



The Bridge

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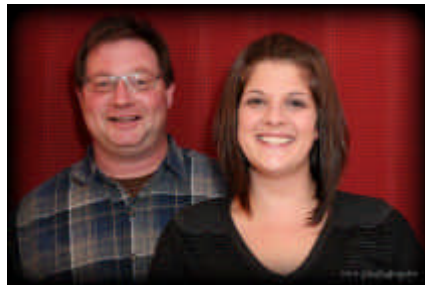
January 2012

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 Ashley Welburn, ashleywrinwelburn@gmail.com

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Message from the Co-Chairs



Friends:

We are very pleased to announce that, after ten years of hard work, the Government of Nova Scotia has officially protected the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area! The official announcement and celebration took place on October 25 at the St. Margaret's Centre. The Celebration was hosted by Timberlea-Prospect MLA Bill Estabrooks, assisted by Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau and

Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker. Tom Musial, founding President of the Trust, delivered a touching speech. Many thanks to all of those who were able to come and join in the celebration! For those of you who were unable to attend there is an article in this issue outlining the day's events.

Many thanks are extended to Andy Parsons for getting the website back up and running after recent technical problems arose. Andy has been working on several upgrades for the website, including the addition of an online forum to promote discussion of current issues as well as the providing of a Calendar of Events that may be of interest to members. We welcome any suggestions for new items to add to the website, and encourage feedback on the content already available.

We are continuing our efforts to make publications of the Trust available for viewing. Due to high demand, we will be putting "A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road" on the website for all to enjoy. Beth McGee and Catherine King are finalising the reprint of "Plants of the Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail: A Guide" brochure, which will feature color photographs and an updated trail map.

There has been much discussion concerning the role of the Trust following the official designation of the Wilderness Area. At the November COCO meeting we began to collaborate with interested community groups to develop future stewardship ideas. We plan to meet with Nova Scotia Environment in the New Year to determine to discuss potential roles for the Trust. A comprehensive report from the November COCO meeting can be found in this issue.

The date for the Annual General Meeting has been set for March 28, 2012 at 7 pm, and will be held at the Tantallon Public Library. The Board has begun discussion of the 2012-2013 Work Plan, with strategies to make changes to the Trust's approach to membership, fundraising and advertising efforts. We also are adding items related to access points to the Wilderness Area, including the need for signage and parking.

We are very excited to be a part of this wonderful group of individuals who have come together to make this Wilderness Area possible. We are approaching the end of our first year as the new co-chairs of the Trust, and we thank you all for giving us the opportunity to be part of such a worthy cause. We look forward to working with everyone in the months to come to define the role of the Trust following the official designation.

Sincerely,

Jill & Harry

Board of Trustees

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Report on the AGM 2011 of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust

The ninth Annual General Meeting of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT) was held on Wednesday, March 31 at the Tantallon Public Library.

The Trust was formed in 2001 to conserve public land bound by Highways 103 and 333 in its natural state for public use. On October 19, 2009 Sterling Belliveau, Minister of Nova Scotia Environment declared Crown Land on the Chebucto Peninsula as a Candidate Wilderness Area to be known as the Five Bridge Lakes Candidate Wilderness Area. Public consultation occurred in 2010, a Socio-Economic Study is due for release in May 2011. It is hoped that the area will receive full designation as a Wilderness Area in the coming months.

At the AGM Reports on Activities for the past year were presented as well as a Work Plan for 2011-2012. Two new Co-Chairs, Jill Pulsifer and Harry Ward, were elected. Outgoing Co-Chairs, Beth McGee and John Cascadden, will remain on the Board.

A number of members and community members were honoured for their work in various capacities at the Trust. Those honoured were retiring Board Members: Catherine King; Denise Caines; Ken Nickerson; long standing Advisor Carroll Mason; Trust Members Dave Patriquin and Nick Hill and Advisor Ralph Wheadon, for their work in identifying, locating and documenting two old growth forests in the proposed Wilderness Area and to Graham and Susan Smith of the Sage Environmental Fund for their generous support of the printing of copies of *A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road*.

Our Guest Speaker Tom Musial, Founding Chair of the Trust gave a presentation entitled "Achievements of the Past; Challenges of the Future" Peter Labor, Manager of the Protected Areas Branch of the Nova Scotia Environment spoke about some of the interesting opportunities for stewardship local community groups may have with Nova Scotia Environment after the final designation of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area.

The Trust looks forward to an exciting year and new opportunities for working with NSE after the designation of the Five Bridge Lakes Candidate Wilderness Area.

