



February 11, 2008

Re: CN Rail Line B Joseph Howe Drive to Lakeside

Since last July, I have written three letters to your neighbourhood about the rail-line abandonment process. If you've missed those letters, or if you need more information about the process that CN has followed, please visit my website (www.grahamsteele.ca). I now have two new pieces of information that I want to share with you.

Open House

HRM is holding an Open House® on Monday, February 18th, from 6 p.m. to 8.45 p.m., at St. Lawrence's Church on Dutch Village Road. The meeting notice is on the other side of this letter. You may already have received this notice directly from HRM.

This Open House is an excellent opportunity to have all your questions answered, and to let HRM know how you feel about the future of the line.

Petition

A Fairmount resident has started an on-line petition, supporting conversion of the rail line to a recreational trail. Based on the response I've received to my letters, there is overwhelming support for this option. If you would like to join the petition, you can find it here: www.ipetitions.com/petition/cnr_trail. Or simply go to www.ipetitions.com and type ACN® in the search box. The on-line petition will be followed up on some streets with a paper petition.

I would like to thank everyone who has been in touch with me about the future of the line. I hope to see you at the Open House on February 18th.

Yours sincerely,
Graham Steele, MLA
Halifax Fairview

NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE SESSION

ABANDONMENT OF RAILWAY LINE THROUGH FAIRMOUNT SUBDIVISION

HRM and Hatch Ltd. (Engineering and Planning Consultants) are in the process of collecting data and information related to the abandonment of the railway corridor (Chester Spur) running along Joseph Howe Drive, through the Fairmount Subdivision and into Bayers Lake and Lakeside Business Parks. The purpose of this exercise is to assist Halifax Regional Council in making a determination of whether or not to purchase the rail corridor and for what purpose. HRM's Active Transportation Plan identified this as an important potential connection in the region's expanding trails network. Other options that have been suggested include:

- continued operation of the rail line for freight and/or passenger services
- a roadway corridor, possibly limited to transit buses
- sale of pieces of the corridor to adjacent property owners
- a combination of the above

To provide information to residents in the immediate area of the railway corridor, and to gain some feedback on potential issues or concerns that may arise with some of the potential future uses proposed, an open house information session is planned. HRM staff and their consultant will present displays, provide a brief presentation, and will be available to answer questions and receive input on the future of the corridor. Here is where and when the session will be held:

St. Lawrence Church Hall
3473 Dutch Village Road
(Behind new Shopper's Drug Mart)
Monday, February 18, 2008
490-6696 for more information

**6:00 Displays, staff available
for discussion**
7:00 Consultant presentation
7:20 Q&A Session
8:00 Discussion with staff
8:45 Closing

