

A photograph of two hikers walking away from the camera on a forest trail. The hiker in the foreground is wearing a dark jacket and blue pants, carrying a red and white backpack. The hiker behind is wearing a white shirt and a backpack. They are surrounded by tall, thin trees and dense green foliage. Sunlight filters through the canopy. A red banner is at the top, and white text is at the bottom.

A Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust Publication

A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road

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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
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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 Shellenutt and thank them for sharing the history of the area with the present and future generations.

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Welcome

As Chair of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust I am delighted to invite you to enjoy one of the many hikes available along portions of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. The area is rich in natural history, and its history of settlement. Its mosaic of scenic landscapes and waterways provide habitat to a wide variety of mammals, birds, fish, plants, lichens, and insects. A plethora of waterways await your discovery by canoe or kayak.

The area is home to a remnant herd of Mainland Moose, now listed as an endangered species.

As you plan your hike please note, there is no potable water or food services available along this trail. Please pack out what you pack in - leave no trace. The Old St. Margarets Bay Road is rocky, uneven and water covered in places. Care must be exercised when using this trail; a sturdy walking stick is recommended. It is highly recommended that you pack sufficient food and water to sustain you over the planned duration of your trip. Sturdy water-resistant footwear, suitable seasonal clothing, a GPS, compass, map(s), and cell phone are now considered standard equipment for the hiker. Cell phone coverage is good in most sections of this road. Coyotes are becoming more prevalent on the Chebucto Peninsula. Please visit the Department of Natural Resources website to learn how to deal with them if you encounter one or more on a hike. It is recommended you do not hike alone.

Enjoy your travels, stay curious and take delight in the beauty of your surroundings.

Beth McGee, Chair

March 2010



Endangered Mainland Moose

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Winter on the Old St. Margarets Bay Road

