

A Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust Publication

A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road



Second Edition

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A Walking Guide
to the
Old St. Margarets Bay Road

is a publication of the



**Dedicated to conserving public land in its
natural state for public use since 2001.**

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Dedication

A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road

is dedicated to all those who have travelled these lands and waters over time, with special tribute to the Mi'kmaq and other pre-contact persons, and to the Europeans who settled here. Special care has been taken to honour the resting places of those who have gone before us. May each of us who travel this road take pleasure in the discovery of the beauty of the land, forests and waterways.

Acknowledgements

The Trust wishes to acknowledge the contributions of those who generously provided information that assisted in the writing of this Walking Guide. Without their generosity, this publication would not be as comprehensive. In particular we wish to acknowledge Iris Shea, Ralph Wheadon, George Newbury, and Wayne Shellnut and thank them for sharing the history of the area with the present and future generations.

Jeff Parks completed the book layout and developed the maps for both editions. Thanks and credit also go to Charles Sangster, Nova Scotia Environment, who provided map data that shows the public lands on the Chebucto Peninsula; Steve Copp and Billy Billard, MIRROR NS Ltd., who provided coordinates for the branches of the revised Greenhead Road; and, Mike Marriott who provided help, especially with maps, coordinates, and directions for various trails.

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Thanks to Barb Allan, Wayne Rogers, Paul Schwartz, Beth McGee and Joanne Ellis for reviewing and refining the text and layout to make it useful for trail users.

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Photo Credits

Nova Scotia Environment

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Catherine King.....Covers

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Welcome



As Chair of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust, I invite you explore this fabulous area, which includes the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area, Western Common lands and Long Lake Provincial Park. Whether you choose to hike, canoe, kayak or use a bicycle or ATV, these areas within the Chebucto

Peninsula offer you a quiet escape to nature. The area is alive with song birds, hawks, moose, white-tailed deer, rabbits, raccoon and many other species who call this stretch of land home. Help us respect the area by leaving no trace of your visit and stay safe by planning ahead and bringing your own supplies, travelling together and letting others know where you are going. Take weather conditions into account and dress appropriately for outdoor fun.

Since it was established in 2001, the Trust has worked to preserve and protect public lands on the Chebucto Peninsula and improve access for all trail users, while still maintaining it as a natural landscape. In 2011, the province declared public lands bound by HWY 103 and 333, a designated wilderness area – now known as the Five Bridges Lakes Wilderness Area. This special identifier provides provincial protection from future development. Through community partnerships with other like-minded groups, the Trust and members of the Five

Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area Stewardship Coalition (the Trust, the St. Margarets Bay Stewardship Association, the Beechville-Lakeside Rails to Trails Association, the Safety-Minded ATV Association and the Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization, recently joined by St. Margarets Bay Rails to Trails) in concert with Nova Scotia Environment have worked together to improve the trail system, provide education about what you may enjoy in the area. Another positive partnership for the Trust has been involvement in the Bay Treasure Chest which provides funding to the Trust for projects that would otherwise remain on our wish list.

The work of the Trust would not be possible without the community involvement and support we regularly receive from our Trust Members/Friends, Volunteers, and Staff from NS Environment. For more information about our activities and becoming a member, visit our website at www.fivebridgestrust.ca.

Enjoy your adventures along the Old St. Margarets Bay Road and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Harry Ward, Chair
Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust

March 2017



Endangered Mainland Moose

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Winter on the Old St. Margarets Bay Road

In An Emergency

Call 9-1-1

Over the past 10 years, more and more people are visiting remote areas in our Chebucto Peninsula community, and community groups are looking to improve the conditions of the existing trails and access into the surrounding trail network. These trail systems are accessed by paddlers, bikers, hikers, skiers, ATV users, and others. With increased usage, the frequency of injury in the region has increased over the years with an average of 2-3 injuries reported annually where a remote rescue was required. The need to improve transport options for the sick and injured has been a topic of increased discussion with paramedics, rescue teams, and community groups in the area.

Before you head into the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area, take time to make sure you have done your planning, you are prepared, and you are safe on your travels. Your preparation begins with reading this article in full. It could save your life.

If something goes wrong, a call to 911 will not bring emergency aid to your side in a matter of minutes. You could be on your own for a number of hours, perhaps many hours, depending on the weather and time of day. The Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area trails, like many other remote areas, require preparation, planning, and preparedness. Keep in mind that things do go wrong for even the most prepared and experienced. The wilderness is not forgiving, and there is a real possibility that a simple injury may become a major rescue event.

Know the Risks. Make a Plan. Pack your Kit.

To prepare for an emergency the following may be helpful.

1. Know the conditions and risks associated with the area you are going to visit.
2. Plan your trip.
3. Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.
4. Pack enough water and snacks, and adequate gear for the conditions including a first aid kit.
5. Carry a map and compass even if you have a GPS.
6. Do not travel alone.

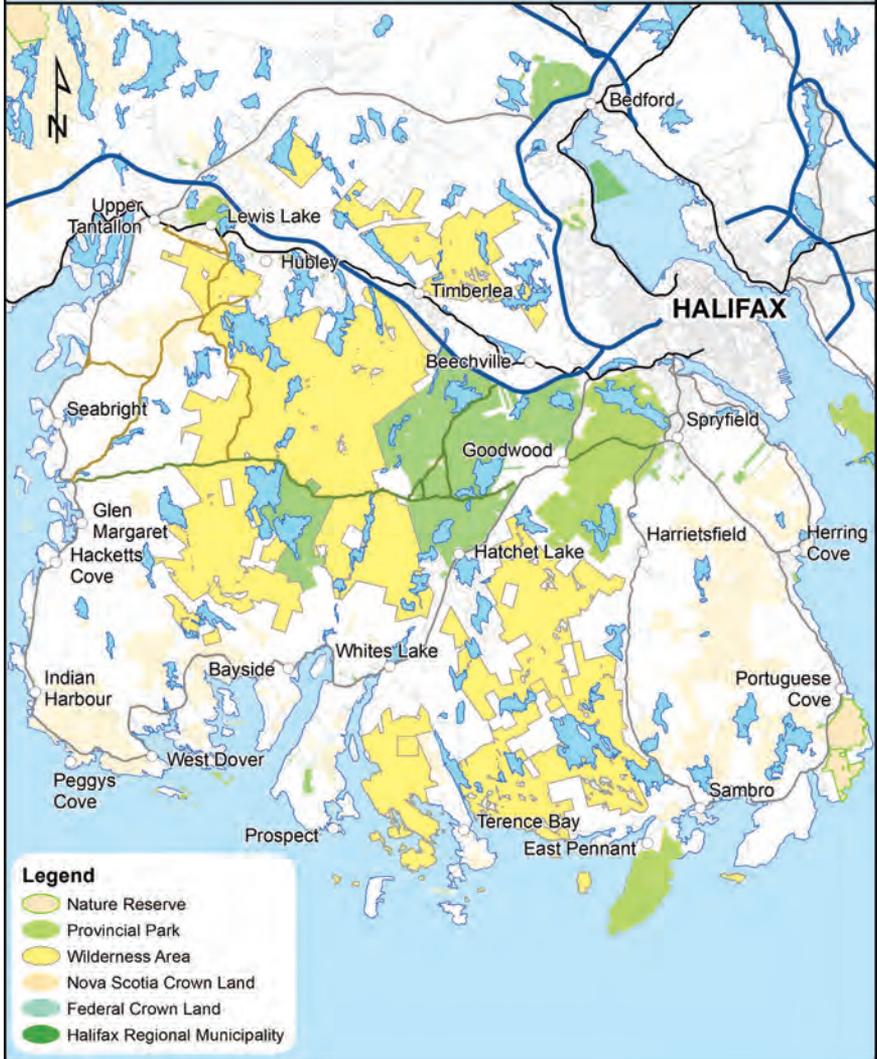
In an emergency call 9-1-1

Coyotes

Eastern coyotes are known to inhabit the Chebucto Peninsula. Travelers to any remote location should read and understand what to do in the case of encountering a coyote. The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources provides a comprehensive website related to the Eastern coyote that is a must read for any woods traveller.

Be Coyote Smart

novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/living-with-wildlife/be-coyote-smart.asp



Introduction and Getting Started

The Old St. Margarets Bay Road, also known as The Old Coach Road, was a vital transportation link between Halifax and St. Margarets Bay in Nova Scotia's early years. The route is more than 200-years old; it was constructed prior to 1800. We know this because of a map of the interior of Nova Scotia drawn by Titus Smith in 1801-02 clearly identifies the old road, and also shows what is now St. Margarets Bay as "Charlotte Bay or St. Margaret's Bay". Today, the road weaves through undeveloped and, for the most part, undisturbed wilderness that offers visitors a quiet reprieve amongst the beauty of our natural world.

The road is not maintained and not suitable for motorized vehicles; although bicyclists, ATV riders, hikers, canoeists, kayakers and naturalists are welcome and will find the route passable with caution and care. The section of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road that passes through the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area is under the direction of Nova Scotia Environment (NSE). The section of the road that passes through Long Lake Provincial Park is under the direction of Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR). The remaining sections of the road are under the jurisdiction of Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR). The area has had coyote sightings and hikers should be aware of how to deal with them before venturing out. Check the Nova Scotia provincial website for details: www.gov.ns.ca. For those people wishing to spend some paddling time on these waters, Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia (www.canoekayak.ca) can provide details regarding canoe routes and portages in the Wilderness Area.

Hikers have reported the presence of ticks, so everyone should be wary, learn how to reduce the risk, and check yourself over!

