



The Bridge

Five
Bridges

Wilderness
Heritage
Trust

Member News, Fall 2019 Edition

Message from the Chair

Fast Facts

about FBWHT:

- Established in 2001.
- Secured designated wilderness status in 2011 from NS government for the public lands bound by HWYs 103 and 333 on the Chebucto Peninsula.
- Mandated to protect and preserve the vast natural space covering 27,000 acres and five distinct watersheds.
- Non-profit run by volunteers with a love for nature.
- Volunteer base of more than 150 supporters. Members pay \$10 annually - same fee as in 2001.

The Trust's activities and accomplishments continue to evolve with the times. I believe that's a good thing. It speaks to our flexibility as an organization and our wish to remain relevant.

When the Trust was formed back in 2001, the dedicated community volunteers involved were focused on preventing widespread development from overtaking the wilderness lands along and around the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road. The wilderness areas on the Chebucto Peninsula were popular for walking, hiking and fishing in the quiet of undisturbed forests and lakes.

After years of persistence, the focused efforts paid off and the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area was declared by the province October 2011. Ever since, the Trust has focused on avidly promoting use of the wilderness area for all to enjoy.

Cont'd on page 2

Inside this issue:

Molasses Security	2
Land Acquisitions	3
New Parking Lot	3
May Fair in the Park	4
AGM 2019	4
Invasive Species	5
Bay Treasure Chest	6

Where did the name Five Bridges originate?

When we have a history question, we head over to Timberlea to chat with Ralph Wheadon.

Mr. Wheadon, 90, worked as the original forest ranger in the area for 35 years. He's always willing to share his knowledge and love for the wilderness area.

Back in the day, according to Ralph, there were five bridges constructed around the north edge of what is now called Big Five Bridge Lake, still today known for

its abundance of trout. The bridges were built by the local fishermen and hunters who would frequent the area for both summer and winter excursions.

Exploring today, you'll still find the shoreline the same, but the bridges are now replaced with culverts along the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road.

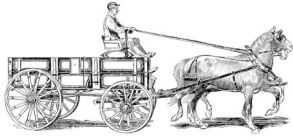


Left: Harry Ward visits Trust Advisor Ralph Wheadon at his home in Timberlea. Harry points on the wilderness area map showing where the five bridges were once located.

August 2019

The Bridge

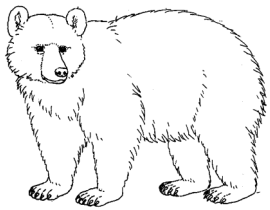
Molasses Security—Stories from the Coach Road



The Old St. Margaret's Bay Road was originally built more than 200 years ago.

It was named the Coach Road and was used by the community to travel from St. Margaret's Bay to Halifax and vice versa; you guessed it, by horse and coach.

Fish peddlers from the Bay would load wagons bound for Halifax buyers on market day.



Along the Coach Road to Halifax, they might stop for a break six miles along at the Bennett Farm. At one time, there was a sanatorium on the farm built to house and heal those with tuberculosis.

On the return journey, sometimes they would carry other supplies, usually in wooden barrels.

Wise wagon drivers were known to carry a .32-calibre revolver in case they needed to scare the bears away; especially, when the molasses was on board.



Thanks to Ralph Wheadon for the molasses security story!

Message from the Chair (cont'd)

We continue to promote and advocate public use of the area in several ways, thanks to a brilliant decision back in April 2014 to join the Bay Treasure Chest (BTC) 50-50 Lottery as a community partner. We receive regular funding from the BTC and in exchange manage a monthly toonie Count, thereby organizing the prize money for one Wednesday draw a month. The Trust has used the BTC funding to complete trail improvements, signage, grants to other organizations, hiring administrative help and supporting other community organizations.

Recently, the Trust has been called upon to share support and expertise with other environmental groups. Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove and Sandy Lake Coalition are two groups that have approached the Trust for help with their property protection projects.

Environmental movements like the Eco-Rally events in St. Margaret's Bay have also gained our support.

Evolving again, this year the Trust decided to focus on preserving more land, especially tracks adjacent to the existing wilderness area. Already since our AGM in March when I explained this focus to Members, we've helped to save 150 acres!

We didn't know it would happen this fast, but are so pleased it did.

I hope you'll continue your support with charitable donations and annual Memberships to the Trust.

