



The Bridge

Message from the Chair

Friends:



At our Annual General Meeting on March 25, 2010 the Board suggested to the membership that the Trust move on a trial basis to a system of Co-Chairs to share the work load that has been carried by the Chair. This suggestion was adopted by our membership. The Board is pleased to welcome John Cascadden as Co-chair at the Trust. John is carrying responsibilities for water quality monitoring and has been very involved in the monitoring of planning on HRM endeavours such as the Western Common Plan. With his keen interest in environmental and planning matters he brings energy and good insights to the ongoing work of the Trust. Beth continues to organize COCO Meetings, help assemble text for The Bridge and serves on the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition.

Since our AGM Beth and John would like to draw your attention to several key Trust activities & events, the book launch for “A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret’s Bay Road”, COCO Meetings in May and September, planning for May-Fair in the Park 2010 which had to be cancelled because of rain, a Warbler Walk on May 30, planning a meeting for the Five Bridge Lakes Candidate Wilderness Area with Nova Scotia Environment (FBWHT is a member of the Chebucto Peninsula Coalition), water quality monitoring on the Prospect River system. These activities will be reported on in more detail elsewhere in this edition. Our Board members continue to attend watershed planning meetings, take part in review of planning for Forest Strategy through writing of submissions, attending a rallies, participating in the “Five Year Review of the HRM Regional Plan”, writing articles for the newspapers, maintain and plan for upgrading of our website and assist in the production of The Bridge.

Our Board members are a dedicated group who look forward with much excitement to the final designation of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area expected some time in the early part of 2011. The final designation will come after nearly ten years of hard work by Trust members in collaboration other community groups to achieve wilderness area protection of 22,000 acres of Crown Land bound by Highways 3 and 333. Following a proposed late Fall public consultation on a socio-economic study of the area, the matter will then be sent to Government to complete the designation process. We wait in anticipation of the announcement by Government!!

As always we thank each of you for your generous support of our work.

Beth & John

Co-Chairs

Beth McGee

jemcgee@eastlink.ca

John Cascadden

jdcas@slcc.com

November 2010

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 Catherine King at crobking@eastlink.com

Inside this Issue

Report - AGM 2010	2
Launch of “A Walking Guide”	2
May Fair in the Park Warbler Walk	3
Chebucto Wilderness Coalition Update	4
Board Members and Advisors Honoured	5
Trust Members set Geocache	5
Beth McGee Honoured by Colleagues at Trust	6
Canoe Trip Report	7
Prospect River	8

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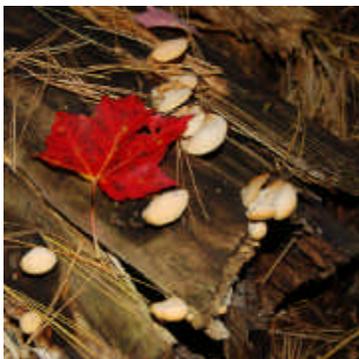
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Web Address

www.fivebridgestrust.ca



Report of the AGM 2010

The Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust held its **Annual General Meeting** on Thursday, March 25, 2010 at the Tantallon Public Library, Upper Tantallon.

In addition to the Reports of the Committees of the Trust on the work and accomplishments of the past year, members and attendees heard of the plans for the coming year.

Members elected to the Board for a three year term were: Mike Lamplugh, Catherine King, Mike Marriott, and Andrew Parsons. Continuing Board Members are: Denise Caines, Harry Ward John Cascadden, each with two years remaining, and Beth McGee, Ken Nickerson, Eleanor Lindsay (one year remaining). Since the AGM Jill Pulsifer has been appointed by the Board to serve a one year term vacated by a retiring Board Member.

On October 19, 2009, the Five Bridge Lakes Area was declared a Candidate Wilderness Area. The Public Consultation phase will begin shortly.

