



## June 2019 – Halifax North West Trails Association Newsletter

June is finally upon us, and it is bringing a busy month for HNWTA! With two new, exciting events, two TD Park People Grant sponsored hikes, and meetings galore, we've got a lot going on this month!

Before we talk about events, we have exciting news regarding our newly launched Trail Monitor Program! For those not aware, a few months ago we reached out to our membership and volunteer community to find out if anyone was interested in signing up as a volunteer Trail Monitor. This was our first success in that the community responded eagerly and we have a total of 24 Trail Monitors monitoring our nine different trails! Each Monitor is assigned to a trail and performs a monthly inspection which is reported back to HNWTA, and issues requiring fixing are reported to Halifax 311. May was our first 'trial' month of the program and we have had many successes so far, including getting the garbage cans installed again at Hemlock Ravine Park, and dangerous trail conditions repaired immediately on other trails. When the first inspection of Cabin Lake was done at the beginning of May, our Trail Monitors discovered a whole shed roof on the trail!! This was reported to 311 and by the time the next inspection was done a few weeks later, the roof was removed, and the trail was back to normal. These are all big successes for the program! Thank you to all the Trail Monitors on all our trails as we couldn't do it without you 😊



Our favorite part of the program so far is not that the trails are getting the much-deserved repairs/attention they need, but that Trail Monitors have been so keen to get out and really take ownership and pride in their trail. Many Trail Monitors have spoken to community members about their role while on the trail and are also reporting to us the exciting things they see on the trail such as the first ducks on Belcher's Marsh (Photo Credit: David Graff) and the arrival of the bees and flowers along the trail.

Our first event of the month was the successful International Trails Day hike to Fox Lake that was generously supported by TD Park People Grants. In total, 35 people came out on a beautiful June day to take the 4km return hike out to the lake vista at Fox Lake. The weather was perfect, but the blackflies were less than ideal! The support from TD Park People allowed us to provide snacks for hikers, and trail prizes of hiking books and [Hike Nova Scotia solar lanterns](#). It was a great day all around and thank you to everyone who came out to join us!





Our next event is by far the largest; and one we are most excited about. The first annual Community Foot Prints Event is being held on **Sunday, June 9** from **12:00 – 4:00 pm** in the parking lot of **30 Farnham Gate Road**. We are so excited to be hosting this event that brings together organizations from all over the community that have a passion for hiking, nature, staying healthy and active, and community connections. For the list of attending groups, check out the event website [www.halifaxnorthwesttrails.ca/footprints](http://www.halifaxnorthwesttrails.ca/footprints). This event is part of Halifax Bike Week as well, so there is lots going on! Visit every group, collect stamps, and earn the chance to win new hiking shoes from corporate sponsor Foot Solutions! There are many other great prizes to be won as well, and if you sign up as a new member with HNWTA (or renew your membership), you'll enter *another* draw to win a pair of hiking shoes! So many prizes, so many groups to visit, so much fun to be had! Stop by to see what all the excitement is about 😊



Our second new and exciting event is an Introduction to Nature Photography with Truro artist Darlene Wright-Watters from [Creative Watters Art and Design](#)! We'll start with an "outdoor classroom" where Darlene will share information on how to take better photos; especially in nature! You don't need to have a fancy camera (I'll be using my cell phone); it's all about finding the best shots and getting creative! Then we venture out on the Mainland Common Loop Trail and practice our newfound skills, take new shots we've never tried, and notice trail aspects in a whole new light! Registration is almost full, so sign up now through [Eventbrite](#)!

As for other upcoming events, we have some meetings coming up to discuss some new ideas and events for members. If you have ideas about any events you'd like to see us host, please let us know at [hnwta.communications@gmail.com](mailto:hnwta.communications@gmail.com). We're here to help you get out on the trails, so let us know what you would like to do!

If you've been following the progression of the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area, you've heard the exciting news about future land purchases (Did you see page 6 of the [Parkview News](#)?). Come on out on June 12 to learn about what the Friends of Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Society has done in their first year as a formed group, and to hear more information about the proposed regional park. The meeting is being held at Maskwa Canoe Club (91 Saskatoon Drive) from 7:00-8:30 (doors open at 6:30), and a silver collection will be at the door to support the Maskwa Athlete's Fund.

There's not a lot of room in this Newsletter for a "Trail of the Month", but since we just had International Trails Day, let's say that all the trails are the Trail of the Month! Get out and enjoy as much nature as you can!!

Thank you for supporting us at HNWTA, and we hope to see you at all these events! Keep in touch over the summer (July is quiet in terms of events for us this year!) and stay tuned for newly posted events!

Happy June!

Alyssa  
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