Within this guide, the Old St. Margarets Bay Road has been divided and described in five sections running from west to east, across what is known as the Chebucto Peninsula. Each section has its own history, connector roads and landmarks described. You can choose where to start based on how long you wish to travel and what you may find of particular interest. Believe us when we tell you, there is plenty to see. Guide maps are provided with coordinates indicating points of interest along the way.

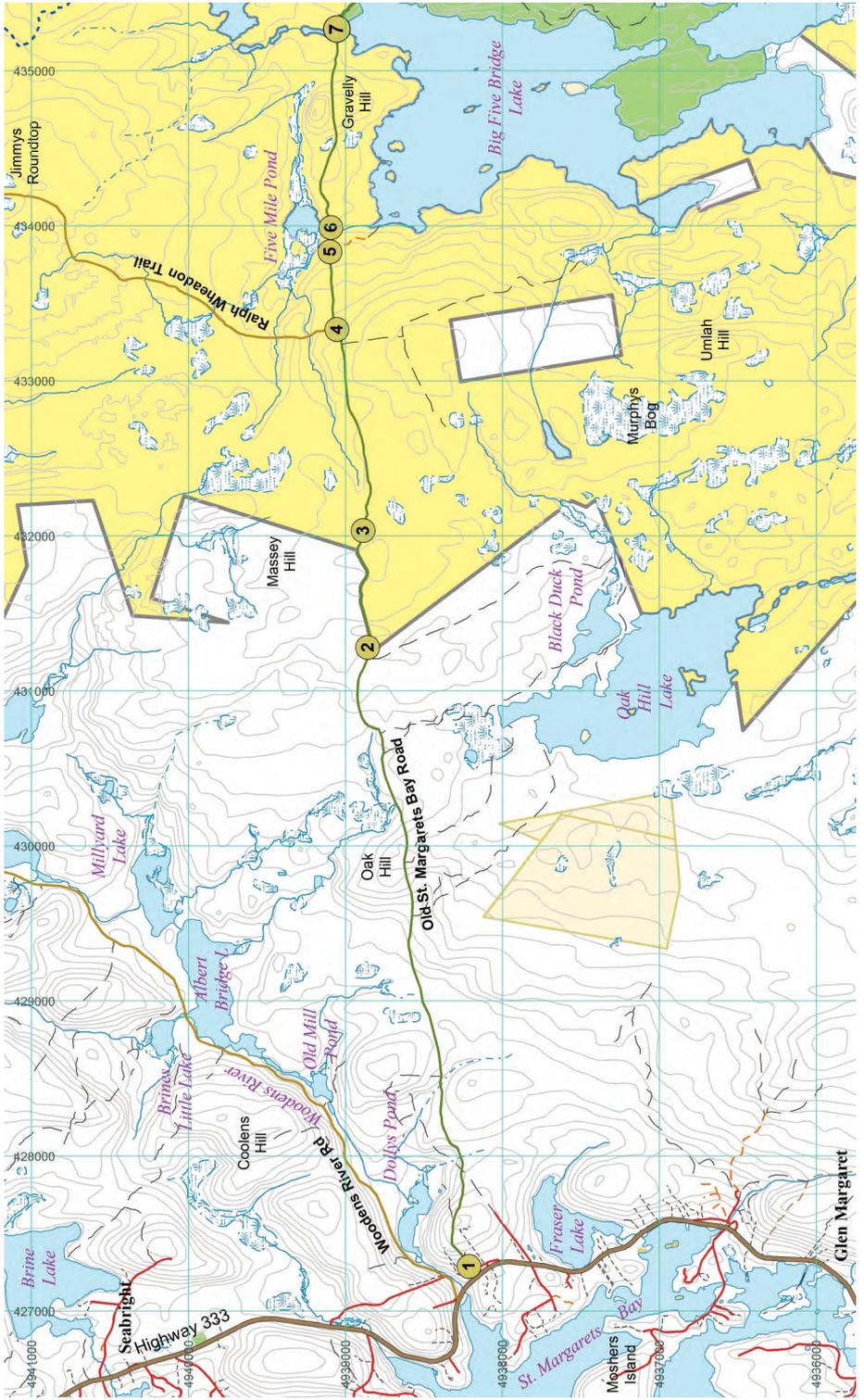
If you are travelling through the eastern end of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road, which passes through Long Lake Provincial Park, you should note that motorized vehicles (ATVs) are not permitted within the park boundaries. The Park is administered by the Department of Natural Resources.

Using the coordinates for Points of Interest provided on page 53, you will find historic sites along the route including six cemeteries or headstones, remains of three old farms and even the foundation of what is believed to be an old dance hall.

Please show respect for the area while you are visiting. The road covers a vast area, from Glen Margaret in the west to Goodwood in the east the road spans 22 km (16 miles), so plan your visit accordingly. The section from Goodwood to Spryfield travelling on the Old St. Margarets Bay Road through Long Lake Provincial Park is 4.2 km (2.6 miles) long. Cell phone coverage is available across the route. Please leave the wilderness as you found it and bring any trash or gear with you as you depart the area. Stay safe and enjoy!

Reminder To Respect the Wilderness Areas

- You are entering a natural area alive with animals, plants, rivers, streams and wildlife. Respect them and leave them as you found them.
- Take out whatever you brought in. **Leave no trace.**
- If you encounter a coyote (or other predatory animal) be prepared to scare them away by acting large and using pots/pans/whistles to make loud noises.
- Take lots of water or if you plan to drink from streams, a water purifying filtration unit is required.
- Bring bug jackets or bug spray and an emergency kit.
- Ensure cell phone batteries are fully charged.
- Never travel alone. Let others know where you are going and for how long.
- Show respect and do not move anything from around the old farm estates, cemeteries and grave-sites you may encounter. There are several along the route and GPS coordinates are provided to help you find them.



Glen Margaret to Big Five Bridge Lake

The western end of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road can be accessed from the Westhaver Road in Glen Margaret. Travelling from Upper Tantallon, the access point is 12.5 km from the intersection of HWY 3 and HWY 333, known locally as the Crossroads. You'll find Westhaver Road about a minute drive once past the Glen Margaret sign. Turn left onto Westhaver Road (**Point 1**) where you'll find some parking near the mailboxes.

Walk north on Westhaver Road to meet the junction of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road, just past Civic 25.

Some history of the area: Originally, the land where the road begins was owned by Edward Hoosier; in fact, what is now known as Woodens River (see the map page 16) was originally known as Hoosiers River. In 1855, Woodens River was spelled Woodins River; named after the Woodin family who owned considerable holdings immediately adjacent to the river and the



Left: Western end of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road as it meets Westhaver Road in the late 1800s. The house is still standing.

Right: This view remains of St. Margarets Bay from the top of the first hill on the western end of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. The picture dates from the late 1800s. (Photo sources unverified.)

land around Woodens Cove. Woodens River is the first of five watersheds you will encounter across the 22 km route from Glen Margaret to Goodwood. The five watersheds are: Woodens River, Nine Mile River, Prospect River, Partridge River, and McIntosh Run.

The Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization plays an active role in monitoring the health of the Woodens River watershed. In the early days of the main road, Highway 333, crossed the Woodens River further east than its current location. If you walk up the Woodens River Road (see map page 16) you can still see the stone abutments that anchored the bridge on each side of the river. Roy Boutilier operated a saw mill in the area for many years and concrete pillars can still be seen in the river. Logs were floated down the river and milled at this site.

Woodens River provides good trout habitat. For a number of years a trout hatchery operated in the area of Dollys Pond. The river once sustained a salmon run; however, with clear cutting and other environmental changes further up stream, the river no longer supports Atlantic salmon.

As you begin your hike on the Old St. Margarets Bay Road from this western location, you'll notice the road rises steeply as you proceed east crossing land once owned by James Creighton, James Freke Bulkely, and Jno. Fraser, Wm. Moore, Jno. Moore, and Henry and Mary Massey, in that order, according to land grant records. The road rises from sea level in Glen Margaret to approximately 69 m (225 ft) above sea level (asl) at Oak Hill.

The Hill also lends its name to a lake to the south, which cannot

be seen from the road but is on the map page 16. This area is densely forested with oak trees, thus the name. The first Crown land post is located at **Point 2**. At this post, you are approximately 4.2 km (2.6 miles) into your hike. From here to Big Five Bridge Lake the elevation drops to approximately 53 masl (176 ft asl). Shortly after the Crown Post is a recently installed controlled-access gate (**Point 3**). The gate is configured such that off-road vehicles may pass but is blocked



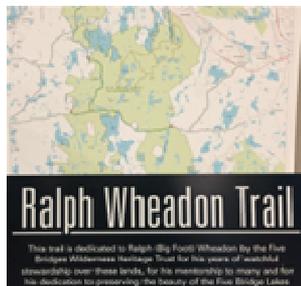
to larger vehicles.

Many of our local land marks derive names from the early grantees. Henry Massey was a retired Royal Artillery soldier who died while his grant was being processed; this is why the grant is listed in Henry and Mary's name. Their daughter, Mary, married James Drysdale. The grant is located on a high hill north of the road that is known today as Massey Hill.

Next you'll come upon a well known junction (**Point 4**), locally known as the T-intersection, that connects to the trail formerly known as the Fire Road, located on the North Side of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road.

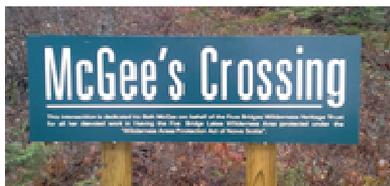
The Fire Road was built in 1976-77 by the Department of Lands and Forests (now Natural Resources) as a means of

accessing the woodlands to suppress fires. It was built under the guidance of forest ranger Ralph Wheadon. The Fire Road runs north to meet the Joshua Slocum Avenue access point in Lewis Lake or northeast to the Hubley Lake Road in Hubley via the Old Halifax Road.



