
From: Mary Ann McGrath <MaryAnn.McGrath@corp.eastlink.ca>
Sent: November-20-12 11:30 AM
To: Office
Subject: Bill 94 - House of Assembly Act
Attachments: img-Provincial District 9.pdf

To Members of the Provincial Legislature and Members of the Law Amendments Committee

I wish to make a submission in relation to Bill 94 – House of Assembly Act, specifically in regard to the name and extent of the proposed District 9 – Clayton Park West.

The Extent.

I am attaching a map of the proposed Provincial Electoral District 9, on which I have indicated in red, an area that covers the majority of the watershed that feeds into Kearney Lake. It includes the large lakes of Susie & Quarry Lakes on which is located a major damn which was re-built (at provincial government insistence) some years ago to mitigate downstream flooding in some of the lake-side communities. This is also the bulk of the land which has been protected as a Provincial Wilderness Area. It is important for 2 reasons that the MLA for District 9 also have some considerable degree of influence over this water-shed area. As referenced, the water shed and the major damn on Susie – Quarry Lakes controls the quantity and quality of water which feeds the downstream areas. Many are still on wells, and there are major recreation sites on Kearney Lake and Paper Mill Lake which depend on quality and quantity of water. If the watershed is in a different district than the communities that depend on it – what will be the impact on the representative MLA for District 9 to influence appropriate decision making in terms of the watershed issues. Similarly, the protection of the Wilderness Area is of concern to the communities in District 9. It should be noted that there are currently no official entrance sites for the Wilderness area but the major un-official entrances (and likely the future official entrances) are all located in the proposed District 9. Since the Wilderness Area and the watershed issues both impact District 9 to a greater degree than other neighbouring constituencies, should not at least this critical portion of the land area be part of the same district so that the local MLA can have responsibility for an area which will be of such concern to the residents of that district? There are no implications of voter representation for this change, since the area involved is entirely wild, protected land, or land which is not currently available for development.

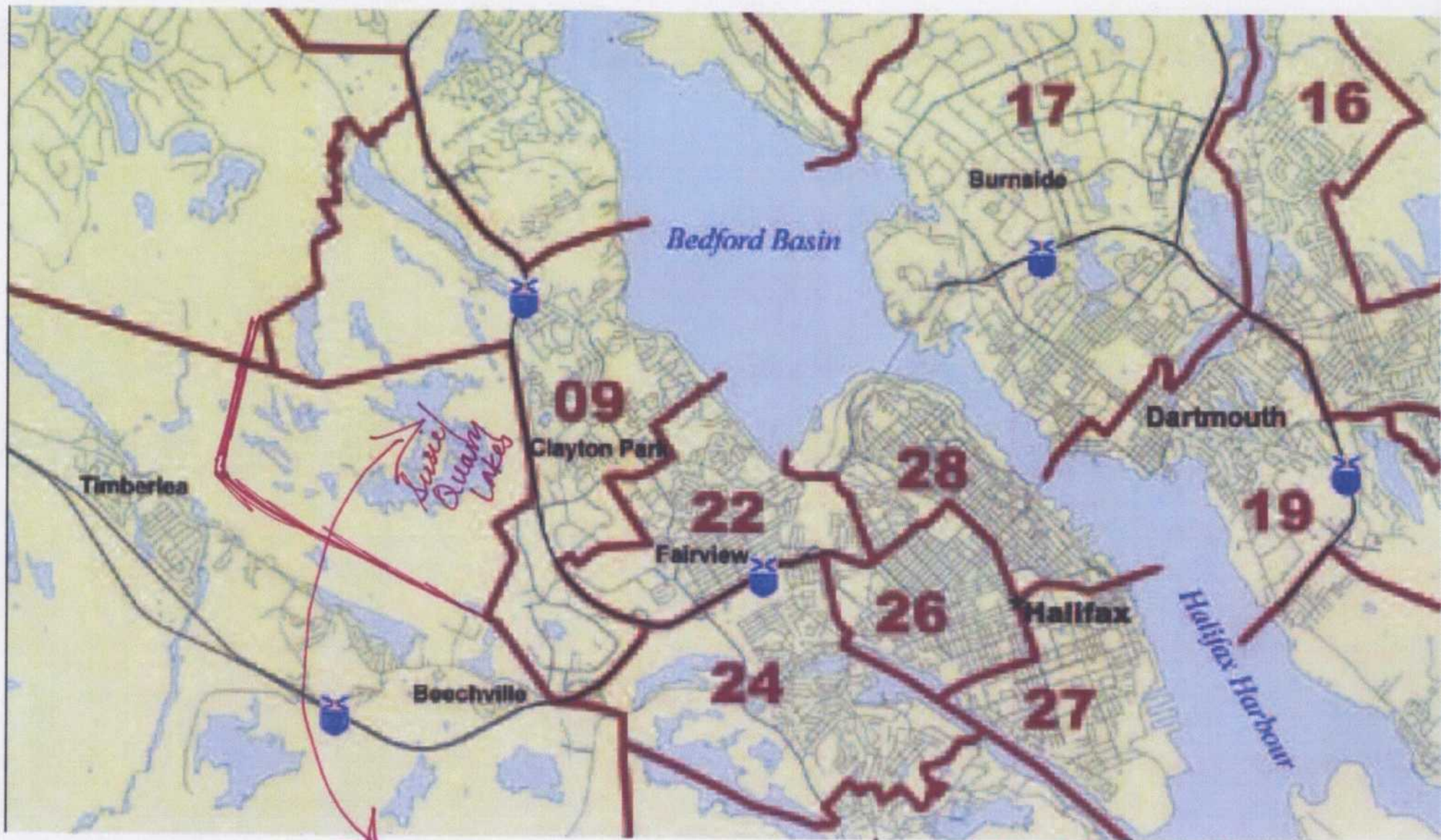
The Name.

What can I say about the proposed name that would be kind? Nothing. The proposed name of Clayton Park West is the name of a subdivision of less than 20 years of history, and encompassing only a small portion of the proposed District 9. This area consists mainly of the historical communities of Rockingham, Birch Cove, Kearney Lake and Prince's Lodge, together with the Bayers Lake Business Park. The so-called community of Clayton Park West is named for the subdivision and is really a real estate address used mainly for marketing purposes. The bulk of Clayton Park West is actually in the community of Rockingham and the remainder in Birch Cove, which are legal provincially recognized community names. But rather than getting into a protracted discussion of which community names deserve to be recognized, I propose that the name of the proposed District 9 revert to the previous name of this provincial constituency – "Halifax – Bedford Basin". The only part of this former constituency that is not within the proposed District 9 is the old Clayton Park subdivision, east of Dunbrack Street and south of Mount St Vincent University, which is now part of the proposed District 22 – Clayton Park – Fairview. It seems much more appropriate to revert to a well known and understood name than to attempt to build a community recognition based on a subdivision name in its infancy, while ignoring long-standing, historical community names which actually comprise the bulk of the proposed District 9. The name Clayton Park West is not reflective of the history and character of this proposed electoral district and we are respectfully requested that the name of the provincial riding revert to its former name of Halifax – Bedford Basin.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Ann McGrath

Chair, Kearney Lake Residents Association



include watershed area in Electoral District 9.