

Happy New Year from the local trails group!

January 2017

With mixed weather, snow, rain and ice, it is difficult to plan ahead for a trails walk. Icy pathways can be difficult to negotiate, in particular when there are slopes! Plan to add 'icers' or 'crampons' to improve traction. And if the municipality is dumping snow or using the space at the trailhead for snow storage where you want to walk, give 311 a call. Although few trails have winter maintenance, the Mainland Linear Trail is the only one in the local region, other trails may provide a winter walking or snow-shoeing experience. But we hope that access to our local trails continues to be safe and easy for those who want to snowshoe or walk in the snow.

NEWS Flash! <http://www.nspower.ca/en/home/community/cpwtrail.aspx>. Starting on January 24, NS Power is doing major upgrades to the powerline alongside the Mainland Linear Trail. Check their website or on the **trail** for signage of **closures**. The work involves live wires to enable work to progress without household power disruption. It will be weather dependent.

Sunday, February 12, 2017, 1:30 pm Come out and try your hand at snowshoeing on the Mainland Common Loop Trail. HNWTA is partnering with HRM Outdoor Adventure Centre. They will provide snowshoes and staff to help us.

Please pre-register at sandfg6@gmail.com or 902-435-6959 in case of date change and/or to request snowshoes. Explore the Common Loop trail between Westridge and Main St. off the Mainland Linear Trail. Meet in the parking lot at the top of Westridge Drive, off Willett St.

For additional Snowshoe outings around the province, check out the information on www.hikenovascotia.ca. Over 50 events are scheduled.

Regional Council is beginning discussions for the 2017-18 annual operating and capital budgets. Residents/taxpayers are encouraged to highlight their priorities by participating in the online allocation process with an online tool.

<http://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/hfxtax2017>

Key questions in the lead-up to the budget debate are also online, answers and opinions shared on this interactive website will form part of the Report to Council. In addition, time is set aside at the end of budget presentations for public comment (5 minutes each).

Plan to attend to observe or add your comments for the following business unit: Feb 1 - Parks & Recreation (the need to set aside a budget allocation for land acquisitions such as Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park, long overdue). All presentations

take place at City Hall on upcoming Wednesday mornings. If you cannot participate, contact your Councillor with your comments and questions.

The **Halifax Green Network** is a complex work in progress by HRM and consultants based on community feedback. The next release of information will happen soon, followed by a round of public consultations. Watch for details in the news and plan to attend or give feedback. We will share details once available.

Wendy McDonald, Board member, HNWTA