The Fire Road has been renamed the Ralph Wheadon Trail for the extent that it runs through the Wilderness Area. Watch for the Ralph Wheadon Trail sign. You are now about 6.3 km (3.9 miles) into your hike.

The T-intersection bears a new sign McGee's Crossing (**Point 4**) to honour the work of Beth McGee, founding member and long-time Board Member of Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust.



Just a short distance beyond the Ralph Wheadon Trail (about 525 m) a trail to the south (**Point 5**) leads to the northern end of Big Five Bridge Lake, formerly known as Prices Lake. George Price, one of the original land owners in the area, owned 101 acres near the northwest end of Big Five Bridge Lake.

Prior to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road being upgraded many years ago, there was a series of five pole bridges that spanned waterways along the route in the area. The first one was over the brook from Five Mile Pond (**Point 6**) with its tributary flowing from the wetlands at its head. This is a great spot for observing waterfowl especially during the fall migration.

Further along the road there were four small pole bridges located over the divided brooks (**Point 7**) flowing out of Middle Five Bridge Lake. The late comers called the lake south of the road – Big Five Bridge Lake.

You are now approximately 8.3 km (5.2 miles) into your walk. A lovely beach on this stretch of Big Five Bridge Lake invites you to take a break before the next portion of the walk.

The Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) owns the lands on the east side of Big Five Bridge Lake and on the north and east side of Moores Lake south of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. These lands were obtained from the Public Service Commission when HRM was established in 1996.

The area around the Five Bridge Lakes is prime moose habitat. Mainland moose are an endangered species in Nova Scotia and the Chebucto Peninsula is one of their remaining footholds in the province. If you see any of these majestic animals during



Beach at Big Five Bridge Lake

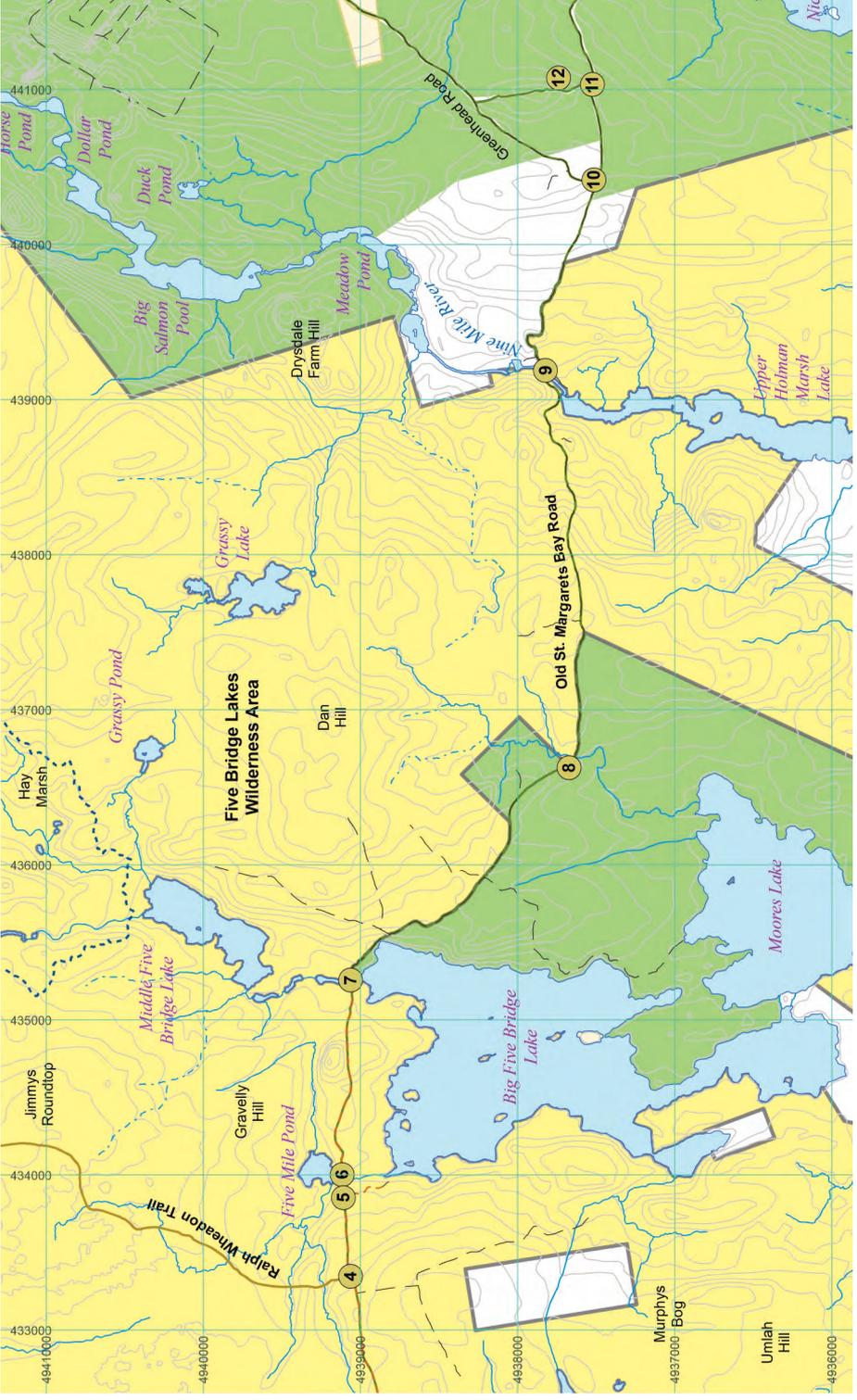
your visit, we encourage you to contact Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (902-861-2560) as soon as possible to provide them with coordinates or a description of the location where the sighting occurred.

The Chebucto Peninsula is also home to white tail deer, black bear, coyote, fox, rabbit, raccoon, weasel, otter, mink and porcupine, as well as a variety of other animals. Bald eagles, osprey, owls and other predatory birds make this area their home and hunting grounds. It is also a nesting area for migratory birds and waterfowl.

Past the north end of the Big Five Bridge Lake, the road begins its ascent to 76 masl (250 ft). Here the road crosses lands originally owned by J. Gordon Bennett, and Edward Moore, the presumed namesake for Moores Lake. In this area, there once was a tuberculosis sanatorium at what was known as the Bennett Farm. The Farm, also served as a halfway house providing refreshments to the weary travellers of the day. On the north side of road, you'll notice a large field with rock walls and a small cabin situated on the property (**Point 8**).

Just beyond the cabin, the road passes through two areas where the roadbed has recently been refurbished. A Trail Management Agreement between NS Environment and the ATV Association of Nova Scotia was signed to enable the local Safety-Minded ATV Club to make these and other improvements to the roadbed of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road where it passes through the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area.

NOTES



Big Five Bridge Lake to Nine Mile River

The Chebucto Peninsula is a geologist's wonderland that we can all appreciate. During the last ice age, retreating glaciers left their mark upon the landscape giving rise to the many lakes and rivers that occupy the area and much of southwestern Nova Scotia. The glaciers also left behind majestically placed erratics. These are boulders of various sizes moved from other locations by glacial movement. Many of these are in evidence as you make your way across the Peninsula. In some cases, the erratics are well disguised by centuries of moss and lichen that are draped over the exposed granite. These erratics and the exposed bedrock present an interesting study in how the glaciers shaped our land. The most striking example of this on the Chebucto Peninsula can be found at the world-famous Peggys Cove, where the retreating glaciers did some of their finest work.

The natural world around you: As you continue on your journey you will observe a mixed variety of tree species. Due to the scraping effects of the glaciers, most of the top soil was removed and bedrock exposed, making it a difficult



Erratic boulder on the
Chebucto Peninsula



Erratics at
Peggys Cove

environment for trees to grow to a harvestable size. There are of course, pockets of top soil that exist where the glaciers created drumlins as they retreated; however, for the most part, the conifers and deciduous trees are small in stature given their age. The mixed forest of the Chebucto Peninsula provides ideal wildlife habitat.

It also provides many wonderful photo opportunities when the fall foliage begins its annual transition, especially when the ground cover on the barrens turns maroon. Depending on the time of year, the time of day, lighting conditions, and good

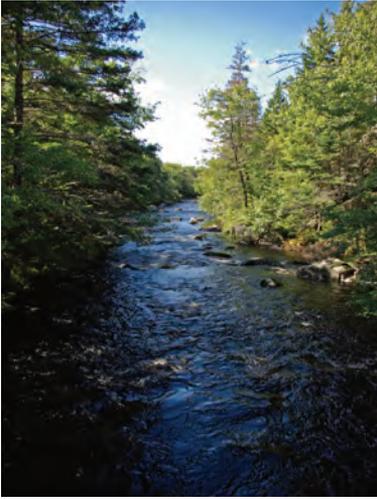


White-tailed deer

fortune, you could be treated to any number of opportunities to get the shot of a lifetime. Wildlife, plants, erratic boulders, fungi, lichen, ground cover, lakes, rivers, and streams all offer opportunities for those with a keen eye.

From the area east of the Bennett Farm, the road rises in elevation and continues to Nine Mile River (**Point 9**). The bridge crosses the river north of Upper Holman Marsh Lake. There is a pleasant spot to take a break just before the bridge to the south, or if you prefer, cross the bridge and follow the trail south to the river where you can relax before heading uphill once more. This trail on the east side of the river connects to a trail to Shad Bay where the Nine Mile River meets the sea. It may be overgrown.

