

# The Bridge

## Chair

**Harry Ward**

[harryward@eastlink.ca](mailto:harryward@eastlink.ca)

**February 2017**

*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 Joanne Ellis*

[fbwht@gmail.com](mailto:fbwht@gmail.com)

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## Message from the Chair



It has been a very busy time for the Trust and much has been accomplished over the past year, since our last newsletter in February 2016. We have much to celebrate and many to applaud as we share this update with our members and community partners.

Honouring our volunteers and supporters has always been important. We've had a few events and occasions this year to mark special appreciation from the Trust. St. Margaret's Bay's first forest ranger Ralph Wheadon certainly was one of them, as he was honoured with a surprise recognition event on June 25<sup>th</sup> at

the Estabrooks Hall with his family, friends and community. A section of the trail is now officially designated as the Ralph Wheadon Trail. See details page 4.

Our Trust Board volunteers joined more than 250 people for MLA Iain Rankin's (Timberlea-Prospect) evening of community celebration and commemoration August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Halifax Exhibition Centre in Goodwood. Iain hosted this special event to publically recognize the enormous contribution made to the community by its volunteers. So glad we were proudly a part of it. See story page 5.

Cyclists were officially welcomed to the wilderness area trails in October with a celebration ribbon-cutting and bike ride event to mark the NS Environment decision to allow all bikers on the hard-packed trails already in use by ATVs. See story page 5.

Work continues on the establishment of the province's first wilderness helipad. Trust Board volunteer and ambulance attendant John Bignell is leading the project to have a space designated as a safe-landing zone for emergency helicopters. See update article page 4.

The Nine Mile River Bridge project is almost completed with a new steel structure being assembled and installed sometime this month. This five-year project, led by Mike Marriott and his crew of helpful volunteers many from the local Safety-Minded ATV Association, will allow trail users safe access for many years to come. See details page 6.

Trust Board volunteers Beth McGee, Mike Marriott, Barb Allan and many others have contributed updated information, photos and maps to help produce the second edition of the book *A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Trail*. This free publication offers explorers maps and coordinates to finding their way through the wilderness area from Glen Margaret to Goodwood. It also offers some history of the area and is a great resource. Details page 7.

Thanks to the success of the Bay Treasure Chest, the Trust has received and will continue to receive regular funding to support trail improvements and activities that otherwise would have remained on our wish list. Funds are also available to support community projects through an exciting new community grants program. First deadline for applications is April 1<sup>st</sup>. See the story on page 7.

## **Board of Trustees**

**Harry Ward (Chair)**

**Joanne Ellis**

(Recording Secretary)

**Vacant (Secretary)**

**Harry Ward**

(Acting Treasurer)

**Barbara Allen**

(Membership)

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**John Bignell**

**John Cascadden**

**Peter Lund**

**Mike Marriott**

**Beth McGee**

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**Gary Armsworthy**

**Afton Doubleday**

**Bill Estabrooks**

**Scott Guthrie**

**Catherine King**

**Mike Lumplugh**

**Eleanor Lindsay**

**Tom Musial**

**Jeff Parks**

**Andrew Parsons**

**David Patriquin**

**Iain Rankin**

**Wayne Rogers**

**Allan Shatford**

**Hans Toom**

**Ralph Wheadon**

## **CHAIR MESSAGE** Continued

We invite you to join us at the **AGM on Sunday, March 5 from 2 to 4 p.m.** at the Estabrooks Hall in Lewis Lake. Learn more about Trust activities and future plans. Special guest speaker, Bruce Stewart will present "An Archaeological Overview of the old Greenhead Settlement".

Everyone is welcome at our 11<sup>th</sup> annual May Fair in the Park on Sunday, May 28, and the Warbler Walk on Sunday, June 4, both at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park. Both events are free and offer families and friends of all ages a chance to relax and enjoy some outdoor fun. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

For more information on any of our initiatives and how you can help, contact us. Also we would like to hear from you with any ideas and/or comments. Check out our website [www.fivebridgestrust.ca](http://www.fivebridgestrust.ca) and follow us on Facebook for the latest news and updates. Please feel free to share your photos from trips within the Trust wilderness area. We are always seeking new content from our community.

