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Chebucto News

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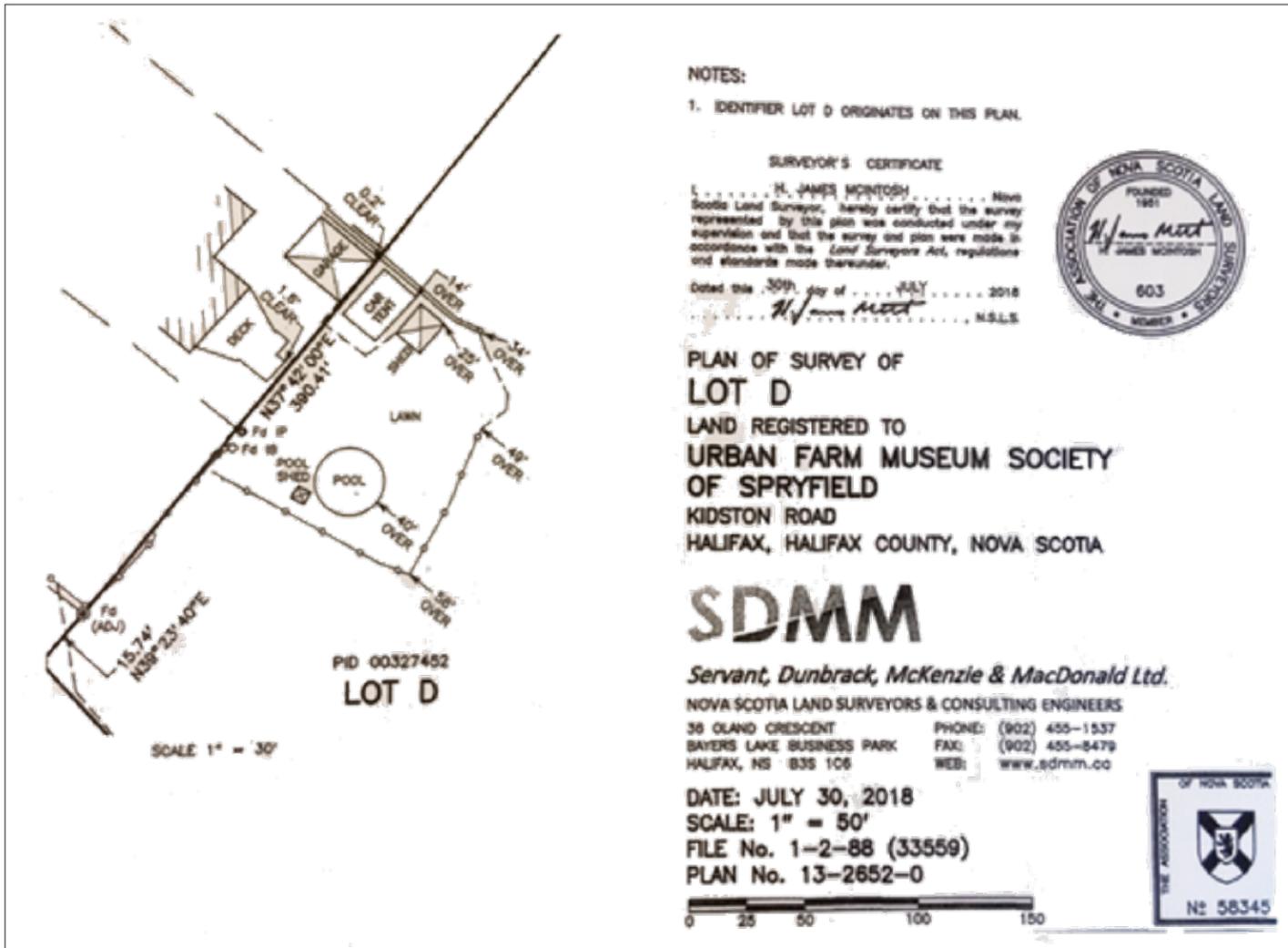


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Urban Farm Museum Society needs your help to save its programs



by Lorrie Boylen

For almost 24 years, a small group of dedicated volunteers with the Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield ("UFMSS") have worked hard to raise funds in order to some day implement their big plans for future improvements.

Now all their hard work is in jeopardy as the Urban Farm is being faced with legal bills in order to reclaim part of their land. Money that has been painstakingly set aside for years is

going towards defending themselves in court. This means that there is little money left to run the programs this summer, run the forest school and other expanded programming, and to eventually create a summer baby farm animal stable.

In 2016, the Farm was gifted a piece of adjoining land by Mr. Ralph Medjuck, who had originally planned to build duplexes on the property. This plan never materialized and Mr. Medjuck eventually gave the old

growth forest land to the Urban Farm. Both parties agreed to a legally signed Memorandum of Agreement, stating that the land could never be sold, given away or divided. The land gift was to be taken over by the Farm, but used and shared with the entire community of Spryfield.