The roadbed of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road on both sides of the Nine Mile River has been prepared to accommodate a new steel bridge installed in 2017.



Nine Mile River

The river was once a productive Atlantic salmon river; however, years of pollution and misuse have resulted in the river no longer being able to support a viable salmon run. The river still does sustain a healthy trout population. The Nine Mile River has a storied history. During the 1800s, Joe Cope, the renowned Mi'kmaq hunting and fishing guide brought his clients to this area

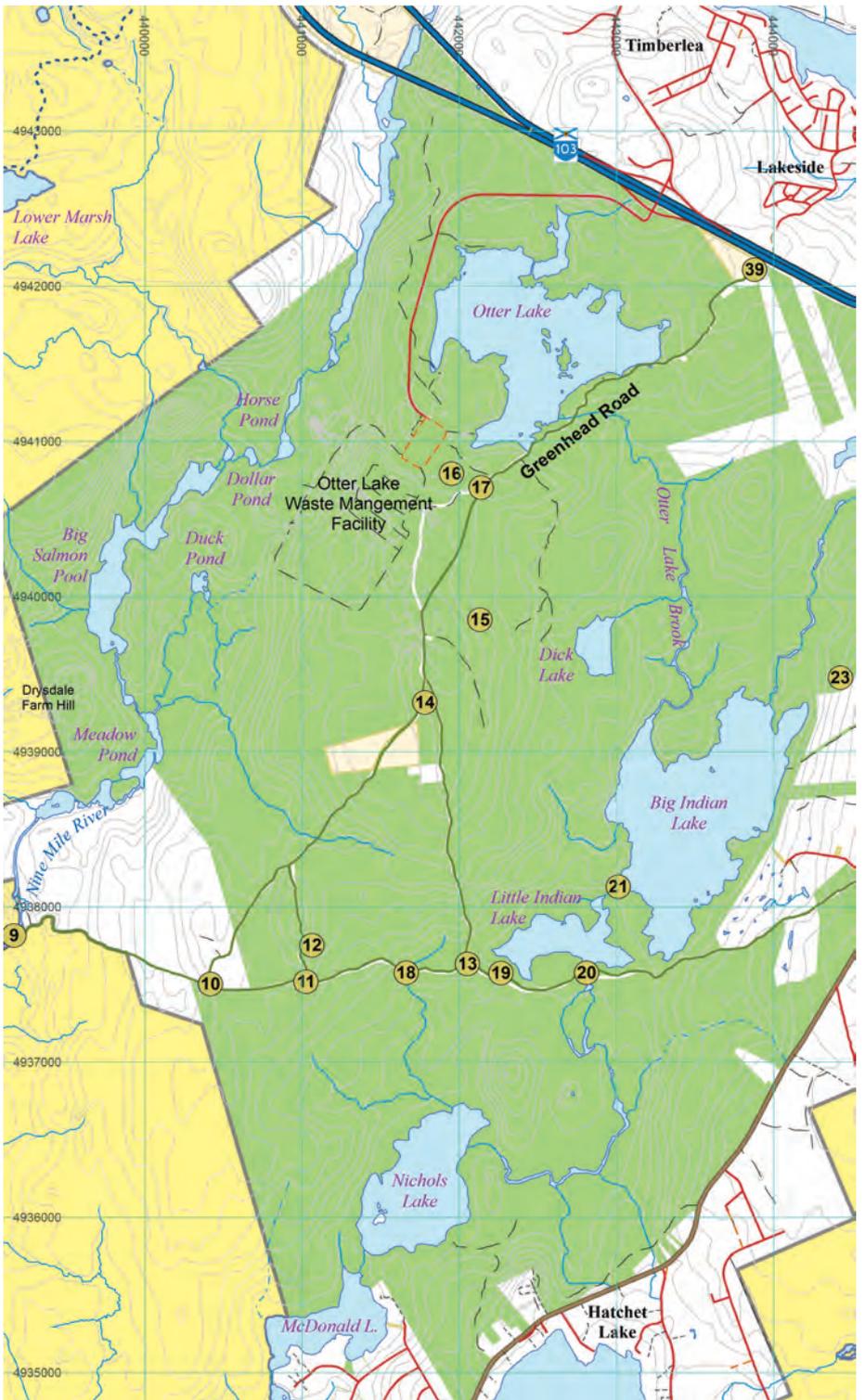
to enjoy the bounty from the land and waters that the Chebucto Peninsula provided.

Today, the Otter Lake Waster Management Facility is situated along the banks of the river about two miles to the north of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. A sewage treatment plant, located further north in the community of Timberlea, discharges into



Prepared area for installing new Nine Mile River bridge

the river. Regrettably, this treatment plant provides only secondary treatment of the waste that flows into the river.



Otter Lake and Greenhead Road Area (A Side or Day Trip)

As you cross the Nine Mile River, the public land to the north of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road comprises properties once owned by Charles Cook and generations of the Umlah family (William, James, William). The first and most westerly branch of the Greenhead Road (**Point 10**) connects at Old St. Margarets Bay Road and crosses Umlah properties. The second branch (centre) of the Greenhead Road (**Point 11**) is found further east along the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. The area along this branch of the Greenhead Road is referred to as the Carmichael Farm, although the property was originally owned by William Umlah. On the east side of the second branch is the Carmichael Cemetery, which is overgrown and may be difficult to locate.

(**Point 12**). In 2017, this branch of the Greenhead Road north of the Cemetery has been barricaded because of excavation of soil in the landfill site. The safest way to access the Carmichael Cemetery is from the Old St. Margarets Bay Road travelling in a northerly direction on this branch of the Greenhead Road. It is hoped the affected area will be remediated later in 2017.



E. Archibald Carmichael marker
Carmichael Cemetery

The Carmichael Cemetery is quite overgrown. It contains two headstones, one for Edmund Archibald Carmichael b. April 23, 1849; d. July 19, 1873; the other is for his parents; John Carmichael d. April 5, 1884, age 73; Elizabeth Carmichael d. July 20, 1890, age 79. There is some confusion surrounding the death date on Archibald's headstone as the marriage records show Archibald (age 24) married Mary Crawford (age 20) on December 31, 1873 (NSHVS year: 1873 Book: 1861 Page: 43 No: 596). His date of death has not been substantiated by an official record. They had a daughter Mary Archibald Carmichael. Archibald and his brothers were carpenters.

John Carmichael left his estate of 323 acres to his wife Elizabeth with instructions that upon her passing his estate was to be equally divided amongst his children and grandchildren. They were James, Robert, Mary Ellen, Janet Martha, Elizabeth wife of William Drysdale, John, Elizabeth Rosina, granddaughter, Mary Archibald Carmichael, granddaughter, George Rufus and Mary Jane, wife of Richard Gilpin. He left one half-acre for a family cemetery where his son Edmund Archibald Carmichael is buried. Elizabeth Carmichael was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Byrne) Drysdale; John was the son of James and Margaret (Baxter) Carmichael.

From this point onward on both the Greenhead Road and Old St. Margarets Bay Road you may encounter wet conditions that are often difficult to get around, so be prepared for wet feet.

The third branch (east) (**Point 13**) and the centre branch of the Greenhead Road are the original roads in the area. The third branch travels through the old Drysdale Farm, near Little Indian Lake. The centre branch of the Greenhead Road was originally known by several names: Umlah Road and Carmichael Road.



Typical Wet Section of Road

Both Umlah and Carmichael families had farms along this road.

The three branches of the Greenhead Road will take you out to Highway 103 near Exit 3 where there is a small parking area on the south side of Highway 103. This road can only be accessed from the Highway 103 eastbound lane (direction of travel to Halifax). This may also be a starting or ending point of your hike (**Point 39**).

The history of the area:

As mentioned before, the area around Otter Lake is now HRM's waste management facility. At one time, there was a small viable community at Greenhead on the south side of Otter Lake. Some of the original grantees were Charles Drysdale, Wm. Umlah and John Drysdale. The census of 1871 shows George Yeadon living near Otter Lake. However, the first residents of Greenhead were the brothers Drysdale, and John and James McIntosh. Lumbering was the mainstay of the

community supplemented by limited farming and work in Halifax.

The population of Greenhead in 1956 was 111 persons. The community operated a school in a former hen house located in “Butler Fields”, named after Norman Butler. A new school was built between 1938 – 1940. The community was relocated in the late 1950’s as a result of the Public Service Commission expropriating the land to enhance the water supply for the city. The community also had a church that was erected in 1948. When the land was expropriated the church was cut in half and moved in 1953 to Timberlea where it became part of what is now Trinity United Church.

In 1961, an earthen dam was built at Otter Lake to raise the level of the lake by eight feet to provide additional water support for the Big Indian Lake reservoir.

One of the highest points on the Peninsula (120 m or 393 ft above sea level) is close to where the branches of the Greenhead Road meet (**Point 14**).

