

Approved by consensus, March 28, 2007 ¹

CHEBUCTO PENINSULA STEWARDSHIP CHARTER

MISSION

To collaborate in the management of public lands and waters on the Chebucto Peninsula in such a manner that conserves and improves ecological integrity and ensures sustainable use.

CHEBUCTO PENINSULA

Public lands on the Chebucto Peninsula are an important natural asset for the residents of HRM and Nova Scotia. While there are multiple values and uses for these public lands, their proximity to the urban core provides much needed green space where residents can undertake healthy active living and enjoy numerous recreational opportunities. These public lands also support a rich diversity of natural ecosystems important to the environment, including numerous lakes and wetlands, headwater areas, pockets of old forest, and habitat for a number of rare species such as the endangered mainland moose.

As HRM continues to grow in the future, and an estimated 100,000 new residents are expected to move into the city over the next 25 years, the natural areas of the Chebucto Peninsula will become increasingly important for maintaining our quality-of-life and connection with the natural environment. They will also continue to provide suitable locations for a wide variety of outdoor education opportunities and scientific research.

There are approximately 25,000 hectares of public land on the Chebucto Peninsula, including: Terrance Bay Wilderness Area, Duncans Cove Nature Reserve, Long Lake Provincial Park, Western Common Regional Park, Crystal Crescent Beach Provincial Park, Lewis Lake Provincial Park, Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes Designated Regional Park and Crown lands, and Crown lands at Five Bridges Lake, Herring Cove Backlands, and Cox Lake.

GOVERNMENT – COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

The Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environment and Labour, and Halifax Regional Municipality will work collaboratively with community groups from HRM using an open and transparent process for managing public lands and waters on the Chebucto Peninsula, using consensus as the basis for decision-making.

Community and government representatives will work collaboratively to recommend policies, programs, projects, and activities for the sustainable management of public lands and waters on the Chebucto Peninsula. This successful collaboration will be dependent upon a number of guiding principles.

¹ Please note, **while** the Draft Charter was agreed to by consensus, **it** was not signed by the members of the Working Group nor was it endorsed by government or community groups; therefore the **status** of the document remains **undefined/ at this time**.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Consensus. Participants will use consensus as the basis for decision-making.

Inclusive. Participants will create mechanisms through which all parties with an interest in an issue are able to participate.

Open and Transparent. Participants will ensure timely public communication of the process and outcomes.

Collaboration. Participants will collaborate with other stakeholders who are engaged in processes affecting public lands and waters on the Chebucto Peninsula.

Commitment. Participants will be committed to the mission established by the Charter and demonstrate this commitment through active participation.

Respect. Participants will respect diverse values, interests, knowledge, and accept different views as a strength of the consensus process.

Informed Decision-Making. Participants will base decisions on the best available information, including scientific information and local community knowledge.

APPENDIX – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Chebucto Peninsula means all those lands and waters to the north, west, and south of Halifax bounded by the Hammonds Plains Road on the north and encompassed by Atlantic Ocean on the east, south, and west including all coastal islands except McNabs and Lawlor Islands.

Collaboration means decisions are made in a way that synergistically blends differing ideas into courses of action that all parties can support. The use of consensus building approaches strengthens commitment for key decisions and builds a collaborative culture.

Ecological Integrity means a condition whereby the native elements and associated community structures, processes, and functions of an ecosystem are intact and likely to persist into the future.

Management means the acts of recommending policies, and planning, directing, and supervising activities that carry out those policies that have been approved by those in authority.

Public lands means lands owned by municipal, provincial, or federal departments.

Public waters means fresh and salt water above and below the ground, estuaries, marshes, bogs, and all interfaces between land and sea under the jurisdiction of municipal, provincial, or federal departments.

Stewardship means caring for the land and associated resources so that healthy ecosystems can be passed on to future generations.