

The Bridge

Co-Chairs

Harry Ward

harryward@eastlink.ca

Peter Lund

peter@peterlund.ca

October 2014

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

jemcgee@eastlink.ca

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Message from the Co-Chairs

Friends,

It is Fall once again! We are pleased to provide an update on recent events and accomplishments that have benefited our community.

At our AGM in March, we recognised the contributions of Jill Pulsifer, our outgoing

Co-Chair. We welcomed Peter Lund who agreed to be our new Co-Chair alongside Harry Ward. We also extended a big Thank You to Dave Patriquin for his work in getting our website back up and running and for his continued support to the website.

Soon after the AGM, we were immersed in final planning for MayFair in the Park. This year we were especially pleased to have financial support from RBC Tantallon for this annual event. RBC, which opened in 2013 in Upper Tantallon, also provided financial support towards FBWHT's recent initiative to Adopt the Nine Mile River (see Page X of The Bridge).

The Bay Treasure Chest (BTC), an initiative of the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association, was launched in April 2014. The Trust is one of the five groups to benefit from the funds raised by the Bay Treasure Chest and is a member of a standing committee that supports the many aspects of the work of the Bay Treasure Chest (read about the BTC in this edition of The Bridge).

During the summer months, Mike Marriott, Chair of the SMB Safety Minded ATV Association and Board member of FBWHT, with physical and financial support from ATVers, continued extensive trail building to connect Upper Tantallon to Prospect. They have now reached Nine Mile River. Only a short stretch now to Prospect! These guys need to be recognized for their time and effort. Well done! Keep everyone connected.

FBWHT, through members, provided comments to Halifax (HRM) Council on the five year amendments to the Regional Plan (RP+5). Good news is - they listened! This will make huge steps to our sustainability. These amendments will bode well for us.

In meantime, discussions are ongoing with Halifax staff to determine how the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Coalition (the Trust is a member) may play a role in the work needing to be undertaken on various parts of Western Common Plan. Also, members of the Trust and others continue to meet with staff at NS Environment to discuss various planning and stewardship matters related to the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area.

Special Thanks are extended to Afton Doubleday for her outstanding work as our Secretary and for setting up of the Trust's Facebook page. Regrettably for the Trust, Afton is stepping down from the Secretary position.

To cut through regulatory road blocks, the Trust maintains an active role in the HRM Alliance.

It takes a "Community to build a Community".

Sincerely...

Harry and Peter

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Peter Lund

Afton Doubleday

(Secretary)

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Annual General Meeting-March 2014

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust hosted its annual general meeting at the Hubley Community Centre on Thursday, March 27, 2014.

We were pleased to have in attendance Councilor Matt Whitman and Peter Bush, Protect Areas Coordinator with Nova Scotia Environment, as well as many of our members. Co-chair Harry Ward presented Peter Bush with a certificate of appreciation for his support of the Trust's work (pictured right).



The meeting was an opportunity to update the members on the work of the past year, including annual events May Fair in the Park and Warbler Walk, and participation in consultations about the Regional Plan and Otter Lake Landfill.

Mike Marriott gave an overview of the trail building work conducted by the Safety Minded ATV Association and Tom Musial discussed the activities of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Stewardship Coalition.

Harry Crook, Chair of the Bay Treasure Chest Committee outlined the exciting new project to raise funds for five community organizations, including FBWHT, through a weekly 50-50 draw.

The full minutes for the AGM are available online at www.fivebridgestrust.ca.

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting.

MayFair in the Park

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust hosted a fun-filled afternoon for children and adults alike at Jerry Lawrence Park on Sunday afternoon May 25th.

Our surprise visit was Smokey the Bear. He arrived with Park staff to inspect our local fire truck and talk to local residents about fire protection. Smokey then told local MP Geoff Regan and HRM Councillor Matt Whitman about rules that must be put in place for protection. Smokey had a blast with the kids, even helping them play parachute games.

We extend our appreciation to our much valued volunteers at fire department Station 57 who show up to so many community events, to the many volunteers concerned about protecting our environment for future generations, to Scott Pelton and his colleagues from the Indian Point Young Naturalists and St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association for the wonderful Nature Scavenger Hunt, to Lakeside Community Centre for providing children's games, and to Sobeys for providing hot dogs for our BBQ and to the staff at the Department of Natural Resources for use of the Park and for their promotion of the event.

