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Saluting the Fallen



Colour party salutes the wreaths on Remembrance Day, 2026

Year End Review – Urban Farm Society of Spryfield

As you all may know, we only are open on-site six months of the year. We get serious in the month of May when we have our plant sale. Our members are very generous with their donations to the plant sale, bringing us not only plants and cuttings, but also extra planting pots of which we are very grateful. As well, we usually have vegetable and flower seeds to give away.

The more serious part is getting the market garden beds planted, reinstalling our water barrels and rain catchment systems, getting plots ready for folks who want to learn how to plant and harvest vegetables, as well as plots for experienced members, cleaning up around our current bushes, mowing our field, cutting back the invasive Rosa Multiflora, and oh yes – getting our deer tape updated for the deer and the expected baby fawns, plus reinstalling doors on our fairy door trail.

Mid July is our Strawberry Social, with fresh strawberries on biscuits with whipped cream on top. We look forward to this tasty treat as our visitors sit in the sun and catch up on news and such. To raise funds for the operation of our farm, there will be tables set up for baked goods, vegetables, our cookbook,

(See Urban Farm on page 2)

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Who, me? Volunteer?

by Marjorie Willison

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

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

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

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

Volunteers do many different things. Broadly speaking, there are four kinds of skills that groups need: practical skills, communication skills, event and program skills, and board skills. Most people feel comfortable in one area but not others, which is why it's so important to have different kinds of people volunteering so that groups have a variety of skills to draw on.

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

Urban Farm

(continued from page 1)

our garden book and various other "stuff", along with a kid's table for making a craft or two, and maybe a fairy door to add to our trail. Anyone else in Spryfield can make a fairy door to show off along our trail too.

Sometimes we have an Evening in the Garden for music. If anyone out there is interested in adding their musical skills, it would be gratefully accepted. Maybe even a sing along?

September is our Harvest Fair with more tasty food, a birthday cake to celebrate another successful year, along with visiting animals and some yard sale tables of interesting "stuff" for sale.

The rest of our season in October is selling a variety of fall vegetables, cleaning up the gardens, putting away the summer tools, and settling the beds for the winter.

A big thank you!! goes out to all of our members, supporters, customers, and those of you donate their time and effort, along with visitors who just like to stroll through our garden site to stop for a chat.

If anyone has a question for us, go to: urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com

For 2027 memberships, we have set up a no fee automatic E-transfer

Individuals $15, Students/Seniors $10, Families $15

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from the Management and Staff of
ChebuctoNews.ca





Deputy Mayor
Patty Cuttell

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Religious Services for December

Send your submissions to chebuctoeditor@gmail.com for January's issue by December 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
Sunday, December 20th, Our Senior Choir will present their Christmas cantata, Celebrate Emmanuel
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.
Dec. 6th: Second Sunday in Advent we celebrate Peace with children's gifts and mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for the Mitten Tree. There is Sunday School for grades 1-6 and after-church social time with refreshments.
Dec 13th: Third Sunday in Advent we celebrate Joy
Dec. 20th: Fourth Sunday in Advent we celebrate Love with communion sung to the tunes of Christmas carols.
Dec. 24th: 6:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service-Come Journey to the Bethlehem stable and celebrate the birth of Jesus.
Dec 28th: Christmas stories and carols.
Weekly bulletins with the order of service on website: www.sambrojollimore.com.
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 11am. Holy Eucharist. Priest: Rev. Mark Pretty ((902)579-3111. 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
Online Services on Zoom:
Sundays – 8:00 – 9:00 AM
Wednesdays – 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Living Hope Community Church
Sunday Services 10:30AM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24th at 6pm
More information at livinghopehalifax.com 902-830-5669.
Always lots going on - and you are welcome!

Living Hope Community Church
invites you to a **Free Christmas Dinner**
Friday, December 4, 2026 at 6PM
Spryfield Legion,7 Sussex St
Games, Prizes, Singing, Full turkey dinner, dessert and a Christmas message
Hope you can join us!

