



The Bridge

Co-Chairs

Beth McGee

jemcgee@eastlink.ca

John Cascadden

jdcas@slcc.com

March 2011

Trust memberships make a great gift for those interested in conserving public land in its natural state for public use.

Membership for that special person can be obtained by contacting Catherine King at crobking@eastlink.com

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Message from the Co-Chairs

Friends:

Since our last edition of The Bridge in November 2010, various project work undertaken by Trust members has continued. Our work outlined in the Work Plan for 2011 is nearing completion.



COCO Meetings were held in November and February (January meeting had to be postponed several times due to inclement weather) and the Wednesday, March 23

meeting is slated to be held at 7 p.m. the Tantallon Public Library. Notes from these meetings will be referenced elsewhere in this edition. The discussion notes from the November and February meetings can be found on the Trust's website. We have been asked to move COCO Meetings from Thursdays to Wednesdays to provide an opportunity for HRM Councillors Peter Lund and Reg Rankin to attend.

Trust Board members have provided input into the community groups' responses to Forest Strategy as well as the Water Strategy released by Nova Scotia Environment. John Cascadden has been serving on the Nova Scotia Environmental Network's Water Caucus as the Trust representative.

We are in the process of reprinting the brochure "Plants of the Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail: A Guide" brochure. The reprinted brochure, expected to be done in Spring 2011, will feature colour photos of the plants and an updated trail map. Thanks to Catherine King for her help on this project and to Jeff Parks for handling formatting.

The ever popular publication "A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road" has brought enjoyment to many, as well as new Trust members and donations in support of our work..

Members of the Steering Committee of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition met with NSE staff on March 9, 2011. A report on this meeting is contained in this edition.

At the time of the writing of this message planning for our Annual General Meeting on March 30 is well in hand. After the AGM we will have two new Co-Chairs, Jill Pulsifer and Harry Ward. We are very pleased to have them assume leadership of the Trust as we head into exciting times. John will remain on the Board as the Trust's representative to several initiatives including the Water Caucus and the consortium of community groups who will take part in the five year review of the HRM Plan of 2006. Beth will remain on the Board for one more year to assist the Co-Chairs with their transition to their new roles .

As outgoing Co-Chair Beth would like to give much thanks to John for serving as Co-Chair in this past year. We extend a large vote of Thanks to the Board members, Advisors and members whose support has made our work so much easier.

We look forward to designation of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area with much anticipation.

Please join us at our Annual General Meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at the Tantallon Public Library! We have an exciting year ahead of us.

Beth & John

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Notice of the Annual General Meeting

The Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust will hold its **Annual General Meeting** on **Wednesday, March 30, 2011** beginning at **7 p.m. at the Tantallon Public Library, Upper Tantallon**. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. to allow those who wish to renew their membership or for those persons wishing to support the Trust's work by becoming a member.

In addition to the Reports of the Committees of the Trust on the work and accomplishments of the past year, members and attendees will also hear of plans for the coming year.

On October 19, 2009 the Five Bridge lakes Area was declared a Candidate Wilderness Area. The Public Consultation phase was undertaken in the Winter of 2010. A Socio Economic Study is soon to be released for public consultation. Then the final step of having the area declared a Wilderness Area though an order of Cabinet can occur, hopefully in the Spring of 2011.

We are very pleased to have Tom Musial the Founding Chair of the Trust as our Guest Speaker. Following the business meeting Mr. Musial will give a presentation entitled: **FBWHT : Achievements of the Past, Challenges of the Future.**

We look forward to having you attend our AGM. Please join us as we enter a new exciting phase of our work. For further information please contact Beth McGee, telephone 823-2245 or John Cascadden, telephone 471-4631

What is the Water Caucus?