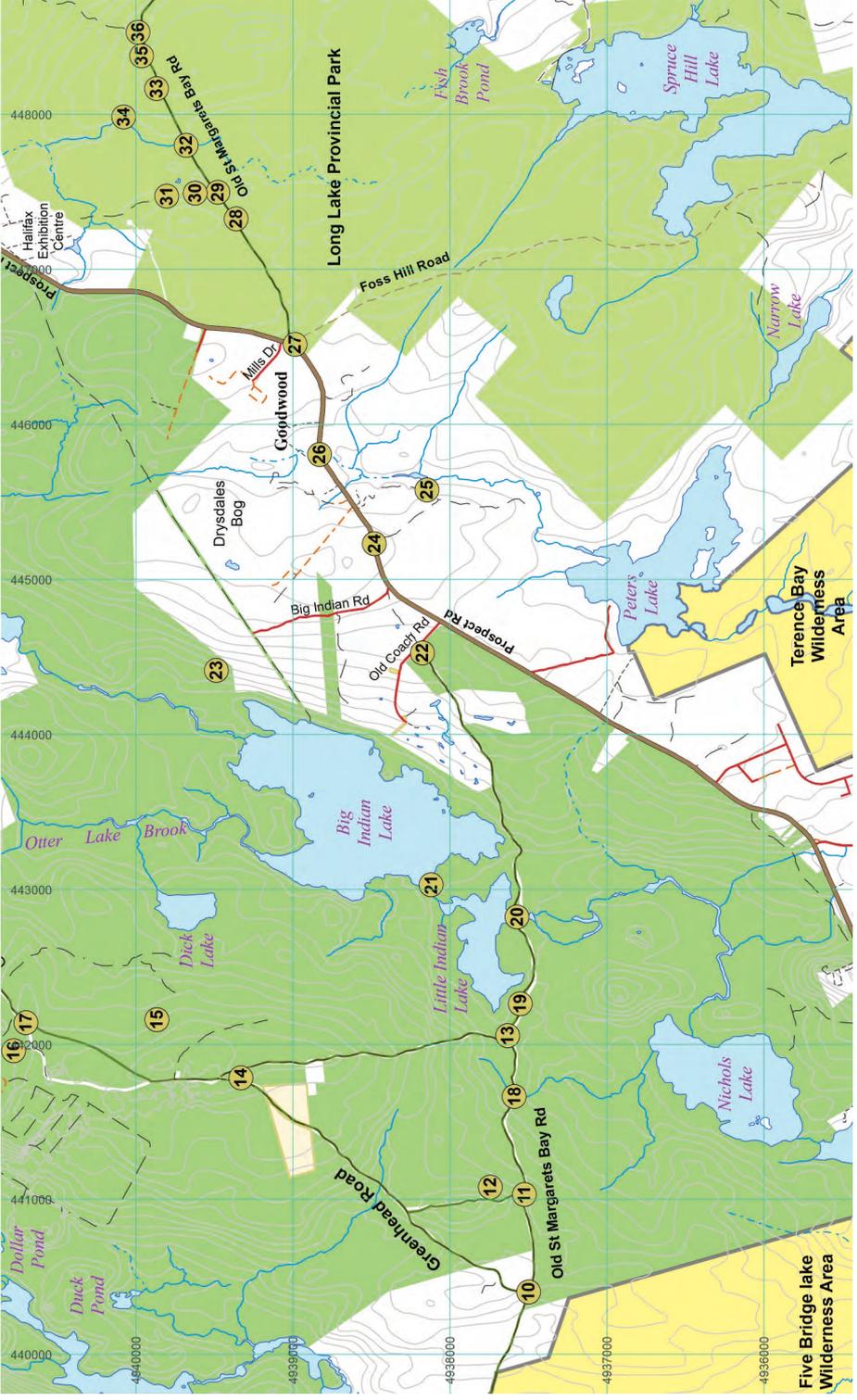
There are two other known cemeteries in this area. The first one you will encounter as you travel northeast will be the *Greenhead Road Cemetery* (**Point 15**). It is located off the beaten track on the eastern side of Greenhead Road. You will travel through an old field where the remains of a stone foundation are clearly evident. As you face east, the trail to the cemetery is located in the lower left (northeast) corner of the field. Follow what remains of an old road downhill until you see a drumlin on your right.

The identifiable headstones here are: James McIntosh

Drysdale, b. February 24, 1805, d. June 24, 1876; Mary Ann Geizer, d. July 6, 1920 age 80 years, the wife of Nicholas Geizer and daughter of James Drysdale; Nicholas Geizer d. October 13, 1892 age 56 years; James Umlah d. November 17, 1867 age 66 years; Daniel Umlah d. 1910, age 58 years; Sarah P. Drysdale, b. June 14, 1854, d. September 12, 1891, daughter of James and Elizabeth; Elizabeth (Yeadon) Drysdale, b. July 3, 1819, d. June 6, 1854, wife of James; Clara M. Drysdale d. July 1818, age 16 years, daughter of James and Mary. In addition, there are at least eighteen granite headstones without markings along with visible depressions in the ground which clearly indicates the final resting place of others.

Otter Lake Cemetery (Point 16) is located in the woods to the west of the Greenhead Road, very near the waste management facility and may be difficult to find as it is overgrown. When HRM decided to use this area as a waste management facility, they cut off a portion of the original road and built a new road. You will note a large accumulation of boulders blocking the entrance to the original Greenhead Road (Point 16). In order to get to the cemetery you must climb over the boulders and proceed up the original road. The cemetery will be on your right; however, it is some distance back in the woods (approximately a five minute walk).

The *Otter Lake Cemetery* contains two headstones: Martha wife of James Umlah, d. February 16, 1895 and their son George d. May 8, 1883. James is buried in the Greenhead Road Cemetery.



Five Bridge lake
Wilderness Area

Terence Bay
Wilderness
Area

Long Lake Provincial Park

Hallifax
Exhibition
Centre

par Key Margarets Bay rd
St Margarets Bay rd

Foss Hill Road

Greenhead Road

Old St Margarets Bay Rd

Big Indian Rd

Old Cochrane Rd

Drycates
Bog

Otter Lake Brook

Big Indian Lake

Little Indian
Lake

Nichols
Lake

Spruce
Hill
Lake

Narrow
Lake

Peters
Lake

Mills Dr

Godtwood

Prospect Rd

Foss Hill Road

Big Indian Rd

Old Cochrane Rd

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The Indian Lakes to Prospect Road

Some time ago, a rough winter trail was cut on the south side of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road that allows you to hike south through the Western Common (HRM lands) to the Prospect Road (**Point 18**). You will cross the Prospect River via a wooden bridge, walk on the north side of Nichols Lake and continue to Prospect Road Hwy 333.

From the third branch of the Greenhead Road, near the west end of Little Indian Lake, Old St. Margarets Bay Road crosses through property originally deeded to James Drysdale. There was once a farm in this area and the remains of the old stone foundations can still be seen in the field known as the Drysdale Farm (**Point 19**).

Travelling east, you continue through HRM lands until you reach the Prospect River (**Point 20**), the third noted watershed from Glen Margaret to Goodwood. Little Indian Lake is to the north. You are likely to get wet feet crossing the Prospect River. There is no bridge and crossing at this point on the trail may not be possible at certain times of the year due to high water. A walking stick or sturdy tree branch is recommended to aid in crossing.

It has always been a challenge to keep a bridge at this site in safe repair. For instance, in April 1828, John Drysdale, Road Surveyor, petitioned Sir James Kempt, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, for money to repair the bridge. Five pounds were allocated for the repairs. The original road and bridge may have been further downstream from the current location of the road.



Little Indian Lake

As you walk parallel to Little Indian Lake, a road cut north through the woods circumvents a large wet area on the original road. This side road ascends to Big Indian Dam Road located at the south end of the Big Indian Lake. If you turn left the road will take you to the dam (**Point 21**) constructed in 1942. Once there, if you turn right at Big Indian Dam Road, it will lead you back to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road.

As you continue your travels on the Old St. Margarets Bay Road on the east side of Big Indian Lake, the Road passes through Indian Lake Golf Course and through properties originally owned by Edward Harnett, Thomas Leahey, and Charles Drysdale. The Old St. Margarets Bay Road intersects the Old Coach Road (**Point 22**). A public parking lot is located next to the trail. The distance from Glen Margaret to Goodwood via the Old St. Margarets Bay Road is approximately 22 km (16 miles). This could be the ending point for this part of the hike or the beginning if you start here and head to Glen Margaret.



John and Caroline
Umlah Cemetery

If you wish to continue travelling the Old St. Margarets Bay Road follow Old Coach Road southeast to intersect the Prospect Road (Highway 333) at Goodwood – originally known as Woodfield.

Possible Side Trip for Another Day

Big Indian Lake is connected to Long Lake by a five km pipeline which parallels the Pipeline Road. At the

north end of Big Indian Lake there is an area that once belonged to John Umlah. He and his wife Caroline are interred (**Point 23**) at the north end of Big Indian Lake. The headstone reads: John Umlah, d. June 16, 1888 age 84 years; Caroline

