

February 24, 2015

Mayor Mike Savage  
Mayor of Halifax  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Savage,

Halifax Harbour is a functioning estuary that shelters numerous fisheries that are of recreational, commercial and aboriginal importance, including Gaspereau, American eel and Atlantic salmon. The rivers that flow into the harbour are essential watercourses for fish to access freshwater spawning grounds.

The Sawmill River, in downtown Dartmouth, is one such river that connects Halifax Harbour to some of the largest water bodies in the Dartmouth area. Forty-three years ago, a 700 meter length of the Sawmill River was buried in a pipe underground, creating a barrier that prevents fish from moving to their essential spawning grounds.

The barrier of the Sawmill River remains to this day. As you are aware, Halifax Water Commission will soon be replacing this underground pipe along the length of the Sawmill River to accommodate elevated precipitation loads due to climate change. In this replacement, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans is requiring that fish passage be restored.

A variety of environmental, aboriginal and recreational organizations and local businesses are encouraging the city and the water commission to “daylight” the Sawmill River to bring economic, environmental, recreational, and social benefits to the community of Dartmouth. Daylighting describes projects that deliberately expose some or all of the flow of a previously covered river, creek, or stormwater drainage. Daylighting of the Sawmill River will also complement the extensive work and investment of the City of Halifax to clean up the Harbour through improved sewage treatment in recent years.

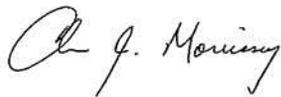
Clean Foundation has worked to restore adjacent watersheds such as the Cow Bay River, Little Salmon River, Smelt Run, Hornes Brook, and Gammon Lake Brook since 2006. Our watershed restoration team has developed expertise in watershed restoration and community engagement, stewardship and education about the benefits and requirements for healthy watercourses. The Sawmill River is literally in Clean Foundation’s backyard, and we see the value in daylighting this river, as it should be greatly beneficial to the fish that reside in Dartmouth area watercourses, Halifax Harbour and the Atlantic Ocean, while bringing

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urban renewal by bringing water and nature back into the heart of the city, and provide an excellent opportunity for community education and outreach in the benefits and services of clean and restored watersheds.

Clean Foundation supports the initiative to daylight the Sawmill River and commits to assisting the city of Halifax and Halifax Water Commission in maintaining exposed sections of the river. Maintenance support from Clean Foundation could include habitat restoration, erosion control, debris clearing and removal and litter clean ups.

Sincerely,



Chris Morrissey  
Executive Director



Christine Ward-Paige, MSc PhD  
Water Program Coordinator

C.C.:

Mr. Carl Yates, General Manager, Halifax Water Commission