

Councillor Patty Cuttell

SPRYFIELD - SAMBRO LOOP -
PROSPECT ROAD

DISTRICT 11
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024



DEAR RESIDENTS,

Summer is here, and with the 2024 Municipal Election scheduled for October 19, new boundaries for District 11 will soon be in effect. The new District 11 will continue to include Spryfield and Sambro Loop, with the addition of Cowie Hill and Fleming Heights. The

Prospect Communities will be joining a new District 13, which includes Hubbards, Tantallon, and the rest of the communities along Hwy 333. You can find information about the new boundaries at halifax.ca/city-hall/elections/district-boundaries.

Over the past four years we have listened and responded to residents, worked with community organizations, and I have advocated for our district. As a result, we have made streets safer with traffic calming, new crosswalks, and new traffic lights; made communities cleaner with new by-laws, programs and enforcement; made playgrounds better and more inclusive; started work on a new arena in Spryfield and renovations to the Captain Spry Centre; invested in community halls across the district; protected more of our environment by stopping infill on the North West Arm, expanding Shaw Wilderness Park, and increasing protection to watersheds; collaborated with all levels of government to add affordable housing, fund infrastructure; and, supported our communities through cultural events, new youth programming, and investing in local organizations. These are things that make a real difference, and we should all be proud. We did it together.

To check if you're on the list of electors for the 2024 Municipal Election, visit halifax.ca/city-hall/elections/information-voters before August 30. Only registered voters will receive information for advanced online and telephone voting.

CONTACT US

Call 311 to reach the 311 Municipal Contact Centre, or visit halifax.ca/311 to report a municipal issue. Please call 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, except Christmas & New Year's Day.

CONTACT ME

You can reach me at 902.221.6893 or by email at cuttellp@halifax.ca or fax at 902.490.4122
Mailing Address: PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

CALL MY OFFICE

Contact Michelle Egan, Council Constituency Coordinator by phone at 902.490.6982 or email at michelle.egan@halifax.ca

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Councillor Support Office: 902.490.4050

Police, Fire & Emergency: 911

Police (non-emergency): 902.490.5020

Fire (non-emergency): 902.490.5530

Halifax Water: 902.420.9287

Halifax Water Emergency: 902.490.6940

NS Power Outage Line: 877.428.6004

Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team: 888.4298167

In the meantime, there is still a lot happening at City Hall and around District 11. Please read on for the latest updates, news, and announcements.

It is a privilege to be your municipal councillor. Together



we can continue to make a positive difference in our District. To receive updates on things happening in District 11, please subscribe to my regular e-newsletter by visiting pattycuttell.com and clicking the “newsletter” link.

Respectfully,

Patty

MUNICIPAL UPDATES

Ensuring adequate septic disposal services for rural residents and businesses

About 35 per cent of the municipality’s residents live outside the urban service boundary, relying on septic systems for wastewater treatment. The closure of the septic waste disposal facility near Windsor in June highlighted the critical nature of this service and the need to ensure safe, affordable, and accessible septic disposal for current and future residential and business properties. During the shutdown, I strongly advocated for an immediate solution to address concerns regarding wastewater disposal. A temporary site, adjacent to the Aerotech Wastewater Treatment Plant, was made available for three weeks to help manage the impacts of an unanticipated mechanical failure at the privately owned facility in Windsor.

At the June 18 Regional Council meeting, I was pleased to bring forward a motion asking for a report with recommendations to more adequately address the Halifax Regional Municipality’s septage disposal needs from residents and businesses in suburban and rural areas not serviced by municipal wastewater systems. As our municipality continues to grow both in serviced and unserved areas, we must have the infrastructure to responsibly and sustainably support the growth.

