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Chebucto News

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 December 2025

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Veterans visit Arbourstone on Remembrance Day



Two veterans came into Arbourstone Enhanced Care to celebrate Remembrance Day, CCA Amy on the right, CCA Shelley on the left and CCA Raman on the left. Resident Ken White is in the middle
 Photo by CCA Stellamaris

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Central Spryfield Elementary welcomes Veteran



A brand new generation learns about history and what the past wars mean for Canada from the generation who fought for their future
Photos by Principal Karen Muldowney-Doran

by Principal Karen Muldowney-Doran

We were so lucky to have Stan Grady, a veteran from the Spryfield Legion, visit our classrooms on Wednesday November 5th. He shared stories about his time in service and helped our students understand the importance of Remembrance Day in such a meaningful way.

Mr. Grady was genuinely amazed by our students' thoughtful questions and warm welcome. One class even surprised him by singing O Canada, which absolutely made his day!

It was a special experience for everyone at Central and a wonderful reminder of what Remembrance Day is truly about.



Share your thoughts and opinions with us:
chebuctoeditor@gmail.com

Chebucto News

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Religious Services for December

Send your submissions to chebuctoeditor@gmail.com for January's issue by December 9.

City Church (276 Herring Cove Road)
 Sunday Family service: 10:30am
 Nursery and Children's ministry: 10:30am
 Wednesday night prayer: 7-8pm

Hill Chapel (91 Thornhill Dr)
Formerly Spryfield Christian Community Church
 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., 902-477-1783 emmanuelanglican-church.net,
 Sunday Morning Worship:
 8:00am Quiet, contemplative, traditional communion service
 10:00am Lively, contemporary communion service with music. Livestreamed
 Sunday December 14th at 10am, our Children's Choir will present the musical "Let's Go to Bethlehem".
 Sunday December 21st at 10am, our Senior Choir will present their Christmas Cantata "Were you there on that Christmas night".
 Sunday December 28th, 10am Service only. A Service of Carols and Devotions lead by our Spiritual Development Team.

Service of Compassion and Hope:
 Dec 17 at 7:00pm. This service is a time of quiet reflection and prayer, to acknowledge our hurts and sorrows at a time when celebrating is expected, but often so difficult for some of us to do. Our sadness could be due to the death or illness of a loved one, a challenging financial situation, or the terrible things which have been happening in our world. We welcome everyone who may be having difficulties this Christmas, to this special worship service.
 Christmas Eve Service:
 Dec 24 at 7:00pm. Rev. Bert Chestnut will lead this family friendly service with Eucharist, beginning with a Carol Sing at 6:30.
 Emmanuel Church is an affirming church. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship.

St. Paul's United Church (173 Old Sambro Road)
 11am on Sunday mornings.

Stella Maris Roman Catholic Parish at St Michael's Catholic Church
 Weekend Masses: Saturday: 4pm
 Sunday: 8am and 10am
 Weekday Masses: Tuesdays: 7pm
 Wednesdays and Thursdays: 9am
 Fridays: 9am (followed by 1 hour of Eucharistic Adoration) 1st Saturdays: 9am
 Tuesday 7pm Masses: First Tuesday: Healing Mass Second Tuesday: Mass and Adoration Third Tuesday: Mass and Ado-

ration Last Tuesday (Sep-May): Eventide Candlelight Prayer
 All are welcome, wherever you are on your faith journey!

St. James United Church (3811 Old Sambro Rd)
 Christmas Eve Service: 6:30 pm, Wednesday, December 24. Celebrate family, community and the Christmas message.
 Sunday worship services are at 10:30 am.
 Dec. 7: Second Sunday in Advent we celebrate Peace with children's gifts and hats, mittens, gloves and socks for the Mitten Tree.
 Dec. 14: Third Sunday in Advent we celebrate Joy.
 Dec. 21: Fourth Sunday in Advent Communion Service we celebrate Love.
 Dec. 24: 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service.
 Dec. 28: Service of Lessons and Carols.
 Our services are live streamed on Facebook (St James United Church Sambro NS) and YouTube. Weekly bulletins with the order of service are on our website: www.sambrojollimorepc.com; email address: office.sambrojollimorepc@gmail.com; phone 902-868-2791.

St. James Anglican Church (1 Harrigan's Road)
 Sunday mornings at 10:30am alternating each Sunday with Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer

Priest in charge: Rev. Taunya Dawson (902) 240-7588
 Lay Minister: John Richardson (902) 233-3465

Open Door Community Church (11 Aldergrove)
 Open Door Community Church invites you to join us weekly for a time of fellowship, contemporary worship music and Bible based teaching for today's life. Please join us Sunday mornings at 10:30am

Wayfarers' Church (328 Herring Cove Road)
 Sunday Worship 10:30am
 website: wayfarerschurch.ca
 email: friends@wayfarerschurch.ca

Searching for Truth Church (2 Auburn Ave)
 Church for everyday people. Fridays at 7pm Apologetics Club. First Saturday of the month from 6 to 8pm. At 114 Bromley Road. Please join us for a delicious meal followed by a discussion. This is an outreach of Living Hope Community Church. For more information call Maggie at 418-264-7292

Christ Embassy Halifax (16 Sussex St.)
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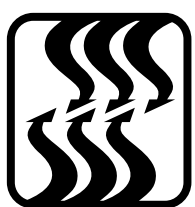


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DISCOVERING OUR PAST

Peter Saulnier Drive honours one of Spryfield's proudest champions

by Iris V. Shea

On April 8, 2015, family and friends of the late Peter Saulnier attended a ceremony to rename the Cowie Hill Connector Road off Dunbrack Street to Peter Saulnier Drive. Representatives from Mainland South Heritage Society and local Halifax City Council members were also in attendance to honour Peter's memory.

Peter Saulnier was one of Spryfield's proudest champions. Many people knew him as Santa Claus, a role he portrayed for 29 years, greeting children and adults at Christmas in South Centre Mall and in Spryfield's Santa Claus Parade. Members of the Mainland South Heritage Society, however, are grateful for another role he played in his community, collector of Spryfield's history.

Peter was born in Spryfield, attended local schools, and took a great interest in local history. He was always interested, even as a child, in hearing stories from the senior residents. He talked to many people who had memories of growing up in Spryfield and recorded their stories on paper. Peter collected old photographs and spent countless hours at the Nova Scotia Archives researching and documenting the history of our area.

Peter began taking photographs at an early age. One photograph that comes to mind is of the old Pinegrove Hotel from 1959, shortly before the hotel was torn down. He was only 12 years old at the time, and it may be the only photograph that exists of the hotel in its later years. The hotel was located on the same lot as today's Tim Horton's coffee shop on the corner of Herring Cove Road and Pinegrove Drive. Peter's interest in the old hotel was personal. He and his family had lived there after it became a boarding house.

