

## **COCO Meeting Notes from September 20,2007**

The September meeting was held at the Lakeside Community Centre  
Host Group: Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia

Topics Discussed:

\*Discussion held about NS Trails Meeting this weekend. We'll be talking about connecting the International Appalachian Trail with the Trans Canada Trail. New routes being examined for a number of needed connections will be among topics discussed at the three-day meeting in Iona.

\*BLT Rails to Trails reported that HRM is pushing forward with the Active Transportation Plan. If successful there will be no HRM funding for multi use trails. It is a curious situation, as DNR owns the rail beds. HRM does not have jurisdiction over the rail beds. DNR is meeting with ATV Clubs across the area. Brush cutting is occurring from the Coca Coal plant to Nine Mile River, a distance of 4 km.

\*The Sackville River Association is building a spawning bed at Governor's Brook where the water spills into the Nine Mile River. Some of this work was begun several years ago. Concern was expressed that water diverted from the Westgate Development to the Nine Mile River could impact on the spawning beds.

\*Discussion was held about the new subdivision being built behind Fraser Road. Some serious water problems affecting the older homes were outlined.

\*An update was given about the development on St. Margaret's Bay Road near the juncture of Hwys 3 and 214(Hammonds Plains Road). There is to be a credit union, a shopping centre. Right now there is concern about water levels.

\*Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust has two water quality monitoring projects ongoing on the Wooden's River and the Prospect River systems. A question was raised about BIO doing a ten-year water sampling of 100 lakes. This information will be followed up by FBWHT.

\*Canoe Kayak has been clearing portages quietly in a number of areas. Liability Insurance does not cover portage maintenance.  
At the end of October there will be a canoe trip across the Chebucto Peninsula. An update on the Canoe routes and Portage map project on the Chebucto Peninsula was given. Healthy Promotion is a partner in the Route Mapping of the CP, a very slow process.

\*The Western Commons Citizens Wilderness Advisory Committee has held 4 meetings to date. Jan Skora is the HRM staff person and Reg Rankin the HRM

Councillor assigned to this committee. Discussion about the terms of reference, HRM's Draft Wind Energy policy deems Provincial and HRM lands are suitable for wind energy. Jacques Whitford compiled the report. Note there is a Draft Map for Suitability .The feeling of others outside the HRM confines is that Parks and protected areas should be left out of this plan. There is an Inventory of Assets being compiled for the Western Commons, noted in the report from Jacques Whitford compiled in 2000-2002. Some members of the committee have paddled though Big Indian Lake and on through lakes to the south . Western Commons is one of 6 regional parks. Consultants will pull the inventory together. There is to be a cultural inventory. There will be public meetings eventually. Bruce Stewart an archaeologist based in Metro has been involved. Tim Burns a GIS person at HRM is also involved.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting on November 22, 2007

Host Group is Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust