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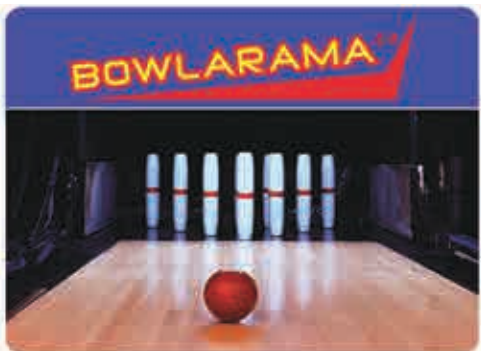
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Vol.28 • No.1
September 2026

Chebucto News

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Sammy says: Sambro Sou'wester Days 2026 is a wrap!



Lollipop firmly planted in cheek, this parade participant seems intent on taking his task seriously. More photos of the parade and frivolity continues on page 2.

Leading up to the event weekend were Little League and Big League ball games sponsored by Hally Henneberry Fishing Ltd., S-Henn Fishing Co. Ltd., Emry & Boys Ltd., Rainbow Net & Rigging Ltd., and TriNav Group of Companies. The Little League Champions this year were the undefeated Purple team, coached by Stacey Kirk and Steve Clements. MVPs: Purple, Briar McKenzie; Pink, Landon Gregory; White, Hayden Nehiley; Yellow, Avery Gray. Big League division winners were Team Orange, led by Shawn Birt and Aaron Caldwell. MVPs: Orange, Ryder MacKinnon; Lime, Eric Gibbs; Navy, Will Mestdagh; Red, Davis Henneberry.

Skip Horton Memorial Co-Ed Adult Ball Tournament was sponsored by Stephanie Napier RMT, Meghan Thorne and Mary-Jane Wells with Heart & Home Realty, and In Memory of Dad/Paddy Gray. Yellow team were the champions. MVPs were Yellow, Bryce Schnare; Blue, Todd Henneberry; Orange, Shawn Walsh; Green, Brett Kiesman. This year's awards were Kyle Mackay's All Things Sambro to Ryan Garrison, Kyle Henneberry's Most Sportsmanship to Dennis Fleming; and Skip Horton's Most Dedicated Player to Dale Cassibo.

The popular Bingo sponsored by Stephanie Napier, RMT saw about 160 patrons this year, with some great gift card prizes.

The Corn Boil & Ceilidh sponsored by Jill Hann and Nicole Pittman, Castle & Cove Real Estate Group featured some great local talent. This year's Sambro Spirit Awards went to Brandy Reyno, Eunice Laing, and Diana and Esber Elcheikh, who each demonstrate their dedication and commitment to their community. They're a great example for us all!

Crystal Crescent Charters' Sambro Island Lighthouse tours ran full tours all day on Saturday, where Captain Dennis Garrison guided visitors through the beauty and mystery of the oldest operating house in the Americas.

The Parade was sponsored by Coastal Restoration & Masonry Ltd., Edmonds

(See Sammy says on page 2)

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Sammy says

(continued from page 1)
Landscape, Dairy Queen Dutch Village Road, Cozy Cat Sitters, Davsco, Funnell Insurance and Armview Restaurant & Lounge. Winners were: Best Commercial: 1st Blackburn Mowing, 2nd Coast Guard; Funniest: 1st Sexy Seniors, 2nd Mer-men; Best Kids: House of Dragon, 2nd Paws With Laws; Most Original: Lobster Mobster, 2nd Carrie Bob Gardening; Most Sambro Spirit: 1st Atlantic View, 2nd Mishoo's Ducks; Crowd Pleaser: 1st Porch Geese, 2nd Baywatch.

The barbeque was sponsored by Dylan's No Frills and the Family Carnival was sponsored by Crowell's Guardian Pharmacy, The Orb Factory, Sambro Fisheries and Tribune saw lots of smiling faces.

At the Washer Toss Tournament sponsored by Apex Core Protection and Boats First Ltd., results were: 1st, Luke and Cale; 2nd, Adam and Cody; 3rd Andrew and Bub; 4th Maddie and Noah.

Closest to the Hole Golf Game Sponsored by Emry & Boys Ltd. winners were: 1st, Jesse Greenslade; 2nd, Rafael Mosqueda and 3rd Billy Henneberry.

Kyle's Tailgate Party Sponsored by Ed Oakley Music, Good Robot Brewing, Olands Brewery and the family of the late Kyle MacKay enjoyed live music by Kyle's beloved Uncle Ed Oakley. Bryant won the Coors paddle board door prize.

Sunday began with a delicious breakfast sponsored by Oceanview Fisheries and Mishoo's, followed by St. James United Church's Service of the Sea, Blessing of the Fleet, and a fish chowder meal.

Sam Flemming's #140 duck brought home \$500 from the Rubber Duck Race Sponsored by Mishoo's Variety & Take-out. Greg Reinhart won \$1,979.50 in the 50/50 draw.

The Closing Fireworks Display at Crystal Crescent Beach were postponed due to the fog that rolled in. This year's sponsors were: Anna Slaunwhite in memory of Eleanor Slaunwhite, B&G Plumbing and Heating, Beaver Enviro Depot, C&A Fisheries, Dairy Queen on Dutch Village Road, Funnell Insurance, James Gray Fisheries Ltd., K&K Roofing, Lynn Saulnier RMT, Meade's Year Round Contracting, Stephanie Napier RMT, and The School of Port City Ballet.

Other festival supporters included: Amos & Andy Fisheries, AshMeg Seafoods, Brendan Maguire MLA Halifax Atlantic, Caravan Fisheries, Carrie Armsworthy, Chatters Hair Salon, Chebucto News, Clyde Paul & Associates, Coldstream Clear, ENS4XCMB, Family of the Late Keith Gray ("Doc"), Finn Fisheries, First Choice Haircutters, FUNdraising for Sambro, Gayle Reiner, HFX Vinyl, Horton Electrical Services, HRM Fire Station 62 Harrietsfield-Sambro, HWCFA, Jack Astor's, Jose Cuervo, KHARA, Long Lake Adventures, Lynn Saulnier RMT, Maxine Griffin, Members



Blessing of the Fleet

of FUNdraising for Sambro, Molson/Coors, Montana's, Moxie's Bayers Lake, Now We're Cooking, Patty Cuttall, HRM Councillor District 11, Pet Valu Spryfield, Red Bull, Print 101, Rubber Duck Car Wash, Sambro Harbour Authority, Sambro Lighthouse Heritage Society, Sara Scarfe, Stevie Harrie, Tanners Deli, Uncle Buck's Pizza, W. Gilbert Construction.