By 1990 Peter had collected many artifacts and photographs pertaining to the history of Spryfield and surrounding communities. He began looking for a way to make his photographs and information available to the public. In 1991, at Peter's suggestion, the Mainland South Heritage Society was formed. One of its founding members recalls: "Peter's vast collection of pictures, information gathered at the archives, and quite a few books, formed the basis of our archives. He had taken the trouble over the years to go out and photograph buildings that he knew were slated for demolition so there would be a record of them".

The first project taken on by the Heritage Society after its formation was the 1992 Heritage Calendar, Peter's pride and joy. According to



Peter Saulnier as Santa Claus

Photo courtesy of Saulnier family

those involved, Peter was an enthusiastic salesman of the calendar which rapidly sold out. It contained an assortment of old photographs from the Armdale to Pennant communities.

Local teachers called upon Peter to talk to their classes about the history of their communities. Peter interacted well with children as was witnessed in his role as Santa Claus. He continued to collect and add to our Heritage Society's archives for more than 15 years and for that we are grateful. Readers of the Mainland South Reporter and the first few issues of the Chebucto News will remember Peter's articles on the history of our local communities. He continued the stories until 1998 when he decided it was getting to be too much for him. His heart and lungs were creating health problems by this time.

Peter discovered at that time, however, that he had another talent. He constructed miniature replicas of the local houses and businesses, past and present, 55 in total. Some replicas were commissioned and purchased by local businesses and individual homeowners. Before his death in 2008, Peter turned his remaining replicas over to the Mainland South Heritage Society for safe keeping. Storage of the replicas is an ongoing challenge. Displaying them

for public viewing has been a bigger challenge.

Peter's accomplishments did not go unnoticed. He received a Public Service Award and HRM's Volunteer of the Year Award. He was an honorary life member of Mainland South Heritage Society. His continued interest in history led him to become an active member of the Maritime Civil War Living History Association. The year before his death, however, his health prevented him from travelling with the association to participate in events. He was also a keen supporter and member of the Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield. When he made an appearance at their 2007 Harvest Fair dressed in his full Civil War uniform with his rifle and bayonet, the audience was delighted, especially the children.

Peter Saulnier died on 27 August 2008 at the age of 61 years. His legacy lives on. The Mainland South Heritage Society offers an annual memorial scholarship in Peter's name to a deserving history student at JL Ilsley High School. A donation to this scholarship fund will help keep Peter's spirit alive. To donate, please copy and paste this address: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/donation-form/support-the-peter-saulnier-memorial-bursary>

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Bouldering

by Cathy Vaughan

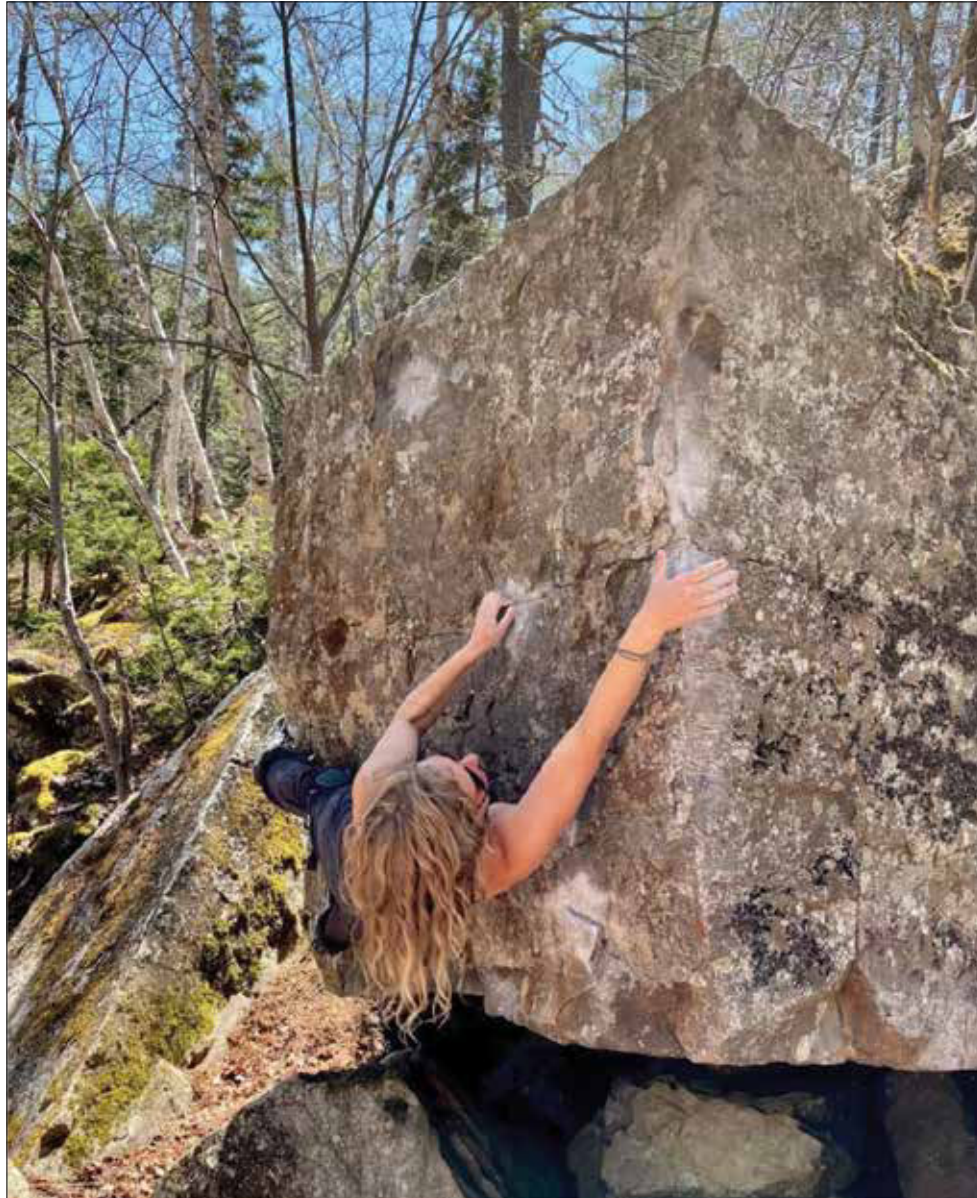
Bouldering is a fitness thing! If climbing rock faces, in the great Canadian outdoors with no ropes or safety nets sounds just on the edge of your comfort zone, then bouldering is your new thing! This sport will test your physical energy and endurance, build upper body and core strength as well as challenge your ability to focus, problem-solve and control your emotions.

