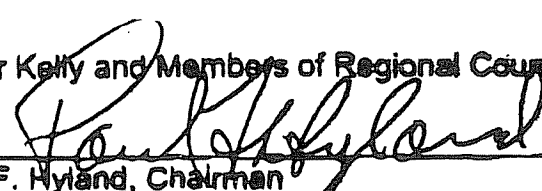


Halifax Regional Council
Committee of the Whole
May 6, 2003

To: Mayor Kelly and Members of Regional Council

Submitted By:


Paul F. Hyland, Chairman
District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Date: April 8, 2003

Subject: District Boundaries Advisory Committee Recommendation
Delineation of the Appropriate District Boundaries

Origin

On October 8, 2002 , Halifax Regional Council adopted a resolution which, among other things, directed the following :

That:

- ▶ A regional council comprised of 20 polling districts with an average population of 18,000 citizens per district be established for the next civic election.
- ▶ The significant imbalance in voter parity per district be rectified by a redefinition of district boundaries. Further, Communities of Interest be kept together when considering boundaries.
- ▶ The Terms of Reference be amended to provide that the second stage of the review process (ie. the delineation of the appropriate district boundaries) be carried out by the District Boundary Advisory Committee with the assistance of staff rather than by staff assisted by the Committee as presently stated.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Regional Council endorse the 20 District proposal recommended by the District Boundaries Review Committee and outlined in Appendix "A" of this report and direct staff to forward the same to the Utility and Review Board for approval.

Background:

The mandate of the District Boundaries Advisory Committee in this phase of the process is to recommend the boundaries for 20 polling districts. In drafting these proposed boundaries the Committee deliberated over four months and more than 15 meetings.

In drawing the boundaries for the 20 Districts the Committee has used the factors that the Utility and Review Board will have to take into consideration . Section 368 (4) of the *Municipal Government Act*:

368 (4) In determining the number and boundaries of polling districts the Board shall consider number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.

The leading Canadian case on polling district distribution is the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in **Reference re: Electoral Boundaries Commission Act** (1991), 81 D. L. R. (4th) 16 (the **Carter** decision). That case dealt with provincial electoral boundaries in Saskatchewan. The majority decision was delivered by McLachlin, J. who found that the Canadian electoral system was rooted in the tradition of “effective” representation and not on the American tradition of absolute or near absolute “voter parity”. At page 35-36 of the decision she said:

“What are the conditions of effective representation? The first is relative parity of voting power. A system which dilutes one citizen’s vote unduly as compared with another citizen’s vote runs the risk of providing inadequate representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted. The legislative power of the citizen whose vote is diluted will be reduced, as may access to and assistance from his or her representative. The result will be uneven and unfair representation.
(emphasis added)

But parity of voting power, though of prime importance, is not the only factor to be taken into account in ensuring effective representation....

Factors like geography, community history, community interests and minority representation may need to be taken into account to ensure that our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic.”

The Utility and Review Board has adopted the rationale that a variation of +/- 25% is an appropriate guideline to apply in determining constituency sizes unless geographic

boundaries or community of interest considerations justify a greater deviation. While this is the legal standard, the Committee has tried to achieve a lower variance than +/- 25%.

The Role of the Community Council

The Community Council is seen as a link between the citizens and the operation of the Regional Council. In fact, Mr. William Hayward in his "Interim Report of the Municipal Reform Commissioner Halifax County" dated July 8, 1993 stated that Community Councils "allow for extensive involvement by communities in local government but within the framework of the overall unitary government" He went on to state that a Community Council will "...provide a way for citizens to have a greater say in the way services are provided, in what services are provided, and in the form that their community will take."

Therefore, in determining the configuration and the boundaries of the 20 polling districts, the effective operation of Community Councils to serve the community interest is an important factor. Currently the six (6) existing Community Councils are operating successfully and the example of the Harbour East Community Council in bridging the gap between formerly independent municipal units is one that the Committee feels should be emulated. The District Boundaries Advisory Committee believes that the 20 seat Council and the boundaries recommended will support the effective operation of a community council system.

Public Process

Before making a final recommendation to Regional Council, the Committee engaged in a public process including seven (7) public meetings. The public were also encouraged to submit their comments in writing.

The public meetings were very well attended with more than 275 members of the public attending the seven (7) meetings. Individual members of the public, members of Municipal Council, Provincial representatives, and business and community groups including a petition containing approximately 400 names from the citizens of District 12 (Halifax Downtown), identified a number of issues which guided the work of the Committee in developing the recommended boundaries. In addition, the Committee received 45 written submissions which, for the most part, served to emphasize the issues identified at the public meetings.

Identification of Issues/The Public Review Process

The public review process identified a number of issues that were of importance to those who attended the public meetings or responded to the call for written submissions. These included:

- 1) A concern by both the citizens of the former Town of Bedford and Clayton Park West that the redrawing of HRM council district electoral boundaries to embrace the surrounding communities was unacceptable if it meant splitting these communities into more than one seat. The perception of the majority of those addressing the Committee from these communities appears to be that community of interest and historic geopolitical boundaries are more important than voter parity issues.
- 2) A concern was expressed that both the Districts of downtown Halifax and of downtown Dartmouth should be the responsibility of a single Councillor to ensure that there is a focus for dealing with the special needs of mature urban communities. In addition, there was representation that, in keeping with the mandate of the Capital District Commission, consideration should be given to the establishment of a single urban core seat that spanned the harbour to include both downtown Halifax and Dartmouth.
- 3) The citizens of North Dartmouth expressed concern that the proposed boundaries split the historic centre of North Dartmouth in half and would have a negative impact on their community and the issues that they needed to have addressed at the municipal level.
- 4) An outstanding issue from the first round of public meetings was that the Hammonds Plains community felt that they had little in common with the Beechville, Timberlea, and Lakeside areas and would be better served by representation from the Hammonds Plains, Bedford areas.
- 5) Other minor boundary adjustments including:
 - a) the inclusion of Humber Park in Dartmouth with its traditional community of Forest Hills
 - b) the inclusion of Windsor Junction community with their traditional community of Lakeview, Fall River, Windsor Junction.

Discussion and Conclusions

The District Boundaries Advisory Committee, since its appointment and completion of the first phase of its assignment, has now conducted a thorough review of its mandate for this stage of the process, which is "to delineate the appropriate district boundaries in anticipation of a recommendations to Halifax Regional Council".

During the many committee meetings held subsequent to the publishing of its initial proposal for district boundaries, a draft proposal for 20 polling districts was submitted to the public for comments.

Following the completion of seven (7) public meetings, the receipt of comments and opinions from the public, the community, community organizations, and Councillors, an extensive evaluation review and adjustment to the proposed boundaries was carried out by the Committee. The outcome is a vastly different proposal than was brought to the public in February/March. This new proposal involves very different boundaries which respond to the concerns expressed by the public.

The Committee struggled to try to meet the primary goal of ensuring voter parity across the Regional Municipality recognizing the concerns and opinions of the citizens, that the perceived communities of interest and former historic geopolitical boundaries should dominate irrespective of the impact on the number of voters per district both within their own community, and the impact that it had in adjacent districts.

In addition, the Committee in its deliberation continued to be cognizant of the need for Community Councils as a link between the citizens and the operation of the Regional Council. In drafting the district polling boundaries the Committee was of the opinion that not all of the current Community Councils would remain in their current configuration. It should be possible for a new 20 seat Regional Council to establish revised Community Councils that address the needs of the citizens and the important role they played in the citizen/Halifax Regional Municipality public participation process.

At the same time the Committee was aware of the approval of the Council recommendations from the first phase of the process, as well as, the opinion and decisions of the courts. Also the recent decision of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board on polling district distribution within HRM was given consideration.

There was also a concern that communities who had not responded to the public participation process were indifferent to this public review process. Some members of the committee held the view that silence of these citizens could mean agreement with the proposed Boundaries and that any significant deviation from the intent of the first proposed boundaries should lead to another round of public hearings.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Any impact to the budget will occur in the 2004/2005 budget year. The proposed boundary changes will have no effect on the Election budget. Regardless of the number of Districts, the level of service will be required (i.e. polling stations/locations, numbers of staff, etc.)

When a final decision has been reached relative to the boundaries, staff can then begin to determine the cost implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

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

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose to:

1. Endorse the 20 District proposal recommended by the District Boundaries Review Committee and outlined in Appendix "A" of this report and direct staff to forward the same to the Utility and Review Board for approval.
2. Accept this final delineation of boundaries, but Council to hold further public review meetings
3. Not accept the recommendation of the District Boundaries Advisory Committee, in full or in part, and request staff to bring forward alternate boundaries.
4. Accept the boundaries initially proposed by the District Boundaries Advisory Committee which were the subject of a public process through February and into March.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix "A" - Overall Map of Proposed Boundaries and Individual Maps of Proposed Districts

Appendix "B" - Written Descriptions of Proposed Districts

Appendix "C" - Committee Membership/Mandate

Appendix "D" - Summary Table and Submissions

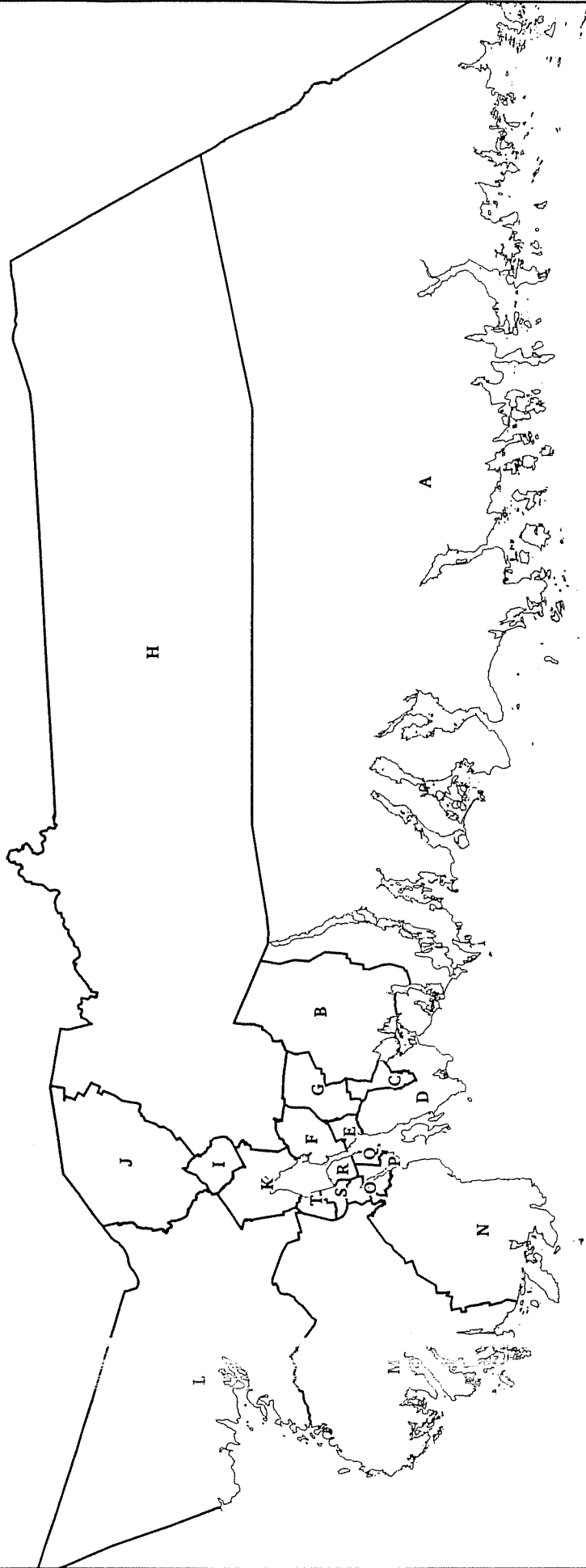
Appendix "E" - Advertisement Of Dates and Locations of Public Meetings.

Appendix "F" - Minutes of Public Meetings

Appendix "G" - Total Population, 18 and over Population, Eligible Voters for 20 Proposed Districts, 2001 Census of Canada

Appendix "H" - Total Population, 18 and over Population, Eligible Voters for 23 Present Districts, 2001 Census of Canada

APPENDIX "A"



HALIFAX
 REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
 District Boundaries
 Advisory Committee

Proposed Polling Districts

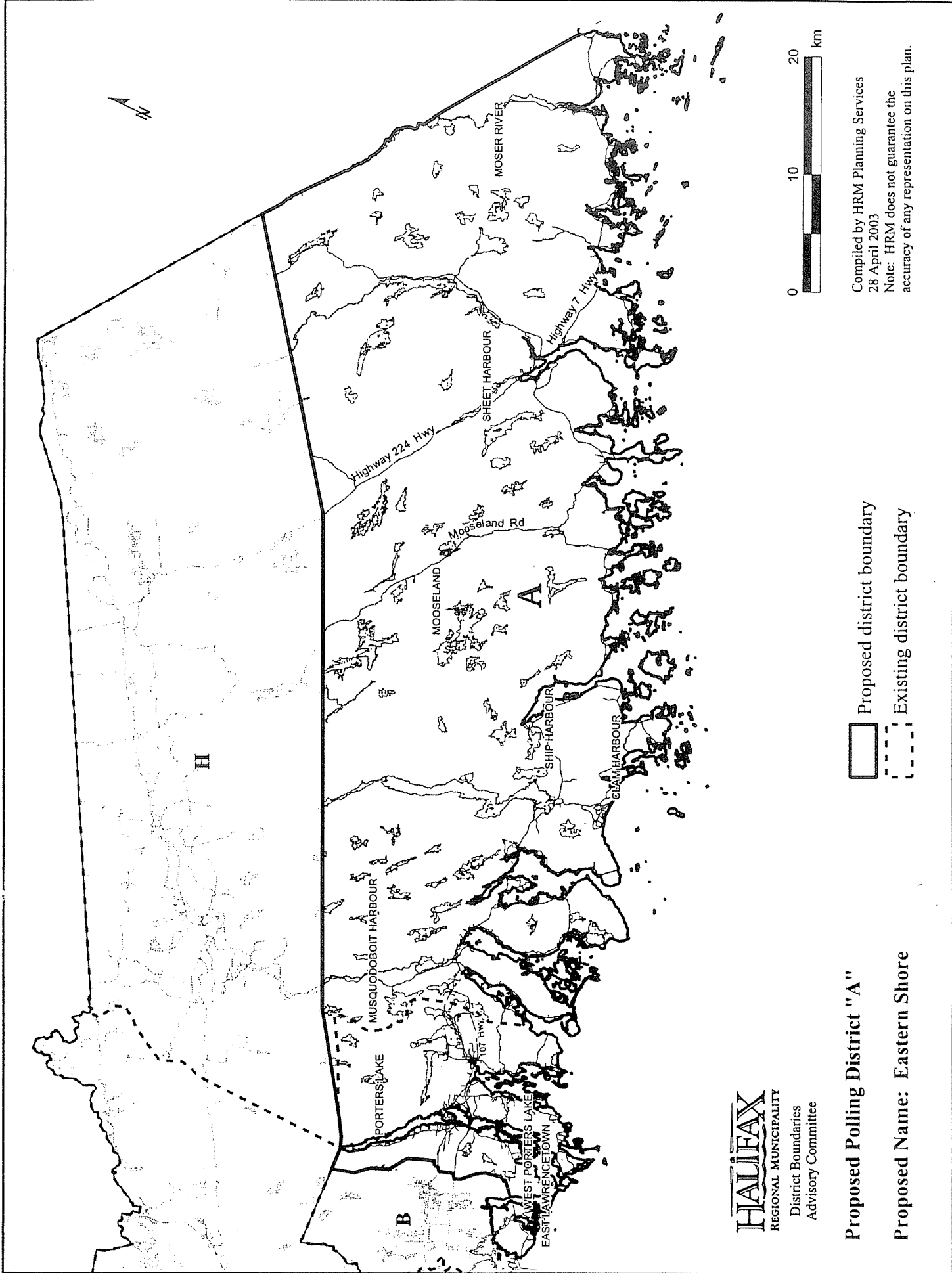
Overview Schematic



Proposed district boundary



Compiled by HRM Planning Services
 28 April 2003
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Proposed Polling District "A"
Proposed Name: Eastern Shore

Proposed district boundary
 Existing district boundary



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 accuracy of any representation on this plan.

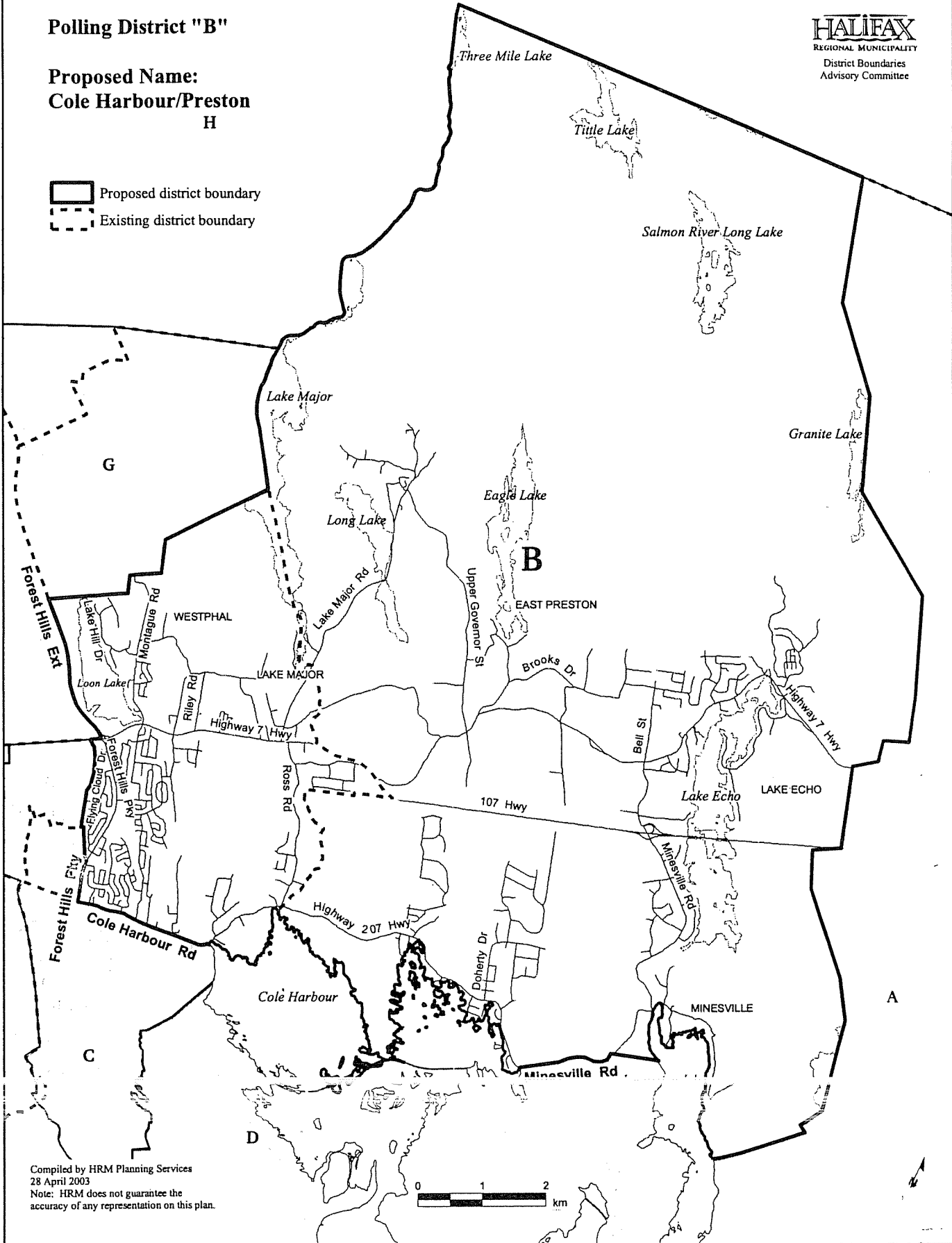


Polling District "B"

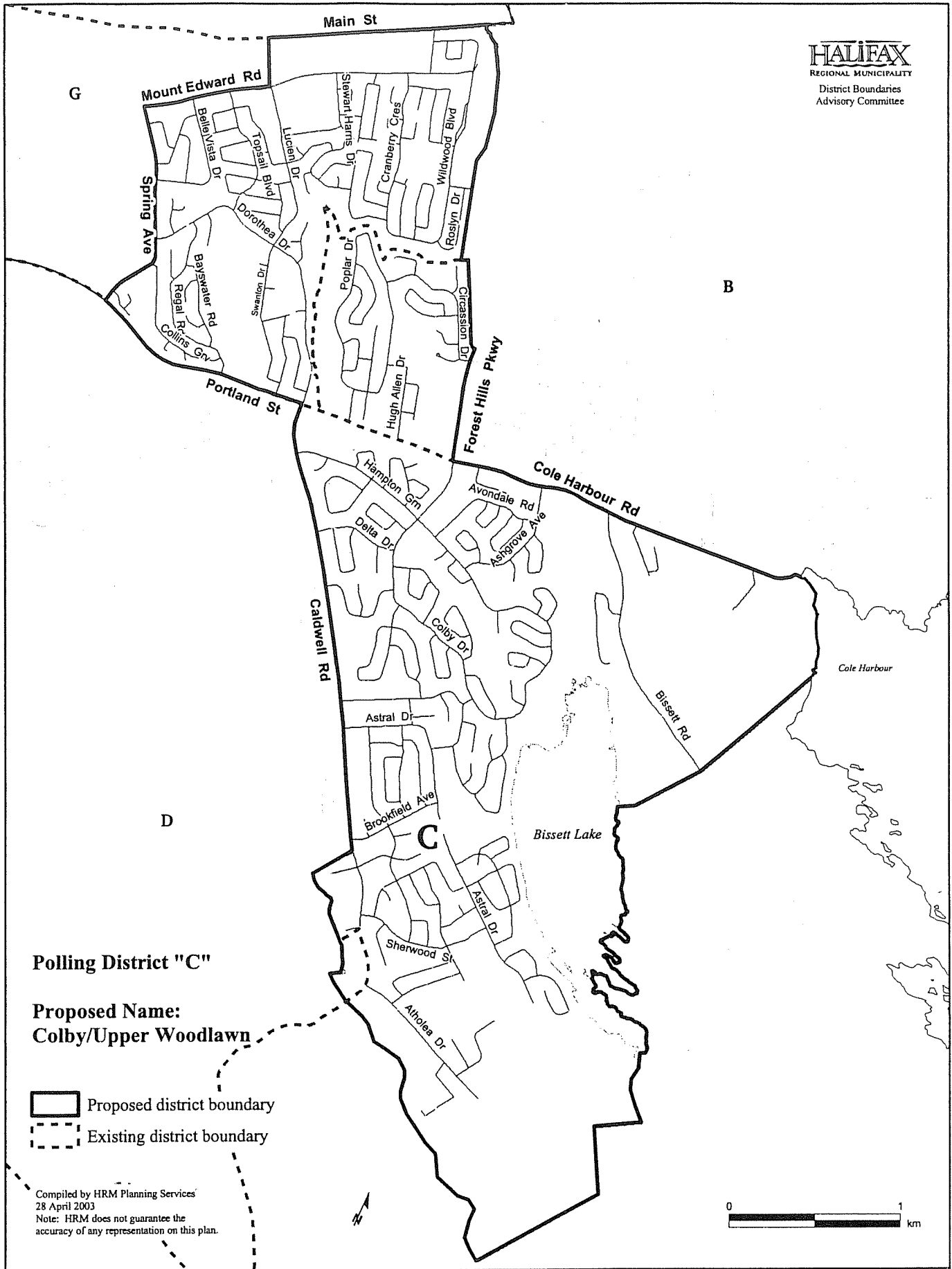
Proposed Name:
Cole Harbour/Preston
H

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District Boundaries
Advisory Committee

-  Proposed district boundary
-  Existing district boundary





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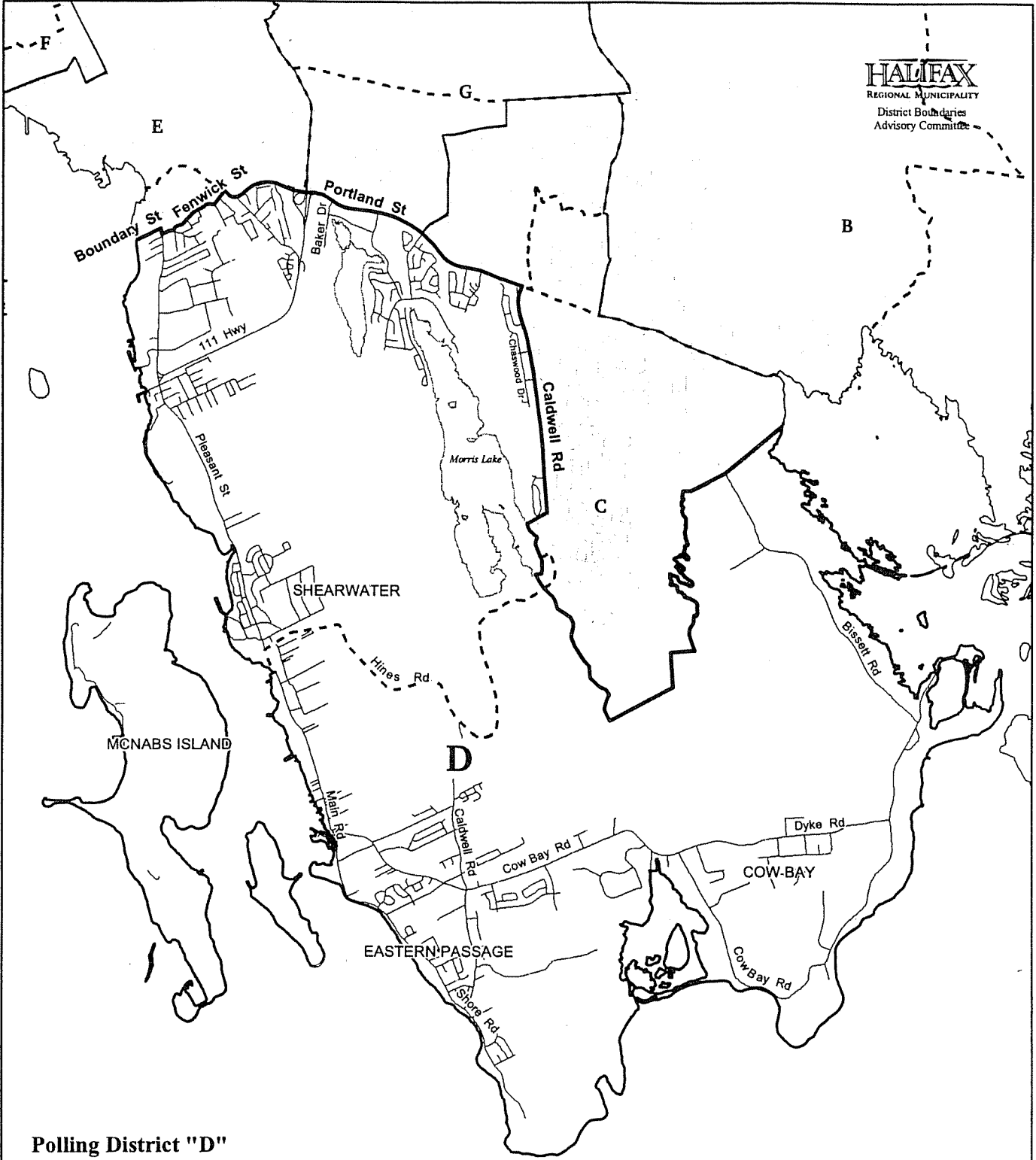
Polling District "C"

**Proposed Name:
 Colby/Upper Woodlawn**

-  Proposed district boundary
-  Existing district boundary



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 accuracy of any representation on this plan.





Polling District "D"

Proposed Name:
Eastern Passage/Woodside



-  Proposed district boundary
-  Existing district boundary

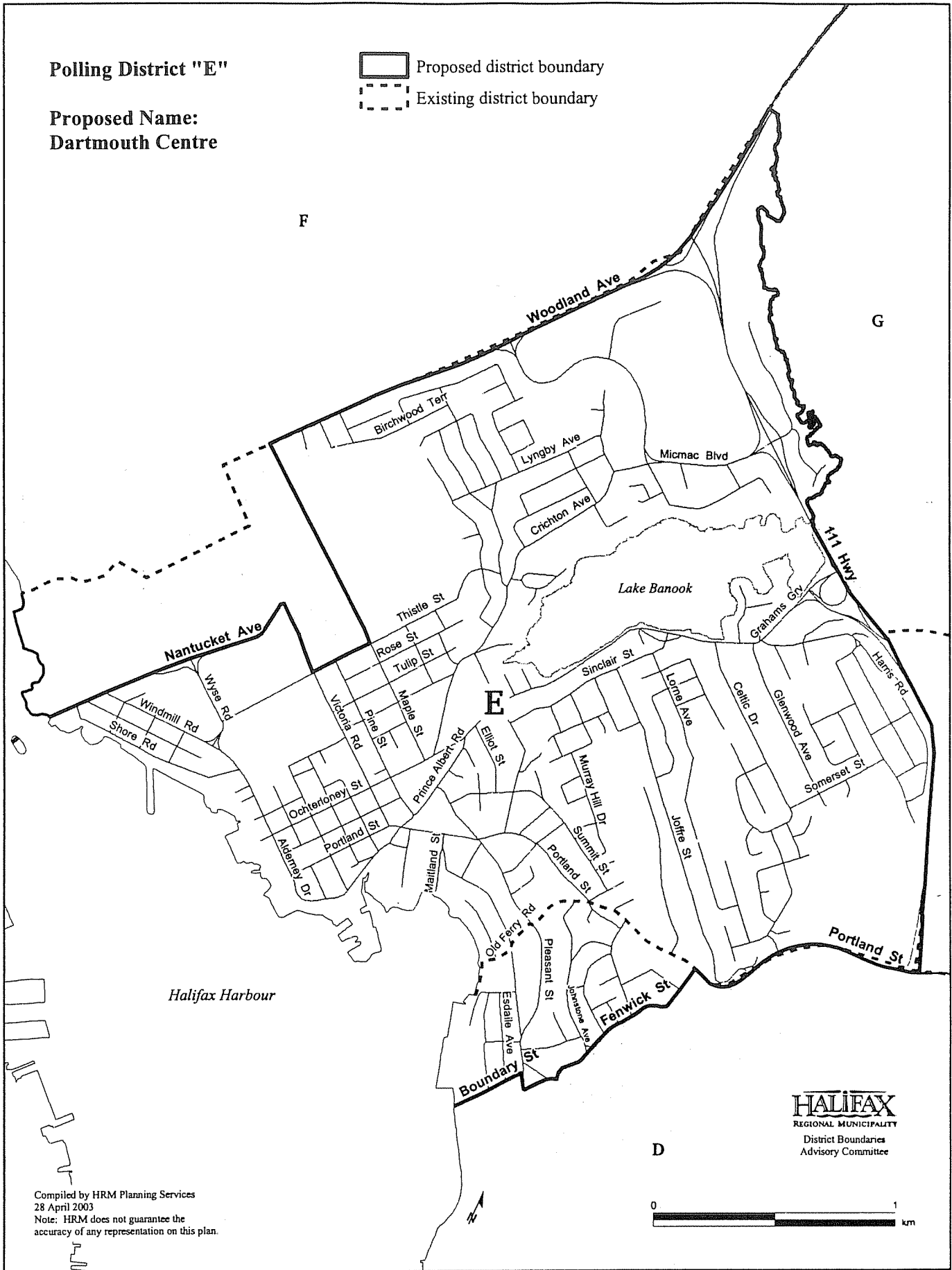


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Polling District "E"

**Proposed Name:
Dartmouth Centre**

-  Proposed district boundary
-  Existing district boundary



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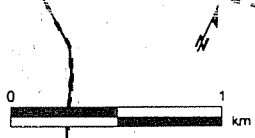
Polling District "F"

