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SON RISEN

Learning to make a living on a North Shore farm

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Beyond giving thanks, for the Pearson family this has been a season of taking stock.

Of how far they've come, the work ahead and an honest reckoning with the question – has it been worth it?

When you consider the sweat they've poured into 16 hectares of fallow land near River John, the family and friends they left behind in Ontario and the uncertainty still looming ahead, that's not a simple question.

Their old farm on the Northumberland Strait has demanded a steep price beyond what they paid for it.

But Son Risen Farm is all theirs.

And only a family that spent 22 years working land they could never afford themselves, and moved between nine homes over the course of raising four children, could understand what that's worth.

Jane and Andy work the farm with their adult daughters Amanda and Rachel.

"This is a venture all four of us went into together, pooling our resources," Andy Pearson said.

"Where we all sit now we wouldn't trade it for anything. Once we got past the stress of coming here and the homesickness none of us wanted to go back to our lives in Ontario, it was too rushed."

Saltwire visited the family the day after their arrival with their Shropshire sheep two years ago. On Thursday we checked in on their journey.

As the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture attempts to rekindle an interest in this province's former farms and promote small-scale startups, the journey of the Pearson family to not just come but also hold fast to their dream bears lessons for many.

LOTS OF WORK

Andy, Rachel and Amanda are all now working at Pictou County Home Hardwares while Jane, the mother, works at a veterinarian clinic.

They came with 64 of the Shropshire ewes and rams they raise to sell as breeding stock to farms across the country. But building a financially feasible farm takes years and in the meantime there are bills to be paid.

The fields they purchased were partially grown up with alders and poplar trees. The grass there had been populated by weeds like goldenrod, plantain and buttercup (which are toxic to sheep).

That meant going in with the power saw, then hauling stumps one at a time. With that done, they tilled the land, spread manure, tilled again and then planted timothy and clover.

There was also fencing and more fencing and building small barns for the sheep.

CREATIVITY AND FLEXIBILITY

"It took an adjustment period, learning how to be creative enough to make this work," Pearson said.

"I am in my late 50s and I find myself returning to some of the stuff my dad did. It's about not being so big.

"You've got smaller fields, you can't have big equipment and you can't afford it anyway."

They've added pigs and a half-acre vegetable garden.

In Ontario the sheep would spend most of their lives inside because the price of pasture land was so high. Here they are able to raise their sheep outside on the pastures they've been developing.

That's also meant selecting breeding stock that do well outside.

It's also meant shrinking their flock to 30 animals as



Jane, Amanda, Rachel and Andy Pearson on Son Risen Farm near River John, Pictou County.

"Where we all sit now we wouldn't trade it for anything. Once we got past the stress of coming here and the homesickness none of us wanted to go back to our lives in Ontario, it was too rushed."

Andy Pearson

they gauge how much winter forage they can grow on the land they're developing.

The Pearsons got their first cut of hay this year and have planted a field with winter wheat as an experiment.

"It's become more about being the small-time family farm that used to be common in the '50s, '60s and early part of the '70s," Pearson said.

The family doesn't know what the future will bring.

But they do know they have 16 ewes carrying lambs that should be born in March.

Pearson said they have a flock to begin growing again, some more land to clear and a lot to learn about how to make a living in agriculture on the North Shore.

And they, like the rest of us, are looking forward to some sort of end of COVID-19 so they can take their sheep to exhibitions around their adopted province and make new friends.

"Personally, my only regret is that we didn't make the move sooner."

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Halifax Regional Municipality Notices will generally appear each Saturday in this section of the newspaper. Readers are still encouraged to look throughout the paper for information which might appear in a different section or on another day.

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR HALIFAX MAINLAND WITH HALIFAX AND WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Halifax and West Community Council intends to consider and, if deemed advisable, approve the following application:

Amendments to the Halifax Mainland Land Use By-law to increase front yard setbacks in the C-2C (Dutch Village Road Mixed-Use) Zone. The C-2C Zone applies to commercial properties on Dutch Village Road, Joseph Howe Drive and Alma Crescent, in Halifax. Community Council will consider a proposal to increase the minimum front yard setback in the C-2C Zone to 1.5 metres.

A virtual public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 18th 2022, at 6 p.m. All oral and written submissions will be considered at that time. This meeting will occur in a virtual setting. Attending in person is not possible. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, written submissions are encouraged in advance of the hearing itself. These submissions are distributed to all Councillors and considered at the time of their decision. Written submissions may be forwarded to the Municipal Clerk by e-mail, clerks@halifax.ca; by fax, 902.490.4208; or by mail, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3A5. **Written submissions must be received by the Municipal Clerk's office as early as possible and not later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.** Please allow sufficient time for delivery given slower than typical mail delivery times during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The virtual public hearing will be webcasted and may be viewed online at <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/agendas-meetings-reports>. For individuals seeking to speak at the hearing, members of the public may contact the Municipal Clerk's office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, the 17th of January 2022 to be added to the speakers list to speak by telephone. We encourage all residents who wish to speak at the meeting to add their name to the list. Individuals who do not want to speak may ask to have their name removed from the speakers list later.

