



The Bridge

Co-Chairs

Jill Pulsifer

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Harry Ward

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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 Ashley Welburn, ashleyerinwelburn@gmail.com

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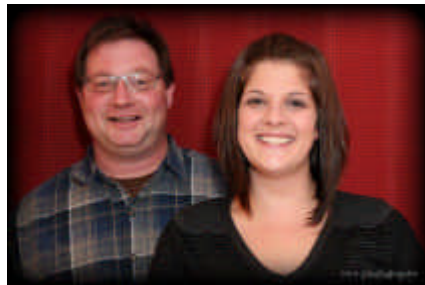
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Message from the Co-Chairs



Friends:

We would like to thank Beth McGee for her many years of dedicated service to the Trust as she moves from her role as Board Member to Advisor to the Board. Beth has contributed significantly to the work of the Trust during her roles as Secretary, Chair, and Board Member. We appreciate her continued guidance as FBWHT transitions into a new chapter. Additional thanks are extended to

Eleanor Lindsay for years of dedication as the Trust Secretary as her final year of service comes to a close. Ken Nickerson will also be retiring from the board after seven years of service. It has been a pleasure working with Eleanor and Ken and their participation will most certainly be missed.

With upcoming changes to the Board of Directors of Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust, we are looking for additional members to sit on the board. This is an exciting opportunity and a great point in time for creative minds to come together as FBWHT moves in a new direction. Community education, promotion of FBLWA, and continued collaboration with government and community groups are items in the Work Plan for 2012-2013. FBWHT will also need to look at fundraising initiatives in the coming year to help offset operational costs. We will be looking for volunteers to help with fundraising events, as well as for the upcoming May Fair in the Park. If you are interested in getting involved and having some fun, please let us know! We can be reached by email at pulsifer.j@gmail.com, or by telephone at (902) 826-7153.

FBWHT has been working with Nova Scotia Environment through the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition to address issues of signage, access points, and the future roles of the community groups who have worked to get the FBLWA protected. At a recent meeting with NSE it was proposed that a workshop take place to bring together the interested community groups with NSE to determine what work needs to be done, and also to hear ideas for future projects. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for June.

There has been recent collaboration under the direction of the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association with individuals and community groups, including Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization. A working group concerned with watershed management in the St. Margaret's Bay Area has arisen, and many exciting projects have been proposed. Potential projects include restoring fresh water fish such as salmon, consideration of the numerous outflows of fresh water into Saint Margaret's Bay, and educating our community on the importance of water as a resource. Monthly meetings have been scheduled for the next four months as the group works to define our objectives and develop a plan of action. If you are interested in contributing to this collaboration, please contact Jill Pulsifer at the email address and telephone number listed above.

Sincerely,

Jill & Harry

Board of Trustees

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Report on the COCO Meeting held on January 25, 2012

The January 25th COCO Meeting was held at the Tantallon Public Library and chaired by Mike Marriott, Chair, Safety Minded ATV Club.

Jill Pulsifer, Co-Chair **Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT)**, reported that they are looking at utilising a public display (e.g. a digital photo frame or other methods) in several locations on the Chebucto Peninsula such as the Tantallon Public Library and the Prospect Community Centre to promote the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA) and to initiate a conversation among community groups.

An update were given on access issues to the FBWLA. NS Environment will set up a Management Agreement with ATVANS and the Safety Minded ATV Club to cover travel over the Joshua Slocum Trail (Fire Road) and that portion of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road in FBWLA. Information on how to access the Wilderness Area needs to be circulated to communities around Chebucto Peninsula. The Connector Trail from Hwy 3 to Joshua Slocum will be available to all users .The need for signage on the Westhaver Road in Glen Margaret for those accessing the FBLWA via the Old St. Margarets Bay Road was outlined. A letter has been sent to NS Environment outlining their request.

A Water Quality Group initiative that emerged out of discussion at the November COCO Meeting held its first meeting on January 29.

A review of dams and other water flow controls on the east side of the Chebucto Peninsula is being looked at. John Cascadden, McDonald's Lake Residents Association and FBWHT, presented information on related projects on the Prospect River and Terence Bay River systems.

May Fair in the Park 2012 will be held at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on Sunday May 27.