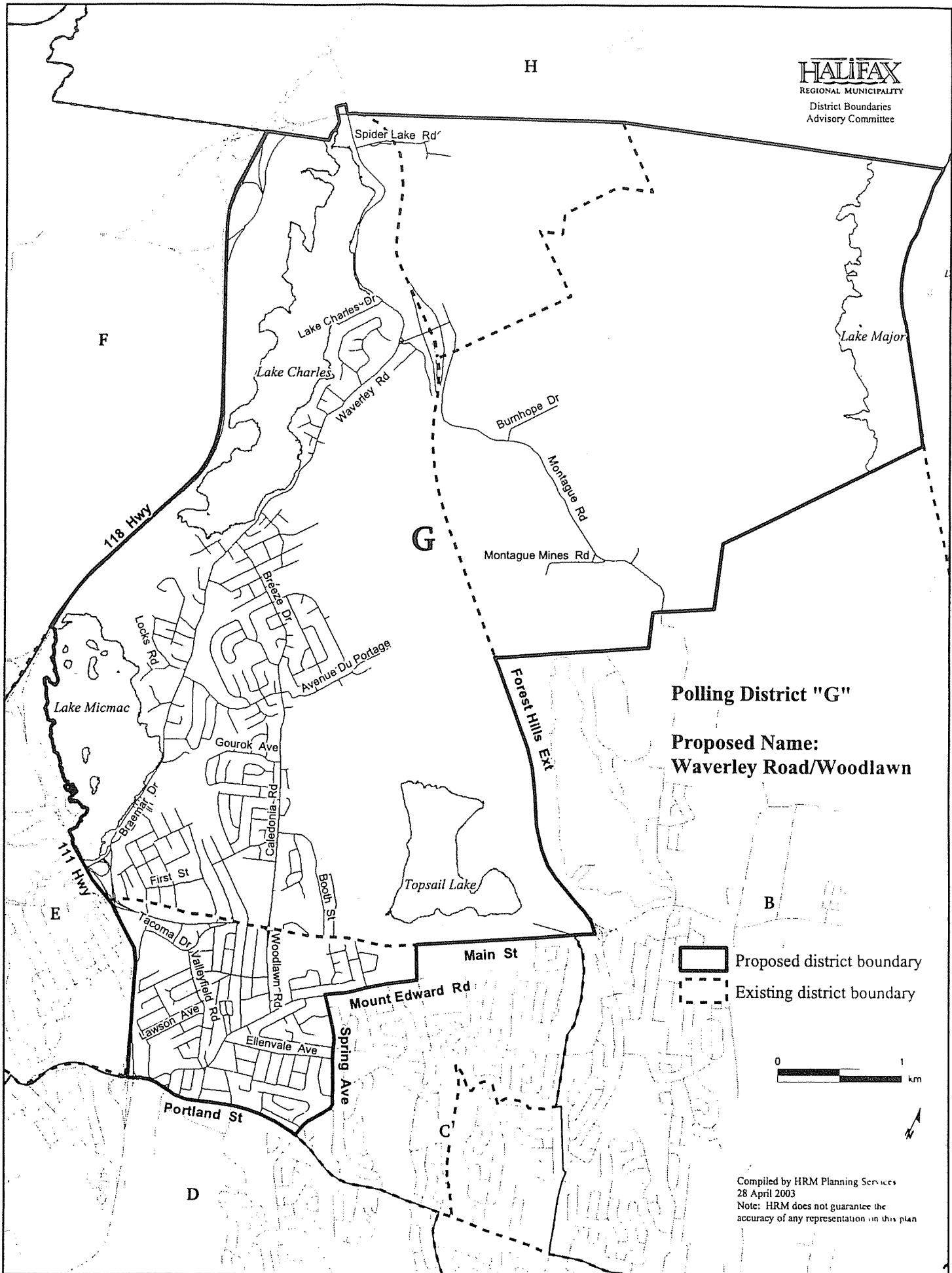
**Proposed Name:
Dartmouth North**





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28 April 2003
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 Proposed district boundary
 Existing district boundary





Polling District "G"
Proposed Name:
Waverley Road/Woodlawn


-  Proposed district boundary
-  Existing district boundary




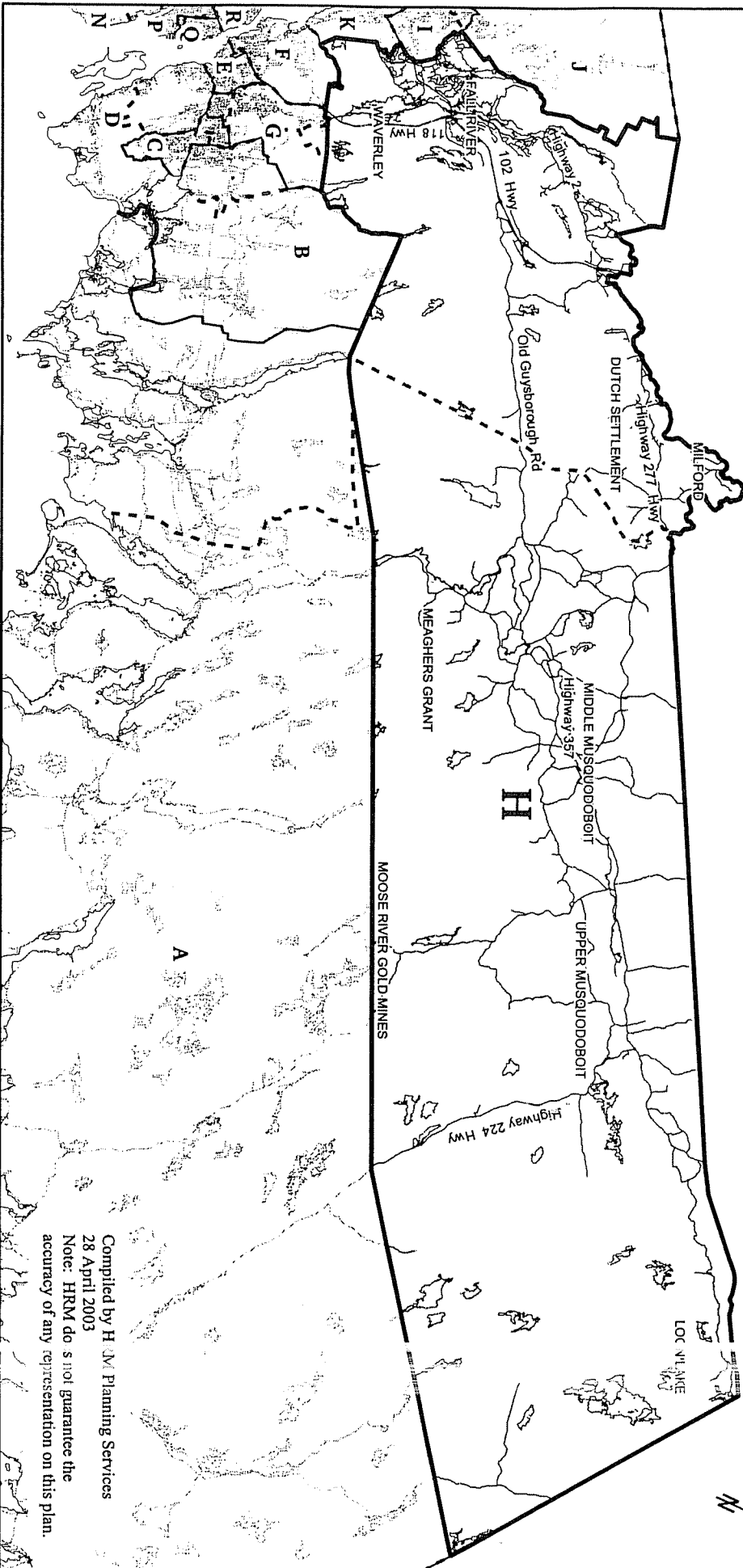
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 28 April 2003
 Note: HRM does not guarantee the accuracy of any representation on this plan

Polling District "H"

Proposed Name:
Fall River/Musquodoboit Valley

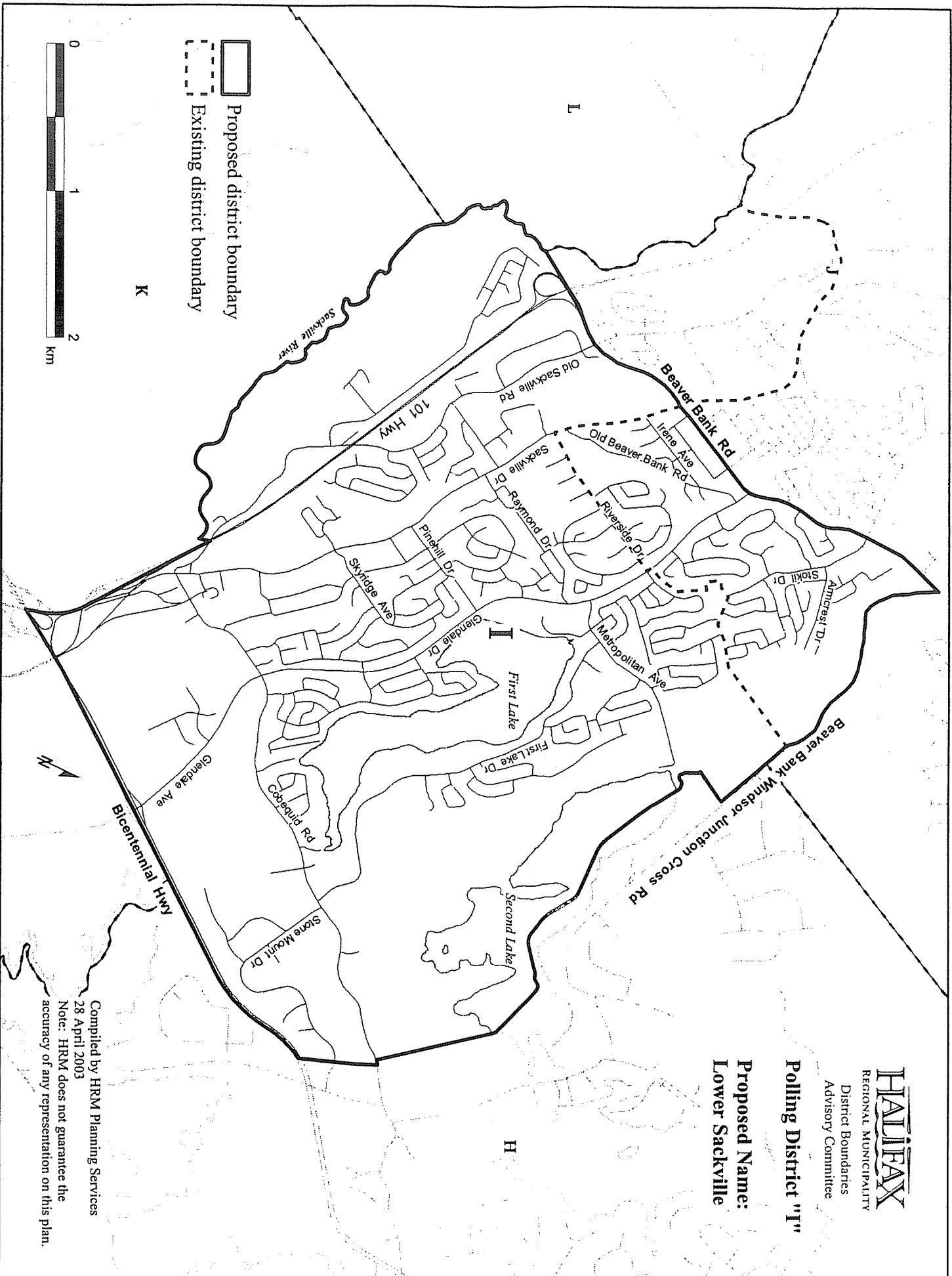
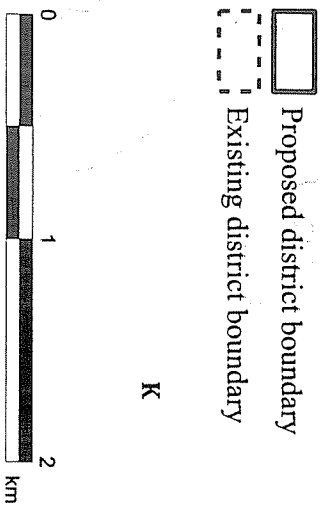
 Proposed district boundary

 Existing district boundary



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28 April 2003
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**Proposed Name:
 Lower Sackville**
Polling District "I"



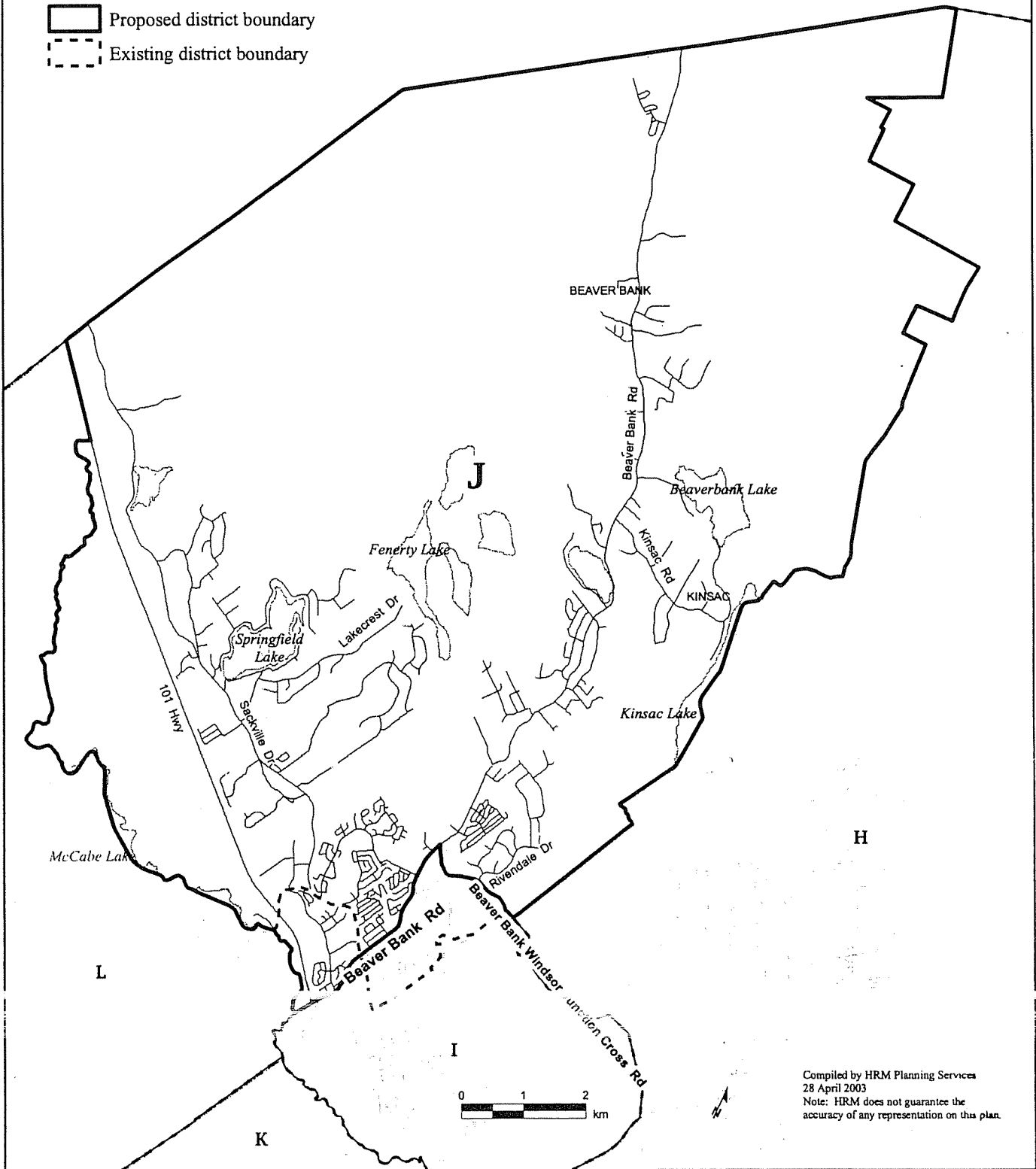
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 28 April 2003
 Note: HRM does not guarantee the
 accuracy of any representation on this plan.

Polling District "J"

**Proposed Name:
Upper Sackville/Beaver Bank**





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- Existing district boundary



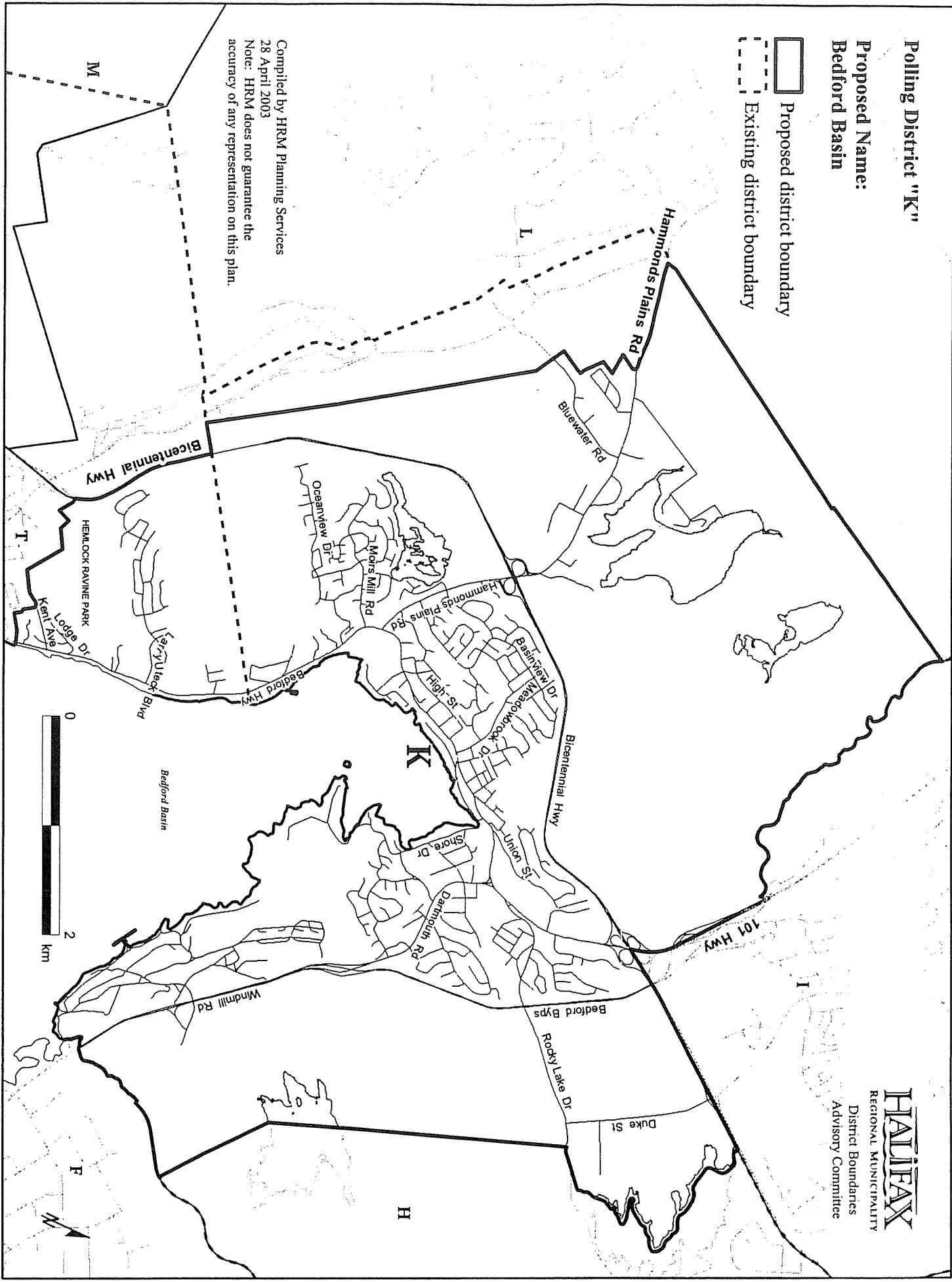
Compiled by HRM Planning Services
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Polling District "K"

**Proposed Name:
Bedford Basin**

-  Proposed district boundary
-  Existing district boundary

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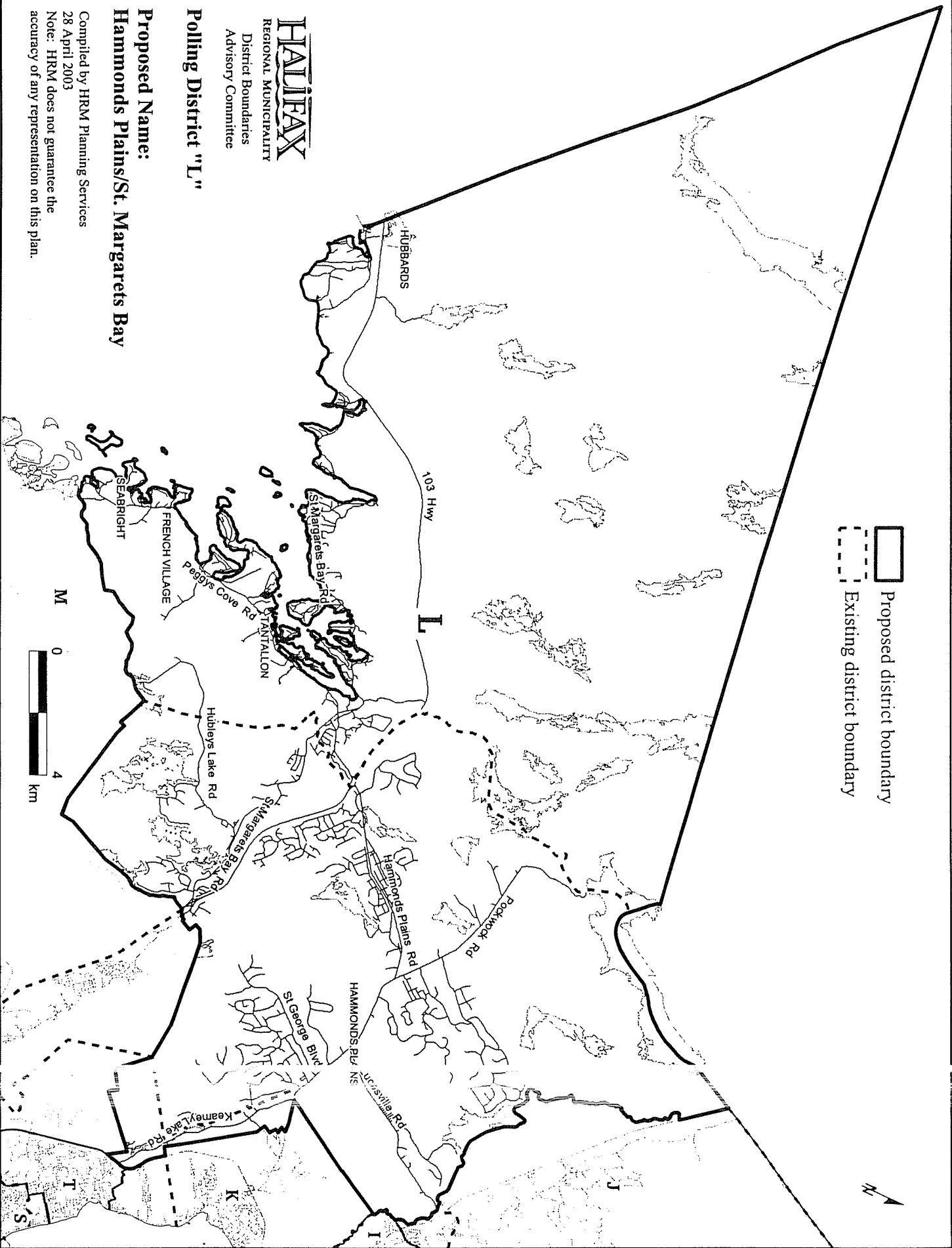




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Advisory Committee

Polling District "L"

**Proposed Name:
 Hammonds Plains/St. Margarets Bay**

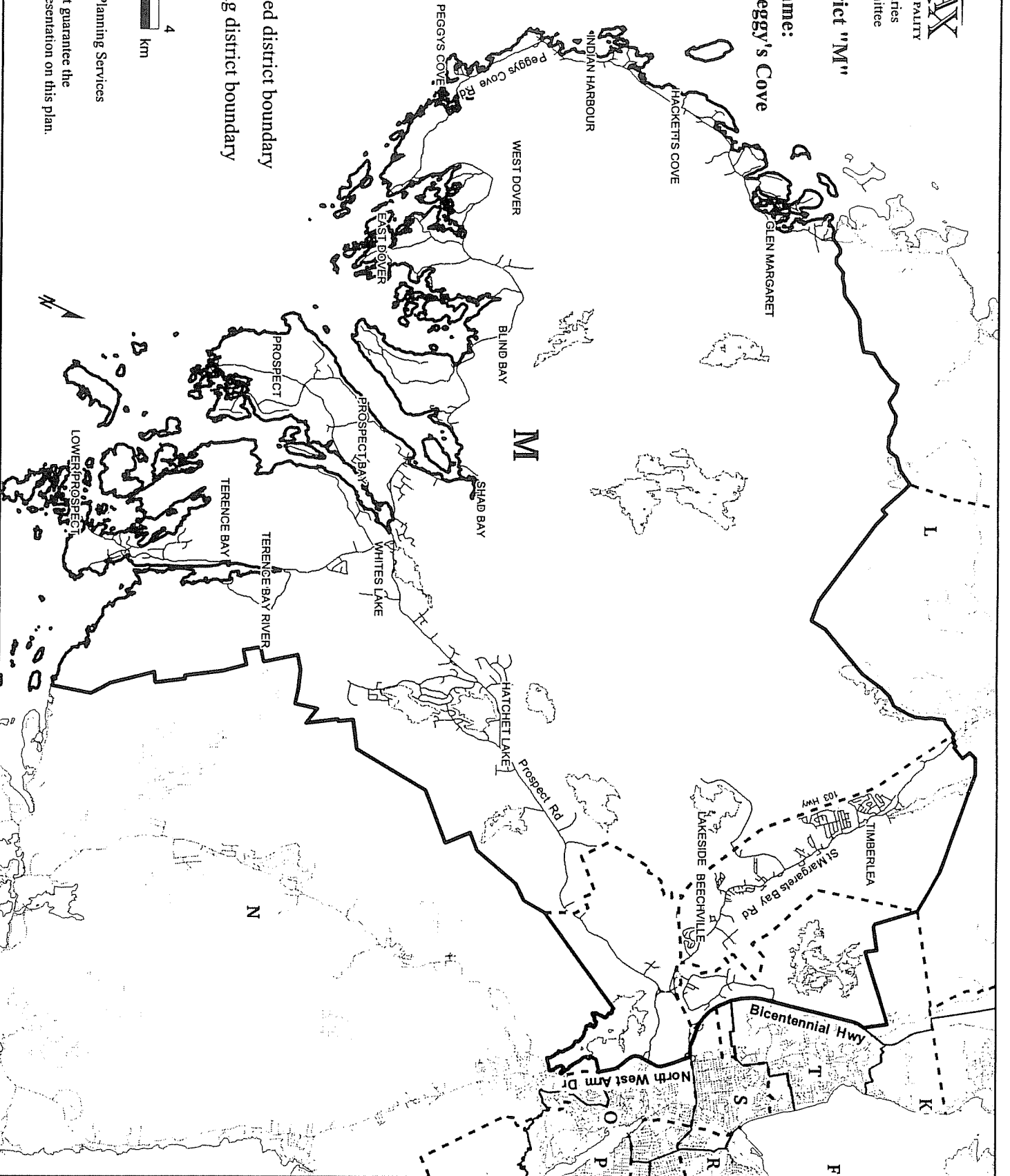
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 Proposed district boundary
 Existing district boundary

Polling District "M"

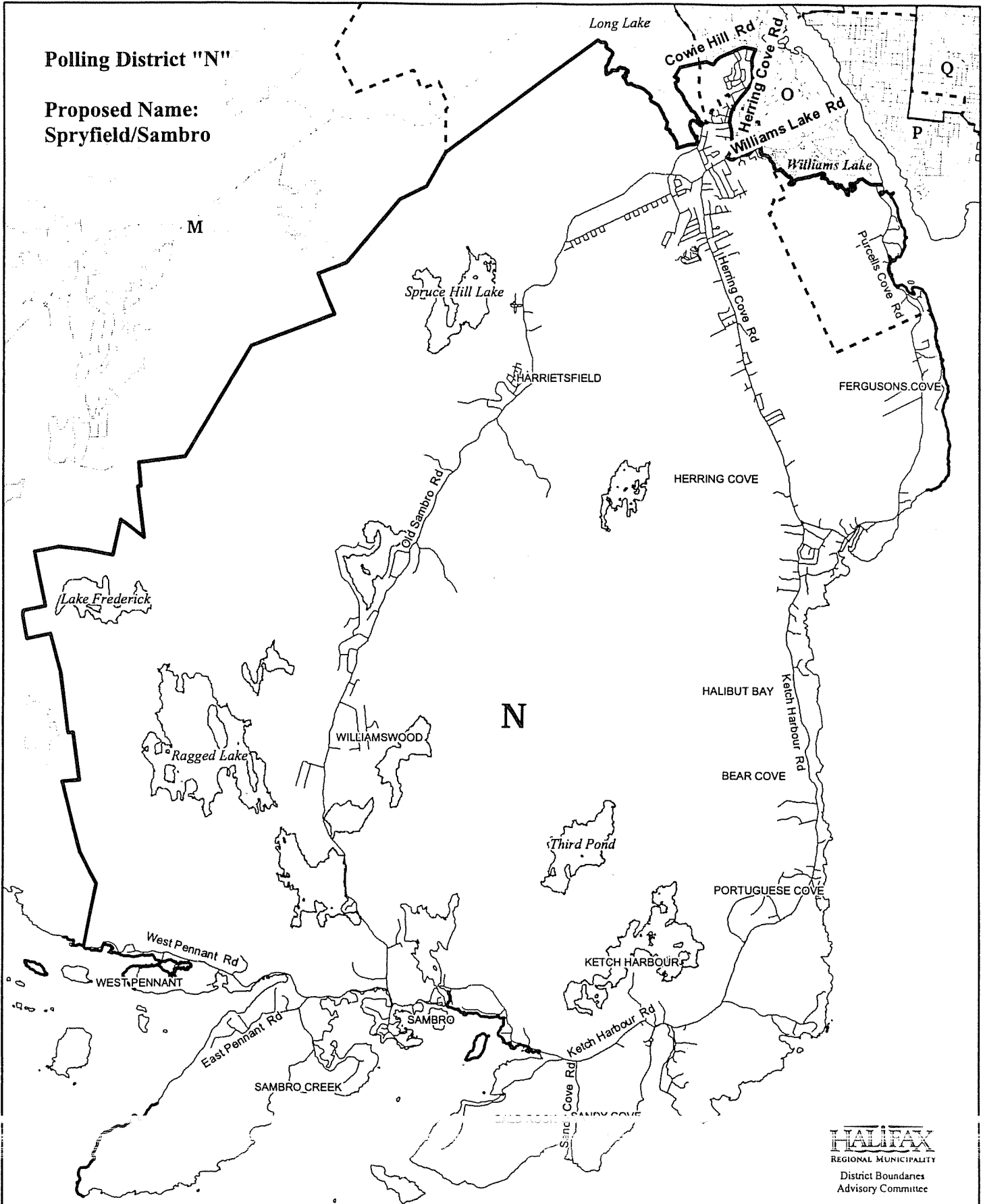
**Proposed Name:
 Timberlea/Peggy's Cove**





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Polling District "N"