Profits raised will go towards Sam-

bro's future community centre, and there was a conceptual display at both the Ce-ilidh and at the Breakfast showing what that could look like.

Thank you to all our generous supporters, tireless volunteers, and everyone who came out to enjoy the festival this year. This couldn't happen without you!

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

Spirit of Sambro awards presented to:



Eunice Laing



Esber and Diana Elcheikh



Brandy Reyno



Ed Oakley performed at Kyle's Tailgate Party

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Chebucto News

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Religious Services for September

Send your submissions to chebuctoeditor@gmail.com for October's issue by September 15.

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
9:30am NEW TIME. Lively, contemporary communion service with music, Livestreamed. Children are welcome to join our Children's Choir, which meets during this service
Emmanuel Church is an affirming church. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship.

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 Adoration 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)
10:30 am Sunday Services live streamed on Facebook: St James United Church Sambro NS.
Weekly bulletins with the order of service on website: www.sambrojollimore.com.
Food Bank donations brought to our services will be delivered to St. Paul's Food Bank, Spryfield.
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

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

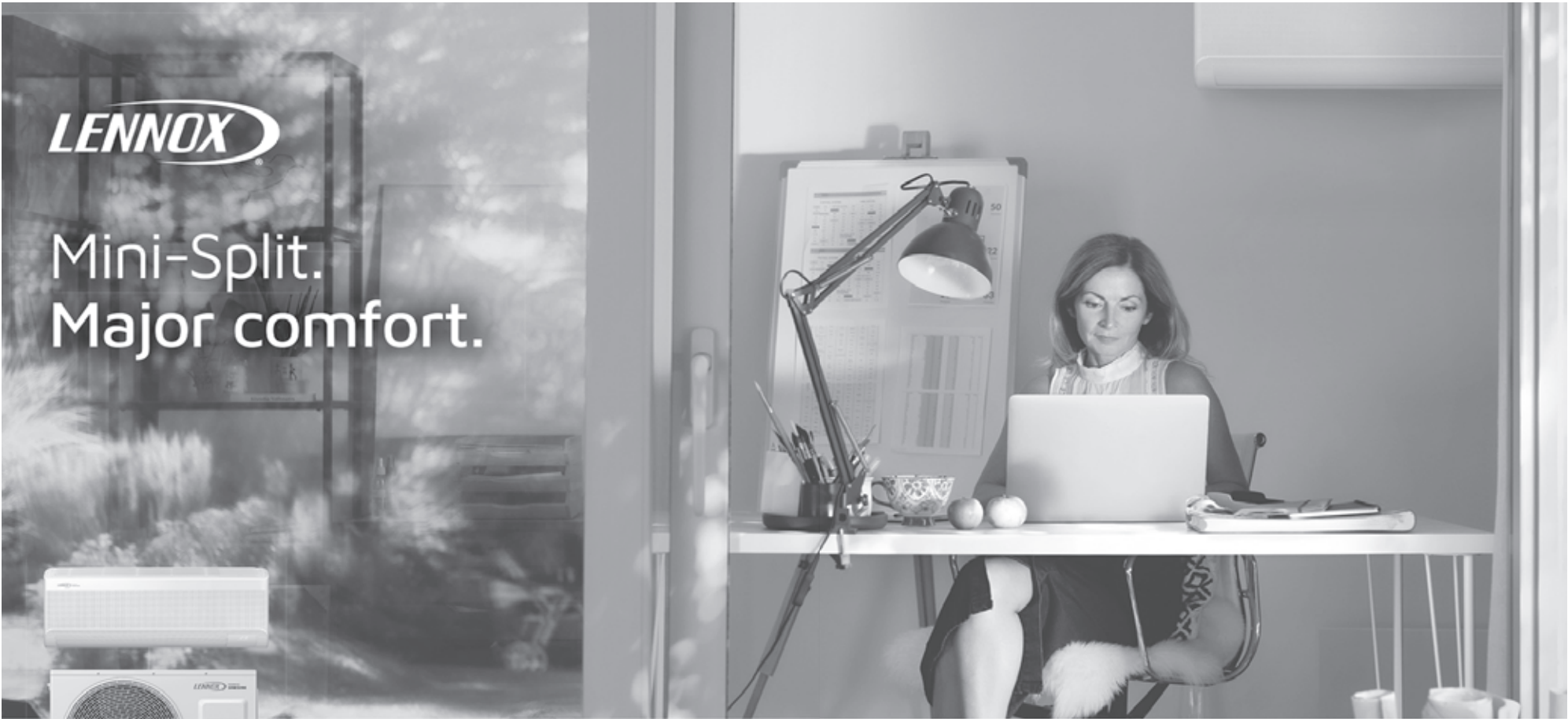
meal followed by a discussion. This is an outreach of Living Hope Community Church. For more information call Maggie at 418-264-7292

Christ Embassy Halifax (16 Sussex St.)
Sunday Service – 9:30 AM
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Wednesdays – 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Living Hope Community Church
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NOTICE: *Chebucto News* *Distribution Changes*

For the last several years the *Chebucto News* has been distributed through the Saltwire Network then through PostMedia's flyer distribution system. June 8th 2026 we were abruptly notified that PostMedia was completely discontinuing its flyer distribution immediately. We are currently evaluating alternative distribution systems and will have more copies in local stores as soon as we can make arrangements. Meanwhile be sure to check out our paper online each month at www.chebuctonews.ca. Updates to our distribution system will be posted on our website.



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DISCOVERING OUR PAST

Fleming Park’s original design was that of first park superintendent

by Iris V. Shea

Care and maintenance of the Memorial Tower in Fleming Park and the land around it dates back to August 1912, when the tower officially opened and the deed to the surrounding 95 acres of land was turned over to the City of Halifax for a public park. City Council named the park in honour of its donor, Sir Sandford Fleming. The tower was located in Fleming’s Dingle lands, the name Fleming used to describe that small section of his donated 95 acres. In 1948, and again in the 1960s, Fleming Park was extended, through purchase, to the size it is today.

In the summer of 1913 City Engineer, F.W.W. Doane, reported to Council that the condition of the park was appalling. Damage was being done to birch trees and “nearly every person lunching at the park desires to heat a kettle of water, resulting in fires being built wherever it is convenient”. Doane reported that the water in the brook was not fit for use without boiling it first and recommended that a well be sunk and a pump provided so that a larger and better supply of water would be available.

In 1914, the year that the two bronze lions were placed at the entrance of the tower, Mayor F. P. Bligh recommended that Fleming Park be managed by the Point Pleasant Park Commission. The acting solicitor, Robert T. MacIlreith, a resident of Jollimore, said this could not happen without legislation. He pointed out that Sir Sandford Fleming, under a



Photo of William Topple, 1910., Superintendent of Fleming Park, 1919-1938, courtesy of Author.

required annually as a result of vandalism and storms.