Special Thanks to RBC Tantallon who provided financial assistance for MayFair through a grant to FBWHT.

Council of Community Organizations

The Council of Community Organizations continues to meet bi-monthly to report news and updates about the work of various community groups. The meetings provide an opportunity to share information about upcoming events and exchange ideas and suggestions about local projects or issues.

In May, 2014, the Resource Opportunities Centre hosted the meeting with representatives from the Community Monitoring Committee, BLT Rails to Trails, St. Margaret's Bay Seniors Association, St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association, FBWHT, HRM Recreation, McDonald Lake Homeowners Association and Brookside Community Homeowners Association. This was a great opportunity for everyone to meet the new Executive Director of the Resource Opportunities Centre, Patricia Ullman. Organizations reported on the many spring and summer activities that were planned.



FBWHT hosted the September 2014 CoCO meeting. The guest speaker was Lauren Slaunwhite, (pictured left with Peter Lund) who was hired for July and August through the Nova Scotia Youth Corp to assist with the water quality project on the Nine Mile River. Last spring, FBWHT adopted the Nine Mile River as it was determined to be mesotrophic. The Trust received a \$2,500 grant from RBC Bluewater to fund the water quality analysis. Lauren reported that for the most part, water quality was above her expectations. However, she noted that all samples were taken in the summer when water levels were low and only surface water could be tested. She recommended that further samples be taken in other seasons following heavy rain fall in order to test ground water.

Laboratory analysis found good water quality except the presence of faecal coliform and E. coli near the Lakeside Industrial Park and Governors Lake.

A Report of the analysis of the water quality samples and interpretation of findings will be presented by Peter Lund at a future CoCO meeting.

There were also reports on trail maintenance activities from Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization, BLT Rails to Trails, and the Safety Minded ATV Association.

Birch Bear Lake Homeowners Association reported that they successfully sought an addition to the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area and are now discussing the possibility of constructing a trail in HRM parkland adjacent to the subdivision.

Full reports on the CoCO meetings can be found online at http://fivebridgestrust.ca/?page_id=21.

The next CoCO meeting will be held on November 19 at the Lakeside Community Centre, 1492 St.Margaret's Bay Road, Lakeside and will be hosted by the Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization.



Mike Marriott explains access points to the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area with Tam Hill.

Adopt the Nine Mile River Project

by Peter Lund, Co-Chair FBWHT

Last winter, FBWHT decided to Adopt the Nine River as a project, to determine if its watershed is being impacted from ever increasing commercial/residential development, compounded by the Otter Lake landfill, Halifax Water sewage treatment plant and directed stormwater flows into receiving waters, Brunello Estates golf course currently under construction and Lakeside Industrial Park.

Halifax has been collecting surface water quality data for years since the landfill was constructed in 1998, as has Halifax Water with the sewage treatment plant. Brunello Estates began analyzing surface water quality since 2011 before construction began. HRM also collected data in a few lakes for five years. A brief review of some of this existing data revealed that the Nine Mile River south of all these developments indicates the river is becoming mesotrophic, raising a red flag. So, FBWHT decided it is time to collect/assimilate all applicable information to determine if indeed there is a concern.

FBWHT applied for and received a RBC Bluewater Grant to cover analytical costs. FBWHT then applied to Clean NS to hire two summer students to be paid for 2/3rds by Province and 1/3rd by FBWHT and WREO, our partner on the Coalition. We were selected to have one summer student, Lauren Slaunwhite.

We focused our efforts on collecting/assimilating all easily accessible available mapping and data currently available from Halifax and the Province for input into a multi-layer GIS data base for use and interpretation. It was then decided to collect water samples downstream of all point sources of possible contributors of impact, which all are north of HWY 103 except for Otter Lake landfill. Seven key locations were sampled.

The result, we have accomplished most of what we set out to do this year. We now have a clearly defined map of the Nine Mile River watershed, with key multi-layer information, all on GIS, assimilation of existing water quality data, and water quality data from this summer's sampling by summer student.