New coastal protections

Last year, the Nova Scotia Government announced its decision not to proceed with the Coastal Protection Act. Instead, it introduced *The Future of our Coastline: a plan to protect people, homes, and nature from climate change*. This new plan places the responsibility of coastal protection on municipalities. To better understand what

this means for the municipality and District 11, I requested a staff report on existing and planned measures for coastal management to address vulnerable coastal properties and mitigate the impact of sea level rise and overland flooding. Changes will be coming through the Regional Plan in the form of policies that strengthen coastal protection and climate change adaptation. Identified in the report are specific actions related to Purcells Cove, between Keefe Drive and the north end of Ferguson’s Cove Road, where a history of flooding and icing issues are being studied to develop mitigation measures along the road with design criteria based on the most recent projections of climate change, coastal modeling, and coastal risk assessment.

Homelessness update

Homelessness remains a growing concern. The lack of affordable housing, housing support, and health care is leaving many with no place to live or to get help. This is leaving people with little choice other than “living rough” in our parks and open spaces.

This is a difficult situation for all, including those of us on Regional Council, who need to address the reality of having over 1,300 people in our city without appropriate shelter, including about 150-200 who are living rough. The municipality does not support encampments or tenting as a solution to the homelessness crisis. Designating locations for camping enables us to provide security and amenities to help address concerns of both those living in encampments, and those living in the communities around them.

In July, Regional Council approved a list of “potential” designated locations, should we require more space to respond to increased needs. While I do not support all of the proposed sites, the hope is not all sites will be required. Currently, there are six designated locations in the municipality. The municipality continues to explore other options, including privately owned land. The municipality also sought other space for encampments from provincial and federal governments, but none have been provided.

There are no good sites for encampments. The locations identified are temporary until appropriate sheltering and housing options become available. For more details on these efforts, visit halifax.ca/addressinghomelessness.



COMMUNITY NEWS

New arena for Spryfield

The Spryfield Lions Arena is being replaced by a new arena complex due to be completed in 2027. Along with ice pads, this is an excellent opportunity to see how a new facility can meet the changing needs of our communities. As part of this process, a committee was established to help gather input from the community on what folks would like to see in the new facility. Over 1,300 responses have been received to date. There will be another round of consultations in September to ensure we have a complete picture of needs within the community, including those folks that may not be current users of the arena. I'm very excited about this project. Please look for more information on my social media and e-newsletter about how you can provide your input.

Rural transit in District 11

This past spring I hosted a meeting in Sambro to share information with residents on rural transit programs, initiatives and resources, as well as get input from residents about what kind of transit service would work for them. Ten years ago, Regional Council approved the Rural Transit Funding Program, with the intent of providing affordable transit options in our rural communities. Eight years ago, Regional Council ended service to Sambro. Despite introducing the Rural Transit Program, gaps in transit options continue to exist in many of the municipality's rural communities, including Sambro-Loop and Prospect Road.

Last year I made a motion at Regional Council for a report to review this program to determine if the municipality's Rural Transit Funding Program is delivering a fair and equitable rural transit service and to identify where gaps exist and how they might be addressed. As part of that report, Halifax Transit held community pop-up events in Sambro and Hatchet Lake in August to get input from rural residents. As well, an online survey was conducted. The staff report should be back at Regional Council this fall, so please keep looking for updates on this important initiative for residents around the Sambro Loop and along Hwy 333.

Shaw Wilderness Park expanded

I'm thrilled to write that the municipality has acquired four parcels of land totaling approximately 46 hectares adjacent to the west side of Shaw Wilderness Park. The municipality's primary intention is to expand the park, offering more opportunities for wilderness recreation,

nature appreciation, and protection of environmentally sensitive ecosystems. The newly acquired land will be integrated into future park planning, involving public consultation and collaboration with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. This is fantastic news for Spryfield and the Shaw Wilderness Park. Further details will be provided once finalized.

Taking action to address overgrown walkways and trails

Vegetation control along our paths and walkways seems to be an ongoing battle. Currently within the urban service boundary many trails, paths, and walkways only get vegetation maintenance when a complaint is submitted. In many cases, the same areas receive complaints year after year. Overgrown paths, walkways, and trails pose visibility, accessibility and safety concerns. They also attract litter, look neglected and are hotbeds for invasive species. To better support walkable communities and active transportation, and provide more consistent maintenance, I put forward a motion at the June 18 Regional Council meeting to develop a vegetation management plan that is proactive and prioritizes vegetation control along key paths, walkways, and trails. Addressing lighting, connections, and missing links is also on my list to support better active transportation infrastructure around Spryfield and the district.