Sincerely,

*Harry*

Harry Ward

## **Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust held its AGM on March 20, 2016**

On Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 more than 30 interested community members gathered for the Annual General Meeting to review Trust business, welcome new Board volunteers, and connect with each other.

The meeting was also a chance to recognize some long-standing volunteers who have worked diligently to help promote and protect the wilderness area. Beth McGee, Board volunteer and Trust Founder, was recognized with a special trail intersection being named after her: McGee's Crossing. Avid birder, Hans Toom was also recognized for his contributions over the years with leading the Warbler Walk event held every spring in Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park.

The assembled crowd also enjoyed a presentation by Tom Musial, Chair of the Five Bridges Lakes Wilderness Stewardship Coalition. The talk reviewed the Trust's activities over the past 15 years and what the future challenges may hold.

Annual membership fees were also collected; more than 160 members and friends of the Trust are now following and supporting our activities.



Honouring Beth McGee with the presentation of the trail sign bearing her name are (L to R): Harry Ward, Beth McGee, Heather Olivella (NS Environment) and Peter Lund

Trail sign in place as of last spring



### **10th Annual May Fair in the Park**

With wonderful community support, the Trust presented its 10th annual May Fair event for the general public on Sunday, May 29th, 2016 at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park. As usual, it was a fun-filled educational afternoon for kids and adults alike with face painting, games and scavenger hunt fun. The weather co-operated for everyone enjoyed Sobey's supplied hot dogs, barbecued by Board volunteers Peter Lund and Bob Angus. The Trust and Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails showcased displays highlighting their work in the community and in the Five Bridges Lakes Wilderness area. Representatives from St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails were also on hand to share information. Scott Pelton of the Indian Point Young Naturalists Club and his colleagues organized a fun nature scavenger hunt. Volunteer fire fighters from Station 57 were on hand to demonstrate fire truck features. Red spruce seedlings supplied by NS Natural Resources were handed out by Board volunteer Beth McGee. Thanks to all for helping host a wonderful afternoon of fun.



Kellie Allen (L), Vice-Chair of St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association (SMBSA) and Scott Pelton (R) of the Indian Point Young Naturalists Association and a Board Member at St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association (SMBSA)



### **Warbler Walk**

About a dozen early-morning risers enjoyed a walking tour through Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on June 6 with avid-birder Hans Toom leading the way. For about three hours, the group walked and listened for the bird songs from the variety of warblers that nest in the area. What a wonderful way to enjoy the park and these fascinating creatures. More birding info and beautiful photos can be found at his website <http://www.hanstoom.com/blog>.



### **Ralph Wheadon Celebration Announces Trail Naming in His Honour**

St. Margaret's Bay's first forest ranger and long-time, Trust advisor Ralph Wheadon (87 years old) was taken by complete surprise when he arrived at the special event held in his honour on June 25th at the Estabrooks Hall. Surrounded by his family, friends and colleagues, Ralph learned that the Trust and the Province were naming a trail section, from the entrance to the wilderness area south of Long Lake to the intersection with the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road, as the Ralph Wheadon Trail. Back in the day, Ralph had been involved in building the fire road from the cul-de-sac at Joshua Slocum Avenue to the intersection of Old St. Margaret's Bay Road, among many other projects.

At the celebration, Ralph enjoyed sharing stories about his work in what is now the wilderness area. The Lewis Lake Fire Depot, which was built in 1955, assigned Ralph as its first permanent Forest Ranger. "Back in those days," Ralph explained, "fires continued at the rate of 100-250 per year and I had to work on or investigate each of them. I grabbed whomever I could to help fight fires, whether during the day or through the night."

Ralph indicated that he was also responsible for the payrolls of local fire departments (10 at the time) and upgrading connector roads throughout the Five Bridge wilderness area to access fires. Ralph commented that "eventually a permanent building, bunkhouse and kitchen, with a cook for the fire season, grew at Lewis Lake. We had Ranger school students and first year Forestry students from Fredericton help make up the work force." Congratulations again Ralph!