Copies of the Activity Reports, Treasurer's Report, Nominating Committee Report and Work Plan for 2011-2012 can be found on the Trust's website www.fivebridgestrust.ca

May Fair in the Park 2011

May Fair in the Park 2011 organized by new Trust Co-Chairs Jill Pulsifer and Harry Ward was a very successful event held at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on May 28 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. It was attended by a number of families from the community. There were lots of children's games, and a wonderful scavenger hunt provided by Scott Pelton of St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association Children enjoyed the ever popular fire truck from HRM Station 55. The BBQ was at the ready and many enjoyed hot dogs and buns courtesy of Sobeys.

May Fair in the Park is the Trust's primary public event of the year. As such, we want to ensure we provide a consistent quality event that will provide us with an opportunity to share with our guests the accomplishments and goals of the Trust, introduce young people to the concept of community involvement by way of Stewardship, and the benefit of working cooperatively. In addition, the youth of today will be the standard bearers of tomorrow and this is our opportunity to educate them in the importance of keeping public land in its natural state for public use. Finally and most importantly this is our opportunity to say "Thank you" to the community for their ongoing support of our work and for those in attendance to enjoy and have fun.



Annual Warbler Walk

The Annual Warbler Walk lead by Hans Toom was held on Sunday, June 5 at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park. By that time of the year most of the 17 nesting species of Warblers who make Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park their place to raise their young have returned to the area. The walk of several hours duration takes bird watching enthusiasts to a number of nesting habitats in the Park and along the St. Margarets Bay Rails to Trails to see, hear and note their sightings.

A best kept secret is the fact that 17 of the 22 nesting species of Warblers found in Nova Scotia can be found at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park. Please visit Hans' website to see his exquisite photographs: www.hanstoom.com

Water Quality Monitoring on the Prospect River System

In 2011, the Trust conducted sampling in three lakes on the Prospect River system, Big Indian, McDonald Lake and Whites Lake, under a special agreement with Inland Fisheries. Twenty-four samples, eight each from the three lakes, were taken and submitted for testing. An interim report is now available. A final report is yet to come. FBWHT hopes to continue our water sampling program in 2012, on the same three lakes of the Prospect River system. The Trust has been sponsored by the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries Division (NSFA-IF) for the past two year for this specific program; NSFA-IF has been supporting FBWHT water monitoring efforts for a number of years. Funding for this year's program is dependent on NSFA-IF budgetary approval, and it will not be known if funds are available until spring 2012.

Trust Representation on Community Committees

The Trust, represented by John Cascadden, participates in the following community interest initiatives:

- As a member of the Steering Committee for Our HRM Alliance: which is comprised of 33 business, environmental, and community organizations from across the municipality. The solutions will guide the Alliance's participation in the five year of HRM's regional plan now underway.
- As a core member of the Water Caucus of the Nova Scotia Environmental Network: whose purpose is to create a network of individuals and organizations that is interested in supporting watershed-based management within Nova Scotia through the sharing of expertise, experiences, knowledge and information, equipment and resources.
- Part of a team reviewing a package of documents received under a Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act submission for shale gas exploration activities in the Windsor Block area. This FOIPOP review team is a subcommittee of NOFRAC: the Nova Scotia Fracking Resource and Action Coalition; which is a group comprising more than 50 members, representing more than 15 environmental and community organizations. NOFRAC members reside in all seven of the on-shore petroleum lease agreement blocks in Nova Scotia. The coalition was formed in December 2010 to share information about the risks of hydraulic fracturing and the development of shale gas in Nova Scotia, and to raise public awareness about the risks of these practices.
- As a member of the Steering Committee for the Dartmouth Area Watershed Network: DAWN was established in October 2006 to facilitate identifying water resource protection and conservation issues in the Dartmouth watershed area. DAWN is developing a Watershed Governance Model that will soon be presented to Federal, Provincial, and Municipal government departments as a method to manage all manner of activities which could affect a watershed's environment.
- Taking an active part in the public review of the Urban Forest Master Plan, together with HRM staff, the Ecology Action Centre, and other interested parties.

Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area

Celebration Time-October 25, 2011

After more than ten years of hard work by community members and government the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area was designated as a protected area on October 25. A well attended joyous celebration was held at the St. Margaret Centre, hosted by Bill Estabrooks MLA for Timberlea -Prospect accompanied by Sterling Belliveau, Minister of NS Environment and Charlie Parker, Minister of NS Natural Resources. All three gave speeches, with Mr. Estabrooks hailing it as a great day.

