Surviving are his sister, Christine Anne Power Reyno Holland; brother, Thomas Edward Reyno (Kathleen); nieces, Elizabeth, Selena and Samantha; nephew, Jacob.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

## Andrew John McKay

Andrew McKay, 84, Halifax, passed peacefully on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, under the watchful care of the wonderful staff at QEII hospital, following brief illnesses.

Born in Hamilton, Ont., he was the firstborn to William and May (Houghton) McKay. After graduating from the radio and television arts program at Ryerson Institute of Technology along with future CFTO-TV weatherman Dave Devall, he started his career in the new and exciting medium of live TV at CKNX-TV in Wingham, Ont. In 1961 he moved with his then-wife and two-year old daughter to Halifax to accept a position as producer at the fledgling CJCH TV station.

It became clear that he had a keen ear for audio detail, which directed his career into the film and documentary world and made him highly sought after as a sound engineer. During his 30-odd years in the industry, he amassed too many credits to mention here, but two of his personal favorites were Vision TV's "Hank Snow Documentary" and Global TV's "Blackfly" comedy series, featuring Ron James and Lorne Cardinal (see links below).

Though he didn't mind travelling for any of these gigs, he was happiest

to be at his Purcell's Cove home with his life partner, Barbara Weaver. He was very proud of his carpentry skills and the fact that the massive deck that he built for this home stayed solid for 34 years, until he moved to a smaller residence.

Predeceased by Barbara, Andrew is survived by his daughter, Kathryn "Kitti"; his sister Jean Brown; nieces, Jeannette Eady and Kelly Last; grandniece, Tori Marcil; grandnephew, Michael Last, and close friends Brett and Lara Ryan.

Donations in Andrew's memory to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, as well as any good wishes and memories you'd like to share, would be greatly appreciated.

## Victor Cunningham Eisan

88, Halifax, passed away peacefully after a long, but courageous battle with cancer at the Palliative Care Unit of the VG Hospital on Sunday, January 1, 2023. Born on March 3, 1934 in Ship Harbour.

Victor dedicated 35 years of service to the Halifax Police Department and was a member of the Retired Police Association. He was a dedicated member of the Spryfield Lions Club

spearheading numerous fund-raising projects. As a member of Emmanuel Anglican Church, he spent countless hours maintaining Emmanuel Cemetery, keeping the grounds in excellent condition. He was always willing to offer his help to anyone who needed it without expecting anything in return. Any day you could find him outside working in his garden and property or fixing broken tools. He loved being outdoors and missed this dearly when he was unable to do so due to his illness. A special thank you to his good friend Sandra Whitehead for her friendship and support.

He is survived by his children, daughters Shelley (Don) Brushett, Bedford; Bonita (Richard) Sullivan, Spryfield; son Darren (Cathy) Eisan, Bridgewater; grandchildren Russell, Sean, Rebecca, Rachel, and only remaining sister Bernice Weeks and sister-in-law Hilda Newcombe along with several nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his wife Helen (Newcombe); parents George and Louisa Eisan and 11 brothers and sisters. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either Emmanuel Anglican Cemetery or the charity of your choice.