Also, join us Christmas Eve, December 24th at 6PM
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
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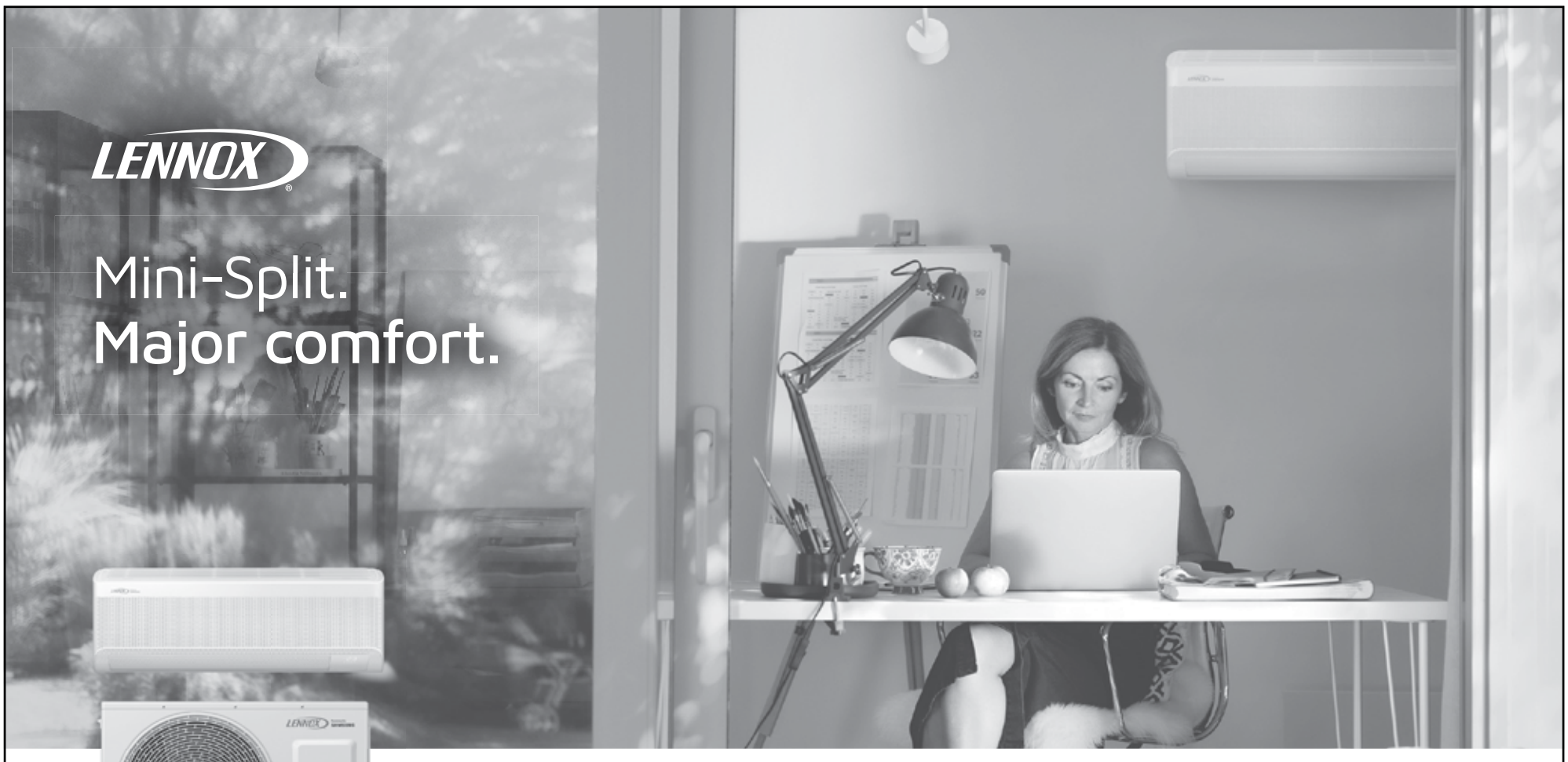

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Discovering Our Past

Andrew Bonar Law, his close connection to Spryfield

by Iris Shea

Andrew Bonar Law (1858-1923) served as prime minister of Great Britain from 1922 to 1923, the only Canadian to hold that position. His mother, Elizabeth Annie Kidston, was the daughter of William Kidston, Jr. and Elizabeth (Dawson) Kidston of Spryfield. The family settled in Spryfield on their 1000 acres farm in 1822. Elizabeth Annie Kidston, one of 10 children, was sent to Glasgow, Scotland, to be educated. In Scotland she met and married James Law, a Presbyterian minister. The Laws settled in Kingston, now Rexton, New Brunswick., where Andrew Bonar Law was born. Bonar Law, as he preferred to be known, was two years old when his mother died. Jenny Kidston, his mother's sister, also educated in Scotland, came to New Brunswick to take care of him and his older brothers and sisters. The story passed down in the Kidston family is that young Bonar Law, with his Aunt Jenny, spent summer holidays with his Kidston cousins in Spryfield.

When Bonar Law was 12 years old, his Aunt Jenny took him to her Kidston cousins in Glasgow, Scotland, to be educated and, later, to learn the banking business at William Kidston and Company. He became active in the Conservative party and entered Parliament in 1900 as the Scottish representative in the House of Commons in Great Britain. He was a popular politician, and throughout World War I was often acting Prime Minister to Lloyd George. He was the leader of the Conservative Party during the periods 1911–21 and 1922–23. On October 24th, 1922, Bonar Law, although reluctantly, became Prime Minister of Great Britain. Due to ill health, he resigned as Prime Minister on May 20, 1923. He died October 30, 1923. The Prince of Wales was one of the pallbearers at the burial service in Westminster Abbey.

A letter was written three days following the death of Bonar Law by Harry B. Kidston, a cousin of Bonar Law in Glasgow, Scotland. The letter was addressed to John Kidston, Halifax, and was saved by the Kidston family of Spryfield. The letter follows:

Dated 2nd November 1923, 93 West George Street, Glasgow.

Dear Cousin:

I am sending you today a batch of newspapers printed in various centres of the country from all of which you will learn of the grief of a nation. The loss of a successful man always calls for regret—but the taking away of a great and good man means loss irreparable. He was your first cousin and, by reading the poor expressions of my letter, you may be able to understand—but only in part—the great love we bore for him.

He was great because of his goodness. His simplicity of nature, his wonderful faith, his indomitable courage was for him not only respect, but love—aye, even from those who were forced to worship from afar. His honesty was, at times, disarming—but that same steadfastness of purpose and his sterling character was for him a place in the hearts of all. It is men of such stamp that the world can ill afford to spare. We mourn his loss but we thank God such men have lived among us. They show us the way, but few have the strength of character to follow. The man himself has gone—but his unselfish devotion to duty will live as a shining example to those who are left & to those who are still unborn.

The story of silent suffering cheerfully borne can never be realised except by a very few. His thoughts to the end were of others & his wonderful spirit bore him above all suffering. The agony at times must have been intense but always that unconquerable spirit shone through, bright & unquenchable. So it was to the end. Such a man was Andrew Bonar Law. To him death comes as a happy release, & the emptiness is felt by those who remain. Today all seems sadness, but we should try and rejoice—for He is happy. His resting placed is to be Westminster Abbey—and what more fitting. May the country he truly died for carry on in the path he led & be worthy of the great example he gave us. My father goes South to the funeral but I remain here. I shall send you some accounts of the service next week. I shall write again soon. My respects to you all & I know you will hand the papers round.

