

Highlights of the AGM on March 31,2009

The Trust's AGM was held on Tuesday, March 31,2009 at the St. Nicholas Church, in Westwood Hills The members of the Board of Trustees and the Trust Advisors have had an exceptionally busy year. Chair Beth McGee thanked them for their hard work.

Tom Musial Chair of the Steering Committee for the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition gave a report on the work of the Steering Committee seeking to protect the Crown Land Block bound by Highways 3 and 333 and the HRM Lands at Big Five Bridge Lake and Moore's Lake under the Wilderness Areas Protection Act. This report and other reports of the work of this committee are found under the heading Coalition on the Trust website. The Trust is a member group of the Coalition. A number of Trust members work on this project.

Retiring Trustees Eleanor Lindsay, Jim Law and Cathy Conrad were recognised for their contributions to the work of the Trust during their three-year terms. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Eleanor Lindsay in recognition of her 6 years service on the Board and to Cilla Dawson for her dedicated work as Chair of three successful Mayfair in the Park celebrations..

We welcomed new Trustees Denise Caines, John Cascadden and Harry Ward and returning Trustee Eleanor Lindsay

The Activity Reports, Treasurers' Report for the year as well as the Work Plan for 2009-2010 were presented and are now posted on the Trust website.

Following the business meeting our Guest Speaker, Bob Guscott, Naturalist and GIS Analyst with Forest Protection at the Department of Natural resources gave a most informative presentation entitled "Landscapes and Natural History of the Chebucto Peninsula ". His photos of the area we wish to protect were beautiful.

Thanks to all for the work in planning and organizing our AGM 2009.

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust

Annual General Meeting 2009

Reports listed below:

Report from the Chair

Work of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition

Membership

Communications Committee

Environmental Monitoring and GIS Mapping

May Fair in the Park 2008

Report on *The Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road*

Report from the Chair

Welcome to our AGM 2009. Members of the Trust have had a busy year since our last AGM in April 2008.

This year has been one of challenges for many Board members with losses of family members, illnesses and business challenges. I would like to give heartfelt thanks to the members of the Board of Trustees, Trust Advisors and other members of the Trust for their hard work on the commitments undertaken for 2008-2009. Details of a number of activities will be given in the reports of others. The highlights of the year in review are noted as follows:

- Following our April 3 2008 AGM a group of community organizations including the Wooden's River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO), St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association (SMBSA), Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails (BLTR2T), the Trust(FBWHT), Safety Minded ATV Club, and the Terence Bay Resources Opportunity Centre formed the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition to seek protection of the public lands bound by Highways 103 and 333 under the Wilderness Areas Protection Act. Trust members have been working very hard on this committee. Their work is detailed in a report elsewhere.
- Since the finding of a fungal substance infiltration in a stream near Drysdale Bog in April 2008 the Trust has been working with various government departments led by the NS Department of Environment to set up a Round Table Discussion to discuss how we as community members can get our environmental concerns addressed in a timelier manner. Renewed efforts by

Department of Environment staff are forthcoming and with them we anticipate a date for community groups and government agencies to meet.

- A lichens hike led by Lichenologist, Frances Anderson, was held on May 3 2008, as a follow up to the well received brochure *Lichens of The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail*.
- A Warbler Walk led by Hans Toom was held in Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on May 17.
- Trust members Mike Lamplugh and Jim Law were supportive volunteers when the Prospect Elementary School Students participated in the NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Learn to Fish Program held at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on May 29.
- A third successful May Fair in the Park was held on May 25 2008. Much kudos to Cilla Dawson who has chaired this event for three years.
- Trust members participated in the Job Fair and Volunteer Expo held at the St Margaret's Centre on September 27.
- The Trust has continued to provide input to DNR staff around moose sightings on the Chebucto Peninsula and to share information with the Moose Recovery Team.
- The Trust has continued with data-collection activities, including heritage sites which have been recorded in our ongoing GIS Mapping project and also in *The Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road*.
- Many Thanks to Wayne Rogers for collecting the materials and writing *The Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road* to be published in 2009. Special Thanks to those who provided funding: Nicom IT Solutions, the Chebucto West Community Health Board, Halifax Regional Municipality, NS Department of Health Promotion and Protection and the St. Margaret's Bay Regional Tourism Development Association.
- The Communications Committee responsible for work on our newspaper *The Bridge*, the Trust website, organizing COCO meetings and writing articles for local newspapers has had a busy year. The activities of this committee will be outlined in a separate report.

