

The Bridge

Co-Chairs

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October 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 Beth McGee

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Inside this Issue

CoCO Report 2

Plant Brochure Re-Launch 3

Wilderness Area Public Meeting 4

Wilderness Area Map 5

FBLW Coalition New Parks Plan 6

Lewis Lake Warbler Walk 7

Bowater Access Roads 8

Message from the Co-Chairs



Friends:

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust is having a busy and exciting year, with many new members and new opportunities to support wilderness conservation.

In April, we held our Annual General Meeting and welcomed seven new members to the Board. We were thrilled to have so many friends attend the

meeting and participate in a workshop to help the Trust establish a new focus now that the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA) is officially protected.

We would like to thank Paul Schwartz, from Nova Scotia Environment for facilitating the workshop and compiling a report. Based on the feedback provided by our members, the Board has developed a work plan for 2013, which we are eagerly implementing. The focus for the Trust in the coming year will be keeping the community informed on benefits, threats and opportunities in FBLWA, and enabling and encouraging access to FBLWA and foster compliance with Leave No Trace principles.

So far this year, we have held May Fair in the Park, the Warbler Walk, a public information session about FBLWA, a guided hike of the Bluff Wilderness Trail and created a new Facebook page to help us keep in touch with you. We have also participated in public consultations about the Halifax Regional Municipality's Regional Plan and the provincial Parks and Protected Areas Plan. We have also been speaking out against the Stantec report recommendations for changes to the Otter Lake Landfill, which we feel may jeopardize the Nine Mile River headwaters.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers and supporters who help make these initiatives a success. We look forward to keeping up our momentum this fall.

Sincerely,

Jill & Harry

Halifax Regional Municipality is currently conducting the five-year review of the **Regional Plan**. The second draft of the RP+5 was released on May 15, 2013 for public consultation. Board Members, Peter Lund and John Cascadden, attended several stakeholder and public meetings, and made written submissions on behalf of FBWHT. You can view the submissions at

www.halifax.ca/planhrm/documents/MergedSubmissionsIVJuly192013.pdf (pg31). Draft revisions to the Regional Plan are at www.halifax.ca/planhrm/RMPSDraft2.html.

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Council of Community Organizations meeting – April 4, 2013

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust hosted the Council of Community Organizations (CoCO) Meeting on April 4, 2013 at the Hubley Centre.

The full meeting was devoted to a presentation by Ken Donnelly, on behalf of the Community Monitoring Committee, regarding proposed changes for Otter Lake Landfill Site recommended in a recent report by Stantec, commissioned by staff at Halifax Regional Municipality.

Ken Donnelly was the project co-manager and facilitator of the Community Stakeholder Committee that developed the waste management strategy and sited the Otter Lake Landfill in 1995. He is now working with the Community Monitoring Committee to assist in the evaluation of the Stantec report and to ensure that any discussion of changes at Otter Lake take into account all commitments made to the communities around Otter Lake.

Ken has 25 years of waste management experience in every province in Canada and the NWT, the UK and the Caribbean. He has been working in community engagement for over 20 years.

The recommendations Stantec put forward for the Otter Lake Landfill include:

- Shut down front end processing
- Shut down waste stabilization Facility
- Reduce cell liner requirements and remove the leak detector liner and cushion liner
- Build cells higher to extend the life of the landfill by 17-25 years
- Bring composting and MRF operations to Otter Lake.

Increasing the height of the cells would impact sight lines (the landfill is already visible from parts of Clayton Park) and these changes could have implications for the environment and the headwaters of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area.

These recommendations violate the agreement made with the communities and would require an amendment to the operating permit issued by the province of Nova Scotia.

Following the meeting, a feature news story was printed on Page 1 of the April 10 edition of *The Masthead News*.

For more information, please visit the Otter Lake CMC Facebook page (www.facebook.com/OtterLakeCMC?fref=ts), Twitter feed (#OtterLakeCMC) and a Web site set up by lawyer Peter McInroy, Leave Otter Lake Alone (www.Lolaalliance.ca).

Participants at the meeting asked what can be done to help. The CMC and FBWHT ask that those concerned E-mail, call or mail all the councilors and the Mayor and share, comment and post on social media to help get the message out. The Trust also contacted all members of Council and the Mayor to express opposition to these recommendations.

The impact to the area will be significant without the help of all of us.

