



Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area Trail Plan

This message will serve as an update to all who participated in the early November Open House, the online survey or are members of the partner groups and interested public. We welcome our new Nova Scotia Environment partner, Heather Olivella, Protected Areas Coordinator- Central Region; Heather replaces Peter Bush who has joined the team at DNR.

In late February, our Trail Planning contractors submitted a Draft Plan to the partner groups, Maskwa Aquatic Club, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Nova Scotia) and Halifax North West Trails Association. After a few minor revisions, the Trail Plan for the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area was submitted to our government partners, Nova Scotia Environment and Department of Natural Resources in early March. This has resulted in some additional changes and a few questions for the partner groups. We anticipate that internal review of the document will be completed within a week or so.

Once final approval has been received, the Second Open House will be scheduled and planned – we are aiming for mid-May. And the public will be invited. Keep in touch with the website www.bmbcltrails.com for an announcement. The Trail Plan will be posted on the site in the near future.

On another important note, a small grant has been requested from the municipality to help with next steps, detailed trail alignments, necessary for the next phase of grant applications. Planning ahead for future costs is a major challenge for all recreational trail builders in Nova Scotia. Any ideas or offers of help are most welcome as we anticipate next steps.

Keep in touch,

The BMBCL WA Trail Planning team

April 20, 2015