Yours

Harry B. Kidston



Photos from newspapers received by Kidston family in Spryfield following death of Andrew Bonar Law in 1923. Left, Bonar Law with his son Dick, the (then) present Lord Coleraine, c. 1922; right, Bonar Law and Lloyd George, summer 1922

The name Bonar Law is remembered as a provincial historic site near Rexton, New Brunswick. Bonar Law Memorial Hugh School is located in that community, as is Bonar Law Common at 31 Bonar Law Avenue in Rexton. Bonar Law married Annie Pitcairn Roblee in 1891 in Glasgow. Descendants from their four sons and two daughters continue to live in the United Kingdom. Their Kidston cousins continue to live in the Kidston homestead in Spryfield.

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Sylvia Schnare celebrates 100th birthday



by Lorrie Boylen

Sylvia (Gilkie) Schnare of Sambro Creek turned 100 years young on October 14th, and 10 days later, over 150 family and friends gathered in the St. James United Church Hall to celebrate with her.

The accompanying photo of Sylvia at her party was taken by Barbara Poole, a daughter of Eunice (Gilkie) Henneberry, who was Sylvia's first cousin, and who lived an amazing 104 years. Their grandparents, Alexander Gilkie and Annette (Jollimore) Gilkie, had several children who lived well into their late 90s, and their daughter Minnie (Gilkie) Smith lived to be 100.

A few weeks before her birthday, Sylvia received a call from an insurance agent who she bought a $5,000 policy from over 50 years ago, meant to cover funeral costs. At the time of purchase, this gentleman was brand new to the insurance industry at age 22, and Sylvia was one of his first clients. Under the terms of the policy, if the holder lives to be 100, the insurance company pays out the value of the policy. Sylvia is his only client of who reached the century mark.

In March 1967, when Sylvia was just 41, her husband Earl Schnare was lost overboard off the Sigma fishing vessel, leaving her a widow with 6 offspring and no life insurance. Sylvia was always a hard worker and instilled those values in her children. She worked hard to make ends meet, cleaning, feeding, and taking in laundry, initially using a washboard and tub, and then later with a ringer washer. Times were lean, but she made sure they never went hungry.

As a fisherman's wife, Sylvia was used to coping on her own and handling things that go wrong in the house, and when something was beyond her talents or ability to deal with, she had family nearby to lend a hand.

She later met Clarence Wentzell, and they spent 50 happy years together, until his death in 2019. Although Sylvia has some health challenges, it's important to her that she remain in her own home, and thanks to family, she's been able to do that.

100 years holds a lot of memories, love, laughter, loss, and struggle. Life isn't measured only by the years we live, but by those special moments we cherish, and the people whose lives we touch. Reaching this extraordinary birthday is a milestone that not many have the opportunity to experience. She's certainly earned the right to celebrate!

(Lorrie Boylen is a Communications Professional, Coordinator for the Sambro Imagination Library, and CBC Radio's Community Contact for Sambro)

J.L. Ilsley plans something big for the upcoming holiday season

by Jules Rabjohn

Looking into December, students are excited for the winter break, though the Student Council has something up their sleeves: a holiday talent show where all students are welcome to perform their talent or hobby in front of other children and teachers in the building. On the 18th of December, this annual tradition will be brought back, sharing a connection to the past students and teachers from which this talent show originated. Each year, the educators and scholars come together to share their interest in dance, prose, singing, and other beloved activities dear to J.L hearts.

The organizers are currently forming advertisements and should have posters and social media posts up by early December. Hoping for a strong turnout, J.L has decided to promote this year's show a bit earlier. This activity will not be available to those outside the school but will have many pictures and videos to share with the community. Those who come to watch will be able to sit back, relax, enjoy the show, and should respect those that decide to go outside of their comfort zones.

Whether highlighting a hidden talent or cheering on peers, the annual holiday talent show is promised to be a memorable celebration of creativity, courage, and school spirit. If you are a J.L Judge, mark your calendars for December 18th — it's time to come together, support one another, and most importantly, celebrate the amazing talents that make the J.L Ilsley and Spryfield community so special.

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5 x 16" Any pizza	$80.00

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HO HO HO Merry Christmas

Backyard bird feeders – winter treats!

by Joshua Barss Donham

This month, birds must spend every moment of the shortened daylight hours foraging for enough food to lay on a fat reserve to get them through the long cold winter nights. Their tiny metabolisms must run at a high rate to stay warm in sub-zero temperatures. Your bird feeder can provide them with a dependable source of high calorie food they most need. Set out your feeder after a couple of heavy frosts.

Styles: There are many styles to choose from - platform, tube and window mounted, are available. Choose a feeder with a cover or roof which will keep seeds dry. Otherwise, seeds will mold and the feeder will need to be cleaned more often.

The hopper feeder which has a roof and sides also allows the seeds to be distributed to a feeding platform as they are consumed, reducing the number of seeds that end up on the ground. Some tube feeders are designed to hold sunflower seeds, and others for nyjer seeds. These tiny brown seeds are rich in oil and favoured by finches, such as Pine Siskins, goldfinches, and redpolls (an occasional winter visitor from the arctic). Any seeds that do fall are enjoyed by ground feeders such as juncos and Mourning Doves.

Seeds: In choosing a type of bird seed, black oil sunflower seeds attract the widest variety of birds by far - Cardinals, Black-capped Chickadees, nuthatches, Blue Jays, Grosbeaks and Mourning Doves, and Song Sparrow. Black oil sunflower seeds have a high fat content and have a thin husk making them easy to crack open, especially helpful to smaller birds.

Treats: An efficient way of providing birds with a food high in fat and calories is suet - attractive to most all-year residents. It will also bring birds to your yard such as Brown Creepers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and kinglets that rarely visit seed feeders. You can buy suet cakes designed for a wire frame suet feeder or make your own. *(ed. note: Recipe appears at end of article.)*

Birds Count! Looking for an outdoor activity to balance the hustle and bustle leading up to the Holidays? The Christmas Bird Count for Halifax and Dartmouth takes place on December 20th this year. Whether you are counting the birds in your backyard or would like to join a group, you will be contributing to our knowledge of birds. For more information go to www.birdscanada.org/programs/christmas-bird-count.



