

Who to Contact to Save Dartmouth Cove

Summary

- Keep the issue top of mind for our politicians and representatives. If you've reached out already, that's great! Don't hesitate to write again if you don't see the change you're looking for.
- When writing to the federal ministers, you can cc the Dartmouth/Cole Harbour Member of Parliament [Darren Fisher](#).
- Introduce the topic of your concern to whomever you're reaching out to. Explain your concerns and how the issue impacts you and your family/community directly.
- If you're looking for some ideas about what to include in your letter, please feel free to use some of the areas of concern below.

Areas of Concern

ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE CONCERNS

If your primary concern is the impact of dumping activities on the environment and the surrounding area, these are some points to consider:

- Pyritic slate contains sulphide-bearing minerals, which oxidize with oxygen and water. This oxidation leads to the formation of sulphuric acid and mineral oxides, both of which can be harmful to aquatic organisms and environments.
- Pyritic slate also contains arsenic.
- **Toxic elements are already present in the silt at the bottom of Dartmouth Cove** due to years of heavy industrial use. At the moment, they are sitting undisturbed, buried under years of calming sediment. Dumping truckloads of rock into the cove is guaranteed to stir up the sediment, creating toxic plumes and release untold toxins further into the water and the air. **This should be assessed or a study requested before any dumping activities are allowed to be considered.**
- The Cove is an active fishing ground used by lobster fisherman. Local fisherman have reported that fishing in the Harbour has been significantly impacted already by the infill in Bedford Basin.
- Dartmouth Cove is home to birds and other wildlife such as seals and otters which are now returning to the area after the Harbour has been cleaned up.
- This type of fill leaches various contaminants into the surrounding waters which can affect fish and wildlife seriously.
- Lasting impact on at least 115 species of birds which have been observed, including potential loss of species at risk (two are listed under Canada's Species at Risk Act: Barrow's Goldeneye and Harlequin Duck.)

- Impact, particularly during winter months, when large groups of waterfowl and seabirds congregate to feed and rest. Many of the birds that rely on Dartmouth Cove feed on fish, shellfish and invertebrates in the water column.
- The destruction of habitat and eelgrass
- Any work taking place in the Dartmouth Cove area should likely consider how it may be impacted by sea level rise and storm surge, and whether any changes in the coastline here would increase or decrease risks to the existing shoreline and infrastructure.

For any and all of these concerns and more, please contact:

Hon. Tim Halman

Department of Environment and Climate Change
 minister.environment@novascotia.ca
 Barrington Tower
 1894 Barrington Street, Suite 1800
 P.O. Box 442
 Halifax, NS
 B3J 2P8
 Phone: 902-424-3736

Hon. Steven Guilbeault

Minister of Environment and Climate Change
 ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca
 Hill Office
 House of Commons
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0A6
 Phone: 819-938-3813

FISHING CONCERNS

If your primary concern is the effect this will have on fishing as a livelihood, these are some points to consider:

- Infilling causes a great deal of dirt in the water which can fill up traps and bait and can ruin lobster fishing in the Harbour for however long the project continues.
- Shore access by mackerel fishermen will be lost.
- Shubenacadie Canal empties into this cove and millions of dollars have been spent to rebuild the canal with fish ladders to help restore fish stocks in the many kilometres of lakes connected to the Cove.
- With this project, the reduced entry and narrowed area to the Shubenacadie River entrance would be considered an adjacent area, therefore interfering with and perhaps ending the return of fish to their spawning grounds.

For any of these concerns and more, please contact:

Steve Craig, Minister

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and
 Aquaculture
 MINDFA@novascotia.ca
 1741 Brunswick Street, Suite 410
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 B3J 3X8
 Phone: 902-424-4560

Hon. Joyce Murray

Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian
 Coast Guard
 min@dfp-mpo.gc.ca
 Hill Office
 House of Commons
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0A6
 Phone: 613-992-2430

MARINE SAFETY AND MARINE NAVIGATION LOSS CONCERNS

If your primary concern is the effect this will have on marine safety and navigation, these are some points to consider:

- Dartmouth Cove offers a safe place for boaters/watercraft to use as a refuge if they become endangered within the narrows of Halifax Harbour.
- It is used by a variety of watercraft on a regular basis, including the marine businesses at the COVE Entrepreneur Site as it offers a safe place for testing marine craft.
- Those who use the waters of the Cove for pleasure such as kayaking, sailing etc., will also be negatively impacted, as there really will be little left of the Cove in which to maneuver, as well as no place within the cove to launch a watercraft

For any of these concerns and more, please contact:

Hon. Omar Alghabra

TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca

Hill Office

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A6

Phone: 613 992-1301

ARCHEOLOGICAL AND/OR HISTORICAL CONCERNS

If your primary concern is the destruction of archeological and/or historical artifacts located within Dartmouth Cove, these are some points to consider:

- The site of a shipwreck from the War of 1812
- The site of Mik'maq settlements and fishing grounds
- There are still remains from the very first ferry that ran between Dartmouth and Halifax at the foot of Old Ferry Road.
- Original land and cove granted to the Quakers, who are a significant part of Dartmouth history.

For any of these concerns and more, please contact:

Hon. Pat Dunn

Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

MIN_CCTH@novascotia.ca

Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

1741 Brunswick St.,3rd Floor

P.O. Box 456, STN Central
Halifax, NS
B3J 2R5
Phone: 902-424-4889

DARTMOUTH HARBOURWALK TRAIL

If your primary concern is the effect this infill project will have on the Harbourwalk Trail, these are some points to consider:

- The trail will be impassable for at least a portion of the six years the developer anticipates the project to take
- The developer has noted that they will make every effort to ensure the path is accessible during the project except when it is unsafe. There are no details how long those periods would be when the path is considered unsafe and needs to be closed, nor has any alternative route been suggested to the public. For hundreds of citizens, that path is a main access point for the ferry and services downtown, as well as means of recreation. Will anyone feel safe, or get any enjoyment from following a path amidst heavy machinery, dust and noise?
- The trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail System.
- Urban trails are essential for the physical and psychological health and wellbeing of community members who use them. They are far safer for commuters on foot or on a bicycle than busy city streets.
- The walking trail is a public haven for hundreds of people a day who enjoy the natural beauty and clear views in Dartmouth Cove.

For any of these concerns and more, please contact:

Councillor Sam Austin

austins@halifax.ca

PO Box 1749, Halifax Nova Scotia B3J 3A5
Phone: 902-579-6814

Mayor Mike Savage

mayor@halifax.ca

PO Box 1749, Halifax Nova Scotia B3J 3A5
Phone: 902.490.4010

MLA Claudia Chender

claudiachendermla@gmail.com

33 Ochterloney Street, Suite 360
Dartmouth, NS
B2Y 4P5
Phone: 902-406-2301