St Margarets Bay Stewardship Association (SMBSA) shared details about the meeting held recently between SMBSA and Genivar, the consultant working for the company proposing a development at the Crossroads.

Councillor Peter Lund outlined the Rezoning process at Tantallon Crossroads following the Community Visioning. The former Lewis Lake Fire Hall is now called the Hubley Community Center. The Board wants to meet with WRWEO and other groups to discuss whether there is community interest in having a gateway trail to the FBLWA. The AGM of the Hubley Center was slated for March 1. Buildings owned by HRM slated to be declared surplus will go through a consultation process including meetings in the community to determine best use before the building is declared surplus. The fire hall at Allen Heights is an example.

Peter sits on a newly formed Advisory Committee for the 5-year review of the 25-year Regional Plan, that was adopted in 2006. He also serves on the HRM Alliance Open Space Functional Planning committee which advocates protection of access to waterways. He has suggested that islands be added to the list for protection of access. He is involved in the Review of Rural Roads Standards and the Stormwater Functional Plan. He spoke about the process for Open Space Functional Planning, where both urban and rural issues will be reviewed; the Save Our Lakes Initiative; and reported that Metro X will soon be coming to Exit 4.

Peter is looking forward to organizing and hosting a series of Town Hall Meeting for



residents in March and April to give residents opportunity to raise and discuss their community issues.

John Cascadden, FBWHT and McDonald's Lake Residents Association, spoke about an Applied Stormwater Management Workshop held on February 20th in Halifax, hosted by the Ecology Action Centre and a number of other partners. For more information visit the EAC Applied Stormwater Management website: www.ecologyaction.ca/content/applied-stormwater-management-workshops-february

John spoke about the Nova Scotia Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA) Review information for which is on their website www.gov.ns.ca/nse/dept/egspa.review.asp. The EGSPA annual reports are available at www.gov.ns.ca/nse/egspa. The public submission period for the review ends on Jan 31.

The work of Our HRM Alliance is ongoing. John participates in the work of this committee .

Catherine Klefenz, Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails (BLT R2T), reported that the Sackville River Association (SRA) with support of BLR R2T has been building salmon spawning pools in Nine Mile River. Planning is underway to have an interpretative panel created and installed near the BLT R2T to provide information about Nine Mile River and salmon. NS Fisheries and Aquaculture will assist with developing the panel.

The Lakeside Recreation Centre and BLT R2T will apply to a contest by Doctors of Nova Scotia for communities to promote healthy physical activity exercise. If chosen the centre could be awarded a \$5000.00 grant. Nordic Walking and Bird Watching activities are ongoing on the trail. Dogs on leash signs have been received to be installed as a reminder to dog owners to keep their dogs on leash while using the Trail.

Safety Minded ATV Club (SMATVC) and St. Margarets Bay Rails to Trails - Mike Marriott outlined the process of developing a Management Agreement for the portions for the Joshua Slocum Trail (DNR Fire Road) and the Old St. Margarets Bay Road that pass through the FBLWA. An application to the OHV fund for \$141,000.00 has been made for that purpose. An ATV trip on the Fire Road and the Old St. Margarets Bay Road east to the Nine Mile River with SMATVC, NSE and DNR staff to determine what work is required has already taken place. A map of problem areas to be addressed has been compiled. Twelve to sixteen 8 ft by 8 ft bridges, constructed of rough hewn lumber, will need to be erected over stream beds to avoid running through them. DNR has asked that the trail on either side of the FBLWA be treated the same way as it will be as it passes through the FBLWA. Discussions are underway between NSE and DNR about road issues on the Old St. Margarets Bay Road.

On January 25 Beth McGee, FBWHT, and Mike Marriott, Safety Minded ATV, met with Peter Bush, NSE, to make a site visit to the entrance to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road at Westhaver Road. Trust's Request for a sign to be placed at the entrance to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road was reviewed. A second sign 200 metres to the east will show travellers the route to the FBLWA. The requirement for No Parking signs on that narrower portion of the Westhaver Road was discussed. The area on Westhaver Road that is owned by NSTIR, to the south of Old St. Margarets Bay Road, was reviewed to determine the feasibility of building a parking lot for those accessing the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. Mike reported that **St. Margarets Bay Rails to Trails** has enjoyed good luck this winter with few wash outs. Gates are on order. Community Signs have remained in place.

