

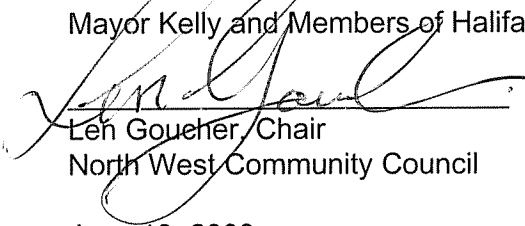
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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
July 8, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: 
Len Goucher, Chair
North West Community Council

DATE: June 19, 2003

SUBJECT: **Sackville Rivers Association - Bedford-Sackville Greenway**

ORIGIN:

Presentation made by Sackville Rivers Association re Trails at North West Community Council meeting held on June 11, 2003.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Regional Council support the goals of the Bedford-Sackville Greenway to Recreation Department.

BACKGROUND:

North West Community Council, at its meeting held on June 11, 2003, passed a motion to support the goals of the Bedford-Sackville Greenway.

DISCUSSION:

Community Council, having supported the goals of the Bedford-Sackville Greenway is recommending same to Regional Council and, through Regional Council, to Recreation Department.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: To be determined.

ALTERNATIVES:

No alternatives recommended at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Excerpt from Draft Minutes of North West Community Council held on June 11, 2003.
2. Information on support requested for Sackville River trail.
3. Pamphlet: Bedford-Sackville Greenway - Connecting Our Communities
4. Pamphlet: The Fort Sackville Walkway

<p>Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210 or fax at 490-4208 Report prepared by: Sandra Shute, Legislative Assistant 490-6519</p>

**EXCERPT FROM DRAFT MINUTES OF NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON JUNE 11, 2003**

9.3 Delegations

9.3.1 Sackville Rivers Association - Trails and Update

Mr. Alan McIver, on behalf of Sackville Rivers Association, raised the following points during his presentation:

- There has been a vision for 20 years in terms of watershed of the Sackville River. In order to share the vision, it is necessary to move to the details of the vision.
- The bridge beside Ponderosa in Bedford has been built as well as the bridge in Sackville at the mouth of the Little Sackville River.
- In order to achieve a trail along the river, some routes already established were used, such as trunk sewer lines which fall in the floodplain and which have some sensitivity to adjacent property owners. Meetings have to be held with adjacent property owners.
- The goal for the next year or so is to work with community members so they will know what will be done on a section-by-section basis and ensure that people are aware of the big picture.
- The ways that Councillors were being asked for support were listed in the information provided, entitled "Sackville River Trail".

Mr. Don Ambler, also on behalf of Sackville Rivers Association, raised the following points during his presentation:

- Positive comments received from the "silent majority" who support trails as economic, social, heritage and health benefits to the community at large.
- Trails are, in fact, linear parks open to all and are safe routes to schools, community groups, shopping malls and link communities.
- Sackville Rivers Association is part of a team throughout HRM, the Halifax Regional Trails Advisory Team. \$350,000 has been allocated to the team this year. There is also \$25,000 from Grant monies and \$26,000 from Sport and Recreation Nova Scotia. Sackville Rivers Association will benefit from these amounts.
- HRDA and ACOA have brought together a proposal for \$2,000,000 for trail development throughout HRM. Sackville Rivers Association should also receive part of those monies.
- The community that lives beside the trail will benefit the most economically. An economic development proposal for the trail system contained in a Consultants report in 1998 was approved by Council. Some of the recommendations from the report are being used at this time.

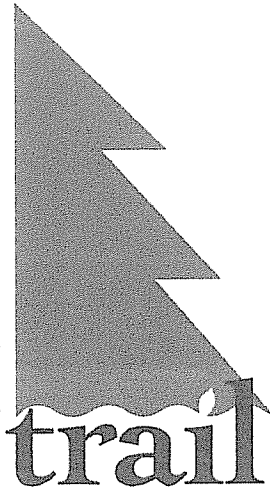
Councillor Goucher indicated his support for Sackville Rivers Association and trails.

Councillor Harvey indicated that HRM has supported trails development, over the last several years, through Recreation with hundreds of thousands of dollars a year but not enough to meet the demand or need. Trails has grown into such a popular recreation outlet that the more trails provided, the more communities come forward seeking trail development.

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Johns that Community Council provide copies of the information provided to members of Regional Council and the Mayor, advise Regional Council that Community Council supports the goals of the Bedford-Sackville Greenway and recommend same to Regional Council and, through Regional Council, to Recreation Department.

Councillor Johns, in seconding the motion, indicated that whenever there is a possibility for HRM and a group to work together in co-operation, that is a positive thing and he commended Sackville Rivers Association for their work. He did not dispute the recreational value of trails; however, he had a concern that once the trails are built, they would have to be maintained and where would the money come from. His District was different because there was a lack of sidewalks and it became hard to justify building trails when the community was expressing the need for sidewalks. There could be co-operation in his District where something similar to a trail could be a solution to not having sidewalks.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.



SACKVILLE RIVER TRAIL

What are we looking for by way of support from our Councillors?

1. Councillors with an understanding of our vision for a conservation corridor and trail along the Sackville Rivers and a desire to see it realized in our lifetime and as expeditiously as possible!
2. The support of our councillors in representing the interests of this community initiative in the Halifax Regional Municipality Council.
3. Help from our councillors in presenting the possibilities of a walking/cycling trail connecting our communities and essential facilities and in solving the difficulties we may encounter in working with the public and commercial interests to resolve the practical details of trail routing and construction.
4. Opportunities to meet with councillors and developers in the planning stage to ensure that a conservation corridor and walkway are an integral part of the overall design of each subdivision and development along the Sackville River and its tributaries.
5. The support of the municipal planning department in developing the concept and design of this conservation corridor.
6. Continued financial and technical assistance toward the realization of these community trails and amenities.
7. Support from council in approaching the provincial Ministry of Transport and other government departments to help make this trail a reality and a boon to our communities as alternative linkages between communities and community amenities.
8. Help in enlisting the support of the business community, schools and other interest groups and the identification of more financial support for the development of a safe and beneficial trail and environmentally appropriate use of the flood-plain adjacent to the river.
9. Help in aiding the recognition by the communities of the overall benefits of safe connector to community facilities especially for those in our community who do not have the benefit of mechanized transportation.
10. A continuation of the support currently being received in support of recreational and utilitarian trails.

Thank you for your consideration of these interests.