Proposal for Halifax Exhibition Grounds moves forward

The Halifax Exhibition Centre lands located along Prospect Road were identified by Regional Council as an Opportunity Site. The Regional Plan provides high-level direction for the site to be developed as a mixed-use neighborhood, with a range of housing and dwelling unit types. The planning process will consider the appropriate range of housing types and land uses, development density, lands suitable for development to mitigate environmental impacts, and infrastructure upgrades needed to support mixed-use development on the site. The current proposal from BANC Developments includes approximately 5,867 residential units and supporting commercial uses.

As part of this process, municipal planning staff will be hosting Public Engagement Sessions on Wednesday, September 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. and again at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Halifax Exhibition Centre (200 Prospect Road, Beechville) in Prospect Rooms 1 and 2. Please attend and share your thoughts.



QUICK UPDATES

New fitness equipment for the Prospect Road Community Centre

New fitness equipment is being installed at the PRCC. The Halifax Regional Municipality will make some changes to the fitness centre space, which includes changing the entry to accommodate the new equipment. There may be some temporary disruption. For more information, please contact the PRCC.

Accessible playground for William King Elementary

Herring Cove is getting an upgraded, fully accessible, new playground to replace the current playground at William King Elementary. Installation of the park has been delayed from 2024 to 2025 to accommodate the new accessible design. I am proud to approve a District 11 Capital contribution, along with contributions from the Herring Cove Integration Funds, William King Elementary SAC, and the province, to make this accessible park possible. I've seen preliminary plans and it's going to be awesome.

Roaches Pond Dog Park gets upgrades

Roaches Pond Dog Park at 610 Herring Cove Road in Spryfield is a year-round, fully fenced off-leash dog area. This past July, improvements to the parking lot, trail, and park entryway have been completed, making the park more accessible and enjoyable for all. Check it out, Fido will love it.

Playboxes

In addition to Playboxes in Ketch Harbour, Portuguese Cove and Williamswood, new Playboxes filled with a variety of outdoor play equipment are being installed in school playgrounds in Sambro and Harrietsfield. Everyone is invited to borrow and play with the equipment and return it when they're done. Have any gently used outdoor play equipment you are looking to get rid of? Consider dropping it off at Playbox. Want a Playbox in your community? Let me know! This is part of the municipality's new Rural Recreation Strategy.

Williamswood Bike Park

The new bike park in Williamswood is open. Inspired by our local mountain bikers around the Loop, the bike park has courses for beginner, intermediate and expert riders. Be sure to check it out this summer. The kids will love it!

Traffic Calming in Thornhill Park

Speed tables have been installed in Thornhill Park along Tartan Ave and Thornhill Drive. Since Spryfield's first speed tables on Rockingstone in 2021, 10 streets have received speed tables. Speeding is one of the biggest concerns of residents, and an ongoing priority to address.

Welcome to our newest District 11 fire fighters

It was an honour to attend the graduation and meet some of the families of our newest firefighters. Thank you for your dedication and service in protecting our residents and communities. It is a courageous career you have chosen, and we are grateful for it. *Herring Cove:* David Clarke, Robin Hollinsid, Joel Ryerson. *Williamswood:* Liam Glenn, Luke Young. *Shad Bay:* Dean Metzler.

Volunteer Awards

Each year the Mayor and Regional Council recognize the extraordinary contributions of outstanding individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in our communities. There are three categories in which to nominate deserving volunteers: Youth, Adult, or Group. The 2024 Volunteer Award recipients for District 11 were presented to: Dylan Thomas Wambolt (Youth), Abdulrazig Alarabi, Pam Burke, Cong Chen, Danny Slade, Linda Slaunwhite, Kaarin Tae & Lawrence Plug and JL Ilsley Indigenous Student Programs.



Delivery Note:

Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.