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## Business Directory



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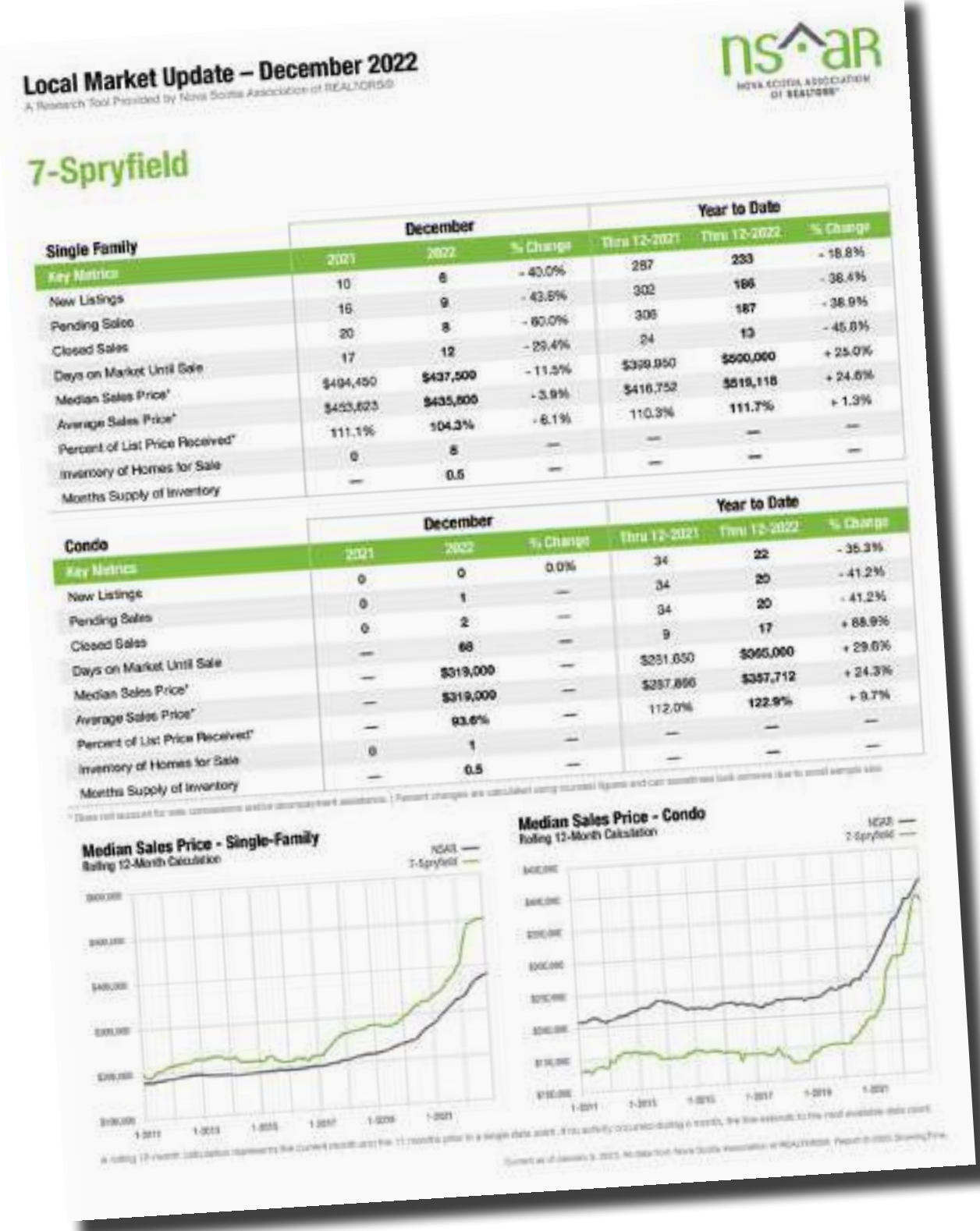

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**Donna Flemming REALTOR®**  
 902-430-3833  
 donna@donnaflemming.com




**Amanda Parsons REALTOR®**  
 902-930-3900  
 amanda@exitmetro.ca

In December, Real Estate statistics for Spryfield revealed that:

- the number of listings for single family properties is down
- single family listings are selling faster, with a 12-day average on market
- average sales prices are dropping slightly but are still showing sales results above asking prices

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Whether you are thinking of selling now or later it is nice to know what your home is likely to sell for in today's complex marketplace.

Why not allow me to conduct a comparison of recent home sales in your area to give you a probable current market value of your home?

To take advantage of this **FREE NO OBLIGATION** offer you can: Give me a call at 478-4023 and set up an appointment; Text me your contact information to 478-4023 and I will respond; E-mail me at: dan@dandoherty.ca with your contact information. Visit me at [www.dandoherty.ca](http://www.dandoherty.ca)—click on FREE Evaluation, fill in the form and send it to me.

NOT INTENDED TO SOLICIT A PERSON OR PROPERTY CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER AGENT OR BROKERAGE

**Call your Exit Realty Metro team today.**

**Dan Doherty**  
 902-478-4023  
[www.dandoherty.ca](http://www.dandoherty.ca)



# Celebrating 30 years!

WE ARE CELEBRATING WITH A SPECIAL DRAW ON FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup>



## ENTER TO WIN

EnPrimeur Wine Kit, 30 Bottles, 30 corks, 30 Shrinks and 30 Custom Labels

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



Draw will take place at 1 PM on February 28, 2023. No purchase required. Prize must be taken as awarded. No cash substitution.

Watch for weekly in-store and Facebook draws!



All En Primeur and Cru Select wine kits



All Orchard Breezin' wine kits



Special prices expire February 28, 2023



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