



March 2019 Halifax Northwest Trails Association Newsletter

Winter Greetings, Trail Community! Hopefully you have had a chance to go outside and enjoy what winter has to offer. Remember that if you are out using our community trails, there is no winter maintenance (except on the Mainland North Trail), so use caution when walking and watch out for icy patches.

Though we have been quiet this winter, there is still a lot going on within our organization! We had a few snowshoe hikes that we were going to be a part of or host, but unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and these had to be cancelled. However, recent snow storms have finally given way to great snowshoeing conditions so be sure to get out while you can!

Our latest news is that we have a new, official name for what has been called the Mainland Linear Trail. The name of this trail is now **Mainland North Trail** which fully encompasses the communities it connects. New signage will be posted at the trailheads, so watch out for those!

This year, HNWTA will be taking part in the iNaturalist City Nature Challenge from April 26-29. This international effort asks people to find and document plants and wildlife in cities across the globe. Cities compete to see who can record the most nature observations and get the most people outside. To find out more information, visit <http://citynaturechallenge.org/>. To help our community get out and become Naturalists and contribute their nature observations to the competition, we will be hosting a guided hike in the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes (BMBCL) Wilderness Area on Sunday, April 28. More info to come, so stay tuned!

Before heading out on the trail though, you'll want to be comfortable using the iNaturalist app on your smartphone, tablet, or desktop computer. A workshop hosted by Halifax Field Naturalists is being held Sunday, April 7 at 2:30 at the Keshen Goodman Public Library to teach new users how to submit their plant and wildlife photos to the competition. There will be both an indoor and outdoor component, so dress accordingly! Space is limited and registration is required. Please contact Bob McDonald at [bobathome83@gmail.com](mailto:bobathome83@gmail.com).

Speaking of BMBCL, have you been over to the newly launched website of the Friends of Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes? There is so much to look at, and lots of information available, so make sure to head over and check it out! If you'd like to receive information about the group and stay updated on the

progression of the proposed regional park, make sure to sign up for their newsletter [here](#) or become a member [here](#) (membership is free).

We've also been busy making new friends in the neighbourhood! We proudly announce a new sponsorship from local business Foot Solutions Halifax. They are helping us with increasing membership and spreading the word about the work that we do in the community. We thank them for their generous support!

Foot Solutions Halifax has been in Clayton Park since 2005. Their goal is to help keep you walking! They educate those seeking help and fit those who appreciate good comfortable shoes, custom orthotics, shoe inserts and compression socks. Customers appreciate the knowledgeable staff and the no pressure to purchase store policy. Stop in for your next pair of shoes, or simply to say hello!

[www.footsolutions.com/halifax](http://www.footsolutions.com/halifax)

With the announcement of this sponsorship, we would also like to send out our first notice of an exciting new event we will be co-hosting. Sunday June 9th, 2019 will be our 1st Annual Community Foot Prints Event. Keep an ear open to learn more as the event date approaches!

Enjoy the new snow and stay safe out on the trails!

Happy Trails,

Alyssa

HNWTA Communications