FBWHT presented a large map of Bowater lands to the south of exit 5 on Hwy 103. If the province could be encouraged to purchase these lands this would provide connectivity north and west of the Chebucto Peninsula (CP), protection of water quality of watersheds emptying into St. Margarets Bay, and provide recreation lands for the community. This has been broached with NSE, however, much community support will be needed to make this a reality. NSE staff encouraged us to write letters of support to recommend that Nova Scotia give consideration to purchase these lands or alternatively find another way to ensure these lands are available to the public.

The next **COCO Meeting** was held **on Wednesday, March 21** at the Lakeside Community Centre, hosted by Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails. A report will be presented when available. The next meeting will be held on May 23rd.

The Annual General Meeting of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT) will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28 in the Meeting Room at the Tantallon Public Library, Upper Tantallon. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. to allow time for members to renew their memberships and to welcome new members.

The Trust has been dedicated to conserving public land in its natural state for public use since 2001 and has worked with other community groups and Nova Scotia government departments for ten years to realize the designation of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area on October 25, 2011. This AGM will be a time of celebration as we review our work and accomplishments of the past year.

We are very pleased to welcome **Guest Speaker, Peter Bush**, Planner with the Nova Scotia Environment. Mr. Bush will present a "Review of Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area, planned management including trail agreements, and future relationships with FBWHT and other community groups".

Please join us as we enter into a new and exciting phase of our work. We are looking for additional Board members and would welcome your ideas and your energy as we work together with Nova Scotia Environment, and other departments, and community groups to make the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area a special place.

For further information please contact Jill Pulsifer pulsifer.j@gmail.com, Harry Ward harryward@eastlink.ca, or John Cascadden jdcas@slcc.com.

Report on the Work of the Steering Committee of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition

Shortly after the designation of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area, members of the CWC Steering Committee met with Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) staff to discuss management options for the newly created wilderness. These included helping to monitor and protect the area, identifying threats to the environment, proposing additional lands to be added to the area, fostering public education regarding wilderness areas, and alerting government to issues as they arise. NSE staff suggested several models for undertaking these activities. They included Friends of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area, Trail Agreements, Maintenance Agreements, Licensed Research Agreements, and community-government Co-management Agreements.

Members of the Steering Committee, Beth McGee (FBWHT) and Mike Marriott (Safety Minded ATV Club) met with Peter Bush, Planner with NSE on January 25, to review an FBWHT request for signage to mark entry points to the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area on the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road and to request a parking lot on Westhaver Road in the road allowance area owned by the Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR).

On February 21st, Mike Marriott led a trip with NSE and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff along the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road between Goodwood and Nine Mile River to survey and assess places along the road that will require repair and maintenance. The trip proceeded from Goodwood west to the Nine Mile River. The participants identified wet spots that would require a route around them, construction of a bridge across the Prospect River, and replacement of a bridge across the Nine Mile River.

More recently, on March 19, members of the Steering Committee again met with NSE staff to continue their discussion of how community groups might undertake management or stewardship roles. NSE stated that "the land was protected for people, not from people" and encourage stakeholders to identify activities that would make apposite use of the land. Once activities were identified, government would work with communities to determine the appropriate organizational model to facilitate these activities. The Steering Committee then proposed a government-community workshop in June. NSE staff endorsed the workshop and expressed its hope that a new position in the department would be approved to provide staff support for community activities. The Steering Committee will meet again with NSE in April at which time they will set a date for the proposed workshop. In the mean time, the members of the Steering Committee will discuss roles that their organizations might play with their respective Boards of Directors.

Presentation at St. Margaret's Elementary School

Following the designation of the Five Bridge Wilderness Area (FBLWA) the Trust offered to make presentations at local schools about the new wilderness area. The Trust has a short written presentation and a video that can be used for this purpose. Beth McGee gave the first presentation to St. Margarets Elementary School in late November 2011.

The students at St Margarets were pleased to know that the new wilderness area is a



20 minute road trip from their school. They asked amazing, thoughtful questions about what they might find on a visit to the FBLWA. Two of the Trust Designation Day (October 25, 2011) t-shirts were drawn for and once the shirt resupply order was received, Beth (centre in picture) presented Jacob

Little (left) and Brittany Balch (right) with their prize on February 13.