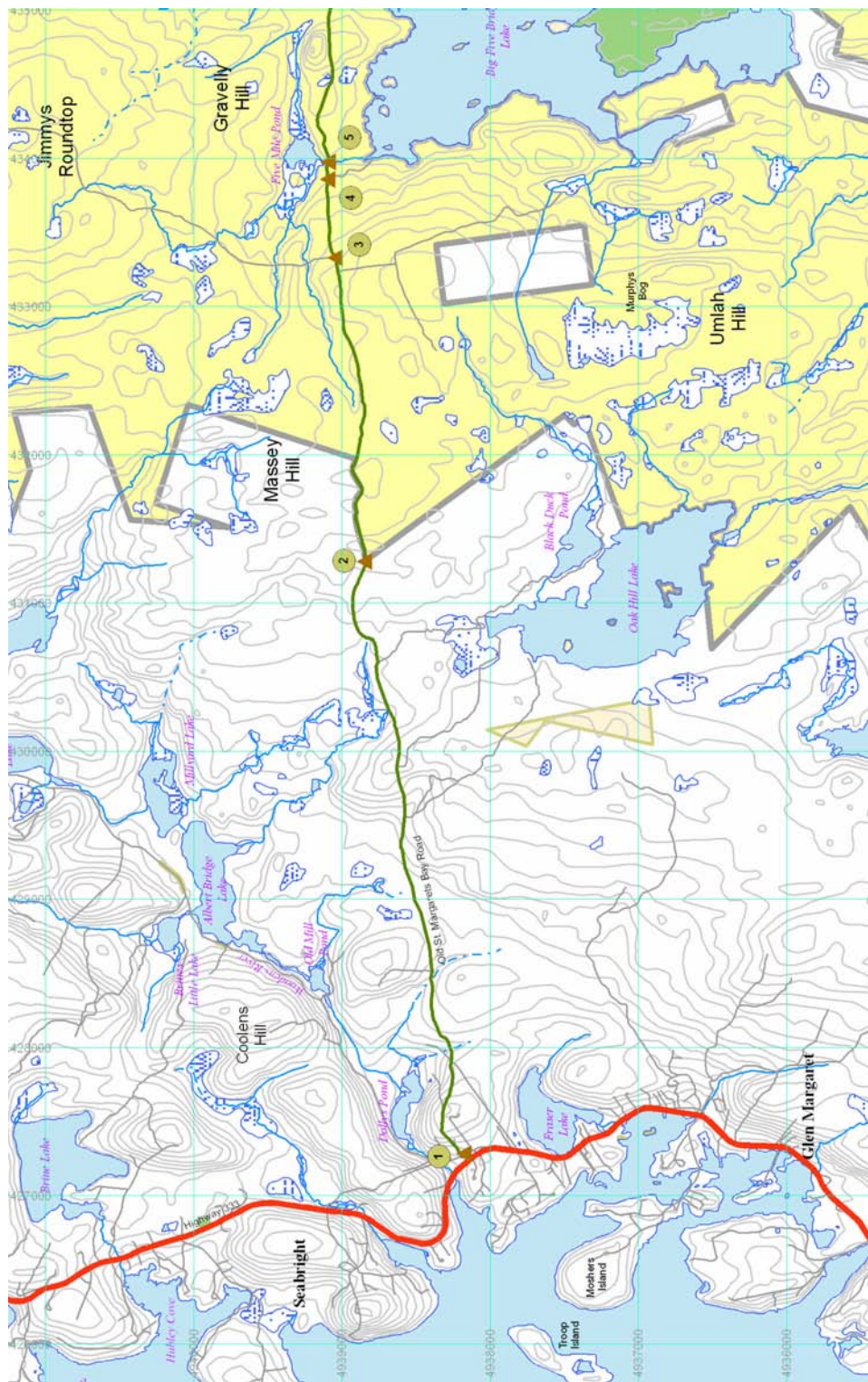


INTRODUCTION

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 the early years of the province. 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. Margarets Bay”. The road was constructed prior to 1800. Currently the road is under the direction of Nova Scotia Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) and is classified as a K Road. This designation means the road is not maintained by NSTIR and is not suitable for motorized vehicles. In Nova Scotia, by statute every road is 66 feet wide unless otherwise designated.

The eastern end of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road, situated in Long Lake Provincial Park, is no longer under the direction of NSTIR and motorized vehicles are not permitted within the park boundaries. The administration of the park is the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources.

Today the old road plays another important role in that it forms one of the geographic boundaries of a number of communities, according to HRM Civic Addressing. From the Crown land post near Massey Hill in the west, the road forms the boundary between the communities of Hubley on the north side and Glen Margaret to the south. At Nine Mile River the road forms the boundary between the communities of Otter Lake (north) and Hatchet Lake (south). The road then crosses into Goodwood.



Glen Margaret to Big Five Bridge Lake

The western end of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road has its beginning from Westhaver Road in Glen Margaret, 12.5 km from the intersection of Highway 333 and Highway 3 in Upper Tantallon. The map shows details of the area. Limited parking is available on the Westhaver Road **(Coordinate 1)**. The Road begins just past civic number 25.

Originally, the land where the road begins was owned by Edward Hoosier; in fact, what is now known as Woodens River was originally known as Hoosier's River. Another interesting fact is that in 1855, Woodens River was spelled Woodins River; named after the Woodin family that owned considerable



Woodens River

holdings immediately adjacent to the river and the land around Woodens Cove. The Woodens River is the first of three watersheds you will encounter during the first 22 km of your hike. The Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization plays an active role in monitoring the health of this watershed. In the early days the main road, Highway 333, crossed Woodens River further east than its current location. If you walk up the Woodens River Road, 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 the concrete pillars can still be seen in the river. Logs were floated down the river and milled at this site.

The waters of Woodens River provide good trout habitat. For a number of years a trout hatchery operated in the area of Dolly's 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.

During your walk, you will encounter the occasional abandoned car or truck off to the side of the road; many of these have been there for a considerable time. The Trust has made a concerted effort to clear the area of these unsightly distractions.

As you begin your hike on the Old St. Margarets Bay Road from the entrance on Westhaver Road, 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 the land grants.

The road rises from sea level in Glen Margaret to approximately 225 feet above sea level at Oak Hill. The Hill

also lends it's name to a lake to the south which cannot be seen from the road. This area is densely forested with oak trees, thus the name. The first Crown land post is located at **Coordinate 2**. At this point you are approximately 4.5 km (3 miles) into your hike. From here to Big Five Bridge Lake the elevation drops to approximately 53.6 metres (176 feet).

