



Democracy Corner at the Keshen Goodman Library: Diana and staff enjoy a moment in the sun on benches donated by Diana on behalf of the Democracy 250 celebrations.



Diana joined residents and family members at the 10th anniversary celebrations at Parkland Estates. She toured the facility and presented a certificate congratulating Jason Shannon and his staff.



"Neighbourhood Check-In" at the Bean Sprout (now the Almond Café) provided residents an informal time to meet Diana and talk about their issues.



This spring Diana presented Kaley Fitzpatrick and Kaitlynn Pecknold with a Resolution from the NS Legislature recognizing their 2008 Citizenship Award from Ecole Rockingham School. This annual award goes to outstanding student leaders.



Diana was a judge at the junior high Science Fair at Park West School. The students were well prepared and articulate and it was a pleasure to see our education system at its best.



Tenant Rights Event for students and residents held this spring at Mount Saint Vincent University. Diana and the Director of Residential Tenancies provided information and answered tenant questions.

# Diana Whalen, MLA for Halifax Clayton Park

## Keeping in Touch



Diana with Benjamin, Holly and Molly, the excellent hosts for the Earth Day assembly at Park West School. In addition, students also had a major litter clean up around the school grounds.

Our riding of Halifax Clayton Park is the fastest growing in Nova Scotia. New people arrive in our area every month and find that this is a great place to live and raise a family. That became even more true this winter as construction began on the much anticipated replacement for Northcliffe pool. The Mainland Common Recreation Centre will include a first class field house which will have a great walking track and indoor sport facilities.

Just as the new sports centre is the result of community input we are also celebrating the official designation of the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area! This protected area is 20 times larger than Point Pleasant Park and makes Clayton Park home to the largest urban wilderness area in Canada! You can read more about both these projects on my website at [www.dianawhalen.com](http://www.dianawhalen.com).

As MLA for Halifax Clayton Park, I am proud of the way our area continues to come together as a community. We include a mix of new subdivisions and older, historic neighbourhoods, and have attracted people from all parts of Nova Scotia and every corner of the world. The multicultural aspect of our community has become a defining characteristic of Clayton Park.

The issues that I tackle as MLA often begin with input from the community and I welcome your feedback, suggestions and concerns. As warmer weather approaches I wish you a wonderful Spring and Summer!

*Diana*

### CONTACT DIANA:

287 Lacewood Drive, Suite 303,  
B3M 3Y7  
Phone: 443-8318  
Fax: 445-9287  
Email: [whalenc@gov.ns.ca](mailto:whalenc@gov.ns.ca)  
Web: [www.dianawhalen.com](http://www.dianawhalen.com)

# UPDATE ON MAINLAND COMMON CENTRE



In December 2008, a ground breaking ceremony was held for the Mainland Common Centre. The \$40.5 million project is being funded through contributions of \$12 million from each the provincial and federal governments, \$1 million from the 2011 Canada Winter Games and the balance from HRM.

The facility will include such features as an eight-lane, 25-metre indoor competition pool, a leisure pool, a 52,000-square-foot field house, an indoor 200-metre running/walking track, four full-sized gymnasium courts, an 11,500-square-foot health, fitness and wellness centre, a youth centre, several multipurpose rooms, leased space and a café.

Because of community involvement, the Mainland Common Centre has grown from a \$6.5 million project to over \$40 million. As we look to the future, we can now begin planning for upgrades such as a 50 meter pool and ice surfaces.

*The facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010.*



Jonathan and Pam Miller of Rockingham with Diana at the recent wilderness announcement. Jon met Diana in 2003, raised his concern about saving BMBCL and arranged a hike for her to see them first hand!

## DIANA'S RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Hosted meet and greet at Tiara Gardens to discuss changes to Condominium Act
- Attended the annual meeting of the Halifax Northwest Trails Association
- Brought greetings to the Insurance Brokers Association of Nova Scotia Dinner
- Attended 10th Anniversary Celebrations at Parkland Estates
- Judged science fair for junior high students at Park West School
- Held Tenant Rights Meeting at Mount Saint Vincent University
- Met with officials at NSCC and toured Leeds Street Campus
- Toured Halifax Sexual Health Centre
- Participated in Imagine Our Schools process regarding future of local schools
- Celebrated India Republic Day with the Indo Canadian Association of Nova Scotia
- Joined Lebanese community to celebrate Saint Maroun's Day
- Briefed by Department of Transportation officials on future of Highway 102 Corridor
- Met with Leanne Hachey, Vice-president, Atlantic for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) to discuss issues facing small business in Nova Scotia
- Spoke to grade six students at Duc d'Anville about Democracy 250
- Joined a political science class at Mount Saint Vincent to discuss the role of women in politics

## "IMAGINE OUR SCHOOLS"

This winter, the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) has been studying all of our schools to assess their physical condition and review the current and projected enrolments. Our area schools have some overcrowding but we are fortunate that none of them are being looked at for closure. The physical review of the schools identified both Clayton Park Junior High and Fairview Heights Elementary as schools that will need some physical improvements in the future. In terms of capacity only Grosvenor Wentworth and Park West are above capacity (115% and 140% respectively), the other schools are at approximately 75%.

The overcrowding at Park West is the most urgent concern that was identified. I have contacted the HRSB and the Province to support a modular addition to the school as this would be both practical and affordable. I also sought clarification on the process to change a P3 school contract. I received reassurance that this has been done before and can be done again. I strongly support the view that PWS is working well and should remain a P-9 school and with no changes to the current boundaries.

The final recommendations for our area schools will be presented May 14 at Halifax West High School from 7-9 pm.

## CHANGES TO SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

In September the School Board must accept all students into the lunch program at no cost. I thank those who have called to let me know about this issue and the severe challenges in finding staff and funding the change. I have written the Minister of Education to request special transition funding as HRSB moves to a lunch policy that has long been the practice everywhere else in NS.

## BLUE MOUNTAIN - BIRCH COVE LAKES OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED

An area of provincially owned Crown land that is 20 times the size of Point Pleasant Park has been preserved under the Wilderness Protection Act. Once introduced to the area by Jon Miller, I shared his deep commitment to save these lands. In 2004, joined by a group of community partners, including among others the Ecology Action Centre, Halifax North West Trails Association and the Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Society, I supported a petition to the legislature and introduced a Bill that called for the creation of the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes wilderness area.

It is wonderful that 3,242 acres of wilderness have been saved but the work is not over. I will continue to ensure that community priorities are reflected in the plans for the area.