

Council of Community Organizations Meeting

January 15, 2009

The January COCO Meeting was held on January 15 at the Safety Minded ATV Club. Host, Mike Marriott chaired the meeting. Information about a number of community events and issues were shared.

The St.Margaret's Bay Chamber of Commerce will hold its second AGM on March 9 at 7 p.m. at Shining Waters Marine with a Wine and Cheese Meet and Greet followed by the business meeting. Judy Steatch, MLA and HRM Councillor Peter Lund are special invited Guests.

There was much discussion about the number of volunteers required for the Master Laser Competition to be held in late August 2009 at the St.Margaret Sailing Club. A number of community organizations will be assisting in the organizing of a variety of activities for the families of the sailors. Housing for visitors and places for tenters are also required.

Announcements are forthcoming about a number of grants to fund the 2011 Canada Youth Games Speed skating and figure skating events are planned for the St. Margaret Centre.

Work in the fall on the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails was progressing well until its untimely halt with early snowfalls. Residents in the Timberlea area are very upset about the announcement to close the well-attended Sacred Heart Church and other smaller Catholic Churches with a view to building a larger church in the Exit 5 area of Tantallon. Timberlea area parishioners are discussing what they can do to reverse this decision.

The work of the Western Common Wilderness Common Citizens Advisory group continues. Two Open Houses to gather public input have been held. EDM, a consulting firm has been hired to help prepare a Concept Plan and then a Management Plan for the area, one of six regional parks in HRM. On January 28 a Public Meeting will be held from 5-8 p.m. at Halifax West High School to discuss the boundaries for the Bayer's Lake Business Park as well as those for Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area.

Dusan Soudek of Canoe Kayak NS spoke about the need to preserve the last known intact log slide found at Sandy Lake on the property of NS Light and Power just west of Exit 5 off of Hwy 103.Many good ideas for protecting the slide and this area were shared.

The St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association will host a Community Forum on March 28 and 29 with a panel to lead the discussion and lots of public input to examine further and make recommendations for Visioning and Zoning for the Tantallon area.. HRM Staff will audit the process. A Schedule for Watershed Studies in the area is also under discussion with the suggestion that the two processes could be undertaken concurrently.

HRM Councillor Peter Lund has put forth an amendment concerning development agreements. This matter comes before HRM Council on February 3

The ATV Community has established 15 Trail Wardens for this area with a roster of daily, weekly and monthly patrols planned. Work continues on the Connector trail between the St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails and the Joshua Slocum Trail.

The work of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition continues with meetings slated with various political leaders to update them on our work.

The next COCO meeting will be held on March 26.