

Bluff Trail Stewardship Program (BTSP) August 2017

Events & Activities:

BTSP Stewardship Training:

On 5 August 2017, four (4) new BTSP stewards were trained, bringing the total number of BTSP stewards to 30.

RCMP, EHS, & SAR Media Event:

On 11 August 2017, the RCMP organized a media outreach event at The Bluff Trail parking lot in an effort to better inform the public about the need for hiking safety and introduce some of the workers and volunteers who come to the rescue when hikers are lost and injured.



Summer Stewardship Assistants:

With funding assistance from the Canada Summer Jobs, and in collaboration with St Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association (SMBSA), St. Margaret's Bay Area Rails to Trails Association (SMBARTA), and Safety Minded ATV Association (SMATVA), the BTSP was able to employ Allyssa Poulin and Ryan McKay, two Natural Resources Environmental Technology (NRET) students from Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), as Summer Stewardship Assistants for a total of 16 days (13 days in July and 3 days in August).



Way Markers at Junctions of Pot Lake and Mi'kmaw Hill Loops:

In June 2017, colour-coded rope markers were placed at the junctions of the Pot Lake and Mi'kmaw Hill Loops in an effort to address the frequent confusion experienced by users who do not recognize the distinction between the first and second loops. These rope markers were repeatedly removed and even if left in place, would not be of aid to hikers once snow covers the ground. On 9 August 2017, the Summer Stewardship Assistants (Allyssa Poulin and Ryan MacKay) replaced the rope markers with six (6) wooden waymarkers.



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BTSP by the Numbers:

Reports = 14

10 Trail Reports
3 SSA* Reports
1 Event Report

**Total reports to date:
87**

Hours on Trail = 133.59

68 (51%) paid
66 (49%) unpaid

**Total hours to date: 964
394 (41%) paid
571 (59%) unpaid**

Presence on Trail = 13 Days (42%)

13 days on Pot Lake Loop
5 day on Mi'kmaw Hill
3 day on Bluff & Hay Marsh Loops

**Total days to date:
69/243 (28%)**

Stewards

4 trained in August

**Total stewards to date:
30**

Check-Ins at LNT Sites

3 at Coyote/U'lukwej & Crow/Ka'qaquj;
3 at Squirrel/Atutu'wej & 2 at Moose/Tia'm

**Total to date: 23 at Coyote/U'lukwej & Crow/Ka'qaquj
11 at Squirrel/Atutu'wej and 6 at Moose/Tia'm**

People Count = 174

174 People Observed; 67 People Engaged (52%)

Total people to date: 1623 observed; 674 engaged (42%)

Dog Count = 28

18 (64%) off leash
10 (36%) on leash

Total dogs to date: 334

In-Kind Contributions** = \$1 366.85

On-Trail, Volunteer Labour: 66 hrs @ \$20.10/hr = \$1326.60

Materials & Equipment: 1 day use of 1 canoe = \$40.25

**Total in-kind contribution to date: On-Trail Labour \$11 487.75 + Materials & Equipment: \$442.75
\$11 930.50**

Remediation & Repair

- 9 spur barriers built/refurbished
- 6 trail barriers built/refurbished
- 11 fire pit remediated
- 1 illegal structure dismantled
- 6 hand-made, wooden, way markers installed (at the junctions of Pot Lake & Mi'kmaw Hill Loops)
- 6.5 feet found-stone hardening (1ft on 3B near Squirrel; 2.5ft on 3B; 3ft on 4C)

* Summer Stewardship Assistants

**Among the 66 hours of unpaid labour, 36.5 hours were part of paid contract work for WRWEO (sign & infrastructure inventory contract). The payment for these hours did not come out of the BTSP budget, and the BTSP work performed during that time was surplus to the paid contract work. WRWEO calculates the value of volunteer labour according to the 2015 study, *Working for a Living, Not Living for Work*, released by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Nova Scotia in partnership with United Way – Halifax. The report used the Canadian Living Wage Framework to calculate the living wage for Halifax at \$20.10/hr. Also, the above calculations of in-kind contributions do not include hundreds of hours of unpaid 'off-trail' labour.