At the end of each summer season, Superintendent Topple provided a written report to City Council on the work he completed that season. Each year vandals would not only destroy parts of the seawall, but cut down trees, especially fir trees at Christmas. In 1925 he reported “I have practically finished rebuilding the Main Road from the Fleming Gate down around the Tower, with the exception of about 125 yards... we have 5000 feet of Main Road for vehicles and 2200 feet of Shore Road for pedestrians.” He terraced in the front and on two sides of the tower, planting shrubs and grass on the slopes; built an esplanade in front of the tower; built retaining walls along the Shore Road; and built and installed the Ferry Wharf and Float. He installed painted signs throughout the park, such as “Keep Right; Park Here; Keep off the Lions; Do Not Destroy Trees or Shrubs; Do Not Destroy Sea-Walls; Before Making Fires Get Permission from the Superintendent Who Will Show You Where to Build Fires.” Band concerts in the park were popular, and Illumination Nights and Venetian Nights brought crowds of people to the park during the 1920s and 1930s, creating extra work to clean up the following day. In his 1926 report, Topple wrote “We have built a Bandstand at a cost of \$40 which still requires a roof and sub-floor”.

Road upgrades and repairs to the Tower were a constant draw on the money allotted by council for maintenance of the park. In 1934 City Council voted to spend \$1500 on repairs to the tower, particularly to the leaking roof, and \$1000 for general purpose maintenance of the park. Topple reported that “after 20 years of water running down as though a hose was being played up above, one would expect during the many winters of saturation and freezing that the walls would be entirely disintegrated”. The old Tar and Gravel roof over the concrete on top of the Tower was renewed in 1934. Cracks in windows were plugged and painted. The windows in the tower were panes of glass and could be opened by visitors which often resulted in breakage (no metal bars like there are today). The memorial tablets on the walls were streaked from water damage and needed cleaning. The wall on the south side of the tower was repaired in 1935 and tenders went out to repair the remaining walls; but the roof continued to leak.

In April 1938, Superintendent Topple retired. Applications for his successor were received from F. Bignell, R.B. Salter, J.E. Slauenwhite. A.J. Smeltzer and A.Umlah. The successful candidate was Arthur J. Smeltzer of Jollimore. Superintendent Topple had been a driving force behind the layout and design of Fleming Park, and to this day his building and planning skills continue to be enjoyed by all who visit the park.

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certain Chapter and Act of 1908, stipulated that three persons, nominated by Fleming, were to supervise the park at an annual salary of \$750. This amount was to be paid by the city for the maintenance, preservation and improvement of the park. Following Fleming’s death in 1915, however, the city appointed Mr. Michael Cochrane, under the control of the Point Pleasant Park Commission, as caretaker of Fleming Park.

On May 1st, 1919, a full-time superintendent of Fleming Park was appointed.

Mr. William Topple of Jollimore took over the position. He had 44 years of experience in the work that was involved in planning, maintaining and preserving the park. He hired local men to help with the work. Topple was paid a salary of \$600, with money allowed for expenditures. His annual salary eventually rose to \$1200. He and his hired workers removed the rocks and spread loads of sand for a beach at Fairy Cove in the summer of 1920. That same year Topple began to build a seawall which would, over a period of a few years, extend from Critchley’s stone wharf to Boutilier’s Point (the ferry landing from Oakland Road). In the summer of 1920, they built a Pavillion for a Tea Room. Mr. Lorne A. Morash paid an annual fee of \$150 to the City Works Department to lease the Tea Room and continued to lease it for several years. Repairs to the seawall were

Bottling on Williams Lake



Nell Lord and her brother Martin with their 250 vintage bottles from the shores of Williams Lake. Photo: Cathy Vaughan, July 2026

by Nell Lord

The province of Nova Scotia is building a new dam on Williams Lake, because the old dam was leaking and not in very good shape. In order to build the dam, they had to drop the water level about 5 feet. That revealed hundreds of old glass bottles, ranging from 7Up bottles to whiskey bottles and even a unique Niagara mineral water bottle from the 1800s.

Our cousins, who were visiting from British Columbia, went fishing on an island in Williams Lake and they found bottles on the shore. This inspired all of us to go bottle hunting. We went on several adventures around the lake and found many more bottles buried in the exposed mud and rocks.

Overall, we collected 250 bot-

tles, and our oldest bottle is from the 1890s. We also found 83 stubby beer bottles, mainly from one shore of the lake. We discovered the battle between Coke and Pepsi has existed for a long time because we found almost equal numbers of each - 21 Coca Cola and 19 Pepsi. We also removed 8 bags of trash including lots of broken glass, shoes, underwear, socks, hockey pucks, tires, children’s toys, and many other things.

All of the bottles that we found were cool and these are our favourite 5. First off, we have the Kist bottle, a classic orange soda from 1927. I like the pattern on the bottle because it resembles orange slices. Next, we liked the Nesbitt’s soda from 1949. You can clearly read the label on the front and

French on the back. Our third favourite is the 2Way. We think the slogan - “Drink, Sip, Mix it too, 2Way pleases you!” - is interesting.

We also found a 1889 Niagara bottle. It is a “Codd” style type which means it has a glass marble in it which keeps the carbon from escaping. Lastly the Evangeline bottles were common in Halifax from 1930 to 1940 and are special because they are tied to Evangeline who was an Acadian culture figure well known in Nova Scotia.

Kathleen Hall, longtime member of the board of directors of the Williams Lake Conservation Company, caretakers of the lake since 1968 said “I was amazed when I saw the many bottles collected by the kids from the exposed shores of Williams Lake. These kids



are curious, energetic and care about their environment. They are the hope for the future of our planet!”

Nell stated that “It has been an adventure finding all these interesting bottles. But we sure do hope that people stop throwing their trash and bottles into Williams Lake so that we can keep it clean for generations to come.