Downy woodpecker on suet feeder. Photo: Joshua Barss Donham

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Suet Recipe

by Joshua Barss Donham

Ingredients:

2 cups lard
1 cup natural (Just Peanuts) peanut butter
1 cup yellow corn meal
1 cup quick cook oats
1 cup black oil sunflower seeds (optional, but recommended)
1 cup peanut hearts or broken up unsalted peanut pieces (optional, but recommended)

Directions:

Melt lard and peanut butter in saucepan until liquid. Add other ingredients and mix thoroughly. Pour into moulds - empty tuna fish cans, sour cream container. You can also pour the mixture into a single baking pan and cut into portions when it has cooled. Keep in fridge for a week or two in a sealed container or in the freezer for months.

Remembrance Day, 2026–music, marching and memories

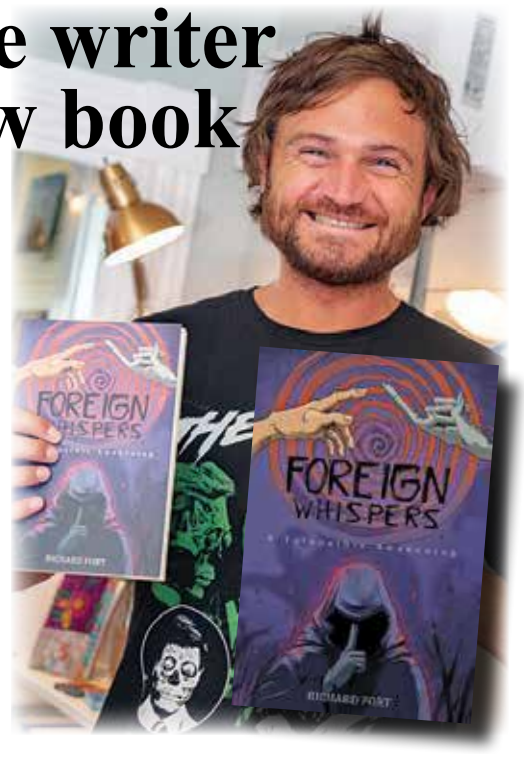








Herring Cove writer publishes new book



Richard Fort lives in Herring Cove, and his book, *Foreign Whispers*, is a nonfiction psychological thriller about his personal battles with the paranormal and mental health, and also serves as an instruction manual for opening your third eye and empowering your own telepathy. *Foreign Whispers* is in over 40 bookstores across The Maritimes, is available online, and Richard attends local vending events regularly.

Richard loves his local community, and there is an emotional passage set in Crystal Crescent Beach in *Foreign Whispers*.

St. Paul's Family Resource Institute wrap-up for the year

by Donna Martin
Board Chair

The John Umlah Memorial Community Garden held a celebration on Friday, October 23rd, to mark the end of another successful season. It was an evening of sharing delicious food, along with plenty of conversation, and a thankfulness for the season's support. Along with gardening, there are gardeners who lead fundraising and work tirelessly to maintain the Food Bank plot, along with other necessary garden maintenance.

No evening of celebration would be complete without awards. Seasoned gardener, Dave Grant organized the awards beginning in July with several people from the community acting as judges. Awards included categories from most improved garden to best overall garden, along with several other categories being judged on. A big thank-you to Dave for overseeing this community effort.

November 14th, we also celebrated another successful turkey supper fundraiser. A big thank-you to everyone for your support. Another fundraiser is our Christmas wreaths. They are crafted in New Ross and make a lovely outdoor Christmas decoration. They cost $30 and can be picked up during working hours.

Speaking of Christmas, it's a busy time for us. There are lists to make, food to source and pack, donations to accept, deliveries to make, and the list goes on. December 16th is the day we give out our Christmas hampers filled with food and holiday goodies. Toys and small gifts are available for those who register. Organizing and community support are vital aspects of this event and, needless to say, volunteers.

We wish each and every one of you a joyous holiday and a blessed 2027.

For anyone wishing to contact us, call Kristen Hollery at 902-479-1015, or email at khollery_stpauls-fri@hotmail.com. We are located at 173 Old Sambro Rd., in the lower level.



St. Paul's Family Resources Institute hosted a potluck dinner and awards night on October 23rd. Left to right-Kristen Hollery, Executive Director of St. Paul's Family Resources Institute, Dave Grant, and Susan Fox. Susan was the recipient of the best overall garden for season 2026



Mayor's Message

by Andy Fillmore, Mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality

A responsible budget starts with priorities

Over the past few months, I've had the opportunity to sit down with residents across HRM to talk about something that affects every household: our municipal budget.

From Prospect Road to the Eastern Shore, and from Bedford to North Preston to communities in Halifax and Dartmouth, people have been generous with their time and honest about the challenges they're facing.

I've heard from residents worried about rising household costs, frustrated with traffic, and concerned about the services and infrastructure their communities depend on.

While the concerns differ from one community to the next, one expectation has been consistent: residents want City Hall to make responsible decisions with their tax dollars.

As we prepare HRM's 2027/28 municipal budget, that's the expectation I'll be bringing to Council Chambers.

First, we need to find efficiencies.

Families and businesses are making difficult choices about their spending. City Hall must demonstrate the same discipline.

That means taking a careful look at how we operate, identifying lower-priority spending, reducing unnecessary costs, and finding better ways to deliver services.

Second, we need to protect core services.

Whether it's fire protection, transit, recreation facilities, road maintenance, or other essential municipal services, residents depend on the municipality to deliver.

Those needs can look different depending on where you live. In communities like Spryfield, Herring Cove, and Sambro, residents should have confidence that their needs are being considered alongside those of our growing urban center.

Third, we need to keep Halifax moving.

Our region continues to grow, and that brings both opportunities and pressures.

