

The Bridge

Co-Chairs

Harry Ward

harryward@eastlink.ca

Peter Lund

peter@peterlund.ca

February 2015

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

Inside this Issue

Adopt the Nine Mile River Project	2
Changes to Solid Waste Handling	
Nine Mile River Map	3
Changes to Solid Waste Handling	4
Federal Funding for Trail Construction	5
Clear Cutting on Former Bowater Lands	6
Treasure Chest CoCO	7
Backyard Visitors	
Greenbelting Plan	8
FBWHT AGM	



Message from the Co-Chairs

Dear Trust Members and Friends,

We are pleased to provide an update on the work of members of Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT) since our Fall 2014 edition.

At the October 24, 2014 meeting of the Council of Community Organizations (COCO) Peter Lund provided a sum-

mary of findings from our Adopt Nine Mile River Project undertaken over the summer of 2014. A summary of information collected from publicly available sources and work completed along with findings are discussed further in this newsletter. Additional sampling of surface water at key locations is planned for 2015 to determine whether indeed there is an impact to the Nine Mile River system from development sources.

Board members Peter, John Cascadden and Scott Guthrie have been closely following Regional Council decisions on plans to extend the life of Otter Lake landfill by decades to come. A section of this newsletter is devoted to a discussion of motions passed by Council.

On January 8th Peter, as representing FBWHT, attended the Ecology Action sponsored media event concerning the content of the Doelle Lahey Report held at the Lord Nelson Hotel. A number of community groups from all over the province and representing many sectors were represented at the head table. There was strong support of the Doelle Lahey report on Aquaculture in Nova Scotia. The report contains good recommendations for regulating and permitting the industry going forward.

Many attended the public forum on October 20, 2014 at the Hubley Community Center regarding opposition to clear cutting on former Bowater Mersey lands. Over 200 attended the rally. We recently submitted our concerns to the Premier and Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources on the recent proposed clear cutting of large tracks of land between HWY 103 and HWY 3 in Ingranport.

Barb Allen, John Cascadden and Beth McGee recently updated our membership mail lists. We encourage those who are missing receiving notices, please contact Harry or Peter.

Discussions with Councillor Reg Rankin and HRM's planning staff on Halifax's plan for the Western Commons are ongoing.

The FBWHT Board is currently planning projects to be funded from Bay Treasure Chest proceeds. More will follow on these plans as they unfold.

Our AGM will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday March 25th at Lakeside Community Center. Meeting Details appear later in this edition

Also scheduled is our annual May Fair in the Park on May 24th and the Warbler Walk on June 7th, both at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park.

For more information on any of our initiatives and how you can help, contact us. Also we would like to hear from you on any ideas and/or comments. Check out our web site www.fivebridgestrust.ca and Facebook for the latest news and uploaded reports and correspondence.

Sincerely... Peter and Harry

Board of Trustees

Co-Chairs

Harry Ward

Peter Lund

Vacant

(Secretary)

Beth McGee

(Treasurer)

Barbara Allen

(Membership)

Members-at-large

Bob Angus

John Bignell

Ron Brown

John Cascadden

Scott Guthrie

Mike Marriott

Advisors to the Board

Gary Armsworthy

Afton Doubleday

Bill Estabrooks

Catherine King

Mike Lumplugh

Eleanor Lindsay

Tom Musial

Jeff Parks

Andrew Parsons

David Patriquin

Iain Rankin

Wayne Rogers

Allan Shatford

Hans Toom

Ralph Wheadon

Adopt the Nine Mile River Project

As noted, Peter presented the findings of the study undertaken by FBWHT over the 2014 summer season at the October 24th COCO mtg. We now have multi-layered GIS data for physical inventory of topography, geology, culverts and streams, forestry and land use development, along with a compilation of surface water quality data obtained for ongoing monitoring programs undertaken on receiving waters adjacent the Otter Lake landfill, Brunello Estates golf course/residential community, and data obtained by the Halifax Environment department over a five year period 2006-11.

See the map (page 3) for a sample of the types of data collected. As seen in this map, not only do we have data for the Nine Mile River, we have data layers for adjacent watersheds. If any of our readers wish to obtain data for specific purposes or projects, please contact Peter at peter@peterlund.ca to obtain.

