

Notes from the Council of Community Organizations Meeting May 28, 2009

The May Meeting of the Council of Community Organizations was held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 28 at the Safety Minded ATV Club, 15 Station Road, Head of St. Margaret's Bay. Ella McQuin, St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association, was the Chair of the meeting.

We were a small group but had representatives from Goodwood, Timberlea and St. Margaret's Bay.

With the aid of a large map of the Chebucto Peninsula we were able to give a comprehensive overview of planning endeavours ongoing on the east side of the peninsula. We shared the information we had about the planning underway for the Western Common Wilderness Common and the Western Common. As we understand from some of the planning that has been shared, Nichols Lake Park will disappear. Lands around Ragged Lake will become light industrial over time. One member outlined a proposal for a trail (a ring road) for multi purpose use that one could circumnavigate the area from Hwy 103 around the Hwy 333 loop circling both the proposed Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area and the lands of the Western Common.

The work of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition was reported. Following the provincial election we look forward to resuming our work with government.

The St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association representative spoke about proposals that came from the Community Forum recently held at the Head of St. Margaret's Bay - the Visioning process which is to be expedited in the next 18 months. Of note is the passage of legislation requiring any development coming into the Bay with a size of 7500 square feet or more to now have a development agreement before construction can begin.

Planning at Exit 5 is currently a big issue as this area is one of the fastest growing in Eastern Canada. A number of measures to help in the planning for a village in this Growth Area at the Head of the Bay were discussed. Exit 6 will be the next growth area to be under stress.

The sharing of information was excellent. All left the meeting in amazement about the number of initiatives underway on the Chebucto Peninsula.

Jean Harris of BLT R2T brought some Nordic Walking sticks. Following the business part of the meeting she gave us a demonstration on how to use the sticks and then gave us opportunity to try them out on the St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trail near the Safety Minded ATV Club.

The next COCO Meeting will be held on September 24, 2009. Host group and venue to be announced.