

The Blue Mountain News

IT'S OFFICIAL: FRIENDS OF BLUE MOUNTAIN BIRCH COVE LAKES IS BORN!

Exactly one month after the formative meeting at Maskwa Aquatic Club on May 5, and subsequent to the second ever, Dakin Drive meeting on April 12, 2018, the Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Society came into existence with a primary, formal objective:

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.

Thanks to Chuck Lienaux for pulling the somewhat daunting task of registration together in such short order. No detail has been missed — we even have a corporate seal!

Here's a picture of our new board, from left to right...
Richard Vinson; Eric Stotts;
Kym Paquette, Treasurer;
Ian Guppy, Vice-Chair;
Chuck Lienaux, Diana



Whalen, Co-Chair; Mark Young, Co-chair; Mary Ann McGrath, Mary Ellen Donovan, Secretary; Ray Plourde, Gisele Gomes, James Boyer, and Bill Turpin. The board brings with it a wide range of skill sets: education, legal, business, media, advocacy, planning, government, community relations and more.

WELCOME!

You are receiving this notice as a result of your participation at the public meetings on April 12, 2018 and May 5 or at your request to be kept up-to-date on Friends of BMBCL activities. As such, you will continue to receive ongoing updates on all of the exciting news to come regarding BMBCL (proposed) regional park. If you know of others who might like to be added to our notices, simply forward this copy of the Blue Mountain NEWS. They can then contact us at bluemountainbirchcovelakes@gmail.com.



FIRST EVENT

On May 16 we organized a hike to Hobson Lake with four city councillors - Richard Zurawski (Dist 12: Timberlea, Beechville, Clayton Park, Wedgewood); Lisa Blackburn (Dist 14: Middle/Upper Sackville - Beaver Bank - Lucasville); Lorelei Nicoll (Dist 4: Cole Harbour, Westphal); and Sam Austin (Dist 5: Dartmouth Centre) plus a CTV crew who provided some quality coverage. Maskwa Aquatic Club was also represented by John Moore, Director, Environmental Affairs. This all led to a better understanding of the issues facing BMBCL and new introductions to some of the key stakeholders working hard to make this proposed park a reality. A thank you goes out to Wendy McDonald of NW Trails who led the walk.



BREAKING NEWS - COMMUNITY MEETING PLANNED!

As recently announced by HRM: "A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre, 202 Innovation Drive, Bedford, Nova Scotia regarding the **Hobson Lake lands**, which HRM acquired in January 2018, and a future parkland dedication."

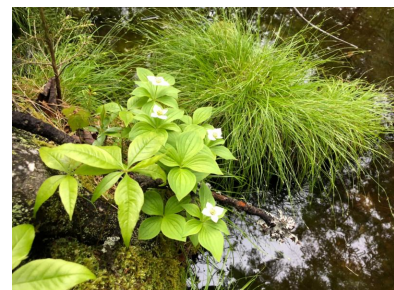


The purpose of the meeting: *"...to provide information about the municipality's acquisition of the lands for wilderness park purposes and to discuss its relationship to adjacent properties, possible future uses, entrances, and trail connections."*

Hope to see you there! Picture: Hobson Lake outfall

WANT TO HELP OUT?

Over the coming months, there will be calls for active participants on committees and more. We'll need your involvement for membership, policy, communications, events, stakeholder relations, project management, finance and, possibly, ASAP calls for assistance when we need to act quickly on an issue or require additional 'feet on the ground'! Please *let us know* if you have skill sets that you think would help to further the cause.





ARE YOU GRAPHICALLY INCLINED?

The Friends need both a logo and a website. Furthermore, we anticipate ongoing work in both on-line and hard copy layout and graphics. Social media will also play a role in getting the word out. Please let us know if you can assist us with any of these skill sets.

BACKGROUND ON THE PROPOSED PARK

If you're looking for more information about the formative history of the proposed park, here are some links of interest.

- > Ecology Action Centre has a [timeline](#) that chronicles the key actions and dates that bring us to where we are now.
- > Halifax Regional Municipality [identifies the park](#) as "...a true wilderness experience in the midst of our urban environment".
- > NS Dept of Environment [describes their interest](#) c/o a listing within the Protected Areas program.



FEEDBACK

If you have ideas, comments, concerns, skill sets to offer... please let us know at: bluemountainbirchcovelakes@gmail.com By keeping your name on our e-mail list, you will stay up-to-date on coming events and news. So, stay tuned ...there's a lot more to come as we move forward on many fronts.

News Ed: Richard Vinson

