



The Bridge

Chair
Beth McGee
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Message from the Chair

JUNE 2007

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

Inside this Issue

Report on AGM	2
Trout Stocking	2
Western Common	3
Cemetery Clean-up	3
Mainland Moose	4
May Fair in the Park	4

Friends,

In the March edition of The Bridge I reported on the progress of representatives of government and community based environmental groups to establish structure and process that will guide the work of creating a long range management plan for the Chebucto Peninsula. On March 28th, the Working Group agreed to an interim Chebucto Peninsula Stewardship Charter. However, since that time there has been some confusion as to how the Charter is to be formally endorsed by government and the registered community based environmental groups. I am hopeful I will be in a position to report favorable progress has been made regarding the matters of contention in the September edition of The Bridge.

Several members of the Trust have been working with lichenologist Frances Anderson to complete a field survey of lichens found on the Bluff Trail. The field work has been completed and we are now in the preliminary stages of producing a lichen brochure, which we anticipate will be available later this year. The publication of this brochure is made possible due to the financial support provided by the Gaia Singers.

The Trust is always concerned about the health of the watersheds on the Chebucto Peninsula. To this end, the Trust is currently working on monitoring the Woodens River and Prospect River watersheds to establish baseline data that can be used in assessing future water quality. Cathy Conrad and the staff at the St. Mary's University Community Based Environmental Monitoring Network will be working with volunteers to collect water samples and to ensure appropriate scientific protocols are followed.

Our second annual May Fair in the Park was a great success. Cilla Dawson and her team of volunteers did an outstanding job and once again support from the community is very much appreciated.

As summer approaches it is important for everyone to take all necessary steps to ensure a safe and happy summer holiday for family and friends. The public lands of the Chebucto Peninsula offer a unique outdoor recreational opportunity and we encourage everyone to learn more about this valuable resource. There are many hard packed trails throughout the peninsula suitable for hiking, ATV/OHV use and mountain biking. There are also many opportunities for fishing, canoeing and kayaking, bird watching, swimming, geo caching and other recreational applications. The public land of the Chebucto Peninsula is there for you to use and enjoy. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish every one a safe and happy summer in the woods and on the water.

Beth McGee

Report on the AGM

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www.fivebridgestrust.ca

The Trust held its Annual General meeting on March 29th at the Tantallon Library with 26 members in attendance.

Numerous reports were submitted for consideration and some of the highlights include: the Trust being granted charitable status recognition by Revenue Canada, the changing of the word "Bridge" to "Bridges" in the Trust's name, the work of the communications committee in publishing The Bridge four times per year as well as an undertaking to update the Trust's web site and the plans to produce a Warblers of Lewis Lake and Lichens of the Bluff Trail brochure in conjunction with the appropriate government departments. In addition, a progress report was given on the status of the discussions to establish a Chebucto Peninsula Stewardship Council. A copy of the recently agreed interim Charter was also presented to those assembled and it was decided the membership would have thirty days to send their comments to the Board.

Under the leadership of the Trust, six Council of Community Organizations (COCO) meetings were held during the past year. One of the highlights was the efforts of COCO to prevent Drysdale Bog in Goodwood from being industrialized. The work of the Trust members working alone and in concert with other groups to clean up garbage on the Chebucto Peninsula was also noted.

The angler's sub committee was active during this past year working with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to improve the health of the Woodens River watershed and to address issues surrounding the current catch and release designation for the river.

Jeff Parks gave an informative presentation on GIS Mapping and its many uses. The Trust's GIS Mapping project will soon be available to the public through an arrangement with Dalhousie University.

Mike Marriott, Charlotte Reinhold, Catherine King and Mike Lamplugh were elected Trustees.

Trout Stocking on the Chebucto Peninsula

The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has a stocking program that places fish in a number of lakes throughout the province for recreational fishing. This year, the spring stocking program on the Chebucto Peninsula placed fish in Brines Lake 67V3; Governors Lake 67X3; Grand Lake 75Y1; Long/Power Lake 67W5; Round Lake 67W2 and Williams Lake 67Z3. The fall stocking program will take place in White's Lake 67X5; Frasers Lake 67X2 and Fraser's Lake 67V4.

The reference number following the name of the lake indicates page numbers and coordinates contained in the Nova Scotia Atlas. Further information regarding sport fishing in Nova Scotia can be found at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/sportsfishing .

Western Common

The March meeting of HRM's Western Region Community Council mandated staff be directed to appoint the members of the Western Common Citizen's Advisory Committee and hold the initial meeting of the committee before the end of April. In addition, the Council agreed the Terms of Reference for the WCAC will be made public.

