

# The Bridge

## Co-Chairs

**Jill Pulsifer**

[pulsifer.j@gmail.com](mailto:pulsifer.j@gmail.com)

**Harry Ward**

[harryward@eastlink.ca](mailto:harryward@eastlink.ca)

**March 2013**

*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](mailto:ashleyerinwelburn@gmail.com)*

## Inside this Issue

**May Fair in the Park  
Annual Warbler Walk** 2

**Buy Back the Mersey  
Moose Sightings** 3

**Bird Feeding  
Community Councils  
CoCO Report** 4

**Community Stewardship  
Coalition  
Trust—New Directions** 5

**New Plant Brochure  
Dates to Remember  
Fredericks Lake Help** 6

## Message from the Co-Chairs



Friends:

Once again it has been an exciting year for the Trust.

The Trust hosted its annual May Fair in the Park at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park, and once again everyone had a great time! The children had a fantastic time playing games, getting their faces painted and touring the Fire Truck. We would like

to extend sincere thanks to the many volunteers from various community groups that came out to make this day a tremendous success. We will be hosting the 2013 May Fair in the Park at the same location on May 26 from 12-3 pm. The 2012 Warbler Walk took place in June and was enjoyed by many. Many thanks are extended to Hans Toom for hosting the event again this year. The 2013 Warbler Walk will be held at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on Sunday, June 2 at 7 am.

The Directors of the Trust have been hard at work to establish the new focus of Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust now that the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA) has been officially protected by the Protected Areas Branch of Nova Scotia Department of Environment. A workshop was held in the fall of 2012 to help community groups and Nova Scotia Department of Environment to come together and form a plan for the FBLWA. From this workshop, a taskforce was born which has worked diligently over the past six months to establish a framework for community groups and government to work within when establishing stewardship roles in the FBLWA. A second workshop will be held on March 16 to review the newly minted Charter and Guiding Principles developed by this taskforce.

Another exciting accomplishment of 2012 was the high energy initiative, Buy Back the Mersey. It was truly amazing to see members of communities in HRM come together and work with other community groups, political officials and members of communities throughout Nova Scotia to make the initiative a success. Further details of the Buy Back the Mersey initiative and how it grew into a tremendous triumph can be found in this issue of The Bridge.

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held at 7 pm on March 21 at the Hubley Community Center. Following a brief review of the 2012 activity of the Trust, founder of the Trust, Tom Musial, will provide an overview of the Charter and Guiding Principles. Following his presentation, Paul Schwartz, the Manager of Regional Strategies and Program Initiatives for the Nova Scotia Department of Environment will be facilitating a discussion among our guests to help the Directors of the Trust determine what roles our membership would like to see the Trust play in years to come. This is a very exciting opportunity to engage our members and get honest feedback about your desires. We encourage everyone to attend as your opinion matters to us!

Sincerely,

Jill & Harry

**Board of Trustees**

**Harry Ward (3)**  
**John Cascadden (3)**  
**Ron Brown (3)**  
**Ashley Welburn (2)**  
**Jill Pulsifer (2)**  
**Andrew Parsons (1)**  
**Mike Lumplugh (1)**  
**Mike Marriott (1)**

**Advisors to the Board**

**Barbara Allan**  
**Gary Armsworthy**  
**Denise Caines**  
**Cathy Conrad**  
**Bill Estabrooks**  
**Catherine King**  
**Jim Law**  
**Eleanor Lindsay**  
**Beth McGee**  
**Tom Musial**  
**Ken Nickerson**  
**Jeff Parks**  
**Wayne Rogers**  
**Allan Shatford**  
**Hans Toom**  
**Ralph Wheadon**

**MayFair in the Park 2012**

Our annual May Fair in the Park was held on 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 was a variety of children's games and activities as well as a BBQ. This year, the event was held on a picture perfect day. However we did have a rain day plan with events to be held at the new Hubley Center in the event of inclement weather on the day of May Fair.

