

## CONSERVATION -2015

This past year was not the most active one for the Conservation Committee but we were involved in several projects of interest.

Several HFN members helped to organise and then participated in a one-day BioBlitz at the Otter Ponds Demonstration Forest (PDF), north of Sheet Harbour. Conservation Committee member Clare Robinson serves on the Board of the OPDF and helped to plan details for BioBlitz Day.

Bob McDonald served as the HFN representative on OurHRM Alliance, a consortium of some 50 groups which is involved in overseeing the Municipality's implementation of the 2014 Regional Plan. The focus this past year has been on the Greenbelt. We have provided input into the State of the Landscape Report and now the evolving Green Network Plan, which an external consulting company (from Calgary) has been working on. Allan Robertson and Bob attended the most recent stakeholder meeting held with HRM staff and the consultants. A series of public consultations will be held in late March/early April. The Plan should be finalised by June.

Although the Conservation Committee was not involved directly in this, you will all know that HFN made a substantial donation to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust in support of their 100 Wild Islands project as part of HFN's 40th Anniversary celebration.

Several HFN members have supported the expression of concern spearheaded by the Nova Scotia Bird Society to the Department of Natural Resources regarding the number of off-leash dogs observed harassing birds on Provincial Park beaches. These include Martinique and Conrad's Beach where there has been historical nesting of Piping Plovers but not for at least 6-7 years.

HFN members continue to support the HRM vision, expressed in 2006 and again in 2014, for the creation of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park. This is now also supported by OurHRM Alliance and HFN, which, through its field trip programme, continues to introduce folks to this wilderness gem.

Some of us on the HFN Conservation Committee are losing steam and we could use some fresh faces. If you think you could help and would like to learn more, please contact one of us or President Janet Dalton.

***– Respectfully submitted,***

***David Patriquin, Clare Robinson, and Bob McDonald,  
Conservation Committee***

