



# A multi-use Sackville trail finally reality!

After almost 20 years of planning, the Sackville Rivers Association is thrilled to see the Sackville Greenway trail under construction. The first section of the trail- which will follow the Little Sackville River from Old Sackville Road, intersect Sackville Drive, and continue on to the Glendale Beaver Bank intersection- is slated to be completed by October 2016. The paved, multiuse trail will be approximately 2km long, 3 meters wide and include a walking bridge over the Little Sackville River, near the Sackville Lions Club. At a cost of approximately 1.08 million dollars, this has been funded almost 100 per cent by government. "This trail would not be built if it wasn't

for HRM, Transportation Department." Said Walter Regan, the Executive Director of the Sackville Rivers Association. "A special thanks to HRM and a thank you to provincial government, particularly Sports and Wellness and Connect2 [Department of Energy]."

Support for the trail has been high with both the public and business in Sackville. "Several businesses expressed support that this is long overdue." Said Regan. "Crombie and the owners of Kentucky Fried Chicken are so supportive of the trail that they've granted us right of ways across their properties. The province has also granted us a right of way."

"Participating in ini-



Map of Section B | Downsvew Park Link

tiatives such as this trail corridor provide important benefits to the public and represents another opportunity for Crombie to invest in the community. We look forward to continuing to work with HRM to make the Sackville Greenway Trail a reality." Said Joseph Driscoll Manager, Real Estate and Development Planning at Crombie REIT

The Sackville Greenway

trail will connect many of the residential areas of Lower Sackville to the business core, offering residents a pedestrian friendly alternative to access shops and services. "Those people who want to access churches, community events and, of course, shopping at Downsvew Mall and along Sackville Drive will now have an alternative.

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## MEET & GREETs

The SBA hosts monthly Meet & Greet for local business people to network and mingle. The Meet & Greet are at a different local SBA business on the first Thursday of the month. Everyone is invited to join us for refreshments and the chance to meet and connect with other people in business.

The next Meet & Greet will take place on Thursday Dec. 3rd from 8:30am-9:30am at PeopleCan Training & Development 622 Sackville Drive #9



Thank you to AMC Chartered Accountant Limited for hosting our November Meet & Greet.



Are you interested in hosting a Meet & Greet at your business? Contact michelle@sackvillebusiness.com or call 902-252-3099 for more information.

## Preliminary 2016 Assessments Published

Preliminary 2016 assessments have been published on [www.pvsc.ca](http://www.pvsc.ca). Property owners can view their detailed property data by logging into their 'My Property Report' using the AAN and PIN number on their 2015 assessment notice. If you have any questions please contact Nova Scotia Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) at 1-800-380-7775.

# TAX REFORM

IT'S MY BUSINESS!



### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Sackville Business Association was extremely disappointed to see that HRM Finance's staff report [Commercial Tax Options for Small Business](#), dated October 15th, 2015, did not include a tax break for small businesses. After months of research and discussion, two recommendations were put forward by the Business Improvement Districts to HRM's Finance staff: a small business rate that would apply to small businesses as defined by the federal government; and the ability to have differentiated tax rates which could be applied to established mainstreets and downtowns.

For small and medium sized businesses, a large spike in commercial property taxes can have a detrimental impact on their ability to operate. Even if you're not the property owner, these costs are passed on to businesses through common area fees. And under the current assessment based tax system, areas with lots of redevelopment or significant improvement are seeing major increases in assessments. This is a deterrent to what we want to achieve for our mainstreets and downtowns; redevelopment and improvement to buildings & streetscapes.

On November 10, I believe Council heard businesses

concerns when they put forth a motion to request changes to the charter that would give Council the authority to set different rates for different categories and sizes of buildings and to direct finance staff to collect further data on changes to an assessment based tax system. We are still a long way from having a system that supports HRM's main economic drivers- our mainstreets, downtowns and small businesses- but I am hopeful we are moving in the right direction. As always, we appreciate the support of our Councillors in helping us move forward our objective of a thriving business district.

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



**Councillor Steve Craig**

Councillor Craig serves as an ex-officio (non-voting) Director on the SBA Board of Directors. In addition to being a voice for business at Council, Steve brings more than 30 years business experience to the table.



**Tara Hill**

Tara has over 20 years of business experience and owns four Subway locations in Sackville and Bedford. This year she serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors



**Matthew Payzant**

Matt is grandson to the founder of Payzants Home Hardware, a pillar business in Sackville. Currently a member at large, he previously served as Treasurer on the Board of Directors.



Walter Regan, Executive Director of the Sackville Rivers Association

If they don't want to use a car, they can walk safely, they can bike safely; at the same time walking the Sackville Greenway they'll experience nature, improve their health and meet their neighbours."

Maintenance of the trail, which will include snow removal, will be the joint responsibility of the SRA and HRM. "The SRA is approximately 100 volunteers right now and we are continually encouraging other members of the public to come forward. We are hoping that perhaps a business or two will adopt a section of the Sackville Greenway that they

would clean up on a semi regular basis" Said Regan.

The full Sackville Greenway Trail plan includes a total of 13 kilometers of trail and will eventually run from Fultz House Museum to Feely Lake. Construction will happen in several phases, over multiple years and be dependent on funding. "Thank you to the volunteers and the community of Sackville. We are doing this to protect the Little Sackville River, but also to enhance our community." Said Regan "We invite everyone to the trail opening next year."

## First Lake Greenway Trail Fundraising Efforts

Friends of First Lake Society are looking for individuals or businesses to sponsor benches along the First Lake Greenway Trail. The bench would be named on the sponsors behalf with a plaque placed prominently on the front of the bench. If you are interested in more information or would like to sponsor a bench please visit [firstlake.ca/fundraising](http://firstlake.ca/fundraising)

## SBA's 2015 Business Breakfast



On October 19th, the SBA hosted our Annual Business Breakfast. SBA members enjoyed an informative and lively presentation by Pete Luckett of Pete's Fine Foods and Luckett Vineyards. Thank you to our sponsor ScotiaBank Sackville.

## BUSINESS NOTEBOOK

Development proposed for **8 Walker Ave.** was approved by Council on September 21. The developer, Armco Capital, hopes to start construction in the spring. The development includes apartments on the upper floors as well as 10,000 square feet of commercial space on the main floor.



The **Acadia Recreation Club** unveiled Sackville's Inclusive Play Park. It is fully wheel chair accessible, featuring a soft rubber floor, large wide tandem slides and a sound & sensory area. It is the first of its kind in Sackville and can be found in Acadia Park. Sackville's Inclusive Play Park has already become a favorite place for children and parents alike.



### New Business

**Renewable Energy Services** has opened at 30 Memory Lane Lower Sackville. RESL has erected and operated 7 test wind turbines in Nova Scotia since 2005.

**Vapourhub** is now open at 501 Sackville Drive.

**Robin's Donut's** has opened a **Capt. Submarine** at their current location, 833 Sackville Drive.

**Goodlife Fitness** is opening a **Fit4Less** gym at Downsview Mall, 800 Sackville Drive. They offer high quality gym memberships at an affordable price. The opening date has yet to be announced.

**New Start Auto** has opened at 945 Sackville Drive.