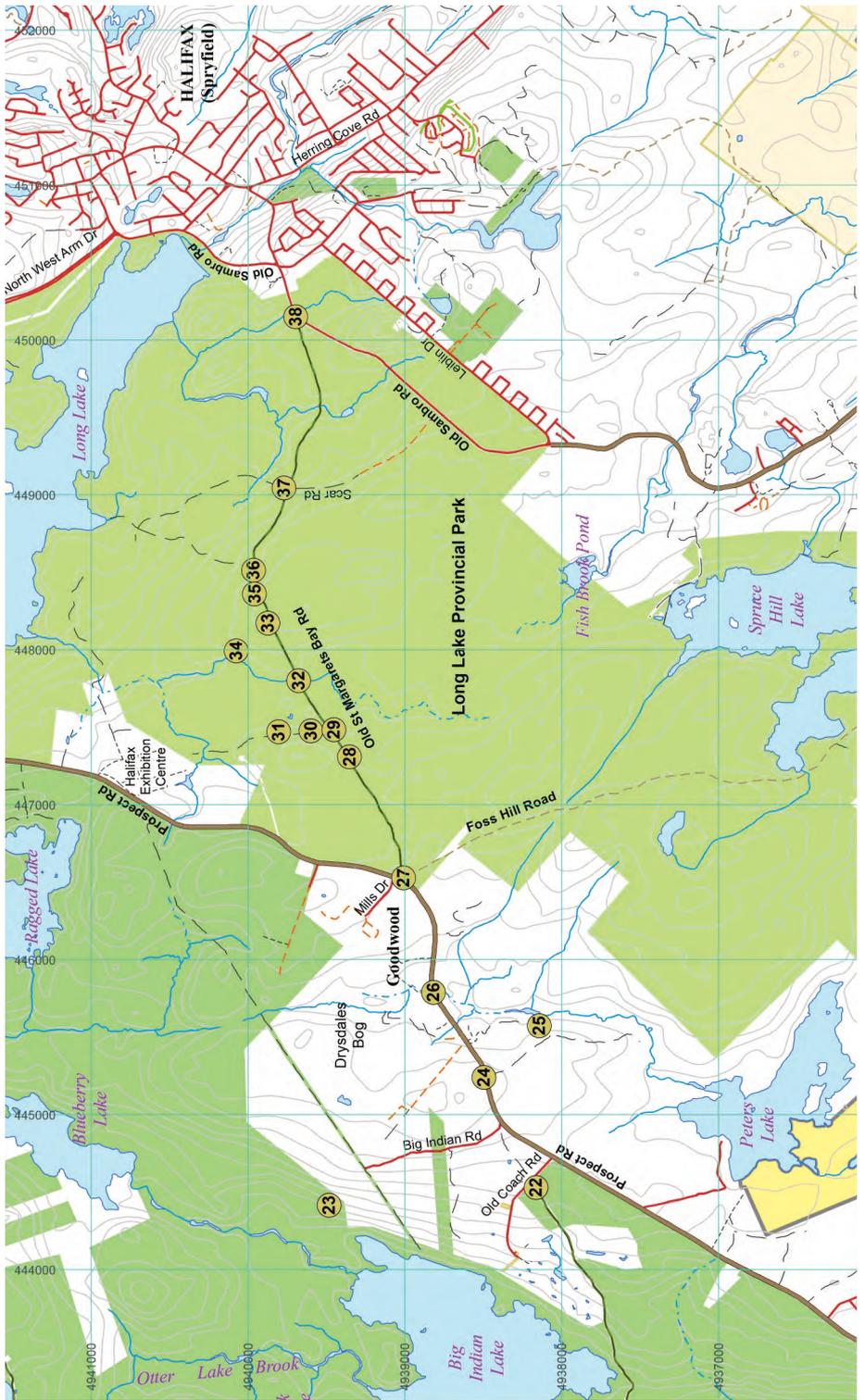


Dam at Big Indian Lake

Umlah, d. July 2, 1890 age 82 years. This remote site has a number of unmarked granite stones that indicate others are likely buried here. There is no trail to their final resting place so a leisurely side trip is not recommended unless time and experience allow.

The lands surrounding Big Indian Lake have been acquired by Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) as an environmental buffer. Big Indian Lake was once part of the back up water supply for the City of Halifax. The pump house, located on the north east end of the lake and adjacent to the Pipeline Road, was demolished when water supply from Pockwock Lake was brought on line. In 1962, three employees of the Public Service Commission died of asphyxiation while doing routine maintenance work on the pump house.

NOTES



From Goodwood to Spryfield

From the parking lot on Old Coach Road turn east and proceed to the Prospect Road (Highway 333). Follow the Prospect Road northward 0.65 km (0.4 miles) towards Halifax, past Big Indian Road (on your left), to St. James United Church (on your right). Just past the church, a road crosses what looks like someone's yard (1068 Prospect Rd) (**Point 24**), but in reality it is the public road to *St. James United Church Cemetery* (**Point 25**). The cemetery, located on land donated by Charles Drysdale, is a 10-15 minute walk from the Prospect Road and contains the remains of some of the area's original settling families.

Charles Drysdale (b. March 19, 1769 – d. February 17, 1843) son of John and Isabel (Bonner) Drysdale, of Alloa, Clackmannanshire, Scotland, and his wife Ellen (Helen) Carmichael (d. February 13, 1839) were the first permanent settlers of Goodwood. Of their seven children, four were born in Nova Scotia between 1807 and 1815. These four were baptized at St. Matthew's Church in Halifax.

Return to the Prospect Road and continue your hike. As you travel the Prospect Road northward you will cross Partridge Brook (**Point 26**), near 921 Prospect Road, which has its beginning in the 75 acre Drysdale Bog. The bog is in the headwaters of Partridge River and Prospect River systems. The bog drains into Big Indian Lake through various small brooks that flow down the eastern slopes of the ridge surrounding the lake. It is one of the most ecologically sensitive areas on the Chebucto Peninsula.



Drysdale Bog

Across from Civic 739 Prospect Road (near Mills Road intersection) you will see a small parking lot (**Point 27**) on the east side of Highway 333. It marks the intersection of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road and HWY 333 and the access to Long Lake Provincial Park via the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. At one time St. Christopher's Catholic Church was located here. The church celebrated its first baptism in October, 1946 and remained active until 1964. In 1968, the building was turned over to the local fire department for use in practicing fire suppression. St. Christopher's parish has since relocated to Hatchet Lake.

At the parking lot you will notice two roads. The road to the northeast is the continuation of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road which terminates at the Old Sambro Road (**Point 38**) in Spryfield; however, please note the entrance is overgrown and easy to miss.

The second road will take you to Spruce Hill Lake and onto Foses Hill. Benjamin Umlah of Goodwood and Charlotte Yeadon of Spryfield farmed and raised their families on Foses Hill. This road is called Foss Hill Road named for Philip Foss, a German baker who was granted several small holdings for a woodlot in the 1770s. The farm at Foses Hill remained in the Umlah family from 1845-1950. The last two Umlahs who lived on the property were Maggie and Jess Umlah. They were spinster sisters who walked from Foses Hill to Spryfield to sell their eggs and buy grain and groceries. Regrettably, while they were away on one of their trips the farm house burned down. Subsequently, they went to live with their sister Isabel Umlah in Goodwood. Spruce Hill Lake was dammed in 1869 to provide water to the City of Halifax via Long and Chain Lakes. The dam raised the lake level by twelve feet and caused Foses and Spruce Hill Lakes to join. This road exits at Harrietsfield.

As you proceed along either road, you should note that you are now in Long Lake Provincial Park. Since this is a provincial park, special rules apply while in the area; please contact Nova Scotia Natural Resources for details. It should also be noted that the boundaries of Long Lake Provincial Park have not been clearly posted so you might encounter some difficulty in determining exactly when you are in or out of the park. There is a Long Lake Provincial Park Association which works with NS Natural Resources in trail development in some areas of the park. You will encounter many wet areas as you make your way along the Old St. Margarets Bay Road through the park; a walking stick is recommended.

Within the park there are three known cemeteries. The first, known as *Marriott Cemetery* (**Point 28**) is located southeast of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. There are two headstones

here: one Rufus Marriott, d. May 13, 1904 age 21 years – son of Alexander and Mary; the other, Florence V. Marriott d. April 18, 1909 age 19 months, daughter of James and Lillian. The Cemetery is considerably overgrown.

As you proceed northeast you will note a road (**Point 29**) to the northwest that, if followed, will exit behind Halifax Exhibition Centre. This is known as the Old Post Road where you will find the *Purcell's Ground Cemetery* (**Point 31**). To get there follow (**Point 30**) which we call a Post Road crossroad leading into *Purcell's Ground Cemetery*. You will need to bushwhack your way as the cemetery is located off the beaten track. There are some beautiful headstones in this fenced-in cemetery, which is located on property originally owned by Thomas Wagner. There are eleven headstones at this site as well as indications that others are also interred here. Jane Toler, wife of Peter, d. April 15, 1857; William Marriott d. April 23, 1875; Susanne Marriott, daughter of John and Isabella Marriott, d. April 27,



Marriott Cemetery



Purcell's Ground Cemetery



Purcell's Ground Cemetery

1851; Helen Burke d. September 22, 1901; Charlotte Jane Thomas d. March 2, 1904; Walter Drysdale d. August 9, 1904; Mina Isabel Drysdale d. November 8, 1910; Isabella Sara Buchanan, 1862 – 1911; Eunice (Beccie) Rebecca Drysdale d. October 13, 1912; Walter Drysdale d. November 13, 1913 and Mary Coolen d. on April 19, 1919.

According to local historian Iris Shea, the land around the cemetery originated with the Toler family. Peter Toler purchased a small piece of property from John Wagner, son of Thomas, and established a working farm there around 1814, following his marriage to Jane Umlah, a sister to John Wagner's wife. All of those buried at this site are descendants of Peter Toler. His only daughter, Isabella, is mother or grandmother to the people buried there.

Back on the Old St. Margarets Bay Road, you continue on to



John Umlah Cemetery sign and headstone

Beaver Dam Brook (**Point 32**) which crosses the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. This section of the road can be quite wet.

There is a somewhat overgrown trail located on the west side of the brook. If you turn left and follow the trail, it will take you to the parking lot on St. Margarets Bay Road (Highway 3). This section of the trail is very wet in places where the trail passes close to Beaver Dam Brook. If you turn right, the trail will take you to Spruce Hill Lake. It is recommended that you do not attempt to follow this trail due to the amount of water you will encounter. It is also overgrown.

At this juncture, you are in the McIntosh Run watershed, the fifth watershed that you cross during your hike. In 1848, a wooden dam was built at the outlet of Beaver Lake at McIntosh Run, raising the water level 25 ft and absorbing Cocked Hat Lake. The resulting body of water is now referred to as Long Lake.