The next **Council of Community Organizations** (CoCO) meeting will take place on September 26, at 7p.m. at the Prospect Community Centre. Barb Allen will chair the meeting on behalf of the Prospect Resource Opportunities Centre.

The following CoCO meeting will take place on November 21 7-9 p.m. at the Lakeside Community Centre. The chair will be Catherine Klefenz from BLT Rails to Trails.

For more information, please contact fbwhtb@gmail.com.

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust unveils new Plants of The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail Brochure

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust unveiled the second edition of the Plants of The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail brochure on May 8th at the Tantallon Public Library.

Members of the Trust and trails users gathered to celebrate the release of the brochure and the start of the summer hiking season.

"We hope the brochure will encourage people in our community to get out and experience the incredible natural beauty within the newly protected wilderness area, and to appreciate the variety of plant life it encompasses," said Jill Pulsifer, Co-Chair of the Five Bridges Wilderness Area.

The Plants brochure was first published in 2005 by Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust. Two Dalhousie Biology students Krystle Olsen and Dave Mealia under supervision of Dr. Mark Johnston completed the field work and compiled the first brochure with line drawings.

The second edition of the brochure has full colour photos and descriptions of 17 of the most common plants found along The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail located within the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area. The photos were provided by Ms. Olsen, Mr. Mealia, Dr. Johnston, David Patriquin and Catherine King.

Trust Co-chair, Harry Ward added, "We would like to thank Jeff Parks, Mark Johnston, Dave Patriquin, Beth McGee and Catherine King for their work in preparing the new edition of the brochure, as well as the Sage Environmental Program, Nova Scotia Environment and Halifax Regional Municipality for their financial support."

Dave Patriquin was in attendance at the event and received a certificate of appreciation for his work on the brochure and continued support for the Trust.

Copies of the Plants of The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail brochure can be requested by e-mail at fbwhtb@gmail.com.



Jill Pulsifer, FBWHT Co-chair, presents a certificate of appreciation to Dave Patriquin for contributing artwork for the second edition of the Plants of The Bluff Wilderness Trail brochure.

Public Meeting on Status of Initiatives related to Wilderness Area

On August 13, Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust hosted a public meeting to share information about upgrades to the Joshua Slocum Trail and work to be done on the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road as well as access points, usage of the Wilderness Area, and stewardship opportunities for community groups.

Peter Bush, a planner from Nova Scotia Environment, gave an excellent presentation and answered numerous questions about trail uses, access points, and future opportunities to promote recreation within the wilderness area.

Here are a few points Peter shared:

Clarification on Off-highway Vehicle and Truck Vehicle use in Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area:

All vehicle use is permitted on Old Fire Road from Joshua Slocum Road to Long Lake.

South of Long Lake, Old Fire Rd is Restricted to Off-highway Vehicles that are members of ATVANS and NSORRA. No cars or trucks permitted.

Old Coach Road within the Wilderness Area is restricted to Off-highway Vehicles that are members of ATVANS and NSORRA. No cars or trucks permitted.

Members of ATVANS and NSORRA using these trails must display their membership sticker on their vehicle.

Use of motorboats within the Wilderness Area:

A licence can be issued under to allow the use of a motorboat to access a campsite lease or private land, or to enable access for wilderness recreation, sport fishing, hunting or trapping.

Until Nova Scotia develops a licencing program, motorboats may be used in all wilderness areas for sport fishing during fishing season, except in the Tobeatic Wilderness Area. You must carry a valid fishing licence.

Note: Frederick Lake, Hubley Big Lake, Big Five Bridge Lake, and Moores Lake are not within Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area – these special rules on motorboat use do not apply on those lakes.

Camping in the Wilderness Area:

There are no campgrounds or facilities in wilderness areas, but overnight camping is generally permitted as long as you follow low-impact standards.

Campfires are permitted in existing campfire rings, or by using a fire box or pan.

Sport fishing, hunting and trapping in the Wilderness Area:

Hunting, trapping, and sport fishing are generally permitted under the same rules that apply on other public lands.

The only current exception is that bear baiting for hunting is not permitted in wilderness areas.

Where can I get more information about provincial wilderness areas?