**Proposed Name:
Spryfield/Sambro**

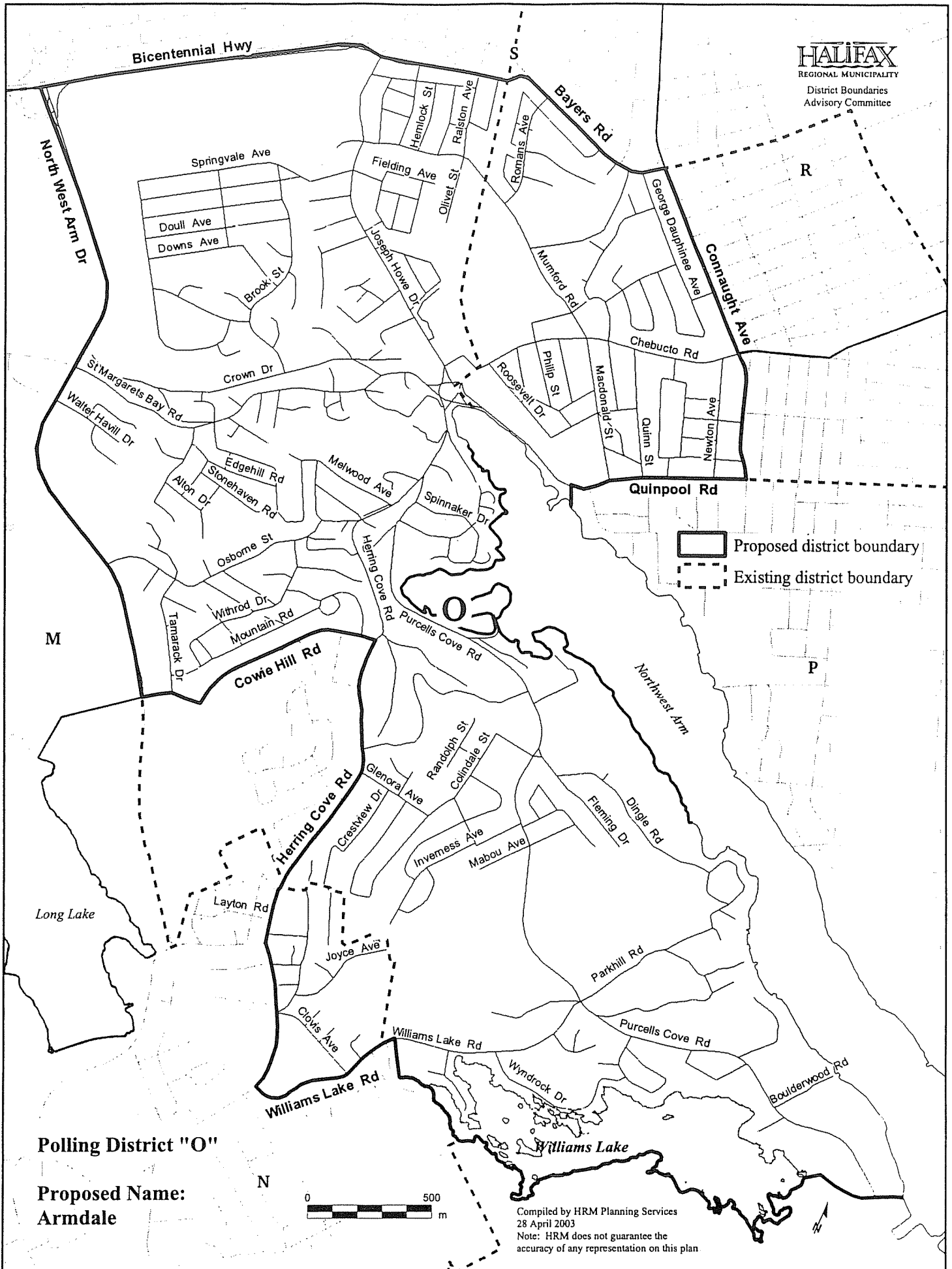


 Proposed district boundary
 Existing district boundary



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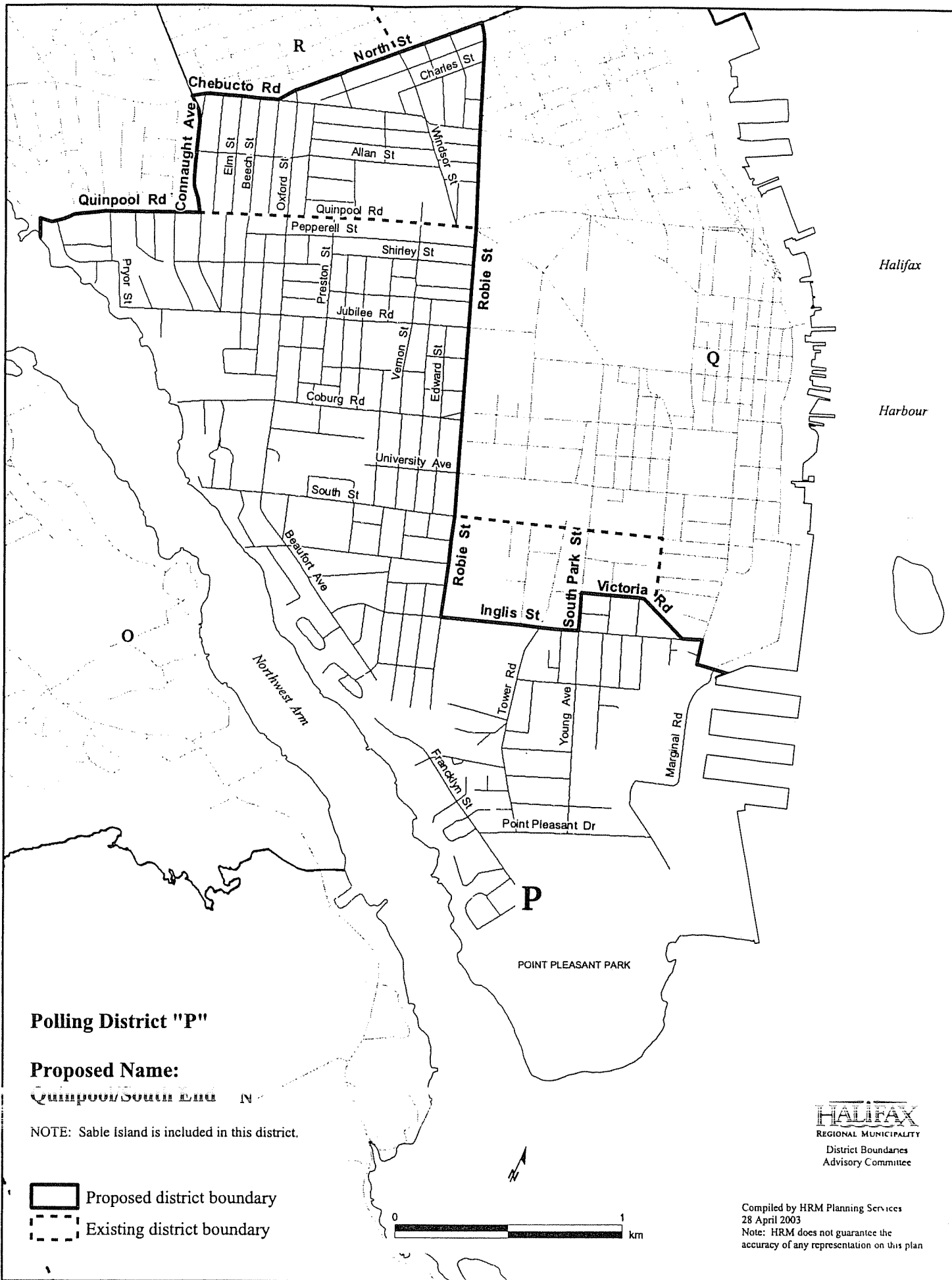


Polling District "O"

**Proposed Name:
 Armdale**





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Polling District "P"

Proposed Name:
Quinpool/South End

NOTE: Sable Island is included in this district.

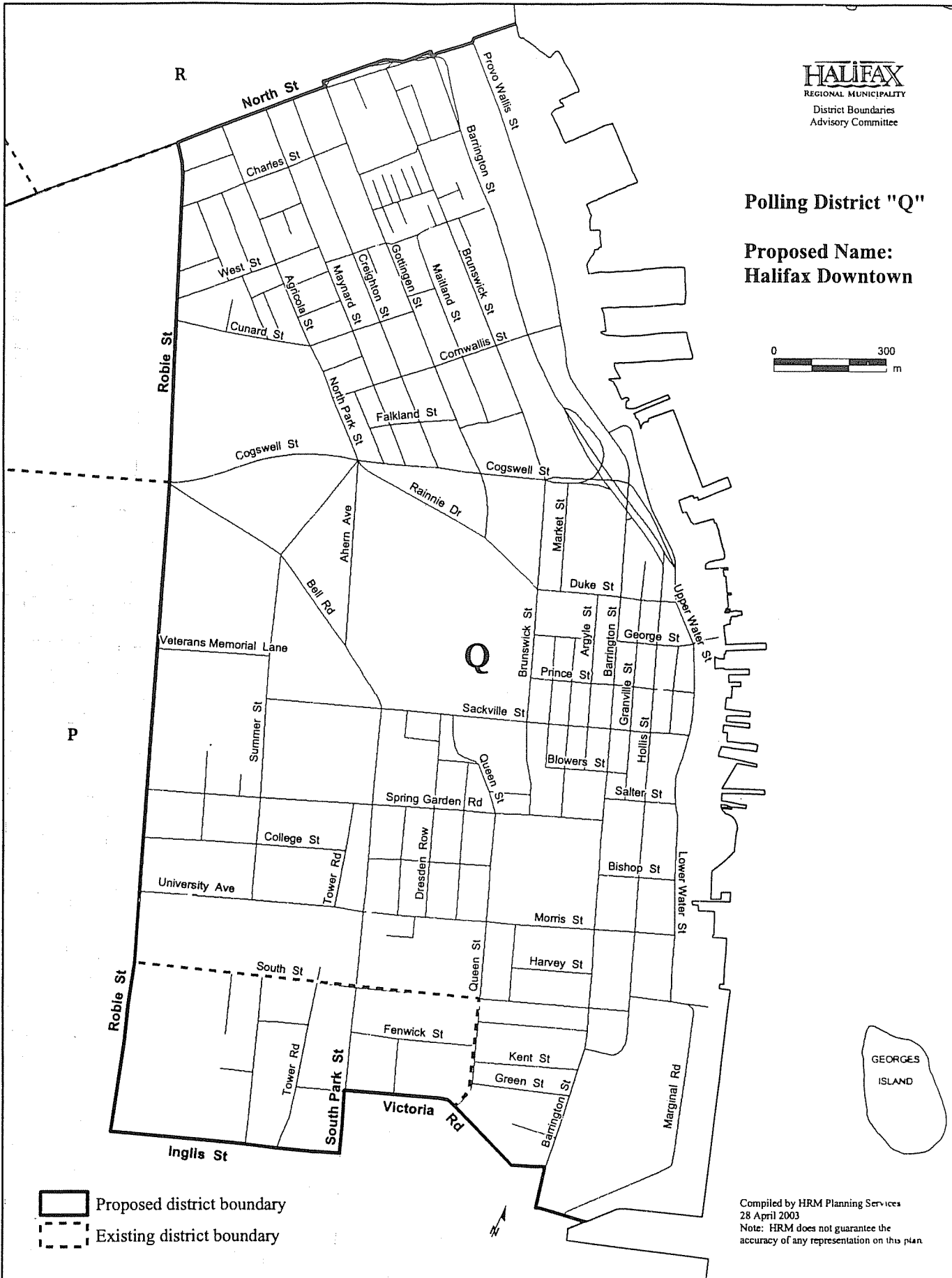
-  Proposed district boundary
-  Existing district boundary



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Polling District "Q"

**Proposed Name:
 Halifax Downtown**



Proposed district boundary
 Existing district boundary



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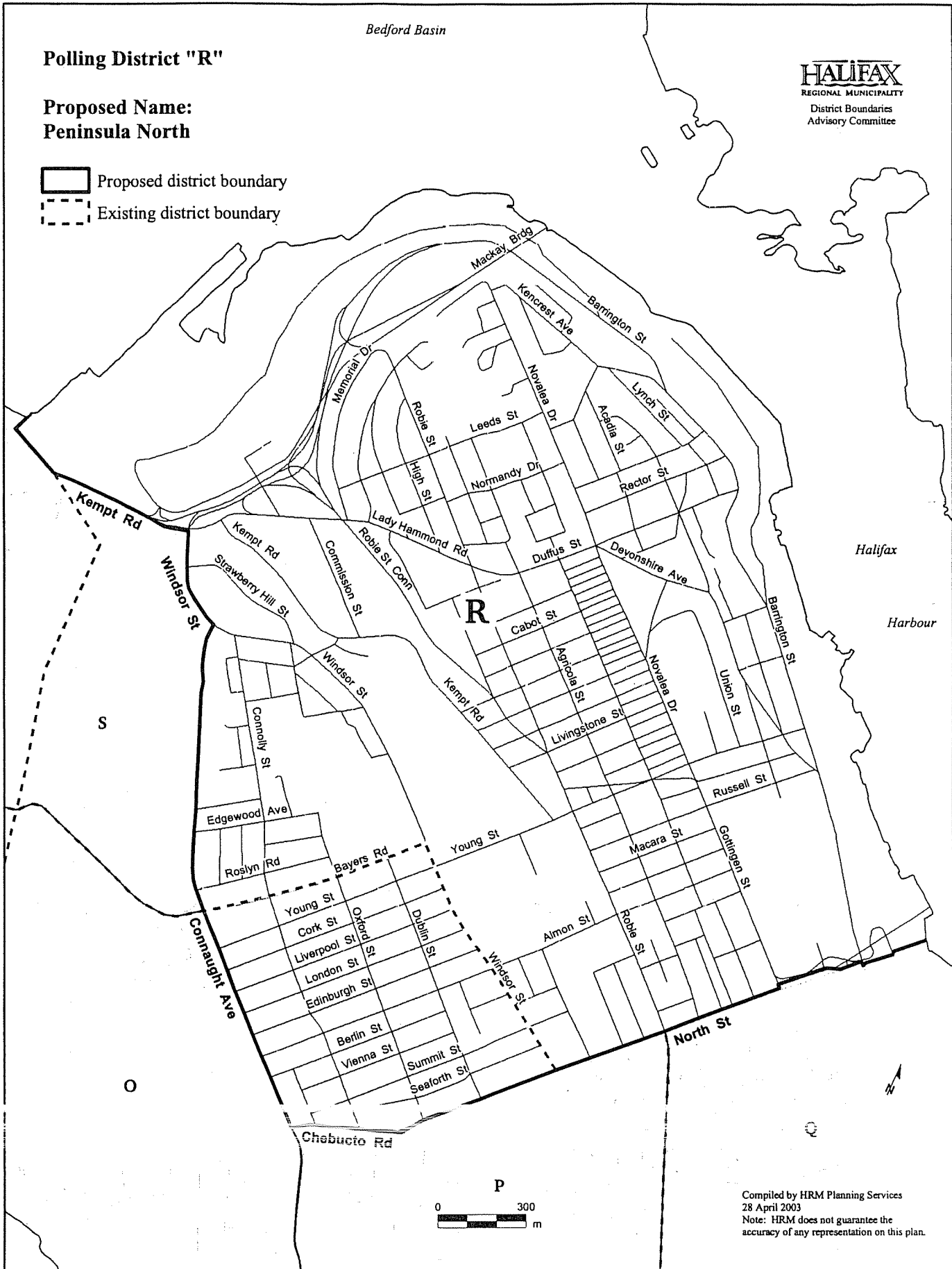
Bedford Basin

Polling District "R"

**Proposed Name:
Peninsula North**

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

-  Proposed district boundary
-  Existing district boundary



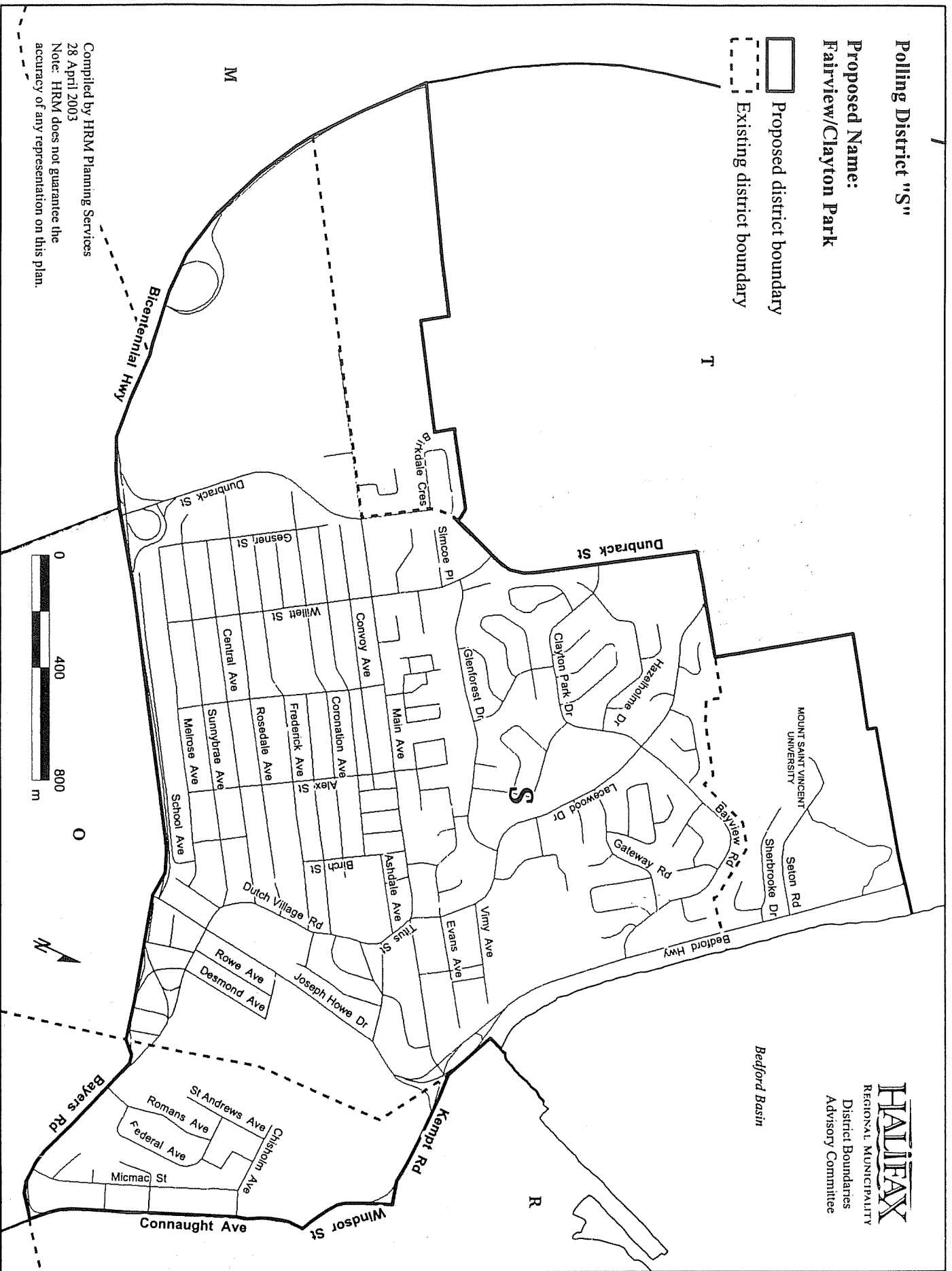
Compiled by HRM Planning Services
28 April 2003
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Polling District "S"

**Proposed Name:
Fairview/Clayton Park**

-  Proposed district boundary
-  Existing district boundary

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HEMLOCK RAVINE PARK

HALIFAX
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District Boundaries
Advisory Committee

L

K

M



Polling District "T"

**Proposed Name:
Rockingham/
Clayton Park West**



T

S

 Proposed district boundary
 Existing district boundary



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28 April 2003
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APPENDIX B

DESCRIPTIONS FOR PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

Please note: The following boundary descriptions are not designed or intended to be official legal descriptions for the proposed polling district boundaries. The official legal boundary descriptions will be prepared by HRM Legal Services once the final boundaries are reviewed by Halifax Regional Council and approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

A list representing most of the general service areas included in rural and suburban proposed polling districts has been provided as part of these district descriptions. The list is intended to be a general reference to assist the reader in understanding the areas included in these districts.

District A - Proposed Name: Eastern Shore is bounded on the **east** by Guysborough County; on the **north** by a boundary running east from the existing District 3 boundary, and following the provincial riding boundary through Lower Beaver Lake and Como Lake to the Guysborough County boundary; on the **west** by a boundary beginning at a point in the Atlantic Ocean and running north and west through Cole Harbour to Minesville Road, along Minesville Road to Lawrencetown Lake, then running generally northeast along certain property lines through Goose Lake and Granite Lake to the existing district boundary; on the **south** by the Atlantic Ocean.

District A includes all or part of the following general service areas:

Barkhouse Settlement	Head of Chezzetcook	Ostrea Lake
Beaver Dam	Head of Jeddore	Owls Head
Beaver Harbour	Lake Charlotte	Oyster Pond
Clam Bay	Lawrencetown	Pace Settlement
Clam Harbour	Liscombe Sanctuary	Pleasant Harbour
Conrod Settlement	Little Harbour	Pleasant Point
Debaies Cove	Lochaber Mines	Popes Harbour
East Chezzetcook	Lower Ship Harbour	Port Dufferin
East Jeddore	Lower Three Fathom Harbour	Seaforth
East Lawrencetown	Malay Falls	Sheet Harbour
East Petpeswick	Marinette	
East Quoddy	Middle Porters Lake	
East Ship Harbour	Mitchell Bay	almon River BridgeSheet
Ecum Secum	Moosehead	Harbour Passage
Ecum Secum Bridge	Mooseland	Ship Harbour
Ecum Secum West	Moser River	Smiths Settlement
English Point	Murphys Cove	Sober Island
Gaetz Brook	Mushaboom	Southwest Cove
Grand Desert	Musquodoboit Harbour	Spry Bay
Harrigan Cove	Myers Point	
Hartlin Settlement	Necum Teuch	

Porters LakeSpry Harbour	West Chezzetcook
Tangier	West Jeddore
Three Fathom Harbour	West Petpeswick
Upper Lakeville	West Porters Lake
Watt Section	West Quoddy

District B - Proposed Name: Cole Harbour/Preston is bounded on the **east** by a boundary beginning at a point on the western shore of Lawrencetown Lake and running northeast along certain property lines through Granite Lake to the existing district boundary; on the **north** by the existing district boundary; on the **west** by Forest Hills Parkway, to a point just north of Circassion Drive, north along the green belt to the Dartmouth Plan Area boundary, following said boundary to Main Street, Forest Hills Extension to a point opposite the northern tip of Loon Lake, then northeast along certain property lines to Lake Major, then north along the existing district boundary to Three Mile Lake; on the **south** by Cole Harbour Road, Cole Harbour, Minesville Road and the northern shore of Lawrencetown Lake.

District B includes all or part of the following general service areas:

Cole Harbour	Lake Major	North Preston
East Preston	Minesville	Westphal
Lake Echo		

District C - Proposed Name: Colby/Upper Woodlawn is bounded on the **east** by a boundary beginning at the intersection of the Dartmouth Plan Area boundary and Main Street, south along the existing district boundary to a point north of Glenalva Court, then south along a green belt to a point north of the intersection of Forest Hills Parkway and Circassion Drive, Forest Hills Parkway, Cole Harbour Road, and Cole Harbour; on the **north** by Main Street; on the **west** by a boundary beginning at a point on Main Street south of Topsail Lake to Mount Edward Road at Lucien Drive, Mount Edward Road, Spring Avenue, Portland Street, Caldwell Road to the northern edge of the Millbrook Reserve, west to Morris Lake, south along Morris Lake and along the watercourse to a certain property line; on the **south** a boundary following certain property lines south of Atholea Drive, then northeast along the western shore of Bissett Lake and east to Cole Harbour.

District D - Proposed Name: Eastern Passage/Woodside is bounded on the **east** by Caldwell Road to the northern boundary of Millbrook Reserve, then west to Morris Lake, south along Morris Lake to a watercourse, then south along the watercourse to a certain property line south of Atholea Drive, then northeast along certain property lines to Bissett

Lake, then along the western shore of Bissett Lake and east to Cole Harbour; on the **north** by Boundary Street, Fenwick Street and Portland Street; on the **west** by Halifax Harbour; on the **south** by the Atlantic Ocean.

District D includes all or part of the following general service areas:

Cow Bay
Dartmouth
Devils Island
Eastern Passage
McNabs Island
Shearwater

District E - Proposed Name: Dartmouth Centre is bounded on the **east** by 111 Highway and the western shore of Lake Micmac; on the **north** by Woodland Avenue, the western boundary of Brightwood Golf Course, Thistle Street, Victoria Road and Nantucket Avenue to the harbour; on the **west** by Halifax Harbour; on the **south** by Boundary Street, Fenwick Street and Portland Street.

District F - Proposed Name: Dartmouth North is bounded on the **east** by Highway 118; on the **north** by the Dartmouth Plan Area boundary; on the **west** by Halifax Harbour and the MacDonald Bridge; on the **south** by Woodland Avenue, the western boundary of Brightwood Golf Course, Thistle Street, Victoria Road and Nantucket Avenue to the harbour.

District G - Proposed Name: Waverley Road/Woodlawn is bounded on the **east** by Lake Major, then west along certain property lines to Forest Hills Extension, Forest Hills Extension, Main Street, south at a point near Topsail Lake to Mount Edward Road at Lucien Drive, Mount Edward Road, and Spring Avenue; on the **north** by a boundary running west from Lake Major to a point on the Waverley Road north of Spider Lake Road; on the **west** by Highway 118, the western shore of Lake MicMac, and Highway 111; on the **south** by Portland Street.

District H - Proposed Name: Fall River/Musquodoboit is bounded on the **east** by Guysborough County; on the **north** by Colchester County and Hants County; on the **west** by a boundary beginning at the point where the Bedford Plan Area boundary meets the Dartmouth Plan Area boundary, then northeast along the Bedford Plan Area boundary to Bicentennial Highway, then generally north along the existing district boundaries to the Hants County border; on the **south** by a boundary beginning at the point where the

Bedford Plan Area boundary meets the Dartmouth Plan Area boundary, following the Dartmouth Plan Area boundary east to Highway 118, then to Lake Major, then following the existing district boundary through Three Mile Lake and Porters Lake and continuing east along the provincial riding boundary through Lower Beaver Lake and Como Lake to the Guysborough County boundary.

District H includes all or part of the following general service areas:

Antrim	Fall River	Milford
Brookvale	Glenmore	Mill Lake
Caribou Mines	Goffs	Moose River Gold Mines
Carrolls Corner	Governor Lake	Murchyville
Chaplin	Grand Lake	Oakfield
Chaswood	Greenwood	Oldham
College Lake	Higginsville	Pleasant Valley
Cooks Brook	Lake Egmont	South Section
Dean	Lake Fletcher	Ten Mile Lake
Devon	Lakeview	Trafalgar
Dutch Settlement	Lantz	Upper Musquodoboit
East Loon Lake Village	Lindsay Lake	Waverley
Elderbank	Long Lake	Wellington
Elmsdale	Loon Lake	Windsor Junction
Elmsvale	Meaghers Grant	Wyses Corner
Enfield	Middle Musquodoboit	

District I - Proposed Name: Lower Sackville is bounded on the **east** by Bicentennial Highway; on the **north** by Beaver Bank Windsor Junction Cross Road to the existing district boundary, east through Second Lake to Cobequid Road, southeast to the Bicentennial Highway; on the **west** by a boundary beginning at the Sackville River and running east to the intersection of Highway 101 and Beaver Bank Road, Beaver Bank Road to the intersection with Beaver Bank Windsor Junction Cross Road; on the **south** by the existing district boundary along the Sackville River system.

District J - Proposed Name: Sackville/Beaver Bank is bounded on the **east** by a boundary running north through Three Mile Lake, Third Lake and Kinsac Lake to the existing district boundary, then north along the existing district boundary to the Hants County border; on the **north** by Hants County; on the **west** by the existing district boundary along the Sackville River system; on the **south** by a boundary beginning at the Sackville River and running east to the intersection of Highway 101 and Beaver Bank Road, north along Beaver Bank Road to the intersection with Beaver Bank Windsor Junction Cross

Road, then east to the existing district boundary, then east along the existing district boundary through Second Lake to Cobequid Road, then east to Windsor Junction Road, then northeast to Three Mile Lake.

District J includes all or part of the following general service areas:

Beaver Bank
Kinsac
Sackville

District K - Proposed Name: Bedford Basin is bounded on the **east** by the Bedford Plan Area boundary; on the **north** by the Bedford Plan Area boundary; on the **west** at the intersection of the Bedford Plan Area boundary and Hammonds Plains Road, south along Hammonds Plains Road, then southwest along certain property lines to Bluewater Road, then south to the Halifax Plan Area boundary, then east to Bicentennial Highway, then south along Bicentennial Highway to a point north of Kearney Lake Road, then southeast along certain property lines north of Cresthaven Drive to Bedford Basin; on the **south** by Bedford Basin.

District L - Proposed Name: Hammonds Plains/St Margarets is bounded on the **east** by the Nova Scotia Power right of way, Farnham Gate Road, Dunbrack Street, Lacewood Drive, the Nova Scotia Power right of way to Main Avenue, then east to Bicentennial Highway, to North West Arm Drive; on the **north** by a boundary running from Highway 103 to Bicentennial Highway at the Kearney Lake Road exit; on the **west** by a boundary beginning at the intersection of the Bedford Plan Area boundary and Hammonds Plains Road, south along Hammonds Plains Road, then southwest along certain property lines to Bluewater Road, then south to the Halifax Plan Area boundary, then east to Bicentennial Highway, then south along Bicentennial Highway to a point near Parkland Drive at Castlepark Grove; on the **south** by a boundary beginning at a point on Bicentennial Highway near Parkland Drive at Castlepark Grove, then west along certain property lines and through Washmill Lake and Ash Lake to the Halifax Plan Area boundary, then west through Fraser Lake and along certain property lines to the intersection of the existing district boundary and 103 Highway, then west along the existing district boundary to Long Lake, then west along the river system to the Atlantic Ocean.

District L includes all or part of the following general service areas:

Black Point	Head of St Margarets Bay	Lucasville
Boutilliers Point	Hubbards	QueenslandSeabright
French Village	Hubley	Stillwater Lake
Glen Haven	Ingramport	Tantallon
Hammonds Plains	Lewis Lake	Upper Tantallon

District M - Proposed Name: Timberlea/Peggys Cove is bounded on the **east** by Bicentennial Highway, Northwest Arm Drive and Long Lake; on the **north** by a boundary beginning at a point on Bicentennial Highway near Parkland Drive at Castlepark Grove, then west along certain property lines and through Washmill Lake and Ash Lake to the Halifax Plan Area boundary, then west through Fraser Lake and along certain property lines to the intersection of the existing district boundary and 103 Highway, then west along the existing district boundary to Long Lake, then west along the river system to the Atlantic Ocean; on the **south** by the existing district boundary; on the **west** by the Atlantic Ocean.

District M includes all or part of the following general service areas:

Bayside	Hatchet Lake	Prospect
Beechville	Indian Harbour	Prospect Bay
Blind Bay	Lakeside	Shad Bay
Brookside	Lower Prospect	Terence Bay
East Dover	Mcgraths Cove	Terence Bay River
Glen Margaret	Peggys Cove	Timberlea
Goodwood	Peggys Cove Preservation	West Dover
Hacketts Cove	Area	Whites Lake

District N - Proposed Name: Spryfield/Sambro is bounded on the **east** by the Atlantic Ocean; on the **north** by a boundary beginning at the northern extent of the Yacht Club, west through William Lake to Williams Lake Road at Rainforth Avenue, west along Williams Lake Road to Herring Cove Road, north to Cowie Hill Road, west to Long Lake, and the southern and western shore of Long Lake; on the **west** by a boundary following the existing district boundary south to the west end of West Pennant Road and south to the Atlantic Ocean; on the **south** by the Atlantic Ocean.

District N includes all or part of the following general service areas:

Bald Rock	Halifax	Sambro Creek
Bear Cove	Harrietsfield	Sambro Head
Duncan Cove	Herring Cove	Sandy Cove
East Pennant	Ketch Harbour	West Pennant
Fergusons Cove	Portuguese Cove	Williamswood
Halibut Bay	Sambro	

District O - Proposed Name: Armdale is bounded on the **east** by the North West Arm;

on the **north** by Bicentennial Highway, Bayers Road, Connaught Avenue, Quinpool Road to the North West Arm; on the **west** by Herring Cove Road north to Cowie Hill Road, west to Long Lake, north through Long Lake to Bicentennial Highway; on the **south** by a boundary beginning at the northern extent of the yacht club, west through William Lake to Williams Lake Road at Rainforth Avenue, west along Williams Lake Road to Herring Cove Road.

District P - Proposed Name: Quinpool/South End is bounded on the **east** by Robie Street, Inglis Street, South Park Street, Victoria Road, Inglis Street, Barrington Street, then east to Halifax Harbour; on the **north** by North Street, Chebucto Road, Connaught Avenue, and Quinpool Road to the North West Arm; on the **west** by the North West Arm; on the **south** by Point Pleasant Park.

District Q - Proposed Name: Halifax Downtown is bounded on the **east** by Halifax Harbour; on the **north** by North Street; on the **west** by Robie Street; on the **south** by Inglis Street, South Park Street, Victoria Road, Inglis Street, Barrington Street, and east to Halifax Harbour.

District R - Proposed Name: Peninsula North is bounded on the **east** by Halifax Harbour; on the **north** by Bedford Basin; on the **west** by the western extent of the Fairview Cove Terminal, Kempt Road, Windsor Street, and Connaught Avenue; on the **south** by Chebucto Road and North Street.

District S - Proposed Name: Fairview/Clayton Park is bounded on the **east** by Bedford Basin, the western extent of the Fairview Cove Terminal, Kempt Road, Windsor Street and Connaught Avenue; on the **north** by a boundary running west from the Bedford Basin to the intersection of Bedford Highway and Melody Drive, west along the northern boundary and western boundary of Mount Saint Vincent University to Lacewood Drive, along Lacewood Drive to Dunbrack Street; on the **west** by Dunbrack Street, then west from Dunbrack Street at a point north of Birkdale Crescent along certain property lines to the Bicentennial Highway, and the Bicentennial Highway; on the **south** by Bayers Road and Bicentennial Highway.

District T - Proposed Name: Rockingham/Clayton Park West is bounded on the **east** by Bedford Basin; on the **north** by the southern boundary of Hemlock Ravine Park and a boundary following certain property lines north of Cresthaven Drive to the Bedford Basin; on the **west** by Bicentennial Highway; on the **south** by a boundary running west from the Bedford Basin to the intersection of Bedford Highway and Melody Drive, west along the northern boundary and western boundary of Mount Saint Vincent University to Lacewood Drive, along Lacewood Drive to Dunbrack Street, along Dunbrack Street to a point north of Birkdale Crescent, west along certain property lines to the Bicentennial Highway.

