

Ward 3 council candidate Virgil Hammock

I've lived in Sackville for 47 years. I taught at Mt. A for 29 years, 19 of those years as the head of the department of Fine Arts. I've served 13 years on Town Council. I was also four years on the Southeast Regional Health Authority, elected member. I spent seven years in the planning commission, and I actually was president of the Farmers Market though I can't grow anything.

Anyway, I want to tell you why I am running. Why am I running for councillor in Ward 3 Tantramar? In part, I am angry about the amalgamation that's been forced upon us by the provincial government without a mandate from affected citizens. Us.

The Town of Sackville and the Village of Dorchester have histories that go back to the mid 18th century and are going to be erased and replaced with Tantramar. Really?

It will be some time, likely never, that people will stop saying they live in Dorchester, Sackville, not to mention Wood Point or Aulac. We have a long history, and I hope long memories when it comes to the next provincial election. But anger is not enough reason to run in an election. The new Township is going to have a difficult start. To start Ward 3 and 4, Greater Sackville if you like, the majority of people and councillors, five councillors in all. The other three councillors and wards represent an area far larger than the former Village of Dorchester, or the Town of Sackville. I

In a traditional ward system, councillors represent the interests of the ward. When I was first elected to the Sackville Town Council, I represented Ward 1 downtown Sackville. Then Sackville had eight councillors, four wards, four at large for each ward.

It's going to be hard for a newly elected Tantramar councillor to get your heads around the idea they need to represent the entire community and not just your wards. Of course everybody running including myself in this election will say that they will represent all of Tantramar the needs [bell rings to indicate two minutes are up] Hah, hah. I will continue later if you can find me okay.