Many of our local land marks derive their 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.

The Fire Road, a woodland extension of Joshua Slocum Avenue, intersects the Old St. Margarets Bay Road at about 6.75 km (4.5 miles) (**Coordinate 3**). Built in 1966 as a means of accessing the area to fight forest fires, the Fire Road runs north to the meet Joshua Slocum Avenue in Lewis Lake or northeast to the Hubleys Lake Road in Hubley via the Old Halifax Road. The Fire Road was built by the Department of Lands and Forests (now Natural Resources), under the guidance of forest ranger Ralph Wheadon, and then Deputy Minister, Wilfrid Creighton, both residents of the area.

Just a short distance beyond the Joshua Slocum Trail (Fire Road) (~600 m) (**Coordinate 4**), a trail to the south leads to Big Five Bridge Lake, also known as Price's 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 road being upgraded there was a series of five pole bridges. The first one was over the brook from Five Mile Pond

(**Coordinate 5**) 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 (**Coordinate 6**) 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 9 km (6 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. Big Five Bridge Lake and Moore's Lake were once considered for a



Beach at Big Five Bridge Lake

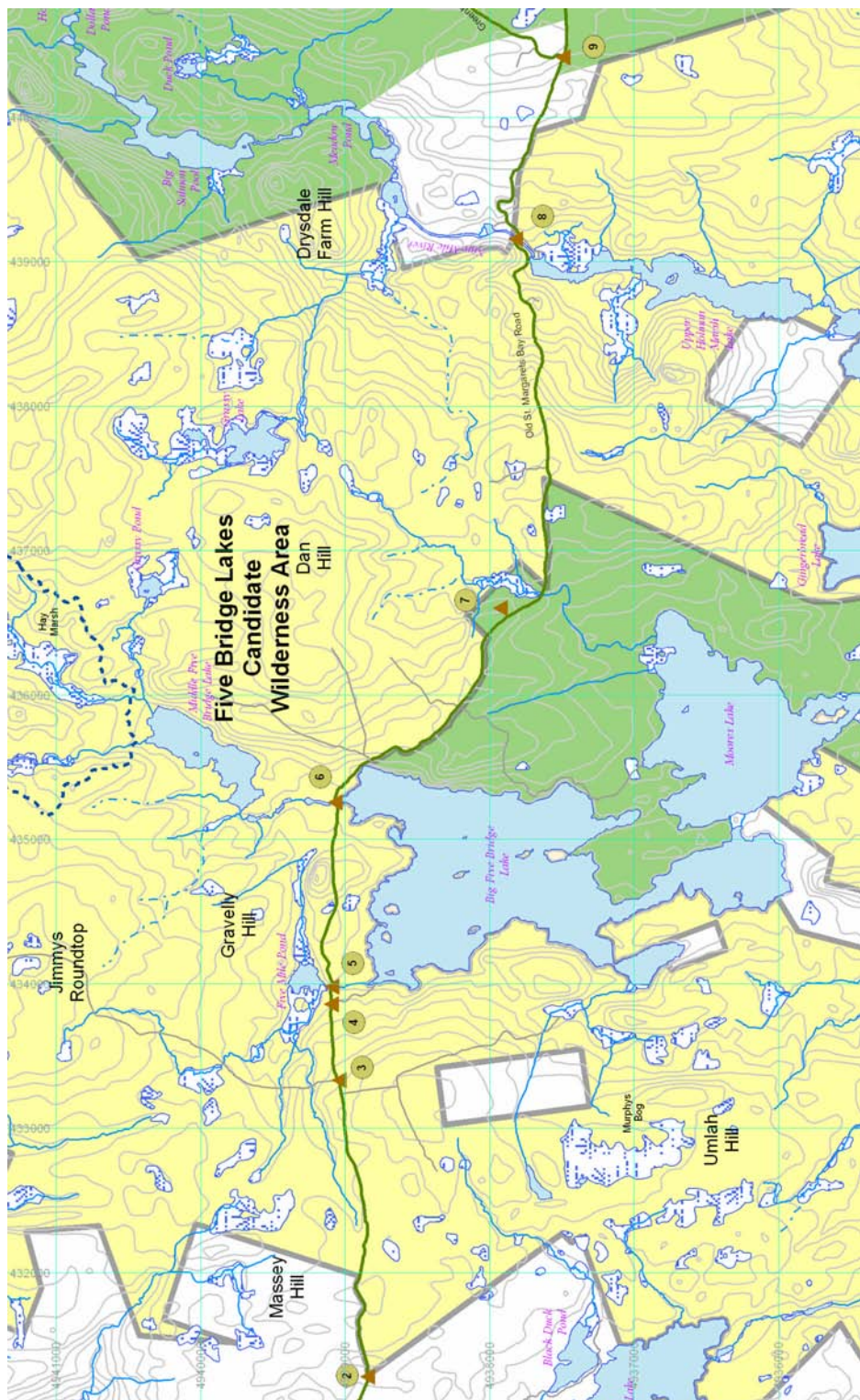
potential water supply for the City of Halifax; an alternate site was chosen at Pockwock Lake off the Hammonds Plains Road.