You can visit the protected areas website at www.gov.ns.ca/nse/protectedareas

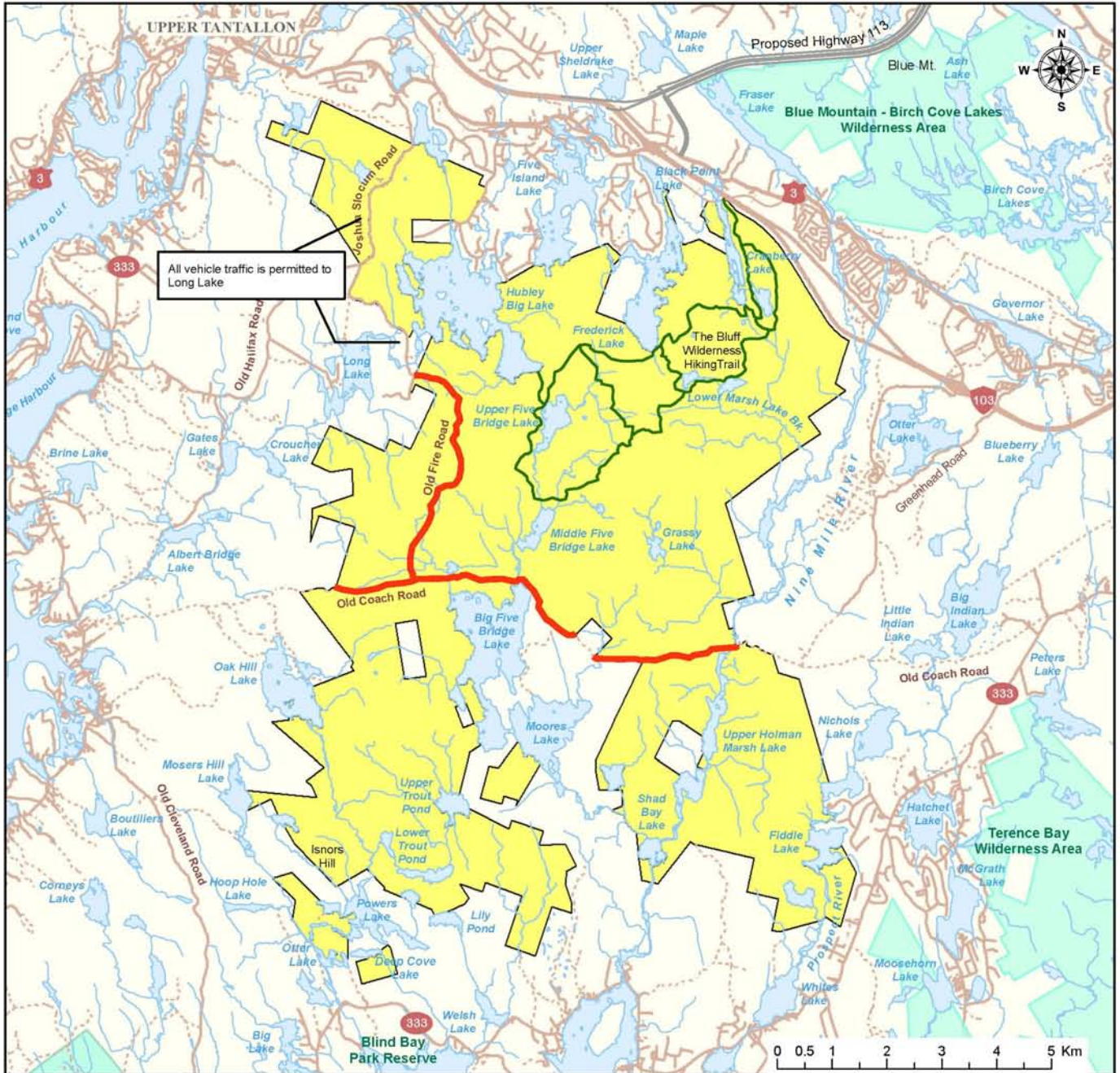
e-mail protectedareas@gov.ns.ca, or call (902) 424-2117.

Specific Questions about Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area can be directed to:

Peter Bush, Nova Scotia Environment

Office: 902-424-0202

bushpg@gov.ns.ca



Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area

Roads and Trails Outside of the Wilderness Area (Normal Access will continue on these routes)

- Arterial; Highway
- Collector; Ramp
- Local Road
- Resource/Recreation; Abandoned Road
- Trail/footpath/portage; Track
- Railway
- Hwy 113 (proposed)

Restricted Access

- Restricted to members of ATVANS and NSORRA. OHVs only, no cars or trucks permitted.
- Wilderness Hiking Trail Only
No OHV or Mountain Bikes allowed

Land Ownership

- Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area
- Crown Land
- Other Protected Areas



Map produced by the Protected Areas & Wetlands Branch of NS Environment, August 2013.