We need to make thoughtful investments in the roads, transportation networks, and infrastructure that support our communities. But we also need to be realistic about what we can afford, what has to come first, and how those investments will deliver lasting value.

These are not always easy choices. There will be competing priorities, difficult trade-offs, and different opinions around the Council table.

That's why I think we need to decide what matters most before talking about what residents may need to pay.

As we head into the new year, I want to thank everyone who took the time to participate in our budget conversations. Your perspectives will help inform the decisions ahead.

My commitment is to approach those decisions with a clear focus on affordability, reliability, and making every tax dollar count.

Andy Fillmore
Mayor, Halifax Regional Municipality

Cuttell Community Update

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

Happy Holidays, District 11!

As we head into the holiday season and look toward a new year, I want to wish everyone across Spryfield and our neighbouring communities a safe, peaceful and joyful holiday. It has been a busy year, and I am grateful to everyone who stopped to chat, sent an email, attended a meeting or took part in community conversations throughout 2026.

I am especially pleased to share good news for transit riders in Spryfield. Beginning November 30, Halifax Transit is increasing service on Routes 9A and 9B Herring Cove as part of its Core Service Plan. During weekday afternoon peak periods, combined service will provide a bus approximately every 20 minutes, with six additional outbound trips on the 9A and three on the 9B between 2:30 and 6 p.m. Weekend service is also increasing, moving from every 60 minutes to every 40 minutes. These improvements respond to concerns I hear regularly about overcrowding, reliability and capacity. There is more work to do, and I will continue advocating for better cross-town transit connections between Spryfield, Bayers Lake, Clayton Park and Bedford.

There is exciting progress at the Williams Lake dam construction site. The wing walls are finished and buried, and the two-tier spillway in the centre of the dam is nearing completion. Once construction is complete, HRM will take over ongoing maintenance and operation of the dam and fish ladder, and Shaw Wilderness Park will once again be fully open to everyone. Congratulations to Build Nova Scotia, Dexter Construction, HRM staff and especially the Williams Lake Conservation Company. Its volunteers have cared for the lake since 1968 and worked for many years to see this important project completed.

Work continues on planning for the future of the Captain William Spry Community Centre and Spryfield Lions Arena. Pre-design work is examining options for a modern multi-use recreation facility, including the library, pool, recreation programming and gaps in existing services. The report is tracking to return to Regional Council in the near future. I know how important this project is to our community and will continue to follow it closely.

One of the most valuable parts of my job is hearing directly from residents. During 2026, I hosted four community town halls: in Herring Cove and Williamswood earlier in the year, followed this fall by town halls at the Captain William Spry Community Centre and Purcells Cove Social Club. The conversations differed in each community, but common themes emerged: road safety and speeding, reliable transit, infrastructure keeping pace with development, recreation, environmental protection, affordability and ensuring residents have meaningful opportunities to shape how our communities grow. What I hear at these meetings is important information that helps guide my work, my conversations with staff and the issues I bring to Council. Thank you to everyone who showed up and spoke honestly about what is working and what needs attention.

Council discussions on the 2027/28 municipal budget have begun. As we make difficult choices, my focus will be on delivering the services residents rely on, investing in key infrastructure needed to meet growing demands, and keeping property taxes affordable. There will be opportunities for public participation, including written submissions and opportunities to speak directly to Council. I encourage residents to take part and tell us what matters to you. Details are available at halifax.ca/budget.

November also marked the end of my term as Halifax's Deputy Mayor. It was an incredibly busy and rewarding year, and I was very proud to serve our municipality in that role as the Councillor for District 11, Spryfield-Sambro Loop. Wherever the role took me, I was always proud to represent the community I call home. Thank you for all the support and encouragement you gave me throughout the year. I am also really looking forward to having more time back in our community, talking with residents and reconnecting in person. Watch for more Open Hours in the months ahead!

My Fall/Winter District 11 print newsletter will also be arriving soon with more local news and updates. If you missed my fall e-newsletter, you can find it on my Facebook Page or send an email to patty.cuttell@halifax.ca to be added to the list.

As 2026 comes to a close, thank you to everyone who has reached out, volunteered, participated or simply taken the time to share an idea or concern. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to represent you. Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season and all the best for 2027.

The Maguire Report

by Brendan Maguire, MLA for Halifax Atlantic

As 2026 comes to a close, I want to share a few updates and thank the many people who make our communities such great places to live.

Housing, Infrastructure and Community Planning

Recently, I brought together representatives from the Province and HRM, including Deputy Mayor Patty Cuttell, to discuss housing, infrastructure, and the future of Spryfield and our surrounding communities. The goal was simple: get everyone around the same table, discuss the challenges facing our communities, and work together on solutions. We covered several important issues:

- Herring Cove Road and Transportation: The need for improvements to our roads, transit, sidewalks, and transportation infrastructure as our communities continue to grow. Herring Cove Road remains a major priority for me.

- Infrastructure Funding: Potential federal funding for roads, transit, water, and sewer improvements. We discussed the importance of the Province and HRM working together to establish priorities once federal funding agreements are finalized.

- Housing and Zoning: Changes to building heights along Herring Cove Road, how planning decisions are made, and what these changes mean for future development. We also clarified that Spryfield has not been designated a Special Planning Area.

- Childcare Facilities: Concerns that zoning changes could unintentionally impact existing childcare spaces. Both the Province and HRM expressed a willingness to work together to address this issue.

- Future Community Planning: The importance of protecting our environment, supporting local businesses, and ensuring roads, schools, childcare, and other essential services keep pace with housing growth.

We all recognize the need for more housing, but we also need the infrastructure and services to support it. We cannot look at these issues separately. I want to thank Deputy Mayor Cuttell and everyone from HRM and the Province who participated. We may have different responsibilities and priorities, but we share the same communities. My focus is on bringing people together, finding common ground, and working toward solutions that benefit the residents we represent.