We certainly appreciate it.

Harry



Harry Ward standing in front of the numbered balls used to draw the weekly prize at the Bay Treasure Chest Count.

September 2019

Protecting More Lands As Wilderness

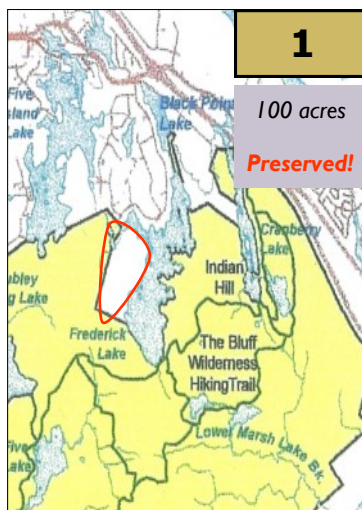
2019 has been a year of firsts for the Trust, including a new focus on helping secure more wilderness lands for the future.

So far, the Trust has helped to preserve more than 150 acres of beautiful woodlands and lakeshore through **two** land deals.

Joining the Nova Scotia Nature Trust's Lasting Legacies Campaign, the Trust donated \$20K to help secure 100 acres near Frederick Lake, adjacent to the Bluff Trail and Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area.



The 100 acre area includes old-growth forests, pristine lakeshores and offers many walking, hiking and canoeing possibilities.



1

100 acres
Preserved!



2

More than
50 acres
Preserved!

"For residents of Lake of the Woods, having this section of land protected, ensures the natural beauty and presence of wildlife that brought many of us to this subdivision."

Linda Liebenberg, Chair of the Lake of the Woods Homeowners Association.

The second land deal, near Lake of the Woods subdivision in Hubley, closed this summer and saw the Trust secure a parcel of land greater than 50 acres (outlined in red on aerial photo above). It includes lake-shore along Frederick Lake and a cranberry bog.

A local resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, provided the funding to purchase the property.

The Trust extends sincere thanks for that act of generosity.

New Parking Lot Improves Trail Access

A dedicated parking lot is now open at the end of Joshua Slocum Ave.; one of the most popular entrances to the wilderness area.

The new space offers everyone more room to unload bikes and ATVs, or park trucks and other equipment, away from the houses and driveways of the neighbourhood.

The project, led by the Safety-Minded ATV Association, consulted with area residents who were all supportive of creating the clearing.

The Trust gave \$7K through a 2018 Environmental Stewardship Grant to help with the build.

GPS entrance location:

Latitude = 44°40'36.68"N

Longitude = 63°50'31.34"W



The new parking lot is open and ready to accommodate the community.

August 2019

The Bridge

May Fair in the Park, 13th Annual



Dressed for the conditions, children enjoyed the bubbles and activities organized at Jerry Lawrence Park; despite the weather.

May 2019

The rain was steady, but didn't stop the crowds of families, kids and supporters from joining the fun of May Fair in the Park.

More than 50 people travelled to Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park to enjoy face painting, bubbles, free BBQ and crafts. The community partners who joined the event really helped to make it a fun afternoon. Volunteers came from the BLT

Rails to Trails Assoc., St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Assoc., the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the Sandy Lake Coalition to share information and demonstrations with the public.

The Indian Point Young Naturalists Club organized a nature scavenger hunt and the Roots and Boots Forest School offered kid crafts and games.

Thanks to all volunteers and sponsors from Sobey's and



Thanks to the Harlow brothers who shared their skills at salmon fly tying.

Left: Colby, 14, his brother Mason, 9, and Tyler, 14, in the background.

Cavicchi's Meats for supporting the free BBQ.

The Trust looks forward to hosting a hopefully drier event next year. New volunteers are always welcome!

"It takes 100 years to grow a healthy, mature forest and only hours to destroy it," Ray Plourde, Wilderness Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre.



An example of a clear cut forest in St. Margaret's Bay

Below Left: Ray Plourde accepts a thank you gift from Harry Ward for his excellent AGM presentation.



Annual General Meeting

On St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17, the Estabrooks Centre was a sea of green as Harry Ward and the Board of Trustee Members welcomed the public to the 18th Annual General Meeting of the FBWHT.

