
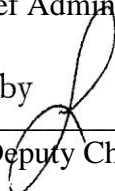


Item No. 11.1.4
Halifax Regional Council
June 21, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original signed by 
Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by 
Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Operations

DATE: May 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Sackville Community Boundary Project

ORIGIN

As part of the original Civic Address Corrections Project, it is a requirement that all community boundaries and names be validated with the community and ratified by Regional Council.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Recognize Lower Sackville, Middle Sackville & Upper Sackville as official HRM Communities as outlined on the map in Appendix B and authorize staff to install community signs at their boundaries; and
2. Modify the Lakeview Community boundary, at Lower Sackville, as outlined on the map in Appendix C and authorize staff to relocate the current community sign.

BACKGROUND

The need for a review of community boundaries has resulted largely from a requirement of the Emergency 911 (E911) service to use communities as a means of identifying the correct location of an emergency call. However, other public and private agencies also use communities to deliver or target their services most notably Canada Post. Efforts to ratify boundaries between different agencies began in 2002 and will continue until all of the 197 HRM community names and boundaries have been verified.

In the past, Canada Post has made decisions with respect to community names and boundaries as part of a resident's mailing address. This has led to confusion in areas where HRM community names do not coincide with those being used for mailing addresses. Canada Post and HRM are now in agreement that all civic numbers, street names and communities must be the same in both representative databases.

Furthermore, in May 2003, HRM Regional Council approved the installation of standard community signage at each community boundary in HRM. The stipulation was that prior to installation, staff must conduct public consultation with residents to verify that the community names and boundaries are accurate.

DISCUSSION

The verification of community boundaries usually involves the confirmation of existing names and boundaries. This current project is unique in that it involves the division of an existing community, into three communities, which have not previously been officially recognized as HRM communities.

The communities of Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville are historical community names dating back to the 1700s and are listed in the Nova Scotia Gazetteer of geographical place names and on provincial mapping. In addition, provincial highway signage references Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville as does Canada Post. Currently, the official HRM community name is Sackville.

Canada Post recognizes Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville; however, the Canada Post boundaries, in some areas, are inaccurate. The area of highest discrepancy is the southern area of Middle Sackville that Canada Post currently recognizes as Lower Sackville.

Starting in May of 2010, staff began the preliminary steps of a public consultation process as required by Council to confirm community identity and community boundaries (please refer to Community Engagement for details). As a result of the research and consultation, staff recommend that Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville be recognized as official HRM Communities (see Appendix B), that the western boundary of the Community of Lakeview be modified (see Appendix C), and that community signs be installed at their boundaries.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Identification of the communities of Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville would require the installation of nine community signs at an approximate cost of \$9,000. The relocation of the existing Lakeview community sign and the installation of a new Lakeview sign will have an approximate cost of \$1,700. The total estimated cost for this project of \$10,700 can be accommodated within the approved 2011/12 operating budget for C330 – Civic Addressing.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As neither Lower, Middle or Upper Sackville were currently recognized as existing communities by HRM, preliminary research was required to identify the general location of the boundaries.

Staff, in consultation, with the Sackville area Councillors drew up a preliminary map showing the boundary lines between Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville. These preliminary maps were circulated to a number of historical and community groups as well as a number of interested persons in the communities.

As there are over 12,000 households in the Sackville community, four focus areas were determined for the general public consultation process. These were: Lower Sackville at Lakeview, Lower Sackville at Middle Sackville, Middle Sackville at Lucasville, and Middle Sackville at Upper Sackville.

The focus areas reduced the numbers of consultation letters from over 12,000 to just over 3,500. Each letter presented the property owner with two options; officially recognize the communities of Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville, or maintain the current HRM community of Sackville. Recipients were encouraged to reply with their thoughts regarding an attached map showing the proposed boundary in their area.

In November 2010, letters were sent out to the property owners adjacent to the boundaries between Lower Sackville and Lakeview (171 letters), Middle Sackville and Lucasville (37 letters), and Middle Sackville and Upper Sackville (256 letters).

The focus area for the Lower/Middle Sackville boundary was by far the largest as the area was extended to include any address that was currently assigned Lower Sackville by Canada Post but would, under the new proposal, be in Middle Sackville. Over 3000 letters were sent to this focus area between November and December of 2011.

Three hundred and thirty two (332) responses were received, which represents approximately 9.5% of the property owners polled. The majority of the feedback came from the Lower Sackville/Middle Sackville focus area.

The majority of the residents who provided feedback from the Lakeview, Lucasville and Upper Sackville areas preferred the HRM proposal of Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville. However, the majority of the respondents from the Lower Sackville/Middle Sackville area preferred the Sackville option.