Lauren presented a brief summary of findings at the September CoCO mtg. Peter will evaluate data and present findings from this project at next CoCO meeting in November. Then FBWHT and other partners in the Coalition will decide next steps. As Peter reminds us, "you never know where you are to, until you know where you are at". The purpose of this project this year was to determine where we are at, to determine path forward.

**Mike Marriott explaining
some trails info to Halifax
Councillor Matt Whitman
(District 13—Hammonds
Plains-St, Margarets) and
others at the AGM in March.**



SMATV Trail Reaches Nine Mile River

FBWBT Board Member and Safety Minded ATV Club (SMATV) Club President Mike Marriott reports that he and how work mates from SMATVA have reached the Nine Mile River, both wet areas along the way have been in filled along the original roadbed (Old St. Margaret's Bay Road) and the road to Nine Mile is roughed in. This last section may need some additional work, depending on what equipment and materials will be needed to get in there. It is known there are 2-3 culverts to put in place. The larger bridge work projects (Nine Mile River and Prospect River east of the Wilderness Area), especially the one to go over Nine Mile River may dictate what work may still need to be done.



On September 16 equipment was brought out, the crew were finishing up some work along the way, including 2 new culverts and a replacement culvert for an old wooden one that has collapsed and is a hazard, the last of the garbage at the garbage dump sites was loaded to be taken to the disposal site in Goodwood.

Next steps will include Mike contacting DOE and ATVANS trails employees to go in and confirm what will be needed for bridges and or culverts for the section leading to Nine Mile River as well as identifying any other issues. Then planning and preparing for this work into the fall months will be undertaken, until weather shuts the work down or funding is used up.

Now that the crew has reached Nine Mile River from the western end of this road (the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road) future plans include setting up a meeting in the Goodwood area to go over the project and enlist some local help on the Prospect Road side end where SMATV Club now has quite a few members from that area. As part of any planning for the Goodwood to Nine Mile River section of the Old St. Margaret's Bay a LOA from TIR will need to be obtained.

Pictures at www.smatva.ca > click on photo gallery > album is >> **Trail to Nine Mile River Bridge**, up to September 16, 2014 date.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who have helped out up to now, Mike and his team deserve a **Huge Thanks** from all of us for a truly **Great Job!!**



Otter Lake Landfill

As far as updates concerning the solid waste management review and the possible future for Otter Lake operations, there is not much new. HRM staff and Halifax Waste Resource Society (HWRS) representatives are still negotiating, and it seems that HRM is still focused on proposing increasing the height of the waste storage cells as their preferred solution; the HWRS is awaiting a report on possible environmental impacts. The report is being provided by HRM staff; but a peer review may be desired by the HWRS, and the November 1st, 2014 deadline to complete the HRM & HWRS negotiations is fast approaching. The public has been given very little information about the results of the ongoing negotiations and that may be because there is very little to report thus far. There are solutions available today that could significantly limit and almost do away with the requirement to have a landfill in HRM; but those possible solutions are not likely to be discussed during these negotiations, because that option was not clearly defined in any of the three outstanding HRM staff recommendations that remain from the January 14th, 2014 HRM staff report concerning the solid waste management review. The public's desire and stated mandate to have the Otter Lake landfill site closed in 2024 is a part of the negotiations; but how this may be accomplished is not an option identified in the report and thus it may not be discussed. There is less than a month for the negotiations to be completed and those of us who have been following this review from the start, have grave concerns that the public's wishes will not be given due consideration. The results of the HRM & HWRS negotiations will be presented to Regional Council as an HRM staff report, sometime after November 1st, 2014.

The Western Common Plan

On September 3, Beth McGee Trust Board member and Tom Musial, Chair of the Five Bridge Lakes (FBLWAC) Wilderness Area Coalition met with Jane Fraser of HRM along with several members of her staff to continue discussion about how the members of the FBLWAC might assist HRM in moving forward the Western Common Plan. Many aspects of the plan are of considerable interest to the FBLWAC because of the proximity of the Western Common to the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area. Part of the eastern boundary of the FBLWA is contiguous with the western boundary of the FB Lakes Wilderness area. The Western Common is also a key piece in green belt planning on the south side of Hwy 103. The FBLWA lies to the west, travelling east on Hwy 103 is the Western Common followed by Long Lake Provincial Park. Terrence Bay Wilderness Area could also be a part of the green belt process with the addition of some lands to make borders of TBWA contiguous with borders of Long Lake Provincial Park.