A Grand Finale at a grand ranch

by Diego Nicolás Dueñas García
On Friday, May 29, all international students from the Nova Scotia International Student Program at the Halifax Regional Municipality were invited to a final grand celebration of the academic year: a cowboy-themed evening at Hatfield Farms. After an initial gathering at a picturesque red barn, the students, now veterans of Canadian life, were taken to the main grounds on a horse-drawn wagon. Once there, there was simply no time

to get bored, since there were countless stations to explore. No sooner had we walked in than we were greeted by a cafeteria. We were provided with meal vouchers we could redeem for a hearty meal consisting of a burger, some fries, and a drink. Of course, lively music, dancing queens (cue ABBA’s “Dancing Queen”) and kings, and a marvellous sense of belonging were all part of the occasion. Even the horses outside were tempted to,

(See Grand Finale on page 6)

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Leaving the “Dog Days of Summer” behind

According to *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*, this 40-day period officially runs from July 3 to August 11 each year



Swamp Milkweed

Grand Finale

(continued from page 5)
at the very least, tap their hooves as the upbeat tunes reached their ears. Another station featured a bonfire. Here, students would sit around the fire and let themselves be enveloped in the cosy blanket of heat. And yes, dear reader, let me address the burning question (pun intended) in your mind: s’mores were very much present. Seriously, what a culinary masterpiece! Anyhow, a particular highlight for me was the zip line. It was relatively long, decently high, and offered an amazing view of the site. In addition, this attraction was located beside swings, a slide, and a beautiful trail leading into the expansive woods. What was there not to like? Last but certainly not

least, there was a mechanical bull at the rodeo. Students would take turns to see who managed to stay on top for the longest, a heroic feat that has challenged even the greatest of minds for generations.
Although this celebration was the last large-scale event for the international student community, there was still a month of school left, so this was hardly a goodbye to Canada. Instead, it was a farewell to many of those who, in the near future, would find themselves thousands of kilometres away, returning to the countries they called home. It was a celebration of the time that had been spent together and of the friendships that would hopefully survive the distance.

by Donna Mitchell
It’s now the time of the year when we can reap our rewards.
Fresh from the garden parsley is delicious and nutritious. Besides being used as a garnish it can add flavour to a variety of dishes.
Carrots are easy to grow and taste so much better when pulled right from the ground. The leafy green tops are edible and work well in salads or pesto.
Pole beans add a touch of colour to the garden and since they are grown vertically you can increase your yield over the bush varieties.
Our Swamp Milkweed plants are

critical hosts for monarch butterflies, providing both a site for egg-laying and food for the caterpillars. We get excited when we see monarchs hanging around.
We were fortunate to be able to buy new picnic tables last year with the money from sales of our raffle basket tickets. They are well used by our groups and visitors.
If you would like to be on our vegetable selling list let us know at urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com. Leave your name and email address and we will let you know when vegetables are available.
We appreciate your support.



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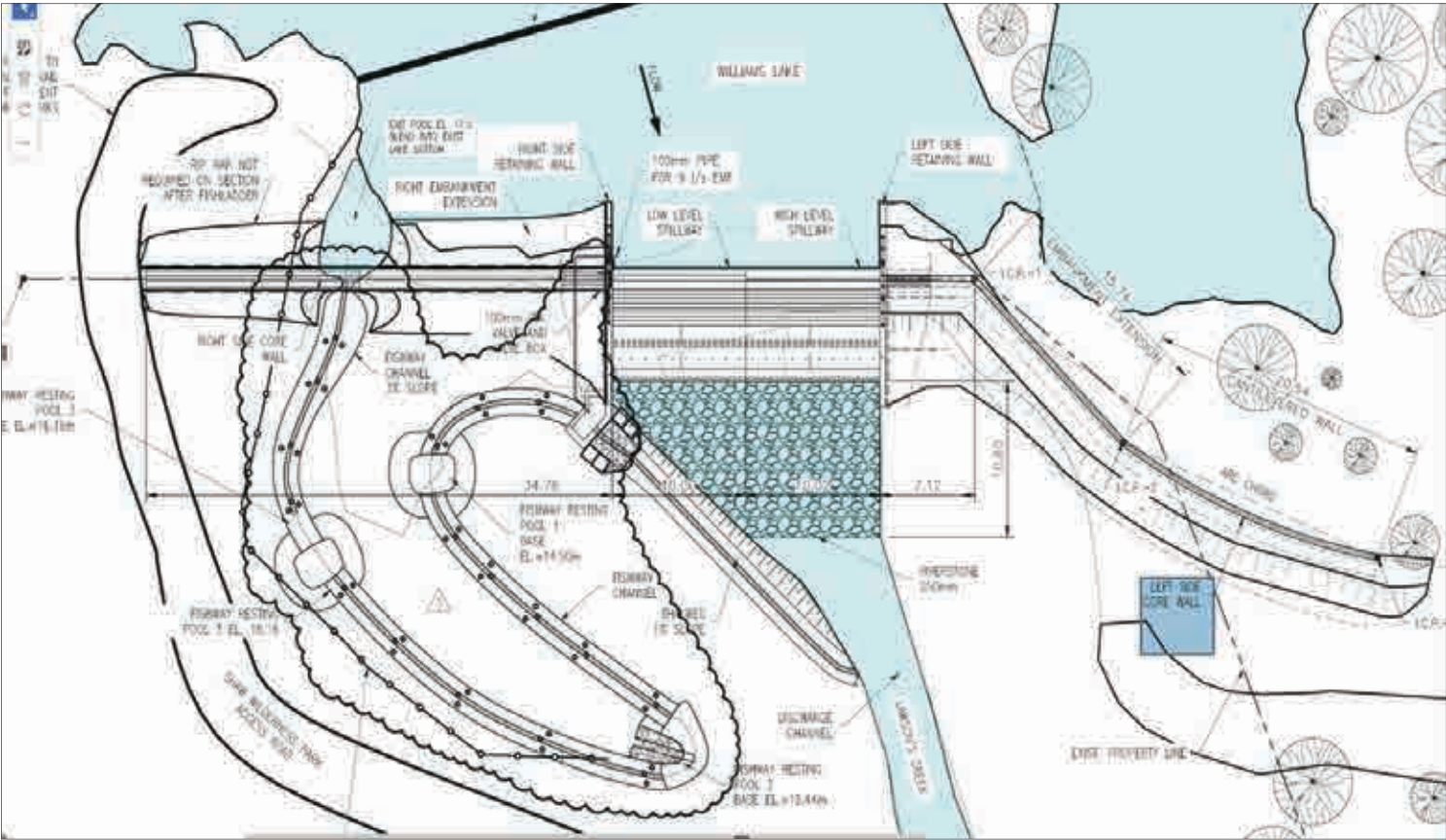
Fishway Channel – modern feature of New Williams Lake Dam

by Cathy Vaughan
For 255 years migratory fish, which live in the ocean and spawn in freshwater, have not been able to reach breeding and feeding areas in Williams Lake. The old dam, built of earth, rock, wood and a bit of concrete in the 1700s for industrial use, blocked their regular migratory journey to their freshwater spawning grounds. That is about to change with the addition of a modern fishway-channel feature in Build Nova Scotia’s construction plan for the new dam on Williams Lake.