The Water Caucus of the Nova Scotia Environment Network (NSEN) is growing and we need your input. The water caucus is a network of individuals and organizations that are interested in supporting watershed-based management within Nova Scotia. Our monthly conference call meetings are used to share expertise, experiences, knowledge and information, and discuss water issues relevant to community groups. This network also helps water-focused ENGOs provide input to the development of water, watershed and coastal management strategies and policy. The Water Caucus has monthly conference calls on the 4th Monday of every month and occasional in-person meetings to discuss strategies and ways to engage more people in important water issues. For more information or to find out how you can join the Water Caucus contact the Water Coordinator water@ecologyaction.ca The foregoing article was borrowed with thanks from the NSEN website, please go there for additional information: <http://www.nsen.ca/water.php> (FBWHT is a member of the Water Caucus, John Cascadden is the Trust's representative)

Ed. Note: If you wish to share ideas or learn more about the work of the Water Caucus, please contact John Cascadden at: jdcas@slcc.com



Web Address

www.fivebridgestrust.ca

Protection of FBLWA on Track

On March 9, 2011 members of the Steering Committee of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition (CWC) met with staff from the Protected Areas branch of the Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) to learn of the progress of the socio-economic study being prepared by NSE staff and to explore the what stewardship role, if any, the community might play to help achieve the benefits of a Wilderness Area.

Oliver Maass, Protected Areas Coordinator, reported that he expects the legislatively required socio-economic study to be released in early May, 2011. The procedure then provides a 30-day period of public consultation. After this, NSE staff will take their recommendation on designation to Minister Belliveau, who in turn will take his recommendation to Cabinet for approval. There are no indications that the socio-economic study will produce any surprises, and staff anticipates that the Five Bridge Lakes candidate area will soon be declared the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA).

In response to the Steering Committee's question about what role community stakeholders might play relative to the FBLWA, Mr. Maass indicated that the terms, conditions, and standards relating to management of Wilderness Areas are contained in the legislation of the Wilderness Areas Protection Act, and that government not only welcomed but to some extent relied upon community groups to promote adherence to the provisions of the Act and to help achieve the benefits of wilderness area designation. Several possible models for community-government partnership in the FBLWA management were identified:

- Friends of the FBLWA
- Trail Agreements
- Maintenance Agreements
- Licensed Research Agreements
- Co-Management Agreements (Community and Government)

While there are precedents for each of these arrangements, none was specifically endorsed or recommended, and everyone agreed that a Co-Management Agreement might involve more responsibility than community groups could handle.

The Steering Committee also suggested a number of possible roles for community stakeholders including:

- Serving as environmental auditors/monitors
- Acting as "the eyes and ears" of the community on issues such as:
 - * Planning for Western Common (5 year Review of HRM Plan)
 - * Threats to the environment (e.g., from the Otter Lake Landfill or the Carmichael Cemetery from the new borrow pit at the landfill)
 - * Advocating changes to the FBLWA boundaries, especially in the Northwest quadrant and to include the first kilometer of The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail
 - * Adding HRM lands to the FBLWA
 - * Brokering/advocating for acquisition of private lands to be added to the FBLWA
- Adding lands on the East side of Highway 333 to the FBLWA
- Fostering public education, especially with regard to "Leave No Trace" recreational activities
- Encouraging compliance with legislation and regulations governing water, land and trail use
- Ensuring continuity in the proposed community/government partnership

The group determined that a constructive step toward establishing a working partnership between NSE and community stakeholders would be to start with a channel of communication. Accordingly, the two parties agreed to hold quarterly meetings with the first meeting taking place within 30 days of the area's designation as a Wilderness Area. Community representatives agreed to put forward the community's preferred form of participation at the first meeting. Each meeting would then be followed by a report of the items discussed at the meeting circulated to government and community stakeholders.

Wetland Hot Line

If you become aware of an action that is having a negative impact on a wetland, water-course, or a matter that is a chronic problem, please call **1-800-565-1633**, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Give as much detail as possible so that your matter can be directed to the proper resource and addressed in a timely matter.

