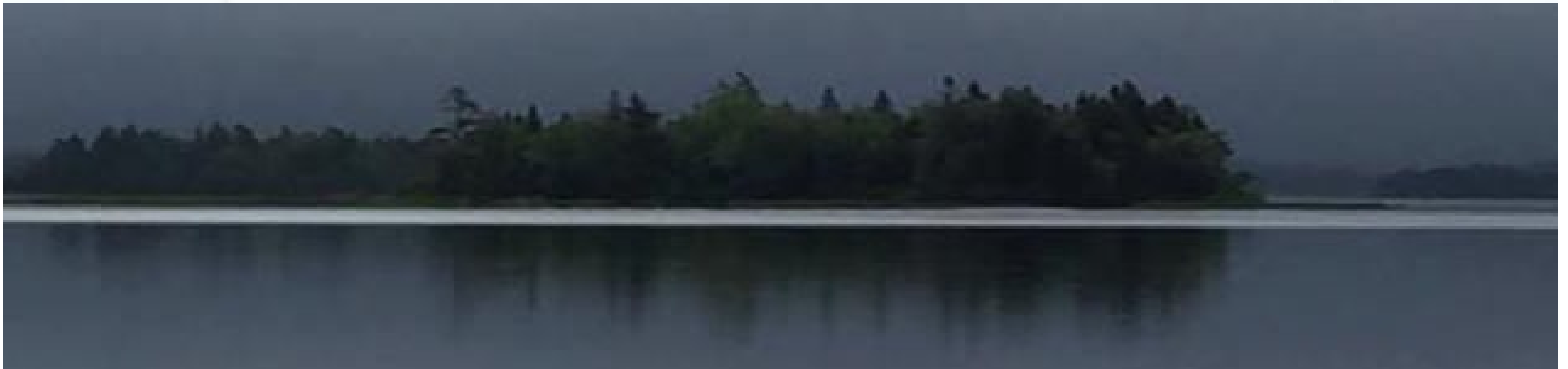




# Urban Lakes Management Planning



***Morris Lake***

Presentation to Harbour East Marine Drive  
Community Council, October 4, 2018

## Lake Protection Policy Needed in Centre Plan

- Urban lakes management pilot project recommended in Centre Plan submission (January 2016) re: population impact on 7 lakes
- Policy 2.7.2 (f) in Centre Plan Draft 1 stated:  
*“Monitor water quality in all lakes and develop recommendations to maintain water quality, recreational opportunities and aquatic habitat.”*
- This Policy removed in Draft 2 and now defers lake protection and environmental policy to the Regional Plan

# Recommendation 1

## Reinstate Urban Lake Protection Policy 2.7.2 (f)

- The Regional Plan does not address impacts of population growth on urban lakes
- Step towards an Urban Lakes Management Plan for HRM
- Will cover Penhorn, Oathill, Maynards, Banook, Albro, Little Albro and Martin lakes



*Oathill Lake*

## 50% Population Growth for Dartmouth?

- Is Dartmouth being planned for 50% population growth?
  - Centre Plan, Dartmouth side, **16500 estimated** (draft)
  - Main Street, **8000 potential** (approved)
  - Dartmouth Crossing, **350 units +5HA residential** (approved)
  - Port Wallace, **8000 to 9000** (planning process started)
- Estimated total @33,000 people plus Dartmouth Crossing

# Impact of Population Growth on Lakes

- Forest canopy, marshes and natural surfaces get replaced with hard surfaces and superheated storm sewer run off lead to:
  - Increased temperatures for lake and likelihood of internal phosphate loading, weed growth and algal blooms
  - Shift in long term phosphate adsorption capabilities of the watershed
  - Other water quality issues, siltation etc.
- More intensive human use can also lead to:
  - More litter, vandalism
  - Encroachment, tree removal
  - Trail compaction and bank erosion
  - Invasive species and impacts on fish & wildlife
  - Conflicts between recreational users

Oathill Lake  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY



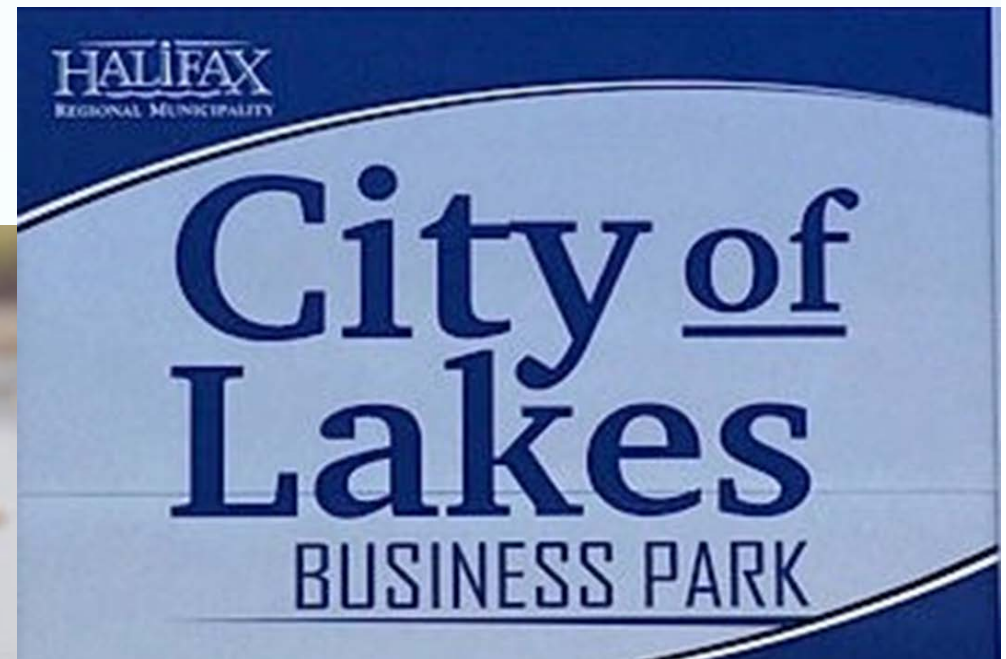
## Recommendation 2

### Create an Urban Lakes Management Plan for HRM

- An integrated management approach for lake protection, sports & recreational use, infrastructure planning, public safety, community stewardship, signage, heritage, etc.
- Resource management framework answering the questions What, Where, How and By Whom?
- A process being used in many other jurisdictions
- Consistent with HRM's recent environmental commitments i.e. Urban Forest Master Plan, Green Network Plan



# An Urban Lakes Management Plan Is An Investment, Not a Cost





## Economic Benefits

- Lakes have many health, active living, heritage and tourism benefits
- An important asset for real estate sales and business location
- Economic impacts include 2016 Canoe Championships (\$3M+), 2018 Pan-Am Pre-Games (\$?), 2022 Worlds (\$?), and many other sports, tourism and cultural activities.
- Regional plan growth policies are based on rationale of \$670M in savings
- The economic value and savings from concentrating growth, imply that urban lakes management planning is needed.



# Summary

- Plans underway and approved in the last 5 years imply a 50% population increase in Dartmouth
- Policies contained in the Dartmouth MPS demonstrate that lake protection is an important urban planning principle
  - These lake protection policies are being overlooked or removed through secondary planning processes
- **Recommendation 1**

Reinstate Policy 2.7.2(f) in the Centre Plan
- **Recommendation 2**

Start urban lakes management planning process for HRM



**Thank you!**



*With input from:*

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