



The Bridge

Chair
Beth McGee
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Message from the Chair

April 2008

Trust memberships make a great gift for those interested in conserving public land in its natural state for public use. Membership for that special person can be obtained by contacting Cilla Dawson 902-404-0690

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The Trust Board Members have had a very busy first quarter in 2008. At the close of 2007 we were waiting to receive a response from Peter Underwood, Deputy Minister at DNR to our letter of November 27, 2007 to seek clarification of DNR's plans for the completion of a number of tasks undertaken by the Working Group. In his letter of February 21, 2008, Mr. Underwood indicated that "there will be ongoing opportunities within DNR to test the principles as part of the planning process for Crown lands, and I can assure you we will establish an appropriate evaluation framework as required." No details were provided.

Mr. Underwood then added, "To respond, in a general manner, to your remaining questions, DNR will not be undertaking any further work with regard to the Chebucto Peninsula Working Group, or reviewing/establishing structures or models for land use management and/or community input while the Natural resources Strategy process is underway (2008-2010)."

The Trust has tried diligently over the past four years to implement possible protection and management agreements relating to the public lands bounded by Highways 103 and 333 through constructive negotiation with three levels of government. In such negotiations, DNR, the legal steward of Crown lands, is the most important participant, and it is now clear that DNR does not wish to work with community groups collaboratively through the proposed Stewardship Council or any other formal structure—at least not in the foreseeable future.

Given the clear message from DNR that no work on the areas we raised would be undertaken until at least 2010, the ongoing concern about development in this area, threats to K roads in other areas of NS, our study of options open to us for protection of the lands, and the interest of other community groups and individuals in forming a coalition to protect public lands for public use on the Chebucto Peninsula under the Wilderness Areas Protection Act, the Trust Board made a decision to place two resolutions before the Membership at the AGM on April 3, 2008. The two resolutions were :

- *that the Trust work to preserve the public lands bounded by Highways 103 and 333 in their natural state through the legislative process provided by the Wilderness Areas Protection Act (WPA).*

and

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Highlights of the AGM on April 3, 2008

Board of Trustees

Beth McGee (3)
 Cilla Dawson (3)
 Ken Nickerson (3)
 Jim Law (1)
 Eleanor Lindsay (2)
 Cathy Conrad (1)
 Mike Marriott (2)
 Catherine King (2)
 Charlotte Reinhold (2)
 Mike Lamplugh (2)
 () Years remaining on the Board

Advisors to the Board

Frank Hope
 Gary Armsworthy
 Ralph Wheadon
 Carroll Mason
 Jeff Parks
 Bill Estabrooks
 Wayne N. Rogers
 Tom Musial
 Alan Shatford

Hans Toom will lead a Warbler Walk on Saturday, May 17. Warbler Walk birders will meet at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park at 7 a.m. Watch the Trust website for date and time confirmation. Contact Beth McGee at 823-2245 for more information.

Web Address

www.fivebridgestrust.ca

Certificates of Appreciation were given to retiring Board Members Tom Musial, Past Chair, and Allan Shatford, Treasurer, in recognition for their 6 years of dedicated service on the Board. They will remain as Advisors to the Board. Wayne Rogers, an Advisor since the inception of the Trust, was also honoured for his many contributions to the work of the Trust. Jeff Parks, an Advisor, was honoured for his work on the Lichens Brochure. We are so fortunate to have the collective wisdom of these four gentlemen as Advisors.

The Activity Reports for the year are posted on the Trust website. The AGM endorsed two resolutions which provides the Trust with a mandate to work toward protecting the public land under the Wilderness Protection Act.

Kim Thompson from the Eastern Shore Forest Watch gave a presentation on the process her community group used to have the Ship Harbour-Long Lake Area become a Candidate Wilderness Area.

Many thanks to our dedicated Board Members, Advisors and Members .

Lichen Hike May 3

As a sequel to the March 4th launch of the Lichens brochure, the Trust has organized a guided hike with lichenologist Frances Anderson along the Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail on Saturday, May 3, 2008. The Trust's newly issued brochure Lichens of the Bluff Wilderness Trail will be used as a guide to take hikers to the four way stations and observe lichens outlined in the brochure. This hike is expected to take approximately 3.5 hours on a rugged trail; it is recommended that you dress appropriately and bring water and a snack. The tour will depart the Bluff Trailhead promptly at 9:30 am. A rain date will be Sunday, May 4, 2008 at 9:30 am.



Photo: Catherine King

The Bluff Trail parking lot is located off Highway 3 next to the Bay Self Storage facility 2 km towards Halifax from exit 4 on the 103. The Trail head is a 5 minute walk from here along the BLT trail. For further information please contact Eleanor Lindsay 823-2340.



Photo: Cilla Dawson

groups that will be present.

May Fair is our opportunity to thank the community for its ongoing support of our work. It also provides us with an opportunity to make the community aware of the projects the Trust is involved with and to hopefully attract new members.

Come join the fun, the picnic is open to the public.

May Fair in the Park

On Sunday, May 25, 2008, the Trust will hold its third annual May Fair in the Park from noon to 3 p.m. at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park at Lewis Lake. Lots of children's games and prizes are planned. The Celtica Highland Dancers and the Gaia Singers will perform. We plan to introduce some new activities this year that we hope will make your day with us more enjoyable. Free hot dogs will be served, we will have a raffle with great prizes. So bring your family and friends and introduce them to the Trust and the other community

Dedicated to conserving public land in its natural state for public use since 2001.

