

**REMARKS AT THE EAST DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY CENTRE  
INFORMATION SESSION - CALEDONIA HIGH SCHOOL**

Councillor Andrew Younger

September 21, 2005

*Check Against Delivery*

Thank you for coming this evening. In a few moments I will introduce some of my federal and provincial colleagues who are here this evening, as well as some of the other people you see around this evening.

Tonight marks an important step forward in revitalizing this community and bringing long sought after services to this area. The idea of an East Dartmouth Community Centre has been an important project for many years. In fact, the idea of building a community centre in this area has been ongoing for at least 15 years. During that time the need has grown - not diminished. The Halifax Regional Municipality conducted a masterplan process for the whole municipality and identified areas of need for indoor facilities.

East Dartmouth was high on the list of recommendations by the consultant and as one of a number of similar projects was awarded \$100,000 in 2004 as seed money.

In January of this year a volunteer community association was formed, and all the work that has been done on this project over the years was assembled. In March, the Mayor and Regional Council answered the commitment of this community to finally making this facility a reality and awarded \$1 million additional dollars to the project as direct capital funding. My council colleagues have put their faith in this community. Faith that this community will make this project happen.

The purpose of tonight is to give you the chance to provide your feedback on the use and other issues of the proposed building. If you don't wish to speak in person we have put comment forms at the back of the room which we strongly encourage you to fill out.

I would like to be clear on one issue in particular, the proposals you see tonight are not written in stone. The community association, myself, and HRM staff are here to listen to your feedback and then go back to the table to discuss this project.

I want to assure you that we value your feedback and that is why we are here tonight. Every opinion will be seen and considered as important and valuable as we build a facility which is not mine, is not this association's, but one which reflects the needs and aspirations of everyone in East-Dartmouth.

I would like to introduce first the most important people here tonight, that is the community association board. I'll ask that they please stand when I call their name. I encourage you to go and speak to these hard working volunteers at the end of the meeting with your comments and

questions. They have dedicated many hours to this project already and are dedicated to hearing your views tonight. Those members are:

**Chair:** Simon Gillis;

**Vice President:** Tracey Preeper;

**Secretary/Past Chair:** John Burton

**Treasurer:** Ed Towle;

**Directors:** Terry Degen, Mary Jo Delaney, Mike Wild, Dave Smith, Rob MacVicar;

**Ex-officio:** Carol Davis Jamieson

I would now like to introduce a few other people who are here tonight. From HRM staff, Mr. Bob Nauss, who is with Recreation Tourism, and Culture and is the Regional Coordinator for Community Development, Mr. Terry Gallagher from our Real Property department is our project manager, Ms. Kathy MacKinnon is the Area Coordinator for Recreation, Ms. Marilyn Smith is a Community Developer with this area, and Peter Jollimore is a Community Recreation Programmer for this area.

From the province I would like to introduce the Minister for Health Promotion, Mr. Rodney MacDonald. I understand Mr. MacDonald has come here from Antigonish this evening especially for this meeting, and minister I thank you for that. Also from the province is the MLA for Dartmouth East, Ms. Joan Massey. From the federal government I would like to introduce the MP for Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, Mr. Mike Savage. I can assure you that Mike has been working very hard on this project in an effort to secure federal funding. He brought the ACOA minister to meet with the society a few months ago for a productive meeting.

In a moment I will hand the rest of the meeting over to Simon Gillis, the chair of the society, however first I would like to call upon Mr. Jim Cormier, who is a member of the Premier's staff and a board member of the East Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club to introduce our special guest this evening.