A review of the recent historical analytical data and one time sampling by FBWHT at six locations within the headwaters of the watershed north of HWY 3 and south of Hammonds Plains Road indicates that the headwaters appear not to be adversely affected during low flow summer conditions. There is sign of slightly impacted runoff from the old section of Highfield Park residential subdivision and from the Lakeside Industrial Park. Interestingly, there was no observed surface water flow out of Kingswood subdivision.

Sampling should be conducted again after heavy rainfall events in spring and fall to obtain seasonal data. This work is planned for 2015 and will include a total of nine sampling locations. FBWHT has submitted an application again for a RBC Bluewater grant to cover expenses for this anticipated work. We were successful in obtaining a grant from RBC last year and very much appreciate their interest and support.

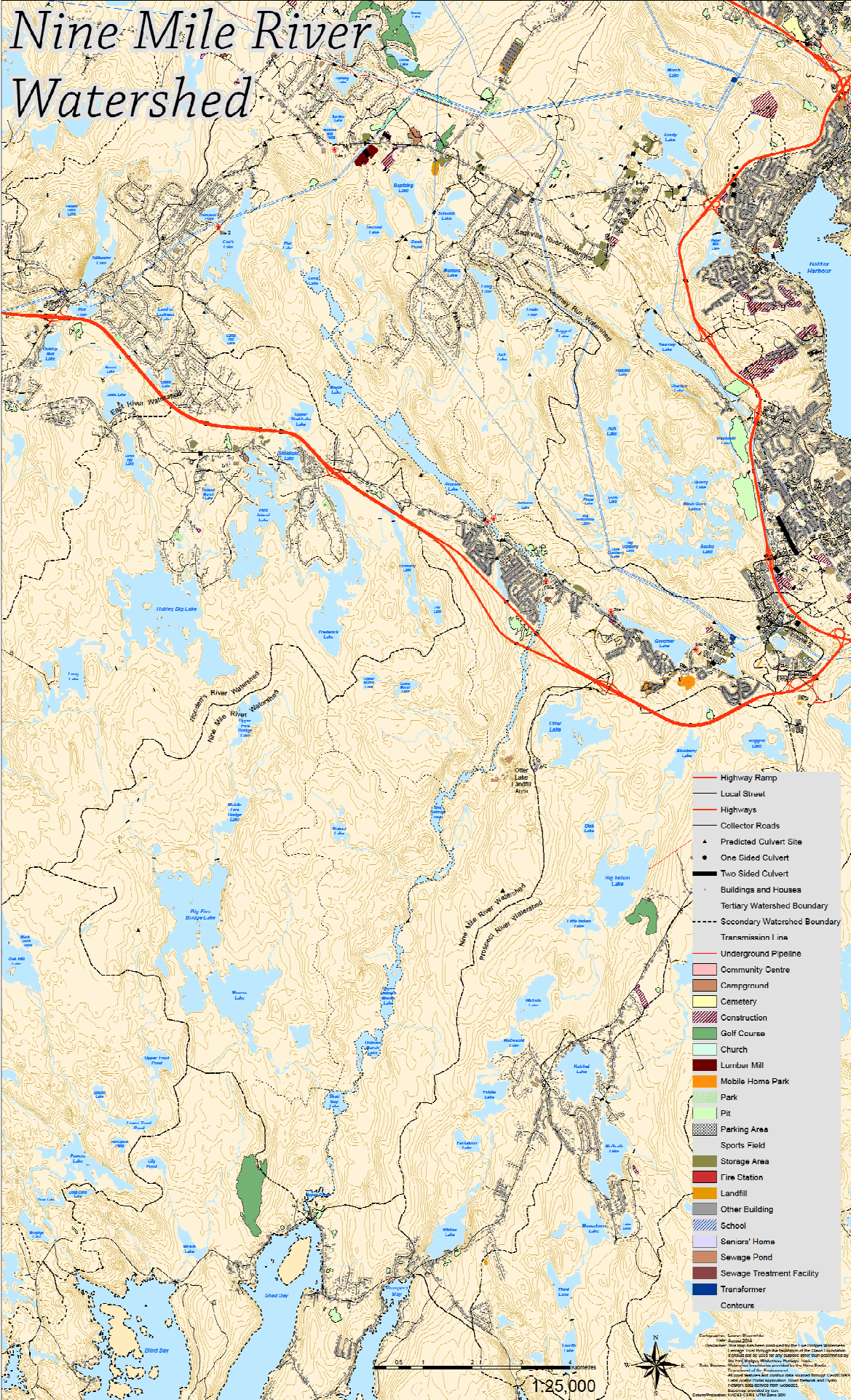
Changes to Solid Waste Handling and How it Affects Otter Lake Operations

On December 9, 2014 Regional Council at Committee of the Whole approved allowing an increase in landfill height from the current 5-10 metre height to another 10-15 metre height, while requiring the Front End Processing (FEP) and Waste Stabilization Facility (WSF) to remain in place. This has the effect of extending landfill operations decades beyond the intended 2024 closure set in the mid-1990s.