Climb Nova Scotia (CNS) is a volunteer, non-profit organization which promotes bouldering for all ages, organizes regular climbing events, trail clean-up crews and teaches climbing safety workshops. Check out their Facebook page and Instagram for information on their intrepid events and the latest bouldering news.

Compared to other climbing sports, bouldering can be a safe and beneficial discipline. Bouldering requires a workshop on climbing safety and very little equipment. You need a cluster of massive boulders and other rock-climbing enthusiasts to coach and aid you on your climb. You will want proper performance climbing shoes, a bag of chalk to keep your hands dry to hold onto the rocks and a crash pad – large, thick foam mat placed at the base of the boulders to cushion a climber’s fall.

Usually, climbers work in groups and choose rock faces about 20 feet high. The climber will use ‘spotters’ to direct them along the rock face or to the crash pad. A course in safe-falling techniques, similar to those moves used in gymnastics, helps spread the impact of a fall on the crash pad, across the whole body to avoid bone fractures.

Two experienced local climbers, Todd Foster and Graham Read, produced an illustrated guidebook, “Bouldering Metro Halifax,” which identifies 8 popular bouldering locations in the Shaw Wilderness Park located on Williams Lake. The well-organized guide includes maps and descriptions of and directions to near-



Squadron Rock, Shaw Wilderness Park Photo: Climb Nova Scotia



Chris Ginou, Climb Nova Scotia in full gear in Shaw Wilderness Park Photo: Cathy Vaughan

ly 300 popular sites as well as over 100 new bouldering opportunities in Metro. Foster is currently working on a bouldering guide to Nova Scotia’s Eastern Shore. These guides will inspire your inner rocker.

Foster sums up the feeling that draws climbers to this sport. “As for adrenaline, it’s not what I’m looking for in bouldering. For me it’s more about problem solving at the edge of my physical ability, learning new ways of moving my body across the beautiful palette that nature has provided, and maintaining control of my fears and personal doubts. Ideally, I can do all that in a variety of beautiful and natural places like Herring Cove, Chebucto Head and Shaw Wilderness Park.”

Fear less. Climb more!!!

Sammy says



If part of your seasonal tradition includes touring the festive light displays around the city, be sure to include the Lobster Trap Tree at Mishoo’s store in Sambro on your tour. It’s a heartwarming sight to behold.

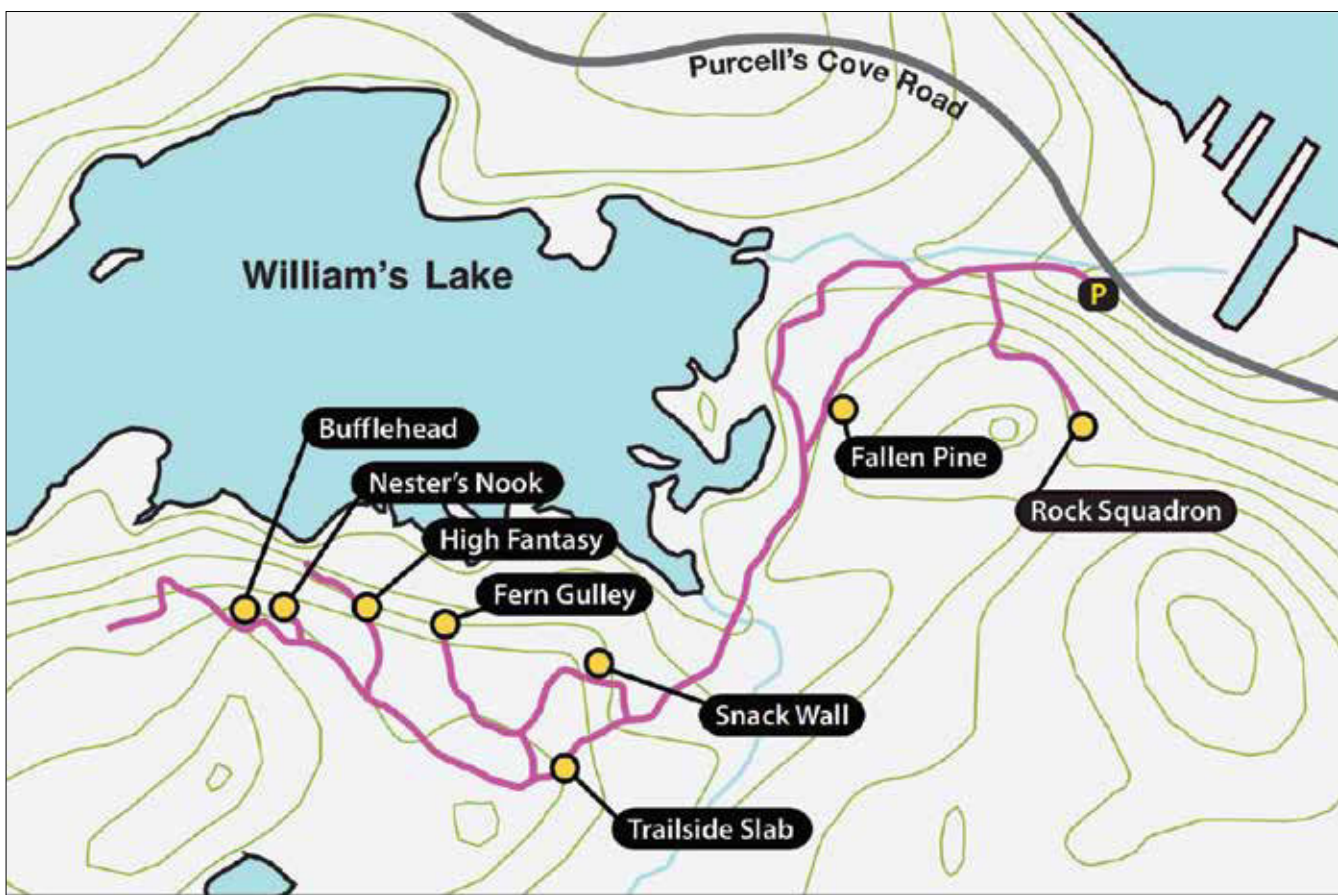
This year’s Breakfast With Santa event takes place on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 8:30 to 11 am at St. James United Church Hall, 3811 Old Sambro Road in Sambro. Stop by for a delicious meal of scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, juice, tea or coffee. Just \$8 for adults, \$5 for Children 5-12 years old, and children under 5 will eat for free. We’ll have a visit from Santa, and the kids will also enjoy face painting and cookie decorating. Raffle tickets, Sambro Imagination Library zippered totes, and lip balms will be available for purchase, as well as beach sand Christmas ornaments, while supplies last.