To be placed on the speakers list, individuals may:

- Send an email to clerks@halifax.ca; or
- Call and leave a voicemail at 902.490.4210; or
- Send a fax to the clerk at 902.490.4208.

In your message, please include the meeting body (Halifax and West Community Council), the planning Case description (Front Yard Setbacks in the C-2C Zone), plus your name, community of residence, email address, and telephone number. Should you have questions about the application itself, please contact Sean Gillis directly at 902.237.3424 or gillisse@halifax.ca.

Should you have questions about the process of the virtual public hearing, please contact the Municipal Clerks Office at clerks@halifax.ca or 902.490.4210.

The staff report is available on-line at the following location: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/agendas-meetings-reports>. If you have questions about how to access the staff report contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at clerks@halifax.ca or 902.490.4210

Further details regarding the application can be found at the following location: www.halifax.ca/planning (scroll down to Case 23245) ACC # C320-6912

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR LANTZ WITH NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

North West Community Council intend to consider and, if deemed advisable, approve the following application:

Case 22218 – Application by EDM Planning Services, on behalf of AIM Elmsdale Inc., to enter into a development agreement to permit the construction of a new building for the purposes of consolidating the existing buildings related to a salvage yard use at 32 Dutch Settlement Road, Lantz.

The virtual public hearing will be held on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. All oral and written submissions will be considered at that time. This meeting will occur in a virtual setting and attending in person is not possible. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, written submissions are welcomed and encouraged in advance of the hearing itself. These submissions are distributed to all Councillors and considered at the time of their decision. Written submissions may be forwarded to the Municipal Clerk by e-mail, clerks@halifax.ca; by fax, 902.490.4208; or by mail, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5. **Written submissions must be received by the Municipal Clerk's office as early as possible and not later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 17, 2022.** Please allow sufficient time for delivery given slower than typical mail delivery times during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

PLEASE SEE SECTION 158 - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SATURDAY'S PAPER AND SECTION 258 - TENDERS IN CLASSIFIEDS FOR ALL TENDERS AND REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS ADVERTISEMENTS IN SATURDAY AND WEDNESDAY'S EDITIONS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MUNICIPAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS VISIT WWW.HALIFAX.CA/CALENDAR BOX 1749, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 3A5

HALIFAX.CA

The virtual public hearing will be webcasted and may be viewed online at <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/agendas-meetings-reports>. For individuals seeking to speak at the hearings, members of the public may contact the Municipal Clerk's office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 14, 2022 to be added to the speakers list to speak by telephone. We encourage all residents who have any desire to speak at the meeting to ask to have their name added to the list. Individuals who do not want to speak at a later time may ask to have their name removed from the speakers list.

To be placed on the speakers list, individuals may:

- Send an email to clerks@halifax.ca; or
- Call and leave a voicemail at 902.490.4210; or
- Send a fax to the clerk at 902.490.4208.

In your message, please include the meeting body (North West Community Council), the planning Case number (Case 22218) or civic address, in addition to your name, community of residence, email address, and phone Claire Tusz directly at 902.430.0645 or tusz@halifax.ca.

Should you have questions about the process of the virtual public hearing, please contact the Municipal Clerks Office at clerks@halifax.ca or 902.490.4210.

The staff report is available on-line at the following location: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/agendas-meetings-reports>. If you have questions about how to access the staff report contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at clerks@halifax.ca or 902.490.4210.

Further details regarding the application can be found at the following location: www.halifax.ca/planning (scroll down to Case 22218). To arrange for paper copies of the staff report and application materials to be sent to you by mail, please contact the Planner.

ACC # CPCO2310

2022-2023 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Program will begin accepting applications January 4th, 2022 for the 2022-2023 program. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2022. Application forms and program guidebooks will be available from:

- <https://www.halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/community-grants>
- Visiting one of our Customer Service Centres: <https://www.halifax.ca/home/311#ContactCentres>
 - o Alderney Gate, 40 Alderney Drive, - Dartmouth, 1st floor
 - o Musquodoboit Harbour Strip Mall, Corner of Hwy #7 & East Peteswick Road
 - o Bayers Road, 7071 Bayers Road, 2nd floor
- Contacting 311 - <https://www.halifax.ca/home/311>
- E-mail - Nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

For further information, please call 902.490.7310.

ACC # A811 – 6912

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETINGS

HARBOUR EAST - MARINE DRIVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL Harbour East - Marine Drive Community Council will be holding their Annual Meeting on Thursday, **January 13, 2022**, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

You may view the agenda for the meeting when it becomes available at the following website address: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/agendas-meetings-reports>

For more information, please contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at 902-490-4210.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk

REGIONAL CENTRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Regional Centre Community Council will be holding their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, **January 26, 2022**, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

You may view the agenda for the meeting when it becomes available at the following website address: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/agendas-meetings-reports>

For more information, please contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at 902-490-4210.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk

HROP-6912-A121