Children and families enjoyed many activities including face painting, games , a scavenger hunt led by Scott Pelton of St. Margarets Bay Stewardship Association. Other community groups had displays and representatives on hand to outline their work. Thanks to Sobey's Tantallon for their provision of hot dogs for the BBQ. The fire truck and volunteer staff from HRM Station 65 were on hand to give tours of their truck and information about their services.

We trust everyone had a grand time.

**June 3, 2012, Warbler Walk at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park**

Hans Toom led his annual warbler walk at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on June 3rd with 19 keen warbler watchers and photographers in attendance. They tallied 14 warbler species including a Bay-breasted Warbler which brought this year's total for the park up to 18 warbler species. The mixed habitat of woodland with wet or dry understory, lake and lake side, forest edge, bog and river allows for a diverse mix of nesting warblers. A Tennessee Warbler which had been frequenting the edge of the bog west of Round Lake had moved to the bog's western side and now was only heard from the St. Margaret's Bay Trail. The Northern Waterthrush which sang for three weeks at the famous footbridge on the St. Margaret's Bay trail just west of Round Lake is silent now so it may be nesting. Warblers are small neotropical migrants that sport Canadian citizenship since they are born here but wisely spend their winters in the tropics. The Warbler Walk is an annual event at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park sponsored by the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust.





## **Page 3**

### **Buy Back the Mersey**

Most of you probably know all this, the publicity has been fantastic, but just to reprise, when Bowater Mersey (Resolute Forest Products) announced last June they were going to sell all their NS assets, a province-wide movement was kindled. It started with a rally at the Hubley Community Centre hosted by the FBLWHT's own Chair Jill Pulsifer. The movement quickly became known as "Buy Back the Mersey". As the momentum built, high level meetings took place, the press coverage was fabulous, posters and bumper stickers popped up in the most interesting places, and the real clinker, an alliance was struck with another dynamic group down near Kejimikujik. They were trying to set up a community forest in the former Medway District. The marriage between the two groups was a match made in heaven. The political connections and media savvy of the St. Margaret's crew matched perfectly with the forestry know-how of the Medway group. Together they proved a dynamic force indeed. On December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the province made two incredible announcements: 1.) In return for picking up the endangered Bowater-Mersey workers' pension plan, they would buy back ALL the former Bowater Mersey lands, and 2.) they would be accepting "Expressions of Interest" from Nova Scotians who wished to establish community forests on the former Mersey lands. Unbelievable. Here suddenly was an asset, one which generations of Nova Scotians had worked on as hired help, and now suddenly it was going to be placed squarely in our own hands to manage, and the profits, instead of going off to points unknown as dividends to faceless shareholders, would stay here to support our communities, to kick start our jobs and our small businesses, and to turn the corner on how our forests are managed. Amazing. The absolute best news ever. So now, just to get you all totally up-to-date, January 31<sup>st</sup> your sister organization, the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association, with lead partners the NS Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, with the support of close to 40 organizations including the FBLWHT and the 42 member Our HRM Alliance, businesses, and key individuals like Mayor Mike Savage, put forward an Expression of Interest in establishing a Community Forest in the 100,000A St. Margaret's District, which extends from Tantallon to East Chester and all the way up to Ellershouse. For more details please visit [St.Margarets Bay Community Forest](#) or call Geoff LeBoutillier at 823-1404.

### **Moose Sightings at Boutilliers Point**

After a meeting on September 19, 2012 with a number of community group members, Minister of Natural Resources Charlie Parker and MLAs from the South Shore concerning the *Buy Back the Mersey* efforts, Beth McGee drove Mike Marriott back to his home in Boutilliers Point. Beth was driving down Hillside Drive just south of Maggie's Landing when all of a sudden a cow moose appeared seemingly out of nowhere and was running on the side of the road beside her. She was so startled by the sight of the moose she thought she was truly seeing things so pulled off the road and called Mike. Very shortly a man came running from the house of the driveway at 131 Hillside Drive where Beth had parked. He thought Beth's vehicle had been struck by the moose. His wife had just seen the moose running through their yard. The good news was we could corroborate the sighting of the moose by the other. No one has seen a moose in this area before so great excitement. Mike will look for tracks.

