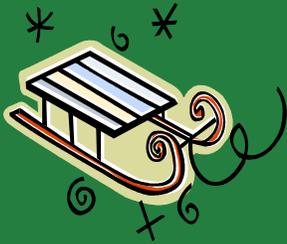




"New" Forestry Giving Wildlife a Chance?

In This Issue:

- "New" Forestry
- Winter Fishing
- Access Denied
- and a whole lot more!



To receive a copy of the NSFAH monthly E-Newsletter simply fill out the contact form at the Federation website, include your name and email address...it really is that simple!

As a new biologist in the 1970's, I recall a government statement that the pulpwood cut annually in Nova Scotia, piled four feet high, would stretch from Halifax to Winnipeg. To me that seemed excessive. Were they considering ecologically-healthy forests and wildlife habitat needs? Exposed to sun and the ground-drying effects of wind, clear-cuts rarely regenerate original forest species. Four decades later harvesters are grinding up 30 year old "fibre", while companies pay a pittance per ton, and label it sustainable.

For century's agriculture and forestry interests have cleared and simplified Nova Scotia's forest landscapes, so that soil nutrients and the sun's energy produce a few human commodities. This replacement of forest ecosystems with one or two species effectively removes many of nature's safeguards against events like insect population eruptions. While degrading waterways, forest harvesting at unsustainable levels for decades leaves woodland birds, mammals, amphibians, and down-the-food chain to fish and bugs, searching for alternate habitats. If animals manage to relocate, the new space is almost always occupied. Empty space is rare in good habitats. Territorial battles begin. Wildlife requirements for food, shelter, water and the demands associated with raising young necessitate the use of many natural "resources" that become no longer available.

Successive provincial governments have steadfastly paid token attention to these issues, but have been unrelenting in their blind commitments to maintain a steady supply of wood fibre to industry. These commitments - lately leases - have no basis in a natural world and are turning Nova Scotia's woodlands into fibre farms.

Populations of forest birds have plummeted between 1992 and the present, as recent results of the Maritime Breeding Birds Atlas clearly show. For naturalists and many dedicated bird watchers, this is not surprising. Many forest bird species had nearly vanished from vast expanses of landscape geography they had occupied decades before. Forest insect communities that support wetland birds and other insect-eating creatures have severely declined. Intact bird communities remain only in isolated pockets of habitat. With small population sizes, fractured by ever-expanding gaps in the landscape mosaic, mating systems break down, healthy gene pools languish and species disappear. Problems in the tropical wintering grounds used by many migratory species only further accelerate bird declines.

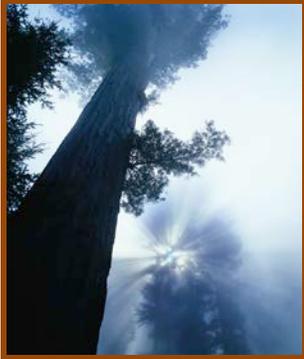
The Forest/Wildlife Guidelines introduced in the 1980's represented a first step but amounted to a political compromise. The recent forest strategy willfully ignores large bodies of scientific evidence for change, much of that evidence generated in Nova Scotia.

Continued on page 2.....

Continued from page 1.....

Too much forest flattening, too fast, and for too long. Ousted from forest harvests, many wild animals resort to marginal habitats, or move nearer to humans. Bears, fishers, coyotes and bobcats are showing up in settled areas like the Annapolis Valley.

Working for a Mi'kmaq tribal council a few years ago, I found a remnant mainland moose population on 1,000 acres of reservation land. The softwood shade coolness essential for moose health in summer heat was there, but little food. I contacted a regional manager of the provincial government to propose a joint moose management zone incorporating nearby Crown land and a lake. A long silence followed on the telephone. Finally he replied, "We have two crews that could harvest that (First Nation) land for you."



Cheap fibre is the mantra, even if it comes from New Brunswick.

Some wildlife species adjust. Most quietly starve and die. Nova Scotia's plundered forests and wildlife need and deserve a better vision than word play and cheap, thinly-veiled definitions designed to disguise clear-cut conditions. If 12% of the land base is eventually protected, should industry and contractors be allowed to severely degrade the remaining 88% for profit? Nova Scotia and its wildlife need ecologically-healthy working landscapes to connect protected areas. Rebuilding healthy forests would provide long term jobs with the promise of more stable, long-term financial returns.