We were very pleased to have Peter Labor, Acting Manager of the Protected Areas Branch of Nova Scotia Environment as our Guest Speaker. Following the business meeting Mr. Labor gave a presentation entitled "*Drawing Boundaries in Nature - the challenge of defining protected area boundaries, with examples from the FBLCWA*".

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to long serving Board Member Cilla Dawson originator of MayFair in the Park and to Charlotte Reinhold in recognition of their work for the Trust as well as Gary Armsworthy who has been a long time Advisor and to Tom Musial in recognition of his work as Chair of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition.

Launch of "A Walking Guide"

A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road, a publication of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust, was printed in late March at Halcraft Printers. A very successful Book Launch was held on April 29 at the Tantallon Library to honour those who made possible the publishing of the guide.

The guide introduces local and visiting walking enthusiasts to some of the many wonderful hiking experiences and unique features along the Old St. Margarets Bay Road in the Five Bridge Lakes Candidate Wilderness Area as well as the Halifax Regional Municipality's Western Common 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.

We are most grateful to Wayne Rogers for doing the research and drafting the material for publication; to Jeff Parks for the book's design, editing and formatting; to Shelley Webb of the St. Margaret's Bay Regional Tourism Development Association for her editing skills. Lastly to our project funders, Chebucto West Community Health Board, Councillors Reg Rankin and Peter Lund, St. Margaret's Bay Regional Tourism Development Association, NS Health Promotion and Protection, Tourism Association of Nova Scotia, Nicom IT Solutions and an anonymous donor.

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Certificates of Appreciation for contributions to “A Walking Guide...” were given to (l to r) Wayne Shellnut, Peter Lund, Jeff Parks, Beth McGee, Trust Chair, George Newbury, and Wayne Rogers.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Wayne, Jeff, Shelley and the project funders noted above, as well as to Ralph Wheadon, Iris Shea, Wayne Shellnut, and George Newbury for their generosity in sharing information about the area, and to Halifax West MP Geoff Regan for his photograph contributions. We are most grateful to the Sage Environmental Fund for funding the cost of an additional 250 copies of the guide.

Since the publication of the 2250 copies we have had requests from many for copies. We do not charge for a copy ; donations are gratefully received and these are used to fund ongoing work of the Trust. The Guide has been well received and has been successful beyond our wildest imagination. It has been wonderful to hear from families who are researching their family history or from community folks trying to locate landmarks written about in the Guide. It is a true joy to know that the Guide is being used by persons who are curious about the Old St. Margaret’s Bay and its many beautiful offerings.



MayFair in the Park - A Washout

Most regrettably this event had to be cancelled because of bad weather. The hardworking, energetic team of Denise Caines, Harry Ward and Jill Pulsifer had many games, activities and prizes organised for the event slated to have been held in Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on Sunday May 30.

Given this year’s weather experience the FBWHT Board has decided to hold the event on a Saturday to give opportunity for a rain date on Sunday. Next year’s event is scheduled for Saturday May 28 with May 29 the rain date. Hats off to Denise, Harry and Jill for their enthusiasm and solid planning!!

Warbler Walk on May 30

The Annual Warbler Walk under the leadership of Hans Toom did take place early Sunday morning on May 30. The birders managed to get their shortened walk completed before the drenching rains descended.

Thanks to Hans!!

Update from the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition

In July members of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition met with Peter Labor and staff to discuss a number of issues including boundaries for the FBL Candidate Wilderness Area and lands the Coalition hopes will be included in the WA. Following the July meeting members of the ATV community have had discussion with NSE and DNR about the proposed connector trail route. Through discussion the route has changed again from the property owned by Safety Minded ATV (SMATV) Club on Hwy 3 east along the southern boundary of Crown Land and then south towards Ash Lake, linking up with Joshua Slocum. The new request was to now revise the route and move it north, using a new boundary that DNR and NSE would supply SMATV Club with, and the ATV riders would keep north of this boundary.