APPENDIX "C"

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Paul Hyland, Chair
Phil Elliott
David Fitzgerald
Donald Mason
Beverly Miller
Robert Russell

COMMITTEE MANDATE

Motions of Council - October 8, 2002

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Whalen, that the following Committee of the Whole recommendation be adopted:

The significant imbalance in voter parity per district be rectified by a redefinition of district boundaries. Further, Communities of Interest be kept together when considering boundaries.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Whalen, that the following Committee of the Whole recommendations be adopted:

The Terms of Reference be amended to provide that the second stage of the review process (ie. the delineation of the appropriate district boundaries) be carried out by the District Boundary Advisory Committee with the assistance of staff rather than by staff assisted by the Committee as presently stated;

The recommendation of District Boundary Advisory Committee respecting the delineation of the appropriate district boundaries be forwarded to Regional Council on or before February 04, 2003.

TERMS OF REFERENCE
District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Background:

Pursuant to an Order of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board dated April 05, 2000, the Halifax Regional Municipality was ordered to carry out a study of the number and boundaries of polling districts in the municipality and file, no later than June 30, 2003, an application in respect thereof, to take effect for the October 2004 municipal election.

At the council meeting held on September 18, 2001, Regional Council adopted the following resolution:

Council approve the process outlined in Schedule "A" for the review of the number and boundaries of its electoral districts in preparation for an application to the Utility and Review Board prior to June 30, 2003.

A component of that process was to include a Committee to advise Council with respect to the appropriate size of the Regional Council and after Regional Council has determined the appropriate number of Councillors to assist staff with the delineation of the boundaries of the recommended districts.

Terms of Reference:

Thus the Terms of Reference of the District Boundary Advisory Committee may be stated as follows:

- f. To make recommendations to Halifax Regional Council, within the scope permitted by the enabling legislation, on the appropriate number of polling districts for Halifax Regional Municipality and their boundaries on or before September 03, 2002.
- g. To assist staff in the delineation of the appropriate district boundaries in anticipation of a recommendation to Regional Council on or before February 04, 2003.

*Approved
see Resolution*

The factors mandated by the *Municipal Government Act* for use by the Utility and Review Board in defining of number and boundaries of polling district are: number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size. Therefore these are the relevant factors to be considered by the Committee.

The leading Canadian case on polling district distribution is the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in **Reference re: Electoral Boundaries Commission Act** (1991), 81 D. L. R. (4th) 16 (the **Carter** decision). That case dealt with provincial electoral boundaries in Saskatchewan. The majority decision was delivered by McLachlin, J. who found that the Canadian electoral system was rooted in the tradition of "effective" representation and not on

the American tradition of absolute or near absolute "voter parity". At page 35-36 of the decision she said:

"What are the conditions of effective representation? The first is relative parity of voting power. A system which dilutes one citizen's vote unduly as compared with another citizen's vote runs the risk of providing inadequate representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted. The legislative power of the citizen whose vote is diluted will be reduced, as may access to and assistance from his or her representative. The result will be uneven and unfair representation. (emphasis added)

But parity of voting power, though of prime importance, is not the only factor to be taken into account in ensuring effective representation....

Factors like geography, community history, community interests and minority representation may need to be taken into account to ensure that our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic."

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board has adopted the rationale of the Carter decision and on the basis thereof has determined that a variation of +/- 25% is an appropriate guideline to apply in determining constituency sizes unless geographic boundaries or community of interest considerations justify a greater deviation.

While this is the legal standard, Council has on several occasions (without determining a specific variance factor) expressed a desire to strive for a lower variance than +/- 25%.

The Utility and Review Board in rendering its decision of April 05, 2000, suggested that the Municipality should move away from any preconceived notions of what the appropriate number of polling districts should be. In particular the approach should not involve an examination of how the status quo is to be altered. Instead the approach should determine how many councillors are required to conduct regional government's matters. To do otherwise places undue emphasis on the 'status' of communities that existed prior to the amalgamation of HRM. To achieve a truly regional style of municipal government, there will have to be some compromise or accommodation by all concerned, in order to achieve a council size which benefits the entire municipality while nevertheless recognizing the Municipality's somewhat unique demographics..

Membership:

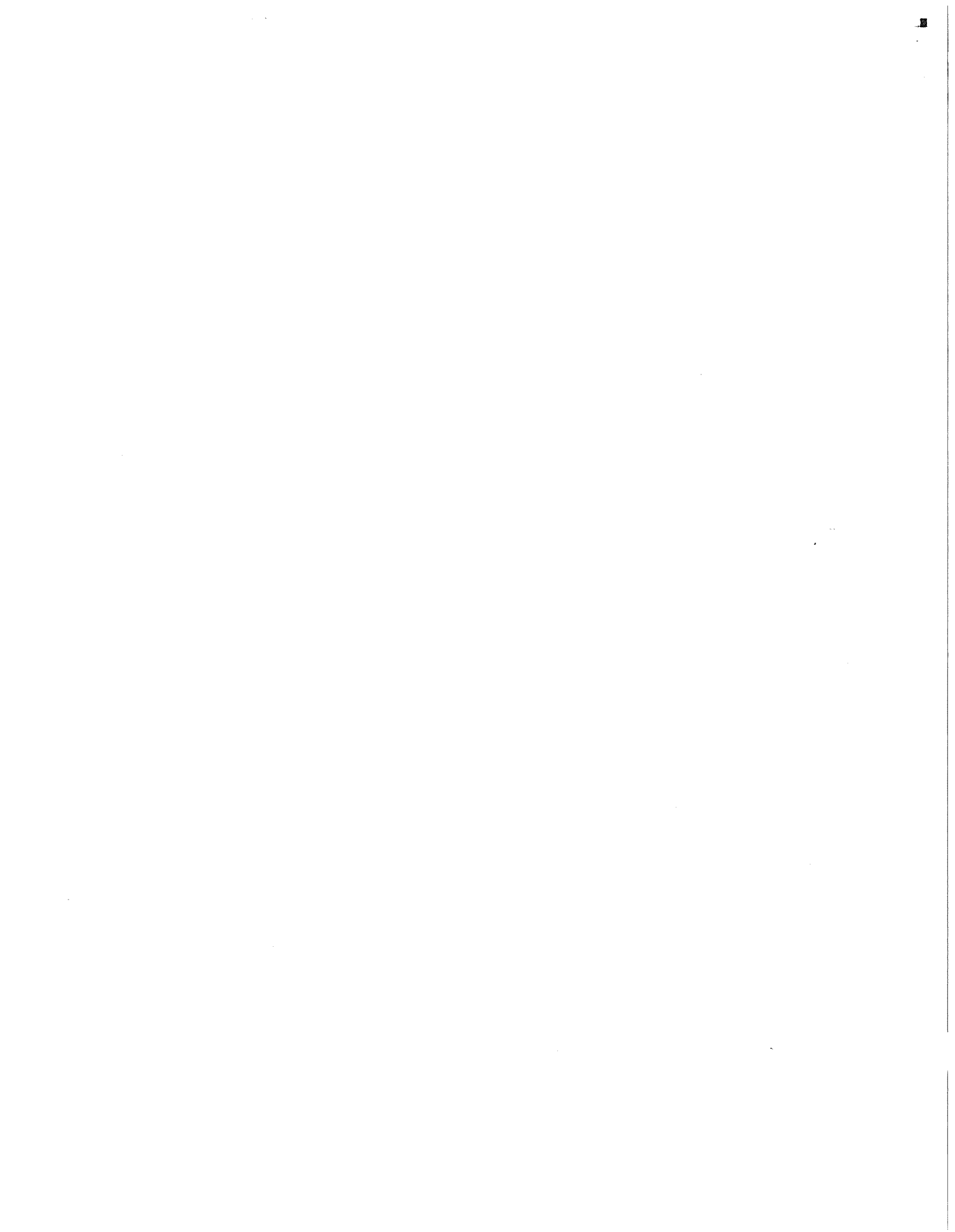
Membership on the Committee shall be voluntary and on appointment by the Regional Council. The membership as much as possible shall represent the diversity of the Municipality. The members should come to the process without any pre-conceived notions as to the size of Council. The Committee shall be supported by the appropriate municipal staff to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate.

Expected Outputs:

- 1) A report to Council recommending the appropriate number of polling districts for the elections to be held in the fall of the year 2004, such report to be submitted on or before September 03, 2002.
- 2) Assistance to staff in the delineation of the appropriate district boundaries in anticipation of a recommendation to Regional Council on or before February 04, 2003..

Timelines:

Regional Council is required to file a report with the Utility and Review Board prior to June 30, 2003. In order to give Council time to debate the issues and if desired seek public input, the initial report must be in the hands of Regional Council by September 03, 2002. It is therefore anticipated that the committee will carry out its review during the period of January 30, 2002 to August 30, 2002 . In addition, the Committee should be available for consultation on the recommended boundaries during the period of October, 2002 to January 31, 2003.



APPENDIX "D"

Name	Address	Community/District Referenced	Key Comments
S.M. Powe	2561 Westmount St., Halifax	District O	In favour of moving his/her portion of District 14 to the new District O
Kevin Dear	e-mail	Bedford (Proposed District K)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave District 21 (Bedford) as is • Community of interest needs to be give more weight
George Churney	e-mail	Bedford	Get real! put the community in one or the other.
Bob Kerr	e-mail	Bedford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less representation (less than present one) • Threat to continued unity of community
Elaine Loney	e-mail	Bedford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In opposition to dividing Bedford • Bedford is a distinct community which should be represented as such
Tom Creighton	2623 Fuller Terrace	Peninsula (Downtown Halifax)	Mr. Creighton's was given on his behalf at the February 24, 2003 Public Meeting and forms a part of the record of that meeting
Marshall Giles	e-mail	Peninsula (Downtown Halifax)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassess proposed Peninsula boundaries. • Population figures should not be main criteria in developing boundaries
Jane MacLellan	Spring Garden Area Business Association	Capital District (Downtown Halifax)	Reconsider proposed sectioning of the Capital District

Name	Address	Community/District Referenced	Key Comments
Greg Taylor	Downtown Halifax Business Commission	Capital District (Downtown Halifax)	Reconsider proposal
Gordon Jacobson	e-mail	Downtown Halifax	Support status quo
Graham Hicks	e-mail	Downtown Halifax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halifax Downtown be kept in one district by splitting the western District P down the middle of Quinpool Road and connecting the two pieces to areas R and Q • Downtown would then run from the Harbour approximately up South Street, along Robie and then down North Street to the harbour • A reversal of the map, with the split on the west rather the east side of the Peninsula
Jane McLellan, Spring Garden, BIDC	letter	Capital District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only basis is not population numbers, room for interpretation when consider mandate re enfranchisement and community of interest • too much emphasis on population numbers not enough on community of interest • do not divide the downtown
Phillip Pacey	e-mail	Peninsula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • object to proposed reduction in the number of Districts on the peninsula of Halifax • Boundaries should coincide with planning boundaries

Summary Table
District Boundary Submissions

Name	Address	Community/District Referenced	Key Comments
Eleanor More	e-mail	District 12 (Downtown)	Opposed to changes in boundaries that would eliminate District 12
Pat Meagher	e-mail	Clayton Park/ Glenbourne	Opposed to including CP and Glenbourne with Timberlea
Lorraine Williamson	e-mail	Proposed District T	Consider Mike Hanusiak's proposal
Carlos A Cocola	letter	Glenbourne	Opposed to being joined with Timberlea - do not split the present district
Barbara Mulrooney	e-mail	Districts 15 and 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support comments of Mike Hanusiak • very little in common with Timberlea
Patrick & Claudette Maunuge	e-mail	District 16	Do not want the boundary to change.
Eric Offman	e-mail	District 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • divisive and demoralizing to fracture communities of interest • population numbers should not be primary concern - higher density populations do not require as much service as single family homes • not see rationale for reducing number of Districts • Mainland North be made up of Fairview, Rockingham, Clayton Park, Clayton Park West, Glenbourne and Wedgewood - one community

Name	Address	Community/District Referenced	Key Comments
Shelley Cahill	e-mail	District 16	Opposed to Clayton Park West being placed with Timberlea
Gail and Lloyd Doucette	e-mail	Fall River/Windsor Junction/Lakeview	Opposed to any division of these communities
Trilby and Troy Hall	e-mail	Windsor Junction	Would like to see Windsor Junction remain with Fall River/Waverley as opposed to being grouped with Sackville/Beaverbank
Dan Doherty	e-mail	Windsor Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to boundary changes proposed for Windsor Junction, particularly Capilano Estates • Concern neighbourhood concerns will be lost if a change in boundary
Scott and Cindy Gillis	e-mail	Windsor Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned re proposed boundary changes • Concerned re how taxes will be impacted given that being linked with a community to which they have no commonality • Concern re impact on children's schooling • Small number of people in Windsor Junction lumped in with a huge population with no shared community

Name	Address	Community/District Referenced	Key Comments
Maria and Laszlo Poror	e-mail	Windsor Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> opposed to change in boundaries no community with Sackville - community is with Fall River
Terence Dwyer	e-mail	Windsor Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> concern that will lose community center through split in District redraw boundary to include Capilano Estates in District H
Kathy and Darrin Ross	e-mail	Windsor Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> concern re loss of community center not support change in boundaries
Cheryl-ann Blackie	e-mail	Windsor Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> request to leave Windsor Junction as part of Fall River concern re loss of services (community center, fire station, etc.)
David Snelson	e-mail	Windsor Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> opposed to Windsor Junction being placed in proposed District J opposed to reduction in # of Councillors should not be lumped with Sackville (a mostly urban, when Windsor Junction is mostly rural) leave aligned with the communities of Fall River and Lakeview
Wade Burmmet	e-mail	Windsor Junction	Opposed to boundary change. See alternative attached.

Summary Table
District Boundary Submissions

Name	Address	Community/District Referenced	Key Comments
Doug Reid	e-mail	Windsor Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to boundary change. • Do not want to be lumped in with Sackville, will not be well represented
Kevin Hayes	e-mail	Windsor Junction	Opposed to being included with Sackville
Sue Wallace	e-mail	Windsor Junction	Opposed to being included with Sackville
Shawn Fuller	e-mail	Dartmouth North and Downtown Dartmouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal presented at DBAC meeting on March 10, 2003
Susan Guppy	e-mail	Downtown Dartmouth	Opposed to linking downtown Dartmouth with an area of rapid, modern suburban growth (Portland Estates)
Sheila Sperry	letter	Downtown Dartmouth	Support for an electoral district which includes the areas of the Capital District
Jeffrey Johnshon	e-mail	Humber Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the status quo remain in Cole Harbour North/Cherry Brook
Ron Cooper, Councillor (District 4)	letter/map	Montague/Lake Loon/Cherrybrook and Cole Harbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • map indicating line which will maintain relationship between these communities
Bill Lownds	e-mail	General Comment	In opposition to reduction of Districts from 23 to 20
Bob Venus	e-mail	General Comment	In opposition to reduction of Districts from 23 to 20

Name	Address	Community/District Referenced	Key Comments
Gary Hines Councillor (District 2)	letter	General Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He and his constituents are concerned re cutting of number of districts and division of communities of interest • Reduction place strain on reconstruction of Community Councils • Area Rates impacted by boundary changes • Boundary changes of this magnitude better addressed in 2006. Changes at this time be simply within the existing 23 and involve redistribution of population • Request make recommendation to maintain the status quo
Robert Apple	e-mail	General Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New boundaries are great

Name	Address	Community/District Referenced	Key Comments
Councillor Sheila Fougere	Written submission	General Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of Districts do not determine effectiveness of representation per se • Community Councils have changed shape a number of times since amalgamation. They could again. This does not directly impact public participation - only the elimination of Community Councils would do this • Lack of access to public officials should not be considered risk • Cost of downsizing - position should be full time, increase in # of administrative staff since amalgamation, believe there would be some efficiencies as a result of reduction of numbers of Districts • Cost of change: area rates would be one area in which this would impact - not By-laws or Administrative or service functions • 19 MLA's represent HRM and 13 School Board Members • Would have preferred to see smaller number than 20 • Stay the course. Adjustments may be needed, but Committee is on the right track



S M POWER
 256 VESTMOUNT ST
 HALIFAX NS
 B3L 3G7

District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Municipal Clerks Office
 P.O. Box 1749
 Halifax N.S. B3J 3A5

Attn: Sherryl Murphy, Legislative Assistant

~~17 February 2003~~
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
 FEB 11, 2003
 JM
MUNICIPAL CLERK

Regarding new District Boundaries I must
 say that I am all in favour of moving
 my portion of District 14 to the new District 10.
 I feel we will be much better represented
 by that proposal.

Yours truly
 S M Power
 Present District 14

From: "Kevin Dean" <kg.dean@ns.sympatico.ca>
To: "Sherryl Murphy" <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 2/12/03 4:11PM

Thank you Sherryl

If I understand your reply (below) correctly, at the 2001 voters level not accounting for growth the proposal would move 6,015 voters from what is now District 21, and add 7,950 voters from outside District 21 to make proposed District K. Put another way 6,015 voters out of 12,005 voters that collectively formed a group with a very strong Community of interest are being moved to another District and 7,940 voters are being moved from other Districts to make a total of 13,930 for District K so that the numbers work. This is a net addition of 1,925 voters and more disruption than probably necessary.

Leaving growth aside, which should not be done, what would be wrong with leaving all District 21 voters together, resulting in more voters than proposed District A anyway, and adding some of the 7,940 from outside 21 that would like to join the strong Community of interest that exists in 21. A little survey of some of the District 21 neighbours will provide you with an indication of those people. Also if you take into consideration actual and currently proposed growth in HRM you may not have to add any from other districts to the 2001 number of 12,005 just to make the numbers work.

As stated at the meeting, the criteria of strong Community of interest needs to be given much more weight than just making the numbers fit. It appears that this criteria was given no consideration in proposing to move 6,015 voters out and adding 7,940, vs leaving the 12,005 voters in tact, looking at growth and adding some voters from neighbouring districts producing as little disruption as possible.

Kevin Dean

----- Original Message -----

From: "Sherryl Murphy" <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
To: <kg.dean@ns.sympatico.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2003 2:16 PM
Subject: Re: Re Proposed District K

In response to your question, I provide the following:

District 21 (Bedford) voters: 12005 (-14.1% variance)
K portion of Bedford: 5990
H portion of Bedford: 6015
remainder of K: 7940
remainder of H: 7750

Sherryl Murphy
Legislative Assistant
490-6517

>>> "Kevin Dean" <kg.dean@ns.sympatico.ca> 02/11/03 03:54PM >>>
Hi DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

From: GEORGE CHURNEY <gchurney@ns.sympatico.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 2/12/03 3:36PM
Subject: Bedford boundaries

Get real!! put the community in one or the other.

From: Robert Kerr <reobk@ns.sympatico.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>, Leonard T Goucher <cdarchive@ns.sympatico.ca>
Date: 2/13/03 2:52PM
Subject: Boundary Changes HRM 2003

Here are my comments regarding the suggested boundary changes to the Bedford area. Please do your utmost to see this one does not occur.

Please see comments attached. Bob Kerr.

ps Sheryl, could you please see that the Mayor gets an action copy for me?

With Tks, Bob Kerr.

CC: Doug & M Murray <novahawk@acncanada.net>, DON LOWTHER <dllcadon@netscape.net>, "Hon. Peter Christie, MLA" <peter.christie@ns.sympatico.ca>, <jsimpson@herald.ns.ca>

Comments On the New Proposed District Boundaries (About Bedford)

These comments apply to the proposed breakup of the present Bedford community by the commission. Unfortunately due to a sudden, illness in the family, I was unable to attend the session at Basinview School where public comments were made - I would have certainly spoken on this matter. Here are my thoughts on your proposal which I think would be disastrous to us here, as a Bedford area community.

1) This community as presently established, has had to suffer in the past under the veil of HRM restructuring in the 1990's, in the sense that any change to a good thing was seen as threatening to our then well- managed affairs (there has never been any dispute about this); individuals had great say on what we had going on around us as a community . I say this that as we were united in this stand as 9,000 signatures were obtained on a petition opposing amalgamation at the time. There is every reason to believe that this unity remains. The unity, of course was a product of several unknowns at the time, which were:

a) **Threat to Democratic Representation Density.** As a community with a mayor and 7 councillors, response time to any issue was normally swift. The old density was to be reduced to 1 councillor after amalgamation. **COMMENT:** Your proposal would now reduce this responsibility density again to less than one in expanded districts encompassing and exceeding our present boundary. This is seen as unacceptable to many. The unity of yesterday as a whole community has not changed as you found at the meeting - we are still trying to maintain the spirit of a responsible, cohesive community.

b) **Threat to Unity of Community Definition.** During the debate over amalgamation, there was a fear that our identity as a 'town' that contained a healthy mix of suburban, urban town, and commercial occupation, would not survive as such, and we would disappear without retaining what had been already developed with great efforts being made. The town was not in debt, had responsive police and fire departments and was as everyone knows, one of the "Best Places to Live in Canada", because, to name a few reasons: good, stringent bylaws; well thought out and approved Municipal Development Strategies and a public which reacted quickly to any transgressions. **COMMENT:** The unity has been generally maintained due to an excellent councillor, a responsive community council and also, and extremely copasetic regional council and Mayor. Should your proposal go ahead, splitting our community, the criteria for the future will diverge, and be totally inconsistent with what is left of a presently very viable community as a whole, which has coped very well with amalgamation after its initial struggles. We find it difficult to see, for example, how St. Margaret's Bay communities can mirror our destiny. It does seem foolish to us.

This should be taken as a non-emotional request by a Bedford area citizen to not change our electoral boundaries, and let us get on towards the continuing effort to build our currently very viable and cohesive community within HRM., Yours Truly,

Robert H Kerr,
332 Moirs Mill Rd, Bedford, HRM.
B4A 3Y3

From: Elaine Loney <eloney@ns.sympatico.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 2/14/03 8:33AM
Subject: Bedford Boundary Review

Re: HRM Boundary Bedford District Review

I was unable to attend the meeting on Feb. 10 at Basinview School where feedback was obtained from the community of Bedford with respect to the proposed municipal election boundary changes.

I would like the committee examining the issue to know that I am not in favour of any boundary change that effectively divides the community of Bedford. Bedford is in fact a community of common interest, with a distinct community identity, and should be represented as such on HRM council.

Elaine.

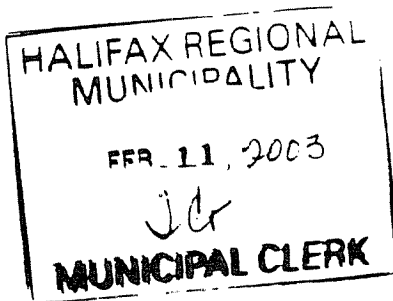
--

Elaine A. Loney
623 Basinview Drive
Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 3E8
Canada

(902) 832-0228

eloney@ns.sympatico.ca

CC: Peter Christie <christpg@gov.ns.ca>, Councillor Len Goucher
<gouchel@region.halifax.ns.ca>, Peter Kelly <kellyp@region.halifax.ns.ca>, DON LOWTHER
<DlIcaDon@netscape.net>



2623 Fuller Terrace
Halifax, N.S., B3K 3V8
Feb. 10, 2003

District Boundaries Advisory Committee
City of Halifax
Box 1749
Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5

Dear Chairperson

I will be unable, because of prior commitments to make an appearance at the Public Meeting for my area on Feb. 24, but I feel compelled to present my views to you.

Firstly, the decision to reduce Council to 20 is a travesty. From what I understand public submissions bore little resemblance to what is in your report. The Minority Report is a much fairer view of public opinion. I suggest that the wishes of the business community were your guideline. I suggest that the URB's prior preference for a reduction made a fair decision impossible.

Assuming that my arguments will be ignored, I will proceed to present an opinion on your apportionment of Districts for Peninsular Halifax.

1. Presuming that community of interest was a factor, I defy you to lay out the communities of interest that exist in this delineation. E.g. what do "downtown" and the area north of Young St. have in common? What does the area between Robie and the Arm have in common with Bayers Rd.? I could list other anomalies.

2. Of much greater importance, particularly concerning the gubbing of the existing "Downtown District" is that voting numbers bears no resemblance to the number of people "occupying" this district in the day for work and the night for leisure. The area becomes a crisis point for traffic, parking, development far out of all proportion to the number of mere voters.

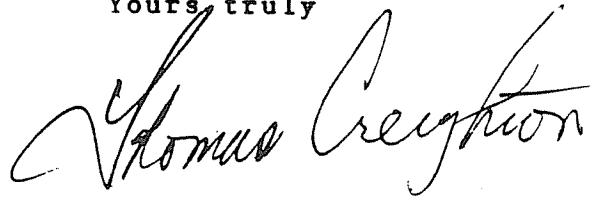
3. The number of social issues generated in this core-homelessness, concentration of social services,

concentration of Senior's housing, the concentration of public housing demands a different formula for judging representational needs for this area.

4. As Peninsular Halifax is going to face the brunt of numbers of problems- aging infrastructure, pressures for accomodation of traffic in the absence of any will to provide mass transit, the pressures of development on diminishing space, the need to protect the greatest concentration of current and future heritage sites to mention a few; it makes this area unlike any other except "Downtown Dartmouth" requiring a greater representation than your meagre allotment allows. Such a limited number may make a Community Council difficult to form, further eroding meagre citizen access.

I urge your committee go back to the drawing board, do more consultation, broaden your formulas, make your committee more representative.

Yours, truly



Thomas N.B. Creighton
Steering Committee

cc Mayor Peter Kelly
Beverly Miller
Counc. Dawn Sloan
Halifax Herald

BLOOMFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD
RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

From: Marshall Giles <giles@hfx.eastlink.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 2/6/03 10:30PM
Subject: Proposed Polling District Boundaries

The new HRM boundaries, while reducing the number of councilors do not address the social fabric of communities. It is extremely important to understand that communities in HRM have existed for many years. The new polling districts fail to address these concerns.

Communities of Halifax Peninsula and Halifax Mainland are not arbitrary boundaries. People living in these distinct areas have many issues, which are not in common. It is abundantly obvious that boundaries should represent citizens with common concerns. I understand the need to realign the districts to provide fair representation in council, but I do not understand the rationale of grouping districts, which have such diverse educational, property, security, transportation and recreational issues. Ask residents of my community adjacent to Quinpool Road how often they travel to Spryfield or Purcells Cove as compared to their immediate neighbourhood on the peninsula.

New boundaries on Halifax peninsula should be reassessed. As a resident of Armcrescent West, we live, attend school, play, shop and conduct business on the peninsula. The district committee has erred with proposed polling district "O" boundaries. The area between Connaught, Quinpool, Chebucto and the Armdale Rotary should be part of the new district "P" and not the new district "O".

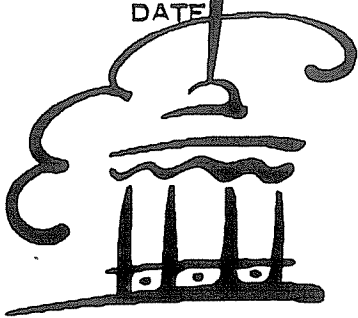
The population figures should not be the main criteria for boundary line selection. We are not just numbers, we are part of a well established community.

CC: <fougers@region.halifax.ns.ca>

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE

Distributed to: *D. English*
Mayor, Councillors, CAO,
Municipal Clerk

10.6103
DATE



DEAD

SPOT

Spring Garden Area Business Association

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
1526 Dresden Row
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 3K3
FEB 5 2003
MUNICIPAL CLERK

Tel 902.423.3751
Fax 902.492.2896
Email springgarden@ns.sympatico.ca

1880-04

*JK
re*

February 4 2003

His Worship Mayor Kelly and Members of
Halifax Regional Municipal Council
1841 Argyle Street, 2nd Floor
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

RECEIVED
FEB 04 2003
Mayor's Office

Your Worship:

The Spring Garden Area Business Association is extremely concerned at the recommendations of the Halifax Regional Municipality Boundary Commission. The Commission has recommended that the Capital District Area should cease to be represented by one Councillor but instead should be divided into three and pieced out into the three adjoining electoral districts.

We suggest that the focus of one representative for the Capital District is essential. You and your councillors have directed considerable effort towards creating the Capital District Region and supporting programming within that unit. That effort would be negated by the proposed division of the Capital District.

In our view the well-being and the potential of the Capital District as a focal point for the entire region and a tourist attraction for this Municipality is threatened by this proposed division.

We strongly recommend re-consideration of this proposed sectioning of the Capital District.

Yours truly,

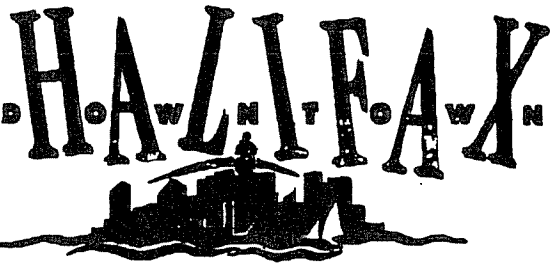
Spring Garden Area Business Association

Janis MacLellan
Janis MacLellan

JM:ll

MAYOR'S OFFICE
DISTRIBUTED TO:

CAO:
CLERK:
COUNCILLORS' OFFICE:
DATE: *Feb. 4/03*



Business Commission

His Worship Mayor Peter Kelly
and members of HRM Council
1841 Argyle Street, 2nd Floor
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5

February 6, 2002

Your Worship,

The 1,900 members of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission are concerned about the recommendations made by the HRM Boundary Commission, which recommends splitting the downtown core at Sackville Street and portioning the halves to the council areas on either side. A similar recommendation would also affect downtown Dartmouth. Although, we are confident that the councillors responsible for the downtown areas would represent the interests of the constituency, their areas would become very large, and primarily residential. Diluting the voice of the downtown areas is the opposite direction HRM has been taking lately in reinvesting in the downtown cores, through formation of the Capital District Task Force.

It is our understanding that the review committee used existing population bases in the various council areas as a benchmark in their decisions. However, this fails to address the true nature of downtown. There is a strong and growing permanent population base, yes. This is augmented by a large unaccounted for student population, an influx of 20,000 employees per day, the largest concentration of tourists, convention-goers, cruise ship passengers, and residents that attend events - most of which occur here. Aside from the residential needs, the downtown councilor must, and does, respond to the needs of all of these people, as well as the business owners who are the lifeblood of this region. Add to this the special needs of downtown that go along with old, compact infrastructure, parking, transportation, and increased maintenance needs, and one can easily see that removing a councilor from this area is ludicrous. The importance of a councilor to a particular region of HRM should not be based on permanent population figures alone.

While we encourage Council's desire to streamline some processes, we strongly urge that this proposal be re-considered.

Yours truly,

Greg Taylor
Chairman

Downtown Halifax Business Commission

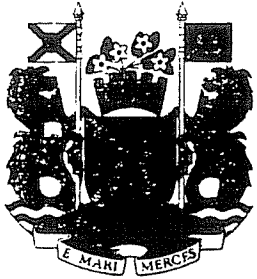
HALIFAX REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY
FEB 18 2003
MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE

1668 Barrington Street
Suite 301
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2A2
Tel (902) 423-6658
Fax (902) 429-0865

RECEIVED
FEB 18 2003
Mayor's Office

Distributed to: D. English
Mayor, Councillors, CAO,
C. J. O'Brien
Feb 18 2003
DATE

Halifax Regional Municipality



Peter J. Kelly

Mayor

1841 Argyle Street
PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 3A5

Tel: (902) 490 - 4010
Fax: (902) 490 - 4012
Email: kellyp@region.halifax.ns.ca

www.region.halifax.ns.ca

February 18, 2003

HALIFAX REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY

FEB 20 2003



MUNICIPAL CLERK

Mr. Greg Taylor
Chairman
Downtown Halifax Business Commission
1668 Barrington Street, Suite 301
Halifax, NS B3J 2A2

Dear Mr. Taylor:

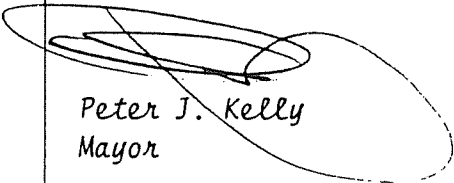
Thank you for your letter dated February 6, 2003, expressing the Downtown Halifax Business Commission's concern about the proposed district boundary review changes.

Your concerns have been forwarded to Members of Council and the District Boundary Advisory Committee for their review and consideration. However, I would suggest that you attend one of the District Boundary Advisory Committee's public meetings and make your views known to them. The Peninsula Community Council is scheduled to hear submissions from concerned residents of our Region on February 24, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall.

The final recommendation of the District Boundary Advisory Committee will be forwarded to Halifax Regional Council, then to the Utility Review Board (URB) later this spring. I understand the URB will also receive submissions and presentations from concerned groups and individuals.