Regional Council and the municipality have agreed to allow the input of the Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) and Halifax Solid Waste Resource Society (HSWRS) to be involved in the review of the technical studies currently in the planning stages to address the technical feasibility of raising the cell height. Cells 1 and 2 will be the first cells to have the height increased and is intended to be pilot project to verify that there are no potential adverse effects to the environment. Ongoing monitoring will be undertaken to address any technical issues and concerns, including nuisance noise, odours and blowing refuse. FBWHT Board members Peter, John and Scott are on either the CMC or HSWRS.



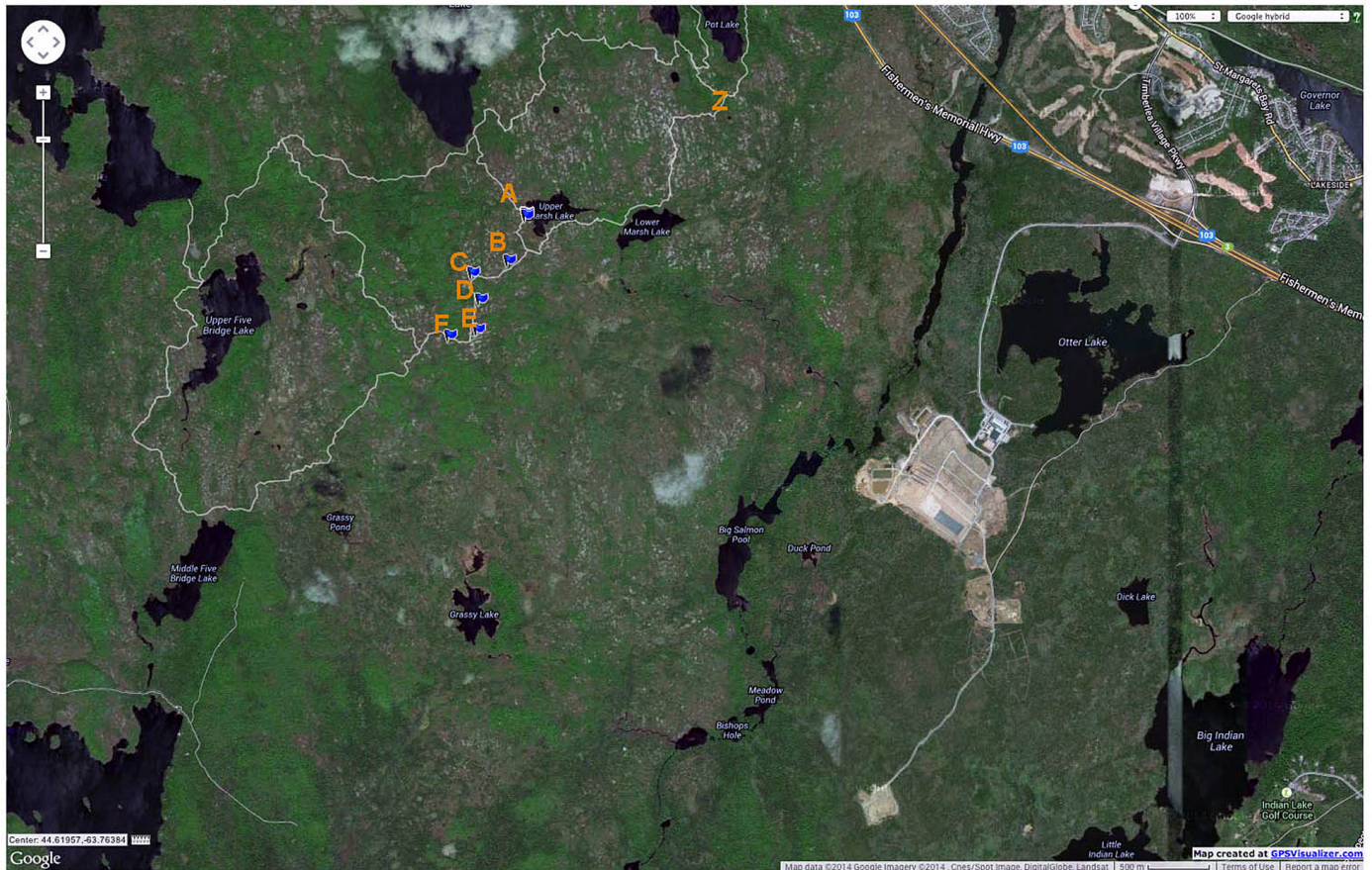
Photo courtesy of David Patriquin



Changes to Solid Waste ... Continued

The Wooden's River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO) has written to the mayor and councillors, as well as to the Premier and Minister of Environment, expressing concern that increasing the height will result in increased visibility of landfill operations from a portion of the Bluff Trail, specifically Loop 3, well beyond the previously agreed upon 2024 closure. The photo (page 2) illustrates the degree of present day visibility of the landfill cells from Loop 3.