There were a number of reasons for this request, including:

- pressure from other groups to include the north west quadrant along with the larger parcel of land at the same time.
- no way for the ATV club to finish the connector trail before the designation, and to undertake this work afterwards was possible, but much more complicated, so our trail would hold this all up.

DNR and NSE needed a fairly clean, straight boundary, ideally, and with the new co-ordinates they gave SMATV Club, which went from marker 1440d, over to Birch Lake, the ATV riders just needed to stay north of this boundary. Work on this section of trail will only involve dealing with DNR.

While there was initial unhappiness among the ATV community about changing the route in the end there was agreement if this will satisfy and accommodate all the other groups working on this designation; SMATV Club agreed that they would revise and blaze out a new route. Having the trail is the main consideration, where that trail is on the section of land is irrelevant.

Some members went and blazed a new route and shortly after two DNR staff walked it with a club member and confirmed the route by GPS, making sure it was north of the NSE boundary.

As of press time the trail plans are advancing with approval pending from DNR, and then the real work of connecting all these trails under a management agreement with NSE will begin.



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Board Members and Advisors Honoured

Certificates of Appreciation were given to retiring Board Members Charlotte Reinhold and Cilla Dawson. Charlotte could not attend the AGM. but was thanked for her contributions to the work of the Trust.

Long standing Board member Cilla Dawson was honoured for her four years of organizing the highly successful MayFair in the Park. It was always Cilla's vision to have a day for families with fun events in the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park to be held in late May. Thanks Cilla for your creativity in making MayFair a well loved event and for your dedication to the work of the Trust over five years. (Beth and Cilla below left).

Tom Musial and Gary Armsworthy both long time Advisors with the Trust were also honoured. Tom continues in his much appreciated role as Chair of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition. Gary Armsworthy has been a staunch supporter of the work of the Trust who tends to work behind the scenes in his support of the Board. ..He has been a most loyal and active Advisor who brings much common sense and some deeply appreciated humour to our Board meetings .He has been very helpful to us around creation of sound policies and guidelines , interpretation of legal matters and keeping us on solid footing as a group of volunteers. (Beth and Gary below right).



Trust Members set Geocache on the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road

In early July, Trust members Glen and Laura-Gene Pardoe and their children Duncan and Scott helped set up a geocache on the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road. The Trust has had the setting up of geocaches in the Crown Land Block as part of earlier work plans. This became difficult to accomplish as we needed help from others to set up a cache. This cache is on the way to the Crown Land block. Thanks to the Pardoe family of Calgary, Alberta and Glen Haven, NS.

Please visit www.geocaching.com for other information about this great family activity.

Here is the information posted about the cache.

Location: Nova Scotia, Canada

Cache-tech published Wooden's Cove (Traditional Cache) at 7/7/2010

Log Date: 7/7/2010

Published

Visit this log entry at the below address:

<http://coord.info/GL422BJT>

Visit Wooden's Cove

<http://coord.info/GC2B4AA>

Profile for Cache-tech:

<http://coord.info/PRJBY5>

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Beth McGee Honoured by Colleagues at the Trust

Each August for a number of years FBWHT Board Members and Advisors have gathered for an August Supper at Beth McGee's home. Since the Board does not meet during July and August getting together for supper serves as a time to get caught up on any Trust news and activities and is also the forum for a social evening with time to relax and socialise over a potluck supper.

At this year's gathering Beth was honoured by her colleagues who presented her with a lovely framed picture of Big Five Bridge Lake. The photo was taken by Catherine King.

It occupies a place of honour in her home where Beth and all who visit get to view and enjoy it.

Beth was away for the September Board Meeting but had sent a Letter of Thanks which was read at the September Board Meeting. Her letter is reproduced here, with her kind permission..

Friends:

At the August 17 Gathering at my home I was presented with the most beautiful framed photo of Big Five Bridge Lake. The photo was taken by Catherine King. I will deeply treasure the photo which sits on a table in a place of honour in my living room . I get to enjoy the scene every time I pass by the living room. It is most humbling to receive such lovely accolades and gifts.