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 sight any of these majestic animals during your walk, we encourage you to contact Nova Scotia Natural Resources as soon as possible and provide them with coordinates or a description of the location where the sighting took place.

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 Big Five Bridge Lake, the road begins its ascent to 76 m (250 ft) above sea level. Here the road crosses land originally owned by J. Gordon Bennett and Edward Moore who it is believed Moores Lake is named after. 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 traveller. On the north side of the road you will notice a large field with rock walls and a small cabin situated on the property (**Coordinate 7**).

Just beyond the cabin the road passes through a large wet area that may require patience to cross. In recent times, a boardwalk-like structure has been constructed to assist travellers in their navigation of this wet area.



Big Five Bridge Lake to Nine Mile River

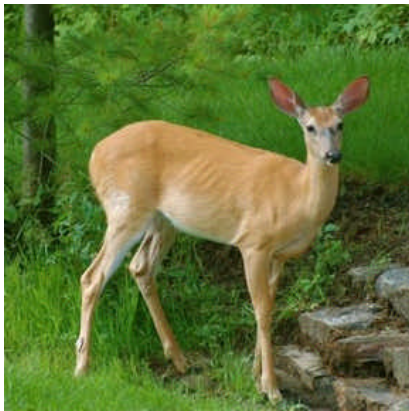
During the last ice age, retreating glaciers left their mark upon the landscape giving rise to the many lakes and rivers that occupy the Chebucto Peninsula and much of south-western Nova Scotia. The glaciers also left behind majestically placed erratics. These are boulders of various sizes moved from 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..



Erratic boulder on the Chebucto Peninsula

As you walk through the area you will observe a mixed variety of tree species. Regrettably, due to the scraping effects of the glaciers, most of the top soil was removed, making it a difficult 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 in advance of the warming temperatures. 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



White-tailed deer

ground cover on the barrens turns to maroon. Depending on the time of year, the time of day, lighting conditions and good 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. Be sure to take extra batteries for your camera.

From the wet area east of the Bennett Farm, the road rises in elevation and continues to Nine Mile River (**Coordinate 8**). 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



Nine Mile River



Bridge - Nine Mile River

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.