The information shown here was obtained courtesy of the NS Geomatics Centre (SNSMR) and the NS Department of Natural Resources.

FBLW Coalition Seeks New Members

The purpose of the newly established Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Coalition (“FBLW Coalition”) is to promote awareness, use, stewardship, and management of the newly protected area especially in matters pertaining to education, research, conservation, and recreation.

In the hope of expanding the scope of environmental stewardship throughout the Chebucto Peninsula, the FBLW Coalition is now seeking new members to undertake projects that are consistent with the objectives of their own organization. The Council is especially interested in the volunteer activities of youth groups, recreational groups, naturalist groups, church groups, homeowners’ associations, and the like.

To qualify for Coalition membership, a group or organization must subscribe to the FBLWA Guiding Principles and undertake a project that fulfills one of the Roles of the Coalition Charter.

Projects should involve a sustained activity over a period of time (as opposed to a “one-off” event) and have the endorsement of the Coalition Council. The Coalition Council maintains an overview of work plans and serves as a “steering and coordinating committee” for all projects. All members of the Coalition have representation on the Council.

The five founding members of the Coalition are

Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails Association (BLT R2T)

Five Bridge Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT)

Safety-Minded ATV Association (SMATVA)

St. Margaret’s Bay Stewardship Association (SMBSA)

Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO)

For a copy of the FBWLA Charter and Project Registration Form, please contact Tom Musial at tom.musial@bellaliant.net or 876-8976.

The **Nova Scotia Parks and Protected Areas Plan** was released August 1, 2013. The Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust was pleased to see a plan to protect more than 13% of Nova Scotia’s lands by 2015. The Trust was particularly happy to see included in the plan the new Rogues Roost Wilderness Area in Terence Bay and the St. Margaret’s Bay Islands Nature Reserve. More details are available at: novascotia.ca/parksandprotectedareas/plan

We would like to thank the numerous members of the Trust and our community who have helped advocate for wilderness conservation and protection. Many of our board members participated in the consultations for the Parks and Protected Areas Plan and were on hand for the announcement.

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust hosted the annual **May Fair in the Park** on Sunday, May 26 at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park. Despite the wind, it was a beautiful day. Children enjoyed an array of conservation-themed games and a challenging scavenger hunt led by Scott Pelton and the Indian Point Young Naturalists. Many families came out for BBQ and to learn about the many community organizations working to enhance our community, including the BLT Rails to Trails and the FBLWA Coalition. The Trust would like to thank the dozens of volunteers who helped make May Fair another successful event. We would also like to thank Tantallon Fast Fuel and Sobeys for their contributions to the BBQ and prizes for the games.

Check out our new Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/fivebridgeswildernesstrust>.

Lewis Lake Warbler Walk, Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park

Hans Toom led the FBWHT sponsored, Lewis Lake Warbler Walk, for the tenth year. Starting at 7a.m. on June 2nd, the group of 18 (previous page) circled the road between Lewis and Round Lakes and then followed the St. Margaret's Bay Trail to the beaver dam and then up to the small pond north of the St. Margaret's Bay Trail.

The highlight of the outing was the abundance of Canada Warblers, the highest numbers of this species Hans has found anywhere in Canada. They were showing nesting behaviour in five locations, two within the park proper and three along the St. Margaret's Bay Trail bordering the north shoulder of the Park. They were all singing brightly and easy to locate.

The fog was high all morning affording a comfortable walking temperature and even the biting insects were not too aggressive. Pink Lady's Slipper Orchid was in bloom and the Rhodora was magnificent in the bog.

The use of audio playback devices and other disturbances should be used sparingly during the month of June so that female birds are not attracted off the nest, leaving the nest susceptible to predators.

Canada Warbler, photo by Hans Toom



Lewis Lake Warbler Walkers 2013



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...

Thursday, Nov 21

**7pm Lakeside
Community Centre**

Everyone Welcome!

CoCO notes can be found on the Trust website.

2013 Community Council Meetings

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

Edited by Afton Doubleday and Beth McGee

Layout - Jeff Parks

Thanks to Tom Musial for his many years of Service as editor of The Bridge, and his continuing contribution.