Tom Musial Founding Chair of the Trust and Chair of the Steering Committee of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition brought words from the community. He outlined the ten year journey, its highs its lows, its accomplishment and frustrations. He gave thanks to the many people involved including elected officials, staff bureaucrats from several levels of government, the many environmental, and recreational organizations, homeowners associations and many individuals as well as corporations developers, commercial and tourism groups who worked together to ensure this area was protected.. Tom was heard to say “How sweet it is” when interviewed about the culmination of events that resulted in this special day An abridged version of his speech appears in this edition. The full text is posted on the Trust website at www.fivebridgestrust.ca

If the weather had been fine an outdoor celebration to unveil the new sign for The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail was to have been held at the Trailhead adjacent to the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails. The unveiling ceremony took place at the St. Margaret Centre with Richmond Campbell and David Patriquin Co-Chairs at Wooden’s River Watershed Environmental Organization presiding over the indoor ceremony.

During the formal festivities, many donned green shirts which read *Together, We Did It 2001-2011* on the fronts. You will see the shirts in the pictures from the day. Who could forget the remarkable cakes depicting wilderness areas produced by Jean O’Handley who was in charge of providing refreshments for the gathering.

Special Thanks go to Premier Darrel Dexter and the Government for creating the first Wilderness Area on their watch .The Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area protects close to 8600 hectares(about 21,250 acres of Crown Land between Highways 103 and 333 in Halifax Regional Municipality and will contribute to the provinces goal to legally protect 12% of its Land by 2015.

We invite you to visit the government website for more information and a map: www.gov.ns.ca/nse/protectedareas



Remarks on Behalf of the Community

Tom Musial, Chair, CWC Steering Committee

We are here today not only to celebrate the protection of public land—our land—but to celebrate an achievement of responsible and admirable community action and the positive response of government toward that action.

It’s been a 10-year journey, and I wish I had the time to tell you of the challenges, the heartaches, the frustrations, the hours of meetings, the terabytes of digital files created, the talent and goodwill of the volunteers who became involved, the friendships that were formed, the setbacks that were encountered, and, yes, from time to time, the celebrations of success.

I’d like to tell you about the research, the meetings, the organizational workshops, the educational workshops, the planning workshops, the newsletters, the hikes, the GPS mapping, the public events, the negotiations, the trail construction, the trail maintenance, the conservation work, the trash clean-ups, the water quality monitoring and remediation, the modeling for community-based stewardship, the national conferences attended, the presentations given, the publications produced on hiking,



flora and fauna, lichens, history of the area.

Most of all, I'd like to tell the story of how a community came together, united by a single vision to protect the land that they cherish; about how they gave of their time and expertise; about how they overcame their differences, especially with regard to the use of motorized vehicles—a topic that so bitterly divided other communities in their attempts to protect of Canada's natural resources; about how community groups worked with government, overcame suspicion, threat, and mistrust, and formed partnerships based on cooperation, coordination, respect, and mutual support....

But the journey is not over. There is still work to be done. Protection of the land...requires constant vigilance, systematic monitoring, occasional remediation, and yes, even a bit of policing. If we are to leave this legacy to future generations, the community must continue its journey in some form of community-based stewardship. We must establish a framework within which those who have worked so hard for the past decade can pass the baton to those who will continue the journey for the next decades and beyond.

Government welcomes, and to some extent relies upon, community groups to promote adherence to the provisions of the Wilderness Areas Protection Act. The CWC steering committee can suggest several mechanisms to support community-government partnerships. Accordingly, I propose, in cooperation with government, a planning workshop to determine how the various community organizations, while remaining faithful to their founding objectives, might play a role in preserving the land that we cherish.

Editor's note: Future issues of The Bridge will carry information about Dr. Musial's proposal for community-based stewardship.

The Annual Cross the Chebucto Peninsula Canoe Trip

Dusan Soudek, Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia, wrote of his November 12th adventures on the annual canoe trip on the Chebucto Peninsula. He noted we didn't quite cross Chebucto Peninsula this year, but we did complete the Otter Lake - Deep Cove Lake - Powers Lake - Wild Cat Lake - Otter Lake loop. In addition, we climbed to the top of the much photographed Otter Lake Look-off, at the mouth of Rocky Brook, and hiked up a portage along the rain-swollen Scotts River towards Slough Lake.

Fifteen canoeists, in six canoes, showed up at our put-in/take-out near Blind Bay, the Hwy. 333 bridge across Scotts River. They were a motley crew including three pairs of brothers (none named Darryl and Darryl), two New Brunswickers, an ex-Nova Scotian, two teens, and a five-year-old and a six-year-old; besides the usual grinders. Trust Board Member Andrew Parsons and his son joined the group this year. The air temperature was a refreshing +3°C in the morning.