Once again, thank you for making your concerns about the proposed boundary changes known to us and I would encourage you to attend the public meeting on the 24th.

Respectfully, I remain,


Peter J. Kelly
Mayor

/dac-1000-04

cc- Members of Council
- ~~District~~ District Boundary Advisory Committee

From: "Gordon Jacobson" <gordon_jacobson@hotmail.com>
To: <sloaned@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 2/4/03 12:07PM
Subject: Good morning, Dawn

Dawn:

I was reading the article in this morning's paper re: Change in District Boundaries. I agree with you in that there are issues here. The downtown area is unique unto itself. It has issues that other Districts do not have, such as downtown parking, not only for residents but also with regard to people driving into the downtown area to come to work. This is not so much an issue outside of the downtown area. Other issues are homelessness, drug houses, rentals / rooms hardly fit for human habitation. These are issues which are more particular to the downtown area of a city, not only Halifax, but places like Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, etc. The downtown area is growing in leaps and bounds, not only commercial-wise, but also in the amount of housing being built. Now, forgive me if I am wrong, but part of the downtown city revitalization plan was to build more housing in the downtown area and people will shop when they live. Well, when you increase the population density of an area, you also are going to incur more problems, more issues.

For what my opinion might count, I believe that we should continue to have a city council representative such as yourself, for the downtown area. Anything less would be counter-productive to the future growth of this area..

Cheers!,

Gordon G. Jacobson

From: <Hicks.GFD@forces.gc.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/4/03 3:38PM
Subject: THE NEW POOLING BOUNDARIES

Good Morning;

This is just a note to the District Boundary Advisory Committee to suggest that the "Halifax" Downtown be kept in one district by splitting the western district P down the middle of Quinpool Road and connecting the two pieces to areas R and Q. Then the Downtown could run from the Harbour approximately up South Street, along Robie, and then down North Street and onward to Harbour at a minimum. I believe that the district would have to be a bit larger.

This is just a reversal of the map, with the split on the west rather than the east side of the peninsula.

I believe that the number of districts should not have been reduced from 23 to 20.

Graeme Hicks
5335 Young Street
Halifax, NS
B3K 1Z3
Hicks.GFD@forces.gc.ca

March 6, 2003

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chairman
and Members of the HRM
Boundary Review Committee
c/o Sherryll Murphy
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Hyland:

RE: Negative Impact of Boundary Changes on Capital District

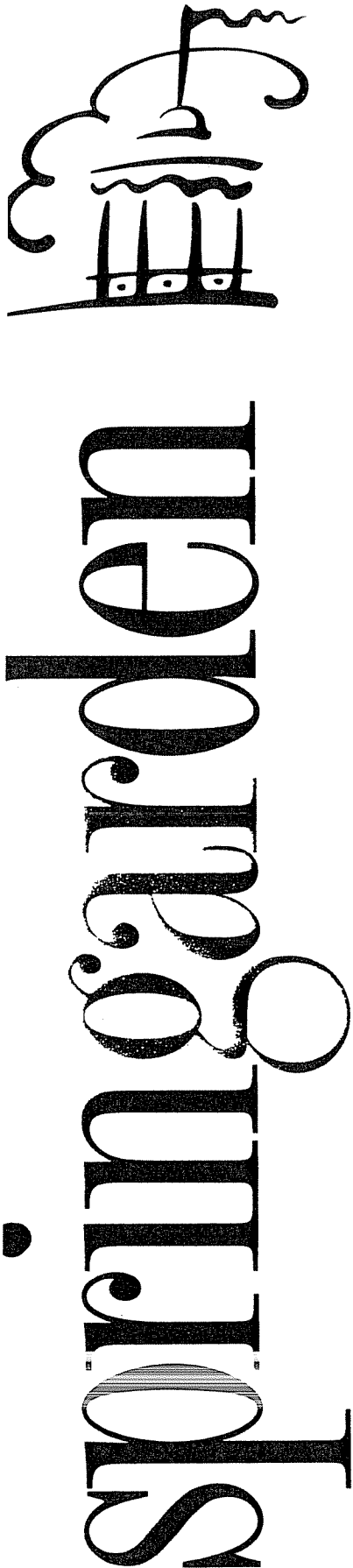
On behalf of the Spring Garden Area Business Association I wish to urge you as Chairman and the Members of your Committee, to take a broader interpretation of the terms of reference under which you are operating.

Municipal Government Act/Part XVI (4) *In determining the number and boundaries of polling districts the Board shall consider number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.*

We wish to point out that although there is reference to your Committee paying attention to the consideration of the numbers of voters proposed to be included in each Ward, this is not presented in a way which demands adherence to a narrow numeric formula. Instead, it refers to enfranchisement and community of interest which gives we suggest, significant room for interpretation.

This Association is concerned because the Capital District has a number of unique challenges. We believe that to section the Capital District into a number of sub-areas and to effectively attach those sub-areas to residential areas, which do not have the same pressures and challenges, will lessen the focus and the voice of the Capital area.

Having attended a number of your public sessions, we are of the opinion that too much attention has been paid to a mechanical arithmetic sectioning of the voter areas and far too little attention paid to communities and commonality of problems and objectives.

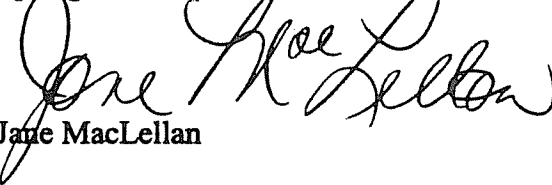


We suggest to the Committee that the demands placed on the democratic process and the need for representation by 20,000 voters of similar socio-economic backgrounds and circumstances may be much less than the demands of 8,000 voters ranging from millionaires to the homeless, from retired majors to drug traffickers, and to a daily in-migratory population of many thousands. The requirement of community needs and commonality of interest was heard again and again during the public hearings.

Certainly the Capital District has a community of interest and a range of need, which should not permit sectioning, and the addition of its parts to primarily residential areas. Dividing the downtown in this way will risk a loss of the cohesiveness and direction achieved by the Capital District initiatives taken by the Mayor and Council over the past several years.

Yours truly,

Spring Garden Area Business Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane MacLellan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jane MacLellan

JM:ll

cc: Mayor and Council

From: "Pacey Phil" <pacey@chem1.chem.dal.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/10/03 9:40AM
Subject: polling district boundaries

Dear Ms. Murphy:

I am writing to object to the proposed reduction in the number of seats allocated for the peninsula of Halifax from four to three. With the City of Halifax we had six council members from the peninsula. This reduction would make it difficult for members to keep in touch with constituents and would make it difficult and expensive for anyone to canvass an entire area at election time. The proposal would constitute a reduction in democracy in Halifax.

I am aware that two other ridings would have small portions of the peninsula included. However the bulk of these ridings would be off the peninsula and would be dominated by electors from off the peninsula.

There is a very different culture on the peninsula and off the peninsula, dating back to the former City/County boundary that existed up until about 1970. There are differences in municipal services such as curbs, gutters and sidewalks. There is a totally different zoning bylaw. There are different Detailed Area Plans. These differences were not erased in 25 years of City government and they are unlikely to be erased now. It would be too much to expect one councillor to have detailed knowledge of these differences.

If the boundaries go forward, agreement of all three peninsula councillors would be necessary in order to have a Peninsula Community Council. In the past one member did not agree but the others were able to have a council. This Community Council is an important bulwark of democracy, and often provides an outlet for public comments that could not be accommodated in the Regional Council.

Boundaries between constituencies should coincide with planning boundaries. Much of the business of Council deals with land use issues. Council must act in a quasi-judicial manner in land use issues. It is important that Council be well informed in these matters, so that they can render decisions "with the wisdom of Solomon". It is difficult for a Councillor to be knowledgeable about several plans. The boundaries of planning areas were established after public consultation. The planning areas are generally fairly homogeneous, and have common land use issues. Planning areas, such as the downtown, should not be split between two councillors, but should lie entirely within one constituency.

Please do not reduce the number of seats on the peninsula of Halifax.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Pacey
6269 Yukon Street
Halifax, B3L 1E9

From: Eleanor Moore <emoore@magma.ca>
To: <Murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/11/03 10:27PM
Subject: Boundary Review

Re:District 12

I would like to petition against the elimination of District 12. The present district is diverse and complex. It could be argued that the present boundaries are too great for a single representative - I can't see how the area could be better represented within a larger zone.

Issues such as adequate social housing and its related needs require committed leadership without having to answer to too many interests groups.

I ask that my name be added to those who oppose any change in the boundaries of the region which would eliminate District 12.

Eleanor Moore
1060-1062 Barrington St
Halifax NS B3H 2R1

CC: <sloand@region.halifax.ns.ca>

From: "Pat Meagher" <pmeagher@staff.ednet.ns.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 2/13/03 12:57PM
Subject: District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Dear Sherryl Murph:

I am writing to voice my disagreement to the proposed plan to include Clayton Park West and Glenbourne areas of Halifax with Timberlea. I live in Halifax the city, pay much larger taxes and higher home prices to live in the city. I did not choose to live in Timberlea, Brookside or any of those other areas. I am unable to attend the meeting for tonight at the Keshen Goodman library and wanted to voice my strong objection to any consideration to move my area (Clayton Park) out of the current District 16. I purchased a house in the city and have issues that are very different from those of the residents in Timberline. These two groups do not belong in one district.

Signed,
STRONGLY APPOSED

Pat Meagher
3 Roxham Close
Halifax, N.S.
B3S 1G2

From: "Lorraine Williamson" <lorraine_williamson01@hotmail.com>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 2/14/03 9:49AM
Subject: district boundaries

Dear Sheryl,

RE: Proposed District "T"

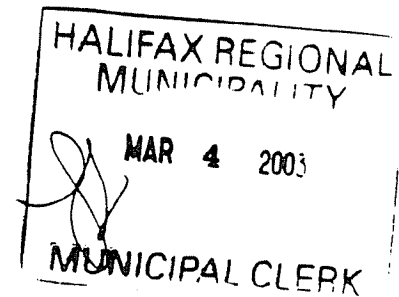
Please consider Mike Hanusiak's proposal for the division of Mainland North District. Finally for the first time, our District 15 has sidewalk plowing. With the current proposal, I fear that this will be lost. It took years to obtain side walk plowing. Communities need to be recognized in the district lines. Each area often has its own unique concerns. Please insure that the community voices are heard for many feel that "community input" has no real meaning. Thank you for your help.
Sincerely
Lorraine Williamson

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE,
ATTN. SHERRYL MURPHY

38 Aster Court
Halifax, NS.,
B3S 1G5

(DISTRICT BOUNDARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE)

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY,
P.O. BOX 1749, B3J 3A4,
HALIFAX, N.S.



HALIFAX, MARCH 1/03

To whom it may concern:

After the process of amalgamation, with all of its meetings, and the overwhelming public opinion against it, one cannot help but look at the exercise of the "public meetings" going on about and because of the "district boundaries" redraw, with a fair level of skepticism!!

And as we learn a bit more about what is on the "drawing board" indignation creeps in and we have to ask:- who come up with this "bright bulb" idea, and for what purpose?-Who's interests are being protected with this nonsense?-Where did this magic number of 20 come from?-Does it make any sense to cut the number of the citizens most direct representatives, when according to the statistics, the number of the HRM. residents is increasing tremendously?-And how much in the end is all of this going to cost us, the residents, the tax payers?

Remember amalgamation was supposed to have saved all of us millions of dollars?... (????????)

I live in the GLENBORNE area, that with its tremendous and rapid growth, created many problems and concerns for its residents, which have been very diligently addressed by our councillor Diane Whalen, with the vast majority resolved appropriately! And as a direct result I believe, of her understanding of the issues and the area, her sense of community, (she resides in the middle of the district), and to split it and having us joined with Timberlea, reflects a lack of sensitivity and understanding of the local issues by the authors of this foolish suggestion!!

I remember reading in one of the local newspapers covering the meeting held in the local library, somebody suggesting the 103 Highway as a boundary line for district 16, and a lot of us would agree with that! Now to split the district in the middle as proposed it is plain and simple "preposterous" !!

My message as a resident is simple:-DO NOT SPLIT THE DISTRICT!!!-cut on the ends if you must, but "there is not a problem here, so DO NOT try to fix it!!!-Please leave well enough alone, thank you very much!!

Sincerely

Carlos A.B. Caçola

From: Barb <barbmulrooney@hfx.eastlink.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/4/03 10:02AM

Having attended the District Boundaries Advisory Committee on Feb 4, 2003 at the Keshen Goodman Library for districts 15 and 16 I wish to go on record as supporting the concise, clear comments made by Mike Hanusack at this meeting. Most of the

development in the area has been completed and the "community of Interest" should remain as is. We have so little in common with the residents of the Timberlea area it really does not make any sense to revise the boundaries in this manner.

I do wish to thank the committee under the chairmanship of Paul Hyland for the work they have taken on as volunteers for this most unpopular task.

"if it ain't broke don't fix it!"

Thank you.

Barbara Mulrooney

1 Castle Hill Dr Hfx NS B3M 3A2

From: "Manuge, Claudette" <Claudette.Manuge@Aliant.ca>
To: "murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca" <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/6/03 11:43AM
Subject: District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Attention Sherryl Murphy

Patrick & Claudette Manuge
60 Scotch Pine Terr
Halifax NS 902-443-9151
Polling District 16/Rockingham-Clayton Park West/
Councillor Diana Whalen

We do not want our boundary to change. We are very much against this. I like our boundary the way it is because I know the area to divide us and to add another area far out with us is too much. I know nothing of that area too far. Just keep things the way they are. And leave us alone.

11:43 AM
+S 300

From: offmanmcculloch <offmanmcculloch@eastlink.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/9/03 6:57PM
Subject: District Boundary Advisory Committee

March 9, 2003

Mr. Paul Hyland

Chairman

District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Halifax Regional Municipality

Dear Mr. Hyland:

Attendance for the scheduled 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Keshen Goodman Library on Thursday February 13, 2003 was limited due to the slow traffic home following the previous day's snow storm. The number of people who were able to make the meeting evidenced deep public concern re the proposed district boundary changes in Mainland North.

I attended but did not speak at that meeting, as my points of concern were being well presented by other speakers and repetition would have taken time from others who might have new material for your consideration. I did, though, want to follow up with this submission to support the views you heard that evening.

To fracture existing communities of interest within HRM would be divisive and demoralizing to our citizens; a message which I don't think has to be amplified.

In my opinion, population numbers per district is not the prime concern. In addition to recognizing the cohesiveness of mini-communities as a top priority, higher population density areas do not require as much city services per person as single family homes, for example. In addition, obvious demarcation lines for districts, such as the BiCentennial Highway, should be taken into account. Other issues such as school districts and common type of development should influence boundaries as well.

As I understand it, you were given the mandate to formulate "new boundaries" for a reduced number of 20 districts within HRM. Although not a debatable issue at this particular meeting, I find it difficult to see the rationale in reducing the number of districts and therefore the number of Councillors. Prior to the formation of HRM, the same area was represented by approximately 56 councillors. The reduction to 23 equals a 59% reduction! By "streamlining" Council to 20 is unequivocally further eroding public service to you, me, and every single citizen, business owner, and developer within HRM. Why defy the logic of sufficient effective public service. Does the optimum number of districts and councillors equal 20? Our councillors are community minded people, giving of their time on various committees and volunteer projects. Should this be cut out or cut back by reducing council? We need to recognize that these individuals periodically require time away from public and council business to deal with normal life - illness, funerals, weddings, vacations, and family emergencies, etc. Not to be facetious, but perhaps 6 councillors would be less costly and make council more manageable; not more effective, but more manageable.

In summary, to reinforce the feeling and comments by the overwhelming majority at the February 13th meeting, I emphatically request your recognition of what we call Mainland North - Fairview, Rockingham, Clayton Park, Clayton Park West, Glenbourne, and Wedgewood - as one community. That is one community which can be divided into two Districts, and served by two Councillors. However, to exclude one particular component and graft it onto another District would not serve those citizens, or the community which would feel their loss.

I sincerely acknowledge your volunteering to undertake this challenging project, and ask that you conscientiously take our public consensus into account as you committed to do. Thank you.

Eric Offman

12 Broadholme Lane

Halifax, NS B3M 3B7

Phone 443-2837

HRM, District 16

copies to:

Councillor Diana Whalen, District 16

Councillor Russell Walker, District 15

Sherryl Murphy, Municipal Clerk's Office

CC: <whalend@region.halifax.ns.ca>, <walkerr@region.halifax.ns.ca>

From: "Shelley L Cahill" <Shelley.Cahill@ns.sympatico.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/11/03 2:43PM
Subject: District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Hi

I did attend the meeting at Keshen Library. I didn't get up to speak.

I want to express that I do agree with the majority of the speakers at the meeting, that Clayton Park West should remain with Clayton Park/Rockingham etc. We should not be divided and placed with Timberlea.

Not that I have anything against that community of people, I have family that live there, so I know that the political issues that I have contacted my district HRM councillor for are totally different issues than what they have.

Thanks
Shelley Cahill
11 Barkton Lane
Halifax, NS
B3M 4K5

District 16 Councillor Whalen's District

From: Gail <gails@accesswave.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 2/28/03 10:33AM
Subject: Electoral Boundaries

28th February 2003

Hello Sheryl Murphy;

We were unable to attend the meeting last evening reference: Lakeview, Fall River and Windsor Junction being exhumed out of the community of LFW. Then consumed into Lower Sackville.

Community means identity. We have nothing in common with Lower Sackville except to use it as a shopping centre. We do have alot in common with Fall River, Windsor Junction and Lakeview. We are neighbours. Our infra structures are so intermingled .. sports, schools, social, etc.

We are known as a good community in which to live... a caring community. A place for kids to grow up safe. Lower Sackville does not. It has the reputation of rough, and tough. A place not safe for kids. There is a huge mark difference in the schools. I know. My kids went from an uncaring over crowded schools to ones with caring teachers. The change in them was drastic. They did not have to worry about being beaten up as they walked home.

We have saved and worked hard to be able to live in this great community of ours. We DO NOT want to be known or be a part of Lower Sackville!!!

So leave the Fall River, Windsor Junction and Lakeview electoral boundaries as they are. DO NOT divide what years of work, socialization, identity, and comradery which has made us what we are today. We are ONE, as in Family .

So please register my family as against any division of Fall River, Lakeview and Windsor Junction.

Thank you.
Gail and Lloyd Doucette
189 Third Ave.
Lakeview, N.S.

From: Trilby <trilby@accesswave.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/7/03 11:09AM
Subject: District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Hi Sherryl,

We currently live on Taylor Drive in Windsor Jct, and are part of polling district 2. We would like to see the Windsor Jct area stay with Fall River, Waverley, etc, as the present boundaries indicate, as opposed to being grouped with Sackville/ Beaverbank. We also aren't too keen on being grouped with Bedford, as there would be some concern as to how our tax dollars would be spent. That's pretty much the extent of our concerns.

Thanks for your time,
Trilby and Troy Hall.

From: Dan <dandoherty@hfx.eastlink.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/9/03 12:10PM
Subject: District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Attention: Sherry Murphy

I know that you must be busy with these proposed boundary changes so I will keep this short. I would like to add my name to the list of those opposed to the boundary changes involving Windsor Junction and in particular Capilano Estates. Please leave us where we are. We are a small community that fits in well as we are now. I feel that our neighborhood concerns would be lost or at least not viewed with the same relevance if the proposed boundary changes come in to effect.

Thanks for your time.

Dan Doherty
31 Peter Thomas Dr.
Capilano Estates
Windsor Junction
Nova Scotia
B2T 1L7

CC: <hinesg@region.halifax.ns.ca>, David Snelson <dsnelson@eastlink.ca>

From: Scott Gillis <sggillis@eastlink.ca>
To: <hinesg@region.halifax.ns.ca>, <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/9/03 3:14PM
Subject: Proposed Boundary Changes

To Ms Murphy

CC Councillor Hines

Subject Proposed Boundary Changes

I respectfully submit the following concerns and my objection to the proposed boundary changes for the area I live in.

I have been a resident of Capilano Estates (Windsor Junction) for close to 1.5 yrs. I also have been elected to the executive of the Capilano Home Owners Association.

I am greatly concerned for the proposed boundary changes that have our community separated from the rest of our neighbors and

extended community of Fall River. It makes no sense to have our community separated from Fall River.

We are united community of Fall

River Windsor Junction, Lakeside. We share the same schools, shopping facilities, churches, community service and Fire Services. As

a home owner who pays a high amount of property taxes I am greatly concerned how my tax dollars would be allocated when sharing

services with a community that I have no commonality or equal footing with. Our communities of Fall River, Windsor Junction and

Lakeside share a Fire Hall and volunteer fire station, and outstanding Community Centre that we pay supplementary funding so our

children have outstanding recreational programs during the summer. My children are also involved in soccer, Guiding and the like

all within the Fall River community.

I am especially concerned on how this decision may affect my children's schooling. My two children attend Ash Lee Jefferson

Elementary School in Fall River. This is an outstanding school and has brought a true sense of community for our whole family. I am

very adamant that no changes will be made to my children's schooling. Our sole decision to build and own a home where we do is based

on our children attending the outstanding schools of Ash Lee Jefferson, GP Vanier and Lockview.

My final argument for this proposed boundary change is based on the number of people this affects. You would be taking a small

amount of homes and people in the Windsor Junction area and grouping them in with huge population that they have no shared

community with. This would mean we would have very little voice or representation on the spending of our hard earned tax dollars.

The present representation that we have with Fall River works well . Do not change it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott and Cindy Gillis
1057 Elise Victoria Drive
Capalino Estates
Windsor Junction NS
B2T 1L7

From: Podor <podor@accesswave.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/9/03 7:10PM
Subject: District Boundaries Advisory Committee - Attention: Sherryl Murphy

Good afternoon Sherryl,

The news that we are about moving to a new district took us by a great surprise.

There are a lot of reasons against the proposed boundary change. Where should I start? A lot of things are tying us to Fall River. We have our Community Center about a mile away, but once the boundary changes we won't be able to spend any time there any more... Our Fire Hall is just across the railway tracks. Children from Capilano are attending the Fall River schools. This neighbourhood is very much like of Fall River.

We think we are part of this great community. If you ask anybody where can you find Taylor Drive (or any of the neighbouring streets), they would say Fall River and not Sackville. If you look up our phone number in the phone directory, you will see it under Waverley and not Sackville.

We appreciate your work trying to come up with the new boundaries, but moving Capilano to a new district does not make sense - at least not for us, who live here.

Please leave us in our present district and redraw the proposed boundary so we would stay where we belong to.

Maria and Laszlo Podor
57 Taylor Drive,
Windsor Junction, NS
B2T 1K7
Phone: 860-0034

District 2 - Gary B. Hines (Waverley - Fall River)

CC: <hinesg@region.halifax.ns.ca>, David Snelson <dsnelson@eastlink.ca>

From: Terence Dwyer <tdwyer@hfx.eastlink.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/9/03 7:28PM
Subject: District boundaries

Sherryl:

I have reviewed the maps showing the proposed new HRM district boundaries and have a few comments.

I live at 10 Shirley Court in Windsor Junction, Capilano Estates, Phase 1, in proposed district 'J'. The services and benefits we have here and the types of properties and houses are very similar to those in the Fall River Area. In addition, we (Windsor Junction, Fall River, Lakeview) as a group now pay for a community center through an area rate. I'm concerned that that may change should the district be split as proposed. I would like to have a councillor who was representing a group that had similar needs and goals, and therefore, suggest that the boundaries be redrawn to include Capilano in District 'H'.

Terence Dwyer

10 Shirley Court
Windsor Junction, Nova Scotia
Canada B2T 1G4
865-1009

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.
Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).
Version: 6.0.459 / Virus Database: 258 - Release Date: 25/02/03

CC: David Snelson <dsnelson@eastlink.ca>

From: Darrin & Kathy Rose <rose@accesswave.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/9/03 9:14PM
Subject: New boundaries

We are writing to express our concern regarding the proposed boundary changes in our area.

We live in Capilano Country Estates in Windsor Junction are very opposed to changing our existing boundaries and excluding us from Fall River, Wellington area district.

We are a close knit community who support and grow together. We presently have a community center that is privately funded by the residents of Fall River, Lakeview and Windsor Junction. This "community center" is great for our community where our children can go play, swim and have fun in our own community with only other residents of this community. Our tax dollars go to fund this center for us and we are very concerned if Windsor Junction is removed to a new district that we will not have access to this facility which is located in Windsor Junction and that Fall River and Lakeview will not be able to support this center on its own.

Unfortunately we were unable to attend the public meeting held in Dartmouth on Feb 27 to express our concerns.

We sincerely hope HRM is strongly considering the voice of its community and rejects changing the boundaries in our community of Windsor Junction. We are very happy with our Councillor Gary Hines and he is very supportive of our community of Fall River, Wellington, Lakeview and Windsor Junction as one area.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely
Kathy and Darrin Rose
71 Taylor Drive
Windsor Junction, NS
B2T 1K7

902-861-2086

From: "Blaine Blackie" <bblackie@ns.sympatico.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/9/03 11:56PM
Subject: re: regional boundaries

To whom it may concern

Hello my name is Cheryl-ann Blackie and I live in Capilano Sub. in Windsor Junction and I would like to express my concerns about the new boundary. We moved here from Moncton about two years ago, before moving to Nova Scotia I did some research on different areas and schools and fell in love with the Fall River area, we found land in Capilano Sub. and was told that we were part of Fall River/Waverly and all that it offered. Since we have moved in we have enjoyed the schools, the community center, the closeness of the fire station, which I believe will be all things that we will no longer have part of.

The Community center is only a three minute drive from our home, my three children have enjoyed taking swimming lessons there. All three of my children love the school, my two older children had a hard time moving from Moncton, but have fitted in so well in their school that it would be terrible for them to have to move schools, I was told that it was mentioned at the meeting that these boundary changes does not, (on your part) change where the children go to school, but I do know that it is these boundaries that the School Board uses to decided where these children go.

In closing, all I can say is PLEASE leave Winsor Junction as part of Fall River we are so close in distance that it makes great sense.

Sincerely

Cheryl-ann Blackie

From: David Snelson <dsnelson@eastlink.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>, Hines Gary <hinesg@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/10/03 12:37PM
Subject: District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Hello Sherryl:

As both a citizen of proposed area J and Chairman of the Capilano Country Estates Home Owners Association, I must oppose on all counts, the establishment of Windsor Junction into the new district J. I also believe that the criteria being applied to establish new guidelines for re-zoning is erroneous.

Firstly, going from 23 to 20 councillors in a growing population makes no sense. I can understand that the government would like to save money, which is a financially responsible thing to do, however by cutting down to our elected representatives by giving them a larger area, may not be in the best interest of the people. Also if I understand the rules, the districts are being divided up by numbers only. In other words, you are trying to create districts that are 17,750+/- people large. This gives no credit to the differences or similarities in the communities, and as can be seen from reading the newspapers at the battle going on in the downtown districts, everyone feels the same on this issue.

Secondly, trying to lump us in with parts of Sackville, which is mostly urban will not work. We are a rural district, and as such we have specific needs that the average urban resident wouldn't understand. All of us out here are on septic fields, and the closest bus stop is over 1 kilometre away. I am deeply worried that in times of municipal concerns, our 200 voices would be lost. I'm sure a lot of people in Sackville have never been to Windsor Junction.

On a more personal note, our lives have evolved around the area that we live in. Our children play soccer in this district, we go to church in our district of Fall River. As you are probably aware we pay a tax assessment that goes to support a local community centre, called the LWF (Lakeview, Windsor Junction, Fall River) Community Centre and of course the local fire hall and volunteers are just about 1.5 km from the centre of this community. Most of the children in this area go to the local schools of Ash Lee Jefferson and GP Vanier. Fall River is the community next door. It is not Sackville. I actually joke when I "have to go into the city" and I mean Sackville, not Halifax. Now don't think that I don't like Sackville; I lived there for 10 years and our family finally decided to move out of the "city" and into the "country" so that we could enjoy urban life.

I think the idea of revamping the system might be in order, however you cannot just use a numbers-based system. You must take into consideration the fact that there are people whose lives are based on where they live. You cannot expect them to automatically adapt to a change in numbers.

I respectfully ask that you leave us aligned with the communities of Fall River and Lakeview. We, as a group of communities, have evolved to the present day where we support each other and the ties are great. Our

life styles are very similar."

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

David Snelson
60 Taylor Drive
Windsor Junction, NS.
B2T 1K7
(902)860-0342

From: "Brummet, Wade" <Wade.Brummet@flyjazz.ca>
To: "murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca" <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/10/03 2:13PM
Subject: DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hello:

Although I was unable to attend the recent meeting regarding the proposed boundary changes, I felt it important to pass along my views. My family and I currently reside at 216 Taylor Drive in Capillano Estates (Area 2). We purchased in this area only after thorough research into school boundaries and property values. In fact we declined the opportunity to build farther south in the same development in part, because of the possibility we would be excluded from the Fall River Schools.

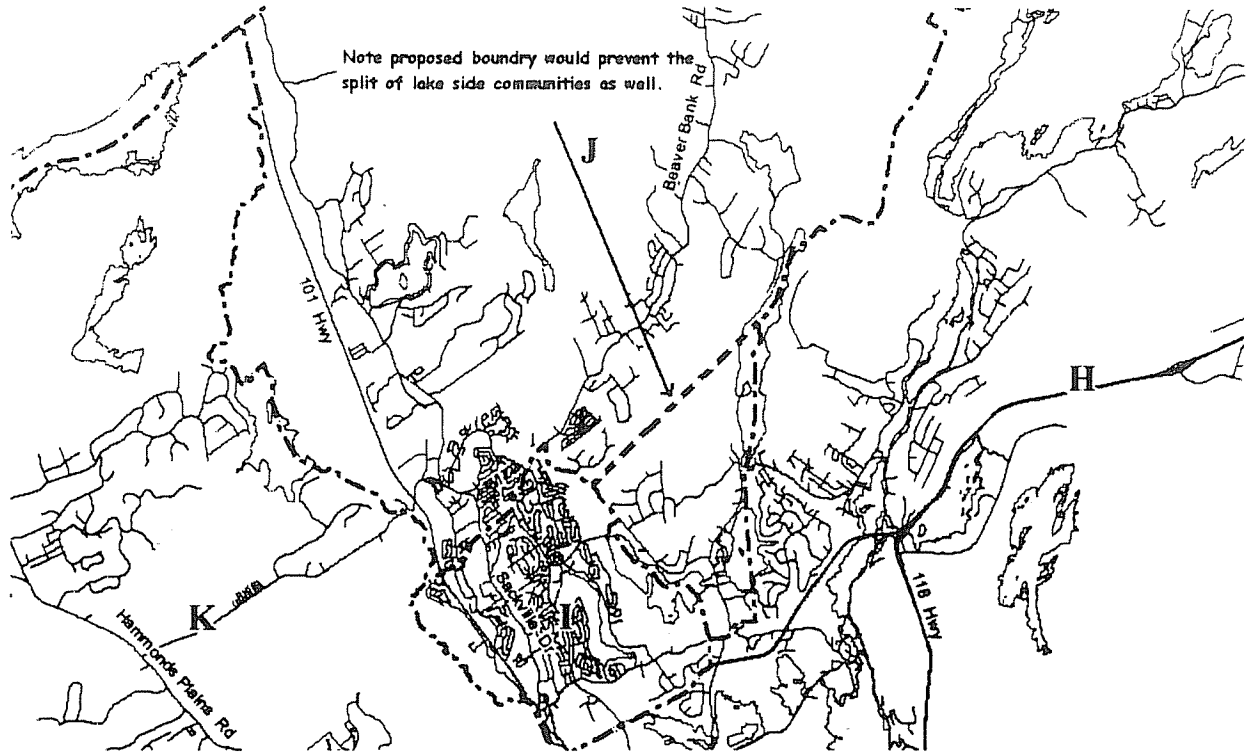
In the 18 months we have been part of the community we have enjoyed the support of the school system and community association. In every measurable way, Capillano is part of the Fall River community and it is our preference to keep it that way.

From the information available on-line it appears the justification to this exercise is to reduce costs by reducing the number of districts. Apparently the intention was to run boundary lines down lakes where ever possible to minimize conflict. This goal in itself is admirable, however it is important to consider the impact of these changes on each region. In our case (Area F) we would see access to the lake side community facilities lost, and our children moved from a school that is supporting their needs to one that straining to meet them. Our property values would undoubtedly decline as a result.

As a alternate, I have attached a modified version of the boundary proposal. Please give it due consideration. I believe it meets the needs of Windsor Junction and Capillano while preventing conflict with nearby Lower Sackville.

Best Regards
Wade Brummet
216 Taylor Dr
Windsor Junction, NS
B2T 1L7
<<Alternate Boundry Proposal.jpg>>

CC: "hinesg@region.halifax.ns.ca" <hinesg@region.halifax.ns.ca>



March 10, 2003

Sherryl Murphy

I wanted to pass along my comments concerning the proposed boundary changes.