A Christmas Luncheon at St. James United Church on Saturday, December 13 from 11am to 1pm will serve festive treats for just \$5.

St. James’ Annual Down Home Christmas Concert will commence at 6:30 pm on Sunday, December 14 and will feature a wide variety of local talent. This evening of seasonal music is always a favourite event for young and old.

Events like these are an important part of bringing community together. The festive season is traditionally a time to get together with friends and family, but the holiday season isn’t always cheerful for everyone. It can be a lonely, isolating time for some. Remember to check on your neighbours and friends to make sure they’re doing okay and in good spirits. Drop in for a coffee or a visit, even if it’s just a quick one. Remember, a small effort on your part could make a big difference in someone’s life.

Sammy Sambro is SACA’s mischievous mascot. You can follow him on Facebook.



SHAW WILDERNESS

Birds of the Backlands: Mourning Dove

by Joshua Barss Donham

The Mourning Dove is often referred to as a Turtle Dove. Settlers used the name for this North American dove because they closely resembled the Turtle Doves native to Europe and Asia. Today, in many different cultures around the world doves are widely used as powerful symbols of peace, love, and friendship; especially at this festive time.

Habitat: Mourning Doves prefer open country and the edges of woods to dense forest and are a common sight perched on telephone wires on residential streets. They have successfully adapted to, and perhaps benefited from, human activity. Widespread from southern Canada to Panama, and from the east coast to the west, their population is estimated at over 300 million.



Dove of Peace by Taiya Barss

Nesting: They nest on the limbs of conifers or occasionally in shrubs. They are minimalist nest builders, assembling a loose, untidy platform of twigs and plant stems. Mourning Doves often have multiple broods in a season - another reason for their high numbers. In the Backlands, where they nest, male Mourning Doves frequently use the limb of a dead-standing Jack Pine as a 'call perch' from which they can be heard from half a kilometer away or more. Though a migratory bird, many overwinter in the province and at the Urban Farm of Spryfield a small group can be observed most winters.

Habits: During the mating season Mourning Doves engage in bonding rituals - preening each other, bobbing heads, cooing, and grasping bills. They are ground-feeders, eating grass, weed seeds, and grain almost exclusively. They can often be seen nosing about the grass searching for seeds or on unpaved driveways where they find grit for grinding up seeds in their crops. They show up in yards picking up seeds that have fallen from hanging bird feeders. At the Urban Farm of Spryfield Mourning Doves roost in an open stand of yellow birch and red maple, in the east corner of the farm - handy to backyard bird feeders on Ardwell Ave.



Mourning Dove, Jack Pine/Crowberry Barrens, Colpitt Lake, The Backlands
Photo: Joshua Barss Donham

Song: The Mourning Dove is so named for its mournful call - coo ah, coo, coo, coo - which males make during the mating season. This lament is sometimes mistaken for an owl hooting. When Mourning Doves, rapid fliers, take flight they make a whistling sound which is created by air passing through specialized wing feathers. This whistling serves as a means of communication, a signal to others to take flight. These non-vocal sounds, called sonations, are also used by other birds that nest in the Backlands - the American Woodcock and

the Common Nighthawk.

The Mourning Dove has been used as a symbol of peace, friendship and harmony in many cultures and religions around the world. From Ancient Greek and Roman mythology to many North American Indigenous legends, the mourning dove also represents love, hope and a connection to the spiritual world.

"There can never be world peace until we learn to live in harmony with nature as well as with each other," said Jane Goodall, United Nations Messenger of Peace on Peace Day 2025.

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Discovering nature up close

by Cathy Vaughan

What can sleep with one eye open, uses earth's magnetic field as their GPS, inspired the invention of the airplane, and landed in Nova Scotia's school curriculum?

Birds! For most elementary and junior high school students in Nova Scotia birds are part of the "Diversity of Life" unit in their science curriculum. Classroom learning covers topics on the anatomy of birds, how to identify them, their migration flight patterns and their importance as indicators of the environmental health of our planet.

The Cunard Conservation Crew (CCC) at Cunard Junior High School in Spryfield is an eager group of budding environmentalists and nature enthusiasts who like to engage with their outdoor classroom on Williams Lake. The group took their curriculum outside to study birds around the Cunard Pond in their neighbourhood and tried out a new educational bird kit from the Captain William Spry Public Library (CWSPL.)

Agnes O'Neill, Program Specialist at the Captain William Spry Community Library introduced the Conservation Crew to the library's latest resource kit. "Our new "Bird Watching Kit" includes a day-size sling pack with binoculars, field guide to Nova Scotia birds and a bird identification



Explorer Kit: Birds, Captain William Spry Public Library Photo: Agnes O'Neill, Library Program Specialist

book geared for kids. The kits can be borrowed only from the Captain William Spry Public Library. You can check availability at the Halifax Public Libraries website or call the Captain William Spry Public Library."

Binoculars at the ready, the newbie environmentalists were treated to a very busy scene on Cunard Pond of nature doing what it does best. They spotted a mother deer

and her 3 young fawns foraging along the shoreline. Loons were successfully diving for fish to bulk up for their imminent migratory journey. A Great Black Cormorant was perched on rock drying its huge, outstretched soaked wings, while flocks of birds flew by the amazed crew of kids. A teachable and learning moment – up close!

Carly Cogswell was very excited when she counted nine loons feeding on the pond and said "Discovering nature up close is really cool. You're able to look so much closer in person. You discover more nature than you thought you knew!"

Ava MacKenzie was surprised to see the group of deer feeding along the shore. "I think it's really cool learning about what goes on with nature around our school. I think it's

cool looking at things close up."

The kits, a joint-project with the Captain William Spry Public Library and the Williams Lake Conservation Company (WLCC) were made possible with a District 11 Capital Grant approved by Councillor Patty Cuttell of Spryfield-Sambro Loop.

"Appreciation begins with awareness. The more we learn about nature around us, the more we realize what a treasure our community is. When you can spot a bird and know its name, the landscape suddenly comes alive — it's a reminder of how much natural beauty we have right here in our community," said Councillor Patty Cuttell, Spryfield-Sambro Loop.

Grab your bird watching kits and sharpen your birding skills to participate in the annual "Great Canadian Bird Count" from December 14 to January 5 and count birds in your neighbourhood for the Birds Canada national data base. Visit the Birds Canada website to learn more.

If you'd like to connect to nature and find there's no USB port, try going outside!



Carly Cogswell and Ava MacKenzie of the Cunard Conservation Crew with 'Explorer Kit: Birds' on Cunard Pond, Williams Lake. Photo: Cathy Vaughan

Get all the details by going to <https://halifax.biblio-commons.com/v2/record/S135C2135120> or search the Halifax Public Libraries Catalogue for Bird Watching Kit.

