



Halifax North West Trails - September - Wendy McDonald

Halifax North West Trails is still seeking volunteers! The fall will be busy with walks and hikes, a good time to be introduced to an active local community group. If you enjoy the outdoors, plan to attend our upcoming events, noted here and on the web site to meet other volunteers or connect at hnwta.contact@gmail.com. With well over 10 years of community experience in the region, HNWTA is one of over 20 volunteer trails groups in HRM. Our mandate includes Active Transportation but Recreation trails are definitely also on our radar.

A year ago, Halifax staff and Council stated they would move forward to create the promised Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park. Little news has filtered out about next steps, 12 months

later. The trails group and others continue to hike and walk in the provincially-owned protected areas and to connect with decision makers. We seem no closer to the promised Regional Park although we anticipate some public outreach in the coming months. Stay tuned for community engagement.

The Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area will be the site of a BioBlitz, or Haliblitz, as scientists carry out a biological inventory of the biodiversity on Friday, September 15 at Susie's Lake and from Maskwa and area on Sunday, September 17 with a mini Festival at Maskwa Aquatic Club. For more information on how you can participate, sign up for hikes, and to learn more about the region, check out www.EcologyAction.ca/bioblitz. And on Saturday, September 16, groups will be hosting a Festival at Point Pleasant Park supporting Haliblitz. Sign up for walks and events through that link. Or just show up between 11am-3:30pm, suitable for all ages.

Some may recall that a BioBlitz hosted by Saint Mary's University was held here, back in 2009, when over 800 species were discovered including birds, butterflies, dragonflies, lichens, fish and bugs, all in a concentrated 24-hour period. This year's effort is a modified approach with encouragement for more citizen scientists to be involved. With the use of technology, you too can log in sightings while in the Wilderness Area. By downloading the App inaturalist.ca and then joining the Haliblitz project, you can share your observations with others. If you do not know the name, someone 'out there' will help you ID the species recorded and logged in. It's all about helping everyone learn more about nature, while doing an inventory and having fun!

Other September hikes are listed on the webpage www.halifaxnorthwesttrails.ca and include Susie's Lake and Blue Mountain. As well, check the Hike Nova Scotia event site (www.hikenovascotia.ca) as we join with others around the province, including the Keshen Goodman Library, hosting trail events from September to November. Remember all urban trails are 'Dogs on Leash' trails. If you would rather explore or on your own, with your friends, some maps are listed for most of the local urban trails.

Our upcoming **Canada 150** event is a Trailgate Maintenance Party followed by a BBQ...taking place on Saturday, September 30. Register with Sharon at sandfg6@gmail.com for more details. We will be at the Mainland Common Loop Trail. Tools will be provided but bring gloves if you have them. Hike Nova Scotia and the Trail Shop are partners in this event, along with **Canada 150**. This is your opportunity to give back to the community trail and have fun too!

SAFETY ALERT - MAINLAND LINEAR TRAIL - Regular Trail Users

During the upcoming months, HRM in partnership with Halifax North West Trails, will be upgrading Neighbourhood Connections along the Mainland Linear Trail. Closer to the expected dates for construction, we will advise again and on site. Be aware of temporary construction barriers which will give us a safer and more welcoming trail network. The connections are between Turnmill Park and Park West School, the Canada Games Centre, Mary Clayton Memorial Park which connects to Willett Street. The fourth site is at Westridge Drive up to the AT link and the Off-Leash Dog Park. In addition, the crosswalk at Langbrae will be modified to slow down traffic near the Park West School.

Hope to see you on the trail!