

Community Herald

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 35

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Vanishing trails

Offroad bike riders lose out to housing developments / Page 2



Trail bike enthusiasts say construction of housing units is crowding out bike trails in the Purcells Cove area at the end of Drysdale Road.

(ERIC WYNNE / Staff)

INSIDE THIS WEEK

- CLASSIFIED16-18
- FLASHBACK.....2
- LEXICON19
- NEWS.....3, 6-8, 11-14, 19
- UP&COMING10, 11
- TWO CENTS' WORTH3



T-SHIRTS & FREE SPEECH

Angela Mombourquette argues that if the opinion plastered across one's T-shirt isn't harming anybody else, it shouldn't be banned. If others are offended, she writes, just move on. / Page 7



LICENSING CYCLISTS

Should cyclists be licensed? One reader argues that cyclists already pay taxes that go to roads, while another says cyclists, like other road users, should have ID in case they're breaking the law. / Page 4

COMMUNITY HERALD

The Dartmouth-HRM East Community Herald is published on Mondays by The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, N.S., P.O. Box 610, B3J 2T2. It serves the communities of Dartmouth and HRM East, including Chezzetcook, Cole Harbour, Cherrybrook, Ecum Secum, East Jeddore, East Preston, Gaetz Brook, Lake Charlotte, Lake Echo, Lawrencetown, Liscomb, Moser River, Musquodoboit Harbour, North Preston, Porters Lake, Port Dufferin, Seaforth, Sheet Harbour, Ship Harbour, Tangier, Three Fathom Harbour and West Jeddore.

Flyers

For flyer distribution rates, call 426-2811, ext. 1000 (Derek Corkum) or ext. 2895 (Wade Hillier).



Story idea?

Call Community Herald editor Claire McIlveen at 426-2811, ext. 3077, toll-free 1-800-563-1187, ext. 3077, or email community@herald.ca.

Advertising

Call 426-2811, ext. 2891 for display advertising or ext. 2841 for a classified ad.

Delivery



To start or stop delivery or order a delivery tube, call 426-2811, ext. 3350 or 1-888-766-6444, email emc@herald.ca, or fax 426-0422.

Events

Email notices at least two weeks in advance to dweekly@herald.ca or write to Dartmouth Events, Community Herald, P.O. Box 610, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2T2.

Letters

To write to the editor, email community@herald.ca, fax Community Herald, 426-1158, or write to Community Herald, P.O. Box 610, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2T2.

FLASHBACK

Wartime ferry crossing



This photo of the ferry arriving in Dartmouth was taken in August 1943.

(The Chronicle Herald archives)

To find out if this photo is available for purchase, please contact the library, 426-2811, ext. 3080, 3081 or 3384, or email library@herald.ca.

Development threatens off-road biking trails in metro area

Trails in Purcells Cove, Bayers Lake areas crowded by residential, commercial projects

By **KATHRYN WALSH**

"I almost cried when I saw it," said mountain biker Scott Morgan.

Last July, the Halifax resident took his 12-year-old son and his son's friend to a bike trail in the Purcells Cove area known as Fight Trail.

When Morgan entered the trail from the Colpitt Lake side, he found that part of it had been destroyed by machinery from a new housing development.

The Governor's Brook subdivision, built by Armco Communities, has been in the works since 2003. When com-

pleted, it will feature nearly 800 housing units, including single-family and semi-detached homes and townhouses.

Morgan said the region was virtually destroyed by a fire in 2009, "but the fire made these unbelievable bike trails." The fallen trees and exposed rock improved an old network of trails that had routes approachable enough for beginners, along with more challenging courses for advanced riders.

Bike-advocate Keith Croucher echoed Morgan's concerns.

"Up on the ridge, where the Governor's Brook development is, some

of the trail has been blasted, flattened and paved to make way for development," said Croucher, a representative with the Bicycle Nova Scotia/Mountain Bike Trails Association.

"It's changed the topography completely from what it was."

Governor's Brook bills itself as "an environmentally planned residential community," which will include "parks and greenspace that provide ample outdoor activity."

Lynn Carter of Century 21 Classic is the real estate agent for the subdivision. She said Armco is working to protect the area as much as possible, and 60 per cent of the area will still be parkland.

See **TRAILS** / Page 13

Trails

continued from / Page 2

"I don't know if any trails were disturbed or being rerouted," said Carter, but since she often sees bikers nearby, "there's still enough there that people are biking on them."

While Carter didn't know if more blasting would take place, she did say that less than 100 houses have been built so far. The development is not expected to be complete for several more years.

Croucher said he's heard from people who have expressed concern about losing the area, including hikers, bikers, swimmers, paddlers and people going on picnics.

"I'd love to see trails that are developed in that area through the help of the city," said Morgan. "All other cities have beautiful mountain-bike trails that are well-groomed and well-looked after, and we have nothing."

The development taking over Fight Trail is only the latest that's upset bikers in the area.

An 80-hectare big-box retail development by Banc Developments in the Bayers Lake area was threatening the Whopper Drop bike trail last year.

There's one other good trail nearby, Spider Lake in Dartmouth, said Morgan, "but that's been torn up, too."

Steve Adams, Halifax Councillor for District 18 (Spryfield - Herring Cove), wasn't familiar with Fight Trail specifically.

"But there are trails in the area that have been existing for years," he said. Developers and community groups are trying to find a way to connect those trails with one that follows MacIntosh Run.

The MacIntosh Run Watershed Association built and maintained a community trail, and they're working with Armco to create a wilderness trail as well, said Croucher, who belongs to the association. He hopes it will be suitable for mountain bikers and other people who want to use it.

The Fight Trail network is "well-used and well-maintained," said Croucher. "It's a good trail system, and it would be a shame to lose any more of it."

(kwalsh@herald.ca)

Do you have neck or back pain?

Eric Manuel
From
Halifax, NS

"Treatments from CPDC have changed my life"



“After being diagnosed with 6 perforated and cracked discs in my back and told there was nothing else that could be done by my Dr., I had lost all hope. I have been on disability for the last 10 years with severe pain and limited mobility. After seeing the ad in the paper for CPDC I came in for a free consultation and After 25 treatments have had tremendous results and am back in the workforce! The staff at CPDC are very knowledgeable and keep me well informed. The entire staff is genuinely interested in the health and well being of their patients and the treatments I received have changed my life.”

How can we help you?

CDPC specializes in Non-Surgical Neuro-Oxygen Spinal Decompression, a Computerized Treatment procedure used to treat neck and back pain. By working deep into the vertebral joints and discs, Spinal Decompression repairs and regenerates the existing degenerative damage to the spine. As a result, it can get to the root cause of the pain and provide significant relief.

Now offering Reflexology & Massage Therapy.

Also available are Custom Orthotics & other Services.

FREE CONSULTATIONS



Conditions Treated:

- Degenerative disc disease
- Disc bulge or Herniation
- Pinched Nerve
- Sciatica
- Spinal Stenosis
- Osteoarthritis
- Fibromyalgia
- Scoliosis

CDPC has provided over 200,000 Health Canada and FDA approved treatments.

902.423.7246

5991 Spring Garden Road,
Suite 903
Halifax, NS

www.cdpc.info

Addiction treatment



Crosbie Centre

1-866-681-0613 www.crosbiehousesociety.com

ASAM and CSAM accredited physicians