As you continue along the Old St. Margarets Bay Road east and uphill you will come to a trail to the left (**Point 33**). Along this overgrown trail, you will find the final resting place of John Umlah b. June 20, 1829, d. February 19, 1893 (**Point 34**). John Umlah lived and farmed in the area for many years. A significant portion of what is now Long Lake Provincial Park



John Umlah Farmhouse circa 1930

was expropriated from his heirs in 1953-54.

Further along the Old St. Margarets Bay Road you will come to the Umlah farm (**Point 35**). The remains of the old farm house foundations and out buildings can still be seen on both sides of the road. John Umlah purchased the farm circa 1862 from John Wagner, his grandnephew, at below market value in return for his care and keep until his passing. John Wagner died in 1863, ten years after his wife Mary Ann (Umlah) Wagner.

The area around the Umlah farm was planted with trees by the Boy Scouts in the 1950s. There is now a magnificent stand of mixed softwoods. For an added adventure, explore the old Umlah farm where you will be treated to old fields, rock walls and walking paths that crisscross the area. A walk through the softwood plantations will give you a sense of the majesty of the property. The stillness and solitude of the old farm makes it a joy to visit.

A short distance from the old farm foundations and outbuildings you can find a cement floor of what some say used to be a dance hall (**Point 36**).

A little further along the Old St. Margarets Bay Road you will find the remnants of the Scar Road (**Point 37**), which was intended to provide access to Long Lake and to a planned picnic area. When you are walking on this portion of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road, you are likely to encounter water. You may find it easier to go off the road to walk through and along the treed margins of the roadbed. Scar Road was so named for the blight it has left on the landscape when, for reasons unknown, the unfinished project was abandoned. This area was originally known as the Hartlen Farm, but changed names when William Warner married a Hartlen daughter; subsequently it was referred to as the Warner Farm, circa 1831.

A short distance on, the Old St. Margarets Bay Road meets the Old Sambro Road (HWY 306) (**Point 38**), formerly known as Darts Fork. At one time there was a stone marker situated at



Dart House circa 1920

this spot that provided directions for travelers. The marker, carved from ironstone, was necessary as a number of travelers seeking the Mic Mac Game and Fish Club Limited would take the wrong fork and end up on the Prospect Road in Goodwood. The stone was removed for safe-keeping when the Old Sambro Road was widened. It is now safely placed at the Spryfield Community Centre thanks to the efforts of the Mainland South Heritage Society. Unfortunately, the marker has been damaged and the top portion has disappeared. Those who recall seeing the stone marker say that it was a profile of Chief Lone Cloud, who was a frequent visitor to the Dart Farm.

Just prior to Darts Fork you will note an overgrown fork in the road. This overgrown road once led to a dam used to power a sawmill known as Mrs. Dart's Mill, circa 1865. The mill operated until the 1950s, lastly owned by Charles Blade. The left fork leads to the Dart homestead; the remains of the cellar hole can still be identified.

The End of the Road

You have come to the end of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road located just south of 168 Old Sambro Road, Spryfield (Halifax) (**Point 38**). Parking is limited here. You will now have traveled approximately 4.2 km through the park and 30 km in total from Glen Margaret.

The public land in the core of the Chebucto Peninsula encompasses 27,000 acres and Long Lake Provincial Park 5,177 acres. There are very few places where you can enjoy such large tracts of public land and encounter five distinct watersheds during this unique walk.

We hope you have enjoyed your time on the various hikes available as you explore different portions of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. We invite you to help us keep public land in its natural state for public use and enjoyment. If you have observations or comments that you would like to share please contact the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust at www.fivebridgestrust.ca.

Old St. Margarets Bay Road (Distances)

Westhaver Road (1) to Crown Post (2) - 4.2 km

Crown Post (2) to Control Gate (3) - 800 m

Control Gate (3) to Ralph Wheadon Trail (4) - 1.3 km

Ralph Wheadon Trail (4) to South Trail (5) - 525 m

South Trail (5) to the Big Five Bridge Lake Beach (7) - 1.5 km

The Beach (7) to Bennett (8) - 1.8 km

Bennett Farm (8) to Nine Mile River (9) - 2.7 km

Nine Mile River (9) to Greenhead Road 1 (10) - 1.4 km

Greenhead Road 1 (10) to Greenhead Road 2 (11) - 630 m

Greenhead Road 2 (11) to Greenhead Road 3 (13) - 1.1 km

Greenhead Road 3 (13) to Prospect River (20) - 820 m

Prospect River (20) to Old Coach Road (22) - 2.0 km

Old Coach Road (22) to Prospect Road (27) - 2.4 km

Prospect Road (27) to Old Post Road (29) - 1.1 km

Old Post Road (29) to Scar Road (37) - 1.8 km

Scar Road (37) to Old Sambro Road (38) - 1.2 km

Points of Interest (Coordinates)

The coordinates listed in this guide are in the UTM Zone 20 NAD83 CSRS projection and datum. NAD83 is essentially the same as WGS84 – used on all GPS units.

A digital version of these coordinates is available on the Trust website at www.fivebridgetrust.ca. Any discrepancy between the printed and digital version is intentional through refinements in the reported coordinates and therefore the digital version prevails. Some of the printed coordinates were read from 1:10,000 scale mapping and are accurate to about 5 metres. Cemetery coordinates were obtained recently and confirmed for this edition. If you find errors in the reported coordinates please contact the Trust with your updates.

If you prefer to use latitude and longitude coordinates, the Province of Nova Scotia provides an online coordinate transformation tool at geonova.novascotia.ca/coordinate-referencing. Some knowledge of coordinate systems in use in Nova Scotia is required.

Points of Interest (Coordinates)

Point	Easting	Northing	Description
1	427285	4938215	Beginning at Westhaver Rd
2	431280	4938845	Crown Post 1
3	432024	4938886	Gate
4	433336	4939050	T-Intersection
5	433853	4939094	Road to Big Five Bridge Lake
6	433981	4939093	Five Mile Pond
7	435254	4939062	Old Four Bridges Location
8	436611	4937660	Bennett Farm (approx)
9	439162	4937818	Nine Mile River
10	440415	4937490	Greenhead Road 1
11	441026	4937512	Greenhead Road 2
12	441064	4937734	Carmichael Cemetery
13	442057	4937626	Greenhead Road 3
14	441785	4939321	High Point (elevation)
15	442118	4939859	Greenhead Road Cemetery
16	441951	4940782	Otter Lake Cemetery
17	442136	4940699	Greenhead Road Junction
18	441666	4937578	Trail to Nichols Lake
19	442256	4937574	Drysdale Farm
20	442800	4937570	Little Indian Lake
21	443024	4938115	Big Indian Lake Dam
22	444570	4938168	HRM Parking Lot on Old Coach Road
23	444416	4939480	John & Caroline Umlah Cemetery
24	445220	4938477	Road to St. James Cemetery
25	445565	4938133	St. James Cemetery
26	445794	4938808	Partridge Brook
27	446524	4939010	Prospect Road Parking Lot
28	447324	4939353	Marriott Cemetery
29	447466	4939467	Old Post Road
30	447471	4939465	Post Road Cross Roads to Purcells Ground Cemetery
31	447474	4939798	Purcell's Ground Cemetery
32	447800	4939675	Beaver Dam Brook
33	448165	4939856	John Umlah Tombstone Crossroad
34	447986	4940068	John Umlah Tombstone
35	448367	4939960	John Umlah Farm
36	448482	4939973	Dance Hall
37	449045	4939753	Scar Road
38	450146	4939691	End of Old St Margarets Bay Road
39	443904	4942145	Greenhead Road at Highway 103

Synopsis

A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road was written to introduce local and visiting walking enthusiasts to some of the many wonderful hiking experiences and unique features along the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road, in the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area, the Western Common, other public lands in HRM, and Long Lake Provincial Park. The Guide catalogues the final resting place of a number of early settlers to the area, recognizes the contribution of the Mi'kmaq where known and provides some understanding of the importance of this major transportation route in the development of the south shore. In the realm of natural history it gives a limited overview of some of the geological features of the area and an introduction to some of the plants and animals you may encounter during your walk.

We hope this Walking Guide will encourage other community groups to catalogue and document the unique features of their area and help preserve the family and general history for future generations.

Access Roads and Other Trails

From St. Margarets Bay Road (Hwy 3)

Lewis Lake

- From St Margarets Bay Road to Joshua Slocum Ave (0.5 km) to the Lewis Lake Fire Road.

Upper Tantallon

- Take the ATV Connector Trail (3.3 km), adjacent to East River Bridge on Hwy 3, to Lewis Lake Fire Road.

Lewis Lake Fire Road

- From the Lewis Lake Fire Road (2.8 km) south to Old Halifax Road.
- Southwest on Old Halifax Road (300 m) to Lewis Lake Fire Road.
- South on Lewis Lake Fire Road (2.8 km) connecting to Ralph Wheadon Trail (signed) in the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area.
- Ralph Wheadon Trail (4.9 km) ends at Point 4 at the T intersection (McGee's Crossing) on the Old St. Margarets Bay Road.

Other Trails that Connect via Lewis Lake Fire Road

Seabright

- From Highway 333 follow Woodens River Road (5.7 km) northeast to Old Halifax Road.
- Old Halifax Road (3.5 km) to Lewis Lake Fire Road.
- South on Lewis Lake Fire Road (2.8 km) to Ralph Wheadon Trail (4.9 km) to Old St. Margarets Bay Road.

