

Special points of interest:

- Next *COCO* meeting on May 22, 2003. Host: BLT-R2T Association. Venue to be announced.
- Scientific Advisory Committee establishes archives at Tantallon Library.

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The Bridge

Our land, our heritage, our way of life

The protection of public land takes on greater importance each day. The growth of HRM will continue to place increasing pressure on governments to release the public lands of the Chebucto Peninsula. FBWHT calls upon those who understand the social, educational and economic benefit of conserving this unique tract of public land to ensure that our children and their children will benefit from this land and enjoy quality outdoor experience.

We publish **The Bridge** to keep you abreast of FBWHT activities and invite you to play a active role in its work.

Tom Musial, Chair



Public land not for sale, lease, or exchange

Consistent with its founding principles to protect and restore public lands on the Chebucto Peninsula, the Five Bridge Wilderness Heritage FBWHT opposes the exchange, lease, or sale of public land bounded by Highways 103 and 333 for the purpose of facilitating commercial or housing development. Trust further opposes granting rights-of-way across public land to access private land for these same purposes.

Recently a developer in the Hubley area was interested in brokering a deal with the provincial government to exchange 300 acres of Crown land for a like amount of privately held land. The developer, to

his credit, wanted public input into the proposal. The Trust examined the proposal and concluded the exchange did not qualify as an exception to its policy. Consequently, the Trust took a public position regarding the exchange, and we are pleased to report that the public who participated in the vote did not give the required support to have the proposal advance.

FBWHT encourages respective governments who are the trustees of public land to involve the public in future decisions of this nature. After all, public lands belong to the public and the bureaucrats and politicians are just the interim guardians.

We thank George Creaser, a FBWHT trustee, for giving this newsletter its name, The Bridge.



FBWHT forms Friends of Lewis Lake Provincial Park

FBWHT is now forming the Friends of Lewis Lake Provincial Park. The "Friends" will soon meet with the Department of Natural Resources to obtain approval for its creation. The "Friends" plan to establish a physical cen-

tre to involve adults and high school students in educational and community service projects relating to the local natural environment, especially on FBWHT lands. The park is wheelchair accessible, and would make an ex-

cellent location for a nature interpretation centre. The FBWHT education committee will detail plans for this project. Support will be sought from local service groups and corporate sponsors.

Oral histories record local heritage

The Trust was privileged to have retired Forest Ranger Ralph Wheadon speak at our first AGM. Ralph's speech was most interesting and provided us with a perspective that can only come from the traditional users of the land.

We believe it is important to archive this oral history from the users

This information may be invaluable in assisting the Trust find ways to protect this magnificent tract of land from development.

If you would be prepared to share your knowledge of the land, stories of who and how it was used, location of former homesteads, location of any grave-

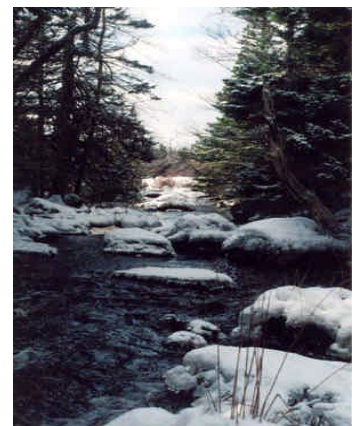
sites as well as any folklore associated with the land, please contact Catherine McLeod at 446-9091. Some of the stories may be reproduced in future editions of **The Bridge** with the originators consent.

FBWHT is dedicated to conserving the public lands bounded by Highways 103 and 333.

Community networking continues

The Community Liaison Committee, under the leadership of Beth Mcgee, is responsible for maintaining an effective network of community contacts around the Chebucto Peninsula. The committee also uses the Council of Commu-

nity Organizations (COCO) as a vehicle to exchange and solicit information on topics and issues of importance to the residents of the area. Persons interested in assisting with this task can contact Beth at 823-2245



FBWHT supports Dalhousie Students in mapping and inventory projects

The Scientific Advisory Committee has undertaken two projects with students enrolled in the Environmental Sciences Institute at Dalhousie University.