Fishway channels or fish ladders are structures that act like a natural river to provide a way for migratory fish in the ocean to access freshwater habitats upstream. Healthy adaptable fish populations require diverse types of ecosystems throughout the seasons and their own life cycles. The more lake habitats that are connected the larger, healthier and more resilient fish populations are.

The new dam on Williams Lake will have a fishway channel as required by our federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and provincial environmental agencies under the Fisheries Act. These departments act in tandem with the Canadian Dam Association which sets the engineering and safety standard for the dam and its fishway channel design and maintenance. What’s safe for the fish is safe for us.

Fishway channels are designed for specific fish. The “pool-and-weir” design used in the new Williams Lake dam



Build Nova Scotia’s schematic of proposed fishway channel at the new Williams Lake dam

duplicates a natural water way to attract salmon, trout, gaspereau and eels. This necessitates careful calculations of its slope with the water velocity calibrated for these specific fish. The channel will include resting ponds big enough to hold several fish. But first we need to coax the fish into the fishway entrance at the base of the dam.

Migratory fish instinctively swim upstream when they are ready to spawn. Their GPS uses the sound and feel of the bubbly turbulence of fresh water

flowing out of a river as it enters the ocean. Once they make it up Lawson’s Creek from the salt water in the Northwest Arm, they are attracted to the fishway by the velocity of the water flowing out of its entrance.

Migratory fish are vital to nature’s food chain as they bring important marine nutrients to the lake waters, contribute to a balanced and healthy aquatic ecosystem and are an important indicator of the health of a lake. The new dam with its modern fishway will enrich

the lake’s biodiversity, help to preserve aquatic habitats, and support sport fishing activities in the lake. Williams Lake is a paddle-friendly lake with four community entrances and over a kilometre of shoreline in the Shaw Wilderness Park in the Williams Lake watershed.

For updates on this fishy-phase of construction of the new dam, please follow Williams Lake Conservation Company social media and check Build Nova Scotia’s website.

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Birds of the Backlands - Hermit Thrush

by Joshua Barss Donham

The Hermit Thrush is a solitary, reclusive bird, more often heard than seen. It begins singing in the dim light of the pre-dawn and again in the evening, often until after dark when all other birds have fallen silent. Its ethereal song carries a great distance through the forest - across wide lakes.

The Hermit Thrush is most easily distinguished from other thrushes by the contrast between its cinnamon-brown tail and olive-brown body. Unlike other species that migrate to Central and South America, most Hermit Thrush overwinter in the U.S. Consequently, they are the first to arrive in the spring and the last to leave in the fall.

Habitats: They prefer open mixed forest and barrens. In the Backlands they are found along the trail from the end of Colpitt lake Road in Spryfield to the outlet at Colpitt Lake, and in the forested corridor between Colpitt Lake and Williams Lake. Among other places, they nest on the hill between East Pine and West Pine Island Ponds near its summit where trees give way to spectacular barrens.

Habits: Hermit Thrush occupy themselves scratching among leaf litter in search of insects, often stopping to stare hard at a spot on the ground as if listening. They eat insects, beetles, ants, caterpillars, small reptiles, and amphibians such as salamanders. They generally don't visit feeders. Shy by nature, they usually stick to the shadows. They do, however, frequent forest edges and openings. If disturbed, they will often fly to a low perch and stare at an intruder, flicking

their wings and jerking up their tail and slowly lowering it.

Nesting: The female builds a nest in a hollow on the forest floor composed of coarse grass and bits of bracken fern reinforced with mud and lined with pine needles and deer hair. Nests are often concealed beneath the roots of wind-tipped trees, dead bracken ferns, or conifer seedlings. The male finds food while the female feeds the nestlings.

Song: The genus to which the Hermit Thrush and several other new world thrushes belong – “Catharus” - means ‘clear’ or ‘pure’. Most birds possess a vocal organ called a syrinx. It is located deep in the bird’s chest at the base of the windpipe, where it divides into two bronchial tubes, and contains two separate voice boxes that produce sounds independently of each other. Thus, songbirds can produce two notes simultaneously, creating dyads which function as chords and harmonies. Hermit Thrush harmonize with themselves producing fluid melodic descending phrases. This song, often compared to the sounds of a flute, has inspired poets such as Walt Whitman and Henry Van Dyke and contemporary poets like Mary Oliver, Amy Clampitt, and Hilda Conkling.

Conservation: Hermit Thrush numbers appear stable. “Partners in Flight” estimates a population of 72 million, 50 million of which nest in Canada. Hermit Thrush migration extends well into October, so there’s plenty of time yet to catch a glimpse of this unassuming, shy bird with an ethereal voice.



Juvenile Hermit Thrush on Fisherman’s Road/Military Road, Halifax Backlands, Spryfield. Photo: Joshua Barss Donham, August 2022

Premier’s Message

by Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia



Premier Tim Houston

Nova Scotia – So Many Reasons for Optimism

Even though the world is uncertain, there are so many reasons to be optimistic in Nova Scotia.

This summer, I’ve visited communities across our Province, speaking to Nova Scotians at small businesses, community events and at their doors. I was reminded of the challenges we face and the opportunities ahead.

As Premier, I know that your wallets are feeling the pinch and rising housing prices are making it tougher to get by. Trade wars and global instability are making the job market less predictable. But I also know that Nova Scotians are capable of sailing through this storm successfully to better shores.

It wasn’t long ago that our biggest challenge was access to healthcare. People were looking away from Nova Scotia because they couldn’t find a doctor and surgery wait times were

some of the highest in the country.

While the job isn’t finished, today Nova Scotia is a leader in Canada in attaching patients to a family practice and has some of the shortest wait times in the country for hip, knee and cataract surgeries.

These results are because our government planned, focused and made the investments necessary to achieve results.

Now, we’re taking that same focus to protecting our future from uncertainty and Donald Trump by building a more resilient Province and economy.

By focusing on opportunities in defence, mining, critical minerals and energy, we can build that Nova Scotia.

A Province with major projects, like the new military submarines and Wind West, that will bring jobs for a generation.

A Province no longer at the end of the energy transmission line, but at the start.

And a Province with the wealth needed to build roads, homes and hospitals without having to raise taxes.

Even though these opportunities are exciting, the biggest reason I am confident in the future of our Province is our people. That Bluenoser Spirit.

I’ve spent the last five years traveling our Province meeting with business owners taking risks, families putting down roots, and young people building their careers.

These are people who work incredibly hard every day and we owe it to them to pursue big things.

That’s why our government is focused on protecting our future by building the Nova Scotia that we know is possible.

You’re Invited!

STELLA MARIS PARISH OPEN HOUSE



When? Saturday, Sept. 12th
Where? Stella Maris Parish
(St. Michaels Church) 6 St. Michaels Ave.
Mass: 9:00 am • Open House: 10:00 am – Noon
Come celebrate with us!

