

# Councillor Paul Russell

## LOWER SACKVILLE

DISTRICT 15  
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024



### GREETINGS FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS,

The past five years have been very busy, filled with opportunities, challenges, and many areas for community improvement. In this newsletter I am taking the opportunity to look back and review some of the things that we've been able to move forward with.

Thank you for all of your help in identifying concerns and ways that we could improve. Thank you for your support, both when things were going well and when they weren't.

We have accomplished a lot together. I have listened to your needs and your desires at every turn, and have worked to achieve what made the most sense for our community.

Thank you, also, for showing such caring and understanding through my health issues. I am one of the lucky ones. I am back to being in good health, and am working my normal 100%. I look forward to seeing you at coffee shops and elsewhere around the community.

Thank you for the honour and the privilege of serving you so far.

There is still a lot to be done!

Sincerely,

Paul

### CONTACT US

Call 311 to reach the 311 Municipal Contact Centre, or visit [halifax.ca/311](http://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 by email at [paul.russell@halifax.ca](mailto:paul.russell@halifax.ca), by phone at 902-240-0441 or fax at 902-490-4122

### CALL MY OFFICE

Contact Victoria Palmeter, Council Constituency Coordinator by phone at 902-490-2012 or by email at [victoria.palmeter@halifax.ca](mailto:victoria.palmeter@halifax.ca)

### STAY CONNECTED

You can see my calendar and book an appointment with me by visiting my website at [paulrussell.ca](http://paulrussell.ca)

### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Police, Fire and 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
Councillor Support Office:	902-490-4050
MLA Steve Craig:	902-864-6271
MP Darrell Samson:	902-861-2311
NS Power:	902-428-6230
NS Power Outage Line:	877-428-6004
Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team:	888-429-8167



## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over the past five years we have seen some significant improvements in Sackville. These include:

### First Lake e.coli solution

For about the past 30 years swimming in First Lake was at your own risk. The e.coli levels at the beach meant that it was closed more than it was open. This was one of the major problems that I wanted to correct.

Working with the Friends of First Lake, we identified the locations of the highest concentrations of e.coli in First Lake. We then contracted CBCL to identify the source of it - which turned out to be mostly human. We are now working with Halifax Water to identify the specific source of the issues and correct them. Halifax Water has made progress with their investigations and are making the required fixes to their system, and they are also working with residents to fix their systems.

The Friends of First Lake will continue to monitor the e.coli levels. This year we have seen a good reduction in the e.coli levels at the major trouble spots, so we are making progress!

This was a personal initiative of mine, and is the first ever analysis of First Lake.

### Sports Stadium Expansion

We need more recreation options in Lower Sackville. I heard that loud and clear in the last election. Working with the general manager of the Sackville Sports Stadium, we determined what we would like to see in the way of significant improvements.

We now have, in a future year's budget, the concept of an additional gym, a walking track, a boat launch, and other significant improvements to the Sports Stadium.

These would be the first significant improvements since the addition of the field house and curling.

### Lacrosse Court in Sackville

I also heard a strong need and a strong desire for a lacrosse court. We discussed that with the Sports Stadium Expansion but the footprint wouldn't allow it and it couldn't be included on the gym floor. There is more about this later on.

### Hwy 101 Exit 2

A number of people walk from Sackville Manor Park, across Exit 2, to get to the bus terminal. There have been two tragedies over the years. This was a problem that needed to be fixed, and that I spoke with residents of the Sackville Manor Park about in the past two elections.

We have moved forward and now have plans for a pedestrian overpass. We have written to the province for help, and are looking forward to their cooperation. This is moving forward, and will make crossing at Exit 2 safer for both pedestrians and vehicles!



### Beaver Bank RRFB

On Beaver Bank Road at Boxwood Crescent, we have a bus stop on either side of the road that presented significant safety challenges. If you work a normal 9-5 day then either on your way in town or on your way home, you would have to cross Beaver Bank Road during rush hour - and nobody would consider that safe.

I worked with our Public Works team to find a solution, and the pedestrian activated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) was that solution. This was the first use of these along the Beaver Bank Road.





### **Metropolitan RRFB**

Many intersections have flags that pedestrians can use to be more visible. One intersection – Metropolitan Ave at Kingfisher Way - was one where this wasn't enough. I was able to work with our Public Works team and demonstrate the need for improved signals. We now have an RRFB at that location as well!

### **Left turn lanes off Stokil Drive and Beaver Bank Road**

There were two significant problems with the traffic signals at Stokil Drive and Beaver Bank Road. The first is that the technology was old and required manual intervention much of the time. The second is that there were no left turn lanes. Over the past couple of years both of these problems have been corrected. We now have an advance left turn lane with an advance left turn light in all four directions, which should help to improve traffic flow.