To arrange a presentation by a Trust member please contact Jill Pulsifer pulsifer.j@gmail.com or Beth McGee jemcgee@eastlink.ca.

MayFair in the Park 2012

Our next annual May Fair in the Park is scheduled for May 27, 2012 12:00 - 3:00 pm at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park. This event is designed to bring the community together to thank them for their continued support and to highlight the features of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness area and other nearby public lands. There will be a variety of children's games and activities as well as a BBQ. This year, should the weather burden us, we will relocate to the Hubley Community Centre (formerly the Lewis Lake Fire Hall). FBWHT invites the community to attend our 2012 May Fair in the Park. We encourage members to get involved with Trust activities and we hope to see you all there! Should you be interested in volunteering at the 2012 May Fair in the Park please let us know, we would gladly accept help. For further information please contact Jill Pulsifer pulsifer.j@gmail.com or Harry Ward harryward@eastlink.ca.

Annual Warbler Walk June 3, 2012

The 2012 annual Warbler Walk will be held on Sunday, June 3, 7:00 am at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park. The walk will be guided by FBWHT member Hans Toom. There are 22 nesting species of Warblers found in Nova Scotia and 17 species of them can be found right here in the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park! FBWHT welcomes members and community to join in on this enjoyable walk and educational experience. For further information and to confirm your attendance on the Warbler Walk please contact Hans Toom htoom@eastlink.ca.

Wetland Hot Line

If you become aware of an action that is having a negative impact on a wetland, watercourse, 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...

Wed. May 23 7pm
Venue to be announced

Sept 26
Nov 21

Everyone Welcome!

CoCO notes can be found on the Trust website.

2012 Western Region Community Council Meetings

March 26
April 23
May 28
June 25
July 23 (if required)
August 27 (if required)
September 24
October 22
Please call 490-4000 for time and location of the meeting.

Mainland Moose on the Chebucto Peninsula

As you may know, our Mainland Moose population in the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area is small but tenacious. Our resident Moose Whisperer Ken Nickerson sent two photos recently to Board members and Advisors at the Trust. In the Fall 2011 Glenn Anderson was hiking on the third loop of The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail when he found a pair of sheds, moose racks .

Ken’s pictures were sent to our new NSE Wildlife Technician, Ismael (Butch) Galvez, who wrote “Very nice pictures. These moose look very healthy. This is a very special population. I’ll add these to our database and make a report. The bull looks like a two year old , and the calf looks like a young female (white rump). So nice to see!”

Recently Beth McGee had the pleasure of speaking with Mr. Galvez, who is stationed at DNR’s Halifax West office in Waverley. He is following in the footsteps of Jenny Costello who retired in 2011. Mr. Galvez is interested in receiving your information about moose sightings on the Chebucto Peninsula. He can be reached by phone: (902) 861-256 or by e-mail: galveziv@gov.ns.ca



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
Ashley Welburn at,
ashleyerinwelburn@gmail.com
An income tax receipt will be issued for your donation.

Moose Watch

Anyone having knowledge of moose sightings, spoor or antlers on the Chebucto Peninsula is encouraged to contact Butch Galvez, Nova Scotia Natural Resources.
galveziv@gov.ns.ca
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
Angela Comeau
Ken Nickerson

Our HRM Alliance and the Five Year Review of the HRM Plan (2006)

Five Bridges has been an active participant on the steering committee for Our HRM Alliance. During the past year, the Our HRM Alliance has developed a suite of solutions for HRM Council to consider adopting during the first five-year review of the RMPS (RP+5). We believe these solutions will help HRM better adhere to the goal of sustainability – of human health, of the environment, and of the municipality’s finances. The Our HRM Alliance consists of more than 35 not-for-profit and community organizations representing urban, suburban, and rural parts of the municipality. The groups represent business, environmental, and social sectors. Each member believes that HRM has the potential to be a more liveable and sustainable collection of communities. Each member is committed to working in partnership to turn that belief into reality. Visit <http://www.ourhrmalliance.ca/> for more information about the Alliance.

It is highly recommended that all residents of HRM should participate in the RP+5 review process. A first step could be to take a look at the information resources available from HRM, and to attend one of the public engagements detailed at: www.halifax.ca/planhrm/RP5.html.