- Trust members in concert with the staff at the NS Department of Inland Fisheries and Agriculture and the Community Environmental Network at St Mary's University conducted Water Quality Monitoring projects on both the Wooden's River and Prospect River systems.
- The Trust has organized and co-hosted with Inland Fisheries two Public Meetings on May 7 2008 and on January 27 2009 so community members could hear the results of fish sampling carried on in 2007 and 2008 to assess the PCB Concentrations in fish populations on the various parts of the Wooden's River system.
- The Trust has provided input into the development of a management plan for the Western Common by participating in Open Houses and in a consultation process with Environmental Design and Management who are developing a Management Plan for the Western Common.
- Work is ongoing on brush and trash clean-ups along the Joshua Slocum Trail.

We look forward to continuing collaborations with community groups, government staff in our ongoing projects. We invite you to volunteer to help us in one of our projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth McGee
March 31 2009

Work of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition

This is a lengthy report which can be found on the Trust website:
www.fivebridgestrust.ca under Coalition.

Membership

The Membership of the Trust numbered 58 this year, 16 more than last year.

Throughout the year Members with e-mail capability have received copies of *The Bridge* and other news items and reports as these have been available. Members without e-mail capability receive these same items in the mail, by telephone or by hand delivery from a Trust member.

We are looking forward to working on ways to provide better methods for staying connected to our members and involving them more in our work. We would like to hear from you how about you feel we can improve our communications with you and how we can encourage you, where possible, to take an active part in our exciting work.

Cilla Dawson
March 31 2009

Communications Committee

The members of the Communications Committee are responsible for organizing Council of Community Organization (COCO) Meetings, overseeing and making recommendations to the Board about the content of the Trust website as well as the publication of *The Bridge* and organizing the writing of news articles for local newspapers. The members of the committee are Catherine King, Cilla Dawson, Eleanor Lindsay, Jim Law, Wayne Rogers, Charlotte Reinhold and Beth McGee. Many thanks to Committee members for all their dedicated work this past year.

- * Through bi-monthly Council of Community Organizations (COCO) meetings the Trust has shared information and co-ordinated activities with other community groups. Five COCO meetings were held in 2008/2009.
- * The Trust website continues to be updated thanks to the work of members of the Communications Committee and Jeff Parks.
- * Our newsletter *The Bridge* has been compiled by the members of the Communications Committee with help from other Trust members. Tom Musial continues in the role of Editor with help in layout from Jeff Parks. *The Bridge* was published 4 times in 2008-2009.
- * The work of the Trust has been publicized through the local media with articles appearing regularly in local newspapers.
- * The Communications Committee has reviewed and edited the material for *The Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road*.

Beth McGee
March 31 2009

Environmental Monitoring and GIS Mapping

The work of monitoring and GIS mapping follows beginning with the Wooden's River Collaboration.

WOODEN'S RIVER TROUT FISHERY

The Wooden's River watershed is currently designated as a catch and release 'Special Management' area for trout fishing. The Inland Fisheries division of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries implemented a moratorium on eating trout, due to the PCB concerns in Five Island Lake.

A 2005 Inland Fisheries study of Long and Croucher Lakes (John MacMillan and Tara Crandlemere) suggested the trout population might be in trouble because of a number of factors. They included: few trout captured in nets, water quality (especially temperature and oxygen level) and competition from yellow perch. In part, their observations were used to argue against allowing any retention of trout.

