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## Heritage, Parks & People are Spryfield's Assets

In the 1770's, Captain William Spry, Chief Surveyor for Nova Scotia cleared land for his farm and fields in Nova Scotia's fertile Mainland South area. Descendants of the early farming community's settlers remain on the land today, contributing to a large, non-migrant population in the neighbourhood that now bears the Captain's name.



Spryfield, which begins at the Armdale Rotary and extends to Pennant Point, is a diverse area of urban, suburban and rural areas and encompasses a shopping district, parks, housing developments, fishing villages and wilderness areas.

Over the last few months United Way of Halifax Region's Paul Shakotko and Peter Mortimer have met with groups in Halifax and have accepted a partnership to work with leaders in Spryfield to identify issues, craft a vision and develop a plan to achieve neighbourhood renewal.

Low income housing, public and private, rental and owned, is part of the attraction of Spryfield though the disparity is increasing. 26% of renters pay more than 30% of their income on rent while those renting in Halifax Region Municipality (HRM) pay only 13%. Average household income in Spryfield hovers at \$30,000 compared to \$56,000 in the HRM while adults aged 20 and older with less than a high school completion is 46% versus 22% in the HRM.

Among Spryfield's assets are heritage, parks and people. Many residents are involved in a wide variety of community groups, including the Spryfield Resident's Association, McIntosh Run Watershed Association, the Mainland Heritage Society, Quarter Note Singers, the CRABapple Mapping project, and causes and activities, such as those fighting to protect Colpitt Lake, the Spryfield Community Garden, a quilt makers group, and the relatively new Urban Farm Museum Allotments.

Many more residents however are not connected to community life and are reluctant to identify themselves as Spryfielders.

The time is ripe to make sure that voices from all parts of the community are heard, and to bring all neighbourhoods and sectors together, so that Spryfield can develop into a healthy and vibrant community for all citizens.



[Our Community is on the Go! Notes from a recent community forum.](#)

### Related Links

- [Halifax in ANC](#)
- [United Way of Halifax Region website](#)

By: Marjorie Willison and Paul Born

## Resources

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**Integrating Art & Social Services** - Summer is a great time to take advantage of the cultural activities offered within our communities! This article, from the Creative City website, emphasizes the important role that art plays in creating healthy communities. Read the article [here](#).

**Reclaiming Development in the Places We Live** - This paper by Mike Lewis profiles a complex renewal effort in southwest Montreal, characterized by a multi-faceted approach to neighbourhood revitalization. Read the paper [here](#).

## ANC Updates – What’s New

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### **Aspiring young filmmakers get their shot!**

The National Film Board of Canada is a key partner in ANC. They provide video cameras and training for youth in all five pilot neighbourhoods, helping to establish communications linkages and capture important lessons learned in a personal, creative and meaningful way.

In Toronto, 15 youth are currently participating in a five-week video training program. Led by the NFB, these young aspiring filmmakers are working on public service announcements on issues affecting their communities.

The NFB has also completed their first short film in Thunder Bay. In the seven-minute film, citizens and volunteers share their thoughts and hopes on the Simpson/Ogden Neighbourhood.

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### **ANC Policy Dialogue Continues**

The sixth ANC Policy Dialogue session was held on August 9. Government and community participants discussed success factors for the conduct of horizontal initiatives within government. The discussion also identified possible issues to be addressed by guest speakers at ANC's face-to-face Policy Forum on neighbourhood revitalization to be held October 25, 2005. The Forum is being co-hosted by Bayla Kolk, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Housing and Homelessness, and the Caledon Institute in partnership with ANC's federal sponsors and Social Development Canada. Learn more about the Policy Dialogue [here](#).

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### **New Members Join Policy Dialogue**

The Policy Dialogue welcomes new government participants from Social Development Canada, Statistics Canada, Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Rural Secretariat. One of the project objectives is to build relationships among government and community members. Comprehensive community initiatives such as neighbourhood change are relevant to the mandates of many government departments. The work of the Policy Dialogue will be significantly enhanced by the inclusion of these new participants.

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### **Your Newsletter, Your News!**

Have news to share? Opinions or comments on the newsletter? Send your thoughts, story ideas, news items, or letters to the editor to Louise Kearney at [louise@tamarackcommunity.ca](mailto:louise@tamarackcommunity.ca). We welcome your input!