Tour the church, admire our beautiful new hand-painted authentic icon, enjoy coffee, tea, and ice cream, and let the kids join in the fun with children’s activities.
Everyone is welcome!

Cuttell Community Update

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

Back to School Means Back to Safety
For many of us, September feels more like a new year than January. Summer winds down, routines return and students head back to classrooms. It is an exciting time for families, but it is also a time when we need to focus on something that affects every neighbourhood: school safety.

Each fall, traffic around our schools increases dramatically. With more children walking, biking, rolling, taking the bus, and being dropped off, the first weeks of September require extra patience and attention from all of us.

Over the past year, I have heard concerns from parents at Elizabeth Sutherland School, Chebucto Heights Elementary, Central Spryfield Elementary, William King Elementary, Cunard Jr High and Harrietsfield Elementary. While every school has unique challenges, many of the concerns are similar: speeding, illegal U-turns, unsafe drop-off practices, blocked crosswalks, and drivers ignoring school zones. Parents and school communities have also been working to identify solutions, including improved signage, traffic management measures, and volunteer-supported initiatives to help improve safety during peak periods.

The reality is that enforcement alone is not the answer. Halifax Regional Police will be paying particular attention to school-zone safety as students return to class, and I appreciate the support of HRP. However, police resources simply do not allow officers to be present at every school every day. Enforcement is one part of the solution, but the most important factor is driver behaviour.

My message to parents and drivers is straightforward:

Slow down. Follow the rules. Be patient.

A few extra seconds is never worth risking a child’s safety. Respect school-zone speed limits. Do not stop in crosswalks or no-parking areas. Avoid dangerous shortcuts and illegal turns. And when a school bus has its stop arm extended and lights flashing, stop. These are simple actions, but they make a tremendous difference.

I also want to encourage parents to be part of the solution. Some schools HRM have already participated in parent-led safety initiatives that have shown how small changes can improve traffic flow and reduce conflicts between vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. Community involvement matters. Parents, school staff, students, HRCE, Halifax Regional Police, and the municipality all have a role to play in creating safer school environments.

That collaborative approach is also reflected in Halifax’s Active School Travel work. The municipality continues to work with schools and community partners to better understand how students travel to school and to identify opportunities to make walking, biking, and rolling safer and more attractive options. Active Transportation Planner Fuki Asai has been leading engagement with students, families, educators, and communities to help inform this work and support future improvements.

If your School Advisory Council is discussing traffic safety, active transportation, or school pick-up and drop-off

concerns, I would be happy to attend a meeting. Some of the best solutions come directly from parents and school communities. I welcome the opportunity to hear concerns, discuss ideas, and explore how we can work together to make school streets safer for everyone.

I also want to remind residents to watch for information regarding the upcoming Herring Cove Road Multi-Modal Corridor public engagement process. This project will shape transportation, active transportation, transit connections, and road safety in our area for decades to come. Open house dates had not been finalized when this column was submitted, but I strongly encourage residents to

The Maguire Report

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

August has been another great month in our community. We have had some beautiful summer weather, and I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy what makes this time of year so special — our lakes and beaches, backyard BBQs, time with friends and family, and simply getting outside and enjoying our community.

With students returning to class, I want to remind everyone to take a little extra care on our roads. Kids will once again be walking to and from school, waiting at bus stops, riding bikes and crossing busy streets. Please check your speed, especially when children and youth are nearby, pay close attention in school zones and around crosswalks, and always stop for school buses when required.

Sou’Westers Day was another tremendous success!

The parade was fantastic, and there were so many great family events throughout the community. Events like this don’t happen without people giving their time and energy behind the scenes.

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered, organized and helped make the day possible.

As a small token of my appreciation, I presented the SACA group with a special piece of art created by a local Nova Scotia artist. The people behind SACA do so much for our community, and I wanted them to know just how much their work is appreciated.

I also want to thank the Orb Factory for once again stepping up and providing toys for me to give away during the parade. It is always great to see a local company supporting local families and community events. Thank you!

I have also heard from a number of residents regarding four-wheelers, off-highway vehicles and access to trails in our community.

People have asked why we cannot have trail-to-road and road-to-trail connections similar to those available in other parts of Nova Scotia.

I have spoken with both the Department of Public Works and the ATV Association of Nova Scotia to better understand what would be required.

The Road Trails Act was created to allow off-highway vehicles to operate on designated portions of highways where necessary to provide connections between trails or between trails and amenities.

stay informed and participate once details are released. Community feedback will be critical as this important work moves forward.

Council has also recently advanced work on Halifax’s Seniors Strategy, which focuses on helping older adults remain active, connected, and engaged in their communities. The strategy recognizes the importance of accessible programs, transportation options, age-friendly public spaces, and opportunities for social inclusion. As our population continues to grow and age, supporting seniors is essential to maintaining healthy and resilient communities.

Another issue that remains important to many residents is the ongoing challenge of non-accepted streets. Council will soon receive a report on non-accepted streets, an issue that affects a significant number of roads in District 11, in-

cluding those transferred into the district following boundary changes. Residents on these streets continue to raise concerns about maintenance, drainage, surface conditions, and long-term responsibility for upkeep. I will be looking closely at staff recommendations and advocating for practical solutions that help ensure these roads remain in a state of good repair so residents can safely access their homes year-round. Given the number of affected communities in our district, this remains a priority issue and I look forward to the discussion at Regional Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Councillor and Deputy Mayor. It is a privilege to represent District 11 and to work alongside residents who care deeply about their neighbours and their community. I wish all students, families, teachers, staff, and volunteers a safe, successful, and rewarding school year.

very personal note.

It is with a broken heart that I acknowledge the passing of Sherman Ossinger.

I have known Sherman and his family since elementary school. Sherman was hardworking, fun-loving and loyal. He was a friend, and he was someone who always put family first.

My heart is absolutely broken for the Ossinger family and everyone who knew and loved him.

Love you, bud. Rest in peace, Sherman, and thank you for the memories.

As always, I am proud to work for you and proud to be your MLA.

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Branch 152



WE CARE

LOCAL OBITUARIES

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

Delcia Robichaud

It is with great sadness that the family of Delcia Robichaud announces her passing on June 29, 2026, at Melville Gardens.

Born on June 16, 1934, in Neguac, NB, Delcia was the daughter of the late Antoine and Josephine Robichaud. A bold and resilient woman, she attended the Halifax School for the Blind before pursuing a career as a healthcare provider. Delcia was known for her love of music, frequently playing the piano and organ, and her fondness for colorful outfits and jewelry. She will be remembered most for her nurturing spirit and her deep love for her family.