Don McLean, of Inland Fisheries and his staff have met with the anglers a number of times to explain the process involved in determining fishing regulations and to address the anglers' concerns and wishes. Local anglers agreed to participate in a scale sample, capture/recapture study at Dolly's Pond and Albert's Bridge Lake in 2006.

In 2007 Don was given a tour, from the Mink Holes above Long Lake, to where Wooden's River empties into the salt water, so he would have a better understanding of the complexity of the system and the various types of water that could be fished.

In 2007 and 2008 members of the Bridge took water samples in the river and all of all of the lakes below the Mink Holes in an effort to determine the quality of the water in the system.

In 2008 Jacques Whitford was contracted to expand their testing of trout for PCB's to a number of lakes below the Mink Holes. The results of their studies were explained at a meeting with local residents. They indicated that the PCB levels in all sampled trout that were well within the range for human consumption in these waters, but they did express concern about the Ph levels in the watershed.

A follow-up meeting with Inland Fisheries, early this year, was held to discuss water quality. The consensus of opinion was that water quality parameters must be measured using reliable and approved methods. It was also agreed that a data bank must be established for long-term storage of obtained information. Inland Fisheries has provided a YSI instrument to take Ph, temperature and conductivity readings to a group of volunteers that are prepared to take the necessary measurements.

Don MacLean stated that a review of the current catch and release regulations for Woodens River and area lakes will take place at the Inland Fisheries - Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (RFAC) meeting to be held in Lunenburg on the 26th of March. In accordance with Inland Fisheries' procedures, this review is posted as a proposed change for 2010, in the 2009 'Angler's Handbook'.

Jim Law
March 31,2009

Prospect River Watershed Water Sampling Project - 2008

The water sampling for the Prospect River watershed mirrored that of the 2007 schedule. Water samples were collected from Big Indian, Little Indian, Otter, Ragged and Dick lakes. The samples were analyzed by the Agricultural College lab in Truro thanks to the support of Don McLean of Inland Fisheries who generously pays for the analysis.

Although this is only the second year for this project, the results show significant changes for some of the parameters being assessed. Fortunately to date these changes have been limited to Big and Little Indian lakes and primarily relate to the amount of sodium found in the samples. It is anticipated the testing program next year will allow us the opportunity to see if the trend identified in this years sampling program continues or if it was a one off situation. In addition to the parameters currently being tested, I would recommend expanding the tests to include a reading for potassium levels especially in Big and Little Indian lakes. As you may be aware, there is a golf course located on the east side of Big Indian Lake and the topography is such that the entire run off from the golf course finds its way into the watershed of the Prospect River watershed. While the operators of the facility claim they do not use chemical fertilizers, I believe we should monitor this element in the watershed.

Another area of concern has been brought to the attention of the sampling team for the Prospect River watershed. As you know, the Drysdale Bog is recognized as being the headwater of the Terence Bay River watershed and some of the water from this bog drains into the Prospect River watershed. It has been reported that the water quality of Peter Lake is now being negatively impacted as the mayfly hatch has diminished considerably over the past three years and the few trout remaining in the lake are in very poor condition. Therefore, I am recommending our sampling program be expanded to include Partridge Book and Peter Lake to see if we can isolate the reason for the change in water quality. If there are negative factors impacting the Terence Bay River watershed emanating from Drysdale Bog then it will only be a short time before these same factors will impact the Prospect River watershed.

I wish to thank everyone who assisted in the data collection for this year and welcome anyone interested in assisting in the data collection process.

A copy of the testing results for the past two years will be attached for your review when it is available. We hope to be able to have the copy for the AGM 2009

Wayne N. Rogers

March 31 2009

May Fair in the Park 2008

The 3rd May Fair in the Park was held on Sunday, May 25 2008, in the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park. The weather was beautiful. It was estimated that the turn out was around 300 people.

Mr. Wilfrid Creighton, 104 years young, attended again and watched people enjoying his Park! The Celtica Highland Dancers, were a great attraction as usual. The childrens' games were a huge success once again. The fire truck was in attendance and of course was extremely popular for all ages!