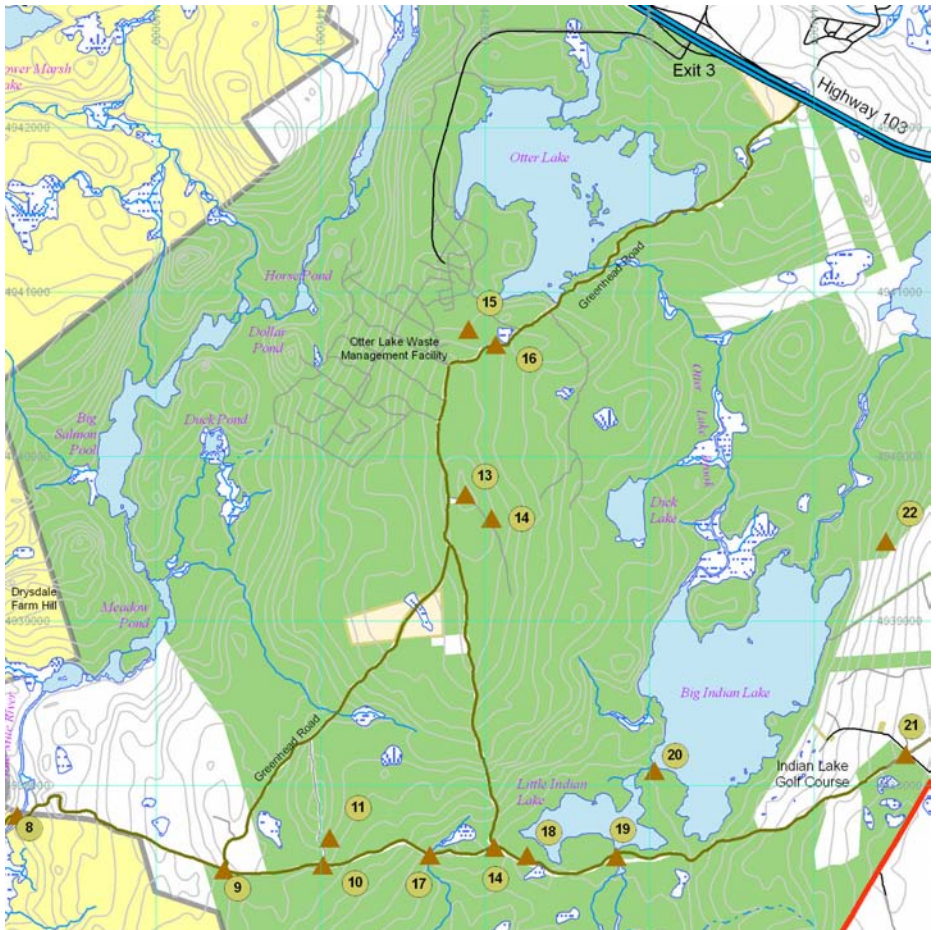
The original bridge over the Nine Mile River was buttressed with hewn granite blocks which are still in evidence on the river bank. Nine Mile River was once a productive salmon river, however, years of pollution and misuse have resulted in the river no longer being able to support a viable Atlantic salmon run. The river still does sustain a healthy trout population.

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.

The Otter Lake Landfill is situated along the banks of the river about 2 miles to the north. A sewage treatment plant, located to

the north in the community of Timberlea, discharges into the River. Regrettably, this treatment plant provides only secondary treatment of the waste that flows into the river.

This is the second watershed in this phase of your hike. The watersheds of the Chebucto Peninsula offer the canoe and kayak enthusiasts many opportunities to enjoy this activity. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia (www.canoe kayak.ca) for details regarding canoe routes and portages in the area.



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

As you cross the river the public land to the north 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 (**Coordinate 9**) connects at Old St. Margarets Bay Road and crosses Umlah properties.

The second branch (centre) of the Greenhead Road (**Coordinate 10**) is found further east along Old St. Margarets Bay Road. The area 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* (**Coordinate 11**) which contains two headstones, one for Edmund Archibald Carmichael, b. April 23, 1849; d. July 19, 1873 at 25 years; 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



E. Archibald Carmichael marker
Carmichael Cemetery

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. Pileated woodpeckers are known to inhabit the area around the old farm.

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

The third branch (east) (**Coordinate 12**) and the centre branch 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. Both Umlah and Carmichael families had farms along this road.

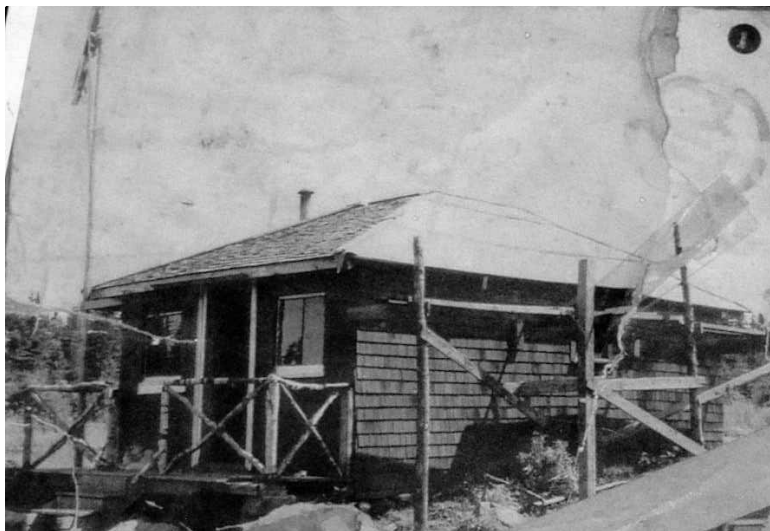
The three branches of the Greenhead Road will take you out to Highway 103 near Exit 3 where there is a small parking area. This may also be a starting or ending point of your hike.