We have built a new home in Capalano Estates, Windsor Junction and have done so with the understanding we would be in the Fall River area.

We built in this area because we have an association with Fall River and Waverley. We want our children to go to school in Fall River, we shop and go to church in Fall River and are part of that community.

We don't want to get lumped in with Sackville. A couple of hundred voices, so far from Sackville will have no representation dealing with the issues that we have.

Sincerely,

Doug Reid
133 Ethan Drive
Windsor Junction B2T 1P9

From: Kevin Hayes <khayes@accesswave.ca>
To: <hinesg@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/9/03 12:56PM
Subject: New Proposed Boundaries - Windsor Junction

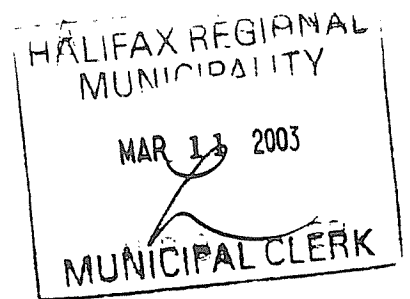
Hello Gary,

I am writing to oppose the proposed boundary changes. An important factor for boundary committee's consideration should be real estate values/trends and community consistency. On this basis Windsor Junction is more properly included with Fall River than with Sackville.

As a keen observer of real estate trends in HRM over the past 10 years, a change in the grouping of Capilano Estates with Fall River from Sackville has had a major beneficial impact on both that community, and by extension, HRM. When Capilano was grouped with Sackville in the Halifax Dartmouth Real Estate Board boundaries (Area 25), property values and assessments remained low; Sackville continues to be perceived as a blue collar community, and the percentage of large homes (sale value of \$180,000 or more) remains low. (the average selling price ranges between 80K-160K). With the recent rapid growth in Windsor Junction/Fall River, the average house value and price, particularly of new homes in area 30, has significantly increased (ranging from \$170K upwards to 650K+). The integration of Capilano with real estate Area 30 represented a major victory for both Capilano and HRM, as HRM has benefited greatly from the tax revenues generated from the resultant increased property assessments. Regrouping Windsor Junction with Sackville can only serve as a backwards step to all residents in Windsor Junction who have made a significant investment in their properties, not to mention their financial contribution to HRM.

Kevin Hayes
Capilano Estates
Windsor Junction, NS
B2T 1G4

CC: <dsnelson@eastlink.ca>, <kellyp@region.halifax.ns.ca>



From: sue Wallace <babs.wallace@sympatico.ns.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>, <kellyp@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/12/03 10:50AM
Subject: municipal boundry changes

My name is Sue Wallace and I am a resident of Windsor Junction. I am writing to you to let you know that I am opposed to the new municipal boundry changes that would take us out of Fall River and put us in with Sackville/Beaverbank. I have lived in this area for over 20 years and we chose our location carefully when moving away from Halifax. We really liked the sense of community which you are now trying to split apart with these boundry changes. If you look at the history involved you will see that it dates back many years and as a community we have worked hard to make it a good place to live. We take pride in our fire department (LWF) and have raised money to buy new trucks and equipment over the years. We pay a special area rate foe LWF recreation which helps run the LWF community centre. That community centre has provided a great service to our community over the years. It provides affordable day camps for the children of residents of our area during the summer months with recreation and swimming instruction. The community centre also holds 2 baseball fields (one with lights) for the area. I am against splitting this community up. Your boundries should take into consideration communities and not just numbers. What impact would this have on our area rate? We know that Beaverbank is getting water and sewer very shortly. We in Capilano have city water but no sewer, not all areas have city water. We have no bus service, except what was set up for Lockview High students when Beaverbank was brought in to the high school. That was arranged by the Beaverbank councillor to provide transportation to the Beaverbank students, which is not being used. I have no option but my car to get to work (IWK) during snowstorms. Who would we rely on in case of a fire? Surely not Sackville/Beaverbank when we have a fire department only moments away. We have very little in the way of services out here and if you were to change the boudries I am sure we would see very little return of our tax dollars to this area.

Bedford/Sackville/Beaverbank would be the ones to benifit from that deal. Please leave things as they are. We just moved to Capilano 3 1/2 years ago from Fall River Village. I would hate to think that a move less than 2 kilometers would tear us from this community.

Thank you for your time, Sue Wallace

From: "Shawn Fuller" <fullersh@gov.ns.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/10/03 6:51PM

Submission to the District Boundary Advisory Committee

Representatives of several residents' groups met following the public meeting of Monday, March 3, 2003 to discuss the proposed boundaries for Dartmouth North and Downtown wards.

Recommendation for Dartmouth North -
Downtown Dartmouth boundary

From the Angus L. McDonald Bridge east along Nantucket to Victoria; south on Victoria to Thistle Street; behind the houses on the north side of Thistle to the golf course, thence down the middle of the street to the gully running between Cleveland Crescent and the ends of Tulip and Rose Streets; down the gully to Crichton Avenue; east on Crichton Avenue to Micmac Boulevard; along Micmac Boulevard to the highway ; then southwards to the junction of Lakes Banook and Micmac.

Recommendation for the boundary of Ward E

Ward E would then continue inside the line drawn along the Circumferential Highway to Woodside. South of the Circumferential it would incorporate South Woodside (village) and the two streets running off Pleasant Street just north of Shearwater (Belmont and Carleton). Children from these streets go to South Woodside School.

Recommendation for the boundary of Ward F

District 9 Residents' Association wanted their southern boundary to reach at least as far as the Angus L. McDonald Bridge and Woodland Avenue. They were willing to include the whole of Burnside in their ward. We suggest that from the intersection of Highway 118 and Lakes Micmac and Banook, the boundary run back along the shore of Lake Micmac to Burnside Industrial Park and that it incorporate the Park:

Rationale for recommendations

Priorities:

(1) Do not divide traditional neighbourhoods. (2) Identify the focus/orientation of neighbourhoods, especially those that relate to the Downtown. (3) Link neighbourhoods to their traditional focus.

Limitations:

(1) Use the dissemination units where reasonable. (2) Keep the number of voters in a ward within 25% of 13,900. [We strongly recommend a smaller Downtown ward.]

After identifying the areas of concern to District 9 Residents' Association, we circled neighbourhoods in the area south of District 9.

- Crichton Park
- Harbourview
- Austenville
- Downtown
- Dartmouth Cove
- Manor Park

- Southdale
- North Woodside community
- South Woodside community

We looked for traditional links (see black arrows on overlay) to Downtown and other neighbourhoods.

We identified the focus on inland waters (Lake Banook, Sullivan's Pond, Shubie Canal) and on the harbour (see blue arrows).

Discussion

There is an argument for allowing a Downtown ward with voter numbers at the lower end of the scale. Many non-residents use Downtown facilities for business, recreation (Lake Banook), entertainment (festivals, theatre), and transportation (ferry to Halifax). There is a daytime migration Downtown of special needs adults. An accessible, multi-use trail linking the two Dartmouth ferries and bringing greater numbers of local and non-local residents and tourists to the waterfront, is in the planning stage; the first phase will be completed by Fall 2003. The issues that arise in Downtown Dartmouth are more varied and the pressures on the area are greater than for some other wards.

A proprietorial interest in the Shubie Canal system and in the harbourfront areas marks the Downtown neighbourhoods and those stretching towards Woodside. By that criterion, Crichton Park arguably belongs to Downtown rather than to North Dartmouth. It is within walking distance of Downtown, it focuses on Sullivan's Pond and Lake Banook, and residents use the Aldemey Gate (Downtown) library. Manor Park is further from Downtown, is less obviously oriented to Downtown and the water but is inside the Circumferential. It was only to keep numbers of voters up t

From: Susan Guppy <susan.guppy@dal.ca>
To: <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/4/03 7:40AM
Subject: Dartmouth boundaries

Hello Ms. Murphy:

I live in Harbourview in Dartmouth and in earlier years I have worked as a chair of the Harbourview Residents Association. This neighbourhood is part of downtown Dartmouth. It still is, in the proposed HRM electoral boundary, but downtown Dartmouth is cut, and we and the core of the downtown are now linked with an area of rapid, modern suburban growth (Portland Estates), which is quite a different place with very different interests.

I was unable to attend the meeting last night, but was delighted to hear on the radio this morning that the boundaries are still open to reconsideration. Please do work to maintain the coherence of this downtown area.

Thank you
Susan Guppy
Susan Guppy
62 Shore Road
Dartmouth
Nova Scotia

CC: John Cunningham <cunninj@region.halifax.ns.ca>, Gretchen Pohlkamp <POHLKAGG@gov.ns.ca>

February 24, 2003

To the District Boundary Committee

As a business and property owner in Downtown Dartmouth I would like to express my support for a electoral district comprised of the areas included in the recently designated Capital District. The Capital District is of prime importance to the whole of HRM. It has very unique needs, which encompass residential, cultural, economic and tourism. This District should be served by its own Councillor who would be conversant with the special concerns of the residents of the area. This individual must understand the importance of all the components, which make up the Capital District so as to meld the various aspirations for the good of the whole.

The Mayor and Council created the Capital District to address a number of common concerns of the represented zones. It was seen to provide a focused effort, which would allow the progress of the issues which effect life in a mixed urban environment. Suburban residential areas have very little in common with the urban core. To fracture the Capital District and include parts within a district which covers suburban residential and quasi-rural areas would do a disservice to both constituents.

I fully support the need for the Capital District to have one boundary and one Councillor and ask that serious consideration be given to the importance of such unity of purpose.

Yours Truly:

Sheilia L. Sperry
Sperry & Partners Ltd. Director

March 11, 2003

Chair and Members

District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Please find enclosed a suggestion (enclosed
in heavy lines) which will maintain
the connection between Montague Lake Loop
Cherry Brook and the Cole Harbour
Community, as requested at public meetings

Sincerely,

Don Cooper

Councillor Dist. 4



District B

From: Jeffrey Johnston <jrjohnston@hfx.eastlink.ca>
To: Sherryl Murphy <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/10/03 10:47PM
Subject: Re: District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Dear Ms. Murphy ,

With regards to the District Boundaries changes , I submit the following submission.

My Name is Mr. Jeffrey Johnston, 1 Badger Ave. Dartmouth , Nova Scotia B2W 3V9, my polling District is #4 Cole Harbour North- Cherry Brook, Councillor Mr. Ron Cooper. As along term resident of 41 Years in the area of Cherry Brook\Humber park, I'm Currently am a land owner of Cherry Brook where I was raised & a homeowner in the Community of Humber park. Our communities have shared for years along with Westphal Cole Harbour the same Councillor, Schools, Community Buildings, etc. for as long as I can remember.

I'm against the idea of becoming part of the Preston Riding. It is felt that our identity as Communities would be lost, let alone a decline in our present services , Change in Schools for our Children, etc. We now enjoy being part of Cole Harbour North- Cherry Brook. This idea came up a few years back and our residents of Humber Park & Cherry Brook were against it at that time, they still remain against it to this date. I'm requesting the Committee to leave as status

Your Truly

Jeffrey Johnston

CC: <cooperr@region.halifax.ns.ca>

From: "Bill Lownds" <LOWNDSB@gov.ns.ca>
To: <smithj@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 2/27/03 11:15AM
Subject: proposed changes to electoral boundries

Hello Jim.

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed boundary changes within HRM.

My understanding is that the number of districts would be reduced from the current 23 down to 20. I believe this to be shortsighted and not in the best interests of constituents. As HRM grows the last thing we need to see is more people being represented by fewer councillors.

With the many challenges facing HRM and with the steady decline in monies received from the Province and Federal government it is crucial that residents be heard. Our voice of course is our elected official and I feel our voice will be weakened under this proposal. It is not unlike the reason we try to keep our school class sizes low. One person can only deal effectively with so many people.

Thank you

Bill Lownds

MAR 3 2003

Page 1 of 1

MUNICIPAL CLERK

FAX TRANSMISSION

Bob Venus
12 Bellevista Drive
Dartmouth, N.S. B2W 2X3
Phone/Fax (902) 462-5649

To: HRM: SHERRYLL MURPHY
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

Date: MARCH 2, 2003

Fax #: 902-490-4208

Subject: DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMENTS:

PLEASE DO NOT REDUCE THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS
FROM 23 TO 20. HRM JUST RECENTLY IN 1996 WENT THROUGH
AMALGAMATION. MUCH MORE TIME REQUIRED TO SEE THINGS
THROUGH. BESIDES HRM IS EXPERIENCING MAJOR POPULATION
GROWTH, AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED,
AND MORE SUPPORT STAFF WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDED. WE ARE
JUST NOW FEELING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY. SO WHERE IS
THE SAVINGS? IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT!

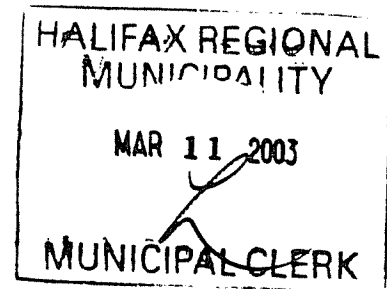
SILLY IDEA

To HRM REGIONAL COUNCIL
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

SIGNATURE:

Bob Venus
DISTRICT 7

COUNCILLORS' OFFICE



March 10, 2003

Chair and Members
District Boundaries Advisory Committee
c/o Municipal Clerk's Office
Halifax Regional Municipality
Post Office Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Hyland:

I am making this declaration with the greatest respect for you and Members of your Committee. You have accepted a very difficult assignment and have recognized the best interest of the residents of HRM, apparent by the direction of your assignment. This was very evident by your process to go public not once; but twice, and by that time things got tough.

As Councillor of District 2, Waverley-Dutch Settlement, I and the residents have some concerns with first cutting the number of districts; and secondly, with the division of 'communities of interest' to meet representation by population requirements.

I will not go too deeply into the first issue as I feel growing communities increase demands on government representatives, and recognition of present boundaries regarding both small and large governance models presently in place, best serves the present slate of 23 districts.

Community Councils', in place since amalgamation, have become a large part of the governance model in larger 'communities of interest' and presently deal with many local issues outside the whole Council.

The elimination of districts and intrusion into suburban and urban areas by more rural Councillors' places a great deal of strain on reconstruction of Community Councils'. Some, like myself, would now be required to attend three such Councils'.

Area rates in many areas, the disbursement of area rated funds, and the entity they support would be greatly affected by boundary changes in an attempt to lower the representative numbers. This was evident by the number of residents in my area of Windsor Junction and Capalano Estates being divided in two new districts.

In recognition of the reduction in district numbers and present boundary changes your Committee has not recognized the specific growth capacity of Fall River, Bedford, and Westphal-Waverley, just to name a few. This redistribution exercise, although requested by the previous scheduled Committee and Review Board in my opinion, is exercising implementation of boundary changes which could be better addressed in 2006. I feel that a process of this magnitude would be better served to recognize growth areas and perhaps redistribute some populated and growth area within the present number of 23.

Secondly, I realize the mandate of this Committee is to seek greater parity with a plus/minus factor of 25% per constituency. I feel we, as a Council, should be advocating that 'we' as representatives know best the level of representation, and number of constituents we can accommodate in our particular realm of representation. I feel that the only way representation by population would be realized would be if representation were robotic or mechanical. Personal abilities to represent high or low numbers will still maintain an imbalance despite parity in numbers by district. Greater geographical jurisdiction in Districts 1, 2, and 3 also causes an imbalance in representation because of increased travel time and inferior communications systems; therefore, representative parity by population compounds the problem in these areas because the geographical area must be increased or moved outside 'communities of interest' to play the numbers game successfully.

This leads to discussion on 'communities of interest' which I believe is the most important criteria cited by the mandate before you.

The community of Bedford and your suggested boundary changes that would add St. Margaret's to one district and add a portion of Bedford to District 2 are perhaps the two largest areas affected. I have a greater problem with, in many cases, moving communities that are not served by sewer and water to districts with these services, to present an example. These issues can cause greater governance difficulties for Council and staff, as a result, and place a greater demand on Council to increase revenue to bring parity to new communities.

Rate payer associations, families of schools, recreation associations, etc., will be affected and, business groups will be fragmented with a change in local representation, as indicated by the division of downtown Dartmouth and Halifax.

District Boundaries Advisory Committee
Page Three
March 10, 2003

I would at this time ask that you, as a Committee, in light of the message you have heard in the public process, make recommendation for Council to send a request to the Utility and Review Board to maintain status quo until the 2006 review process required by the Act. Council could then ask Minister Christie to support this recommendation to the URB. I feel this decision, on your part, would be recognizing the citizens of HRM's present advisement to your Review Committee and support the view 'communities of interest' are paramount.

Thank you for a job well done and your professionalism regarding your mandate can not be faulted.

*Regards
Gary Hines*

Gary Hines, Councillor
District 2, Waverley-Dutch Settlement

GH:bmj

From: Rob Apold <rapold@tavel.ca>
To: "murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca" <murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca>
Date: 3/11/03 12:54PM
Subject: New Boundaries

I just want your committee to know that I think the new boundaries are great. Better representation per person.

Thank you,

Robert Apold

FEB 28 2003

Submission to HRM Boundary Review Committee February 28, 2003
from Councillor Sheila Fougere

MUNICIPAL CLERK

Citizen representation can be defined by two means: either subjectively, as good or poor representation; or objectively, as number of voters represented by a single individual. It is my belief that Boundary Review is an attempt to address objective representation.

Boundaries are imaginary lines laid down to help determine relative voter parity. They are to a large extent objectively determined by statistical analysis. The subjective portion of the analysis is derived through consideration of perceived community of interest. Community of interest is a loosely defined concept.

The number of Districts does not determine the effectiveness of representation per se. It is intended to create a framework for efficient decision making. Individuals, chosen by the voting public, determine the effectiveness and thoughtfulness of representation. The individuals are a separate issue from the boundaries. The human element is subject to change as a result of elections every four years.

I have some observations as a result of comments made at the public meetings to date:

Community Councils were established within HRM to address issues of a more localized concern. In addition, they were established to enhance public access to government within a larger than average overall geographic area (HRM). Currently there are five Community Councils. Some councillors sit on two Community Councils because they represent diverse areas (rural, urban and suburban as in the case of District 18 for example). Contrary to comments made at recent public meetings, planning districts do cross political boundaries at the current time. For this reason, joint meetings are held between Community Councils from time to time under the current system of political divisions. The make up of the various Community Councils has changed shape a number of times since amalgamation. It could happen again. This would not directly impact public participation in and of itself. Only the elimination of a Community Council would have this impact.

The question of diminished access to elected representatives has been raised. On any number of occasions, due to illness, travel or resignation, one Councillor may assume the responsibilities of another entire District. This has been known to occur for weeks, or even for months. To my knowledge, there has been no public outcry in regard to lack of access to an elected representative, or lack of response to a resident concern, as a result.

The number of electors within HRM is not changing. In fact, under the current proposal, for some areas the number of voters per elected representative will be vastly reduced. In other areas the number of representatives for a specific "community" will increase.

Comments have been made about the cost of downsizing HRM Council. This is a legitimate concern and one that has not been fully evaluated. Of note, however, are some misconceptions that exist, in relation to the nature of the time commitment required by elected Councillors and, as well, the nature of administrative support that exists, or needs to exist. The position of Councillor, if done to the extent necessary to fulfill one's responsibilities, is a full-time commitment, in my opinion. Each Councillor determines the scope of that responsibility, within the context of the duty they are sworn to, upon induction to office. In the nearly five years that I have held the position of Councillor, the administrative support has increased significantly. In 1998, there were four full-time positions. Currently, seven full-time and one part-time staff member serve as support to twenty-three Councillors. It is nearly seven full years since amalgamation. The kinks should have been worked out by now. Staff work in the production and distribution of newsletters, provide clerical support at public meetings, manage discretionary funds, as well as perform a variety of other administrative and clerical functions. It seems that there would be some efficiencies at this level due to a reduction in numbers of Councillors served.

Some other comments have been made in regard to the cost of change. HRM by-laws pertain to all of HRM. Political District changes would not affect by-laws or the cost to enforce them. Administrative and service functions within HRM are not generally (except via area rate) delivered on a District basis. There would be no cost to HRM departments in terms of altered service delivery. Area rates are one area that would be affected by political boundary changes. Rates are collected within a defined area, with the express purpose of providing a service or facility within that area. This would have to be examined to facilitate a resolution to the issues that arise.

As noted at one public meeting, the same geographic and population area is represented politically by 19 MLA's and 13 School Board Members.

There was a concern about councillors having to administer larger areas, or larger populations. Council's job is not to administer. It is to make policy decisions determining the short and long term direction of the Municipality. Council responds to, and brings forth the concerns of the public. They are required to look at the balance of individual

Fougere Submission to Boundary Review Committee cont.....

need and the collective well-being of the Municipality. Staff with very specific fields of expertise are hired to administer and advise. Staff provide input and information to aid in effective decision making and they carry out the policy directives laid forth by Council.

I have a few observations in regard to boundaries that stem from my time prior to being an elected official. I have been a resident of HRM, more specifically of Halifax, for 45 years. During that time I have been an eligible voter for roughly 27 years. I would have been hard pressed during that time, to define for you the geographic boundaries of the various polling districts in which I lived. These changed, both with changes in personal place of residence, and as a result of boundary changes at various levels of government. My personal reflections on representation over the years, have been much more critically analytical of the individuals chosen to serve as my representatives, than they have been of the boundaries within which I lived, at various times. I can honestly say, I never yearned for a boundary change to address my concerns, merely for a change in representation.

In the final analysis, I would have preferred to see a number smaller than 20 as optimal for a future Council. Twenty is still a large group of people to deliberate amongst, when making high level decisions. Regardless of the final number chosen, it is my firm opinion that the location of district boundary lines should be made by objective criteria, that includes population numbers and geographic anomalies, as opposed to political gerrymandering. The current members of Council are all eligible to run within the new boundaries. Citizens who feel they need representation from a specific area are also eligible to run, or to encourage a candidate from within said area, to run.

Stay the course. Although some adjustments may be required, I feel the committee is on the right track.

Thank you for the arduous task you have been undertaking for the municipality. Your dedicated civic service is both appreciated and admirable.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Fougere
HRM Councillor, District 14
Connaught-Quinpool

APPENDIX "E"

PUBLIC MEETINGS

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Halifax Regional Municipality has appointed a Committee made up of interested citizens to carry out a review of the number and boundaries of polling districts in the Municipality in anticipation of the 2004 municipal election as required by the Municipal Government Act. The Committee has already recommended to Regional Council and Council has accepted the recommendation to move forward to the Utility and Review Board with an application to reduce the number of councillors from 23 to 20.

The Committee has now prepared a recommendation for Regional Council on the boundaries of the 20 new polling districts. These new polling districts were presented, without debate, to Regional Council on February 4, 2003. The Committee is interested in receiving input from the general public on its recommendation before it is debated by Regional Council.

For information on proposed district boundaries, please refer to the web site:

<http://www.region.halifax.ns.ca/districts/distmaps.html>.

The Committee invites interested citizens to attend one of the following Public Meetings:

All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA	MEETING DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS
North West	February 10, 2003	Basinview Community School (Cafeteria)	273 Basinview Drive, Bedford, NS
Chebucto	February 13, 2003	Keshen Library	330 Lacewood Drive, Halifax, NS
Marine Drive, Valley & Canal	February 17, 2003	Eastern Shore District High School (Cafeteria)	35 Petpeswick Road, Musquodoboit Harbour, NS
Western	February 20, 2003	Tantallon Library	4 Westwood Boulevard, Hubley Center, NS
Peninsula	February 24, 2003	Halifax Hall	1841 Argyle Street, Halifax, NS
Harbour East (1)	February 27, 2003	Cole Harbour Place (Stewart Room)	51 Forest Hills Parkway, Dartmouth, NS
Harbour East (2)	March 3, 2003	HRSB Building Chamber (please use rear entrance)	90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, NS

Should you be unable to attend one of the above Public Meetings, the Committee invites interested citizens to submit their opinions in writing. Submissions in writing should be directed to: Municipal Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, N.S. B3J 3A5. Attention: Sherryl Murphy, Legislative Assistant. Or by e-mail to: murphysh@region.halifax.ns.ca. Or by Fax to: 902-490-4208 Attention: Sherryl Murphy.

Submissions should be marked clearly with the title: District Boundaries Advisory Committee. The submissions should indicate the name and address of the citizen making the submission and the present polling district in which the citizen making the submission resides.

Submissions should be submitted by Monday, March 10, 2003.

A hard copy of the proposed districts are also available at the following Halifax Regional Customer Service Centres:

1. Scotia Square Mall, Lower Level, 5201 Duke Street, Halifax, NS
2. West End Mall, 6960 Mumford Road, Halifax, NS
3. Alderney Gate, 40 Alderney Drive, 2nd Floor, Dartmouth, NS
4. Cole Harbour Place, 51 Forest Hills Parkway, Dartmouth, NS
5. Acadia School, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville, NS
6. Musquodoboit Harbour, Hwy. 107 at Petpeswick Road, Musquodoboit Harbour, NS

HR0P-6912-A121

APPENDIX "F"

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**DISTRICT BOUNDARIES REVIEW COMMITTEE
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 10, 2003**

PRESENT: Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair
Mr. Donald Mason
Mr. David Fitzgerald

REGRETS: Ms. Beverly Miller
Mr. Bob Russell
Mr. Phil Elliott

STAFF: Mr. Angus Shaffenburg, Planner
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

OTHERS: Councillor Len Goucher
Councillor Bob Harvey (7:55 p.m.)
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Diana Whalen

Approximately 35 members of the public

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair, District Boundaries Review Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the members of the Committee and staff who were present.

Mr. Hyland stated the mandate of the District Boundaries Review Committee, in this phase of the process, is to recommend the boundaries for 20 polling districts. In drafting these proposed boundaries, the Committee deliberated over 10 meetings. Before making its final recommendation to Regional Council by March 25, 2003, seven public meetings will be held. Mr. Hyland reviewed the remaining meeting dates and locations. In addition, to ensure wider availability, the proposed boundaries are available on the HRM web site as well as at the Customer Service Centres. The Committee would also welcome comments from the public in writing or by e-mail.

In drawing the proposed boundaries for the 20 Districts, the Committee used the factors that the Utility and Review Board will have to take into consideration. Section 368 (4) of the Municipal Government Act:

368 (4) In determining the number and boundaries of polling districts, the Board shall consider number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.

The Utility and Review Board has adopted the rationale that a variation of +/- 25% is an appropriate guideline to apply in determining constituency sizes, unless geographic boundaries or community of interest considerations justify a greater deviation. While this is the legal standard, the Committee has tried to achieve a lower variance than +/- 25%.

Mr. Hyland reviewed Table 1 of the memorandum from the Committee to the Mayor and Members of Council, which illustrated the population, voting age persons and variances. The overall average for 20 districts was 13,968. For example, nine of the proposed districts have a variance less than five percent, six have a variance between five and less than ten percent. The table confirms that the Committee has met this mandate from Council. For the proposed boundaries, the age variable from the 2001 Census of Canada was used for the number of persons of voting age (18 years and over). The 2001 Census variables in this analysis were used at the Dissemination Area (DA) level. The Dissemination Area is the lowest level at which that Statistics Canada will release variables such as age groups.

With the use of overheads, Mr. Hyland illustrated the proposed districts that relate to this area (Districts H, I, J and K).

Mr. Hyland then invited members of the public to come forward and express their views on the proposed district. He noted the same rules used at Regional Council would be observed in that the maximum allocated time would be five minutes per presenter. He

also requested that each person please indicate their name and address when they came forward to address the Committee. Mr. Hyland noted that staff will be producing summary notes of the proceedings of each meeting, and the Committee will carefully consider the comments prior to making its final recommendation to Regional Council.

Councillor Goucher briefly addressed those present, expressing thanks to the Committee members for their work, noting all members of the Committee are volunteers.

Mr. Hyland called for members of the public wishing to speak. The following residents came forth and addressed the Committee:

Ms. Gloria Lowther	Ms. Betty LeMoine
Ms. Ann MacVicar	Mr. John McDonald
The Honourable Peter Christie	Mr. Kevin Dean
Mr. Gerald Rodgers	Mr. Sandy Irwin
Mr. Don Lowther	Mr. Jason Todd
Mr. Douglas Murray	Mr. Bill Fenton
Councillor Len Goucher	Mr. Barry Smith

Comments made by the public during their addresses included the following:

- Concern was expressed that it appears the only criteria used to determine proposed boundaries was parity of voting power.
- Some of the proposed district boundaries, in particular the Bedford area, are unconstitutional and in violation of Section 3 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as Section 368 (4) of the MGA because there are other criteria to be considered. A recent ruling by the Supreme Court stated while relative parity of voting power is a prime condition of effective representation, there are other factors that need to be considered, such as community history, community of interest, geographical factors, etc., within an area.
- The residents of Bedford have always had a strong community spirit and the residents always rally together on community issues. Dividing this area between two municipal district boundaries would divide this community spirit and the community identity would be lost. In turn, this would lessen public participation in development and environmental issues, leading to inappropriate development and destruction of environmentally sensitive areas within Bedford.
- For effective representation, it is imperative that the total area of the former Town of Bedford stays in one municipal district.

- "Community" has been neglected in dividing the community of Bedford into two, and the result could be no representation from the current regional boundary of Bedford.
- Meadowbrook has never been a divisive line in the community.
- Two issues need to be examined in determining municipal boundaries: the community of interest and community growth.
- If there is no Councillor from the Bedford area, the provincial government representative for the riding of Bedford would have no one with whom to work.
- The variance numbers will be obsolete in five years time due to growth in the area.
- Spryfield and Cowie Hill are facing a similar situation as Bedford in that communities are being broken up. Communities of interest need to be taken more into consideration by the Committee in determining its final proposal. It was suggested the Cowie Hill boundary could be placed the same as the provincial boundary.
- The communities of interest need to be taken into consideration before number of voters.
- The proposed boundaries for Bedford could subject the residents to different myriads of taxation.
- In eight to ten years, the population of Bedford could be increased by 10,000 and this would affect voter parity.
- From the perspective of education in the Bedford area, it was stated if more families knew there could be an impact on education from the proposed boundary change a lot more would have attended the meeting. Dividing the area at Meadowbrook would divide children who attend school together, and there is the potential that there will be no voice for the area on educational issues.
- There was never any intent expressed at amalgamation to break up communities, rather the intent was to consolidate services to achieve economies.
- The Committee should reconsider many of the districts that are being proposed to be split to find a way to make the 20 districts work for everyone and to keep the communities intact.

- The residents are not asking for a District that is exclusively made up of only Bedford and would be in favour of adding something to either end of the area, such as Waverley, as opposed to dividing established communities.
- Community of interest should be taken into consideration first, and the statistics as a distant second.
- In response to a question of a member of the public, no resident present expressed support of the proposed boundary.
- The community is more opposed to taking an area away from the District as opposed to adding an area to it. Both the residents and the Councillor of the area had no concern with the possibility of the percent variance from average being 20+ percent if it meant keeping the current area of Bedford together in one district.
- It was suggested the Committee should go back and incorporate the opinions expressed this evening, and, if that is not workable, the Committee should go back to Council and recommend that more Districts be added.
- An option suggested was to remove Kingswood, Highland Park and Haliburton Hills from the proposed district and keep Bedford together and see how the numbers work.
- The former Town of Bedford, if kept as one district, would probably be within the required percent variance from average.
- The proposed District K appears to involve urban, rural and suburban, and dividing Bedford at Meadowbrook will shut out the downtown business core of the former Town of Bedford.
- Concern was expressed regarding the lack of representation at this meeting from proposed District H. One resident from that area concurred with the comments regarding community of interest and stated he would like to see the former Town of Bedford stay together in one district.

Councillor Goucher addressed the Committee and residents making the following points:

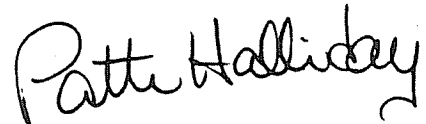
- Municipal government is a grassroots approach to politics and a level of government that should be very close to the people. He stated that he disagreed with the analogy to provincial government.
- In terms of community of interest, voter parity, geography, and history, Bedford

passes a litmus test in all those areas.

- Bedford, as well as other communities facing similar dilemmas with the proposed boundaries, should remain single voting districts.
- The loss of communities of interest commences the assimilation of communities, which is the greatest strength of HRM.

There being no further speakers, Mr. Hyland thanked the members of public for attending the meeting and stated their comments will be reviewed along with any written submissions received by the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Patti Halliday
Legislative Assistant

**DISTRICT BOUNDARIES REVIEW COMMITTEE
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
CHEBUCTO COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA
FEBRUARY 13, 2003**

PRESENT: Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair
Mr. Donald Mason
Mr. David Fitzgerald
Ms. Beverly Miller
Mr. Bob Russell
Mr. Phil Elliott

STAFF: Ms. Hilary Campbell, Planner
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

OTHERS: Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Diana Whalen

Approximately 60 members of the public

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair, District Boundaries Review Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the members of the Committee and staff who were present.