Harry reviewed the financial position of the Trust, talked about the key projects and significant impacts the grants program made over the past two years. Grants worth a total of \$80,000 were awarded to local community groups to improve bridges, make new trails, conduct stewardship training, build a new parking lot at the entrance to the wilderness area and install new trail signage. Harry also explained the Trust's plan to acquire land and preserve more space as wilderness area. This news was met with applause from the assembled audience of about 30 supporters and members.

Following the AGM business, guest speaker Ray Plourde, Wilderness Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, gave an informative presentation about the negative impacts of clear cutting on Nova Scotia's forests.

Profile of Ken Donnelly

Ken Donnelly lives in Stillwater Lake and joined the Trust Board at the AGM in March 2019. We are so pleased to have him as a volunteer.

He runs his own consulting business Beyond Attitude Consulting Inc., serving international clients and working on environmental issues for more than 30 years.

Ken has clients across Canada, USA, UK and Australia. His focus is helping them to stop the spread of invasive species through human behavior.



Warning about Invasive Species — Stop Hitchhikers From Destroying Our Forests

You have probably been told that you should not pick up hitchhikers. But even if you decided it's too dangerous to allow a stranger into your car, you likely have picked up an unwelcome rider from time-to-time, without even knowing it.

The modern day hitchhiker we need to avoid is not the person standing on the side of the road with their thumb out,

hoping you will stop your car and give them a ride (there seem to be very few of them nowadays).

Today's hitchhikers are plants, animals, bugs and aquatic life. And many of them are pests that can have devastating consequences for our lakes, rivers and forests.

Unfortunately, we have many different invasive species and they are causing destruction in our natural areas now.

Because they are non-native, they often do not have any natural predators or organisms competing with them. This allows them to cause widespread damage as their populations flourish unchecked.



Spring Haven, Yarmouth County, N. S., aerial view shows dead forest areas under attack from invasive species with no predators.

May 2018

An invasive species is an organism that causes ecological or economic harm in a new environment where it is not native.



The hemlock woolly adelgid looks like sticky cotton balls on the underside of the hemlock tree branch.

Photo credit: Canadian Food Inspection Agency, (CFIA)

How Can We Help?

Invasive species can travel from one place to another in many different ways. Sometimes they hitch a ride with people.

In Nova Scotia, we have several forest pests. Some, like the gypsy moth and the brown

spruce long-horned beetle have been here for a long time. Others, like the hemlock woolly adelgid and the emerald ash borer, have arrived more recently in the last few years.

Our hemlock and ash trees are in serious peril as a result. Hemlock woolly adelgid will likely kill all of the hemlock in southwest Nova Scotia, where it has been found, and spread to other parts of the province.

The emerald ash borer, found in Bedford, normally kills 99% of the ash trees in the area it is found. It's very prolific and spreads quickly.

Once these pests get a foothold in an area, it is almost impossible to get rid of them.

The best thing to do is to stop them from spreading into new areas in the first place.

These destructive forest pests often travel by hitching a ride on firewood moved by people. Unsuspecting campers and people who heat their homes and cottages with firewood can spread the pests if they get wood from areas where these pests exist. In fact, the threat of these pests travelling on firewood has resulted in federal regulations banning the movement of firewood out of southwest Nova Scotia and out of Halifax County.

Good rule : do not move firewood more than 50 km.

The NS Department of Lands & Forests is continuing to do surveys all over the province in conjunction with the CFIA to track the spread of the hemlock woolly adelgid.

Protect Our Forests:

**Buy firewood
where you burn it.
Do not transport
firewood from one
area to another.**



Thanks to Ken Donnelly for the invasive species info.

The Bridge

Bay Treasure Chest



Toonie collection boxes are hosted by 17 retailers in the St. Margaret's Bay area and picked up every Wednesday at noon for the weekly Wednesday draw.

In the five years since Bay Treasure Chest began, winners have received more than \$1.8 million through this 50 – 50 lottery. The community has also benefited through hundreds of projects and programs that would otherwise have been impossible.

The Bay Treasure Chest Association is a fundraising partnership of eight non-profit community groups representing 14 volunteer service organizations — when you play, your weekly \$2 supports Trust activities.

As well, more than 40 additional community service groups raise funds via the BTCA's Honarium Program by helping out at a weekly Count.

To find out more about how to play, or to find out if a non-profit group you are involved with may qualify for an honorarium, check out the website at baytreasurechest.ca.

The weekly BTC draw prize is about \$12,000.



