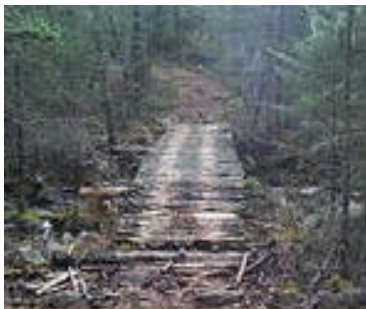


### Mark your calendar:

On July 17, the of the Council of Community Organizations (COCO) will focus on issues related to waste management beginning with a guided tour of the Otter Lake Landfill Site. Individuals or community representatives wishing to attend should meet at the landfill site, Exit 3 on Highway 103, at 6:45 p.m.. The tour has been arranged by Terry Henley and will begin at 7 p.m.



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# The Bridge



## FBWHT trustees grapple with the delicate balance of protection and use

In May 2003, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Natural Resources asked two succinct questions: "What do you want to **protect the land against?**" and "What do you want to **use the land for?**"

Our immediate answer was straight-forward and spontaneous. "We want to protect our unspoiled public land against commercial resource extraction and housing development and use the land for scientific, educational, and recreational activities, consistent with a commitment to protection, conservation, and stewardship."

Translating these commitments into a strategic action plan, however, is a very difficult task, and the ways and means of balancing protection and use are complicated.

The Department of Natural Resources allows a broad range of use for Five Bridge Lakes land under the department's C-2 classification, but many of those uses could destroy the natural habitat that FBWHT wants to protect.

The Wilderness Areas Protection Act, administered by the Department of Environment and Labour, offers the most certain guarantee of long-term protection, but

regulations governing wilderness activities may not allow an adequate range of appropriate use.

Eco-tourism is the fastest-growing tourism sector in the world, and Nova Scotia's tourism industry is worth \$1.3 billion. The Department of Tourism would like to offer visitors a wilderness experience within reach of public transportation from our city centre. but would the influx of tourists compromise our natural environment?

And right here at home, some local residents seek to preserve traditional forms of wilderness recreation as oth-

ers strive to expand off-road vehicle use. Can the two uses be reconciled?

For the past two years, the FBWHT trustees have studied and evaluated the options and have discussed the practical alternatives with the departments of Natural Resources, Environment and Labour, and Tourism and Culture. In the weeks ahead, the Board of Trustees will publish their recommendations in the form of a Management Plan for the Five Bridge Lakes region in the heart of the Chebucto Peninsula. The next (September) issue of The Bridge will report the Trustees' decisions.



Bog laurel after the rain (*Kalmia polifolia*)



Way back into the boondocks  
Between Dans and Prices Ridges  
In a quiet pleasant spot  
There's a lake called Big Five  
Bridges  
So if you'd like some recreation  
Spend a day of your vacation  
Bouncing over rocks and ridges  
On the road to Big Five Bridges

Bumps and bruises notwithstanding  
You arrive at Prices Landing  
Where soon you'll have the pleasure  
Of fishing at your leisure  
Trolling minnows, flies and midges  
To catch trout in Big Five Bridges

So you troll around the narrows  
And off the gravelly hill  
And then you try the gull rocks  
Where you think it's better still  
So after all the trolling  
Your catch is only one  
And so you keep on fishin'  
Until the day is done

And when you get out on thee lake  
It's a feeling of great joy  
Especially when you're fishin'  
With your buddies Ed and Roy

Then when you're tired of fishin'  
And you give up for the day  
You're headed to Fred's camp  
Not very far away  
There to rest and reminisce  
And overnight to stay

So when the evening meal is over  
And the dishes put away  
Then a toddy you'll be havin'  
In the comfort of Fred's cabin  
Listening to tall tales  
About the one that got away

Now all the talk is fishin'  
And your thirst is in remission  
The hour is getting late  
So it's time to hit the hay

Then again on second thought  
Before you go to bed  
Maybe we should tip the glass  
For buddies Roy and Ed

Jim Covey

## Dalhousie Environmental Students Initiate Community-based Flora and Fauna Monitoring Program

The Five Bridge Lakes region is experiencing enormous pressures. Global climate change, close proximity to a large urban centre, and rapid growth in its surrounding population threaten its natural ecosystem and place its plant and animal communities at risk.

In response to these issues, graduate students in Dalhousie's Environmental Studies Program under the direction of Dr. Martin Willison have developed a community-based monitoring program that will help to establish baseline levels of the region's ecological assets (specifically its flora

and fauna). This program will also help to determine the effects of urban sprawl and global climate change.