As a change from the current Canada Post system of Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville would require every household in the area to undergo an address change, there was not sufficient support to recommend such a change. Therefore, staff recommend adopting the Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville communities. However, Canada Post has agreed to recognize Sackville as an official alias to Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville for those residents who prefer to use the shorter community name for mail.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Regional Council could validate the communities and direct staff to install signage. This is the recommended alternative outlined in this report.
2. Regional Council could choose to not validate the communities. This alternative is not recommended as validation of community boundaries is a critical component of civic addressing in support of 911 and emergency response.

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A - Original Community Boundary Map Sackville
- Appendix B - Recommended Community Boundary Map Lower, Middle & Upper Sackville
- Appendix C - Recommended Community Boundary Map Lakeview

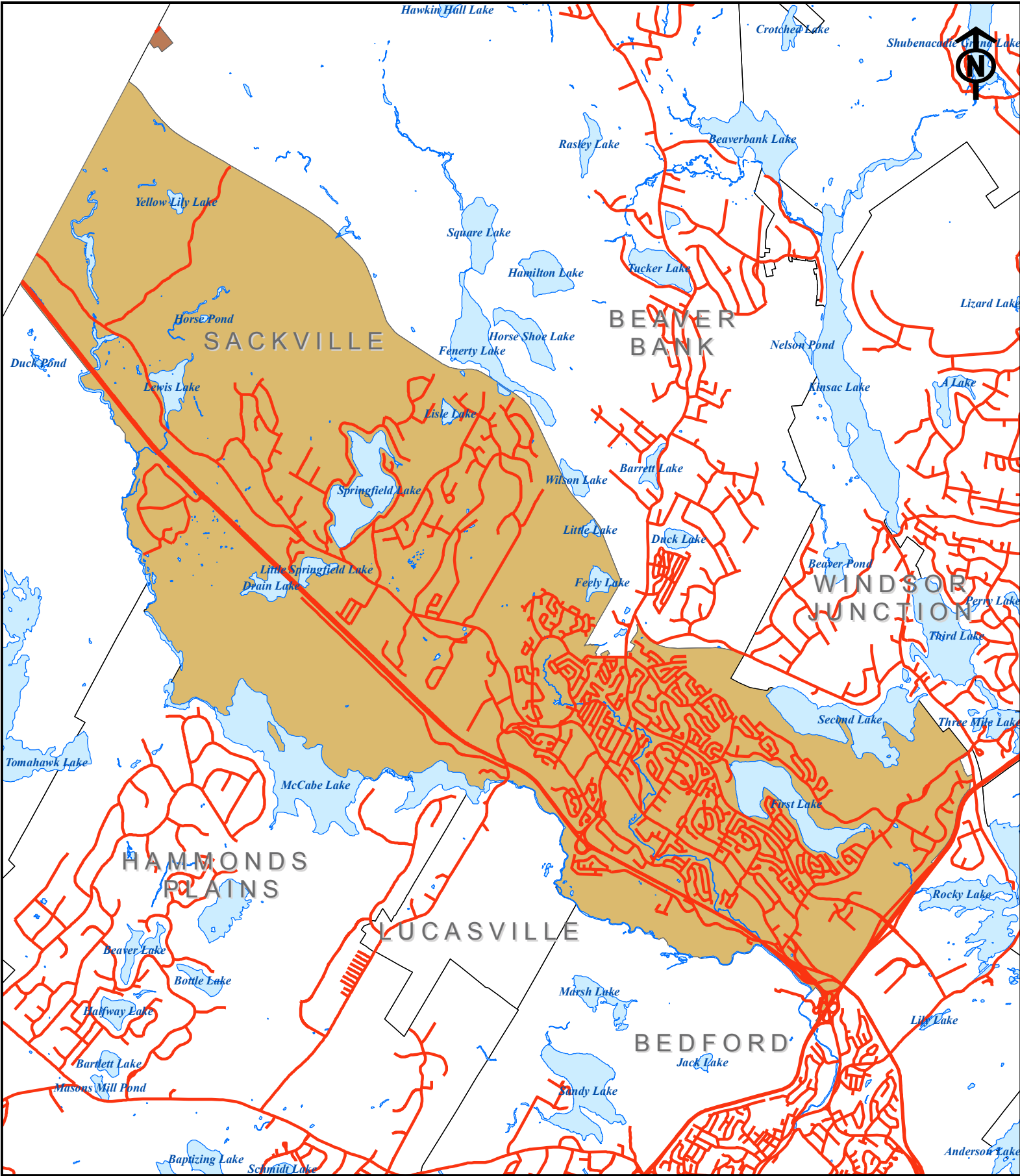
A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Gayle MacLean, Civic Addressing Coordinator 490-4105

