



Adventure in every step

Hike Nova Scotia Annual Report 2012-2013

The following progress was made on Hike NS's strategic directions from April 2012 to March 2013.

Advocacy

- Sent a letter to Parks Canada advocating against park winter closures
- Supported the Our HRM regional planning/greenbelting initiative
- Supported the St. Margaret's Bay Community Forest initiative
- Attended consultations and provided input on the NS Provincial Parks and Protected Areas Plan and the NS Tourism Strategy

Promotion

- Over 660 participants attended 29 events in the Fall Guided Hike series
- Over 450 participants attended 22 events in the Winter Guided Snowshoe Hike series
- 102 people registered to date for the Hiker Distance Award Challenge with 18 pins earned in 2012-13
- 354 Youth Hiker Distance Award Challenge patches earned including participation by 31 Girl Guide units
- Delivered a Leave No Trace workshop for 28 Girl Guides
- Produced four feature articles on hiking, used in various Hike NS communication tools, with two published in newspapers

Leadership

- Continued to develop and expand the International Appalachian Trail (IAT) in Nova Scotia
- Awarded the Summit Award to Peter Jackson of Antigonish to recognize his outstanding leadership and commitment in the growth and development of hiking trails and pathways in Nova Scotia



Middle Head hike in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park on September 15 with the Hike the Highlands Festival, part of the Fall Guided Hike series.



Valleyview Moonlit Snowshoe Trek in Annapolis County on February 25 with Annapolis Recreation, part of the Winter Guided Snowshoe Hike series.

- Provided support for other organizations in their efforts to protect wilderness and preserve and expand hiking opportunities (see Advocacy)
- Attended meetings and consultations in support of the expansion of trail infrastructure (see Advocacy)

Strong Organizational Presence

- With almost 230 members (associate, individual, family and group members), Hike NS represented 2,280 Nova Scotians in 2012-13
- Began developing a partnership with the Outdoor Council of Canada
- Partnered with the Girl Guides of Canada on the Hiker Distance Award patch
- Partnered with Goose Lane Editions on the launch of Michael Haynes's two books:
 - Hiking Trails of Cape Breton Book: July 18 in Coxheath (85 attending) and July 23 in Halifax (21 attending)
 - Hiking Trails of Mainland Nova Scotia: Oct. 22 in Halifax (62 attending), book signing in Truro on Oct. 24 and three hikes with the author (165 attending)
- Partnered with 17 organizations on delivering the fall and winter guided hikes
- Listed 29 businesses, recreation departments and organizations on our Where to Borrow, Rent or Buy Snowshoes guide
- Added 3 new organizations to Hike NS's member benefits program: Milford House, Ideal Bikes and Escape Outdoors



At the Hike NS AGM on June 2, 2012, Antigonish area trail-builder Peter Jackson was presented with the Summit Award by Hike NS President Deb Ryan to recognize his significant contribution to trails and hiking in Nova Scotia.



The 4th Hammonds Plains Guides take a hike on a local trail as part of the Hiker Distance Award Challenge to earn a patch. The unit completed earning their patches in May, 2012.



Michael Haynes, with many fans, signs books at the launch of his Hiking Trails of Mainland Nova Scotia trail book on October 22, 2012 in Halifax.

Hike NS thanks the Nova Scotia Department of Health & Wellness for its support.