Also provided below is an aerial view of the Otter Lake Landfill and the Bluff Trail. The N-S river in between the two



is the Nine Mile River. The new Brunello golf course and residential community is shown at the upper right on this aerial photo. More information on this issue can be found on WRWEO's web site.

On February 3, 2015, following a public hearing during which three FBWHT Board members Scott, John and Peter spoke, Regional Council approved By-Law 609 Respecting Amendment of By-law 600, the Solid Waste Resource Collection & Disposal By-Law, which will allow the Industrial-commercial-institutional (ICI) sector to export waste to other municipalities within the province. However, Council did not approve the proposed rate hike recommended by staff from the current \$125/t to \$175/t. This may have the effect of reducing the quantity of ICI waste taken to Otter Lake by an estimated 30% (as determined by Halifax staff), resulting in further extension of the life of the landfill.

We will also be monitoring future initiatives of the municipality to establish the Otter Lake site as a campus to house waste to energy facilities and/or organic treatment facilities. Currently, examination of these initiatives is on hold with the municipality.

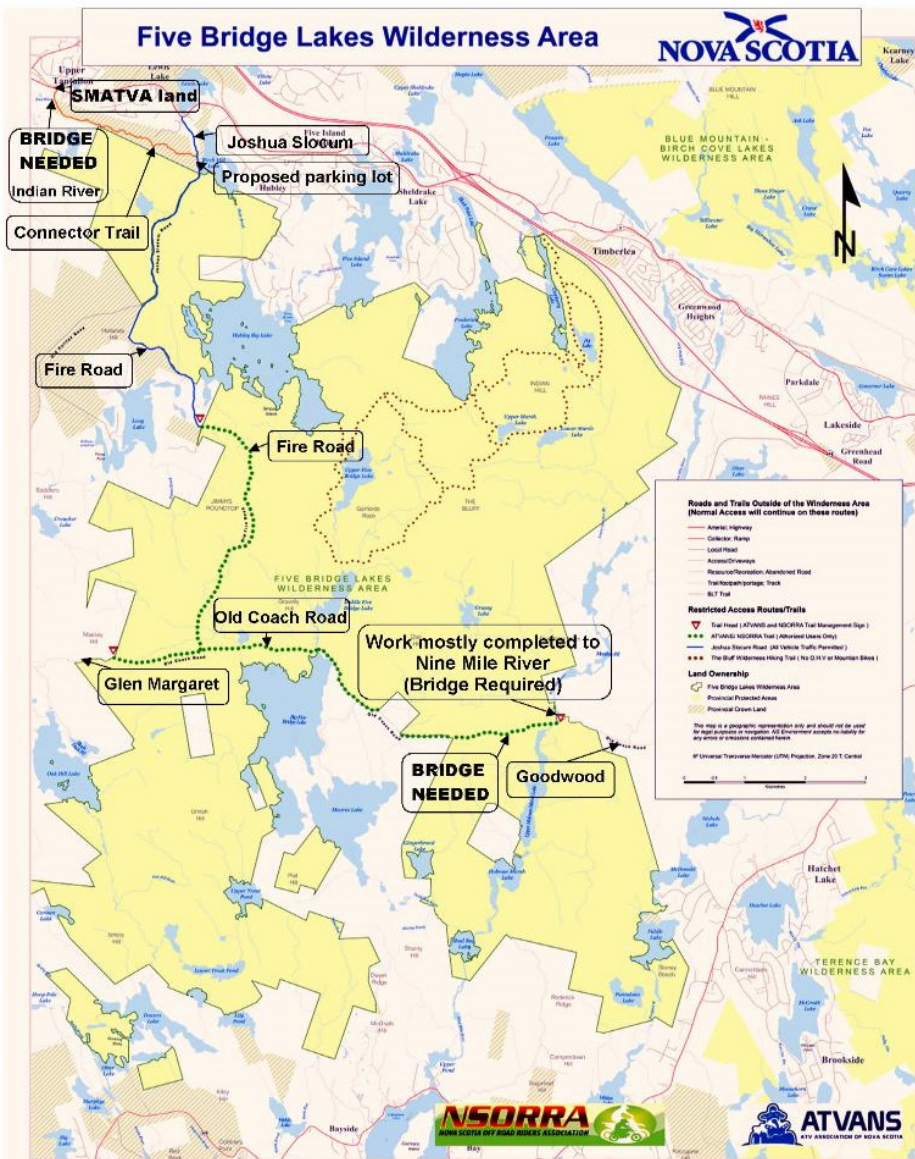
Updates on these matters will be posted to our web site as they unfold.

