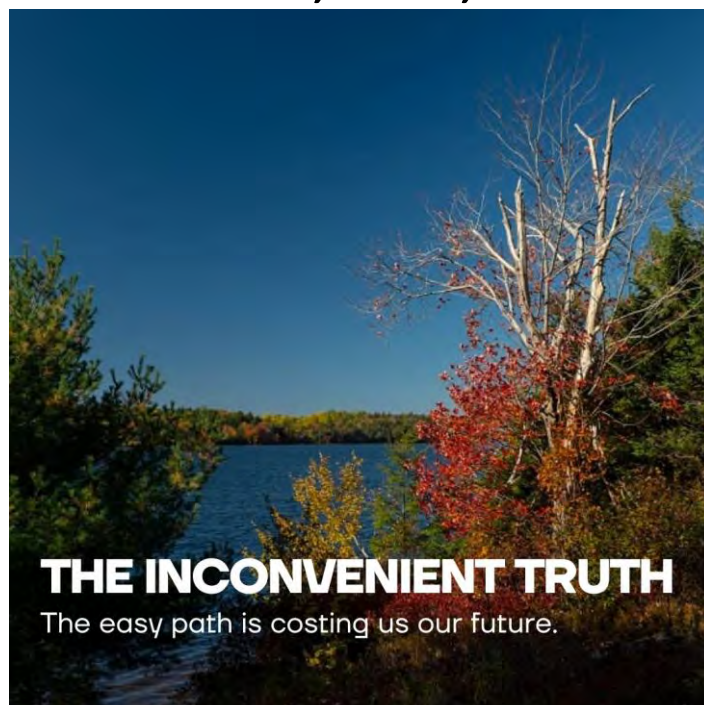




Sandy Lake - Glover Photo

Hello Sandy Lake-Sackville River Coalition member groups.
Please share this February 7, 2026 newsletter with your membership.

**But first, please cut and paste this picture below, and
the text just below it, to your social media platforms
and share, share, share!**



There is an inconvenient truth at Sandy Lake

The Nova Scotia government plans to ruin an irreplaceable natural treasure for convenience's sake.

The government's plan - the easy path - allows development in the very wetlands and tributaries that feed the lake and park. Disturb this watershed and the damage will ripple through Sandy Lake, Marsh Lake, and the Sackville River – and we all lose this rich ecosystem forever.

This is the inconvenient truth: the Rules of Nature will prevail. It's a domino effect we cannot afford.

But it's not too late. The Province can still choose to work with developers to find a better site for housing.

Emails and calls to Ministers and MLAs are what will truly turn the tide. Let's make sure they can't ignore Sandy Lake.

Please do what you can now, even if you have helped in the past (Thank you!):

- Contact your MLA (again): <https://nslegislature.ca/members/profiles>
Email the NEW Minister of Housing, John White. Johnwhitemla@outlook.com **Challenge the claim** that lakeside development does no harm - that's a fantasy.
Demand they remove Sandy Lake from the SPA fast-track list.
- Visit the Save Sandy Lake website:
 - Send a letter to the Premier
 - Request/print a sign to post in your window or on your property.
<https://www.sandylakecoalition.ca/take-action>
- Do you know media folks? Send them to us or share the information.

Together, we can push for the right choice, not the easy one.

Share to spread the word

[#SaveSandyLake](#) [#InconvenientTruth](#) [#ProtectOurWater](#) [#NSEnvironment](#) [#Halifax](#)
[#NatureMatters](#)

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News and updates:

1. In November, HRM hosted their Open House (to which we managed to add HRM's official environmental maps that they had left out) about proposed development at Sandy Lake. Disturbingly, the largest developers in the area, Clayton Development (Shaw Group), unveiled a NEW map of their development plan. Not only does it aggressively disregard important wetlands, tributaries, drumlins and wildlife corridors in favour of high-density housing, it is very different from their map that was used for all the

background studies commissioned by HRM and the Task Force. The authors of the background studies state that deviations from the original map and information could invalidate conclusions from their reports.

Here is the developer's new map:



Link to maps: <https://tinyurl.com/3dj7d8t5>

The plan is to add 20K vehicles daily to Hammonds Plains Road and area.

2. It is also concerning that background studies paid for by the developer are not available to the public. We have not been able to confirm that they are available to HRM staff either. Everyone needs all of the information in order to make good decisions.
3. The Province continues to misquote the 2006 Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) as the reason for their plan to develop at Sandy Lake. However, as is written in the 2006 MPS, Sandy Lake was to be considered for a 'potential growth area'. In practice, the city would conduct evaluation processes of proposed developments to determine whether

to go ahead or not. In some cases, they choose not. There is strong evidence that Sandy Lake would normally be one of them. However, the Province has been functioning as if just being on the list to be examined is reason enough to approve housing.

4. The Coalition Steering Team met again with the Province's Housing Task Force and HRM's development planning staff. In our meeting we highlighted and explained, yet again, the problems with the Stantec background studies for the Sandy Lake SPA. We wait to learn if and how the gaps in these background studies will be addressed by provincial and HRM staff. As you can see, we continue to work to increase awareness of the facts about Sandy Lake and the quality of information for evidence-based decisions.
5. Opportunity to engage with HRM on Suburban Plan

HRM is listening to people about what they want for the "suburban" part of HRM – this includes the Sandy Lake area. Anyone can [complete a survey on this topic](#), or attend a [Pop-Up Open House event](#) about the Suburban Plan. The Open House events closest to Sandy Lake are the one at the **Bedford-Hammonds Plains Community Centre on Feb. 19, and the one that Bedford Legion on Feb. 23.**

Not sure what to say at the Open House? Here are the top points that our Steering Committee will be advocating for:

1. Expand Sandy Lake Regional Park by the 1700 acres needed to preserve the park assets
2. Do not allow development on the west and south sides of Sandy Lake/Marsh Lake
3. Protect the vital wildlife corridors that run through the Sandy Lake – Sackville River area
4. Strengthen rules for buffers next to wetlands, streams, and lakes - at Sandy Lake the McCallum Report recommended 50-metres for wetlands and 100 metres for watercourses.

These HRM-hosted Open Houses about the Suburban Plan are a chance to have your say about how suburban HRM will be shaped and serviced for years to come, including at Sandy Lake. About ½ of HRM's population lives in the suburban area, so make sure to speak up for what you value in communities and in your municipality!

If you have questions or concerns, you can always email the Sandy Lake-Sackville River Regional Park Coalition [steering](#) committee at sandylakecampaign@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Karen Robinson and Walter Regan
Co-chairs, Sandy Lake - Sackville River Regional Park Coalition



Sandy Lake - Robinson photo