The following day a friend of Jill Pulsifer's sent her this picture of a bull moose seen in the same area.



Eleanor Lindsay writes :Feeding the birds can be addictive: I started innocently enough over 30 years ago with one modest feeder hung on a tree branch in front of my living room window where I could watch it. The tree is now festooned with a variety of feeders and foods and watching the birds has become endlessly fascinating - frequently much better than TV! I gradually became familiar with the common species, and their characteristic behaviours and over time every new sighting became a challenge to identify - thus I got sucked in - and started learning so much without ever trying.

The variety of species is never static and over the past few winters in particular out-of-the-ordinary sightings have increased, presumably due to climate change - some of which bring philosophical dilemmas with them. Notably for me are Cardinals and, more recently, semi-tropical Baltimore orioles who come in the summer to nest and normally return south for winter. While the cardinals overwinter here well on their own with help from regular feeders, the orioles, which are primarily fruit and insect eaters, neither of which are available in a Maritime winter, bring challenges (and dilemmas), needing such food as grapes, grape jelly, special suet and live mealworms to survive. And because the mealworms would be eagerly gobbled up by all the other birds, a special feeding cage is also needed - all a lot more work and a lot more expense which, with help and advice from others I now find myself, for better or for worse also caught up in - but only when it is clear there is no time left for them to make it south. It is indeed a joy and a satisfaction to see them fly off in the spring, but are we prolonging the impossible or helping adaptation? I haven't decided yet.....

### **New Community Councils**

As of December 2012 we now have two community councils governing the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area. District 11 is the Spryfield, Sambro Loop plus Prospect Rd. represented by Steve Adams: District 12 is now Timberlea Beechville Clayton Park West represented by Reg Rankin. These two districts come under the Halifax and West Community Council . This council has meetings slated for March 18 and April 8. District 13-Hammonds Plains -St. Margarets represented by Councillor Matt Whitman comes under the North West Community Council .At the time this edition of The Bridge was going to print there were no meetings listed on the HRM website for the North West Community Council.

Contact info for :

Councillor Steve Adams, District 11: Res tel 902 477-0627; cell: 902 497-8818

e-mail: [stephen.adams@halifax.ca](mailto:stephen.adams@halifax.ca)

Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin, District 12: tel 902 499-3477:e-mail: [reg.rankin@halifax.ca](mailto:reg.rankin@halifax.ca)

Councillor Matt Whitman, District 13: tel. 902 240-3330 ; e-mail: [matt.whitman@halifax.ca](mailto:matt.whitman@halifax.ca)

Something on your mind about happenings in your district? You can go to a meeting of a Community Council, sign up to speak during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Speakers each have 5 minutes. It is best to take your presentation in writing to give to the Clerk following your presentation. Councillors appreciate hearing about our matters of concern.

### **COCO Meetings**

The Council of Community Organizations, better known as COCO, meetings are held 5 times a year in the months of January, March, May, September and November and continue to provide a forum for residents to raise and discuss with others their environmental and planning issues .COCO serves the residents of Highways 103, 3, and the 333 loop. Notes are taken during the meetings and posted on the Trust websiteWe have had some long standing difficulties with our website; these are getting sorted out and the website should soon be populated with its regular features. Our website is back on line at the regular address: [www.fivebridgestrust.ca](http://www.fivebridgestrust.ca)

We encourage our Councillors to attend COCO Meetings. Often we do have Councillors at our meetings. This gives us quick access to information and an ability to address matters quickly.

Due to a March conflict with an AGM for a sister organization, the March 28 COCO Meeting has been rescheduled to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 4 at the Hubley Center, 4408 St. Margarets Bay Rd, Lewis Lake. The Trust will be the Host Group for that meeting. The Council of Community Organizations is entering its 11 year of operation. For more information please contact John Cascadden at 842-4886 or Beth McGee at 823-2245.