Report of Meeting at NS Environment on July 2, 2014

Peter Bush and Helen Smith of NS Environment (NSE), Mike Marriott, SMATV and Beth McGee, FBWHT met to talk about a number of things related to the ongoing work for the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA)

There were six main discussion topics which included: (1) the need for a map of the FBLWA that shows the access points to the FBLWA. (2) Welcome signs required on the Joshua Slocum Trail, east end of Old St. Margaret's Bay Road, possibly one at the western end of the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road as you enter the FBLWA, and at Hubley Big Lake where there is a canoe put in and parking. (3) Canoe routes need to be shown on a map of the FBLWA. (4) The need for another article for The Masthead News to update the community on work ongoing in the FBLWA. (5) With the advent of the creation of The Destination Trail talked about the possibility of a video and Tourism ideas. (6) Mike reviewed the work to be undertaken on the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road beginning with the big water hole east of Big Five Bridge Lake.

continued on page 9. . . NSE Meeting Report

Annual Warbler Walk at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park - June 1, 2014

Hans Toom led the annual Warbler Walk at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on Sunday June 1 starting at 7a.m. The Warbler Walk is sponsored by the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust.

This year there were near perfect conditions with bright sunshine and cool temperatures in the morning. The cool morning kept the black flies at bay and allowed participants to enjoy the whole walk without being tormented. There were thirteen people in this year's group of beginners and more experienced birders.



The birders heard 14 warbler species and saw all of them except the Canada Warbler who sang with authority but stayed hidden in the tangled undergrowth and wet understory of its preferred habitat. On hand were Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Palm, Black-and-White, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat and the much coveted Canada Warbler.

Flycatchers seen and heard were Alder Flycatcher and Eastern Wood-Pewee. The usual bunch of sparrows was present: Song, Swamp, White-throated

Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Junco. Raptors included a pair of Osprey fishing over Round Lake, and probable but unconfirmed sightings of Sharp-shinned Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk. We looked unsuccessfully for the Spotted Sandpiper that nests at the pond north of the beaver dam. Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos were present as was Mourning Dove, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, American Goldfinch, Purple Finch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Flicker, Black-backed Gull, Ring-necked Pheasant, Common Loon and Great Blue Heron.

It was a good day and enjoyed by all.



NOTICE OF URGENT PUBLIC MEETING
“What Ever Became of Buy Back the Mersey?”
OCT. 20TH, 7pm, HUBLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Dear friend and supporter of “Buy Back the Mersey” and the St. Margaret’s Bay Community Forest (SMBCF),

While a few of you may not be declared supporters of “Buy Back the Mersey” nor the SMBCF, all of us definitely share a keen interest in the former Mersey lands, and on a wider scale, in how we as Nova Scotians manage our forests. Despite earlier efforts, sorry to say, things are definitely not going well in the former Mersey lands. So, this is a renewed CALL TO ACTION!

Here’s the problem:

With no community consultation, no notice to the municipality, no notice to anyone, our Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources has permitted the clear cut of a huge tract of land just east of Panuke Lake, land which they themselves had recently designated “environmentally sensitive”. What were they thinking?

This particular parcel is in the Halifax portion of the former Bowater-Mersey St. Margaret’s District. DNR had declared their intention to keep the community and the municipality informed, but did they? No. Not a word. Their decisions are made in secret. You may have read of this particular case in a recent edition of the Chronicle-Herald.

Many of you worked long and hard, first on the successful “Buy Back the Mersey” movement, and then, thrilled that the purchase was made, devoted thousands of volunteer hours on two comprehensive proposals to the DNR for a Community Forest on these lands. In the end, for whatever reason the Department found the community’s proposals wanting and opted to manage the forest themselves with no community involvement. Now we see the fruits of their in-house decisions – a massive clearcut on environmentally sensitive lands.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a wake-up call.

We urge you to contact the Premier (Hon. Stephen McNeil, premier@gov.ns.ca), the Minister of Natural Resources, (Hon. Zach Churchill min_dnr@gov.ns.ca), the Minister of the Environment (Hon. Randy Delorey min_env@gov.ns.ca), your elected representatives, the media, your friends and your organizations’ members and mailing lists. In short, please contact anyone and everyone. We have to get the word out. We have to change the way we manage our resources.