On February 13, 2015 MP Gerald Keddy announced \$124,300 in funding provided to five trails associations across the south shore from St. Margaret's Bay to Queens County, including \$31,721 provided to St. Margaret's Safety Minded ATV Association to continue their trail construction across Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area. This funding comes from the Economic Action Plan 2014 and is part of \$10 million allocated over two fiscal years, 2014-15 and 2015-16, to expand and improve snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, off-road motorcycle and non-motorized recreational trails across the country through an agreement between the Government of Canada and the National Trails Coalition (NTC). The intent of this funding is to help build and renew multi-purpose trails for walking, running, cross-country skiing, biking, all-terrain vehicle use and snowmobiling.

Mike Marriot, President of the Safety Minded ATV Association and Board member of FBWHT responded with "NTC funding for Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area will be of great benefit in the completion of this multi-year

trail project for 2015. The trails are fully multi-use and will enable all user groups to enjoy active recreational access to this wilderness area for Halifax and the surrounding communities on a managed, safe and environmentally sustainable network of interconnected trails allowing access to a greater province wide trails system. Many volunteers and local businesses have donated time and material to this project and this additional funding will enable more resources to be put into trail improvements and advance the completion date so we can move from under construction to a fully completed and accessible trail experience for everyone to enjoy for generations to come."

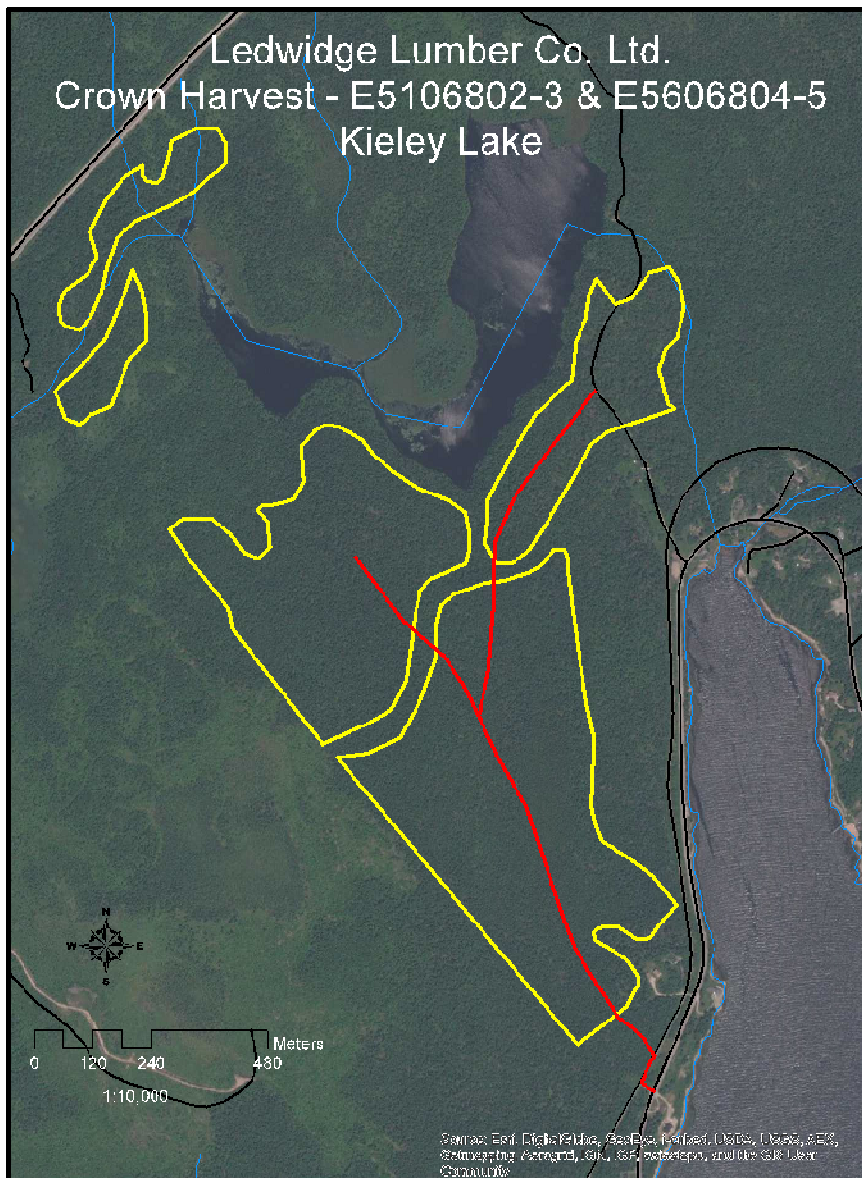
As indicated in the 2014 Fall Bridge edition, the trail constructed by the ATV Association now extends from Upper Tantallon to Nine Mile River. Plans are to construct a bridge across the Nine Mile River and continue the trail construction in 2015 eastward to Prospect Bay Road as shown on the map below. This project would not be possible without countless hours provided by members of the Safety Minded ATV Association.



