

Council of Community Organizations Meeting held on May 29, 2008

Community members met on May 29 for the May COCO Meeting hosted by St.Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association.

A number of topics were discussed and members were given updates about events occurring in our communities.

The *Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails* was hosting events for International Trails Day on June 7. Walkers and cyclists were to meet at the Cola Plant in Lakeside Industrial Park finishing finish at St.Andrew's Church for a free BBQ, games and prizes.St.Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails were also hosting events.

Then 3rd Annual May Fair in the Park hosted by the *Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust* on May 25 was attended by 300 people, half of which were children. The Bay Road Fire Station brought a fire truck, which was a big hit with the children. This event provided community environmental and recreational groups the opportunity to showcase their programs.

The Learn to Fish Program sponsored by Inland Fisheries Division, Sportfish Extension and FBWHT took place on May 29at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park. A Prospect Bay Elementary School class took part in the educational event.

The difficulty in engaging the respective departments to investigate an infestation in a stream coming from Drysdale Bog was discussed. There is hope that a round table discussion can occur with the various jurisdictions and community members to try to sort out issues of timely response by government departments and feedback to community. The idea of reinstating a community response team to respond to such issues was also briefly discussed.

Geoff leBoutillier from SMBSA outlined the efforts of his organization, and that all organizations have to get together and support each other. SMBSA needs support on their Position Paper regarding the village concept for Tantallon. Our councillors do not represent the wishes of the residents. It was recognised that the June 3rd meeting is just a temporary "band-aid" - we need more. We are asking only for what is good for our businesses, tourism and residents. With the exception of a few pockets, the entire shore of SMB is zoned multi use, not residential.

Gina Byrne (council candidate for District #23) said that the current plans regarding development in SMB area are out of date and organizations need to keep pressing their issues.

Bill Estabrooks talked further about the June 3 public meeting on Case #01157: Application by HRM to amend the Municipal Planning Strategy for Planning Districts 1 & 3 (St. Margaret's Bay) to implement development controls for large scale commercial

developments. He was concerned that there will not be an opportunity to intervene and keep control of the meeting.

The road at Queensland Beach and complaints about the rocks was discussed. SMBSA is besieged by such issues.

There was discussion about the May 7 meeting on PCBs in Woodens River watershed. The local anglers are upset that the fishing regulations have not been changed.

Jim Muir of WRWEO and the newly formed Chebucto Peninsula Wilderness Coalition talked about the on going process of trying to get protection for a block of public lands on the Chebucto Peninsula

The next COCO Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 24, 2008