

Mother Nature Affects Bedford Days and the Paper Mill Dam Project, but Our New Community Centre and Sports Field are on Budget and on Schedule!

**By Councillor Tim Outhit
District 16, Bedford – Wentworth**

A little, or rather a lot of rain could not keep Bedford Residents away! Bedford Days was still a success despite uncooperative weather. All days except the opening and the Kids Extravaganza were affected by rain. The Bedford Day's committee had planned for this, and were able to move a number of events to Basinview Community School or the LeBrun Centre. Unfortunately, the fireworks display had to be postponed. I want to thank the tremendous team of volunteers and HRM staff that worked quickly and tirelessly to ensure that most events went forward despite the rain. We have earned some sun for next year.

Speaking of weather and of Mother Nature, this has also has played a role in the delays and challenges facing The Annapolis Group, the owners of Paper Mill Dam as they work to update and rebuild their dam. Last September's record breaking rain and our wet spring this year, continue to slow the progress of this project. When heavy rains arrive, the contractor must again reduce the level of the lake slowly so not to cause flooding below the dam. The arrival of Pioneer Salmon last year also delayed progress on the dam. The good news is significant progress is now being made, and The Annapolis Group is working hard to try to complete the project this year. Dam construction is monitored and regulated by the federal government. The Nova Scotia Department of the Environment is monitoring the lake, and HRM is ensuring that our park and playground is returned to its previous or better condition after the dam is completed. The end result will be a safe and improved dam that will last for the next hundred years and provide enjoyment and security for our community.

We have huge reason to celebrate this summer. The new Bedford-Hammonds Plains Community Centre, attached to the new CPA High School, is almost ready to open its doors! You can expect this to happen within the next few weeks. This much needed and long anticipated new municipal facility features a number of wonderful components for healthy, active, and social recreation opportunities. It will significantly enhance the types and the quantities of recreation, sport and leisure programming currently available in our community.

In addition, a cafetorium (a combination of performance auditorium and cafeteria) in the new CPA, will provide community performance space. Our new community centre is a warm and welcoming facility with purpose built programming and meeting spaces for the community. As a result of public consultation to identify community needs, the cafetorium has been enhanced to include improved sound and light, a catwalk to accommodate community and school plays and musical performances.

Our two level Community Centre includes the following amenities:

- An Upgraded School Gymnasium

- A Second and Separate Community Gymnasium
- A Preschool Programming Room
- A Fitness Room
- A Youth / Senior's Program Room
- An Art & Craft Room
- An Activity Program Room
- A Dance Program Room
- A Community Meeting Room

Our lighted sports field is a full size FIFA and CFL Artificial Turf Facility and there are washrooms accessible from the outside of the community centre for field users. A grand opening event and tours will be announced shortly!

For further information, please call the following: Community Centre: 490-4674 / 869-4208; All Weather Turf Facility: 490-4003