A boundary survey completed in 2018 showed that a neighbouring property owner, who was a former member of the UFMSS, had made a significant encroachment on the origi-

nal Medjuck property over the years. The Board of Directors offered him a 5 year License Agreement to use their land which would be renewed yearly until the Urban Farm was ready to expand.

He refused their offer and hired a lawyer demanding a permanent easement of half the land he had encroached upon or the full amount as shown on the survey map. The UFMSS was unable to meet this demand because of the legal document signed with Mr. Medjuck. Unfortunately, after these negotiations were unsuccessful, the UFMSS had to seek the court's assistance in order to regain their land and resolve the case.

(See Urban Farm on page 2)

Young people are welcome here

by Carolyn Mont

St. Paul's United Church has long had children from Beavers to Cubs and on to Scouts. Every year, on Baden Powell Sunday, they troop into the church as a group, recite their pledges and display their flags. This year, Baden Powell Sunday was on February 16, and as usual, it was a treat to see these young people, in the appropriate uniform for their group, be welcomed at the worship service. Troop Scouter of the 3rd Spryfield Scout Troop, Dan Drabble, explained to us that Robert Baden Powell was a British Army officer who trained boys to act as scouts for the military, thus beginning the world wide Boy Scout, and subse-

(See Young people on page 2)

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Urban Farm

(continued from page 1)

The Farm had big plans to establish nature trails, a children's forest school, including a fairy door trail, and restorations of sections of old stone walls where sheep were historically kept. In addition, there were plans to purchase the Kidston's 1822 farmhouse including antique contents and surrounding land, thus expanding the Farm to 6-1/2 acres. The board worked hard to get a museum evaluation and are on their way to receiving museum accreditation.

The Farm is a treasure, a special oasis run entirely by volunteers. The only paid staff member is a student for 8 weeks in the summer, but this year they may not even be able to afford that. Previous funding from the United Way is no longer available, and grants and other funding are not easy to come by.

Volunteers turned this formerly overgrown farmland into a fertile teaching space for people of all ages and races. Youth have a safe place to learn and grow, and newcomers from other lands are able to learn how to grow and cook local food, and also share their own knowledge from their home countries. With food insecurity lurking, spaces like the Farm are an important part of our heritage, and this helps retain and sustain growing techniques.

Tragically, without assistance, the UFMSS will be forced to seriously reduce its 2020 summer activities, events and programming at the farm.

How can you help? By purchasing an Urban Farm membership, and/or making a donation. Charitable receipts

will be given for any amount \$10 and up, but they will gratefully accept donations of any size. Etransfers may be sent to urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com.

Membership brochures are available at the Captain William Spry Community Centre Library. Memberships to the farm are very reasonably priced. Adults \$10.00, Families \$15.00, Students and Seniors \$5.00, and/or volunteering at the farm. You'll even get a charitable receipt for any amount over \$10.00.

Young people

(continued from page 1)

quently Girl Guide, movement. If anyone is interested in joining this group, they meet at St. Paul's United Church at 173 Old Sambro Rd. on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. Some of the children attend St. Paul's but church membership is not a requirement.

On that same day, we had the youngest choir member ever to sit in our choir. Young Rose Gillis, daughter of Darcy and Roger Gillis, sat in the choir with her mother. It should be noted that she did not sing, being just 4 months old. This was not Rose's first time at church but it certainly was her initiation into the choir. We do have a section in our sanctuary, with rocking chairs, where parents may wish to sit with their children and still be a part of the worship. This is our "Pray Ground", a child centered area with some colouring materials and stuffed animals. We would like parents to feel comfortable and welcome in bringing their small children into our worship service.

On Saturday, March 28, we will

Letters of support and donations to the Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield can be sent care of: 211-339 Herring Cove Road, Halifax, NS B3R 1V5.

To find out more, check them out on Facebook @Urban Farm of Spryfield or their website at urbanfarm-spryfield.com.

(Lorrie Boylen is a Freelance Writer, Administrative and Communications Professional and CBC Radio's Community Contact for Sambro)

have an Upscale Flea Market in our church hall, from 10:30 am until 2:00 pm. You may wonder what it means to be an Upscale Flea Market. We will not be selling clothing but will have areas set aside for books, home decor items, jewelry, purses and scarves, toys and miscellaneous items. Everything will be clean and in working order. Starting at 11:30 we will serve a lunch of your choice of several homemade soups and biscuits as well as dessert and tea or coffee. The charge for lunch is \$8.00 and we will not be selling tickets in advance. There is no charge to get into our Upscale Flea Market.



Check out our March Specials on the back cover!

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