Delcia is survived by her son, Daniel; daughters, Patricia Joyce and Lynn Joyce; grandchildren, Gregory and Chris; and great-grandchildren Hunter and Zalli; sisters, Lydia, Linda, Lauza, and Geraldine; and her brother, Ola. She was predeceased by her brothers, Emile, Eustache, Domicien, Elvery, Roger; and Leo; and sister, Bernadette.

Marie Marjorie (Bishop) Llewellyn

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Marie Marjorie (Bishop) Llewellyn, who passed away peacefully at Melville Gardens at the age of 100.

Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Marie lived a long and remarkable life filled with love, kindness and compassion. She was a devoted animal lover and found great joy in the companionship of her many dogs and cared for throughout her lifetime.

Marie is lovingly remembered by her sons, Glenn (Christine) and Joseph; cherished grandchildren, Breanne, Marcus, Jennifer, and Amanda; great-granddaughter, Maddie; beloved niece, Linda Shea; and many extended family members and friends whose life she touched over the many years. She was predeceased by her beloved son, Patrick; brother, Billy, Ray, Keny and Harold.

Her warmth and gentle spirit will deeply be missed. Marie leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, and cherished memories that will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made out in Maries memory to the Nova Scotia SPCA.

<https://www.novascotiaspc.ca/how-you-can-help/donate/>

James Michael Crouse

In Loving Memory of James M. Crouse “Mike” age (68) of Bridgewater Nova Scotia July 30th, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of James M. Crouse, lovingly known as “Mike.”

Mike was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Bonnie, and a proud father to his son, Justin, who was truly his pride and joy. He was the cherished son of Pat Crouse and James Crouse, and a loving brother to Sharon and brother-in-law to Paul. He will also be deeply missed by his nephews, Ben and Ellen, along with his extended family and many friends.

Mike and Bonnie’s love story began at the Dingle by the Wharf, where they met and fell in love. Together, they eventually moved to Bridgewater for work and built a life filled with love, memories, and family. In his younger years, Mike enjoyed fishing, going to concerts, and dancing. He had a love for life and enjoyed making memories with the people closest to him. Mike spent his working years in construction, working alongside his father, before eventually retiring. He took pride in his work and in the life he built for his family.

Above all, Mike will be remembered as a loving husband, a proud father, a cherished brother, uncle, son, and friend. His greatest joy was his family, especially his son Justin, and the love he shared with Bonnie.

Though he may no longer be by their side, the memories of Mike, his laughter, his love, and the life he shared with those around him will remain forever in their hearts.

Rest peacefully, Mike. You were deeply loved, and you will be forever missed.

Sharon Eileen van Abbema
Age 85, of Halifax, Nova Scotia,

passed away peacefully at Moody Hall, surrounded by family and the resident musician, Brandon, playing some Irish ballads and her favourite hymns.

Born on Toronto Island during wartime conditions, she grew up in the Scarborough suburb of Toronto. She raised three children, now living with their families living in Halifax and Calgary. During a short stay in Trinidad, she adopted her third child, a toddler from an orphanage, to raise at home.

Sharon’s mother, Marie Russell, was a soft-spoken immigrant Irish

farm girl and her father, Robert Smith, was a flight instructor for young men training to go overseas as pilots.

Sharon married John van Abbema on November 10, 1991 and lived a much-travelled life with him for nearly 37 years.

Sharon was a youth camp counselor for 17 years and planned her pregnancies during that time to free up full-time for that season of the year.

Music was the other love of her life, and she was trained as a Lay Chaplain. She was a much-loved character in that position, particularly with the youth and seniors.

St. Paul’s Family Resources Institute



REALTORS Care reaching out to support St. Paul’s Family Resources Institute Food Bank, with a food drive, held on August 6th, at Sobey’s in Spryfield. Pictured left to right: Alex Allen, Nicole Schnare, Kristen Hollery Executive Director of St. Paul’s Family Resources Institute, Jenni Mosher.

On August 6th, between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m., we joined REALTORS Care as part of their annual Provincial Food Drive at Sobeys on the Herring Cove Road. All donations, monetary and non-perishable food, were collected for our Food Bank. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet the community and be mindful that food insecurity has no season. A big thank-you to the REALTOR Care volunteers Nicole Schnare, Jenni Moser, Alex Allen, and Nicole McMahon for organizing the event, and supporting St. Paul’s Family Resources Institute Food BanTucked to the rear of St. Paul’s United Church property on 173 Old Sambro Road sits the John Umlah Memorial Community Garden. It’s one of the long-lasting programs of St. Paul’s Family Resources Institute, and one we are so proud As I enter the Community Garden space I unlock a gate, which, along with a high fence, secures the garden. Behind the gate are two sheds, and a wooden structure which houses a compostable toilet, a produce washing station and an awning covered deck. This structure was created as a school project by the Dalhousie architect class in 2016. Water barrels are strategically placed for easy access. Mid garden is a Food

Bank plot, planted and harvested by volunteer gardeners. Across from the Food Bank plot is a perennial bed, which provides healthy pollination, also maintained by a garden volunteer. Aside from the physical placement of the structures and convenient placement of tools comes a community of like-minded individuals who spent the pre-season months anticipating fruitfulness and a connection with Mother EarAs I walk down the garden path, it’s obvious that planning, hard work, and inspiration have paid off. The beauty is truly breathtakiSeptember 15th, Soup’s On, our free lunch on Tuesdays between noon and one, is up and running for the fall season. A big thank you to our dedicated volunteers who plan the menu, cook the meal, and clean up. Also, thank you to all who volunteer to put away the tables and chairs in the hall following the meAnother fundraiser is on the horizon. Christmas wreaths will be selling for thirty dollars each. You need to pre-order the wreaths in September/October by contacting Kristen Hollery, our Executive Director. To place your order, or if you have any other questions or concerns, contact Kristen at khollery_stpaulsfri@hotmail.com, or by phone at 902-479-1015.



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The Jason Doherty Memorial COMMUNITY EVENTS PAGE



SEPTEMBER

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 pick-up on Wed. between 9 am and 10 am
- Chebucto Family Centre (3 Sylvia Ave) has an Emergency Food Cup-board which can be accessed every two weeks.
- Emmanuel Food Bank: (322 Herring Cove Rd). If you would like help with food, please call 902-477-1954 before 10 am Tuesday 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 - All Memorial pool tournaments are open to members of any legion along with family members of the person being memorialized.

Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre events:

- Currently taking bookings. Please call, email or message us through our Facebook page, phone at (902) 446-4847, or email hwcc@outlook.com
- Our "Community Votes" Gold winning After school program has part time and full time spots available! Grades Pre-primary to six! Contact Cara at hwcc@outlook.com
- We are looking for new volunteer Board Members to join our team!