Recognizing Our School Support Staff

I also want to recognize our incredible Educational Program Assistants (EPAs), school bus drivers, custodians, and all school support staff. You play an essential role in keeping our children safe, supported, and learning every day. Our schools simply could not function without the important work you do. Thank you for your dedication, compassion, and everything you do for our students and families. You are valued and appreciated.

Spryfield Christmas Parade

A huge thank you to everyone involved in organizing and supporting this year's Spryfield Christmas Parade! To the organizers, volunteers, local businesses, community groups, first responders, and everyone who contributed, thank you for keeping this wonderful tradition alive. Seeing families, friends, and neighbours come together is what makes our community so special.

As we wrap up 2026, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Thank you to our volunteers, community organizations, local businesses, and everyone who makes Halifax Atlantic such a wonderful place to call home. Please remember to check in on your neighbours and those who may need a little extra support during the holidays.

It continues to be an honour to represent our communities, and I look forward to working together in 2027. From my family to yours, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and all the very best to you and your families in 2027!

Proud to be your MLA
Brendan Maguire

Supporting Your Community

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Earl Francis Spryfield Memorial Branch 152

WE CARE

LOCAL OBITUARIES

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

Michael David Day
In Loving Memory of Michael David Day
October 17, 2026 | Age 42

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Michael David Day, who left us far too soon on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at the age of 42. Michael passed away unexpectedly at his home in Spryfield, leaving behind a family who loved him dearly and countless memories that will forever be treasured.

Born in Truro, Nova Scotia, Michael was the beloved son of Valerie Day and the late Michael Murphy (2011). He was a proud member of the Batchewana First Nation and carried his heritage as an important part of who he was.

Michael leaves behind his loving mother, Valerie Day; his only son, Owen Bruce; his brother, Andrew; and his two very special nieces, Jada and Jessica. He will also be lovingly remembered by his many aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members, and all those whose lives he touched.

Michael held a particularly special place in his heart for his nieces, Jada and Jessica. Being their uncle brought him great happiness, and he took immense pride in watching them grow. The time they shared, the memories they created, and the love he had for them will always hold a special place in their hearts. Although Michael's life was cut far too short, the love he shared and the memories he leaves behind will continue to live on through his family and those who knew him. His sudden passing has left an emptiness in the hearts of his loved ones, but they will find comfort in remembering the moments they shared and the special place he held in their lives. As Michael begins his journey to the spirit world, may he be welcomed into the loving arms of those who have gone before him. While he may no longer walk beside us, his spirit, his memory, and the love he leaves behind will remain with his family forever.

Marilyn Jean Lloy Sydney
It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Marilyn Jean Lloy Sydney, born April 20, 1957, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Marilyn passed away peacefully on October 28, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. Marilyn was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend who valued family, friendship, and lifelong learning.

Born and raised in Rockingham, Marilyn was an active member of Birch Cove Baptist Church, where she found a strong sense of community and formed many lasting friendships. She graduated from Halifax West High School and was thrilled to reconnect with everyone at their 50-year reunion.

Marilyn earned her Bachelor of Arts and Education degrees from Dalhousie University and later completed her master's in education at Mount Saint Vincent University. Her journey initially took her to Edmonton, where she worked for IKEA, but her heart eventually brought her back to the ocean. She returned to Halifax to raise her family and pursue a career in teaching. She cared deeply for her students, valued her colleagues, and took great pride in her work as a Literacy Coach and EAL teacher. A testament to her passion for education, Marilyn hosted numerous international students and tutored newcomer families. These strangers became fast friends, and many returned to visit in the years that followed.

Outside the classroom, Marilyn enjoyed her book club, girls' weekends away, days at the beach, or a cup of tea with a friend. An avid traveler, Marilyn visited 30 countries across several continents, often straying off the beaten path to truly immerse herself in local culture. Some of her travel highlights included Hungary, China, and Brazil with her daughters, and Barbados with her brother. She appreciated good food, good conversation, and, above all, time spent with family.

Holding Marilyn close in their hearts are daughters, Erin (Matthew) and Allison, and her six cherished grandchildren, Hunter, Luke, Levi, Vienna, Teddy, and Hendrix. She will be remembered fondly by her brothers Alex (Rosemarie) and Bruce (Patricia), along with extended family and many dear friends. Marilyn was predeceased by her parents, Jean and Gerald Lloy, and looked forward to seeing them again in Heaven.

Marilyn will be deeply missed, but her memory will live on in the hearts of those who love her and in the many students whose lives she helped shape. She will be remembered for her warmth, kindness, and effortless ability to always put others' needs before her own.

In Marilyn's memory, donations may be made to Parkinson Canada or a charity of your choice.

David Alyre Melanson
David Alyre Melanson passed away in hospital on November 9, 2026 after a decline in health and a brief illness. His loving family was by his side.

Born on February 16, 1943 in Halifax, David was the son and eldest child of the late Joseph Alyre "Bud" and Vivian Rita (Smith) Melanson. The first three years of his life were spent with his mother, under the tender care of his maternal grandparents, while his father served overseas.

A proud graduate of Saint Mary's University, David quickly put his degrees to work in the Halifax school system, first as a teacher, later as a vice-principal, and then as a principal known as "Mr. M" to many of his students. As principal, David served several areas of Halifax, eventually retiring in 1995 from Central Spryfield School - a school community that he deeply respected and by whom he was shown much affection.

David is survived by his loving wife, Jeannette, to whom he was devoted in marriage for sixty years; his beloved daughters, Lisa (Matthew), Colette (Sean), and Danielle (Jason); his cherished grandchildren, Hayden, Gavin, Monica, Lauren, and Keaton; his dear younger brother, Philip; and the extended Melanson and Frontain families. David's grandchildren brought him immense joy, and he will be fondly remembered for the warmth he shared with Morgan, Joe, and Madison. David was predeceased by his parents and by his sister, Margaret.