Clear Cutting on Former Bowater Lands

The rally hosted by the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association at the Hubley Community Center on October 20, 2014 was well attended by more than 200 people. The concern is with the Province allowing clear cutting on former Bowater lands within the St. Margaret's Bay district which comprise the headwaters of the Ingram River, Indian River and Northeast River. Salmon are known to reside in these rivers.

In January 2015, NS DNR indicated on their web site that they are considering allowing clear cutting on three land parcels adjacent the Ingram River between HWY 103 and HWY 3 (see map below). Helga Guderley of the SMB Stewardship Association started an on-line petition protesting the proposed clear cuts, garnishing over 1200 signatures thus far. Hard copies of the petition have been placed at Redmond's Home Hardware, Smitty's, Otis and Clementine's, Billy Joe's Automotive, Hubbard's Home Hardware and Fitzgerald's in Timberlea for those interested in signing. SMBSA representatives and MLA Denise Peterson-Rafuse met with the Minister of Natural Resources to express deep concerns with impacts that could result from clear cutting on these three tracts of land, including not only to fish and terrestrial environment, but also to recreation, tourism and community. The SMB Trail sits immediately adjacent to one of the proposed clear cut areas and could very well become impacted. Minister Churchill indicated that the department would need strong scientific evidence to not approve the clear cut application. All are encouraged to write the Minister Zach Churchill at mindnr@gov.ns.ca.



Peter, on behalf of FBWHT Board, has written to the Premier and Ministers of the Environment and Natural Resources, expressing concern related to siltation of the Ingram River and cove. We don't need a repeat of what happened in the Head of St. Margaret's Bay over the years. Wynaught's Cove by way of example has an additional one metre of accumulated silt over the past 30 years and the bay is closed every year to shell fish harvesting. To date, only the Minister of Environment replied by indicating his department has no jurisdiction over clear cutting.



Thanks to Bay Treasure Chest

FBWHT is one of five community groups in receipt of funds from the proceeds of Bay Treasure Chest. This funding allows FBWHT to consider projects that we might not have been able to undertake financially in the past. The FBWHT Board is considering the creation of a short film about the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area and a reprint of the publication "A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road". The Board will be presenting its plan for projects in 2015 at the AGM (see page 8).

Council of Community Organizations (COCO)

COCO is entering its 14th year of operation. Since its inaugural meeting in March 2002, meetings have been held five times a year – typically January, March, May, September and November, and are hosted by one of the organizations in the community of a host group. COCO has provided residents of the Hwy103/333 loop and their elected representatives with a forum for sharing information and raising concerns about planning, the environment and other matters of concern in their communities. COCO meetings offer a great opportunity for the residents of our communities to learn about issues and the work of many organizations in our area. They also provide good opportunities for networking and collaboration on projects.