Glen Haven

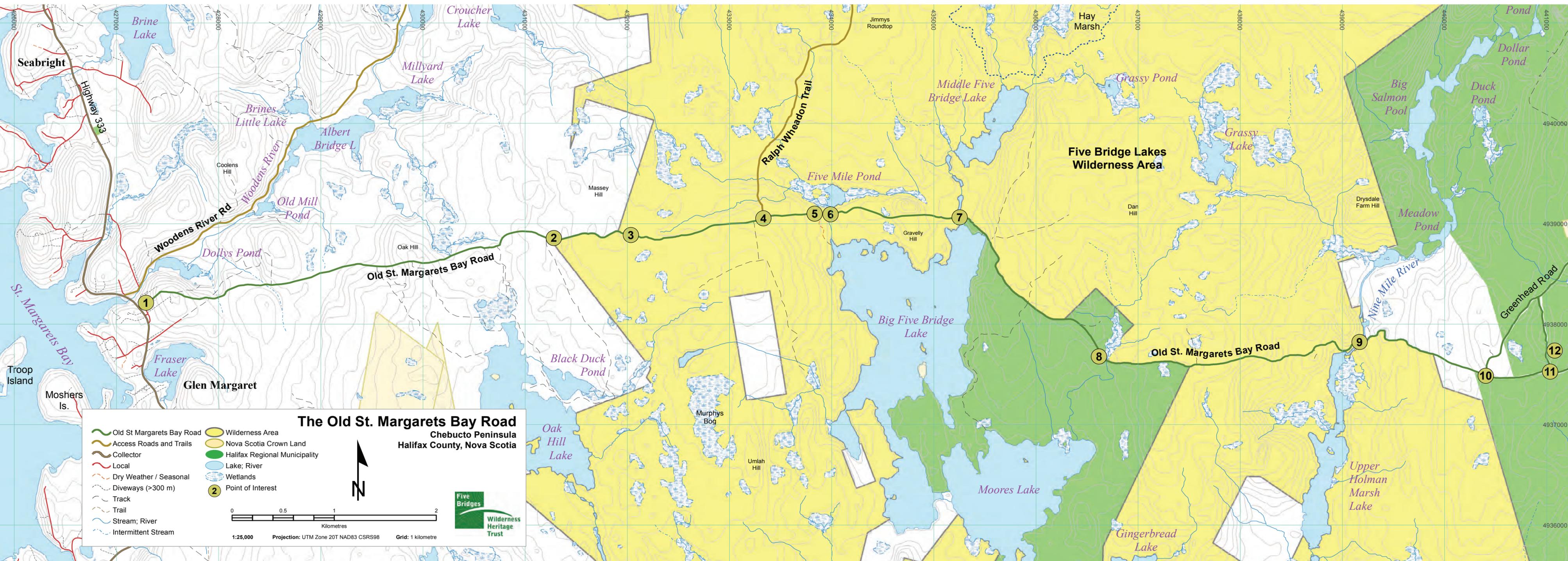
- From Highway 333 and Dauphinees Loop to Old Halifax Road to Woodens River Road. You can Drive to the Cul-de-sac on Old Halifax Road (2.2 km) and walk (1.3 km) to the Woodens River Road.
- North on Old Halifax Road (3.5 km) to the Lewis Lake Fire Road. Turn south on Lewis Lake Fire Road (2.8 km) to

Ralph Wheadon Trail (4.9 km) to Old St. Margarets Bay Road.

- On Old Halifax Road continue northeast (300 m) to Lewis Lake Fire Road that turns north to Joshua Slocum Ave and the ATV connector (described above).
- Continue on Old Halifax Road (1.7 km) northeast to Flake Brook at the end of Big Hubley Lake Dr.

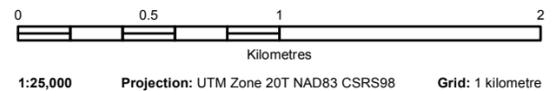
Caution - there are several large wet areas along this leg of the Old Halifax Road.

Note: Distances are approximate



The Old St. Margarets Bay Road
Chebucto Peninsula
Halifax County, Nova Scotia

- Old St Margarets Bay Road
- Access Roads and Trails
- Collector
- Local
- Dry Weather / Seasonal
- Diveways (>300 m)
- Track
- Trail
- Stream; River
- Intermittent Stream
- Wilderness Area
- Nova Scotia Crown Land
- Halifax Regional Municipality
- Lake; River
- Wetlands
- Point of Interest





Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area

HALIFAX (Spryfield)

The Old St. Margarets Bay Road
 Chebucto Peninsula
 Halifax County, Nova Scotia

Old St Margarets Bay Road	Provincial Park
100-Series Highway	Wilderness Area
Collector	Nova Scotia Crown Land
Local	Halifax Regional Municipality
Dry Weather / Seasonal	Lake; River
Diveways (>300 m)	Wetlands
Track	Point of Interest
Trail; Walks	
Stream; River	
Intermittent Stream	

0 0.5 1 2
 Kilometres

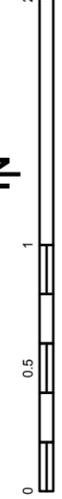
1:25,000 Projection: UTM Zone 20T NAD83 CSRS98 Grid: 1 kilometre

Other Trails and Roads Connecting to Old SMB Road

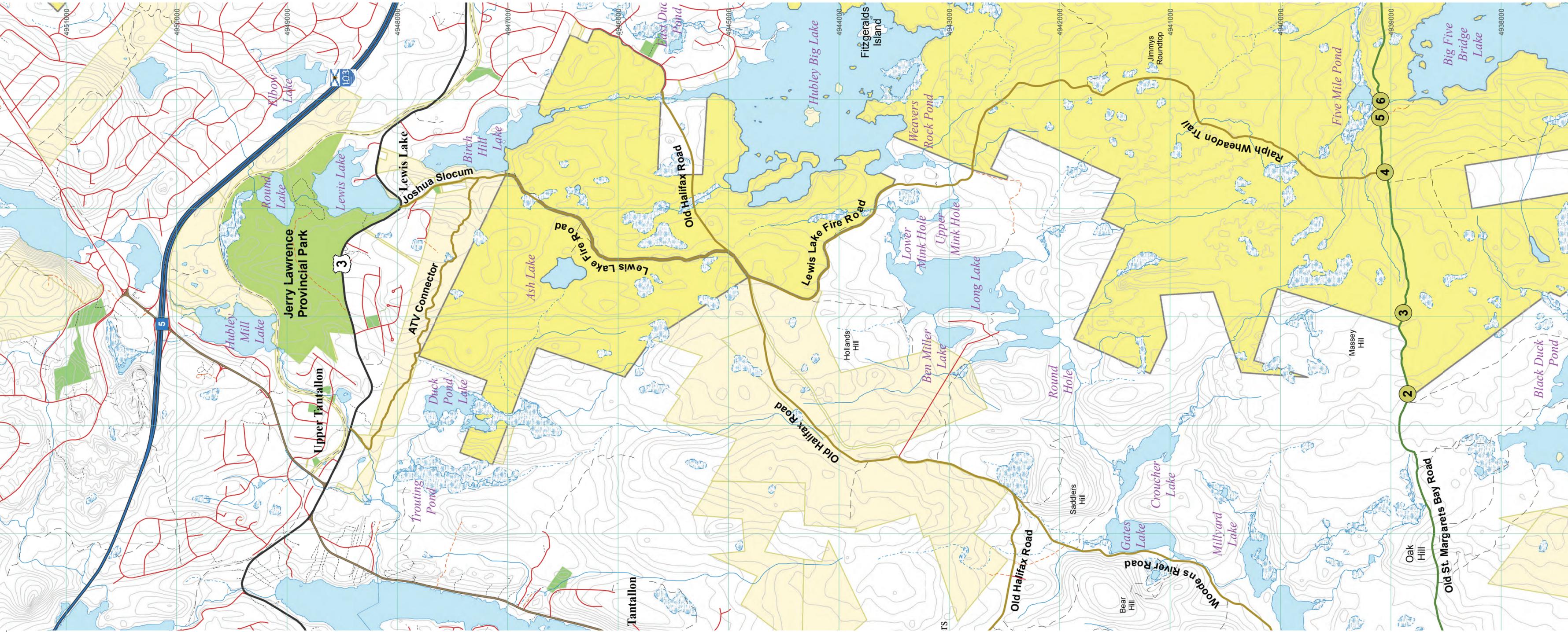
Chebucto Peninsula
Halifax County, Nova Scotia



	Old St Margarets Bay Road		Provincial Park
	Other Major Trails		Wilderness Area
	100-Series Highway		Nova Scotia Crown Land
	Trunk / Arterial		Halifax Regional Municipality
	Collector		Lake; River
	Local		Wetlands
	Dry Weather / Seasonal		Point of Interest
	Diveways (>300 m)		
	Track		
	Stream; River		
	Intermittent Stream		


 1:26,082 Projection: UTM Zone 20T NAD83 CSRS98 Grid: 1 kilometre


 Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust



About the Author

Wayne N. Rogers



Wayne Rogers is a founding member of Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust. As a hiker and fly fisherman, his deep appreciation of the natural history of our lands and waterways has made him a strong advocate for conserving public land for public use.

He has a keen interest in the history of the settlements of the area and in preserving and recording the resting places of our forefathers. He is a member of the Umlah family. His search for information has taken him on many walks along the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road and over the lands of the Chebucto Peninsula.

The Guide is based on Wayne's research and original draft. Community members and other interested parties have volunteered their information and pictures. Through the support of the Trust and funders, the writing and publishing of this Guide was made possible.



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