Charitable Donations

Charitable donations to support the work of the Trust may be made by

contacting

Beth McGee,

jemcgee@eastlink.ca

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



The Bridge

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

fbwhbt@gmail.com

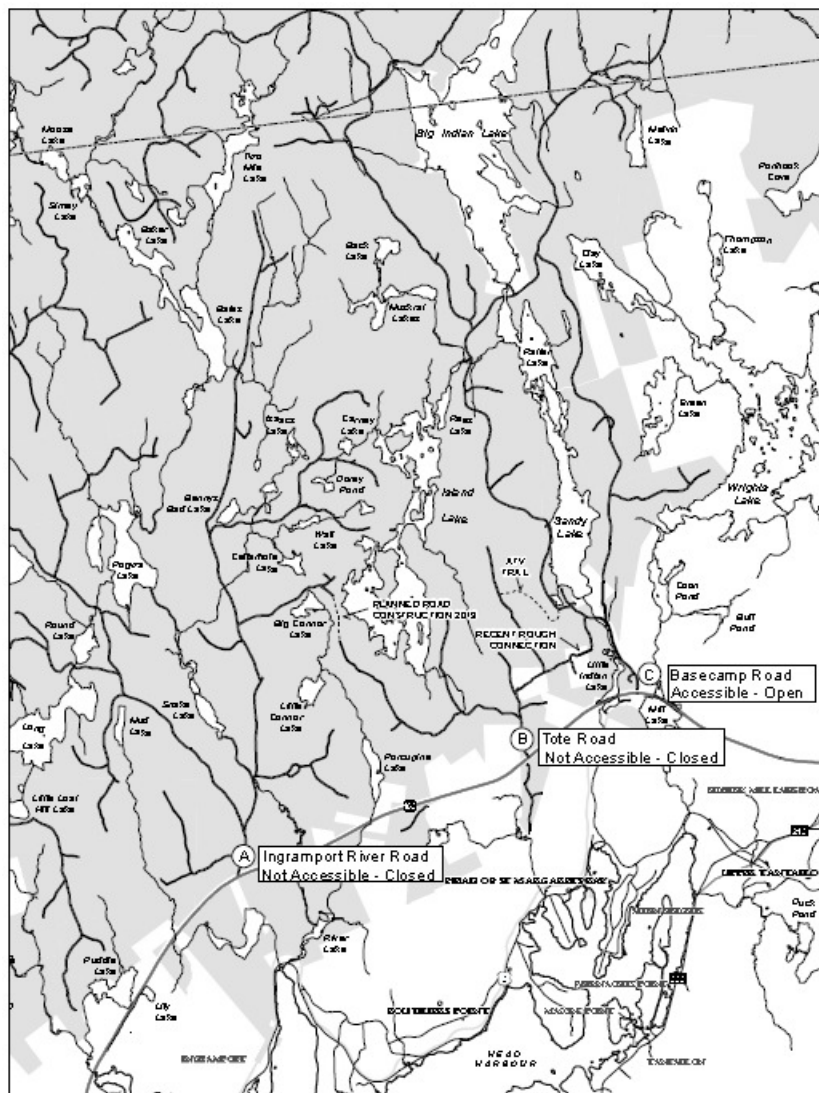
and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

Access to Former Bowater Land

Members of the public are now able to access the roads within the former Bowater lands now owned by the province. The gates were opened on April 29 to enable recreational use of the woods along these roads. People can now access the roads for recreational ATV use and access fishing and hiking sites, provided they respect the areas set aside for protection.

The province conducted an analysis of the traffic flow on Highway 103 and identified two locations where safety is a concern. Between Exits 5 and 6 of Highway 103, at the Tote Road and the Ingram River Road, there are two woods roads that meet the highway. It is a particularly busy section of the 103, a provincial controlled-access highway. Entering and exiting these two roads through their gates close to the highway poses a safety risk for people on off-highway vehicles and motorists on the highway. Therefore, these two gates have been temporarily closed to all vehicles except those with approved, temporary permits to access the woods roads for industrial purposes. That said, the roads beyond the gate remain available for use.

There is an alternate route for off-highway vehicles to some of the back roads via the 'Base Camp' road, off Highway 103, between Little Indian Lake and Mill Lake (see map below).



ACCESS LOCATIONS AND ROADS
St Margarets Bay, Halifax County, Nova Scotia

Legend:
 - DNR Crown Land (shaded area)
 - Stable Roads (solid line)

Scale: 0, 1,000, 2,000, 4,000 Meters