



At Province House with the Speaker and guests to talk about accessibility

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Timberlea – Prospect

I have enjoyed my first year serving as MLA for Timberlea-Prospect. Most notably, assisting people with navigating the system and helping local groups. I appreciate the attendance of many to my six town hall meetings and the invitations to various community meetings and gatherings.



Knocking on doors in Beechville

Over the last year, we have accomplished a lot together. We completed the resurfacing and shoulder widening along St. Margaret's Bay Rd between Exit 4 and Exit 5 of the 103 in the spring.

We were also able to secure funds to improve accessibility at the

BLT senior elementary including a stair-lift to the 2nd level.



Speaker of the House, Kevin Murphy and BLT Student Peyton Roach

Continuing the Provinces focus on improving and reinvesting in Education, in October 2014, the report, *Disrupting the Status Quo* was released with many recommendations to strengthen the curriculum.



Town Hall on Education at Prospect Rd Community Centre

Transit also continues to improve for our communities as the Province continues to provide funding to HRM, which is assisting in constructing the new Lacewood Terminal scheduled to be completed this summer.



Running with the Timberlea Tundra Pounders

Looking ahead, I will continue to press for local infrastructure investment, particularly in recreation. After meeting with Councillor Rankin, Mayor Savage and staff at HRM, we have been able to secure a Needs Assessment to determine the demand for enhanced recreation opportunities.

My office will be encouraging as many people as possible to engage in this important discussion. Watch for updates on my Social Media links, where we will post information on this and many other local topics of interest.

The Shoebox Project



This year a number of colleagues and I used our Constituency Offices as a drop off location for the Shoebox Project, which collects small gifts packaged in shoeboxes for women staying in shelters over the holidays.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of people in Halifax, 406 shoeboxes were delivered to 11 women's shelters and outreach organizations, including the Marguerite Centre, this Christmas.

New Protection for Animals



There are new protections for our animals following a vote in the Legislature to pass the amended Animal Protection Act. I spoke on 2nd reading in support of this Bill. It is now illegal to abandon an animal, including cats and you now will require a veterinarian's certificate for the sale of a pet. Dog owners have responded positively as well to the new Standards of Care, including restrictions on tethering.

On Oct. 10th 2014 I recognized the 200th Anniversary of the Beechville community:

RESOLUTION NO. 162

Whereas the community of Beechville was originally settled in 1814 by men and women of African descent who had escaped from the United States in slavery during the War of 1812; and **Whereas** Beechville is one of Nova Scotia's 45 African Nova Scotian communities and many of the descendants of the original settlers still reside in the area today; and

Whereas in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Beechville, residents and friends of the community gathered to have it proclaimed that Saturday, August 9th be marked as Beechville Day by all levels of government.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the residents of Beechville, past and present, on their 200th Anniversary and on the proclamation of Beechville Day, as well as for their outstanding sense of community pride.



MLA Iain Rankin, Minister Tony Ince and MLA Stephen Gough at Beechville's 200th anniversary

SLOW DOWN Campaign

I have been in regular contact with RCMP and they have been strategically placing radar signs to help mitigate the speeding reported in the subdivisions. Thank you to everyone who participated in my campaign to "Slow down" traffic in our communities. I have had a lot of positive feedback from this initiative, with many residents choosing to send a strong and clear message about the dangers of driving too fast on our roads and most especially through residential areas. These signs can only be put up on private property.



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If you would like a "Slow Down" sign for your property, please contact my Constituency Office for the spring season.

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