



**Updates for Coalition Groups (please shared with your members):  
April 21 2026**

- 1. The Sandy Lake-Sackville River Regional Park Coalition is pleased to welcome three new member groups, bringing the Coalition to 35 member organizations!**

Save Our Old Forests (SOOF) Association [soof@saveouoldforests.ca](mailto:soof@saveouoldforests.ca)

The Dirt Gang <https://thedirtgang.ca/>

Nova Scotia Forever Forests <https://sites.google.com/view/nsforestsforever/action/chain-lakes?authuser=0>

**Welcome!**

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- 2. A Major Presentation to HRM's Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee (CPED)**

This presentation to HRM Councillors focused on the planning history (and present situation) at Sandy Lake, and the high costs of building at Sandy Lake (> \$203 million!). You can see the presentation by EAC's Karen McKendry starting at 12:02:


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trcxOLZkzoU>

Note that the 2006 and 2014 HRM Regional Plans listed Sandy Lake as a “potential area” for future development. The 2014 RP specified caveats regarding potential development which must be considered:

1. The need for additional lands and fiscal capacity for HRM and Halifax Water
2. Protection of environmental or cultural features, including wildlife corridors, the urban forest, wet areas, wetlands and watercourses
3. The integrity of regional parks or federal or provincial wilderness areas adjacent to the lands be maintained
4. Pedestrian and transit movement be prioritized over car-oriented design
5. Provide community-scale or site-level green infrastructure, renewable energy and other climate mitigation design elements

These directions from the Regional Plans are being questionably handled. Instead, the Province is proceeding as if just being on the potential list means development can proceed. HRM planning staff are doing their jobs under pressure from the Province's Housing Task Force.

### **3. Earth Day Actions for Sandy Lake**

 This Earth Day, take real action for Sandy Lake.

April 22 is Earth Day. We're asking you to take one small, powerful action this week or on Earth Day itself.

Here are 3 ways you can help remove Sandy Lake from the Special Planning Area (SPA) list - and protect it for good.

 Pick one

**1. Email your MLA. Where to find your MLA contact info:**

<https://nslegislature.ca/members/profiles>

Send a photo of Sandy Lake (or use one from our social media post) and say: “Please remove Sandy Lake from the SPA list.”

**2. Put up a Save Sandy Lake sign**

We need signs across the province this spring.

 Email us: [sandylakecampaign@gmail.com](mailto:sandylakecampaign@gmail.com) - we'll get the signs to you.

**3. Email the Premier & Housing Minister directly**

Premier: [premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)

Minister John White: [johnwhitemla@outlook.com](mailto:johnwhitemla@outlook.com)

Bcc us: [sandylakecampaign@gmail.com](mailto:sandylakecampaign@gmail.com)

Main ask in every email:

“Please remove Sandy Lake from the SPA list.”

🙋 Need help writing your email?

→ <https://www.sandylakecoalition.ca/take-action>

**Follow and share our socials:**

**Instagram** - <https://www.instagram.com/sandylake.sackvilleriver/>

**Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/sandylakebedford>

**Bluesky** - <https://bsky.app/profile/sandylakecoalition.bsky.social>

This Earth Day, act for Sandy Lake. 🌱

Share this newsletter to reach someone who will act too.

*Sincerely,*

*Karen Robinson and Walter Regan*

*Co-chairs, Sandy Lake - Sackville River Regional Park Coalition*