Healthy forests and harvests are possible. Where is that balance? Where is the new

forestry? What about wildlife? The NS government and Nova Scotia Power are planning to biomass harvest and burn hardwood and softwood forests in Port Hawkesbury, producing power at only a 21.5% rate of efficiency. To lower industrial energy costs? While nature dwindles, Point Tupper burns. The project is too large to be "green".

Port Hawkesbury Paper LLC has already cut existing buffer zones put in place to safeguard wildlife. Wagner cuts deer wintering areas on lands purchased from Kimberley Clark. Cheap fibre is the mantra - even if it has to come from New Brunswick. Jobs at what environmental and wildlife cost? Government biologists will not have the resources or time to assess the new Crown land lease giveaways and if they do not fall in line, will be over-ruled.

The forestry bus, long driven by industry, with governments aboard for the sake of jobs, has left a trail of lasting environmental destruction that continues to this day. Will industry interests prevail over the newly-acquired Bowater lands? Most woodlands are already destabilized; nature's ability to heal has been crushed or reduced. We depend upon a healthy environment - it alone sustains us. That bus driver needs new orders and a new direction. It's time to think beyond profits and jobs, and make reasonable accommodation for other wild species living in Nova Scotia.

**Submitted by
Bob Bancroft**

Fish For Free in February

Free Winter Sport-fishing Weekend is February 16-17, 2013. During these two days, residents and non-residents may fish without a general licence.

Please keep in mind that bag limits and all other sport-fishing regulations will still apply. Get out and try winter sport-fishing!

For more information on the free winter fishing weekend, please contact the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at 902-424-4560.

Or on the web at:
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/>

New Live Fish Possession Regulations – April 01, 2013

New regulations developed under the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act prohibit the possession of live fish in Nova Scotia. These regulations will help protect native fish species against the unauthorized introduction of invasive fish into provincial waters by providing an enforceable law that directly targets this illegal activity.

In most cases, the possession of live fish is prohibited. Existing activities and angling traditions where legitimate possession of live fish is practiced, such as using live bait, catch-and-release tournaments and stocking for educational programs are permitted to continue. However, activities such as keeping live fish on a stringer, in a live well or bucket are no longer permitted under these new regulations.

The Province is working with the Aboriginal community, angling associations, and provincial and federal enforcement agencies to develop effective strategies against illegal introductions of aquatic invasive species. This new regulation represents a crucial step towards minimizing the negative effects invasive species can have on native fish populations.

Got a few questions?

Answers to [Frequently asked Questions](#) can be found here.

Report illegal fishing activities or introductions to your local office of the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, or Department of Fisheries and Oceans at 1-800-565-1633, or Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-565-TIPS (8477).



Winter Fishing Derbies & Tournaments

Family Fishing Fun Day
Gillis Lake, Antigonish County
Saturday February 16, 2013
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Put on by [Antigonish Rivers Association](#)

Annual Fishing Derby
Gairloch Lake, Pictou County
Saturday February 16, 2013
9:00 am to 12:00 noon

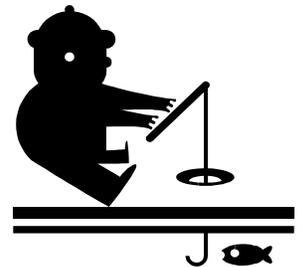
Put on by [Pictou County Rivers Association](#)

10th Annual Everett Wile Memorial Catch
the Rainbow Winter Fishing Derby
Meadow Pond, Hants County
Saturday February 16, 2013
9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Put on by [Hants West Wildlife Association](#)

Did you know?

There are more than 100 angling derbies annually in Nova Scotia (45 brook trout derbies, 52 Bass tournaments, and numerous pickerel, rainbow trout, striped bass and ice fishing derbies)



Ice Conditions Around HRM

Random ice thickness testing is done on each pond and lake in HRM, providing general ice conditions which can vary over the ice surface.

Please use extreme caution in areas where streams flow in and out of lakes.

Check out the Halifax Regional Municipality [ice thickness measurements](#) here.