Scotts River was very high after yesterday's 80 mm of rain, the highest we have ever seen. The high water flooded some portages, and created lots of foam, besides some amazing rapids. Too bad most were blocked by fallen trees or by extensive shrubbery.

We paddled and portaged the loop in a counter-clockwise direction, allowing us to run two small rapids. Great fun was had by all, and there were neither casualties nor damage to equipment. Finally, a few of us explored the long channel through which Otter Lake drains, in part, to Murphys Lake. Aside from its odd shape, the X-shaped Otter Lake is unique in that it has two completely separate outlets.

Many thanks to perennial trip organizer Peter Mumford and to canoe lender Lyse Boyce. See you all next year!

P.S. The highly scenic beginning and the end of today's route pass through the Blind Bay Provincial Park Reserve, also known as Patch 39 (Blind Bay), one of hundreds of properties proposed for permanent protection as part of the "12 Per Cent by 2015" program. Why not drop a line to the Protected Areas and Wetlands Branch of N.S. Environment protectedareas@gov.ns.ca stating your support for this course of action.



COCO Meeting Report –November 17, 2011

The November COCO meeting, chaired by Beth McGee, was held at the Tantallon Library. Host group was the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust.

One of the main topics discussed was prompted by questions raised with Staff at the Nova Scotia Environment Protected Areas Branch who had asked that we begin to discuss stewardship ideas for the newly created Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA).

Mike Marriott, Safety Minded ATV, outlined where the connector trail will be now that the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA) has been designated. There is an east west sliver of Crown Land just south of Tantallon Woods that was left out of the Wilderness Area. The connector trail will be built there and begin on land east of the EHS building on Hwy 3 and exit onto the Joshua Slocum trail on the east. Funding will be applied for in 2011 for this trail. The two roads outlined in red in the new FBLWA are the Fire Road and the old St. Margaret's Bay Road as it passes through the WA. These roads will be managed under an agreement between the ATV community and NS Environment (NSE). NSE will not contribute money for the upkeep of the Fire Road off of Joshua Slocum and the OHV Fund will be the major funders here.

There was lively discussion about whether or not Crown Land now in the FBLWA is posted.

The possibility of having a parking lot on Crown Land on the Joshua Slocum Trail just south of the residential area on Joshua Slocum Avenue was raised as a request to be brought forward to DNR.

Access points to the Old St Margaret's Bay Road require signage on the west at Westhaver Road and a second sign several hundred meters to the east to show where the road veers to the north and then goes up a hill. The eastern end of the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road at the Nine Mile River also needs to be marked to show you are entering the FBLWA, the western side of the FBLWA also requires a sign.

On the St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails the task of installing community signs has been completed. Missing signs are also being replaced.

A public meeting on Saturday, November 26 from 2-4 p.m. at St. Luke's Church will provide the plans by Irving to develop their lands at the Crossroads (Highways 3 & 333). The plan includes possibly building a *Shopper's Drugmart*, *TD Bank* with drive through, a *Subway* with drive through, and a *Subway* headquarters on a second floor of one of the buildings. Input from residents will be gathered.

St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association is partly sponsoring a two-day workshop on January 28 - 29 offered by - *Transition Bay St Margarets* called **Training For Transition**. The workshop will introduce the "Transition Town" model of local response to global challenges. This workshop is for anyone interested in strengthening a *community-wide response* to fossil fuel dependence, climate change and/or economic instability.

Councillor Peter Lund reported on the delays in rezoning the Crossroads area. An Open House, organized by Genivar on behalf of Irving interests was already noted. The review of the HRM Plan was detailed. Peter will be the designated person from the Environmental Goals and Sustainability Committee. This will be a twelve month review. Public meetings will be held at the St. Margaret Centre and the Prospect Community Centre. Two committees have been merged to look at the Regional Plan. Other points of note:

- Concerns about the fate of the Bowater lands upon completion of the new connector road between Highways 103 and 3 south of Exit 5 were expressed. A large tract of Bowater land could be sold to several development companies.
- As-of-right developments will cease when new HRM Plan is put in place.
- Moratorium on building lots still exist for Hammonds Plains Road.
- Lot grading By Law – storm water and Rural road standards are being looked at.
- NSTIR is working with NSE to amend and revise erosion control guidelines.
- The NS Coastal Strategy is available for consultation.

Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO) manages The Bluff Trail which has been completed and is now in maintenance mode. WRWEO is turning its attention to other matters such as Water Quality in the Wooden's River Watershed. This is a large project that will require a collaborative effort, which it is hoped could occur under a single community umbrella. Several groups are involved in water quality monitoring and a collaboration

among groups will be examined.

