
Commentary on Halifax Staff report dated May 1st 2015
Subject: Daylight River in Sawmill Creek

General points:

- Staff who wrote this report took no initiative to come up with an innovative solution
- The list of projects underway in the greenway are presented in a piecemeal way with no indication that a comprehensive approach is being taken
- The staff report contains a list of barriers to daylighting. Why is there no mention of the opportunities or benefits?

Specific points:

- The staff report is only one step related to the process of daylighting
- A critical piece on the decision of daylighting must come from the Halifax Water Commission tendered report from CBCL (response to RFP #P02.2013)
- EAC has made an Access to Information application for the CBCL Report as it feels transparency for the public on such an popular issue is important (that request was refused)
- **The Staff Report is defective because it does not include any information from the Halifax Water commissioned engineered report on the subject** (including costs of daylighting as compared to other options).
- The current Canal Greenway Plan ignores significant aspects of the community vision, specifically the playground and the exposed stream. The last time the community was consulted on this project was in 2005. In the interim, significant changes have been made to that plan and there has been no transparency on how or why those changes were made. Nor has there been any public discussion.
- There is no mention of the high level of public interest for daylighting
- The staff report infers that meeting legislated DFO requirements for fish passage may not be possible, thereby putting this project at risk of being non-compliant with federal fisheries legislation.
- The Shubenacadie Canal Commission has been listed as a primary stakeholder in the report – What authority allows the Commission to speak as representatives for Dartmouth residents? The primary stakeholder is and should be the public.

What's next?

- The EAC asks that the CBCL report commissioned by Halifax Water be made publicly available in order to have informed public debate on the costs of daylighting as compared to other options.
- The EAC asks the Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council to question the validity of this report and seek further information before making a decision.