I have enjoyed many gifts during the nine years of work on behalf of the Trust. Most of all, the joy I derive from the work is getting to know and work with Board members and Advisors and many people in other areas on some of the most unusual tasks.

In mid August I had a long conversation with Peter Labor, Acting Manager at Protected Areas Branch. He advised that decisions will be made imminently about the parameters of the socio economic study. Under more usual circumstances this study is undertaken before the Public Consultation so that it can be reviewed by many at the time of the Public Consultation. With tight timelines last winter this time round it was not possible to undertake the socio-economic study prior to the Public Consultation.

When the study is completed, Cabinet will be presented with the work of the Protected Areas Branch on this Candidate Wilderness Area. Decisions about the final declaration process will then rest with Cabinet.

We will have to have one big celebration when the Day of Declaration occurs.

Thanks again for your lovely gift. Thanks to Catherine for her fine photography. Please always know one person can never do the kind of work I do without the help and support of many. Many Thanks to each of you for your hard work and generous support.

Sincerely,

Beth

September 15,2010



Report on the Annual Across the Chebucto Peninsula Canoe Trip

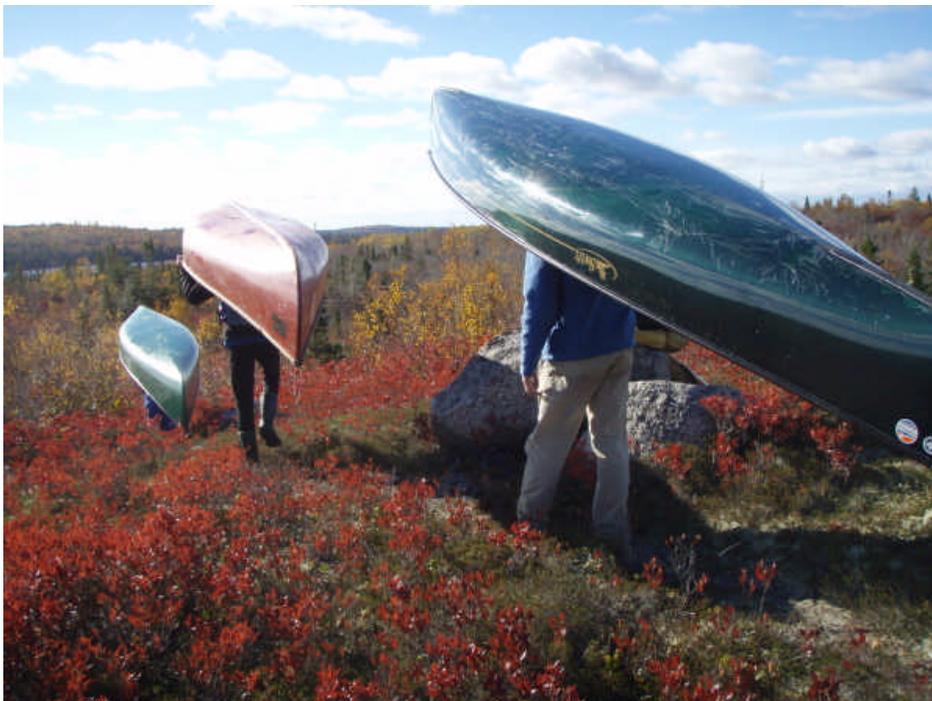
Thanks to Dusan Soudek of Canoe Kayak NS for his report of the Annual Across the Chebucto Peninsula Canoe Trip. Six canoeists came out on Sunday October 24 for the 6th annual Across the Chebucto Peninsula canoe trip. The group was to have been larger but the trip had to be postponed by a day because of bad weather and sadly, four others couldn't re-schedule from October 23. The canoe adventurers started at Hubley Big Lake near Hubley and came through ten named lakes and a number of unnamed ponds to finish at the Scotts River bridge on Highway 333 in Blind Bay, for a distance of maybe 15 km.