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Coming across Wild Moose

by *Diego Nicolás Dueñas García*

With two months into the academic year, the international student community at J.L. Ilesley High School has been given an evocative taste of the Canadian dream. From the traditional and scrumptious Thanksgiving turkey to the amusing Halloween costume parties, it would be an understatement to claim that October has been nothing short of unforgettable. On November 9th, the Nova Scotia International Student Program (NSISP) arranged a new activity for students to engage in: attending a Halifax Mooseheads game. After all, is a trip to Canada truly complete without a game of ice hockey?

From the outset, the atmosphere at the Scotiabank Centre in Downtown Halifax couldn't have been livelier. The stadium was bustling with activity for a decisive showdown in which the Halifax Mooseheads would be matched against the Charlottetown Islanders. Before the fateful clash of hockey sticks, both teams were tied at 11 wins to 5 losses. The winner would improve its standing in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, particularly in the Eastern Conference. The first period began with a goal from the Charlottetown Islanders five minutes into the game. At this early point, Mooseheads supporters believed that there was more than enough time to make up for such an occurrence. The second period was consistent with the former, yielding yet another goal for the Charlottetown Islanders after



twelve minutes. Despite this unfortunate course of events, the Haligonian fans in the crowd, the so-called moose, never stopped cheering for their favourite team. In the end, with less than two minutes remaining in the third period, the Halifax Mooseheads managed to conclude the game with a final goal. Although this wasn't enough to secure a win over the opponent, the audience reveled in the excitement of such an event. There was nothing that could put an end to the uplifting mood that persisted throughout the entirety of the match. In addition, the stadium had been shifting to a more lighthearted ambience in between periods and resting times, featuring quirky moments such as children racing and playing against each other on ice, playful exchanges between the team mascots Hal and Mac, a showcase of young fans' draw-

ings of players, and reaction shots of unsuspecting crowd members. This occasion's significance was further emphasised by the fact that it was the last working game of Kelly Saunders, the Zamboni driver responsible for the impeccable state of the Halifax Mooseheads' ice. With a legacy of thirty-nine years at the Scotiabank Centre, most of which have been devoted to the Haligonian hockey team since its foundation in 1994, Saunders

has become a local hero known for his dedication to the Mooseheads' cause and the plethora of memories he has helped bring about.

All in all, the aforementioned experience was truly remarkable for the international students, who departed with a vivid mental image of the intense sporting landscape in Canada and, above all, a new cry to yell: GO, MOOSE! GO!



J.L Ilesley Craft Fair

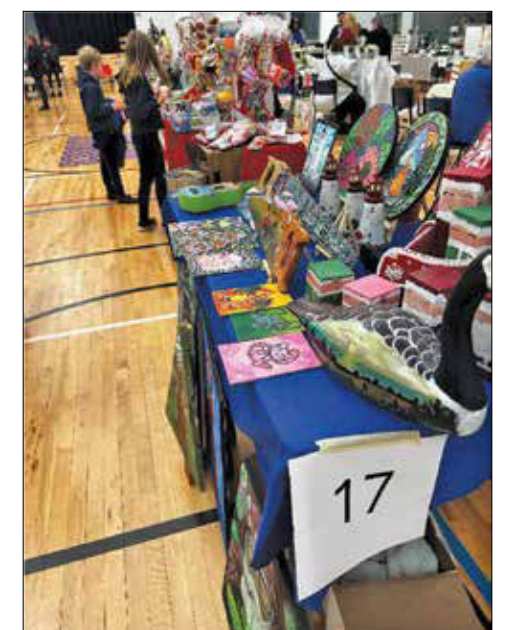
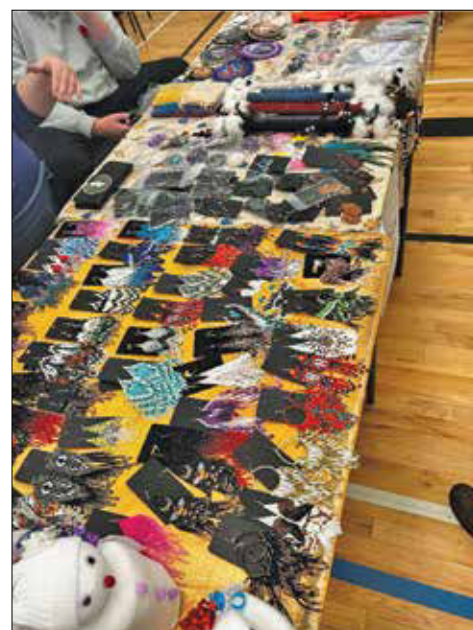
by *Camila Lopez Amezcua*

The winter holidays are around the corner and J.L Ilesley knows it! What better way to start up the festive spirit than with a craft fair?

With the purpose of giving local artisans a place to showcase and sell their crafts, this 8th of November the Judges opened their doors to host the craft fair. It was a well attended event where community members were able to support entrepreneurs. It was the perfect opportunity to find unique gifts; the variety and quality of the products gave life to the event. Visitors were able to find baked

goods, crochet stuffies, and handmade paintings that would dress any wall. One of my personal favourites was the colourful jewelry hand crafted by Mi'kmaq artisans, which was carefully assembled bead by bead, exhibiting the traditional and ancestral patterns inspired by their deep connection to the land and nature.

J.L's Student council also raised money for the school with the merchandise and baked goods the students sold. This would not have been possible without the teachers and student volunteers that donated their time and effort to see this craft fair come to life.



Looking for part-time work?

Chebucto News

is looking for someone to sell advertising. If you like people, are outgoing, and would like to connect with your community, call Dan at **902-478-4023.**

Cuttell Community Update

by **Patty Cuttell, HRM Councillor, District 11, Spryfield-Sambro Loop-Prospect Road**

December

As the holiday season approaches, I want to extend warm wishes to everyone in our community. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, or simply enjoy a quiet time with loved ones, may your days be filled with peace, kindness, and connection. This is a season when community spirit shines brightest — through gatherings, generosity, and looking out for one another.

Winter Dog Parks and Responsible Use

No matter the weather or season, dogs still need their walks. Dressed right, wintertime can be a great opportunity to get outside. Each year, several municipal playing fields open for off-leash use during the off-season. Locally, Graves Oakley #1 and #2 sport fields are now open for off-leash activity, along with the year-round McIntosh Run Off-Leash Dog Park at 610 Herring Cove Road. A full list of approved off-leash areas is available at halifax.ca. Please remember: if a field is wet or if children or adults are playing on it, please keep your dog on-leash. Dogs must also be leashed on regular trails. And finally, always pick up after your pet and dispose of waste properly so everyone can safely enjoy our shared public spaces.