HRM Water is collecting baseline data at Brunello Estates by accessing the **Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails (BLT R2T)** to bore holes in order to determine the feasibility of a sewer upgrade. The upgrade would add a trunk wastewater system from Beechville Lakeside Timberlea area into Halifax.

Dusan Soudek of **Canoe Kayak NS** reported about a siltation situation in Kingswood that impacted the Nine Mile River. NSE was called and have investigated a construction site. Their members have been involved in clean up of portages and camp sites in the Chebucto Peninsula and other areas.

Councillor Reg Rankin announced that application forms will soon be available for a Western Common Advisory group to govern the Western Common. It is hoped that persons from communities adjacent to the Western Common will express an interest. Expect to hear more about this in January 2012.

Jill Pulisfer, Co-chair of **Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT)** spoke of the stewardship ideas that need to be addressed for the newly created Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area. Signage, required at access points (recognized by NSE) need to be addressed with NSE and parking lots need to be considered. FBWHT has already approached NSTIR concerning a parking lot on Westhaver Road for travelers using the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road.

John Cascadden reported about his representation of **FBWHT** on the NS Water Caucus, Groundswell, NS No Frac Committee, Steering Committee for Dartmouth Advisory Watershed Network (DAWN). He outlined how the DAWN is devising a template for use by water advisory groups around the province. There is a meeting on December 3 sponsored by NS No Frac.

The McDonald Lake Community Park Committee of **McDonald Lake Residents Association** has had some further work done with need for multiple culverts to carry off storm water in the big storms. Access to the wilderness area via the old St. Margaret's Bay Road will get addressed.

The next COCO Meeting, hosted by the Safety Minded ATV, will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, January 25 at the Tantallon Library.

Editor's note: COCO meetings were held on May 25, September 21 and November 17. The Notes compiled from the May and September meetings can be found on the Trust website under the COCO tab at: www.fivebridgestrust.ca

Wetland Hot Line

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

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

Wed. Jan 25 7pm
Safety Minded ATV Club

March 21
May 23
Sept 26
Nov 21

Everyone Welcome!

Discussion points from previous meetings can be found on the Trust website.



2012 Western Region Community Council Meetings

January 23
February 27
March 26
April 23
May 28

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



Safety Minded ATV complete Trail Inspection in FBLWA

Safety Minded ATV Association members, along with personnel from NSE, DNR & ATVANS have completed a trail inspection run on the Fire Road (Joshua Slocum) and the Old Coach Road (Old St. Margaret's Bay Road) within the boundaries of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA) on the Chebucto Peninsula.

This exercise identified sections that will need upgrading/repairs or structures (*i.e.* culverts, bridges) to minimize environmental impact and to ensure that the trails are as safe as possible for all users.

Access points and parking availability are also an important part of this process.

The trail plan to be developed will identify priority sites and these will be completed first.

Safety Minded ATV Association, Head of St. Margarets Bay, has agreed to be involved in a management agreement with NSE to maintain and monitor these trails for the enjoyment of trail users.

The management agreement will involve funding, maintenance, signage, trail patrols, education, etc..

Anyone who wishes to get involved in any way with the project is welcome. Please contact Mike Marriott, President, Safety Minded ATV Association, mikemarriott@eastlink.ca phone: 826-7275 / cell: (902) 430 6079 / Fax: (902) 826 1614; www.smatva.ca

Trust Website is getting Updated

Our long standing Website Manager, Jeff Parks, has turned over his duties to Andrew Parsons. We give Jeff a huge Thank You for his generosity of time and talents for the last five years of our website's existence.

With designation of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area our website is now undergoing some revisions. Andy is adding additional features as we go along. One of the newest is a Forum where readers can place their comments about our work and engage in dialogue with others.

We look forward to seeing the changes emerge over time. Thanks to Andy!

FBWHT Annual General Meeting 2012

The date for the FBWHT AGM has been set for March 28, 2012 at 7pm at the Tantallon Library. Please pencil this into your calendar! Closer to the time of the meeting, a formal invitation will be sent with more details about the AGM.

Editor -Tom Musial
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Layout - Jeff Parks

Charitable Donations
Charitable donations to support the work of the Trust may be made by contacting **Ashley Welburn** at, ashleywelburn@gmail.com An income tax receipt will be issued for your donation. Thank you for your

Moose Watch
Anyone having knowledge of moose sightings, spoor or antlers on the Chebucto Peninsula is encouraged to contact the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources .
902- 861-2560

The Bridge
If you would like to receive an electronic copy of **The Bridge**, please send an email to
Jill Pulsifer
pulsifer.j@gmail.com
and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

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Keith Ayling
Andy Parsons