Photo L to R: Harry Ward, Ralph Wheadon, Heather Olivella (NSE)

### **Establishment of a Wilderness Helipad Site**

John Bignell, Trust Board volunteer and paramedic with NS Emergency Health Services, has been working with the Province to establish a designated helicopter landing location within the Five Bridges Wilderness Area. This landing location would be the province's first one designated within a wilderness area. It could play a crucial role in how emergency services respond to an accident within the remote area.

Mike Marriot, President of the Safety-Minded ATV Association and Trust Board volunteer, organized a tour through the area on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Members of the ATV Association arrived with nine ATVs to escort Gerhard Meintjes, EHS Captain and Base Flight Safety Officer, and other Trust Board volunteers Beth McGee, Peter Lund and John through the stretch of 19 km trail to view potential helipad locations.

The story was covered by CBC Nova Scotia where Mike Marriott gave an interview explaining the importance of this decision. Mike believes, "there needs to be a faster way to get people out of the remote areas in an emergency, especially now that the trail near Head of St. Margaret's Bay is growing in popularity. Right now it could take two to three hours to reach someone who is injured and another two to three hours to get them out. If a helipad was established, they would still have to get in but they could then pick them up and they'd be at the hospital probably within 10 to 15 minutes."

John has since met with the Province and EHS Lifeflight, and it seems everyone is in agreement. Final planning is underway and hopefully a new helipad site will be designated and operational by summer 2017.



### **Trust Volunteers Honoured at Community Celebration**

Trust Board members joined more than 250 people of all ages at a special evening of community celebration and commemoration hosted by MLA Iain Rankin (Timberlea-Prospect) on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Halifax Exhibition Centre in Goodwood. Every person on the Trust Board received an award.

Iain hosted this special event to publicly recognize the enormous contribution made to the community by volunteers, each person or group recognized received a framed certificate commemorating service to community by groups and individuals.



Trust Volunteers (L to R): Barb Allen, Peter Lund, John Cascadden, Harry Ward, Tom Musial, MLA Iain Rankin, Bob Angus, John Bignell, Beth McGee, and Mike Marriott

### **Bikes Approved Within Wilderness Area**

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and joyful bike ride was celebrated October 7<sup>th</sup> to mark the new Nova Scotia Environment designation of 12 km of an existing, approved all-terrain vehicle trail for bicycle use within the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area. This is a first for Nova Scotia and came together thanks to Iain Rankin (MLA for Timberlea-Prospect) and community groups in the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area Coalition and the Ecology Action Centre. Special thanks to the staff and Minister at NS Environment for making this happen. Cyclists are welcome!



MLA Iain Rankin cuts the ribbon cheered on by Trust volunteers and bikers.





### Nine Mile River Bridge

A new bridge across the Nine Mile River is about to be installed -- a real milestone that will allow trail users to connect from Goodwood to Glen Margaret and Tantallon including 22 km of managed trail in the Five Bridge Wilderness Area and hundreds of km of connecting trails via the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road, Old Coach Road, Old Halifax Road, Lewis Lake Fire Road, ATV connector trail and the St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails to the North, which allows for province-wide trail connections. Steel pieces have been delivered to the site and assembly and installation of the steel is completed, lumber and hardware will be installed this month and weather permitting, the new bridge will be in place by the end of the month. This new structure will make it safer for trail users for years to come and has been 5-years in the making.

Project manager and Trust Board volunteer Mike Marriott (also President of the local Safety-Minded ATV Association) has led this initiative and spent countless hours with other club volunteers getting to this final phase. Funding was provided through a Connect2 Grant, Off Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund, the Bay Treasure Chest, HRM Councillor Matt Whitman, Prospect Road Recreation Association, ATV Association of NS, National Trails Coalition and Health Promotion and Protection.

Special thanks to Iain Rankin (MLA Timberlea-Prospect), ATVANS/ trails coordinator Corey Robar and our local Safety-Minded ATV Association members. Without everyone's contribution of time and effort, this trail improvement would never have been achieved.