Typical Wet Section of Road

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 1938-40. 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



Greenhead Interim School circa 1936 (Hen House)

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 (**Coordinate 13**).

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* (**Coordinate 14**). 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, b. 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.



James Umlah headstone at Greenhead Road Cemetery

Otter Lake Cemetery (**Coordinate 15**) is located in the woods to the west of the Greenhead Road, very near the waste management facility. 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 (**Coordinate 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.

The Greenhead Road is classed as a 'K' Road under the control of Nova Scotia Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal. This road also used by the ATV community wishing to travel from Timberlea through to St. Margarets Bay and onward to Nichols Lake on the Prospect Road.



The Indian Lakes to Prospect Road

Between the second and third branches of the Greenhead Road is a small stream that flows south to Nichols Lake (**Coordinate 17**). A recent trail has been cut that allows you to hike south to the Prospect Road, around Nichols Lake, crossing the Prospect River via a wooden bridge.

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 (**Coordinate 18**).

Traveling east, you continue through HRM lands until you reach the Prospect River, the third watershed. Little Indian Lake is to the north (**Coordinate 19**). 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 were further downstream from the current location. The remnants of the old abutments can still be seen.

As you walk parallel to Little Indian Lake, a road cut north



Little Indian Lake

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 Big Indian Lake. If you turn left the road will take you to the dam. Once there, if you turn right at the Big Indian Dam Road, it will lead you back to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road. The dam (**Coordinate 20**) was constructed in 1942.

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 with Old Coach Road (**Coordinate 21**). A public parking lot is located next to the trail. Glen Margaret to Goodwood via the Old St. Margarets Bay Road is approximately 22 km (16 miles) This could be an ending point for this part of the hike.



John and Caroline
Umlah Cemetery

If you wish to continue travelling the Old St. Margarets Bay Road follow Old Coach Road south east 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-kilometre 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



Dam at Big Indian Lake

at the north end of Big Indian Lake. The headstone reads: John Umlah, d. June 16, 1888 age 84 years; Caroline 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 (**Coordinate 22**). 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 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.