The public members of the Western Common Citizen's Advisory Committee are **Bill Matheson**-West Dover, **Mike Lamplugh**-White's Lake, **Alan Kitz**- Peninsular Halifax, **Lorne Logan**-Halifax, **Blake Maybank**-Blind Bay, **Jane Sears**-White's Lake, **Phil Cochrane**-Timberlea, **Susan Smith**-Brookside, **Darrill Coosing**-Timberlea, **Dusan Soudek**-Halifax and **Kelley Morrissey**-Hatchett Lake. Jan Skora from HRM Planning will serve as staff support and Councillor Reg Rankin will also serve on the committee.

The Trust is pleased to see this important committee established as the public land of the Western Common will play an integral role in the future recreational opportunities for Halifax and surrounding areas. We are most anxious to see the Terms of Reference for the Citizen's Advisory Committee made public .

Area around Ragged Lake on the Western Common that has been cleaned up by another environmentally friendly organization.



Cemetery Clean-Up

The abandoned and forgotten cemeteries on public land administered by the Department of Natural Resources and the Halifax Regional Municipality are in dire need of attention. Recently, the cemetery just off the Greenhead Road received some attention when the area was cleared of deadfalls and debris. In addition, a sign erected to mark this sacred place.

Our ancestors deserve better treatment than to have their final resting places ignored. It is encouraging to see the public take an interest where government fails to accept its responsibility.

Jim Flemming cleaning up the Greenhead Road Cemetery, March 2007



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 DOE&L, **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:

July 19th

White's Lake Legion

September 20th

Lakeside Community Ctr.

Everyone Welcome!

Western Region Community Council Meetings

July 23rd

August 27th

September 24th

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



Mainland Moose Report

The long awaited report on the mainland moose recovery project was recently released. Regrettably this report will be known more for its failings than for its accomplishments. The report reads more like a list of things not done than a document that should have detailed the challenges facing the recovery project and an analysis of possible solutions with recommendations for the ones with the greatest opportunity of success.

Editor

Wayne N. Rogers

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Charitable Donations

Charitable donations to support the work of the Trust may be made by contacting

Alan Shatford at,

902- 823-2585

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 **petencil@eastlink.ca**

and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

The three main areas of the report that are deficient are; no core habitat designated for protection, no plan for recovery of the moose population and the report fails to address loss of habitat and fragmentation of habitat. Without these core issues being proactively addressed the current fragile population cannot survive.

It is unclear from the report if DNR is committed to the recovery of this special species or if they have chosen to mark time while nature makes the decision for them. We expect more from those who have the legislative authority and regulatory responsibility to manage the wildlife in the province. If this report is indicative of the best that DNR can offer after studying the problem since 2003 then the mainland moose will only be the first in a long line of wildlife species that will disappear from our province.

The report on the mainland moose can be view in its entirety at:

www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiv/species_recovery.htm#moose

You are encouraged to make your views known to the **Minister of Natural Resources**.

May Fair in the Park - 2007

Hundreds of guests, including Bill Estabrooks MLA and HRM Councillors Rankin and Meade, joined in the fun at this years May Fair in the Park. The oldest participant, Wilfrid Creighton 103, took time to plant a white pine in the park he helped create when he was Deputy Minister of Lands and Forest from 1949-1969. Those in attendance were treated to performances by the Celtica Highland Dancers, the Gaia Singers, story telling by Charlotte Reinhold and a kayak demonstration by Paul Keeping of **Sea Sun Kayak**. A guided bird watching tour by Hans Toom, a scavenger hunt organized by Scott Pelton and Christina Kempster and sponsored by the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association, a barbeque and lots of games for the kids rounded out the day.

The Trust expresses its appreciation to Bruce Lohnes of DNR who allowed us the use of the park and the Bay Road Fire Department for bringing a pumper truck; always a hit with the kids. The following Tantallon businesses made donations; the **Village Market**, the **Three Dolphins**, the **Great Canadian Dollar Store**, **Dairy Queen** and the **Masthead News**. The RCMP donated the identification kits for the kids, Nancy and Luke and Carroll Mason brought barbeques. Carolyn, Steve, Alexandra and Coulson did an outstanding job of organizing the games for the children and Stuart of **KS Sounds** provided the sound system that allowed us to fully enjoy the music of the Gaia Singers.

The Department of Natural Resources donated 250 white pine seedlings for the children to take home and plant.

Thanks to all those that came and enjoyed May Fair in the Park!