The program aims to identify and establish protocols for long-term monitoring within the Five Bridge Lakes region. The project anticipates that community involvement will encourage understanding, interest, and support for the protection of the FBWHT region, and in turn, promote community-based stewardship of the land.

With the help of community members (individuals, school groups, service organizations, and the like) observations of

plants and animals made within the Trust region will be reported and stored in a database. This information will be available to the community in the form of an annual report. More information about the program can be accessed online through the Five Bridge Wilderness Heritage Trust website ([www.fivebridgetrust.ca](http://www.fivebridgetrust.ca)), or at the Tantallon Library at the Hubley Centre (near exit 5 on Highway 103) or by emailing John Matthews at [ohana@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:ohana@hfx.eastlink.ca).

—Philana Dollin, Jessica Epstein, Mike Gullo, Jennifer Stewart and Susan Bone

## FBWHT to use Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) to map Five Bridge Lakes area

CABIN is the acronym for the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network, an Environment Canada program that relies on counts of benthic macroinvertebrates, such as mayfly larvae, to assess the health of aquatic environments. CABIN projects have been conducted in the Great Lakes region, British Columbia and Northern Ontario. The project is now expanding to Atlantic Canada, using mostly volunteer groups. In order to obtain standardized data suitable for regional comparisons and quantitative analyses, a number of sampling and identification protocols must be followed. These are taught in a one-week course. In early June a FBWHT trustee, who has had previous experience working with macroinvertebrate fossils, attended the course at Acadia University.

FBWHT is now in the process of developing a CABIN

sampling program, which initially will involve the study of stream sites but eventually also include lakes. The goal of this study is to document the ever-growing effect of urbanization on the environment of the Chebucto Peninsula and as well to track the long-term effects of anthropogenic climate change on aquatic environments. We hope to establish monitoring sites that can be sampled once a year for at least several decades. Needless to say, long term monitoring of this scale requires continuity of volunteers, which FBWHT hopes to achieve by working closely with local schools and their students.

For additional information contact John Matthews at [ohana@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:ohana@hfx.eastlink.ca) or 902-876-1012. Documents describing CABIN sampling protocols will soon be deposited at the Tantallon Library.



## FBWHT proposes HRM protection of lands at Big Five Bridge and Moores Lakes

In Mid-May FBWHT representatives met with Councillor Gary Meade to ask his support to protect 700 hectares of HRM lands in his district located between and to the east of Big Five Bridge and Moores Lakes. The lands are in the center of the 10,000 hectares of Crown lands that the Trust was formed to protect. Councillor Meade indicated his support for the proposal and recommended conservation zoning as the most appropriate protective measure.

A Warden recently termed Five Bridge and Moores Lakes "the last pristine, publicly accessible lakes in Western HRM that have large stocks of wild trout." As part of the Nine Mile River system, these lakes also have environmental importance. The Nine Mile

River system empties into Shad Bay. Commercial fishers are rightly concerned about the impact on the fishery of the waters that empty into the ocean through this watershed.

If protected, these lands would protect the wildlife corridors in the heart of the Five Bridge Lakes area, add considerable value and protection to the Western Common municipal wilderness, and provide recreational access to the traditional backcountry trails network including the new Bluff Trail now under construction by the Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization.

We cannot underestimate the importance of ensuring the ecological integrity of these lands. The land, its

waters, and its wildlife do not recognize the boundaries that separate HRM lands from the larger tract of surrounding Crown lands. Industrial or housing development on either would interrupt this continuity and its wildlife corridors.

We congratulate HRM on its vision in planning the Western Common, especially its sensible integration of residential, light industrial, and recreational zones. We applaud its recreational areas that include everything from urban ball diamonds, soccer pitches, and equestrian grounds to more protected forms of wilderness recreation. We now call on HRM to protect the integrity of this plan by giving conservation designation to the Five Bridge Lakes lands.

## FBWHT proposes compromise on motorized travel on public lands in the Five Bridge Lakes region

FBWHT membership includes long-time residents and responsible ATV users who are concerned about accessing fishing and camping sites in the region of Five Bridge and Moore's Lakes and hikers and come-from-away naturalists, hikers, birders, and canoeists who are equally concerned about protecting the natural habitat and tranquility of the trails and inland waterways.

