

# Bluff Trail Stewardship Program (BTSP) Highlights: Dec. 2017

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*WRWEO respectfully acknowledges that we are located in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded and unsurrendered ancestral land of the Mi'kmaq (L'nu). We are all treaty people.*

## **SJA Coop Student:**

During December 2017, Thomas MacLeod, a grade-twelve, co-op student from SJA continued his co-op placement with WRWEO and SMBSA. However, all of his work with WRWEO during the month of December involved 'off-trail' projects such as picking up litter in the parking lot; helping to spread gravel removed during parking lot regrading, creating and reviewing trail reports for BTSP, reviewing DNR inspections of The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail, and building new metal way-markers to replace the wooden ones currently placed at the Pot Lake Loop and Mi'kmaw Hill Junctions.

## **NSCC Environmental Engineering Technology Partnership:**

On 10 December 2017, two students from the Environmental Engineering Technology (EET) program at Nova Scotia Community College (Ivany Campus, Dartmouth) received training as BTSP Stewards. In total, 40 BTSP Stewards have been trained in 2017.

Laura Struthers and Logan Hunter, two students in the EET program, are currently partnering with the BTSP to administer research on several of the watercourses that run close to The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail and through the Five Bridge Lake Wilderness Protected Area. This research aims to quantify the health of the watercourses by measuring the presence of benthic invertebrates as well as micro plastics.

## **Contract Work & BTSP Overlap:**

During December 2017, SMBSA undertook a maintenance contract with WRWEO for side-of-trail brush cutting on both the Bluff Loop and Hay Marsh Loop. Similarly, Jayden Rocks Photography and Trail Services also undertook a maintenance contract for side-of-trail brush cutting (Bluff Loop and Hay Marsh Loop) and another contract for deadfall removal on four loops and portage routes. This work was performed by Mike Lancaster (BTSP Stewardship Coordinator) and Jayden Gross (BTSP Steward) with some assistance from Drew Wagner (BTSP Steward). Of the BTSP 'on-trail' hours in December, 103 hours were paid for through this contract work; however, the payment did not come out of the BTSP budget, and the BTSP work performed during that time was surplus to the paid work.

**Acronyms:** BTSP (Bluff Trail Stewardship Program); SJA (Sir John A. Macdonald High School); WRWEO (Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization); SMBSA (St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association); EET (Environmental Engineering Technology); NSCC (Nova Scotia Community College).

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**BTSP Reports =  
14**

1 Event Report  
1 Trail Count  
12 Trail Reports

**Total reports to date:  
179**

**Hours on Trail =  
136.26**

3 (2%) paid  
133.26 (98%) unpaid\*

**Total hrs to date:  
575.65 (33%) paid  
1181.31 (67%) unpaid**

**Presence on Trail =  
12/31 Days (39%)**

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

**Total days to date: 130/365 (36%)**

**BTSP Stewards**

2 trained in August

**Total stewards to date: 40**

**Check-Ins at LNT Sites**

5 at Coyote/U'lukwej, 3 at Crow/Ka'qaquj; and  
1 at Squirrel/Atutu'wej & Moose/Tia'm

**Total to date: 38 at Coyote/U'lukwej, 36 at Crow/Ka'qaquj  
14 at Squirrel/Atutu'wej and 11 at Moose/Tia'm**

**People Count = 19**

19 People Observed; 3 People Engaged (16%)

**Total people to date: 3045 observed; 1181 engaged (39%)**

**Dog Count = 4**

4 (100%) off leash

**Total dogs to date: 562**

**In-Kind Contributions = \$3,472.48**

On-Trail Labour: 230.75hrs @ \$20.10/hr\* = \$2,678.53

Off-Trail Labour: 113.5hrs @ \$20.10/hr = \$793.95

Materials & Equipment = \$0.00

**Total in-kind contribution to date: \$38,367.51**

**On-Trail Labour \$23,744.33 + Off-trail Labour \$13,452.93 + M&E \$1,170.25= \$38,367.51**

## Remediation & Repair

Although none of the BTSP trail reports in December documented remediation or repair work, one of the contract workers was paid to remove 4 deadfall trees from the trail. This work would usually be performed by BTSP Stewards and/or Coordinators.

\*Among the 133.26 hours of unpaid labour, 103 hours were part of paid contract work for WRWEO (trail trimming on Bluff and Hay Marsh Loops and Deadfall Removal on all four loops and all portages). 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 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.