

COUNCILLOR PAUL RUSSELL DISTRICT 15 NEWSLETTER

Lower Sackville



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SUMMER 2022



GREETINGS, FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS:

Welcome to the end of a very hot summer! My last print newsletter was mailed out in March, and the weather was quite different then. In fact, a lot has changed in the past while!

COVID is still with us, but the effects are far less than they were one or two years ago. I'm glad to see that we have been opening up again and that many things are happening around town and around the municipality.

We have had a full summer of concerts at Acadia Park, sports activities are happening everywhere, some community groups are back to having in-person meetings, and many other things are opening on a wider scale. We saw the first Special Olympics in two years, the first bridge walk, Canoe '22, and the Halifax County Exhibition. I was invited to a local elementary spring fair—my first in 20 years, and my first since being elected (unfortunately, I couldn't go because I had COVID).

I attended my first high school graduation since becoming Councillor—that was a great day! High school graduation has been my favourite day of the year since I was on the School Board 20 years ago. On graduation day, we see so many young people walk across the stage having accomplished their first very big thing in life. I was thrilled to be there!

This year I was especially pleased to see so many people out and about for Patriot Days. After a two year

hiatus, and with a new team of volunteers, we were able to have a full set of events. There is more on this inside.

We are fortunate to live in a community that has such a sense of community. Our volunteers make the community so much better. This shows when you look at the Legion, Lions, or Kinsmen, when you listen to CIOE, and when you watch our local sports teams in action. The work of our volunteers is also clear when you visit the First and Second Lake trails, the Sackville Greenway Trail, Fultz House, or Acadia Park, and when you look at how much our churches and schools do.

After two years of COVID, many of our community groups have lost strength and could use your help. If you have some time available then please reach out to your local community group, or if you aren't sure which way to go then please contact me.

As a community we are opening up again. This is great to see. I look forward to reconnecting with you for coffee at Timmies or Apt 3 or once we start having the community dinners again.

The past two years have been very long. I'm glad they're behind us, and I'm looking forward to what lies ahead.

Paul

HALIFAX



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LOWER SACKVILLE SURVEY FOR SUMMER 2022

I have been moving forward on a lot of things since I was elected. There were some things I wanted to improve (for example, the water quality at Kinsmen Beach), other items have become apparent since I've been elected (such as the issues of homelessness and housing security); still, others have come forward because you have told me about them.

I have had many conversations with people around Lower Sackville at coffee shops, church gatherings, over the phone, on your doorsteps, and in many other places. These conversations have influenced my decisions and have, in turn, influenced municipal actions in Lower Sackville. Thank you for those conversations. They have helped shape what I've been working on and the direction that we're heading in. They have helped me represent your interests.

Some items have recently come forward and I would like your feedback again. I could canvass the entire Lower Sackville community, and I will, but an online survey may be an easier way for you to share your thoughts and it will mean that we can get your feedback sooner.

This survey should take about 15-20 minutes. It contains questions related to traffic and streets, housing, communications, and your priorities. I have also included some demographic questions to provide context.

Please visit paulrussell.ca/summer-2022-survey to complete the survey.

The survey is hosted by Google through my personal account. I am the only one who will see the raw data, and I assure you that it will not be shared. If you would like to get together and go through the survey in person, please contact me at paul.russell@halifax.ca or 902-240-0441. Thank you for your time and for sharing your opinions.

SACKVILLE CENOTAPH AND AFGHANISTAN

I have always appreciated the Sackville Cenotaph. This memorial is in remembrance of those who fought in the battles which shaped the rights and freedoms that we now enjoy. Thousands of those who fought never returned home.

The cenotaph has a stone for many of the countries where Canada participated in a conflict. They represent wars from many years ago—the First and Second World Wars, Korea, and the Gulf War.

The cenotaph has been with us for some time, and a significant conflict occurred since the cenotaph was built: Afghanistan.

More than 40,000 members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) served in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2014, and 158 members died there. In August 2021, the CAF returned to oversee evacuation efforts at the Kabul airport. In coordination with international allies, the CAF helped to evacuate more than 3,700 people, including Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and others.

I have wanted us to recognize Afghanistan on the Sackville Cenotaph for years. I now have the opportunity to help that happen. I brought this forward to the Sackville Legion, Calais Branch 162, and they are moving ahead with it.

Earlier this year I presented a cheque from the district 15 capital fund to Carol Longue-MacDonald, the president of the Sackville Legion so that Afghanistan can be added to the cenotaph.

Thank you to all who served. Thank you, as well, to the families of those who served. Your efforts and your sacrifices are very much appreciated.





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40KM/H SPEEDS IN NEIGHBOURHOODS

In 2021 the speed limit of the Chandler Drive neighbourhood was reduced to 40km/h. This was great to see. We've worked through some issues with the new speed in this neighbourhood, and it sounds like the traffic is starting to drive more slowly.