David lived a life of many blessings with a strong commitment to family, faith, and charity. From his early days as volunteer for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to his service at St. Lawrence Church in Fairview and his regular charitable donations, David embodied a spirit of generosity. At birthdays and Christmas, his favourite "gift" was a donation in his name to a charity of the gifter's choice. Together, he and Jeannette provided their children and grandchildren with an exemplary model of love, Christian service, charitable giving, and the value of work.

A lifelong train enthusiast, David spent many retirement years enjoying railway journeys with Jeannette in North America and Europe. Preferring the simpler things in life, he liked a good book, a nice swim in the Northumberland Strait, and time relaxing at his cottage in Malagash. He also valued knowledge and education, spending many of his retirement years in study at the Atlantic School of Theology. Above all, though, David preferred spending time with his wife and the rest of his family.

David had many neighbours and close friends, including friends from childhood, whom he loved dearly. He was thankful for each of these valued relationships, and greatly appreciated the many visits, and the selfless care and support that both he and Jeannette received, while he was in hospital.

Being the smaller funeral home just means we never stop increasing the size of our service.

Some people think that bigger is better, but that just isn't the case when it comes to funeral homes. Because we're a smaller firm, we can give more personalized service and attention to detail. Be assured that you will be treated like one of our own.

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

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 10 am to noon
• Chebucto Family Centre (3 Sylvia Ave) has an Emergency Food Cupboard 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
• POOL - All Memorial pool tournaments are open to members of any legion along with family members of the person being memorialized.
• Free Community Christmas Dinner, Dec. 4th at 6pm. Join Living Hope Community Church and the Spryfield Legion for dinner, games, prizes, singing, and a Christmas message.

Captain William Spry Library Events:
• Tuesday, Dec 1st, from 1pm to 3pm: Holiday Happenings. Waste Reduction Tips. Get ready for a greener holiday season. Registration Required
• Wed, Dec 2nd, from 10am to 11am. Holiday Happenings. Tea and Takes: Winter Solstice. Registration Required.

To register for an event, or to get more information, please visit Halifax Public Libraries or call 902-490-5244

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!
• Annual tree lighting, Dec 1st at 7pm. Free community event. Take photos with Santa. Listen to music by children in the after school program. Decorate cookies. Enjoy hot chocolate and hot apple cider.
• Christmas dance Dec 10th from 6:30pm to 8pm for students in grades 2 through 6. $5 at the door with $1 and $2 items available for purchase at the canteen.

Chebucto Family Centre (3 Sylvia Ave) events:
Free Food Programs:
• Holiday Breakfast & Letters to Santa - December 4th at 10:00am
• Holiday Baking - December 4th at 1:30pm
Spry Cafe - December 9th at 5:30pm
Free Fitness Programs:
• Dance Fitness - December 3rd at 10:00am
• Chair Yoga - December 10th at 10:00am
• Aqua Fit - December 14th at 10:00am at the Captain William Spry Wave pool
Free Family Programs:
• New Parent & Baby Yoga - December 3rd at 1:15pm
• Infant Massage - December 10th at 1:15pm
Parent & Tot Swim - December 14th at 10:00 am at the Captain William Spry Wave pool
Special Events:
• Spa Day - December 1st at 10:00am
• Maker's Market - December 6th at 10:00am
*Free entry, cash purchases
• Hanukkah - December 8th at 10:00am
• Advent Spiral - December 8th at 6:00pm

For more information and more programs visit: www.chebuctofamilycentre.ca/our-calendar
Registration opens November 30th at 9:30am. To register visit us at 3 Sylvia Ave or call 902-479-3031 ext 302.

Emmanuel Anglican Church (322 Herring Cove Road) events:
• 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:
• Christmas Luncheon will be held Dec 12th from 11am to 1pm. $10 cash only. Come and enjoy delicious lunch treats, shop at our bake and craft table, listen to Christmas music and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

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:
• As of November 12th, the outdoor tap will be turned off. Please call 902-479-1015 with any questions concerning access to water over the winter months.

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.

2027 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 Morriscey 902-229-5851

Are you looking for a choir to join? Perhaps you sang in a choir in your school years or have sung more recently in a choir. **The Sorella Singers** are a women's choir with Soprano and Alto voices who sing a wide variety of musical styles. Rehearsals are conducted in a relaxed and fun atmosphere while working toward producing an excellent choral sound.

Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:15-8:45 at Melville Senior's Residence in the Armdale/Spryfield area.

For more information, contact director Shirley Gaudreau at 902.405.8333 or email: sgaudreau44@gmail.com.

Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 5, from 8:30 to 11 a.m.
St. James United Church, 3811 Old Sambro Road, Sambro

Join Santa for breakfast, cookie decorating, photos and more.

Got something to mend, make, or finish?
Come learn, create, enjoy some snacks, and connect. No project or experience needed. First Monday of the month at 149 Herring Cove Rd (funeral home). To learn more, go to www.lifeschoolhouse.com.

Forever Young Seniors Club Members: FYSeniors@gmail.com
• Tickets are now on Sale for The Chase the Ace Lottery. (only $5)

The Chase the Ace is a major fundraiser for the Club and enables us to provide trips and events for the membership. This is a weekly Lottery with a starting Jackpot of $5,000.

The draws will be held every Monday at 7:00pm at Station 6 (247 Herring Cove Road.)

Tickets can be purchased at the following places: Dial A Tire, Nova Indian Market, Golden Fortune Restaurant, Purcell's Barber Shop, Bluenose Laundromat, Zesty Pizza, Station 6 Food and Drink, Steve Murphy's Auto Services, and at the Forever Young Seniors Club itself.

If you want to purchase a ticket but cannot get to any of the outlets, call Wayne Wile at 902- 523- 2044 or any member of the Chase the Ace Committee.

