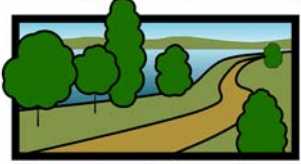


COLTA



Chain Of Lakes
Trail Association

August 2010

~ News Letter ~



(Grading the Trail)

Trail Update

For those who live beside the former CN rail line, when you feel your foundation shake know that the old line is beginning its transformation into a new trail. It all started back in February 2006 when CN announced its intention to discontinue operating the Chester and Lakeside Spur lines. It's a long process to abandon a rail line but in the end CN and HRM reached a purchase agreement in 2009.

The use of former rail lines within Nova Scotia for multi-use trails is well established and this purchase fulfills the dream to connect the BLT trail to the Halifax Urban Greenway as well as

becoming part of the Trans Canada Trail that begins at Point Pleasant Park and runs along the South Shore to Yarmouth.

In January 2010 under the Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, \$1,000,000 was awarded to develop the trail. That funding opens the trail to those with limited mobility in wheel chairs, for parents with strollers, also for cyclists and roller-bladers etc. It is this work that has just started and is shaking foundations. The funding covers the cost of paving the trail through the more densely populated urban areas and will be accessible year round with snow removal. The winning bidder for this contract is Dexter Construction. The work has just started and it appears the project will be finished before the anticipated November completion date. The rest of the trail that will ultimately connect with the BLT Trail will be gravel.

But like all new beginnings, there have been some problems. Once the rails were taken up, motorized vehicle owners took advantage of a new space to have fun with their wheels. Once the trail is finished with barricades and signs installed, this nuisance and noise should end. In the meantime, however, you can contact the police if you're having a problem with ATV's etc.

...a link in the Trans Canada Trail.



POLICE CONTACT INFO

-Halifax Regional Police Non Emergency Phone # is **490-5020** (This number can be used if there is no immediate emergency situation but the caller would like Police to attend for a given situation)

-Emergency number is 911 (This is to be used when a caller believes that there is a situation which requires immediate Emergency response) **See Below for More Info**



(Near Springvale Ave.)

YOUR INPUT

When the trail construction is completed it will be a “bare bones” trail. It follows the old rail line but that is the only given. Now it is up to us to shape it to our needs. COLTA wants to hear from you. We need your suggestions and ideas. You can send them to coltanewsletter@gmail.com. Your COLTA committee meets several times a month and over the next few years will be busy shaping the trail to one that serves our needs. Let’s hear from you.

Support from Councillors

HRM Councillors Linda Mosher, Mary Wile and Russell Walker have demonstrated their strong support for the trail by contributing the majority of the money that is in the association’s account. This will help fund some of the trail’s early needs such as signage until applications for grants are submitted and awarded which won’t happen until 2011.



Example of a Paved Trail... (Part of the BLT Trail)

ENFORCING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

As mentioned earlier, we expect the problems from motorized vehicles on the trail will stop once barricades and signs are up. This is the information from the police department and the penalties that can be enforced once the signs are installed.

In relation to the signage, the Halifax Regional Municipality Parks By-Law P-600 is the most appropriate and for the following reason. In the case of ATV's or any other motorized vehicles. Enforcement can be maintained under S.10 (1) (Vehicles in Parks) - No person shall operate any vehicle within a Park except wheelchairs, bicycles, Municipal or Utility vehicles, unless otherwise posted or by Permission. This can be enforced under the following penalties via Summary Offence Ticket:

-S.10 (1) Operating un-authorized vehicle in park (\$225.21 ticket)

-S.12 (2) Failing to observe and obey posted signs in park (\$225.21 ticket)

There are also enforcement options under the Protection of Property Act which would be applicable in certain situations and they are as follows:

-S.3 (1) (e) Entering on premises where entry is prohibited by notice (\$225.21 ticket)

-S.3 (1) (f) Engaging in activity which is prohibited on premises by notice (\$225.21 ticket)

There are also enforcement options under the Nova Scotia Off Highway Vehicle Act which can be issued via Summary Offence ticket as well.

This is the link to the HRM Parks By-law

<http://www.halifax.ca/legislation/bylaws/hrm/documents/By-LawP-600.pdf>

We'll keep you posted as the trail develops and look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Your COLTA Officers: President Joseph Faddoul, Vice-preside Peter Driscoll, Secretary Joan Mackinnon, Treasurer Tina Weir