Additional ice safety information can be found on the [Red Cross website](#) here.

Access Denied

As Nova Scotia moves forward with its commitment to protect 12% of the land mass area in Nova Scotia, the Department of Environment has created a list of possible new protected areas.

In the first wave of protected wilderness spaces, most were in remote and hard to access areas. Looking at the map of proposed new wilderness areas, it quickly becomes obvious that many of these lands have been open and available for use for many years. They are crisscrossed with access roads, logging roads and trails that have allowed people to travel within these spaces. They are the areas that many of us have hunted and fished our entire lives. They are the areas where so many of our rural neighbors find their recreational opportunities. They are common areas for ATV-ing and snowmobiling. They are in our backyards.

I urge every hunter and angler in the province to look at the map and see how you will be affected. Remember: if you are hunting or fishing an area that is not planned for protection, you will still be impacted. If people who used neighboring lands can no longer use those areas, they will move. Spaces outside of protected areas will be under greater pressure as people [seek new areas to hunt](#), fish and enjoy their other recreational activities.

Those of us who were affected by the first areas to be protected already know how it restricted our activities. The Nova Scotia Department of Environment took the position that human activities in these areas should be restricted and that there should be no motorized access permitted. Truck roads and ATV trails were posted and users were told to keep their vehicles out. Lakes were posted, "no outboard motors", and conservation enforcement officers were sent to inform boaters that their outboard motors were not allowed (It was only after it was pointed out that navigation on waterways was Federal jurisdiction that the Department of Environment dropped their restriction on outboard motors for the time being.)

People who owned lands within protected areas were not permitted motorized access to those lands to go to camps or to harvest wood products on their own property.

While the Department of Environment may have made a few exceptions since then, these restrictions are still in place. While some ATV clubs may have been granted corridors through some wilderness areas, use of these corridors are very restricted, and construction and maintenance of the trail to meet Department of Environment standard can be very expensive.

These are the areas where we who seek our recreation in the outdoors go. People who find their recreation in the city may find this difficult to understand, but what would the city dweller say if it was decided that the city recreational areas should be protected? The parks would be fenced in and prohibited, and paths and walkways would be closed to human use. The public gardens would be closed so no one can see or stroll through the plants. The doors on recreational facilities would be locked to prevent wear and tear inside of the buildings. For hunters and anglers and many others, protecting the wild places in this province by saying that we cannot go there is taking away our recreational opportunities. Moreover, the people who are actively engaged in outdoor activities in our wild spaces are the most powerful ambassadors and advocates for public education and appreciation of the species and habitats there, and have vested interest in being responsible stewards of those spaces.

As hunters and anglers, we have always supported protecting and conserving our wild places. We still do. But how much protection is necessary?

If we look at the history and intent underlying this legislation, there seems to be room for responsible use of Nova Scotia's wild spaces.

[Click here to read the rest of the article](#) submitted from Robert Cross, past president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters.



*As hunters and anglers,
we have always supported
protecting and conserving
our wild places.*

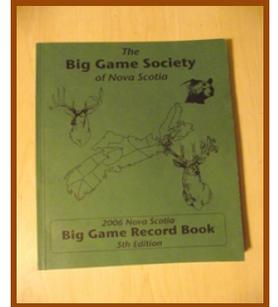
Youth Hunter Scholarships - 2013

Young Hunter Scholarships are available once again this year, thanks to the generous donations and support from the Nova Scotia Big Game Society. The purpose of the program is to promote the opportunity for youth from 12 to 17 years of age, who may otherwise never have the chance to learn about and experience hunting, there-by gaining an understanding of our hunting heritage and hopefully becoming active in the outdoor sports, so that these same values may someday be passed on to following generations.

The Participants will undergo the Nova Scotia Bow Hunter Education Course or the Nova Scotia Hunter Education Course and the Canadian Firearms Safety Courses. Hunting ethics, tactics and foremost, safety are covered during these sessions. Upon completion of these courses youths are eligible to receive a Minors Firearms License.

All participants selected will have the fees, directly related to the courses, covered by the Big Game Society of Nova Scotia.

For information on how to apply contact the [NS Big Game Society via their website](#).