Probus Club Halifax: Retirees are invited to attend the Thursday, December 17, 2026 10 am meeting of the Probus Club Halifax to be held at the Fairview Legion, 50 Hillcrest St. Doors open at 9:30 am. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of Shannex, Parkland Community Living. Our guest speaker will be Dr Erik Greene, recently retired Professor, University of Montana. The title of his presentation is "Coming Full Circle: Ospreys from Nova Scotia to Montana and Back Again. Forty Years of Studying Ospreys". He will share information collected over time about the most specialized of raptors and Nova Scotia's provincial bird. Free parking is available. Hope you will join us.

Hand in Hand – Volunteers Needed !
Hand in Hand – 440 Herring Cove Road - a charity-owned community thrift store of over 30 years, needs your help! Store volunteers are needed to help process donations or assist in stocking and tidying, which in turn creates a welcoming atmosphere in the store. Every dollar made helps fund social justice programs of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP). Please contact Kathy Broussard, Executive Director 902- 477-7744 Email: handinhand@bellaliant.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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EXIT REALTY METRO

Bringing Convenience Home:

Bluenose Laundromat 2 Fills Herring Cove's Urgent Need for Local 7 Days a Week Laundry Services and Dry Cleaning with Delivery

Residents of Spryfield now have a new, convenient option for their laundry needs with the opening of Bluenose Laundromat 2, located at 374 Herring Cove Road.

As an extension of Bluenose Laundromat, a trusted Halifax business serving the community since 1980, the new location brings over four decades of experience and a commitment to providing reliable, high-quality laundry services seven days a week.

The new laundromat is designed to meet the needs of everyone in the community. Whether it's a family whose washing machine has unexpectedly broken down, a busy professional looking to save time, a student, a senior, or someone who simply prefers the convenience of commercial laundry equipment, Bluenose Laundromat 2 offers flexible services to fit every lifestyle.

Customers can choose to drop off wash only, dry only, or take advantage of the full Wash, Dry & Fold service, allowing them to spend less time doing chores and more time with family, work, or other priorities.

Recognizing that every customer has unique needs, Bluenose Laundromat 2 also offers tailored services, including unscented laundry options for those with sensitivities, the laundromat also welcomes commercial customers, providing customized laundry solutions for local businesses such as barbershops, restaurants, pizza shops, and other service providers.

The new location aims to become more than just a laundromat—it is a community resource that supports busy families, single parents, seniors, essential workers, students, and anyone who values clean, fresh laundry without the hassle.



This opening also marks an important transition for the laundromat. After 17 years of faithfully serving the Spryfield community, Ted is handing the business over to Cinthia as he begins a well-earned retirement. Ted has been a familiar face to generations of customers, always ready to lend a helping hand and ensure everyone felt welcome. His dedication has left a lasting mark on the community, and we thank him sincerely for his years of service.

On behalf of everyone at Bluenose Laundromat, we wish Ted a long, happy, and relaxing retirement. And who knows—maybe one day we'll have the pleasure of doing his laundry instead!

With its convenient location, extended hours, reliable equipment, and customer-focused services, Bluenose Laundromat 2 is ready to serve Spryfield and the surrounding communities, continuing the tradition of dependable service that has made Bluenose Laundromat a trusted name in Halifax for more than 45 years.

Residents are invited to stop by, explore the new facility, and experience the convenience of professional laundry services close to home. Or follow us on instagram or Facebook.



A bank of shiny new washers and dryers ready for you

Laundry Services

(plus tax)

Wash	$5
Dry	$5
Fold Service	$5
Wash, Dry and Fold	$15
Large Washer	$10
Large Dryer	$10

(Large washer/dryer for blankets & Comforters only)

Comforters & Duvets

Twin/Single Comforter	$20
Queen Comforter	$25
King Comforter	$28.75
Puffy King Comforter	$30

(Ready next day after drop-off)

Pick Up and Delivery

Per Trip	$11.99

Hours of Operation

Sunday	8 am to 2:30 pm
Monday	9 am to 3 pm
Tuesday	9 am to 3 pm
Wednesday	9 am to 3 pm
Thursday	9 am to 3 pm
Friday	8 am to 5 pm
Saturday	8 am to 5 pm

Dry Cleaning Services

(plus tax)

Mens Wear

2 piece suit	$26
3 piece suit	$37.50
Trousers	$13
Blazer	$13
Shorts	$11.50
Suit Vest	$11.50
Tie	$7
Shirt	$4
Shirt BOX	$5
Silk Shirt	$12
T Shirt	$8
Heavy Sweater	$18

Coats/Jackets

Winter Vest	$18
Spring Jacket	$20 and up
Light/Spring Coat	$23
Winter Heavy Jacket	$25 and up
Winter Coat/Parka	$28 and up

Household Items

Blanket Comforter Single	$40
Blanket Comforter Double/Queen...	$45
Blanket Comforter King	$50
Feather Double/Queen	$90
Feather King	$100
Duvet Cover	$22
Tablecloth	$14 and up
Drapes per pleat	$3.50
Sheers per pleat	$2.50

Dresses/Skirts

Dress (day)	$20
Evening Dress long	$30 and up
Prom/Bridesmaid Dress...	$?? and up
Skirt Regular	$13
Skirt Long	$15
Skirt Pleated	$18
Kilt	*price upon inspection*
Blouse	$12

Specialty Items

Wedding Gown	$175 and up
Wedding Gown cleaned and restored	$250 and up
Leather/Suede Jacket	$80 and up
Leather/Suede Pants/Skirt...	$50 and up

No guarantee on leather/suede items

Press only

Blazer/Pant/Skirt	$8
Blouse	$4
Shirt	$3.50
Dress (day)	$12 and up

To celebrate the opening, Bluenose Laundromat 2 is introducing weekly community appreciation specials:

- **Mondays:** $13 per load for Heroes, including nurses and firefighters.
- **Tuesdays:** $13 per load for students.
- **Wednesdays:** $13 per load for seniors.
- **Thursdays:** $13 per load for unscented laundry service *(customers are asked to bring their own unscented detergent)*.









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