The **Council of Community Organizations (CoCO)** is an important forum to share community intelligence. The next meeting...

May 25
Safety Minded ATV Club

September 28
TBA

7pm

Everyone Welcome!

Discussion points from previous meetings can be found on the Trust website.

Western Region Community Council Meetings

April 18

May 30

June 27

Please call 490-4000 for time and location of the meeting.



Spring Activities- Mark your Calendars

MayFair in the Park

MayFair in the Park will be held on Saturday, May 28 with a rain date of Sunday May 29 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park. Last year the hard working MayFair team, chaired by Denise Caines with strong support from Jill Pulsifer and Harry Ward, saw the event rained out. Given last year's weather experience the FBWHT Board made the decision to hold the event on a Saturday to give opportunity for a rain date on the Sunday.

We are most grateful to Bruce Lohnes and Bernie Morrissey of DNR who ensure that the park is in wonderful readiness for this popular family event. Little trees to give out at Mayfair for children to plant at their homes have been ordered. Planning for games, activities and prizes is underway.

We wish to acknowledge with much thanks the work of retiring Board Member Denise Caines who was the enthusiastic Chair of last year's Mayfair. Jill and Harry will Co-chair this year's event.

If members would like to assist at MayFair Jill and Harry would like to hear from you. Jill can be reached at pulsifer.j@gmail.com and Harry at harryward@eastlink.ca

Warbler Walk at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park-June 5, 2011

Hans Toom, avid bird watcher and excellent wildlife photographer will lead the Annual Warbler Walk at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on June 5. Hans asks that you meet him at the main parking and picnic area inside the Park at 7 a.m. The walk usually occurs rain or shine.

For additional information please contact Hans directly at: hanstoom@eastlink.ca

Geocaching on the Chebucto Peninsula

In the last edition of The Bridge we reported that a geocache had been set up by Trust members on the western end of the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road. This cache has had a number of visitors who have written to us.

We have supplies to set up four more Trust sponsored caches. One of the requirements for those who set up a cache is that they must live close enough to maintain the cache in good order. Since the public lands on the Chebucto Peninsula are wide spread, planning and the setting up of additional caches will need to be done carefully. Andy Parsons will be the lead on this activity. If you can assist him he would be pleased to hear from you. He can be reached at: andrew@shirebrook.ca

COCO Meetings Changed to Wednesday Nights

In discussion with our HRM Councillors, whose other meeting responsibilities have recently changed, a decision was made to change the CoCO (Council of Community Organizations) meetings from Thursdays to Wednesdays so that they could attend more regularly. Having Councillors attend CoCO Meetings is very helpful to the community since the Councillors often learn first hand from residents about the "hot" issues related to planning, environmental matters and governance. MLA Bill Estabrooks has attended CoCO meetings regularly since their beginnings. We welcome him when his busy schedule as a Cabinet Minister allows him time to attend.

CoCO, in its tenth year, provides a forum for discussing issues of importance to the residents living around the Highway 333, Highway 103 loop. The notes from CoCO Meetings held in November and February can be found on the Trust website at: www.fivebridgestrust.ca. Notes from the March 23rd meeting will be posted when available.

The next CoCO meeting will be at 7 pm on Wednesday May 25 hosted Safety Minded ATV Club. Come learn about what is going on in our communities.

Editor -Tom Musial
tom.musial@ili.ca

Layout - Jeff Parks

Charitable Donations

Charitable donations to support the work of the Trust may be made by contacting **Catherine King** at, **902- 823-3433**

An income tax receipt will be issued for your donation.
Thank you for your support!

Moose Watch

Anyone having knowledge of moose sightings, spoor or antlers on the Chebucto Peninsula is encouraged to contact **Jenny Costello** of the Department of Natural Resources .
902- 861-2560

The Bridge

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of **The Bridge**, please send an email to

Jill Pulsifer
pulsifer.j@gmail.com

and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

Photos taken by

Catherine King