

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, September 28, 2020

Trust Improves Canoe Route with \$5K Donation

Plans to Educate Hikers & Install Boot Brush Stations to Combat Spread of Invasive Species

Upper Tantallon, N.S. – Volunteers with the [Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust](#) (FBWHT) hosted the 19th Annual General Meeting Sunday, September 27 at the Estabrooks Hall in Lewis Lake, Nova Scotia, in a mood of celebration and appreciation. They reviewed the 2019 achievements, financials and expressed thanks to all those who supported the charity. The group’s proudest highlight from 2019 was the preservation of two properties, which combined, saved about 150 acres of wilderness land. These properties were adjacent to the Trust’s focus area the [Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area](#) (FBLWA). Acquiring land, and helping other organizations acquire it for protection from development, is a new strategy of the Trust, introduced last year.

Trust Board Chair, Harry Ward gratefully acknowledged a new partnership with local vitamin manufacturer [Nature’s Way Canada](#). Through their [1% for the Planet](#) initiative, Nature’s Way donated five thousand dollars to the Trust. This donation, earmarked to fund improvements to the FBLWA canoe route, have helped Trust volunteer Imbert Allen to improve trail conditions, remove overgrowth and build a new bridge for paddlers travelling through portage sections north of Big Five Bridge Lake.

Harry explained, “The canoe route is extensive. Passing through ten lakes and nine portage trails, it’s fallen into disrepair over the years. The progress Imbert and his team have made this summer is a wonderful start at making it more accessible for paddlers.”

Using donations, volunteer effort and funding acquired through the Trust’s [Bay Treasure Chest](#) partnership, the project list for 2020 includes; further improvements to the canoe route, water sampling, clearing a new walking trail behind the Estabrooks Centre, and a first for a Nova Scotia wilderness area, the installation of boot brush stations at several trail heads.



Safety improvements like this new bridge are underway on the canoe route with great progress made in summer 2020.



Example of a boot brush station to be added to hiking trail entrances of the FBLWA.

These units, with education panels and built-in brushes at the bottom, teach hikers and encourage all trail users to clean their boots before entering and exiting a wilderness area. Trust volunteer Ken Donnelly explains, “This cleaning helps to remove seeds, debris and other organic matter from boots that help spread invasive species from one area of the province to another. We need to protect our forests and waterways and not let that happen.” Boot brush stations will be placed at the head of the Bluff Hiking Trail and at Joshua Slocum Drive entrance to the FBLWA. AGM attendees all received their own mini-boot brushes as thank you gifts from the Trust.

The AGM concluded with a presentation about HRM wilderness preservation wins and recent projects from Allison Thorne of the [Nova Scotia Nature Trust](#). Thorne also gratefully acknowledged the twenty thousand dollar donation made by the Trust in 2019 that resulted in the acquisition of the Frederick Lake property, which spans about 100 acres near the Bluff Trail.

The Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust is a Canadian non-profit volunteer organization working to preserve, protect and promote use of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area, a vast area of 8,600 hectares of wilderness on the Chebucto Peninsula. A wilderness escape from the surrounding suburbs and bustle of nearby Halifax, the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area is a popular destination for hikers, fishers, canoers, kayakers, ATVers and nature lovers alike. Trust activities are funded through annual Memberships (\$10 for Individuals/ \$15 for Families), donations and a partnership with the [Bay Treasure Chest](#).

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The Trust is a partner of the Bay Treasure Chest. *When you play, we all win.*

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