If you've been thinking about adding a backyard suite — also known as a garden suite, granny flat, or carriage house — there's good news. Halifax Regional Municipality is now a Local Partner in the CMHC Housing Design Catalogue, which provides free, ready-to-build plans for backyard suites, townhouses, and fourplexes. The catalogue features designs from local architects and engineers tailored to regional building codes and climate. Using these pre-approved, energy-efficient plans can help homeowners and builders save time and money by streamlining permitting and reducing the need for custom designs. Backyard suites are a great option for multi-generational living, rental housing, or adding flexibility to a property. Furthermore, Halifax is offering non-repayable grants up to \$12,900 to build a second unit on eligible properties. Visit halifax.ca for details.

Neighbour disputes can be stressful. To help support residents, Regional Council approved a one-year, \$100,000 pilot for a Community Mediation Program, delivered in partnership with United Way Maritimes. The program offers free, confidential, and voluntary mediation services to residents dealing with issues such as noise, parking, fence lines, property boundaries, or shared driveways. It focuses strictly on neighbour-to-neighbour concerns and excludes legal or tenancy matters. Five community hubs across HRM will host the program, including one right here in Spryfield in partnership with Chebucto Connections. Guided by a trained mediator, participants can work together toward respectful, practical solutions — without resorting to legal action or police involvement. It's a constructive, community-based approach that hopefully strengthens relationships and understanding. It is modelled after

similar active programs in other cities across the country. More information is available at halifax.ca.

Council has also approved \$20,000 toward vegetative yard waste and debris disposal as part of the ongoing FireSmart initiative, a national program promoting wildfire resilience through education and prevention. Following the 2023 Upper Tantallon wildfire, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) has increased its efforts to help residents prepare and reduce wildfire risk. This new funding supports debris management through curbside collection, mobile chipping, temporary drop-off sites, and on-site processing. Residents can also book free FireSmart property

The Maguire Report

by **Brendan Maguire, MLA for Halifax Atlantic**

As we settle into the colder months, I want to remind everyone that winter conditions are already starting to show up on our roads. The temperature is dropping, ice is forming earlier in the day, and the snow is not far behind. Please take your time when driving, slow down in the mornings and evenings, and make sure your winter tires are on and in good shape.

Over the past few weeks my office has received a noticeable increase in calls and messages about dangerous driving in our community. I have also experienced it personally. If you witness reckless behaviour on our roads, try to safely record the license plate and report it so it can be addressed. A few seconds of awareness can help prevent someone from being hurt.

Snow season is just around the corner. I will be watching closely to

The end of an era at St. Paul's United Church

by *Carolyn Mont*

As readers of this paper know, St. Paul's United Church has been struggling for some time and has been anticipating closure of some sort. We now know what that means and Sunday, November 23 was the last day of worship for the congregation of St. Paul's. The correct term for that is that the congregation was disbanded. After more than 70 years of worship in Spryfield, we are sorry to see this ending. The church began on Dentith Rd and then moved to Old Sambro Rd. in 1990. However, the legacy of St. Paul's goes forward with the Family Resources Institute.

During this process, a number of people from the community have asked about the future of St. Paul's Family Resources Institute (FRI), the outreach component of the church. FRI will continue in the same place, doing the same work under the leadership of Kristen Hollery, the executive director of FRI.

Some of you who do not have ready access to potable water have been getting water from St. Paul's. The outdoor tap is turned on when there is no danger of freezing but at any time now it could

assessments, where trained staff identify potential hazards and offer suggestions to make homes more fire resilient. To learn more or schedule an assessment, you guessed it - visit halifax.ca.

Did you know 311 provides accessible support for municipal services and information over the phone at in-person at our contact centres? NEW ASL Video Relay Service: Deaf and hard of hearing residents who contact 311 can now request real-time sign language interpretation through SRV Canada VRS. As well, residents who need to communicate in languages other than English can request interpretation services in over 300 languages. Please help spread the word.

While we have had some good rain and water levels are up, it's not enough to fully lift water restrictions. Please continue to follow water conservation guidelines to help protect our water sup-

ply. Until we see what kind of winter we get, we are not quite out of the woods yet. Every drop counts!

And so, as we wind down the year, I want to thank all District 11 residents for your continued engagement, compassion, and community spirit. Whether it's helping a neighbour clear a catch basin, volunteering for a local organization, or supporting a District 11 business, your efforts make a real difference. This season is a wonderful time to enjoy family, friends, and community around Spryfield and the Sambro Loop. I encourage everyone to shop locally, dine at our neighbourhood restaurants and cafés, or attend a community event. These things are the heart of our community and deserve our support.

It's a privilege to serve as your councillor. Wishing you a joyful and safe holiday season — and all the best for 2026!

ensure plowing standards are met throughout our area. If you run into issues with plowing on your street or in your neighbourhood, please contact me at brendan@brendanmaguire.ca so we can follow up and get it sorted.

As winter settles in, remember to check the HRM website before skating on any of our lakes. Conditions can change quickly, and an early check can keep you and your family safe.

I also want to thank everyone who came together once again to make the Spryfield Parade another huge success. It continues to be one of the most enjoyable and uplifting events of the year and it is a reflection of the pride and spirit of our community.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to wish each of you a very merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a happy new year. I hope you find time to rest,

enjoy the season, and spend time with your family, friends, and loved ones.

Looking back, this has been an incredible year for our community. We continue to see strong investment and growth throughout the area. The year ahead will bring even more progress. There will be important announcements and new investments coming in 2026, and I look forward to sharing them with you.

From my family to yours,
Merry Christmas. With love and appreciation.

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LOCAL OBITUARIES

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Jeffrey Francis Oakley

August 22, 1948 – October 20, 2025
Spryfield, Nova Scotia

It is with great sadness that the family of Jeffrey Oakley announces his passing on October 20, 2025, at the age of 77. Born in Spryfield, Jeff was the son of the late Frank and Mildred (Watts) Oakley. He was a longtime member of the Armdale Yacht Club, and sailed in the Marblehead to Halifax Ocean Race on numerous occasions. Jeff enjoyed spending time at his camp on College Lake with friends and family. He also had a long and dedicated career as a television camera operator with ATV / CTV, where he especially enjoyed participating in the Christmas Daddies Telethons every year.

He is survived by his brother Leonard (Marlene) Oakley; nephew Patrick (Miranda) Oakley; niece Jill (Christina) Oakley; great-nephew Jacob Oakley; and great-nieces Hailey and Lauren Oakley, all of Spryfield.

Evangeline Jane Dempsey (nee Somers)

August 7, 1936 – October 21, 2025

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mom

Evangeline “Vangie” Dempsey left behind a legacy of strength, kindness, love, and a little streak of mischief that

made us all laugh.