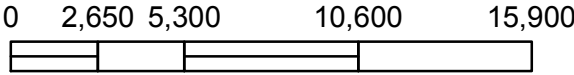
Report Approved by: _____
Denise Schofield, Manager Development Engineering

Financial Approval by: _____
Bruce Fisher, Acting Director of Finance, 490-6308

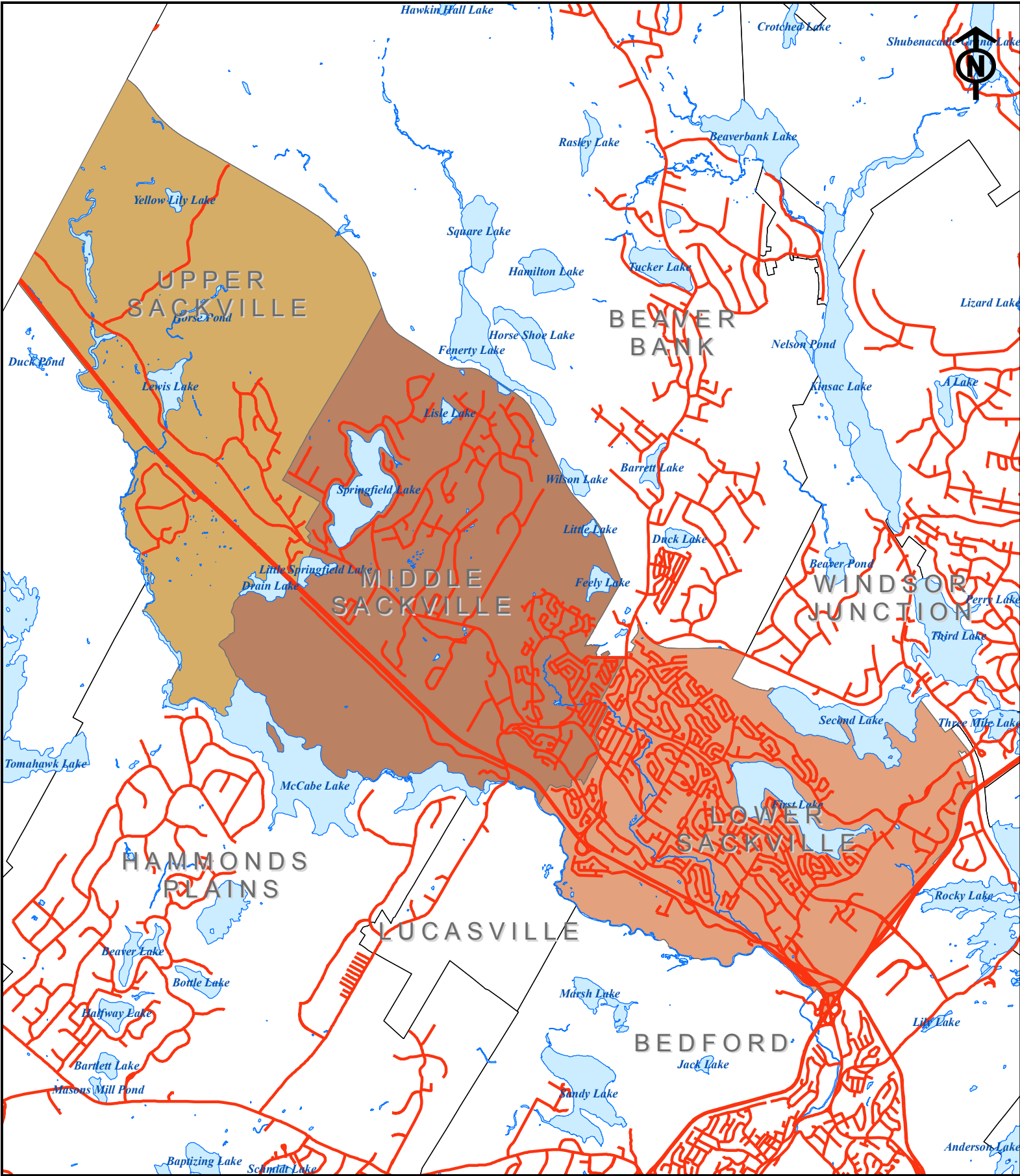
Report Approved by: _____
Paul Dunphy, Community Development