Mr. Hyland stated the mandate of the District Boundaries Review Committee, in this phase of the process, is to recommend the boundaries for 20 polling districts. In drafting these proposed boundaries, the Committee deliberated over 10 meetings. Before making its final recommendation to Regional Council by March 25, 2003, seven public meetings will be held. Mr. Hyland reviewed the remaining meeting dates and locations. In addition, to ensure wider availability, the proposed boundaries are available on the HRM web site as well as at the Customer Service Centres. The Committee would also welcome comments from the public in writing or by e-mail.

In drawing the proposed boundaries for the 20 Districts, the Committee used the factors that the Utility and Review Board will have to take into consideration. Section 368 (4) of the Municipal Government Act:

368 (4) In determining the number and boundaries of polling districts the Board shall consider number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.

The Utility and Review Board has adopted the rationale that a variation of +/- 25% is an appropriate guideline to apply in determining constituency sizes unless geographic boundaries or community of interest considerations justify a greater deviation. While this is the legal standard, the Committee has tried to achieve a lower variance than +/- 25%.

Mr. Hyland reviewed Table 1 of the memorandum from the Committee to the Mayor and Members of Council, which illustrated the population, voting age persons and variances. The overall average for 20 districts was 13,968. For example, nine of the proposed districts have a variance less than five percent, six have a variance between five and less than ten percent. The table confirms that the Committee has met its mandate from Council. For the proposed boundaries, the age variable from the 2001 Census of Canada was used for the number of persons of voting age (18 years and over). The 2001 Census variables in this analysis were used at the Dissemination Area (DA) level. The Dissemination Area is the lowest level at which that Statistics Canada will release variables such as age groups.

With the use of overheads, Mr. Hyland illustrated the proposed districts that relate to this area (Districts N, O, S, T, and L).

Mr. Hyland then invited members of the public to come forward and express their views on the proposed district. He noted the same rules used at Regional Council would be observed in that the maximum allocated time would be five minutes per presenter. He

also requested that each person please indicate their name and address when they came forward to address the Committee. Mr. Hyland noted that staff will be producing summary notes of the proceeding of each meeting, and the Committee will carefully consider the comments prior to making its final recommendation to Regional Council.

Mr. Hyland called for members of the public wishing to speak. The following residents came forth and addressed the Committee:

Ms. Marie Carrigan	Councillor Linda Mosher
Ms. Paula Rose	Ms. Loraine Blackson
Ms. Nabihah Atallah	Mr. Terry Henley
MLA Mary Ann McGrath	Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Dawn Sloane	Mr. Gerald Rodgers
Mr. Gary O'Hara	Mr. Dean Brown
Ms. Elinore Power	Councillor Diana Whalen
MLA Graham Steele	Ms. Jane Davis
Mr. Les Carrey	Mr. Reg Horner
Mr. Matt Carrigan	Mr. Blair Richards
Mr. Mike Hanusiac	
Mr. Jonathon Ross	
Mr. Al Berry	
Mr. Dan Sampson	

Comments made by the public during their addresses included the following:

- Was consideration given to needs and wants of communities or was decision made based on numbers only? The Committee responded that the decision was based primarily on numbers.
- What will be the impact of the boundary changes on Councillor's Whalen and Walker? The Councillor's commented that they would speak later in the meeting.
- Concern that it appears the only criteria used to determine proposed boundaries was parity of voting power.
- Two issues need to be examined in determining municipal boundaries: the community of interest and community growth
- The communities of interest need to be taken into consideration before number of voters.

- The Committee should reconsider many of the districts that are being proposed to be split to find a way for the communities to stay intact.
- Community of interest should be taken into consideration first, and the statistics as a distant second.
- Would like to see Clayton Park West stay on this side of the Bicentennial Highway. Splitting Clayton Park West in half is completely irrational.
- By placing a small portion of Clayton Park West into a predominately rural suburban District, you completely marginalize the interest of those voters.
- Numbers are great on Election Day but you must have Community of Interest.
- School Districts, school board members are elected by combining two municipal districts, with the boundaries you have proposed for these districts, it will be a very difficult task for those persons wishing to run for the school board.
- Against current realignment of Clayton Park West (Districts 15 and 16) as it makes no sense to carve out the Mainland Common
- Redistribution based on population is understandable but not at the expense of drawing a line through an established community.
- Halifax West High School would not have been possible without the consistent, unwavering, committed hard work of the entire community, Councillor's and MLA's included.
- The Halifax West High School was built as a community center with a 500 seat theater that will be the cultural hub of the Mainland North Community and fund-raising by the community will begin soon.
- This spring HRM will begin construction of the new artificial turf sports field and within two years, a new recreational center is to be constructed next to the new school further defining and securing this area as a community center.
- Great potential growth in the Beechville/Lakeside/Timberlea area may require an adjustment to the boundary zone but the area of Clayton Park West is at the end of its growth.

- The current two Councillors work very well together as the areas they represent have much in common. To place a third Councillor into this community with potentially a voter base with much less in common may be controversial at best.
- Please consider the consequences of dividing communities. Together we are a strong and vibrant community with much to offer and we are prepared to fight to remain together.
- Drawn to this part of the city due to its strong community and mixture of services. Mainland North and Clayton Park West/Glenbourne is a cohesive district and their interests coincide. My community will be diminished in terms of voice if the areas of Clayton Park West/Glenbourne are removed from Mainland North electoral districts.
- MLA's have to work closely with Councillors for the interest of the common constituents. The proposed division to Districts "S", "L", and "T" could hurt the ability of the community to act decisively and quickly.
- Encourage the Committee to take a look at the catchment area of Halifax West High School as these districts will also affect school board representation.
- The Bicentennial Highway should be the geographic and physical boundary as this makes more sense to keep community of interest together. As the alternative is to have a very large BLT district and a very small slice of Clayton Park West.
- Northern boundary of district "S" has to be moved up a little bit and the northern boundary of district "T" has to move down a bit.
- Most significant part of the voting population is the population that owns property themselves. You have excluded a portion in the upper end of Clayton Park that has high density from multi-family housing (Condominiums and Renters) who are usually more transient and not as involved in the community as home owners.
- District "L" should be on the far side of Bicentennial Drive and District "T" should move up to that line to encompass the Mainland Commons due to the schools etc. that are there and driven by this community.
- Developers do a lot of their business through Community Councils and if the proposed boundaries are accepted, this will complicate the process as we would not be able to work with the current Community Council regarding water distribution, sanitary sewer etc. Developers need to work with only one

Community Council as there could also be complications in regards to public hearings and public meetings.

- Boundary line between area "T" and area "K", Royale Hemlocks subdivision has been approved and will soon be developed and will accommodate approximately 3300 people. Bedford South Wentworth Estates development has been approved and will be developed over the next 18 years and will accommodate up to 14,000 people. First two phases of Bedford South development has been approved and will accommodate up to 6,000-7,000 people over the next seven years. Future potential growth should be taken into consideration.
- Push back proposed boundary line to the Bicentennial Highway, (Lacewood Drive to Bicentennial Highway to Dunbrack Street and then travel down to back of old Clayton Park down to the Bedford Highway). Then, extend that area to include Royale Hemlocks and possibly some of the additional lands in the approved Wentworth/Bedford South development which should balance the number with the redefining of neighbourhood "S". Suggest that neighbourhood "S" only come up to the tracks on Joseph Howe and the other portion be added into area "R".
- Would rather see a larger district than have one divided.
- Having one representative for Bayer's Lake and Beechville/Lakeside/Timberlea is not acceptable. Include Bayer's Lake with Clayton Park West.
- Mainland North is two Districts but one Community.
- Proposed District "T" is -5.1, proposed District "S" is -1.1, make them both +25!
- Doesn't make any sense to remove Clayton Park West and Glenbourne from current area and put them with the Timberlea area just to satisfy numbers.
- What would happen with existing By-Laws if the current boundaries are changed? For example, sidewalk snow removal in District 15, would we lose that?
- Timberlea has changed and has streets now, and postage stamp sized lots and snow removal. Thirty years ago the Timberlea area was just woods but now it is very developed. There is a large portion of land between St. Margaret's Bay Road and the Bicentennial Highway and it will all be developed within 15 to 20 years. The Parkland Development extends from Exit 3 to Governor Lake and toward Clayton Park. Soon you will not know when you are out of Timberlea and into Clayton Park.

- Reducing number of Councillors while HRM is growing is reducing effective representation
- Concern expressed re losing a part of traditional Spryfield from Williams Lake Road and all of area east of Herring Cove Road

Councillor Sloane made the following comments:

- Community of Interest very important
- Things begin to crumble if you start to play around with people's emotions about their communities.
- Potential growth was not to be a factor in determining the proposed boundaries yet potential growth is shown on the maps. Mr. Hyland, Chair of the District Boundary Advisory Committee, responded that the numbers shown on the chart are from the census.
- Suggested that the Committee should consider potential growth and urban renewal for all districts.
- Asked where the Committee started with the dissemination of the actual districts shown tonight. Mr. Hyland explained that the process was over a number of meetings that started in the far reaching areas such as the Musquodoboit Valley, down the shore and along the outside areas first and then inland, then along the Peninsula when urban areas were begun.
- Commented that trees and cows do not vote. Mr. Hyland stated that he takes exception to Councillor Sloane's remarks as this is an Advisory Committee to Regional Council and that Regional Council will have the final determination. The DBAC is trying to put a report forward that will be helpful to you in your final determination.
- Asked about the time restraints and what they are and is it not better to talk to communities and find out what the communities of interest are so the Committee will know and have the feeling of the community. Mr. Hyland commented that people speaking out at these meetings will give the Committee an indication of their feelings.
- Asked what was the rationale for choosing 20 districts. Mr. Hyland commented that the issue of the 20 Districts is not debatable as Regional Council has already debated that issue.
- Four years of study were involved in determining the boundaries for the distribution of the Parkland News and it was determined by Community of Interest. There is a strong community of interest in this area.

Councillor Mosher commented:

- In regards to larger districts, it would be too much for one Councillor as you would have competing interests. For example, she is currently covering District 18 for Councillor Adams and is receiving calls regarding snow removal service and

in her District (17) she is receiving calls that the snow ploughs are coming by too often and too fast.

- Did not support going down to 20 Councillors, but that has been decided.
- She was told her District had gone down by 1500 persons but the District has actually gone up in number to approximately 16,000 persons not 14,000 which leaves District 17 artificially high in number.
- Development is occurring in District 17 and future growth should be considered.
- The proposed District "O" would have the Bicentennial Highway, Armdale Rotary and all the arterial roads such as St. Margaret's Bay Road, Dutch Village Road, Quinpool Road and Chebucto Road. She added that this is a concern as there are two competing interests here. For example, trying to get Armdale Rotary changed and, in conversations with the Traffic Authority, trying to get Bayer's Road widened to six lanes, but in the proposed District "O", Bayer's Road would be in her District and the residents there would probably not want a six lane arterial road.
- the Councillor would have to sit on two separate Community Councils as part of the Peninsula is included within the proposed boundaries for District "O" and these are two different Communities of Interest. Also, the Councillor would have to deal with 3 MLA's, 3 School Board Representatives and 3 families of schools and the interests would be watered down.
- Time and resources would be a concern as the work of a Councillor is a full-time job although it is considered a part-time position. Councillors presently work everyday and every night and if the Districts are made so large and so unmanageable, the residents will suffer.
- In response to Mr. Hyland's request for comment on voter parity, Councillor Mosher responded that areas with no growth potential, such as the Peninsula, should be higher and areas where there is vacant land and development opportunity should be lower. The developing areas should be -10% and the others at 100% or +10%.
- Persons who live in apartments or rent, do not call as often as people who live in their own homes. Cowie Hill was taken out of her proposed District "O" when that area would not require as much time, whereas the portion of the Peninsula included in proposed District "O" would require more attention.

Councillor Walker responded to My. Hyland's request as to the school boundaries explaining that the Halifax West Family of Schools includes Springvale, and all other schools around Mainland North off the Bicentennial and picks up Brookside. District "L" does not pay supplemental funding.

Councillor Walker expressed concern with the proposed boundary changes and commented as follows:

- Community of Interest - former town of Bedford being divided in two, top of Fairview/Clayton Park divided three ways, communities of the Peninsula are now part of the Mainland and vice versa.
- This community has been formed and an alliance built and without this community we would not have the new High School, local community (proposed Districts "S" and "T") is working hard for the new recreation center, the Keshen Goodman Library was built by community of interest from proposed districts "S" and "T" and now part of the top of the hill is going to proposed District "L".
- Community Council's will be much larger in proposed districts and will involve crossing over of planning strategies
- Under the proposed boundaries there is no room for growth: Proposed Districts "T, S, R, Q, P, I, F, E and D have nowhere growth. There is no way for them to get larger than they are on your map. By 2008, these proposed boundaries would have to be redrawn as the areas will be too small. Would rather have boundaries that would last for 10 years.
- Sidewalk Snow removal will go with me anywhere I go as it is community and Councillor driven and is included in an area rate.
- New boundary for District 15 would take in the Bayer's Lake Industrial Park but the District would lose 5000 voters. If you take voters away from a district "L" you have to find 5000 more to put back in it.
- District 15 has have voter parity as we are at -19 and +14

Councillor Whalen made the following comments:


- Major issue is perceived division of Clayton Park West and Glenbourne out of traditional Mainland North
- Mainland North is a planned community and has been unfolding for 40 years
- New High School, library and work toward recreation center, replacing Northcliffe Pool are all community driven interests
- District 16 is currently 50% higher in population at 22,000 people than the average district at 14,000 and I find it very manageable due to the community of interest
- Aside from shopping together in Bayer's Lake we have no community of interest with Timberlea/Lakeside/Beechville
- I supported the reduction to 20 as I felt District 16 would be less impacted and the current community of interest would be maintained and continued to be covered well by two Councillors. Better for Community Councils to have areas of community interest as well.
- District 16 has a new Planning Advisory Committee that would not happen with a divided area
- Bayer's Lake Business Park has no voters and could go to either proposed district

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair of the District Boundary Advisory Committee, commented that one thing that this Committee has learned is how important the Community Councils are

in the HRM. He added that the Committee does not believe the URB has an understanding of the Community Council concept. Mr. Hyland commented that Regional Council must emphasize how important Community Councils are when they make their presentation to the URB.

There being no further speakers, Mr. Hyland thanked the members of public for attending the meeting and stated their comments will be reviewed along with any written submissions received by the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.


Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
MARINE DRIVE, VALLEY AND CANAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA
FEBRUARY 17, 2003**

PRESENT: Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair
Mr. Donald Mason
Mr. David Fitzgerald
Ms. Beverly Miller

REGRETS: Mr. Bob Russell
Mr. Phil Elliott

STAFF: Mr. Hillary Campbell, Planner
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

Approximately 12 members of the public

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair, District Boundaries Review Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the members of the Committee and staff who were present.

Mr. Hyland stated the mandate of the District Boundaries Review Committee, in this phase of the process, is to recommend the boundaries for 20 polling districts. In drafting these proposed boundaries, the Committee deliberated over 10 meetings. Before making its final recommendation to Regional Council by March 25, 2003, seven public meetings will be held. Mr. Hyland reviewed the remaining meeting dates and locations. In addition, to ensure wider availability, the proposed boundaries are available on the HRM web site as well as at the Customer Service Centres. The Committee would also welcome comments from the public in writing or by e-mail.

In drawing the proposed boundaries for the 20 Districts, the Committee used the factors that the Utility and Review Board will have to take into consideration . Section 368 (4) of the Municipal Government Act:

368 (4) In determining the number and boundaries of polling districts the Board shall consider number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.

The Utility and Review Board has adopted the rationale that a variation of +/- 25% is an appropriate guideline to apply in determining constituency sizes unless geographic boundaries or community of interest considerations justify a greater deviation. While this is the legal standard, the Committee has tried to achieve a lower variance than +/- 25%.

Mr. Hyland reviewed Table 1 of the memorandum from the Committee to the Mayor and Members of Council, which illustrated the population, voting age persons and variances. The overall average for 20 districts was 13,968. For example, nine of the proposed districts have a variance less than five percent, six have a variance between five and less than ten percent. The table confirms that the Committee has met this mandate from Council. For the proposed boundaries, the age variable from the 2001 Census of Canada was used for the number of persons of voting age (18 years and over). The 2001 Census variables in this analysis were used at the Dissemination Area (DA) level. The Dissemination Area is the lowest level at which that Statistics Canada will release variables such as age groups.

With the use of overheads, Mr. Hyland illustrated the proposed districts that relate to this area (Districts A, B and H).

Mr. Hyland then invited members of the public to come forward and express their views on the proposed district. He noted the same rules used at Regional Council would be observed in that the maximum allocated time would be five minutes per presenter. He

also requested that each person please indicate their name and address when they came forward to address the Committee. Mr. Hyland noted that staff will be producing summary notes of the proceeding of each meeting, and the Committee will carefully consider the comments prior to making its final recommendation to Regional Council.

Mr. Hyland called for members of the public wishing to speak. The following residents came forth and addressed the Committee:

Mr. George Swan
Mr. Eldon Rudolph
Ms. Donna Banks
Ms. Debra Harris
Mr. Jim Kidson
Mr. Sid Prest

Ms. Lynda Kidson
Ms. Theresa Young
Ms. Charlene Bonang
Mr. Jim Coles
Ms. Paula Milsom, Member of
Musquodoboit Ratepayers Assoc.


Comments made by the public during their addresses included the following:

- Concern that "communities of interest" were not taken into consideration;
- Concern was expressed that the more you decrease the number of seats the more you will hear from the people that the Councillor will not have time to serve the number of people he represents;
- A question was raised as to what rationale was used to determine the boundary lines;
- It was noted Councillors would probably require more staff if the districts were larger;
- Concern was expressed that the line was dividing East and West Chezzetcook which have always been in the same area and this may have a negative impact;
- Would not like to see East and West Chezzetcook split in two and in two different districts;
- If communities are split in two then the community groups such as the Lions Club would have to get support from two Councillors and this may result in some of these groups not having the support required to make them viable;
- It was suggested that the boundary between A and B be moved further West in order to keep East and West Chezzetcook together, maybe coming down through Porter's Lake;

- East and West Chezzetcook would be better served if in the same district;
- Chezzetcook boundaries to go back to close to where they were;
- If there is a need for the Chezzetcooks to be split then they have more in common with the Porter's Lake area than Musquodoboit Harbour;
- Because of the area involved, district A should be made smaller even though there would be fewer voters;
- The Committee needs to be sensitive to the geography of the area;
- Fire departments are based on communities of interest and distances to be traveled if this changed could be problematic;

There being no further speakers, Mr. Hyland thanked the members of public for attending the meeting and stated their comments will be reviewed along with any written submissions received by the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.


Julia Horncastle
Legislative Assistant

**DISTRICT BOUNDARIES REVIEW COMMITTEE
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
WESTERN REGION COMMUNITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 20, 2003**

PRESENT: Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair
Mr. Donald Mason
Mr. David Fitzgerald
Ms. Beverly Miller
Mr. Bob Russell
Mr. Phil Elliott

STAFF: Ms. Hilary Campbell, Planner
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

OTHERS: Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Gary Meade
Councillor Diana Whalen

Approximately 22 members of the public were in attendance

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair, District Boundaries Review Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and introduced the members of the Committee and staff who were present.

Mr. Hyland stated the mandate of the District Boundaries Review Committee, in this phase of the process, is to recommend the boundaries for 20 polling districts. In drafting these proposed boundaries, the Committee deliberated over 10 meetings. Before making its final recommendation to Regional Council by March 25, 2003, seven public meetings will be held. Mr. Hyland reviewed the remaining meeting dates and locations. In addition, to ensure wider availability, the proposed boundaries are available on the HRM web site as well as at the Customer Service Centres. The Committee would also welcome comments from the public in writing or by e-mail.

In drawing the proposed boundaries for the 20 Districts, the Committee used the factors that the Utility and Review Board will have to take into consideration . Section 368 (4) of the Municipal Government Act:

368 (4) In determining the number and boundaries of polling districts the Board shall consider number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.

The Utility and Review Board has adopted the rationale that a variation of +/- 25% is an appropriate guideline to apply in determining constituency sizes unless geographic boundaries or community of interest considerations justify a greater deviation. While this is the legal standard, the Committee has tried to achieve a lower variance than +/- 25%.

Mr. Hyland reviewed Table 1 of the memorandum from the Committee to the Mayor and Members of Council, which illustrated the population, voting age persons and variances. The overall average for 20 districts was 13,968. For example, nine of the proposed districts have a variance less than five percent, six have a variance between five and less than ten percent. The table confirms that the Committee has met this mandate from Council. For the proposed boundaries, the age variable from the 2001 Census of Canada was used for the number of persons of voting age (18 years and over). The 2001 Census variables in this analysis were used at the Dissemination Area (DA) level. The Dissemination Area is the lowest level at which that Statistics Canada will release variables such as age groups.

With the use of overheads, Mr. Hyland illustrated the proposed districts that relate to this area (Districts K, L and M).

Mr. Hyland then invited members of the public to come forward and express their views on the proposed district. He noted the same rules used at Regional Council would be observed in that the maximum allocated time would be five minutes per presenter. He

also requested that each person please indicate their name and address when they came forward to address the Committee. Mr. Hyland noted that staff will be producing summary notes of the proceeding of each meeting, and the Committee will carefully consider the comments prior to making its final recommendation to Regional Council.

Mr. Hyland called for members of the public wishing to speak. The following residents came forth and addressed the Committee:

Ms. Sandy Stasiulis
Ms. Mary Lynn Saturley
Mr. Dan MacAvoy
Mr. Bill Matheson
Councillor Rankin
MLA Bill Estabrooks

Ms. Diane Webster
Mr. Hal Barry
Councillor Whalen
Councillor Meade
Mr. Shawn Lahey

Comments made by the public during their addresses included the following:

- would like to keep New Era Farms and Otter Lake Landfill in present District as those residing in the area need to reach their Councillor if there are any problems associated with odours, leachage and potential problems with well water. If New Era Farms and Otter Lake were in a different district, there is concern that the Councillor for that District would not have the same sense of urgency to act on the resident's behalf as they would not be in the same voting district. Why was it taken from "M" (old District 23) and put in "L" (old District 22)? Paul Hyland, Chair of the District Boundary Advisory Committee, responded that the boundary follows the Timberlea/Lakeside/Beechville Plan Area Boundary.
- District "M" are on well water, District "L" are on municipal water and the boundaries should reflect this difference
- the MGA (Municipal Government Act) states population density and community of interest as two items to consider when choosing boundaries. The residents living in the area of Otter Lake and New Era Farms, Ragged Lake area are the community of interest. The population density in these areas does not exist as there is no population in these areas.
- we had to fight to get the Department of Environment out to New Era Farms to lay ministerial order to protect our wells.
- upon a request by the District Boundaries Committee, it was suggested that the boundary be Highway 103 where there is no population anyway.
- Ragged Lake will be developed but the Otter Lake Landfill area will not so control

over Otter Lake should be left to those who reside in the area. It was suggested that the boundary go along Highway 103 and include Ragged Lake in "L" and down southward to existing boundary and include the Prospect Road.

- there are no voters in the area in question so it will not affect the voter parity
- give us the landfill and give us electoral control over it
- suggestion made that the boundary be moved to Highway 103 to the Intersection of St. Margaret's Bay Road and Route 333 including the Interchange and then go out along Long Lake
- new Provincial Boundary will have line moved 10 km to the mouth of Nine Mile River which will have Shad Bay in Timberlea/Prospect area and Bayside will be in Chester area. If you try to bring District "M" in line with Chester/St. Margaret's it would be too small.
- the line DBAC has chosen will divide the Western Commons area between Districts "L" and "M" but if you move the line as suggested tonight, District "M" would have all the Western Commons area and this would be okay.
- very appropriate that the Sir John A MacDonald exit is now included in District "M" as we have similar constituency issues such as dug wells and road maintenance.
- please consider including Evergreen Drive, off the Prospect Road, in District "M". as it is a significant street with no voters on it.
- boundary lines should go where services stop as residents in unserved areas, such as the suburban area of Timberlea (Oak Lane area), do not want to have to have municipal services and be taxed out of their homes. We want to stay in District "M".
- Clayton Park/Fairview community fought for the new Halifax West High School and the catchment area goes to Prospect not Beechville/Lakeside/Timberlea who go to Sir John A MacDonald. These areas are dissimilar with regards to community of interest and the Committee is to be reminded of the numbers of residents who turned out at the Clayton Park West meeting and the passion they expressed.
- strong physical divisions for residents living in Oak Lane area due to heavily wooded area therefore the line around Exit 4 should be moved either up or down due to the possibility of isolation that could mean those resident's voices would not be heard
- you cannot tell anyone in any community that their interests as families or

community groups should take a back seat to a line or sewer line or connection of a roadway.

- concern with the Suzie Lake area as it was designated as a possible area for recreation development and park land but it will now be developed which will cause high density for this area.
- looks like "L" is becoming a very small area. Take "L" and give it to "K" and have 19 Councillors instead of 20

Councillor Rankin thanked the Committee members, who are all volunteers, for their work. He commented that the Councillor's expressly intended to stay out of this exercise to have a fair and objective result but he has been encouraged to comment.

Councillor Rankin added that the Committee's first task was to set the number of districts, which has been done and accepted by Regional Council. He added that the reality is several of the 150 communities in HRM will come together. Councillor Rankin further commented that a result is needed that would last for two elections. He later commented that he was speaking in support of the Committee's approach to determining the boundaries as it is not easy to try and adjust the status quo.

Councillor Rankin suggested to the Committee that they resist the "perceived" temptation to enlarge those districts that have "exceptional growth areas" as the biggest political challenge for future Councillor's will be regional growth planning around traffic, water, sewer, environment, recreation and transit which go very much beyond local communities. He also added that a number of people have told him that it would be good if the old lines from the old former municipal units (namely Halifax County, Dartmouth, Bedford and Halifax) are breeched since it is now seven years after amalgamation and there is only one municipal community to govern, Halifax Regional Municipality.

Councillor Rankin answered the Committee by confirming that he does support their boundaries as shown for the proposed Districts "L" and "T" and that it makes sense to include Sheldrake Heights in the Beechville/Lakeside/Timberlea area and that in Clayton Park West it would be what street you stop at as there is a great deal of passion and ownership of the regional facility located there. Councillor Rankin responded to the Committee that he did feel there were more similar than dissimilar interests in the areas of Clayton Park West, Beechville, Lakeside and Timberlea on day to day issues as they both have the same concerns such as street clearing and snow removal.

Councillor Whalen commented that the Committee gave five factors that were used to make the boundary decisions and that geography and community of interest were two

of them. She added that the geography is very different and population density is 30 people per acre in the Clayton Park West/Glenbourne Subdivision which is a very mixed area with single and multi-family homes and is very urban. Councillor Whalen further commented that Community of Interest is number one and where there are communities that have a strong sense of belonging together this becomes a very paramount factor. She added that if the population is disconnected they are not going to participate when HRM calls for volunteers. She added that areas that are fully built out should be left above the average as they will be stagnant in the coming years and should start the growth areas below par as they will grow and catch up.


Councillor Meade commented that if Cranberry Lake is left in District "L" it would be the only unserviced area in that District and perhaps it should stay in District "M". He further commented that all the roads in District 23, Goodwood to Hubbards, are serviced by the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation, not HRM. Councillor Meade added that the Halifax West High School was approved by Regional Council and HRM donated the land plus approximately \$3 million dollars that came from all of HRM and although the "community of interest" in Clayton Park West were the driving force behind the school, all of HRM contributed to it.

David Fitzgerald, District Boundaries Advisory Committee member, responded to a public question concerning how the Committee decided on 20 Districts and explained the procedure as follows:

- Committee started with the number 0
- looked at community concept
- held public meetings and asked the public for their input
- everyone expressed they wanted to keep the Community Councils
- Legislation states that Community Councils require a minimum of three Councillors (3x6=18)
- there are 19 Planning Boundaries (could be from 19 - 21)
- looked at electors/voters

There being no further speakers, Mr. Hyland thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and stated their comments would be reviewed along with any written submissions received by the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.


Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**DISTRICT BOUNDARIES REVIEW COMMITTEE
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
PENINSULA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 24, 2003**

PRESENT:

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair
Mr. Donald Mason
Mr. David Fitzgerald
Ms. Beverly Miller
Mr. Bob Russell
Mr. Phil Elliott

STAFF:

Mr. Angus Schaffenburg, Planner
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Legislative Assistant

OTHERS:

Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Sue Uteck
Councillor Sheila Fougere
Councillor Gary Hines
Councillor Len Goucher

Approximately 50 members of the public

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair, District Boundaries Review Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the members of the Committee and staff who were present. Mr. Hyland recognized Ms. Maureen MacDonald, MLA and Mr. Howard Epstein, MLA at a later point in the meeting.

Mr. Hyland stated the mandate of the District Boundaries Review Committee, in this phase of the process, is to recommend the boundaries for 20 polling districts. In drafting these proposed boundaries, the Committee deliberated over 10 meetings. Before making its final recommendation to Regional Council by March 25, 2003, seven public meetings will be held. Mr. Hyland reviewed the remaining meeting dates and locations. In addition, to ensure wider availability, the proposed boundaries are available on the HRM web site as well as at the Customer Service Centres. The Committee would also welcome comments from the public in writing or by e-mail.

In drawing the proposed boundaries for the 20 Districts, the Committee used the factors that the Utility and Review Board will have to take into consideration. Section 368 (4) of the Municipal Government Act:

368 (4) In determining the number and boundaries of polling districts the Board shall consider number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.

The Utility and Review Board has adopted the rationale that a variation of +/- 25% is an appropriate guideline to apply in determining constituency sizes unless geographic boundaries or community of interest considerations justify a greater deviation. While this is the legal standard, the Committee has tried to achieve a lower variance than +/- 25%.

Mr. Hyland reviewed Table 1 of the memorandum from the Committee to the Mayor and Members of Council, which illustrated the population, voting age persons and variances. The overall average for 20 districts was 13,968. For example, nine of the proposed districts have a variance less than five percent, six have a variance between five and less than ten percent. The table confirms that the Committee has met this mandate from Council. For the proposed boundaries, the age variable from the 2001 Census of Canada was used for the number of persons of voting age (18 years and over). The 2001 Census variables in this analysis were used at the Dissemination Area (DA) level. The Dissemination Area is the lowest level at which that Statistics Canada will release variables such as age groups.

With the use of overheads, Mr. Hyland illustrated the proposed districts that relate to this area (Districts P, Q and R).

Mr. Hyland then invited members of the public to come forward and express their views

on the proposed district. He noted the same rules used at Regional Council would be observed in that the maximum allocated time would be five minutes per presenter. He also requested that each person please indicate their name and address when they came forward to address the Committee. Mr. Hyland noted that staff will be producing summary notes of the proceeding of each meeting, and the Committee will carefully consider the comments prior to making its final recommendation to Regional Council.

