



Hello again!

Our last newsletter was full of our up-coming events, so we thought we would reach out again and share with you some news and general information.

Earth day is coming up soon (Monday, April 22), and we encourage you to try to get out in the community and help clean up your neighbourhood! A great idea is to simply bring a garbage bag with you as you walk along your favorite trail. Even this small gesture is huge for our trails, and for the planet!

This year, the city of Halifax is taking part in the iNaturalist City Nature Challenge to find the most biodiverse city in the world! Between April 26-29, snap as many pictures of different flora and fauna as you can and upload them to your iNaturalist account through their app or online. More information about this event for Halifax is found here:

<https://inaturalist.ca/projects/city-nature-challenge-2019-halifax-regional-municipality>

To help you contribute to this “bioblitz” competition, we are hosting an event in the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area on Sunday, April 28 at 11:30. Please meet at the end of Colin’s Road at 11:15. Our goal is to walk out to Hobson’s Lake, but if we get distracted taking pictures of everything we see, don’t be surprised if we don’t make it that far! The focus on this event is to contribute as many photographs to the competition as possible, so make sure to come with your iNaturalist app already installed and your account created. Registration is required, so please email hnwta.communications@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Our annual general meeting is fast approaching, and we hope that you can all attend! Meet with us Monday, May 6 at the Keshen Goodman Public Library and we will discuss what our trail group has done this year (and will do next year) to promote the use and creation of trails in our neighbourhood! Our guest speaker Karen McKendry, Wilderness Outreach Coordinator with the Ecology Action Centre will present: ***Trails to Nature – Improving Your Health***, about the benefits of getting out in nature and how to encourage those hesitant folks to join us outside! Come early at 6:30 for networking, light refreshments, and membership sign-up/renewal! The meeting will start at 7:00.

To make membership renewal (and signing up) easier, we have re-structured our membership fees. First time membership fee is \$20 for three years, and this includes a HNWTA logo badge, and a reminder when renewal time approaches. Membership renewal is \$15 for three years and includes a renewal email when the time comes. Membership benefits are growing thanks to the support of our corporate sponsor Foot Solutions Halifax. We are hoping to offer discounts at local restaurants, but for now, you can attend our June 16 nature photography event for free if you are a member!

We are also on the hunt for enthusiastic HNWTA community members who are interested in joining our board. We would love to hear new ideas and have a fresh set of eyes on the board. Our membership committee is also without a permanent chairperson, and we are looking for anyone who has interest in this role to join our board. If you would like to join us in any capacity, please send us your questions about volunteering to hnwta.communications@gmail.com. (We encourage you to even come to an upcoming board meeting on a trial basis to see if it is right for you!)

Happy Spring Everyone, and we hope to see you at the AGM on May 6!