



News from the Sandy Lake – Sackville River Regional Park Coalition

May 4, 2020

The ice is off the lakes and birds are returning. Buds are swelling on tree branches. No spring peepers here yet, but it won't be long.

The SL-SRRP Coalition's Steering Committee has been working hard in the past few months, and continues to make progress on our campaign, even with the COVID-19 restrictions.

1. We have just sent in a submission on the Sandy Lake-Sackville River area to the city's Regional Plan review (RP+10).

To read the Coalition's submission go to: <https://www.sandylakecoalition.ca/rpsubmission>

To implement our vision of a fully realized, ecologically healthy Regional Park at Sandy Lake and Sackville River, we need changes to the Regional Plan in Halifax Regional Municipality. The time to request changes is now, given that the public comment period for the Regional Plan review is now open.

Of note: at least one developer, Clayton Developments (Sandy Lake Holdings) has requested "secondary planning" for their land at Sandy Lake. The city can choose to allow secondary planning to proceed or not. We say not, and make the case for why not in our submission.

2. We humbly request that each Coalition group send in their own Regional Plan review submission, and consider supporting the requests made in the Coalition's submission.

In your organization's submission, please consider including the following:

- o Request that HRM *not allow development at Sandy Lake*.
- o Ask HRM to *evaluate the ecology of the watershed to determine a park boundary* that will protect the park's assets and expand the official boundary to match that need.
- o Emphasize that HRM must *implement the full Halifax Green Network Plan into the Regional Plan*.
- o *Request that HRM address the specific requests in the Coalition submission* that will benefit SL-SRRP. These requests will benefit all of the city! For example, we all need a tree-retention by-law to protect our city's trees at Sandy Lake and Sackville River, and beyond.

We also encourage everyone who cares about Sandy Lake and Sackville River (and nature, and outdoor recreation, and sustainable cities) to create and send in their own, personal regional plan review submissions. **This is your chance to have a say in the region's largest planning guidance document!**

You can also talk to or email [city councillors](#) and [candidates](#) running for city council about your views on a good future for Sandy Lake and Sackville River.

3. We need content for social media posts. At this time, the campaign leaders want to be more active on social media, but need your help. Do you have lovely photos from Sandy Lake or Sackville River (or in the area) that you would be willing to share online? Do you have a wonderful story about an experience you had in the area? Please share with us by sending a message to the Coalition email (sandylakecampaign@gmail.com).

If you have questions, comments, ideas, please contact us through our websites www.sandylakecoalition.ca or www.sandylake.org, or the Coalition general email address: sandylakecampaign@gmail.com.

Please invite any who are interested in helping us save this long-recognized ecological and recreational "gem" to sign up to this newsletter.

All the best to each of you in as we proceed through this pandemic.

Karen Robinson

for the Steering Committee of the Sandy Lake – Sackville River Regional Park Coalition.

Steering Committee members:

Karen Robinson, Co-chair of SL-SRRP Coalition Steering Committee and rep. for Sandy Lake Conservation Association

Dr. David Patriquin, Co-chair of SL-SRRP Coalition and Steering Committee and rep. for NS Wild Flora Society, Halifax Field Naturalists, Woodens River Environmental Organization/The Bluff Trail

Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Society

Karen McKendry, SL-SRRP Coalition Steering Committee and rep. for the Ecology Action Centre

Ray Plourde, SL-SRRP Coalition Steering Committee and rep. for the Ecology Action Centre

Walter Regan, SL-SRRP Coalition Steering Committee and rep. for the Sackville Rivers Association

Harry Ward, SL-SRRP Coalition Steering Committee and rep. for Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust

(Would your group like to send a representative to the Steering Committee to protect Sandy Lake – Sackville River Regional Park? Contact us!)