Fish and Hunt For life – Lottery Winners

Two lucky Nova Scotians are the 2012 winners of free hunting and fishing licences that are good for a lifetime. It is the 20th year the province is offering the prize.

Minister of Natural Resources Charlie Parker randomly selected the winning names during the annual licence lottery draw.

Brandon Rhodenizer of New Minas, Kings Co., and Wade Giffin of Goshen, Guysborough Co., were randomly chosen to receive the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters Licence of a Lifetime.

"Nova Scotians can experience world-class hunting and fishing opportunities in our province," said Mr. Parker. "This year two Nova Scotians get to enjoy the added benefit of lifelong passes for those activities by winning the licence draw on its 20th anniversary."

"Many Nova Scotians enjoy sport-fishing while taking in the quiet beauty of our scenic waterways throughout the province," said Mr. Belliveau. "For these outdoor enthusiasts, winning this lottery is truly the prize of a lifetime."

"We are grateful to the departments of Natural Resources and Fisheries and Aquaculture for supporting this licence draw and we wish safe hunting and angling for the licence winners," said Wilfred Woods, president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

All holders of hunting and fishing licences in Nova Scotia must first have a wildlife resources card and appropriate training. Information about the card can be found on the NS DNR website.

Contact the Federation if you would like to purchase tickets for your chance to win free hunting and fishing licenses for the rest of your life!



Youth Hunting Camps – 2013

Join Department of Natural Resources staff and local experts for a two day, one night hunting and trapping camp. Highlights include how to make and set snares, basic wilderness navigation, opportunity to fire longbows, crossbows, and .22 rifles, dispatching and cleaning a snowshoe hare, guest speakers and more! All locations and camps open to girls and boys between the ages of 12-15. Limited space available, preference given to first-time applicants.

Fee: \$50.00

[DNR Youth Camp](#)
[Info](#)
[Click here!](#)

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

C/O Tony Rodgers
Post Office Box 654
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T3

PHONE:
902-477-8898

FAX:
902-444-3883

E-MAIL:
tonyrodgers@eastlink.ca

The NSFah Journal is published monthly, except during hunting season. If you or your club has an article to submit, send along before the 25th of each month to ensure your information is inserted.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.nsfah.ca

Money Talks!

I was pleased to see the Government announce that they were dropping the case against the two "You-Vint" locations.

Ross Landry said it was because the people had spoken and we live in a democracy where the Government responds to the voice of the people. I guess the Government is either hard of hearing, or has selective hearing, because they have not responded to the voices of the ground swell of people calling for a moratorium on Salmon Farming. Even the latest decision by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to allow the transportation of ISA infected salmon to a plant in New Brunswick where it will be processed for the food market didn't help their hearing.

I suspect a couple of small businesses which might take a few dollars from a government monopoly was not enough to justify the Government facing the public reaction to their policy. However they have invested \$25 million in public funds and a lot of their political capital in promoting the growth of Salmon Farming as the saviour of our coastal communities. They continue to disregard how those communities feel and to disregard a mountain of peer reviewed scientific data pointing out the negative impacts on wild stock and the environment.

I truly hope we don't have to wait for an environmental or human disaster before the Government hearing improves.

Wilf Woods
President, NSFah

For more winter sport-fishing information visit
www.gov.ns.ca/fish/sportfishing/angling/winterangling.shtml

The Trading Post

[Trading Post Terms of Use.](#)



Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters Affiliate Club Listing

All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia
Archery Association of Nova Scotia
Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia
Bowhunters Instructors Association of Nova Scotia
Bras D'or Wildlife Association

Cape Breton Wildlife Association
Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia
Delta Waterfowl Association
Digby East Fish & Game Association
Halifax Wildlife Association

Hants West Wildlife Association
Kings County Fish & Game Association
Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers
Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation Development Association

Lunenburg County Wildlife Association
Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters
Nova Scotia Guides Association
Nova Scotia Houndsmen Association
Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association

Mic Mac Rod & Gun Club
Port Morien Wildlife Association
Queens County Fish and Game Association
Bluenose Longbeards Chapter, NWTF
Shelburne County Fish & Game Association

South Shore Wildlife Association
The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia
Traditional Archers Association of Nova Scotia
Trappers Association of Nova Scotia
West Pictou Wildlife Association