### **Traffic Calming**

The number one concern that we heard from residents, in the last two elections, was speed on neighbourhood streets. I worked with our public works team to identify the worst of the streets, and many of them now have some form of traffic calming (speed humps or speed radar display). Some streets (like Sackville Drive) need other strategies, and we are looking into what might be effective there.

### **Battling Cancer**

Last fall I was diagnosed with a form of cancer in my mouth and neck area. From October through January I went through a series of tests and then radiation and chemo treatments, and then I focused on recovery. My

health has greatly improved, and I have been back at work, pretty much full time, since May. Thank you - to everyone who helped and to everyone who reached out and showed that they care. That really helped my progress and it helped speed up my recovery.

I recognize that I am one of the lucky ones. I had all of the right supports, the right doctors, the right treatments, and a community and a family that showed caring and understanding. With all of that I got through this.

I have never taken health for granted, and this was a strong reminder about just how important it is to remain healthy.

### **Sackville Drive crosswalk**

Every day we see people run across the street between the Sackville Library and Tim Hortons. They are crossing four lanes of traffic, with no protection. In the past we had been told that the stop lights, at Riverside Drive and at the Sackville Cross Road, were too close together to warrant another signal.

I continued to work with staff, and am thrilled that we will now have a pedestrian activated signal to allow crossing between the library and Tim Horton's.

This is long overdue, and it is happening.

### **LACROSSE COURT IN LOWER SACKVILLE**

We live in a wonderful community, and I'm doing what I can to make it even better. One key to this is listening to what you would like. In the last election many people talked about the need for more opportunities for recreation. We have also seen the amount of development in the area because of the population growth. We can't just have places for people to live, we also have to have things that they enjoy doing.

Lacrosse was mentioned in both the 2019 and 2020 elections.

Following the elections I've had many conversations with Steve Brown from the Sackville Wolves, and others interested in lacrosse, where they talked about the growing interest in the sport, and about the lack of courts within the municipality that could host lacrosse. Most of



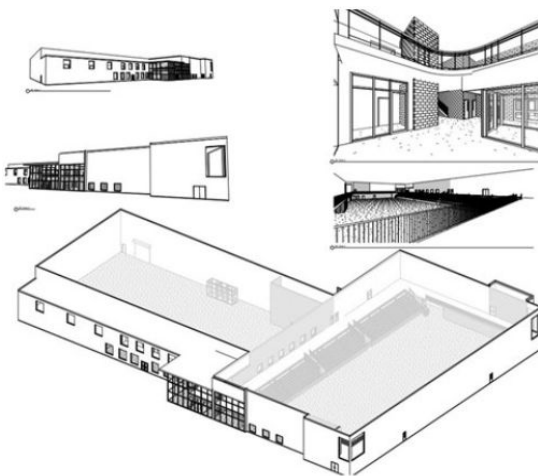
the lacrosse games have to be played in hockey rinks in the summer (when there is no ice) or outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

We talked about different groups working together, different properties, different operating models, and different ownership models. Steve landed on a collaboration between the Sackville Wolves, Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, Halifax Thunderbirds, and NSHA, which covers all aspects of what lacrosse is.



The location of the former Centennial School property on George Street seems to be a good choice because it is a clear area with good access, and is now an empty field with a playground structure on one side.

What we are looking at is a set of two courts plus an indigenous information centre, with a number of other features around the courts, like a walking track. The courts would be built for lacrosse, but could be used for other sports as well. I am thrilled to have helped move this forward and to bring it to the municipality.



### ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Over the past five years we've worked together to accomplish a lot. There isn't enough space to list all of it, so here are some additional things that we've worked on or that I've prioritized:

- Schools are at the top of my list for funding requests. There is no better investment, in our society than in our youth. Any time that a school asks for funds they can be sure that they will get it (if I have the funds available).
- Public consultations, in relation to developments, is absolutely critical. I work to make sure that we have every opportunity to meet and address developers and municipal staff. This is our community. We have chosen to live here because it is a wonderful place to be. I want to make sure that it continues to reflect what you need and would like to see.
- Freedom Kitchen and Square Roots have been a critical part of food security in Sackville since before I was elected. They both have my full support, both in spirit and for funding.
- The Sackville Greenway Trail additions are so important. We are currently working on the segment from Sackville Drive to Old Sackville Road. Ultimately you should be able to walk from Glendale Drive to the Bedford Place Mall all along the Sackville Greenway Trail.
- Afghanistan Recognition on the Sackville Cenotaph was another personal priority of mine. A couple of years ago we made this happen when we added a stone for Afghanistan to the set of other countries.

These are in addition to the hundreds of issues that you have brought forward to me. This all shapes my understanding of what you would like to see in our community.



**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.