PLEASE ATTEND: October 20th at 7PM at the Hubley Community Centre, 4408 St. Margaret’s Bay Rd. a “Whatever Became of Buy Back the Mersey” rally.

Since the Ivany Report, support for better regulation of our natural resources has been growing, in aquaculture, in fracking, and now, we hope, in forestry. In the spirit of making positive change, and in the spirit of encouraging at last real participation by communities in the management of our resources, especially our forests, we ask now for your support.

Donations welcome. Your energy and expertise, welcome. Your support in getting the word out, welcome. Please, do what you can.

Again, this is a call to action on a matter of supreme importance to all Nova Scotians, now and for future generations.

The SMBCF Team

For further information, please contact SMBStewardship@gmail.com or call 823-1404.

FBWHT Honours RBC Tantallon

At our September Board meeting Board members were unanimous in their wish to honour RBC Tantallon for their generous contribution to MayFair 2014 and to the RBC Bluewater Fund for their funds for water analysis of samples taken from the Nine Mile River.

On Wednesday, October 8 Harry Ward Co-Chair at the Trust presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Karen Corney ,Branch Manager at RBC Tantallon.



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., November 19, 7pm
Lakeside Community
Centre, 1492 St Margarets
Bay Rd, Lakseide

Hosted by WRWEO
Everyone Welcome!

CoCO notes can be found
on the Trust website.

NSE Meeting Report continued ...

Other related points of discussion included the possibility of creating a parking lot on TIR land in Glen Margaret. (Road allowance land between Hwy 333 and Westhaver Road located between the first two entrances to Westhaver road.) That area would make a great parking lot for about 4 trucks and trailers.

NSE staff will follow up with TIR about parking area and signage at the east end of Old St. Margaret's Bay Road in Goodwood as well as the feasibility of a parking area on Westhaver Rod in Glen Margaret. Beth will schedule a time with Helen Smith to continue discussion about video making and ecotourism . Beth will connect with Dusan Soudek about the mapping of canoe routes. Mike will organize a run to the Nine Mile River through the FBLWA.

2014 **Community Council** **Meetings**

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

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

902- 861-2560

The Bridge

**Edited by Afton Doubleday
and Beth McGee**

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Afton Doubleday (2-4,10)

Mike Marriott (5)

Hans Toom (7)

Nicolle Sullivan (9)

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.

The Bay Treasure Chest

The St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association has established a community fundraiser known as The Bay Treasure Chest (BTC) in partnership with 4 other community-based local not-for-profit service organizations. The founding stakeholder organizations are:

- Bay Rides, an accessible community transit system in the process of being established in the community
- The Bay Youth Hub (made up of The GPI Atlantic Youth project, the St. Margaret's Bay Skate Park, the St. Margaret's Bay Toy Library, and The Unicorn Theatre),
- the Seniors Association of St. Margaret's Bay, and
- the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust.

The BTC is a weekly 50/50 toonie draw that gives players an opportunity to win cash while supporting local community service organizations. There is a count every Wednesday with a winning number drawn each week. If the holder of the winning number played their toonie that week the winner will receive 50% of the week's gross revenue. The balance of the monies will be shared among the 5 community organizations.

In the 24 weeks since the first draw on April 16th, The Bay Treasure Chest has paid out a total of \$34,500 in prizes to the winners....the largest of which was \$12,254!....and a total of \$26,000 was paid to the 5 stakeholder organizations with a further \$5,000 to be paid out to the stakeholders after the next prize is won. This is a wonderful Community initiative that has been extremely well supported by the community. For more information go to their website at: www.baytreasurechest.ca

The Trust members are delighted to be part of the BTC. We enjoy the camaraderie of our count nights once every six weeks. Five Bridges has received a total of \$5,000 to date with another \$1,000 to be paid out shortly. We are pleased to receive these funds from BTC. To date the monies received have helped to fund water analysis of samples taken from the Nine Mile River (near Timberlea) this summer. The Nine Mile River project may expand now that we have a source of funding to support such a project.

The BAY TREASURE CHEST



Watch for this symbol for your chance to help local organizations and win money!



Peter Lund depositing his toonie in the Treasure Chest with Harry Cook from Bay Treasure Chest.