The weather was superb, and the gentle north-westerly wind was mainly in their backs. They had no problems whatsoever crossing the bigger lakes. The barrens were red and the tamaracks were just starting to colour yellow. There were a few trees down on the portages, particularly on the long one between Big Five Bridge Lake and Upper Trout Pond, but they were able to remove the smaller ones and bypass the rest.



Lunch was had on Piel Hill high above the portage. Not a single human being was seen from the start to the finish of their trip. Much of the country travelled through is quite wild, and is expected to be designated as the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area soon.

Dusan extends many thanks to perennial trip organizer Peter Mumford and to Kelly Browne for the loan of his 39 lb Swift Kevlar/carbon canoe. He hopes to see all of the merry adventurers next year!



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 **I-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...

**November 17
Tantallon Public Library**

**January 27, 2011
Tantallon Public Library**

7pm

Everyone Welcome!

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

**Western Region
Community Council
Meetings**

November 22

December - No meeting

January - TBA

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



Prospect River System Water Quality Monitoring Initiative

In July 2010, Trust members met with a representative from the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries Division (NS DFA-IF). At the meeting, it was resolved that Trust volunteers would draw water samples from three lakes in the Prospect River System, and ship the samples to a lab in Truro for chemical analysis. The program called for us to draw samples once a week over a consecutive eight week period (barring bad weather). The samples were drawn, and chemical analysis reports have been received from the lab. NS DFA-IF will forward to us their analysis of the reports shortly, and this will be reported in a future issue of The Bridge. It was hoped that this water sampling program would continue over a three year term so that a relatively firm baseline for the lakes tested would be established; but due to budgetary constraints, we will have to wait until next year to see if the water quality testing program will continue in the 2nd & 3rd years. The bodies of water tested were Big Indian, McDonald, and Whites Lakes, the water samples were drawn by John Cascadden & Andy Parsons, and the chemical analysis was completed by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Quality Evaluation Division, Laboratory Services located in Truro, NS.

Editor -Tom Musial
tom.musial@ili.ca

Layout - Jeff Parks

Charitable Donations

Charitable donations to support the work of the Trust may be made by contacting **Catherine King** at, **902- 823-3433**

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 **Jenny Costello** of the 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

Denise Caines
dfmackenzie@eastlink.ca

and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

Photos taken by

Catherine King

2010 Fall Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (RFAC) Meeting

On 2 November 2010 the Fall RFAC Meeting for RF Area 3 - Central (Halifax and Lunenburg Counties) took place at the Ramada Inn in Dartmouth. The meeting was well attended by Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries Division (NS DFA-IF) staff, fishers, bait & tackle retailers, and even a local scientist. One of the many excellent presentations detailed why it is almost impossible to eradicate invasive predatory fish such as Smallmouth Bass & Chain Pickerel once they have gotten firmly established in any of our bodies of water. These predatory species eat everything smaller than them, and it is man himself to blame for introducing these fish into our local waters. Spirited discussions took place covering a range of topics such as licensing, catch & release policies, ice fishing, trout restocking locations, and seasonal catch limits; just to name a few. Ken Nickerson was outstandingly vocal concerning the problems on the Woodens River water system, and the need for some kind of action plan that would work towards a solution; of note the terms Triploid Perch & Triploid Pickerel might have been mentioned one or fifty times. A triploid fish species is one that has been rendered sterile, and thus cannot reproduce. It does eat smaller fish and is thought to have some use in eradicating unwanted species.. Do an online search, there is much to read about this topic. NS DFA-IF staff took detailed notes throughout the meeting, and have said that a summary of the minutes will be posted on the NS DFA website. Pick up a paperback copy of the NS 2010 Anglers' Handbook, or download it from: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/sportfishing/angling/2010-AG-Complete.pdf>. Also checkout the NS DFA website for additional information about the Nova Scotia fishing and aquaculture industry: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/>