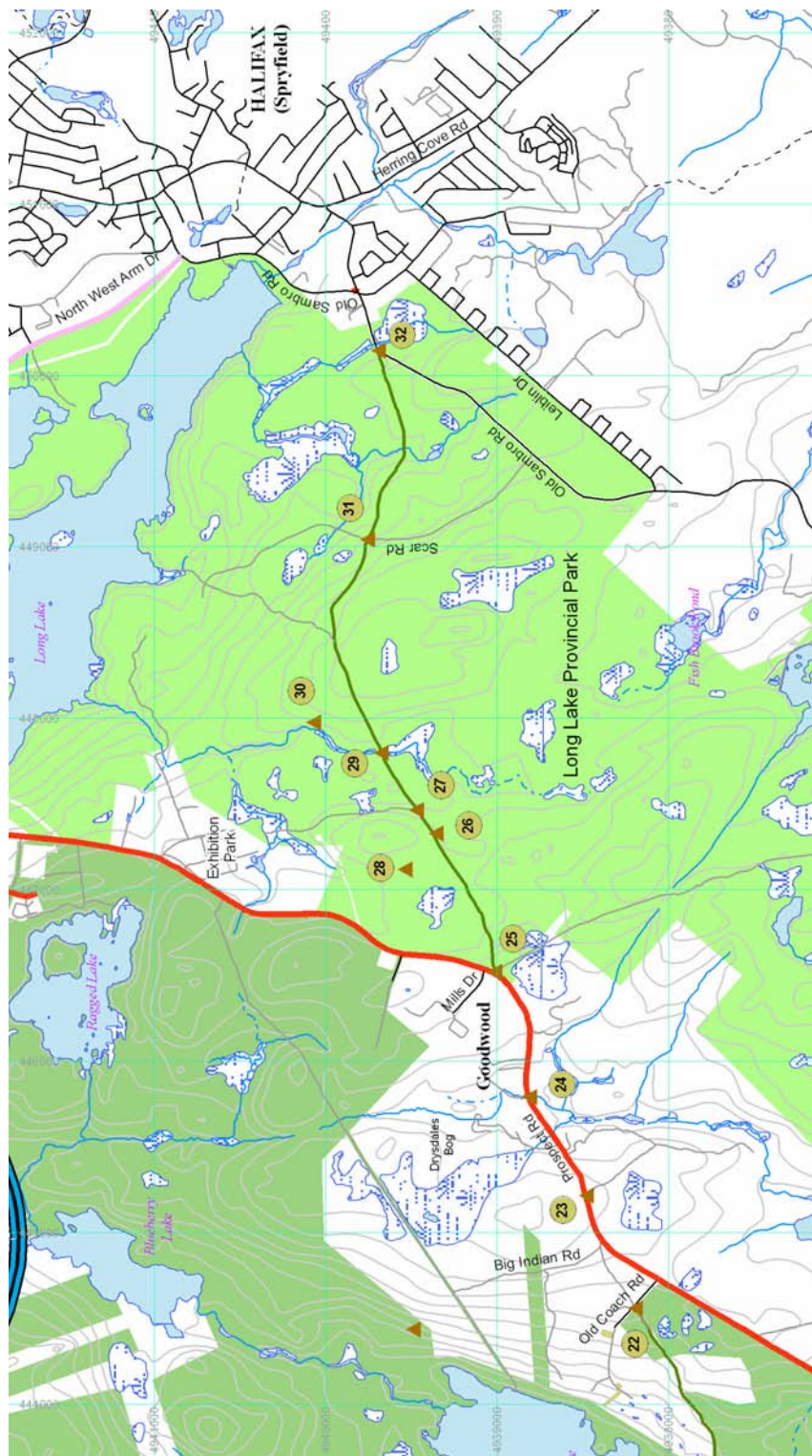
Goodwood to Spryfield

From the parking lot on Old Coach Road turn east and proceed to the Prospect Road (Hwy 333). Follow the Prospect Road northward 0.65 km 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) (**Coordinate 23**), but in reality it is the public road to St. James United Church Cemetery. The cemetery, located on land donated by Charles Drysdale, is a 10-15 minute walk from the Prospect Road and contains the remains of the 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 (**Coordinate 24**), near 921 Prospect Road, which has its beginning in the 75 acre (+/-) Drysdale Bog. The bog is in the headwaters of several river systems including Terence Bay River and Prospect River. The bog drains into Big Indian Lake through various 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.

Across from Civic 739 Prospect Road (near Mills Road





Drysdale Bog

Intersection) you will see a small parking lot (**Coordinate 25**) at the head of the continuation of 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 right will take you to Spruce Hill Lake and on to 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 in Harrietsfield.

The road to the left is the continuation of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road which terminates at the Old Sambro Road in Spryfield.

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 this 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. The Long Lake Provincial Park Association has played an active role in overseeing the development of this park since 1987. You will encounter many wet areas as you make your way through the park; a walking stick is recommended.

Within the park there are three known cemeteries. The first, known as *Marriott Cemetery* (**Coordinate 26**) 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. Marriot d. April 18, 1909 age 19 months, daughter of James and Lillian.

As you proceed northeast you will note a road (**Coordinate 27**) to the northwest that, if followed, will exit behind Exhibition Park. This is known as the Old Post Road where you will find the *Purcell's Ground Cemetery* (**Coordinate 28**). It 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; Susanna Marriott, daughter of John and Isabella Marriott, d. April 27, 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



Marriott Cemetery



Purcell's Ground Cemetery



Purcell's Ground Cemetery

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 here.

Back on the Old St. Margarets Bay Road, you continue on to Beaver Dam Brook (**Coordinate 29**). This section of the Old St. Margarets Bay Road can be quite wet.