Join us at the Bay Treasure Chest Counts



When she's not volunteering at the Wednesday Counts, Margot has been known to go for a ride.

Cairo 2017

Volunteer teams are organized once every four weeks to help the Trust manage the money counting from entries to the Bay Treasure Chest 50-50 lottery.

If you would like to help your community and support the Trust, this is a great way to give your time and talents for a few hours, usually 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Training is provided. New volunteers are always welcomed.

It's work, but it's also fun and social.

Trust Count Dates this Fall are

Wednesdays:

October 9

November 6

December 4

Contact us to become involved and join our team of more than 30 dedicated volunteers.

Margot Fraser, 81, is a regular Count volunteer who attends faithfully.

"I love it," says Margot. "The Counts get me out, keep me busy and always make me feel good. I know I'm needed and enjoy being part of a team. At my stage of life, that's a nice thing."

Everyone at the Trust appreciates your commitment Margot.

You inspire us all!

Council of Community Organizations

The next meeting of the Council of Community Organizations (CoCO) is set for Wednesday, November 27 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Prospect Road Community Centre (PCC), 2141 Prospect Road in Hatchet Lake.

Meeting chair will be Shirley Jolli-more, PCC executive director, who happens to be pictured on page 7.

The public is welcome to hear the news and updates from community and environmental organizations from across the Chebucto Peninsula.

Meeting notes and more information about CoCO are available on the Trust website.

COCO MEMBER GROUPS INCLUDE:

- Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization
- St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails
- St. Margaret's Bay Safety-Minded ATV Association
- St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association
- Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust

Advisors to the Board

Barb Allen

Bob Angus

Gary Armsworthy

Afton Doubleday

Scott Guthrie

Mike Lumplugh

Eleanor Lindsay

Beth McGee

Tom Musial

Jeff Parks

Andrew Parsons

David Patriquin

Iain Rankin

Hans Toom

Ralph Wheadon

Moose Watch

Mainland moose are majestic animals and an endangered species living in the wilderness areas of the Chebucto Peninsula. Poaching is a threat to the moose population and illegal in Nova Scotia.

Help save these animals. Anyone with knowledge of moose sightings, calls, spoor or antlers on the Chebucto Peninsula is encouraged to contact Butch Galvez, Dept. of Natural Resources. butch.galvez@novascotia.ca

To report wildfire, poaching or wildlife concerns.

1-800-565-2224 (24-Hour Hot Line)



Become a Member

Members provide important financial support and volunteer time to the Trust's projects. We thank you sincerely for any contributions.

Annual Membership Fees:

\$10/Individual or \$15/Family

Contact us at fbwhbt@gmail.com. We accept e-transfers.

Credit card or PayPal donations may be processed safely through the website:

fivebridgestrust.ca.

Thank you for your Support!

Share Your Story

If you have a great story to share from your adventures on the Chebucto Peninsula, we want to hear from you!

Whether it was this year or many moons ago, we would love to know your story and see your photos.

Did you use the Walking Guide? Are you biking or canoeing or hiking? Did you see any wildlife?

Our Members are wonderful resources of information and tips for others on ways to enjoy the outdoors.



Trust Advisor Beth McGee (purple jacket) and Trust Member Shirley Jollimore recently enjoyed a wonderful hiking day in the wilderness area. Seen here on the shore of the Nine Mile River checking Walking Guide maps.

September 2019

Photo Credit: Jane MacNeill

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

**Five
Bridges**

**Wilderness
Heritage
Trust**

fivebridgestrust.ca

fbwhbt@gmail.com

Suite 190, 160—3650 Hammonds Plains Rd.

Upper Tantallon, N.S. B3Z 4R3



Like us on
Facebook



**Promo Items
for sale**



\$25 /for Trust t-shirts, caps,
water bottles or toques.

\$75 /for ladies/men's jackets



Support the work of the Trust. Become a Member or donate today.

Enjoy your Chebucto Peninsula.



**Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness
Area**

Board Members

Harry Ward, Chair

Bridget Adams, Treasurer

Imbert Allen, Secretary

Tammy Carew

Ken Donnelly

Peter Lund

Mike Marriott

Wayne Rogers

Nature Lovers Wanted!

The Trust is always looking to
expand our volunteer team.

Please contact us for more
information about joining us as
a Board Member.

Monthly meetings, flexible
work assignments and a lot of
fun.