Fungal Substance Infiltrates Stream in Bog

Regrettably we report that one of the streams flowing from the Drysdale Bog in Goodwood has been completely inundated with a fungi known as *Saprolegnia**. On Thursday, April 10, 2008 the contamination was discovered by the Trust and concerns were immediately reported to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment. Repeated attempts to garner the attention of provincial and municipal authorities were ignored until Dr. Cathy Conrad from Saint Mary's University Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Network visited the site on April 17 and made numerous calls to HRM, DFO DOE and the 1-800 Environmental Disaster Response team (see article page 4) for assistance.



Photo: Cathy Conrad

Finally on April 18 employees from HRM and Environment Canada visited the site and took samples, although a full week had passed without the regulating authorities taking note of this contaminated site. As of April 24, it is understood that individuals from the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment and Environment Canada are trying to find the origin of the substance.

The Drysdale Bog has been the focus of attention by the Trust and other community groups for several years. HRM has designated the bog as being suitable for heavy industry and therefore a number of heavy industrial businesses have located on the edge and in some cases directly on the bog. The Trust has brought this extremely sensitive area to the attention of both the provincial and municipal governments without success.



Photo: Cathy Conrad

**Saprolegnia* are a form of water fungi that are normal components of healthy streams when found in small quantities, but they can pose a risk for fish and other organisms when they occur at high densities.

The amount that is found in the stream in Drysdale Bog is in an almost unfathomably large density. To read more about *Saprolegnia*, a useful web site is: <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/classes/MB492/saprokent/saprolegnia.htm>
A short video of the contamination can be seen at <http://cbemn.blogspot.com>.

Sportfish Management and PCB Concerns in Woodens River Watershed

In 2007 sampling was carried out on fish populations in Five Island Lake, Hubley Big and Shel-drake Lakes. This sampling was carried out to assess changes in polychlorinated biphenyl(PCB) concentrations in local fish populations. Previous fish studies were carried out in 1994, 2001, 2003 and 2005.

Don MacLean of Inland Fisheries, Nova Scotia Dept. Of Fisheries and Aquaculture has offered to hold a community meeting to discuss this study. Don, Chris Moir (Department of Transport & Infrastructure Renewal) and a representative of Jacques Whitford Environment Ltd, will be in attendance. They are prepared to discuss the reason for the on-going studies, the results of the 2007 study, and Inland Fisheries logic when making fish retention decisions for this fishery.

The Five Bridge Wilderness Heritage Trust has agreed to host this meeting. It will be held at the Tantallon Library on Wednesday the 7th of May. The meeting is open to the general public and it will start at 7:00pm.

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Wetland Hot Line

If you become aware of an action that has or is likely to have a negative impact on a wetland or watercourse, call the Bedford Office of NSDEL, **424-7773**, during regular business hours.

Emergency after hour situations can be reported to **1-800-565-1633**. The Coast Guard will dispatch the on call inspector.

COCO

The **Council of Community Organizations** is an important forum to share community intelligence. Meetings begin at **7 PM** and are scheduled for:

May 29th
Tantallon Library

July 24th
TBA

Everyone Welcome!

Western Region Community Council

Meetings

May 26th
June 23th
July 28th

Please call 490-4000 for time and location of the meeting.



Who to call in the event of an "Environmental Emergency"?

We have been conditioned to clearly recognize when the Fire Department or Police need to be called in the event of an emergency. Children learn to dial 911 as early as pre-school. We know how to respond and under what circumstances it is appropriate to make such a call. But what about an "environmental emergency"? These are less clear-cut and we are not programmed to immediately know who to call.

Many people are not aware that there is an equivalent to a 911 for environmental emergencies. There is an Environment Canada web site that provides information about the nation-wide program, which can be accessed at:

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/ee-ue/default.asp?lang=en&n=EED2E58C-1>

According to their site:

"There are different types of environmental emergencies. There are natural events such as forest fires, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes or ice storms. As well, there are those that are caused by human activity, such as industrial or transportation-related accidents. Depending on the nature, size and location of an environmental emergency, a wide variety of private and public sector organizations have important jobs in ensuring that damage is minimal to life, property and the environment. Many of these same organizations also play important roles in trying to prevent emergencies from happening in the first place, or to minimize impacts when they do occur. Environment Canada is one such agency".

In Nova Scotia, the number to call is: (800) 565-1633 and within the Halifax area it is (902) 426-6030. If you call this number, you will end up speaking to a dispatcher from the Canadian Coast Guard Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centre. This individual knows all of the relevant contacts at Environment Canada, the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. They will make those contacts and you will be asked to leave your name, telephone number and information about the event that you witnessed. You should expect to receive a return call within a day or two to update you on the status of your call.

It does not hurt to make calls to individuals that you know personally or from previous working relationships under such circumstances as well. The more people made aware of a potential environmental emergency, the greater the likelihood for a prompt and appropriate response. The problem remains that there are so many environmental problems and concerns for government agencies to respond to that it may be difficult to triage these events appropriately.

Message from the Chair continued from page 1...

- *that the Trust join the proposed coalition of like-minded community groups and interested individuals planning to work together to secure WPA designation of these same lands.*

The two resolutions were passed by the Membership. Since the AGM a group of community groups has begun the work of creating a coalition whose first task will be to write a letter to Minister Mark Parent of the Department of Environment to signal our intentions.

It will take the resolve of many to realise the designation of a Wilderness Area for the aforementioned public lands. I invite each of you to join us in this exciting work.

Beth McGee, Chair

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Charitable Donations

Charitable donations to support the work of the Trust may be made by contacting **Catherine King** at, **902- 823-3433**

An income tax receipt will be issued for your donation.

Thank you for your support!

Moose Watch

Anyone having knowledge of moose sightings, spoor or antlers on the Chebucto Peninsula is encouraged to contact **Jenny Costello** of the Department of Natural Resources .

902- 861-2560

The Bridge

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of **The Bridge**, please send an email to

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and type "subscribe" in the subject line.