



Halifax North West Trails....March 2018

We never know who is going to visit our trails. Recently, the Halifax Regional Police Mounted Unit came by to patrol the Mainland Linear Trail. The horses are Sarge and Val, short for Valour, and they have been busy with their riders in and around the region patrolling, downtown and on other trails... you may meet up with them soon as they will be participating in the annual Irish Parade.

While in Mainland North, they had a great message for the public, important for users of this trail as it crosses several busy roads along the 4.5kms and to keep alert. "Please drive carefully and make sure you stop for pedestrians in crosswalks". You can see their Feb 12 twitter post [@HRPMountedUnit](#) as they are about to cross Lacewood Drive. I am not sure who carried the crosswalk safety flag! The drivers had a big smile for our trail visitors as did the trail users.

During March Break, get out with family on the trails. If you are in Bedford South, you can explore the Old Coach Road or the Cabin Lake and Fleetview Trails. The website shares access to these to help you find the trailheads. Mainland North residents are closer to Belchers Marsh or the Geizer Hill Trail off Green Park Close. Or park off Main at Washmill and check out the large map to see the Mainland Commons Trails.

If you are searching for a special gift for friends and family or a memorial for an outdoors adventurer, a trail donation might be an option. Nova Scotia Trails Federation, our parent organization, can match donors to a local trails group through the Canada Helps donate button at www.novascotiatrails.com/ A tax receipt is provided.

Halifax North West Trails is collaborating with the other 20+ volunteer trails groups in HRM to encourage HRM Council to fund the planning and construction of Recreation Trails in and around the region. Currently, the only trails built by the volunteer groups must be linear, connecting communities and neighbourhoods to school, work or other destinations from an Active Transportation budget. Loop trails or in parks are not currently funded and should be a part of an active, healthy HRM model through Recreation funds. A pilot fund for the next fiscal year with more in subsequent years has been proposed. If you support this idea, let your Councillor know well before the end of March when a budget vote will occur. Nothing can happen without financial support. Then funds can potentially be matched with other sources including provincial or other trail funding sources. Halifax is one of few cities that does not fund or recognize the importance of Recreation Trails and pathways.

Spring is just around the corner! Happy Trails!

Wendy McDonald