The FBWHT land reflects a similar duality. Much of the interior of the Chebucto Peninsula is comprised of heath (locally known as "barren") land, bogs, and rare species of lichens and other wildlife, including a diminishing herd of indigenous moose. Such habitats are especially vulnerable

to human passage, particularly ATV's. On the other hand, the FBWHT land is bisected by "K" roads, such as the abandoned Glen Margaret to Goodwood highway, which include a permanent, multi-purpose 66' right-of-way that legally accommodates all types of traffic, power lines, communications cables, and drainage paraphernalia.

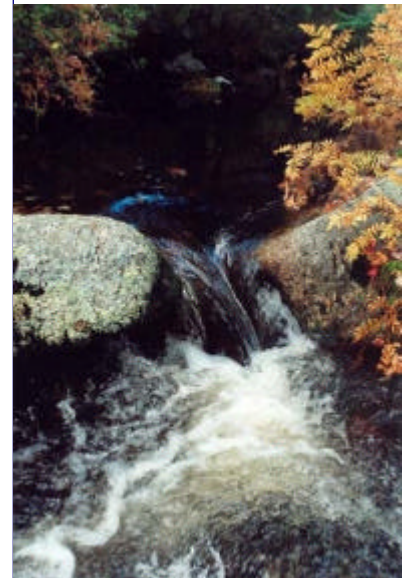
FBWHT is working to reconcile these conflicting interests by seeking agreement to allow motorized access on certain established trails in return for respect for restricted use elsewhere in the Five Bridge Lakes area. One possibility would be to allow motorized access to hardened trails, that is to say old rail beds,

logging roads, and highways constructed prior to invention of asphalt or ATV's. FBWHT also hopes to establish an ATV trail from the Trans-Canada Trail to established trails in the interior of the Peninsula.

In essence, FBWHT proposes to map the various access routes through aerial surveys and consultation with long-standing residents including, Ralph Wheadon, a retired forest ranger with extensive knowledge and experience of the local area. This approach is consistent with the proposed legislation governing off-road vehicles, which is expected to grandfather motorized access over trails established prior to 1993.



*"With the help of community members ... observations of plants and animals made within the Trust region will be reported and stored in a database...[and] made available to the community in the form of an annual report."*



### Jimmy Covey

The poem on page 2 was written by Jimmy Covey, a long-time and well-respected resident of Seabright. Jimmy loved fishing and spent many happy hours over a lot of years fishing "Big Five Bridges" and enjoying the friendly atmosphere of Fred Canning's camp.

Jimmy passed away recently. He was a fine man and a real gentleman. He'll be missed.



## Conserving public lands on the Chebucto Peninsula

Tom Musial, Chair

Five Bridge Wilderness Heritage Trust

29 Noble Court

Lake of the Woods, NS B3Z 1A7

We're on the web:

[www.fivebridgetrust.ca](http://www.fivebridgetrust.ca)

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**The Leading Edge**

<http://www.stewardship2003.ca/>

The Trust sincerely thanks the following individuals and departments for their contributions to make its participation in the Leading Edge 2003 Conference possible:

- Leading Edge Organizers
- Environment and Labour
- Reg Rankin, HRM Counselor
- Bill Estabrooks, MLA
- John Chataway, MLA
- Geoff Regan, MP
- Pat Lane, Prof. of Biology

# 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 (Protection of Wilderness Areas on Crown Lands)  
Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails Association (various)  
WRWEO (Protection of Cranberry Bog)



## FBWHT Represents Eastern Canada at National Stewardship Conference

The Five Bridge Wilderness Heritage Trust will represent Eastern Canada at a national gathering of conservation leaders from July 3-6 in Victoria, B.C. This year's conference is called The Leading Edge: Stewardship and Conservation in Canada 2003.

Special guests and speakers at the conference include The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment for the Government of Canada, and Robert Bateman, the world-renowned painter, author, and naturalist.

The Conference is gathering together people who work in all sectors of conservation to showcase progressive practices and share the most innovative tools, techniques, and visions in the way that Canadian stewards protect our natural and cultural legacy for future generations.

The program will spell out advanced strategies for conservation and stewardship; increased commitment to new and existing partnerships; the implementation of successful tools, practices and standards; and the opportunity to look ahead to the future of stewardship and conservation in Canada.

The conference proposes to articulate a bold-ten-year vision, with goals, objectives, and recommendations to advance the role of stewardship and conservation in protecting our natural and cultural heritage in Canada.

Tom Musial, Chair of FBWHT, will present a paper at the conference entitled "Halifax's Urban Wilderness: Protecting It and Managing It Wisely."