There is a trail located on the east side of the brook. If you turn left and follow the trail it will take you to the parking lot on St. Margaret's 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 Long Lake Watershed, the fifth and final watershed that you will cross during your hike. In 1848 a wooden dam was built at the outlet of Beaver Lake at McIntosh



John Umlah Cemetery

Run, raising the water level 25 feet 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 road to the left. Along this road you will find the final resting place of John Umlah b. June 20, 1829, d. February 19, 1893 (**Coordinate 30**). If you continue to walk past this area you will meet up with the trail that will take you to the parking lot on St. Margarets Bay Road (Highway 3). John Umlah lived and farmed in the area for many years. A significant portion of what is now Long Lake Provincial Park was expropriated from his heirs in 1953-54.

Further along Old St. Margarets Bay Road you will come to the Umlah farm. The remains of the old farm house foundations can still be seen on the south side of the road near the chestnut and lilac trees. John Umlah purchased the farm circa 1862 from John Wagner, his grandnephew, at below market value in return



John Umlah Farmhouse circa 1930

for his care and keep until his passing. John Wagner died in 1863, ten years after his wife, Mary Ann (Umlah) Wagner.

Across the road are the foundations of outbuildings. If you look close by you can find the cement floor of what used to be a dance hall. 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.

The remnants of Scar Road (**Coordinate 31**), which was intended to provide access to Long Lake and to a planned picnic area, can be seen further along the trail. 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 once 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 (Highway 306) (**Coordinate 32**), formerly known as Dart's Fork. At one time there was a stone marker situated at 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.



Dart House circa 1920

Just prior to Dart's Fork you will note a 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 1950's, 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) (**Coordinate 32**). Parking is limited here. You will now have traveled approximately five 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 a one-day hike, making this a unique walk. The impact of a healthy watershed on the environment is beyond calculation.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk and that you will encourage others to make full use of our public land. 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.

Points of Interest (Coordinates)

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

A digital version of these coordinates are 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 within 5 metres +/- . Cemetery coordinates were reported and the accuracy of them have not been confirmed. 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 www.geonova.ca. Some knowledge of coordinate systems in use in Nova Scotia is required.

Points of Interest (Coordinates)

Point	Easting	Northing	Description
1	427285	4938175	Beginning at Westhaver Rd
2	431280	4938845	Crown Post 1
3	433333	4939043	Fire Road Junction
4	433859	4939094	Road to Big Five Bridge Lake
5	433980	4939089	Five Mile Pond
6	435259	4939066	Old Four Bridges Location
7	436603	4937924	Bennett Farm (approx)
8	439159	4937820	Nine Mile River
9	440415	4937490	Greenhead Road 1
10	441026	4937512	Greenhead Road 2
11	441010	4937502	Carmichael Cemetery
12	442057	4937626	Greenhead Road 3
13	441785	4939321	High Point (elevation)
14	442041	4939625	Greenhead Road Cemetery
15	441902	4940775	Otter Lake Cemetery
16	442068	4940683	Greenhead Road Junction
17	441666	4937578	Trail to Nichols Lake
18	442256	4937574	Drysdale Farm
19	442800	4937570	Little Indian Lake
20	443030	4938094	Big Indian Lake Dam
21	444560	4938190	Old Coach Road
22	444437	4939487	John & Caroline Umlah Cemetery
23	445220	4938477	Road to St. James Cemetery
24	445794	4938808	Partridge Brook
25	446524	4939010	Prospect Road Parking Lot
26	447329	4939354	Marriott Cemetery
27	447466	4939467	Old Post Road
28	447119	4939533	Purcell's Ground Cemetery
29	447800	4939675	Beaver Dam Brook
30	447977	4940069	John Umlah Headstone
31	449045	4939753	Scar Road
32	450146	4939691	End of Old St Margarets Bay Road

Synopsis

A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margarets 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. Margarets Bay Road in the Five Bridge Lakes Candidate Wilderness Area as well as the Western Common and other public lands in Halifax Regional Municipality, 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.

About the Author

Wayne N. Rogers



Wayne Rogers is a founding member of the 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 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. Margarets Bay Road and over the lands of the Chebucto Peninsula.

It is through Wayne's research and original draft that has brought this *Guide* to fruition. Community members and other interested parties have volunteered their information and pictures. Through the support of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust and our funders, the writing and publishing of *A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road* has been made possible.



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