### Reprinting the Walking Guide

A second-edition reprint of the *Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road* is underway. It contains updated maps and information to guide trail users who wish to explore the wilderness area with some history and landmarks identified along the way. Trust Board volunteers Barb Allen, Beth McGee, with the support of many, are leading the project. When it is printed, the guide will be shared broadly with libraries, schools, and local community groups to educate and further promote the wilderness area. Funding has been provided by HRM Community Grants, St. Margaret's Bay Regional Tourism Development Association, Reg Rankin (former HRM Councillor), and Bay Treasure Chest. A huge thanks to everyone who contributed new GPS coordinates to help with updates.

### Bay Treasure Chest – Big Thank you

Through the Bay Treasure Chest funding, the Trust has been able to accomplish activities that would otherwise remain on our wish lists. Trail improvements including adding gravel bedding on trails, signage markers, film segments from the wilderness area, and hiring communications support are just a few of the ways we've been able to use the funds and improve the workings of the Trust and its volunteers.

### Call for Grant Applications – New Environmental Stewardship Grants Available

The Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust is pleased to support an exciting new Environmental Stewardship Grant Program that allows community members or groups to receive funding for projects that align with the Trust's objectives.

This new program is made possible through funds received by the Bay Treasure Chest. The deadline for this first round of applications is April 1, 2017, and the theme of this round of grant applications is *trail development*.

Find application details at the Trust website: [www.fivebridgestrust.ca](http://www.fivebridgestrust.ca)

### Wetland Hot Line

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

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

**Thursday, March 23, 2017  
7pm**

**Lakeside Community  
Centre,  
1492 St Margarets Bay Rd,  
Lakeside, NS**

**Hosted by:**

**Woodens River Watershed Environmental  
Organization (WRWEO)**


**Next Date: May 25, 2017**

**Everyone Welcome!**

**2017**

**Community Council  
Meetings**

**Please call 902-490-4000  
for time and location of  
the meeting.**



We invite you to join us at the

**Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday, March 5 from 2 to 4 p.m.**

**Estabrooks Community Centre, Lewis Lake.**

Learn more about Trust activities and future plans.

Special guest speaker, **Bruce Stewart**  
will present "An Archaeological Overview of the old Greenhead Settlement".

### Charitable Donations

Charitable donations to support the work of the Trust may be made by contacting

**Joanne Ellis,**

[joannegerrish@gmail.com](mailto:joannegerrish@gmail.com)

or **Harry Ward**

[harryward@eastlink.ca](mailto:harryward@eastlink.ca)

An income tax receipt will be issued for your donation.

Thank you for your support!

### Moose Watch

Anyone having knowledge of moose sightings, spoor or antlers on the Chebucto Peninsula is encouraged to contact Butch Galvez, Nova Scotia Natural Resources.

[Butch.Galvez@novascotia.ca](mailto:Butch.Galvez@novascotia.ca)

**902-861-2560**

### The Bridge

**Edited by Peter Lund  
Joanne Ellis**

**Layout Jeff Parks**

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### IN MEMORIAM:

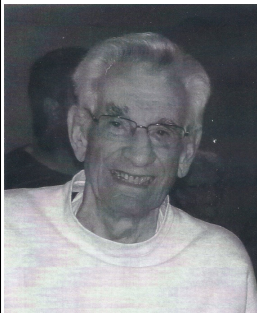


Two friends and Trust Board volunteers we will miss dearly.

**Graham Fralick**

b. Oct. 5, 1945 – d. April 8, 2016

Graham loved fishing on Price's Lake, something he enjoyed as a child with his Dad. He helped the Trust in many ways and always promoted enjoyment of the backwoods and its waters.



**Carrol Mason**

b. Aug. 27, 1931 – d. Feb. 6, 2016

Carrol is remembered fondly for saying, "As you grow older, when you can't walk or paddle these areas, your ATV becomes your wheelchair to get to the woods." He was very helpful to the Trust and instrumental in many of our projects.



Weather permitting, the new Nine Mile River bridge will replace the existing one later this month