

## Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization - Co-chair's Report

### Paul Berry and Rob Williams

Our board consisted of seven members this year:

Paul Berry (Co-chair and treasurer)  
Rob Williams (Co-chair)  
Danielle Marchand (Co-Secretary)  
Ben Armstrong (Co-Secretary)  
Marine Gemeda  
Jayden Gross  
David Patriquin

We held board meetings on:

Thurs, Jan 12, 2017 5:30PM-7:30PM	Tues, Feb. 21, 2017 5:30-7:30 PM
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Wed, April 19, 2017 5:30-7:30pm	Wed, May 17, 2017 5:30-7:30pm	Wed, June 21, 2017 5:30-7:30pm	Tue, Sep 19, 2017 5:30-7:30pm
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Tue, Oct 17, 2017 5:30-7:30pm	Tue, Nov 21, 2017 5:30-7:30pm
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The highlights of WRWEO's activities this year:

1. The Bluff Trail Stewardship Program (BTSP) - Kimberly Berry volunteered as the Board's liaison with the BTSP, Mike Lancaster and Fiona Brooks were our Stewardship Coordinators. Kimberly / Mike will be providing an update on the past year's activities and upcoming activities.

The board wants to thank Kimberly Berry for being instrumental in launching the BTSP.

WRWEO and the board also undertook activities to support the BTSP and managed to obtain approximately \$8000 in donations to support the BTSP efforts through public appeals for donations. The FBWHT, NS Environment and RBC provided the bulk of the funding for the BTSP.

2. With funds provided by the city of Halifax via the Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA of \$13,828) as well as \$1000 provided by the province of NS (Communities, Sport & Recreation, NS Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage) we were able to undertake maintenance on the trail and our parking lot as follows:
  - a. Snow plowing parking lot as well as grading and gravel by Atlantic Wharf Builders,
  - b. Obtained independent legal advice from ECELaw regarding our new Management Agreement with NS Environment
  - c. Trail hardening provided by Jayden Rocks Photography and Trail Services, on the 2nd loop (Mi'kmaw Hill Loop)
  - d. Side of trail brush-cutting and deadfall removal provided by Jayden Rocks Photography and Trail Services and St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association. This was a groundbreaking effort that used only hand tools and relied in part on volunteer help obtained through the BTSP program. All for a cost that was in-line with costs in past years for brush cutting done with power tools.
  - e. Renting storage at Bay Self Storage for tools - \$690.00 per year.
3. WRWEO was active on the HRTA board - I acted as the HRTA Secretary and was part of the HRTA executive. Many board members, one of the Stewardship Coordinators and a number of WRWEO volunteers attended various HRTA meetings. In September 2017 WRWEO hosted the HRTA meeting at the BLT Community Centre and led a hike of HRTA members on the Bluff Trail.
4. WRWEO is a member of NS Trails Federation - we obtain our general liability insurance through NS Trails Federation, and the Province of NS seeks input from community trail groups via the federation. Communities Culture and Heritage will cover up to one third of the capital costs of trail work within Halifax. The province and NS Trails are also working on a provincial trails' strategy.
5. Environmental Studies student, Devon Gillighan, who was studying at Saint Mary's University completed 30 hours of volunteer work on the Bluff Trail and prepared a report. <https://wrweo.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Devon-Gillighan-Bluff-Wilderness-Hiking-Trail-Stewardship-Final-Report-Edited-Redacted.pdf>
6. WRWEO has been active with Our HRM Alliance (OHA) again this year - attending several meetings and providing input at Halifax outreach sessions on planning, especially in regard to the green network plan (April 2017 - OHA general meeting attended by WRWEO director and volunteer).
7. In July 2017, the 4th Leave No Trace Educational Camping Site, Moose/T'iam, was designated. It is located on the portage between between Hubley Big Lake and the Hay Marsh Loop.

8. Partnership and cooperation with EAC - July 29, 2017 WRWEO hosted a Hike, Bike and Swim event on the Bluff Trail for the EAC.
9. October 19, 2017 - Forest Funeral, a memorial service for the Acadian Forest and all the critters who used to live there. I was a Pallbearer and one of WRWEO's Stewardship Coordinators, Mike Lancaster, in his role with the Healthy Forest Coalition was central in organizing the event and provided the opening remarks.
10. Two Good Robot fundraisers for the Bluff Trail Stewardship Program - raising about \$851.00
11. Created a branding iron and made some brands at the Halifax Tool Library
12. A PhD student at Saint Mary's University researching wild bee communities that live in heathlands in Nova Scotia undertook research that involved sampling bees using coloured plastic bowls, on second loop of the Bluff Trail.
13. A major undertaking was signing a 10 year Management Agreement with NS Environment that replaces our letter of authority from DNR.
14. We also undertook a revision of our website and switched our web hosting provider so that we have more control over some of the web site functions. Ben Armstrong, Co-secretary of WRWEO, is our IT/tech champion and has taken the lead and has spent numerous hours on these activities that are not very apparent to our members and users. Thanks go out to Ben for all his work in this area.
15. Attended KAIROS Canada - Reconciliation in the Watershed on September 16, 2017
16. Participated with a booth at EAC's BioBlitz event - showing how long different items take to break down such as toilet paper and plastic spoons. Thanks to Danielle Marchand for taking on this event and engaging with the community that showed up at Point Pleasant Park.
17. A board member, one of our Stewardship Coordinators, and another volunteer have been attending the toonie counts for the Bay Treasure Chest in support of our BTSP funder, FBWHT. Thanks to Jayden Gross, Mike Lancaster, Kimberly Berry and our Sir John A. co-op student for counting toonies to support the Bay Treasure Chest.
18. WRWEO has been active in the Council of Community Organizations on the Chebucto Peninsula (CoCo) and has attended most of the meetings held this year.

19. We rented a storage locker at the The Bay Self-Storage in June 2017 in order to store the tools and materials that we have accumulated for WRWEO over the years.
20. Our board member Ben Armstrong continues to develop the Bluff Trail Labs concept - a place for trails to get all of their IT needs met, more to come later.
21. We continue to work with neighbours to try and get light poles installed in the parking lot to dissuade vandalism and loitering but this initiative has stalled. We continue to support our neighbours who want this work done.
22. We have been working with NSE to revise our map, updating the naming and amenities on the trail such as the LNT educational sites.
23. We completed a review of the signage on the trail and have created a "sign inventory" that describes and locates all the signs on the trail. We need to replace many of them and have to prepare submissions for funding.
24. We reviewed the [Shared Trails Strategy issued by NS Trails Federation](#) and noted the lack of reference to LNT behaviour on trails.