



Happy Canada Day Weekend... enjoy the trails with your friends and family this summer!

Halifax North West Trails recently held its Annual General Meeting. Thanks to those who attended and acknowledged the many activities that the group has accomplished over the past year including leading interpreted walks and hikes for residents and newcomers, working with HRM on enhancement projects of existing trails, and maintaining two trails with help from many individuals. Our Canada 150 Trailgate party at the end of some maintenance activities at the Mainland Common Loop Trail was a highlight of our past year. More details will be posted on the website soon.

Our special guest speaker, Mike Lancaster, described how the nearby Bluff Trail in the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area have trained almost 100 stewards to help monitor and maintain 27 km of trail and to educate users. Working alongside NS Environment (NSE) Protected Areas staff, volunteers are helping to keep the trail as natural as possible and safe for users. NSE can be reached at 1-800-565-2224 if you see violations like dumping of garbage, open fires or tree cutting on provincial lands such as Susie's Lake Trail or Charlies Lake. If this is happening on local HRM lands, call 311; if it's a fire, call 911.

On the same evening, HRM Planner, Richard Harvey, hosted a meeting for public input/feedback regarding the recently purchased Hobsons Lake property, the first step towards the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park. About 30 individuals participated and the common theme was the urgency in acquiring additional property to complete the Regional Park as per Regional Council's motion nearly 2 years ago and as stated in the Regional Plan of 2006 and updated in 2014.

If you are interested in sharing your ideas with HRM, contact Richard Harvey before July 10: harveyri@halifax.ca. You are encouraged to point out Issues and opportunities and give **one** most important point. As well, any background knowledge or photos could be shared to add to their data and files. There is some information, including a small map of the Hobsons Lake posted at www.halifax.ca. Find it by searching for Blue Mountain. Many of you may already know the area. To keep in touch with the new BMBCL Society, send your contact info to bluemountainbirchcovelakes@gmail.com and ask for the recent Newsletter giving more details. Their vision is: *To support and promote the creation and development of the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park, and to ensure the stewardship and appropriate use of the area.* Watch for upcoming opportunities to join a walk or hike.

In the more urban setting of Mainland North, along the Mainland Linear Trail, construction and improvements to increase year-round Active Transportation opportunities are nearing completion. Three benches will also be installed eventually, for those who want or need to take a break in their walk. If you have ideas about local improvements for your neighbourhood, please let us know ASAP as the

Trails Group will be submitting proposals for next years projects at the end of summer...planning needs to start soon.

If you are a Nordic Pole walker, there are other community groups out walking. Meet on Thursdays at 10 am at Glen Garden on Glenforest Drive or at Bedford/Hammonds Plains Road Rec Centre on Tuesday or Friday at 1:30 (call 902-490-7481 for locations). Both groups offer this free opportunity to walk or get out with your poles. Poles can be borrowed at Keshen Goodman Library with your card.

Keep in touch with the Trails Group through the summer to learn about future walks and a celebration of completion of the construction - www.halifaxnorthwesttrails.ca or connect with us at hnwta.contact@gmail.com, on Facebook, or on Twitter @HNWTA_comm.