



Halifax North West Trails.... November 2017

We have had a busy fall with many walks and hikes in the region; thanks to Hike Nova Scotia for promotion of ours and other hikes hosted around the province by many volunteers. One of our significant events was accompanying Halifax MP Andy Fillmore and 40 keen hikers into Susies Lake, most for the first time. The huckleberry bushes, in glowing reds, reflected over the calm waters. We look forward to the time when this trail or similar becomes part of the proposed **Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park**. Talk to your Councillor or the Mayor about progress on this Park; we await an HRM hosted community meeting or an update as promised by Council a year ago. Outreach to community groups was a part of the approved motion.

For nearly four years, we've been encouraging HRM in the creation of a greenbelt and finally the city is putting the finishing touches to the Green Network Plan. This will help protect our natural areas for recreation, ecology, cultural heritage, tourism and sustainable economic development. It will include recreation trails and a way to make connectivity a reality...connecting the dots through green spaces and communities!

If you have not let your Councillor know you are supportive of this plan, now is the time to encourage Council's endorsement of the Green Network Plan. Go the website that [OurHRM Alliance](#) has created to learn more and easily connect with decision makers. Your voice is important.

With shorter days during the fall and winter months, hiking takes more careful planning. Keep in mind planned distances and return times so you are not caught in the falling darkness. As always, let family or friends know where you plan to hike and expected return time.

It's also important to note, if you are hiking in the woods, that from late October until early December, the deer hunting season is on, including some Sundays. Remember to wear hunter orange and make a bit of noise. A summary of Hunting Regulations is available online [here](#).

Keep in touch with us on the [web](#) or on [Facebook](#).... We need your support through membership or as an active volunteer. You may be interested in the annual [HRM Volunteer Conference](#), an interesting way to network with others as well as learning some skills, November 17-18. Workshops are filling up.

One of our volunteers will be receiving a Sesquicentennial (Canada 150) Award later this month from our local MP, Geoff Regan. Thank you!

Wendy McDonald, Board member