Do you care about your community and want to make a difference? No experience needed- just a big heart and willingness to help!

- Mobile Food Market EVERY 2ND TUESDAY 1pm-3pm Affordable produce!
- Christmas Craft Fair November 14th, 2026 9am-1pm If you would like a table they are \$35.00 Please contact Natasha at 902-293-7427

Chebucto Family Centre (3 Sylvia Ave) events:

Free Meals:

- Free community meals at Chebucto Family Centre:
 - Back to School BBQ - September 2 at 11:00am
 - Spry Cafe - September 9 at 5:30pm
- For more free events you can visit our website at <http://www.chebucto-familycentre.ca/our-calendar>

Emmanuel Anglican Church (322 Herring Cove Road) events:

- Introduction to Line Dancing: Come and join us at Emmanuel Church Hall on Saturday September 19, from 10:00am to 11:30am for Introduction to Line Dancing with instructor Janice. The cost is \$10 at the door. Canteen available for water and treats.
- Dinner Theatre: Emmanuel Players present the musical "Beached". Show times Friday Oct.16 and 23, and Saturday Oct.17 and 24. \$45 ticket includes great entertainment along with a delicious 3 course roast beef dinner. Tickets on sale in the church Sunday Sep.13 and 20 from 12pm-2pm. For more information call (902) 880-4006.
- Our hall is available for rental. Please call 902-477-1783 or go to <http://mmanuelanglicanchurch.net/>

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

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

- Swordfish supper. Dine in or take out. Includes roll and dessert. Saturday, October 17th from 4 to 6pm. Adults \$25 (cash only) Kids 12 and under eat free.

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:

- Now that the freezing weather is behind us, the outdoor tap has been turned on and those in need may access it at any time.

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

Our UFMSS would like to invite you to our 2026 upcoming events to be held at our Urban Farm Site across from Kidston Estates on Rockingstone

Road.

- Harvest Fair / School Farm Day - Saturday, September 19th. 2-4pm (Raindate Sept. 20th)

2026 is the 30th. Birthday of our UFMSS with special guests, the "Barnyard Bunch" of farm animals. Enjoy games, contests, harvest food, entertainment, bubbles and birthday cake! A special invitation to all students, families, seniors, past and present members, volunteers and everyone in our community!

2026 Memberships are now available - Individuals \$15.00, Students & Seniors \$10.00, Families \$20.00, Groups & Organizations \$55.00. For more information, please call Pat at 902-497-3683 or email urbanfamspryfield@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

EDA Annual General Meeting Halifax Atlantic PC Riding Association Date: September 21, 2026 Location: Station Six Time 7:00 - 9:00pm. For more information you can contact hfxhalifaxatlanticeda@gmail.com

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



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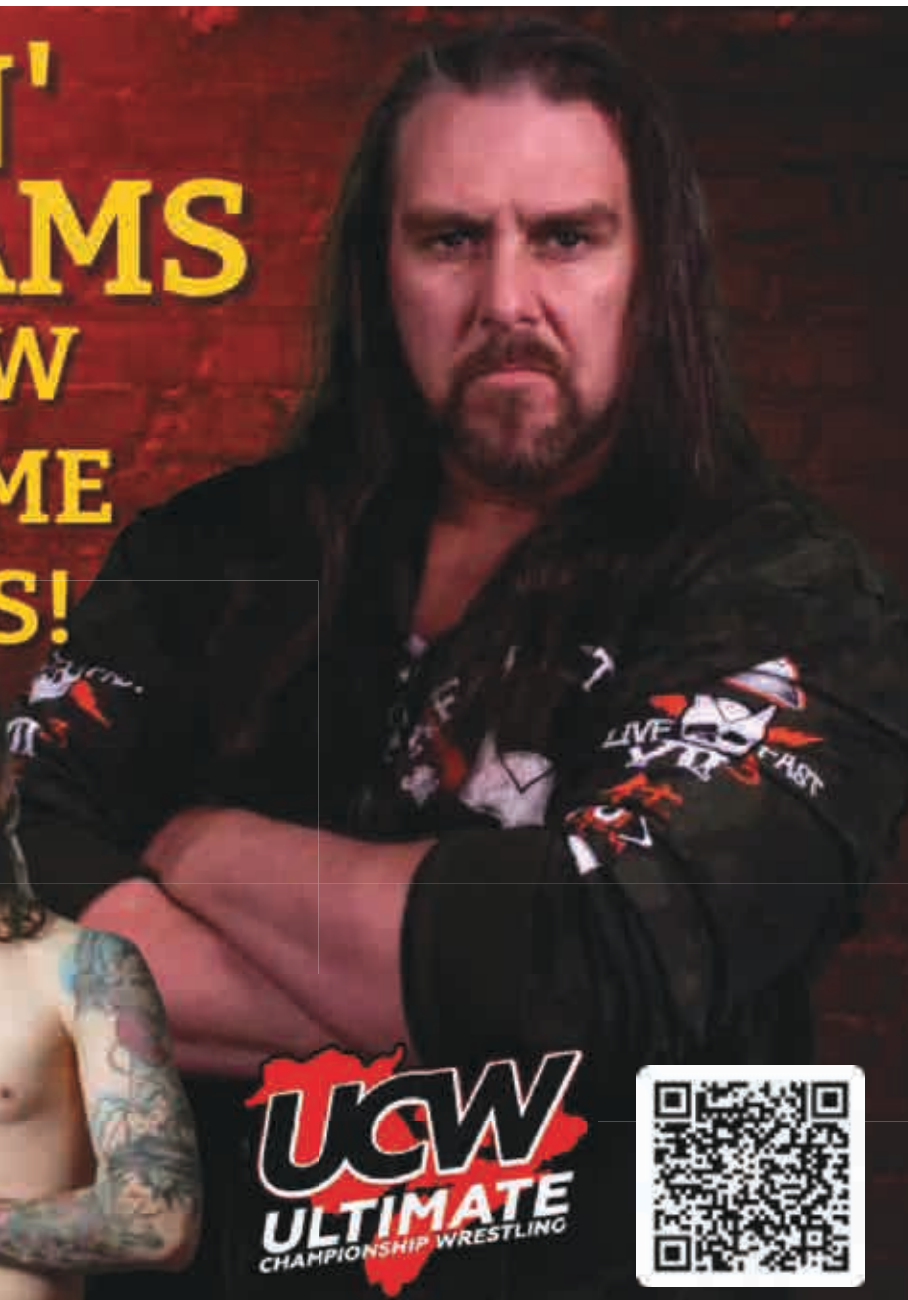


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