

COCO Notes from January 24,2008 Meeting

The January COCO Meeting was held at the Tantallon Public Library. It was co-hosted by the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust, Resource Opportunities Centre at Terence Bay and by the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails. Topics discussed were:

*Siltation problems at Whynacht's Cove and an upcoming meeting on February 7 with the authorities to discuss this matter further.

* Meetings for the ATV community both at the provincial level and activities ongoing locally were presented.

*Westwood Hills expansion was discussed. Concerns were raised about impact on waters of St. Margaret's Bay, further loss of areas where ATVer's can ride especially with the very limited use of Mersey Bowater lands reduced now to the occasional rally.

*Wooden's River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO) Board member presented WRWEO's wish to seek legal protection for public lands where the Bluff Wilderness Hiking trail is located. WRWEO operates the Bluff Trail under Letter of Authority from DNR. There are a number of threats to the Public Land block bound by Highways 103 and 333

*HRM Wind Energy meeting was discussed with concerns expressed about placement of turbines in wilderness areas when perhaps there are other more suitable locations planners have not considered.

*Western Commons Citizens Wilderness Advisory Committee-has 13 members, will soon be sending out a Request for Proposals, the minutes have not been published. In the plan for the Western Commons Blueberry Lake is slated for a housing development. Without an increase in sewage treatment facilities in Timberlea this is not likely to happen in the foreseeable future.

*We were pleased to welcome a representative from the Atlantic Canada Geocaching Association. There are 16 geocaching sites on the Bluff Trail. Other opportunities for geocaching along the Old St.Margaret's Bay Road were outlined.

*Long Lake Provincial Park will become a day use park when the long awaited park management plan is unveiled in 2008.Discussion was held about re-opening the parking lot for the Park in Spryfield where dumping forced the closure.

*A discussion about the problems with illegal dumping were discussed. The Trust in concert with Safety Minded ATV Club and also with the Jeep Club has

conducted a number of cleanups in the Crown land Block over the last four years. The change is recycling of old TVs, computer equipment gives rise for concern for an increase in illegal dumping activities.

*The FBWHT will host a Launch for their new brochure: The Lichens of the Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail at 7p .m. on March 4 at the Tantallon Public Library. Copies of the Lichens brochure and the January edition of The Bridge were made available to those present. The Trust is working on a Walking Guide for the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road. Our AGM is April 3

The follow-up work undertaken by the Trust following the termination of the work of the Working Group was outlined. The Trust still has not received a letter of response from the Deputy Minister of Natural resources to its letter of November 22, 2007

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Date of the Next Meeting is March 27,2008 Location to be confirmed.

Host group is the Safety Minded ATV Club