The first of these is a thematic map of the central part of the Chebucto Peninsula. This map will serve as a base for future research on the resources of the FBWHT region. It is hoped, as well, that the

act of compiling this map will also reveal what resources already exist in various government departments.

The second project will create a checklist of the wildlife in the area. The checklist will be designed for use by the public, mainly students. A preliminary version will be available late in April. At this time it will be tested by various student groups and re-

vised based on their experience using the list. It is hoped that this student project will be the groundwork for future assessments of the biological resources of the area. At some point biological observatories will be established which will allow long term monitoring of the response of animals and plants to climate change and progressive urbanization.

FBWHT endorses responsible use of motorized vehicles on public lands and takes the position that existing ATV trails should be preserved, but no new trails should be established on public lands that have wilderness values.



You can play a significant role in making your community a better place to live

To carry on its work, the Trust welcomes volunteers in the following areas:

Recreation (hiking, canoeing, camping, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, eco-tourism, etc.)

Scientific research (water quality, climate change, the urban-wilderness interface, surface geology, plant inventory, wildlife assessment, rare species inventory, collection of maps and documents relating to the Chebucto Peninsula)

Education (schools and youth involvement in scientific research activities, establishment of an ecology centre, establishment of interpretation facilities and programs, establishment of archives at the Tantallon Library)

Publicity (news releases, meeting announcements, maintenance of web site)

Community Relations (coordinating activities of local community organizations, service organizations, etc.)

Management of Lewis Lake Provincial Park (see article on previous page)

Fund-raising (developing events, funding proposals, meeting with potential benefactors, etc.)

Membership (explaining the work of FBWHT, recommending roles, keeping records)

If you are interested in playing an active role in any of these areas, please contact Wayne Rogers at 876-1376.

The Friends of Lewis Lake Provincial Park plan to establish a physical centre to involve adults and high school students in educational and community service projects relating to the local natural environment.



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FBWHT is on the web!

www.fivebridgetrust.ca

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Distribution of The Bridge

The Bridge is distributed in both electronic and hard copy formats. The electronic copy can be accessed by visiting the FBWHT web site at www.fivebridgetrust.ca.

Hard copies of **The Bridge** will be placed at strategic public locations around the Chebucto peninsula: post offices, public libraries, schools, and major food stores.

You can have **The Bridge** sent to your home by paying a \$6.00 annual subscription fee to cover the cost of mailing. To subscribe call Allan Shatford at 823-2585.

Five Bridge Wilderness Heritage Trust

Objectives

The objectives of the FBWHT are to work with the provincial and municipal governments of Nova Scotia to

- protect and restore the natural habitat, watersheds, and wildlife on public lands on the public lands bounded by Highways 103 and 333 on the Chebucto Peninsula
- use these lands for scientific, educational, and recreational activities, consistent with its commitment to protection, conservation, and stewardship
- develop a model for local community stewardship of wilderness areas
- manage land use with an informed, comprehensive, and holistic view
- contribute to the economic cultural, and social life of the area.

Projects

Organizing Friends of Lewis Lake Provincial Park
Scientific Mapping and Wildlife Data Collection on FBWHT Lands
Maintaining Scientific Archives at Tantallon Library
Planning for the Department of Natural Resources' IRM Review
Supporting Anglers' Conservation Fresh Water Lakes and Rivers
Promoting Responsible ATV Use
Cleaning up Trash and Abandoned Wrecks

Support Roles

Council of Community Organizations (COCO)
Public Lands Coalition (moratorium on commercial development of Crown lands)
Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails Association (various)
WRWEO (Protection of Cranberry Bog)
WRWEO (Water Quality Improvement)
WRWEO (Bluff Trail Development)

Lands of the FBWHT Mandate