The March COCO Meeting will be held on Thursday March 19 at 7 pm at the Lakeside Community Centre, 1492 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Lakeside. Beechville- Lakeside-Timberlea Rails to Trails (BLTR2T) will be the host group. See the sidebar and link to the Trust website to more information about topics discussed at COCO. All are Welcome!!

Backyard visitors at the Bird Feeders-A Day Brightener

On February 10, 2015 a trip to collect the daily newspaper rendered a lovely surprise. A Robin's chirping could be heard and the Robin was soon in plain view. A call to Hans Toom provided the homeowner with food ideas for the Robin: suet, apple and grape jelly. Suet and apple were quickly provided. The Robin seemed to be pecking away at leaf buds on the branches of shrubs. The following day it was joined for several hours by a lone Bohemian Waxwing. The Waxwing was also pecking away at the shrubs.

The Robin stayed for three days. Here is a picture of Troop's Island (below by Joan Redmond) heavily draped in rime and snow and one of the Bohemian Waxwing! (pg 6 bottom right by Hans Toom). Two such wonderful sights to be seen in the lens of a



Wetland Hot Line

If you become aware of an action that is having a negative impact on a wetland, watercourse, or a matter that is a chronic problem, please call **1-800-565-1633**, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Give as much detail as possible so that your matter can be directed to the proper resource and addressed in a timely matter.

The **Council of Community Organizations (CoCO)** is an important forum to share community intelligence. The next meeting...

**Thursday, March 19, 7pm
Lakeside
Community Centre,
1492 St Margarets Bay Rd,
Lakeside, NS**

Hosted by BLT R2T

Next Date: May 21

Everyone Welcome!

CoCO notes can be found on the Trust website.

www.fivebridgetrust.ca

**2015
Community Council
Meetings**

**Please call 902-490-4000
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.

Thank you for your support!

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.

Butch.Galvez@novascotia.ca

902-861-2560

The Bridge

Edited by
Peter Lund

and

Beth McGee

Layout - Jeff Parks

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

fbwhtb@gmail.com

and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

The Greenbelting Plan: Putting Value to our Greenspaces **by Geoff LeBoutillier**

After four years of hard work by Our HRM Alliance, its advocacy paid off. Halifax's revised 2014 Regional Plan commits to the development of a Greenbelting and Open Space Priorities Plan.

Clause E-12 states:

"HRM shall prepare a Greenbelting and Public Open Space Priorities Plan to protect and preserve connectivity between natural areas and open space lands, to enable their integration into sustainable community design, to help define communities, to benefit the Municipality's economy and the physical health of its people, and to reflect and support the overall purposes of this Plan."

Greenbelting, the process of building a Greenbelt, involves identifying the multiple values of natural landscapes - like recreation, natural services, local heritage, and shaping growth - and preserving or investing in these values appropriately. The short term value of land for a subdivision may be clear to investors, for example, but how about its long term value to other species or its value for the ecological services it may provide, like buffering against sea level rise, or a treed slope slowing run-off and controlling erosion and siltation. High conservation values must be carefully assessed - their management is critical to Halifax's future health.

The Alliance, of which FBWHT is a founding member, is keeping a close eye on the municipality as it undertakes this vital task. It continues to lobby for Greenbelting priorities, and works as closely as possible with municipal staff and their Greenbelting consultants, CBCL. This process would not have been undertaken if it weren't for the Alliance's initiative. The future of the city relies on its success.

FBWHT Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25 at the Lakeside Community Centre, 1492 St. Margarets Bay Road, Lakeside. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for those who wish to renew their memberships.

The AGM provides your Board members with the opportunity to update you on the work of the past year, to give you information and get your feedback on plans for the next year. If you would like to serve on our Board or have more information about our work please contact one of our Co-Chairs: Peter Lund: peter@peterlund.ca or Harry Ward: harryward@eastlink.ca You can also visit our website: www.fivebridgestrust.ca

At the conclusion of the Business portion of our meeting our Guest Speaker, Tristan Cleveland of the Ecology Action Centre will give a presentation on the topic "The Halifax Greenbelt: Turning Local Struggles into a Regional Solution" Tristan is Our HRM Alliance Coordinator, representing 40 business, environment, recreation, health and recreation organizations across the municipality .

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM. All are welcome!!