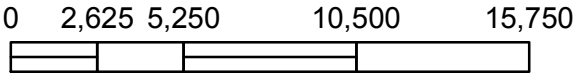
Original Community Boundary
Sackville
June 2011



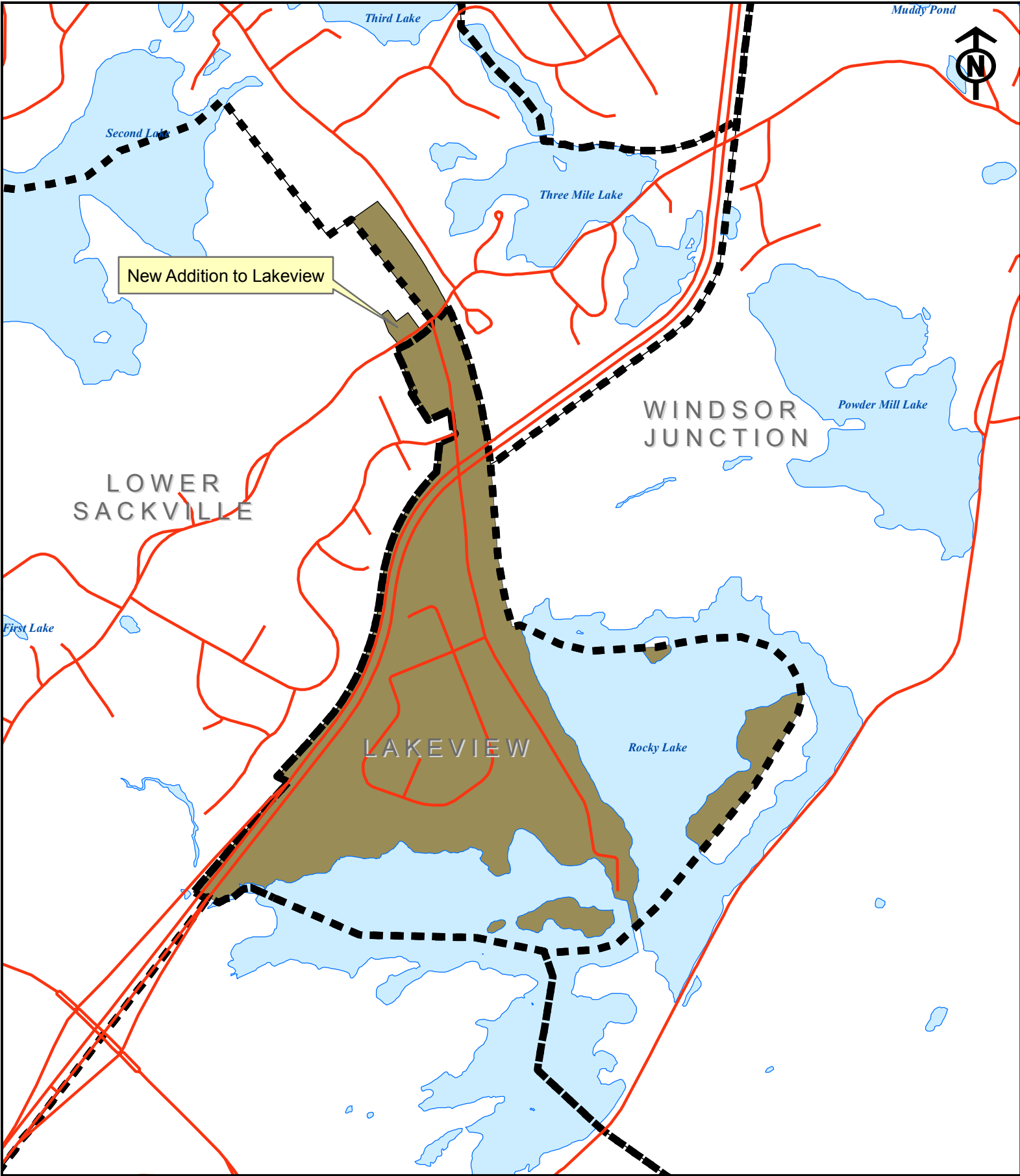
Feet
1:70,312



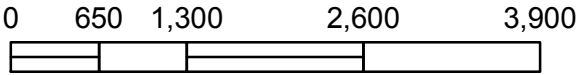
Recommended Community Boundary
Lower, Middle & Upper Sackville
June 2011



Feet
1:70,000



Recommended Community Boundary
Lakeview
June 2011



Feet
1:16,978