She will be dearly missed by Reggie, her Husband of 62 years; her sons Lenny, Tommy, and Karl; and Grandchildren Alexandra, Jonathan, David, and Nicola.

Memories of her will be shared with her great-grandchildren; Walker and Summer, when they get older; and with any more who come along. There will be stories!

Vangie Somers was born and raised in Grosvenor, Guysborough County, to Tom and Kathleen (Gorman) Somers. Always ready for an adventure, her independent spirit led her to explore Alberta and BC in her younger years, before making Halifax her home. Before long, a handsome young Reg Dempsey swept her off her feet, and they married and settled in Herring Cove, where she became a beloved and unforgettable member of the community. She was a devout member of St. Paul’s Parish there, and would occasionally announce her departure from church with a tire squeal and a big smile!

She was always deeply rooted in faith and family; and loved having a table full of people after Sunday Mass - always ready to feed anyone who walked through the door.

Vangie worked at Maritime Life’s head office for many years until her retirement, she knew every person on every floor, and treated them as extended family.

In her spare time, Mom loved to sew, knit, and create, and she made many beautiful quilts that will be treasured for generations by whoever was lucky enough to get one.

Vangie was generous, loving, and full of life. Always up for any adventure or an excuse to have fun... “Sure, why not??” would be the answer to most questions. Her home, her heart, and her kitchen were always open. She will be dearly missed by all of us — but never forgotten.

William (Bill) Mont

May 21, 1929 – October 28, 2025

At the great age of 96, a Halifax Legend has left us. Although small in stature, he was big in creativity, imagination, and ideas. Bill was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was predeceased by his parents Gerald Allen and Mary Mont, and his daughter Christine Mont. Bill is survived by his daughter Janice (Brad), son Shane (Allison), former wife Dorothy Mont, sister-in-law Joan Fredericks and nephews John, Barry, and Scott Fredericks.

Bill grew up in a small community in Halifax, known as Greenbank. He started his work life at 11 yrs of age at the Halifax Shipyards. Within a year, he started his career at the CN Railway, holding many positions throughout his time there. During the war years, Bill enlisted in The Princess Louise Fusiliers, a reserve infantry unit of the Canadian Armed Forces. Following his seventeen years with the Railway, he

was self-employed as a general contractor and then moving on to California with his family.

In 1965, Bill followed the old adage “Go West Young Man, Go West”. Bill purchased and operated an employment agency in Anaheim, California. While there, he also worked as a carpenter at the Erickson Yacht Company. After enjoying seven years in California, he moved his growing family back to NS and settled down in the community of Eastern Passage.

Next, being the entrepreneur he was, Bill introduced to HRM the concept of a “Flea Market”, after attending many large Sunday markets in California known as “Swap Meets”. His idea took off, attracting thousands of people every Sunday, originating at the Sackville Drive In Theatre and expanding to Sackville Downs Racetrack, Bedford Place Mall, Penhorn Mall, and the Halifax Forum. His Markets became so successful, that the term “Flea Market” became a household word. Bill was dubbed the “Flea Market King”.

In 1976 he purchased Melvin S. Clarke, Canada’s oldest auction & real estate company, He conducted weekly auctions and was directly involved in the appraising, auctioning, and liquidating of estates and businesses. The flea markets and the auction business fuelled his passion to collect, resulting in the accumulation of a lifetime of “treasures”.

Bill’s next venture was near and dear to his heart. With his great love of animals and saving them, he opened a no-kill shelter called the Animal Friends Society in Halifax, which he ran for five years. Through this venture, he was able to provide many animals with a second chance at a forever loving home.

Another passion for Bill was saving heritage properties, such as the Parrsboro Post Office, Oland’s Mansion on Young Ave, and the old Halifax/Dartmouth Ferry (Dart II), to name a few. With this interest, it was fitting that he would join the Halifax Preservation Society. In fact, Bill has been involved with over 50 charities and societies over the years. A few of these included Friends of the Public Gardens, The NS Museum Board of Governors, the SPCA, The Royal Canadian Legion, the Ecology Action Centre, The Sierra Club and Crime Stoppers.

Real estate was another one of Bill’s interests. Some of his acquisitions included Oland’s Castle on Young Avenue, Glenhart Castle in Ireland, Devil’s Island at the entrance to Halifax Harbour, the old Horton High School in the Annapolis Valley, Noonan’s Beach, a portion of Lawrencetown Beach, an Amusement Park at the Reversing Falls in NB, and the Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Bill led a very interesting life, wearing many hats. With his love for dancing, he could be seen at the weekly Northwood Seniors dances (where he resided for the past ten years). He also volunteered his time, for the past twenty five years, at Northwood, helping the seniors. He also frequented a

number of the local legions, and even dancing for the residents at Parkland at the Gardens. He also appeared in over twenty movies (including Titanic), hosted a local Cable TV program (Hobbies & Collectables), and wrote a column for the Dartmouth Free Press Newspaper.

Bill took pleasure in some of the simple things in life, such as having a meal at the former South End Diner (then situated on Barrington St), where he sat and chatted with the regular patrons. Another favourite spot was the former Athens Restaurant on Quinpool Road, where he frequently dined, and savoured a great meal, always making sure to stop and have a friendly chat with the owners before leaving. Another pastime of his, was sitting in his car at Black Rock Beach parking lot, in Point Pleasant Park, and feeding the birds. This allowed him to revisit what he called his childhood “playground”.

Most of the residents and staff at Northwood will remember his passion for jewellery. He loved working with jewellery, often taking apart old pieces to create new ones and giving them to his friends at Northwood. He found working with jewellery to be relaxing and therapeutic.

Bill also enjoyed expressing his views and ideas. Bill was a long time caller to his favourite radio station 95.7 (The Todd Veinotte Show formerly The Rick Howe Show), offering his “advice” on various topics. This was a daily ritual for Bill, which he thoroughly enjoyed, as did his fellow listeners. Another way in which Bill reached out to offer “advice”, was in the “written form”. For example, in the early 1970s, he wrote to President Richard Nixon with his plan to end the Vietnam War. President Nixon’s advisors responded to Bill, suggesting that he should apply for a job at the White House.

On a more serious note, Bill was proud of his Lebanese heritage. His family were among the first Lebanese immigrants to arrive in Halifax. In 2024, he was honoured by the Halifax Lebanese Society with their lifetime achievement award, at it’s annual Gala. He is the only person who has been honoured with this award.

Bill lived a full and complete life, and as one of his friends said, “He touched many of us in a very positive way, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.” Although he had many friends, the family would like to thank a few of his dearest ones including Don, Ruth Ellen, Sam, and Ken & Margie.