Mr. Hyland called for members of the public wishing to speak. The following residents came forth and addressed the Committee regarding Districts P, Q and R:

Mr. Harry Fleming	Mr. Graham Read
Mr. Matthew Dubois	Mr. Doug MacDonald
Ms. Marsha Parker	Ms. Jill Shlossberg
Mr. Howard Epstein, MLA	Ms. Ann Dunnington
Mr. Bob Russell	Mr. Patrick Murphy
Ms. Maureen MacDonald, MLA	Mr. Tom Risseco
Ms. Melanie Macey on behalf of Tom Creighton	Mr. Don Awalt
Mr. Rob Miller	

Comments made by the public during their addresses included the following:

- There is an old saying that if it ain't broke, don't fix it, and the proposed boundaries try to fix something that is not broken
- Four seats presently exist on the Peninsula and there is no reason to change these four seats (the majority of speakers held this view)
- The main problems being experienced are not on the Peninsula. All four seats are well within the 25% +/- range
- Redistribution results in a very valuable member of Council being without a seat (Dawn Sloane)
- We may have communities of interest but, they are no longer geographical
- It does not make sense to say that one Councillor represents all the residents in his/her area. It does not matter how many Councillors make up the government as long as it doesn't go below 12.
- There should be proportional representation with Councillors being elected for the whole of HRM
- The problem is not how many we need to govern, but how we govern

- What is needed is a variety of Councillors representing a variety of views of individuals as opposed to areas, areas do not vote
- Residents of the Old South End are opposed to the downsizing and redistricting of Regional Council and believe this to be a degradation of representation
- A great number of people (20,000 workers daily, 20,000 students annually, and many visitors) have no standing to vote, but do use and have an impact on the downtown
- The downtown is in an expansion and building mode, and residents of both the Old South End and the Old North End are impacted by the changes
- The proposed boundaries will destroy the link between the Old South End and the Old North End
- Concern that reducing Councillors would add another layer of bureaucracy with the addition of Administrative Assistants to support the Councillors
- Suggestion that it would be more reasonable to add a couple of Councillors to equalize population
- Leave most of boundary lines alone, and adjust only those that require change
- It is very important that municipal representatives know their communities very well, therefore, a reduction in number of Councillors is not appropriate
- Proposal for twenty (20) Councillors is very close to Provincial representation of nineteen (19), however, the level of resource provided to Provincial representatives is vastly different than that which is provided or could be expected to be provided to municipal representatives
- Boundary lines for the Peninsula should start from the head of the Arm and continue up Dutch Village Road and along Joseph Howe
- The above boundary lines will facilitate zoning decisions that make sense for the Peninsula
- Common problems being experienced on Argyle Street, for example, would not be dealt with by the same Councillor under this scenario
- District R is essentially the constituency of Halifax Needham. Halifax Needham is now the second largest Provincial constituency. To this point the residents of Halifax Needham have had two very able municipal Councillors. Under the proposal this will be lost. Concern is that the residents of Halifax Needham will see a diminishing of representation and access to elected representatives
- District R is a very diverse constituency and the proposed boundaries will make the District a very complicated place to represent given the level of resource available to municipal Councillors
- There should be a different formula for representation for the downtown area given the social needs and concentration of public and seniors housing
- Peninsula Halifax is unlike any other area except downtown Dartmouth (i.e. aging infrastructure, pressures for accommodation of traffic, pressures for development on the Peninsula and the need to protect the greatest concentration of heritage) and requires a greater representation that this proposal allows

- Committee should go back to the drawing board, do more consultation, make the Committee more representational and listen to the public submission which are suggesting that the status quo be maintained
- Note made that the outlying areas all have less than the average number of voters while all five of the Districts which compose the Peninsula, in full or in part, are above the average
- Given that there are 14,000+ students living on the Peninsula for more than half the year and the fact that 20,000 people come to work on the Peninsula every day, the average number of voters should be less rather than more
- The boundaries proposed are a reasonable attempt at accommodating 20 Districts, however, it would seem that many of the people addressing the Committee are addressing the number of Councillors
- The Committee and/or Council should not, if the input from this round of Public Meetings is intractable, feel uncomfortable in reconsidering its previous recommendation and decision to reduce the number of Districts
- Suggestion that the URB overstepped its mandate in ordering a reduced Council. The role of the URB is to ensure that HRM in determining its electoral boundaries, Council size and type has done so in accordance with the Municipal Government Act
- If the downtown was represented by only one Councillor, there is a danger that the downtown would be vulnerable to one ideology
- The near Mainland shares common concerns with the Peninsula and there should be little concern if a District straddles that area
- Concern that there did not appear to be a voiced desire during the last round of public meetings to move to 20 Districts and a question as to why these changes are being made
- The traditional boundaries are working well
- The proposal calls for the southern part of the Peninsula to be split in a north/south direction up Robie Street. The natural split is east/west (University/Quinpool Road) ^{WHICH}
- One individual confirmed with the Chair that if the area had less complex problems, a Councillor could represent more voters and conversely, if the area problems were more complex, a Councillor could represent less voters
- That portion of Bayers Road/Windsor Street which is included in S and immediately adjacent to R would be more appropriately included in R or even P
- The most apparent community of interest this evening is one against change
- Suggestion that the proposed boundaries have to be adjusted to address concerns expressed at public meetings
- The area of the north suburb is a unique community and to have the Councillor for the area cover a greater area would not be beneficial

Ms. Jane MacLellan, Chairperson, Spring Garden Road Business Association, made a

presentation to the Committee, the highlights of which were:

- The Capital District was created by the Mayor and City Council in response to a unique set of needs
- A strong Capital District was seen as being vital to the well-being of the whole HRM
- Investment has been made by HRM as a deliberate strategy to assist in meeting the special needs of the Capital District
- The recommended boundaries would fragment and lose coordination and focus
- The Capital District (including the designated area of Dartmouth) should be administered as one focused, coordinated unit
- Splitting both the Halifax and Dartmouth Capital Districts does not recognize the special needs and commonality of purpose for the area
- A mechanical recognition of residential numbers does not work in the case of the Capital District
- The Capital District has a large residential population and a huge (20,000) daytime migrating population
- Simply looking at residential population does not recognize the special needs of the Capital District

A copy of Ms. MacLellan's presentation is on file.

Ms. MacLellan confirmed that she believed one focused Councillor would serve the needs of the Capital District (Halifax & Dartmouth) better than the present three to four Councillors representing the Capital District.

Mr. Hugh Pullen, President, Peninsula South Community Association, made the following comments:

- The URB order goes against the thrust of the enabling legislation which calls for wide citizen participation
- Reducing the number of Councillors will increase the influence of municipal staff and special interest groups
- The proposal will destroy the Community Council structure for the Peninsula
- The south end is made up of tenants and families and they look to their Councillors to defend their rights in light of the dominance of large institutions in the area
- Councillors of this area do, in fact, represent the residents, large institutions, and a large number of transient students

Mr. Peter Delefes, President of Heritage Nova Scotia, made the following comments:

- Expressed concern that the greater number of residents a Councillor has to represent, the less time he/she has available to respond to individual concerns
- Reducing the number of Councillors from 20 to 23 will not greatly affect the cumbersomeness of municipal government, but it will affect the quality of representation
- Tendency over the years has been to increase representation rather than to decrease
- Proposed boundaries appear to be arbitrary with the Central Business District and the historic capital of the Maritimes being split
- The Central Business District should remain as a distinct entity, bounded by the Citadel on the east and the harbour on the west
- The proposed boundaries do not conform with the planning boundaries
- Concern that a reduction in representation from the Peninsula will result in the concerns of the Peninsula not being heard

Ms. Dulcie Conrad, speaking on behalf of the Vice President of the Peninsula South Community Association, made the following comments:

- The proposed boundaries do not respect Communities of Interest
- The proposal will reduce representation for the Peninsula at a time when it actually needs more in order to deal with an increased number of problems (traffic, parking, garbage collection, illegal rooming houses, illegal parking lots, increases in taxes, graffiti, etc.)
- Question of where the savings will be with the reduction of the number of Councillors

Mr. Paul MacKinnon, Downtown Halifax Business Commission, made the following comments:

- The Capital District represents 27% of the taxes collected in the City and it is wise to reinvest in this area
- The downtown Councillor is responsible to both residents and businesses and the proposed boundaries will likely result in residents from both the north and south sharing their Councillor much more than they like
- The boundary at Sackville Street does not make any sense, it splits the heart of downtown

Ms. Judy Forsman submitted a petition containing approximately 400 names of residents of District 12 (Halifax Downtown) opposing the elimination and the divisioning of their community into two adjacent districts, and maintaining their district unity and demanding that the community stay intact.

A resident of the Gottingen Street area, speaking on behalf of the youth and all residents of the area, commented there would be no benefit to the Gottingen Street area of the proposed changes

Councillor Sloane made a presentation entitled District Boundary Review, The Heart of HRM District 12 - Downtown Halifax the components of which were:

- Historical Significance
- Myth and Fact
- Community of Interest
- What if
- Things to Consider
- Statistics of District 12
- Points to Ponder

A copy of Councillor Sloane's presentation is on file.

Councillor Jerry Blumenthal addressed the Committee making the following points:

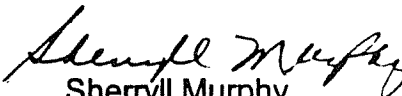
- This boundary review was directed by the URB
- There should be more than one Councillor in the downtown.
- The proposed new area is much more streamlined even though it has to changed

The following resident came forth and addressed the Committee regarding boundary changes in Mainland North:

Stella Campbell, 10 Southhill Drive

- Speaking in to the North West Community Council area
- Boundary review provides an opportunity for HRM to look at what presently exists and to determine what it is we value and want to maintain and what do we discard
- Individual identity is very important
- A small geographic area which has a common interest is often able to accomplish a great deal. At times we get caught up in the numbers and lose sight of the communities. Mainland North has such a community which should not be split
- The most valuable thing is community spirit and this process should not result in anyone feeling they have lost their community

There being no further speakers, the Chair thanked all those who had attended and adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.


Sherryl Murphy
Legislative Assistant

**DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
HARBOUR EAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 27, 2003**

PRESENT: Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair
Mr. Donald Mason
Mr. David Fitzgerald
Ms. Beverly Miller
Mr. Bob Russell
Mr. Phil Elliott

STAFF: Ms. Hilary Campbell, Planning Technician
Ms. Sandra Shute, Legislative Assistant

OTHERS: Councillor Gary Hines
Councillor John Cunningham
Councillor Bruce Hetherington
Councillor Ron Cooper
Councillor Condo Sarto
Councillor Brian Warshick
Deputy Mayor Harry McInroy

Approximately 35 members of the public
attended

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair, District Boundaries Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Westphal Room at Cole Harbour Place, Cole Harbour at 7:00 p.m. He introduced the members of the Committee, staff and the Councillors who were present.

Mr. Hyland stated the mandate of the District Boundaries Advisory Committee, in this phase of the process, is to recommend the boundaries for 20 polling districts. The determination of 20 polling districts has already been dealt with by Regional Council and is not for perusal this evening. In drafting these proposed boundaries, the Committee deliberated over 10 meetings. Before making its final recommendation to Regional Council by March 25, 2003, seven public meetings will be held, of which this meeting was the sixth of the seven. He indicated the date and location of the last meeting. In addition, to ensure wider availability, the proposed boundaries are available on the HRM web site as well as at the Customer Service Centres. The Committee would also welcome comments from the public in writing or by e-mail.

In drawing the proposed boundaries for the 20 Districts, the Committee used the factors that the Utility and Review Board will have to take into consideration. Section 368 (4) of the Municipal Government Act:

368 (4) In determining the number and boundaries of polling districts the Board shall consider number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.

The Utility and Review Board has adopted the rationale that a variation of +/-25% is an appropriate guideline to apply in determining constituency sizes unless geographic boundaries or community of interest considerations justify a greater deviation. While this is the legal standard, the Committee has tried to achieve a lower variance than +/-25%.

Mr. Hyland reviewed Table I of the Memorandum from the Committee to the Mayor and Members of Council, which illustrated the population, voting age persons and variances. The overall average for 20 districts was 13,968. For example, nine of the proposed districts have a variance less than five percent, six have a variance between five and less than ten percent. The table confirms that the Committee has met this mandate from Council. For the proposed boundaries, the age variable from the 2001 Census of Canada was used for the number of persons of voting age (18 years and over). The 2001 Census variables in this analysis were used at the Dissemination Area (DA) level. The Dissemination Area is the lowest level at which Statistics Canada will release variables such as age groups.

With the use of overheads, Mr. Hyland and Mr. Elliott illustrated the proposed districts that relate to this area (Districts C, D, E, B, G, F, H and J) and the population for the proposed

polling districts and the variances involved. Also, during the course of the meeting, the residents were shown the present 23 boundaries overlaid on the proposed boundaries.

Mr. Hyland then invited members of the public to come forward and express their views on the proposed districts. He noted that the same rules used at Regional Council would be observed in that the maximum allocated time would be five minutes per presenter. He also requested that each person indicate their name and address when they come forward to address the Committee. Mr. Hyland noted that staff will be producing summary notes of the proceedings of each meeting, and the Committee will carefully consider the comments prior to making its final recommendation to Regional Council.

Mr. Hyland called for members of the public to speak. The following residents came forward and addressed the Committee who lived in the **Westphal** area:

Donald Blakely
John Harlow

- Regional Council should be downsized to 13-16 full time Councillors ad hoc. Municipal government should be representative of the people. With the current boundaries, some Councillors go in by acclamation. District boundaries should not be a factor, but ad hoc Councillors.
- To address overall issues in HRM such as transportation, bylaws, planning, there is a need to step aside from pet concerns in individual districts and have Councillors that will decide for the overall HRM by voting at large.
- Humber Park belongs with proposed District D, not B.
- By putting Humber Park with B, it furthers a division of the community. Community identity is important.
- Fire Service has been developed in the area which includes Lake Loon.

The following residents came forward and addressed the Committee who lived in the **Windsor Junction** area in support of Windsor Junction remaining in proposed District H rather than District J:

Scott Smith
Greg Boyd
Trudy Hall
Cheryl Newcombe
Andy Firth

Percy Ferris
Denice Howell
Alicia MacAulay
Paul Peace
Jamie Duncan

- Clarification was sought on whether or not new municipal boundaries would affect school district boundaries. There was concern with splitting the line between the proposed J and H affecting where the children go to school from Windsor Junction.

- There is a LWF Fire Department. If the boundaries are changed, it will affect the Fire Department.
- Request to provide information on what the boundary review process entails.
- LWF Ratepayer's Association has been an entity for a long time. It would be a shame to take it apart.
- Windsor Junction has a strong community spirit.
- Four residents who spoke expressed concern that when municipal boundaries are redrawn, school boundaries follow.
- If the old boundaries are working, don't change them.
- Question raised as to how much effect there will be on the percentages by putting Windsor Junction back where it was.
- At the request of a resident from the Windsor Junction area, about two thirds of the residents in attendance indicated their support for changing the boundary back to where it was for Windsor Junction.
- If an urban Councillor wins in the proposed District H, he/she might not understand a septic system or might never have seen one. The community needs someone who understands the rural needs.

In addition to her own comments included in the above section, Cherly Newcombe, Financial Director, LWF Ratepayer's Association, read and submitted a letter to the Committee regarding the proposed boundaries on behalf of the LWF Ratepayer's Association.

With regard to school boundaries, Committee members and Councillors provided the following information:

- The Committee did not spend any time comparing school districts.
- The School Board has its own districts which are not associated with HRM.
- The School Board runs on a family of schools principle with feeder schools.
- The School Board is not concerned with voters in terms of boundaries but with the number of children.

Marjorie Gibbons from Dartmouth Cove came forward and raised the following points:

- Downtown Dartmouth has been divided into two or more districts.
- The Downtown Dartmouth community shares schools and the cleanup of the sewer system in Dartmouth Cove.
- Downtown Dartmouth is considered to run along the harbour and include the Macdonald Bridge, Wyse Road and Victoria Road.
- Downtown Dartmouth needs its own identity. Not in favour of sharing a Councillor with Downtown Halifax.

- Question as to savings with less Councillors.
- Does not want to lose the community spirit.

Mr. Alan Ruffman, **Fergusons Cove** came forward and raised the following points:

- Terms of Reference of the Committee was not to reduce or add to the number of Council members but to see what people thought about the representation they had - should it increase or be reduced. The public has the impression the Committee was sent out to reduce the size of Council.
- Most of the public were comfortable with 23 districts. Bill Hayward, in fact, said 24 but the Utility and Review Board said 23. The URB has again intervened to suggest a slightly smaller number but did not give a number.
- Voting at large will provide no community representation. Bedford realized the only people to get elected at large are those with large amounts of money - not regular citizens but those who are funded by developers or lawyers.
- The MGA says that the requirement is to consider the number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size. The Committee has done a lot of work on relative parity of voting power but has not done a good job on the community of interest nor thought about population density or changes thereto.
- The URB has lost credibility on two decisions made recently and, therefore, a huge amount of faith should not be put into the URB. These decisions were with whether or not Chester should become a Town and the StoraEnso decision re power rates. A recommendation of 23 districts could be made to the URB without fear.
- Part 8 of the Municipal Government Act, Section 521 specific to Halifax Regional Municipality indicates: "*Council may by policy establish Community Councils*". Has the Committee verified the population required for the forming of Community Councils. The average number of electors in a Community Council shall be at least twice the average number of electors per polling district in the Municipality. Community Councils are extremely important.
- The Minister, Regional Council or at least 50 members of the Municipality can make application to the URB to change boundaries.
- Reference to "gerrymandering".
- There is not a community of interest between Burnside and people who live around the lake or downtown.
- Downtown of both Halifax and Dartmouth should be in the same electoral district so their community of interest can work together.
- Population of Halifax Peninsula has gone down somewhat relative to the rest of HRM. District A should be deliberately under represented and let some of the districts on the Peninsula and downtown Dartmouth be lower as with the Eastern Shore.

- Instead of districts being numbered, a community process should identify names for districts.
- A piece of harbour has been left out of the districts. Sewage outfalls should be part of somebody's district.

Councillor Ron Cooper pointed out that in keeping with the theme of community of interest, Lake Loon/Cherry Brook goes with Cole Harbour/Westphal. Lake Loon has been taken out of the traditional community and moved into the Eastern shore community. This small area is a serviced area similar to what is across the road and would maintain the traditional community.


Councillor Brian Warshick raised the following points particularly with proposed District G:

- If the issue of Supplementary Education funding comes up, there would be part of downtown Dartmouth in the proposed District G and part of the old County. There would be a problem for the Councillor representing the District when some residents were for and some against Supplementary Education funding.
- There would be a multiple MLA situation.
- There would be highway boundaries - Department of Transportation versus areas covered by HRM.
- The new street across from MicMac Mall on the lake, might have more in common with the other homes bordering Lake MicMac.
- Woodland Avenue and Victoria Road, has a lot more in common with areas in Woodlawn.
- District 6 is the only one in the five Districts of the former City of Dartmouth that has grown in population in the last three census. It still remains one of the smallest areas because of the watershed area but there are 770 acres which amounts to 10,000 homes which could be developed in the near future. Since the last census, the area has gone up by 700 people.
- Leave Burnside Park with one Councillor.

Councillor Gary Hines indicated support on behalf of the residents from Fall River and Windsor Junction and advised he would be providing a written submission to the Committee. The written submission would include comments on the inclusion of Bedford with the proposed District H.

There being no further speakers, Mr. Hyland thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and stated their comments will be reviewed along with any written submissions received by the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.


Sandra M. Shute
Legislative Assistant

**DISTRICT BOUNDARIES REVIEW COMMITTEE
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
HARBOUR EAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MARCH 3, 2003**

PRESENT:

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair
Mr. Donald Mason
Mr. David Fitzgerald
Ms. Beverly Miller
Mr. Bob Russell
Mr. Phil Elliott

STAFF:

Mr. Angus Shaffenburg, Planner
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

OTHERS:

Deputy Mayor Harry McInroy
Councillor Ron Cooper
Councillor John Cunningham
Councillor Bruce Hetherington
Councillor Condo Sarto
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Brian Warshick

Approximately 65 members of the public

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair, District Boundaries Review Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and acknowledged members of Regional Council present in the gallery as well as Mr. Gerry Pye, MLA, and Mr. Clint Schofield, former HRM Councillor. At this time, Mr. Hyland turned the meeting over to Mr. Phil Elliott who introduced the members of the Committee and staff who were present. Mr. Elliott stated the mandate of the District Boundaries Review Committee, in this phase of the process, is to recommend the boundaries for 20 polling districts. In drafting these proposed boundaries, the Committee deliberated over ten meetings. Before making its final recommendation to Regional Council by March 25, 2003, seven public meetings will have been held. This was the last of those seven meetings.

In drawing the proposed boundaries for the 20 Districts, the Committee used the factors that the Utility and Review Board will have to take into consideration. Section 368 (4) of the Municipal Government Act:

368 (4) In determining the number and boundaries of polling districts, the Board shall consider number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.

The Utility and Review Board has adopted the rationale that a variation of +/- 25% is an appropriate guideline to apply in determining constituency sizes, unless geographic boundaries or community of interest considerations justify a greater deviation. While this is the legal standard, the Committee has tried to achieve a lower variance than +/- 25%.

Mr. Elliott reviewed Table 1 of the memorandum from the Committee to the Mayor and Members of Council, which illustrated the population, voting age persons and variances. The overall average for 20 districts was 13,968. For example, nine of the proposed districts have a variance less than five percent, six have a variance between five and less than ten percent. The table confirms that the Committee has met this mandate from Council. For the proposed boundaries, the age variable from the 2001 Census of Canada was used for the number of persons of voting age (18 years and over). The 2001 Census variables in this analysis were used at the Dissemination Area (DA) level. The Dissemination Area is the lowest level at which that Statistics Canada will release variables such as age groups.

With the use of overheads, Mr. Elliott illustrated the proposed districts that relate to this area (Districts C, D, E, F and G).

Mr. Elliott then invited members of the public to come forward and express their views on the proposed districts. He noted the same rules used at Regional Council would be observed in that the maximum allocated time would be five minutes per presenter. He also requested that each person please indicate their name and address when they

came forward to address the Committee. Mr. Elliott noted that staff will be producing summary notes of the proceedings of each meeting, and the Committee will carefully consider the comments prior to making its final recommendation to Regional Council.

Deputy Mayor McInroy spoke in support of the minor changes proposed for the current District 5 - Eastern Passage - Cole Harbour South, in particular, the inclusion of Shearwater. He noted that Shearwater, as a community, has always been associated with the Eastern Passage area. In support of his comments, the Deputy Mayor submitted a copy of a local newspaper "The Beacon" which serves the communities of Eastern Passage, Cow Bay and Shearwater. Deputy Mayor McInroy also noted that Tallahassee Community School was recently recognized by HRM for its 10th anniversary and the principal of the school requested that Shearwater be added to the certificate.

Mr. Gerry Pye, MLA, requested that the Committee grant him additional time for his presentation to the Committee. It was agreed that Mr. Pye would be given time for his presentation after the members of the public had the opportunity to speak.

The following people came forth and addressed the Committee:

Ms. Deannie Sullivan-Fraser	Mr. Earl Wagner
Ms. Marion Currie	Mr. Jack Potter
Ms. Alma Johnston	Ms. Marion Feetham
Mr. Clint Schofield	Mr. Bernie Smith
Ms. Wendy Lill, MP	Mr. Alistair MacKay
Ms. Marion Kelly	Mr. Sean Fuller
Ms. Sylvia Anthony	Ms. Jane MacKay
Mr Paul Livingston	Mr. Phil Brown
Mr. Tom Rissesco	Dr. Toby Balch
Mr. Guy Eastabrook	Mr. Gerry Pye, MLA

Ms. Deannie Sullivan-Fraser, Residents of Dartmouth Cove Association, addressed the Committee and made the following comments:

- The description on the Internet of the process was limited, the maps were almost impossible to read, no comparison of districts could be made, and communities were not identified. Similar comments were made regarding the handout materials.
- It appears that the Committee did not use all the elements of the criteria indicated in Section 368.4 of the MGA, such as community of interest.
- The Committee should go back to the drawing board and start the review over

again taking communities into consideration.

- The proposed District E fractures the core of the community of interest of downtown Dartmouth. The central historic vital core of the downtown will be broken into two.
- Both downtown Dartmouth and Halifax will lose 1.5 Councillors each.
- Downtown Dartmouth is a walking community which has worked hard towards its revitalization. The proposed district includes Portland Estates, a car based community, which shares no community of interest with the downtown.
- The inclusion of residential Woodside (to Cusack Street) into the downtown area would be acceptable.
- Dartmouth Cove has worked very hard to protect its area from industry.
- It was suggested the boundary should be widened, for example, to include Victoria Road to Sullivan's Pond, Lake Banook on Prince Albert Road to Highway 111.

Ms. Marion Currie, Executive Director, **Capital District East Business Commission**, addressed the Committee reading from prepared text. A copy of her presentation was provided for the record. In response to a question from Mr. Elliott, Ms. Currie stated the downtown area should be more central and more encompassing extending to Dartmouth Cove and up to Five Corners. With respect to the idea of combining both downtown Dartmouth and downtown Halifax as one District, Ms. Currie stated there would be many issues and people to serve and it may become a burden for just one Councillor.

Ms. Sylvia Anthony, Chair, **District 9 Neighbourhood Watch Organization**, addressed the Committee making the following comments:

- The proposed boundary for North End Dartmouth is another change being forced upon the community, and it creates a possibility of the area being ignored as its representative may not be from the area.
- The proposed District F is not being treated fairly as the centre of it will be lost to another District. The boundary line could be changed to Prince Albert Road rather than Portland Street.
- The Neighbourhood Watch Steering Committee of District 9 has no intention of changing its boundaries if these proposed boundaries are approved.

Mr. Sean Fuller, District 9 Residents Association, addressed the Committee making the following comments:

- The proposed boundaries break up communities.
- The boundary could be moved to Prince Albert Road or Crichton Avenue and extended to Hwy 111. North of the Macdonald Bridge is considered North End and south of the bridge is downtown.

Other comments made by the public during their addresses included the following:

- Concern was expressed with taking Cherry Brook and Humber Park out of the current District 4 - Cole Harbour North - Cherry Brook and reconsideration should be given to having Main Street as the boundary.
- It was never the intention of amalgamation to break up communities.
- Concern was expressed regarding the removal of a core section of North End Dartmouth (Woodland Avenue, over to Victoria Road and out to Highway 111) out of the proposed District F to District G. This area is the heart of the community and it was suggested it be placed back into District F and the boundary could be brought over to Thistle Street and up Lake Banook which would keep the downtown together as well.
- The North End community is very concerned about the proposed change and would like the Committee to reconsider it.
- Opposition was expressed regarding the change from 23 Districts to 21 Districts.
- The communities of Dartmouth have integrity that should be respected.
- The proposed federal electoral riding of Dartmouth which split Dartmouth apart was recently revised as a result of the efforts of the community.
- It was questioned how much communication has taken place with the individual communities and their neighbourhood organizations and associations to learn what these communities are all about.
- A resident of Montague Road expressed concern that he will not be able to vote for a School Board representative as his son's school is in another district. He suggested Montague Road is more connected to the Lake Charles area and

should be included in District D or G.

- One resident suggested the boundaries may need some tinkering but stated this is a political change and the only community of interest should be HRM.
- Concern was expressed with the decrease in the number of representatives in spite of a growing population.
- Portland Estates has acres of land yet to be developed and in two years the Councillor will be overpowered.
- One resident suggested there be 12 Councillors with each having two chairpersons and a committee of no more than three volunteers who would assist the Councillor.
- District 9 has a long history of community of interest and identity.
- This proposal ignores community of interest and is contrary to the Committee's Terms of Reference. It will not save money and will harm community of interest.
- Concern was expressed regarding the sectioning of communities without regard to community of interest.
- It would be more likely that better results representing the people would be achieved by a Councillor if the area being represented shared common problems.
- Concern was expressed about the downtowns and adding them to other communities that do not have the same interest. The downtowns share similar problems and are specialized areas.
- The formation of the Capital District was briefly explained.
- One resident stated he did not believe the downtown was being split and suggested it did not make sense to have a municipal councillor and MLA serving constituencies of the same size.
- Community of interest exists in ways other than geography.
- The maps provided this evening clarified the proposed boundaries.
- Municipalities would be better served if the residents could approach their representative and be referred to a specialist. Some type of specialized division

of councillors would be effective.

- The drawing of the boundaries down streets was questioned and it was suggested that waterways and unpopulated areas should be examined as potential boundaries as this would keep communities of interest intact.
- Central Dartmouth is currently included with Portland Estates and it is not in the downtown's interest to have more traffic. There needs to be one downtown Dartmouth and not chopped blocks.
- It was suggested the Committee should use the raw census data as the enumerated data does not include the census undercut.
- Downtown Dartmouth is very unique and the focus should remain in that area. The business community in the downtown also has concerns and they have to be taken into consideration.

The following Councillors came forth and addressed the Committee:

Councillor Cunningham
Councillor Hetherington
Councillor Smith
Councillor Warshick

Points raised by the Councillors included the following:

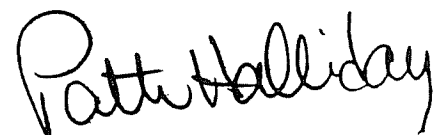
- Community of interest is the most important element to be considered and the public process is the most important part of this exercise.
- Amalgamation took community of interest into consideration and that helped with its acceptance.
- Downtown Dartmouth has developed a Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) with the partnership of five neighbourhoods, and this strategy should be given the opportunity to work. A copy of the MPS was submitted for the record.
- There is nothing wrong with the Committee presenting a proposal to the URB if the communities of interest are intact and the numbers are out.
- The job of a Councillor is now a full time job and should be performed by the Councillor and not a staff member. The public want to speak to the Councillor, not an office.

- In January 1996 there were 60 municipal representatives in HRM compared to 24 today.
- There is a lot of development to take place over the next 5-10 years, and this proposal is starting to cut up communities of interest.
- Overall, there appear to be a lot of proposed boundary changes that do not seem right.
- Community of interest appears to be the biggest issue.
- There needs to be a balance found between representation and administration.
- Voter parity also means equality of status and not just equality of votes. The proposed district for District 9 will create voter parity issues.
- A lot of people in the community of District 9, not present this evening, are opposed to the proposed district.
- All Councillors should represent Burnside Industrial Park as 10,000 people from across HRM work there every day.
- District 5 has a closer affiliation with District 7 than District 9 in terms of community of interest.
- Prior to amalgamation, Dartmouth had 17 municipal representatives and this proposal will give it 3.5.

In closing the discussion, Mr. Gerry Pye, MLA, made a presentation to the Committee, reading from prepared text. Copies of his presentation were provided to the Committee.

Mr. Elliott thanked the members of the public and Councillors for attending the meeting and providing the Committee with their comments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.



Patti Halliday
Legislative Assistant

APPENDIX "G"

Table 1

Population, Voting Age Population, and Eligible Voters
 Proposal for 20 Polling Districts
 based on 2001 Census of Canada

Proposed District	Proposed Name	Total Population, 2001 Census	Population age 18 & over, 2001 Census	Eligible voters based on citizenship	Absolute Variance from Average - Eligible Voters	Percent Variance from Average - Eligible Voters
A	Eastern Shore	16915	12785	12675	-948	-7.0%
B	Cole Harbour/Preston	19490	14135	13995	372	2.7%
C	Colby/Upper Woodlawn	20906	15319	15169	1546	11.3%
D	Eastern Passage/Woodside	19810	14520	14405	782	5.7%
E	Dartmouth Centre	16193	13293	13057	-566	-4.2%
F	Dartmouth North	16192	12952	12643	-980	-7.2%
G	Waverley Road/Woodlawn	17374	13331	13096	-527	-3.9%
H	Fall River/Musquodoboit Valley	16458	12119	11874	-1749	-12.8%
I	Lower Sackville	20565	15080	14925	1302	9.6%
J	Sackville/Beaver Bank	18147	13191	13016	-607	-4.5%
K	Bedford Basin	17058	12852	12402	-1221	-9.0%
L	Hammonds Plains/St. Margaret's	19657	14583	14283	660	4.8%
M	Timberlea/Peggy's Cove	16960	12490	12260	-1363	-10.0%
N	Spryfield/Sambro	17834	13421	13091	-532	-3.9%
O	Armdale	16452	13691	13336	-287	-2.1%
P	Quinpool/South End	17990	14990	14150	527	3.9%
Q	Halifax Downtown	17225	15820	14460	837	6.1%
R	Peninsula North	17488	14927	14520	897	6.6%
S	Fairview/Clayton Park	18762	15389	14762	1139	8.4%
T	Rockingham/Clayton Park West	17689	14577	14166	543	4.0%
Total HRM		359185	279465	272450		
Average for 20 districts		17959	13973	13623		

Note: Figures may not add up to published totals due to random rounding.

Prepared for District Boundaries Advisory Committee by HRM Planning and Development Services
 29 April 2003

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada, special tabulation, dissemination area and block data.

Note: In areas where dissemination areas of greater than 50 eligible voters crossed proposed district lines, total population by block data was used to estimate the number of voters on each side of the proposed line and the figures were adjusted accordingly. Citizenship data is not available at the block data level. Details of these calculations are available upon request.

APPENDIX "H"

Table 2

**Population, Voting Age Population, and Eligible Voters
for Current Polling District Boundaries
based on 2001 Census of Canada**

Polling District	Total Population, 2001 census	Population age 18 & over, 2001 Census	Eligible voters based on citizenship	Absolute Variance from Average - Eligible Voters	Percent Variance from Average - Eligible Voters
1	11549	9185	9070	-2776	-23.4%
2	13081	9990	9795	-2051	-17.3%
3	16652	11910	11825	-21	-0.2%
4	14290	10435	10310	-1536	-13.0%
5	19943	15090	14980	3134	26.5%
6	12064	9000	8855	-2991	-25.2%
7	13059	10050	9905	-1941	-16.4%
8	12428	8635	8520	-3326	-28.1%
9	14651	12150	11865	19	0.2%
10	15785	12490	12270	424	3.6%
11	15277	12815	12400	554	4.7%
12	14021	13095	12120	274	2.3%
13	15238	12515	11515	-331	-2.8%
14	13794	11620	11255	-591	-5.0%
15	15206	12620	12110	264	2.2%
16	21696	17940	17415	5569	47.0%
17	15542	12920	12555	709	6.0%
18	14975	10835	10600	-1246	-10.5%
19	21066	15095	14900	3054	25.8%
20	17617	12695	12560	714	6.0%
21	16102	12005	11635	-211	-1.8%
22	20690	14880	14580	2734	23.1%
23	14457	11495	11245	-601	-5.1%

Total 359,183 279,465 272,450

Average 15,617 12,151 11,846

Note: Totals may not add up due to random rounding.

Prepared for District Boundaries Advisory Committee
14 March 2003

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada, special tabulation
Compiled by HRM Planning and Development Services