In order to qualify for speed limit reduction, it needs to be a local neighbourhood street; we need to measure the speeds of all of the streets in a neighbourhood; and 85% of the drivers need to be driving near or below 40km/h.

Now that the speed reductions are in place for one neighbourhood, I looked for additional neighbourhoods where it is warranted. I've heard from people all over Lower Sackville that speeding is a challenge, and so rather than choose one or two neighbourhoods—I requested that 11 different neighbourhoods are evaluated. These are all over Sackville and are, mainly, where I've heard that there are speed concerns.

Once we reduce the speed in more areas, I will ask for speed to be reduced in all of the remaining neighbourhoods in Lower Sackville. We need our streets to be safer, and driving more slowly is a significant way that to accomplish that.

Outlined below are the neighbourhoods I have requested speed evaluations for. While this map is small, for context, Highway 101 is visible toward the bottom of the map.



ACCESSORY BUILDING CHANGES AND SURVEY

HRM is looking for your input to see if changes to the Sackville Area Plan are required.

Some areas of the Sackville Plan Area have been developed with small lots connected to central water and sewer services. Other parts of the Plan Area were developed before central services were available so those tend to have a more rural development pattern with large lots and plenty of space between houses.

These differences mean that some semi-rural areas have to follow the same rules that apply in suburban or urban neighbourhoods.

Please help us understand what you would like to see in our community by completing this survey by September 18th:

- paulrussell.ca/case-23405-survey

You can find out more about the issue here:

- paulrussell.ca/case-23405

Both of these links will redirect you to an HRM website. I am also available to get together with you to talk about the survey and get your opinions.

YOUTH WORX CAFE

The Youth Worx Café at the Sackville Sports Stadium is now open for you to try! Please join us on Friday, October 7th for the official opening from 9 a.m. - noon.

What is Youth Worx? Youth Worx - formerly called Youth Live - offers 24 weeks of paid job and life skill building for youth with employment barriers. While working in a supportive environment, participants gain hands-on work experience operating the Youth Worx Café in the Sackville Sports Stadium. Youth also participate in job readiness workshops to improve employability skills.

By supporting the café, you support youth in your community! Visit halifax.ca/youthworx to learn more about this program.



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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Provincial Government Services	211
Municipal Contact Centre	311
Directory Assistance	411
Provincial Road Conditions	511
Phone Repair Service	611
Public Health Inquiries	811
Emergency	911
Paul Russell, District 15 Councillor	902-240-0441
Victoria Palmetter, Constituency Coordinator	902-490-2012
Councillors' Office	902-490-4050
Mayor's Office	902-490-4010
MLA Steve Craig	902-864-6271
MP Darrell Samson	902-861-2311
RCMP, Sackville Detachment	902-244-7208
Police, Non-Emergency	902-490-5020
Fire, Non-Emergency	902-490-5530
Halifax Water	902-420-9287
Sackville Sports Stadium	902-869-4141
Kids Help Phone	902-668-6868
Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team	888-429-8167
Victims of Human Trafficking Helpline	833-900-1010
Red Cross Home Equipment Loan	902-423-3680
Poison Control	800-565-8161
NS Legal Aid	902-420-7921
Access Nova Scotia	902-424-5200
NS Occupational Health & Safety	800-952-2687
NS Power	902-428-6230
NS Power Outage Line	877-428-6004
NS Property Valuation Services Corporation	800-380-7775

SCDA / PATRIOT DAYS

"Happy Canada Day!"— That was what I was yelling from my car while driving down Sackville Drive during our first Canada Day parade since 2019.

For the past couple of years, we have not been able to have a crowd gather. This meant no concert in the park. No fireworks of any sort. No parade. No Teddy Bear Picnic. No Patriot Days or Canada Day celebrations as we had known them. We spent our time in our homes watching our screens and watching the sense of community decline. This year that changed.

The Sackville Community Development Association (SCDA) is the group that runs all of the Patriot Days and Canada Day events, and the group that I was pleased to be president of since about 2010. I stepped down from the SCDA when I was elected to Regional Council. As with many other organizations, the number of available volunteers dropped. Many groups just couldn't continue. I didn't want that to happen with the SCDA.

Earlier this year I brought together a number of volunteers and we reformed the SCDA. The new SCDA was able to run the in-person Patriot Days and Canada Day events. For Patriot Days, we had a set of events at the Springfield Lake Rec Centre, the Paws for Canada Dog Walk, the concert in the park, and fireworks over the lake. On Canada Day we started with the parade but we also had the flag raising and affirmation at Fultz House and we had a full Teddy Bear Picnic at the Sackville Arena.

Many volunteer groups and community groups are reforming and restarting. Some are not. The SCDA had barely enough volunteers to restart Patriot Days this year. It certainly wasn't the full set of volunteers that we have had in the past, for various reasons, but they got the job done. From everything that I've heard everyone had a good time.

If you are looking to help our community, the SCDA and other community groups could use your help.



Please recycle.

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.