## **Second FBLWA Workshop Launches Community Stewardship Coalition on March 16**

**Page 5**

At the first FBLWA Community Stewardship Workshop last October 13, a Task Force was formed to recommend a plan for community groups and government to play a coordinated role in caring for and enhancing the benefits of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA).

The Task Force has completed its work and invited community organizations, government offices, schools and interested individuals to participate in a second Workshop to determine what stewardship roles or projects community groups are prepared to undertake within the framework that the Task Force has established.

The second Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St Margaret Sailing Club on Croucher's Point Road in French Village.

In response to a question about the purpose of the new Coalition, Tom Musial, Chair of the FBLWA Task Force, explained that "The community and government need to play a coordinated stewardship role in protected areas. A framework for sharing information and Initiating, prioritizing, funding, implementing, and coordinating projects is required for this work to be effective."

Membership in the Coalition requires active engagement in a role or a project recognized by the Council and a commitment to abide by the Charter's Guiding Principles. Any group that agrees to these criteria and applies to and is approved by the Council becomes a member of the Coalition and is entitled to representation on the Council.

The Task Force encourages environmental groups to undertake conservation activities, schools to introduce students to the natural environment, university professors to undertake research projects, and outdoor enthusiasts of every kind to engage in "Leave No Trace" activities. Youth groups such as scouts, guides, and cadets are especially welcome. Homeowners whose property lies in proximity to the FBLWA can undertake projects that preserve the integrity of the natural area "in their backyard."

Nova Scotia Environment has indicated that the department not only welcomes community-based environmental stewardship, it depends on it. The March 16 Workshop will be an excellent opportunity to plan what roles or projects local community groups can undertake.

A copy of the Charter and its Guiding principles are attached for your information.

## **Five Bridge Wilderness Heritage Trust Sets Sights in New Directions**

The Directors of the FBWHT are taking a new approach in this year's Annual General Meeting

Following a brief business meeting, Tom Musial, Founding President of the FBWHT, will outline a plan under which a variety of volunteer organizations will work with Nova Scotia Environment to promote awareness, use, stewardship, and management of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area in areas relating to education, research, conservation, and recreation.

Following this introduction, Paul Schwartz, Manager, Regional Strategies and Program Initiatives for Nova Scotia Environment, will lead a facilitated discussion to help the FBWHT membership decide which of ten possible roles the Trust will play in this initiative.

The facilitated discussion will give the FBWHT Directors an opportunity to hear the thinking of the Trust's membership and chart an action plan for the organization to follow in the coming years.

The Trust's AGM will take place on Thursday, March 21, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hubley Community Center 4408 St. Margarets Bay Road, Lewis Lake.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. to give members old and new opportunity to renew their memberships or to become members. All welcome!!

### **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...

**Thursday. April 4**

**7pm Hubley Center  
May 30**

**Sept 26  
Nov 21**

**Everyone Welcome!**

CoCO notes can be found on the Trust website.

### **2013 Community Council Meetings**

**See note on Page 4**

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



**Editor -Tom Musial**

[tom.musial@ili.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pulsifer.j@gmail.com)

and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

Photos taken by

**Eleanor Lindsay**

**Hans Toom**

**Dave Patriquin**

### **Reprint of the Flora brochure**

We are in final editing stages of the reprint the Flora brochure entitled Plants of The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail. This edition will have colour pictures accompanying the text of the brochure printed in 2005. Thanks to Mark Johnston, Dave Patriquin, Catherine King and Jeff Parks for their work in getting this edition print ready. Look for a Spring launch date!

Here is a sneak preview of the cover!

### **Dates to Save**

Mayfair in the Park 2013 will be held at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on Sunday, May 26,2013 from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

The Warbler Walk led by Hans Toom will take place at 7 a.m. at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on Sunday, June 2,2013 .

### **Can You Help Us?**

Recently we had a query about the fate of the community that existed some years ago at Frederick Lake. We have been able to piece together some information but we know there is likely much about the topic we do not know.. Can anyone help us by providing information about camps that existed at Frederick Lake or any other stories about that area from the "olden days". We thought your stories would make an interesting piece for the next edition of The Bridge.