This year a table was provided by the Chebucto Wilderness Protection Coalition to get signatures for their petition. Also providing information at their tables were BLT Rails to Trails, the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship and WRWEO.

Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the day.

Cilla Dawson
March 31 2009

Report on *The Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road*

Many Thanks to Wayne Rogers for collecting the materials and writing *The Walking Guide to the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road* to be published in 2009. This has been a painstaking process. Wayne has captured history of settlement of our forbears and recorded information about spots to visit for those who go exploring along this route.

Drafts of *The Guide* have been circulated and read by a wide range of government and community persons to gather their input. The members of the Communications Committee have read and vetted many drafts of *The Guide*. Special thanks to Shelley Webb, Past Chair of the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association for editing the material. A large vote of thanks to Jeff Parks for his help in formatting the many drafts of *The Guide* and his editorial comments.

Special Thanks to those who provided funding: Nicom IT Solutions, the Chebucto West Community Health Board, Halifax Regional Municipality, NS Department of Health Promotion and Protection and the St. Margaret's Bay Regional Tourism Development Association.

We have more work to complete before we can move to the publishing phase. Some finishing work on things like the cover and map for hikers to use needs to be completed. We need to undertake ground truthing with the *Guide* in hand to be sure what we say can be found in a certain place is correctly identified with GPS coordinates. We have some geocaches to set in place.

This has been a huge project. Many Thanks to the many people who have helped us move forward through their careful reading of our materials.

Beth McGee
March 31 2009

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust
Annual General Meeting – March 31, 2009
Treasurers Report

The Trust is pleased to advise that we are in a healthy financial situation largely due to the many generous donations received in honour of Dr Wilfrid Creighton. To date we have received 61 donations totaling \$4345.

Dr Creighton had a life long commitment to forest sustainability and the environment. He was a staunch supporter of public land and was one of the first to recognize the value in supporting an organization such as the Trust.

We were also delighted to have obtained funding for our Old St. Margarets Bay Rd Guide from 4 organizations. Capital Health and Halifax Regional Municipality provided funds in the amounts of \$3300 and \$1200 respectively. Health Promotion Healthy Living recently gave \$600 representing 80% of their pledged amount. We expect the balance of funds in the coming months. The St. Margarets Bay Regional Tourism Development Association has pledged \$1000 for 2009. The Guide project demonstrates the dedication the Board and Trust Advisors have to the principles of our objectives, namely to educate and increase the public's understanding of the public lands of the Chebucto Peninsula and we thank these organizations for their support and commitment.

This year we had 41 members providing us with \$410 in revenue. The May Fair brought in \$200 with no expenditures as all operating costs (provisions, raffle prizes, music) were donated.

Operating expenses totaled \$596 that included meeting rooms, bank fees, NS Trail Federation membership and insurance, photocopies and company registration fee.

At the end of our fiscal year our net income was \$8963 with a balance forward of \$463, giving \$9426 cash for the current year. After financing the production of the Guide and our 2009 operating expenses we should have a sufficient balance of funds going into 2010.

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust
Income Statement for Year Ended December 31, 2008

Revenues:

Memberships 2008-2009	415.00	
May Fair	200.00	
Creighton Memorial Donations	4345.00	
Capital District Health Authority Community Development Funds	3300.00	
Halifax Regional Municipality Old St. Margarets Bay Rd Guide Funds	1200.00	
Miscellaneous Donation	<u>100.00</u>	
 Total Revenues		 \$9560.00

Expenses:

Bank Fees	14.38	
Meeting Rooms	92.80	
N S Trails Federation Membership	200.00	
N S Trails Federation Insurance	200.00	
Photocopies	63.06	
Registry of Joint Stock Companies Fee	<u>26.70</u>	
 Total Expenses		 <u>596.94</u>

Net Income **\$ 8963.06**

Bank balance forward Mar 31, 2007 463.72

Bank balance as at Dec 31, 2008 **\$ 9426.78**

C. King
31.03.09
Unaudited