We will end with just a couple of Bill’s humorous comments...

When asked why he purchased the Horton High School, his response was “I never got to high school, so I bought one.” On another occasion when someone said, “Bill, you better do something with all of your stuff, because you can’t take it with you.” His reply was, “Yes I can, I own a cemetery.”

Donations in Bill’s memory can be made to Hope for Wildlife, Bide Awhile Animal Shelter, and the SPCA.



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The Jason Doherty Memorial COMMUNITY EVENTS PAGE



DECEMBER

Food Banks:

- St. Paul's Family Resource Institute (173 Old Sambro Rd). Food Bank clients call the Food Bank line, 902-477-5090, on Tuesday and leave a message. Those messages are answered on Tuesday and then the food orders are filled with pickup on Wed. between 9 am and 10 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 before 10 am and leave a message with your name and phone number. Our volunteers will call you back on Tuesday. Pick up time is Wednesday, 9:00-10 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
- 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).

Spryfield Legion Events:

- Bingo Every Sunday. 1:00 pm. Doors open 11:00. Kitchen Open 11:30 -1:00 pm
- Chase The Ace Draw - every Monday 7:00 pm
- POOL - Beginning on Feb 1 ,2025: All Memorial pool tournaments will be open to members of any legion along with family members of the person being memorialized.

Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre events:

- We currently have full time spots in our After School Program! Please email hwcc@outlook.com for information.
- Currently taking bookings. Please call, email or message us through our Facebook page, phone at (902) 446-4847, or email hwcc@outlook.com
- We are always looking for new

Board members and volunteers!

- Mobile Food Market. FREE Produce for Harrietsfield/ Williamswood/ Sambro residents, Dec 2, 1pm-3pm and Dec 19, 1pm-4pm
- Annual Tree Lighting Dec 2 at 7pm FREE admission and activities! Santa lights the tree; Cookie decorating; Hot Chocolate & Cider; Temporary Christmas Tattoos

Emmanuel Anglican Church (322 Herring Cove Road) events:

- Our hall is available for rental. Please call 902-477-1783 or go to <http://emmanuelanglicanchurch.net/>
- Christmas Bazaar: Emmanuel Church Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday December 6th, from 10am -1:00pm in the Church Hall at 322 Herring Cove Road. A soup luncheon with rolls and dessert for \$15 will be served. We will have the very popular bake table, gift table, a cake bingo, and some surprises. There is no admission fee.

St. James United Church (3811 Old Sambro Rd) events:

- CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
Come and enjoy delicious lunch treats, shop at our bake and craft table, listen to Christmas music and maybe take a photo in our photo booth. Enjoy the festive atmosphere and relax. Saturday December 13th 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Price \$10.00 (Cash Only))

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 email stellamaristwelvebaskets@gmail.com
- Seniors Social Tea. Join us for refreshments, snacks, and friendly conversation in the Stella Maris Hall. The second Wednesday each month, 1-3pm. All are welcome. More info: david.h@stellamarishalifax.com

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

- Please contact St. Paul's directly for up-to-date information on water availability. With temperatures falling, the outdoor tap will soon be turned off for the winter.

Spryfield Legion/Forever Young Seniors Club

- Chase the Ace draws are conducted every Monday night at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are \$5.00 each. This round of Chase the Ace will have ticket sales at the Spryfield Legion bar during bar hours through the week, Mondays 5:00pm to 6:45pm by Forever Young Senior Club volunteers and Legion member volunteers, and for your convenience starting this round, Chase the Ace tickets are being sold at six satellite businesses.

These Satellite Businesses are:
Mishoo's Take Out 1 W Pennant Rd,
Now We're Cookin' Convenience Store 179 Hebridean Dr. Herring Cove Road,
Cove Market 565 Herring Cove Road,
Uncle Buck's 5 Denith Road, Beaver Enviro Depot 251 Herring Cove Road,
and Mike's Kwik Way Convenience Store 486 Herring Cove Road. Ticket holders are not required to be present at the ticket draws on Monday night when a clearly filled in ticket is purchased. Ticket winners will be called at the phone number and name provided on the purchased ticket. Chase the Ace supports community programs at the Legion and at the Forever Young Senior's Club, Spryfield. Thank you for supporting our Legion and the Forever Young Senior's Club in Spryfield

Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield

- 2025 Memberships are still available - Individuals \$10.00, Students & Seniors \$5.00, Families \$15.00, Groups & Organizations \$25.00-\$50.00. For more information, please call Pat at 902-497-3683 or email urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com

Forever Fit for Seniors. Mon, Wed, and Fri from 10 to 11am at Emmanuel Church Hall. Punch cards available from the YMCA. First class free.

Crafts and Conversation Tues and Thurs from 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the Shared Program Room at 16 Sussex Street. Free drop-in. Refreshments. For

more information, check out info@halifaxweddingchapel.com. Funding by the Community Links Association and the NS Dept of Seniors and Long-term Care.

Spryfield Lions Club invites you to get involved with the community by joining your Spryfield Lions! Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Phone 902-479-2917 for more information.

45 Card Social at the Golden Age Centre 212 Herring Cove Road (across from Guardian Drug Store). Every Monday afternoon 1:30pm. Cost: \$6.00/person. Bring a partner and if not, a partner will be provided. Increasing jackpot available to be won. Everyone is welcome to come. Contact: Sue Morrissey 902-229-5851

Board Members needed for Hand in Hand Thrift Store: Currently, we are seeking volunteers to serve on the new Board of Hand in Hand Located at 440 Herring Cove Rd, Spryfield, Halifax. Hand in Hand Thrift Store has long been a valued part of the Special Works of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Halifax Particular Council.

For the last 30 years plus, Hand in Hand has been providing clothing and household products to our neighbours in need. It also provides employment and volunteer opportunities. Funds raised support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Much more than just a retail outlet, it is a safe haven and meeting place for the community. Service would involve approximately 6-8 meetings annually. The focus of the new board will be to provide direction and a renewed vision.

Please consider contributing your time and talents to this very worthwhile cause. This is a great way to provide meaningful service to your community. Thank you for your consideration.

Contact: Ray Burke: Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Halifax Particular Council President at: 902-646-0155 or rhburke.54@gmail.com

To have your Community Event listed call or fax us at 902-477-NEWS or email chebucto-editor@gmail.com. Check our Facebook page for updates & late arrivals

Sharon Kenney REALTOR®
902-483-7325
Sharon@alreadyhome.ca
www.alreadyhome.ca

Dan Doherty REALTOR®
902-478-4023
Dandoherty12@gmail.com
www.DanDoherty.ca

EXIT REALTY METRO

Remembrance Day, 2025

Photos by Sam Ramsay

