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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!

Parks and Protected Areas

The Nova Scotia Department of Environment has completed the series of public consultation meetings for the Parks and Protected Areas Plan. If you hunt, fish, trap or do other recreational activities in any of the planned protected areas, we in the Federation hope that you took that opportunity to voice your individual concerns.

The Federation of Anglers and Hunters has met twice with Department of Environment staff. The Department staff said that they will be reviewing all input from the consultation process and that there will be some changes made to the plan. We will continue to meet with Department staff to review public input and promote boundary changes and road exclusions to better facilitate access. As further details of the final plan become available we will keep you posted.

The designation of a few of the proposed Nature Reserves may be changed, but angling, hunting and trapping in Nature Reserves will be illegal. However, if you fish in these areas, you should note that many do not include a watercourse as part of the reserve and therefore fishing is

permitted, check the maps carefully to see if the watercourse is included within the boundary of the Nature Reserve. Hunting and trapping are currently illegal in Nature Reserves and the Federation has proposed that they be allowed as "Light Recreational Use". No decision has been made to allow these activities to date. There will be no motorized access allowed.

The Federation believes that the legislation concerning Nature Reserves should be revised with a view to easing restrictions. We have discussed this with Department staff and they recognize the issue as it was identified in the original Parks & Protected Areas proposed plan as an action item.

Motorized access will be permitted on roads excluded from protection within the proposed Wilderness Areas, but motorized access on existing roads and trails that are not excluded will be illegal, unless there is a trail management agreement.

After review of the public input, staff will make recommendations on a final Parks and Protected Areas Plan to the Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources. Cabinet will then consider the revised plan for approval and public release. The legally-binding decisions to designate areas will probably be made later, again by Cabinet, through Orders in Council. It would be later again before the applicable legislation (whether for parks, wilderness areas or nature reserves) comes into effect. This will occur after survey plans are completed - the goal is by 2015 for most areas, but government is proposing to delay timing in some cases.

Please ensure that your MLA knows yours position. The Federation will present their concerns to the Minister of Environment.

<http://www.nslegislature.ca/index.php/people/members/> **Continued page 6 ...**

Air Guns in HRM

Written by John Fraser

Halifax Wildlife Association



Do you believe that you have a good understanding of the laws and regulations that apply to the use of air guns in the HRM? You may be surprised to learn about the many changes that have taken place in the past few years.

Some folks believe that you are not allowed to own an air gun in HRM. Not true. Some may believe that you are not permitted to use an air gun in HRM. Again, not true. Some may believe that air guns are treated just like a firearm. In fact this is partially true as air gun use in HRM now falls under the Firearms Act.

Prior to amalgamation of Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford and the County of Halifax into the Halifax Regional Municipality, each of the former municipalities had their own municipal ordinances and by-laws that regulated the use of air guns in one way or another:

Former City of Halifax
Ordinance 159 - Discharge of Guns and Other Firearms

Former City of Dartmouth
By-Law A-300 - Air Guns and Rifles
By-Law F-300 – Firearms

Former Town of Bedford
By-Law 22141 - Discharge of Firearms

Former County
Section 5 & 5A - Air Guns and Sling Shots
Section 6 – Firearms

If you were a resident of one of these areas you may have had some knowledge of the applicable laws of the day. However, following amalgamation a By-Law Rationalization Working Group recommended in a staff report dated December 28, 2005 (<http://halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/By-lawN-300Nuisances.pdf>) that a new By-Law N-300, Respecting Nuisances be approved. The Council meeting of August 7, 2007 passed the new By-Law

(<http://halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/070807ca93.pdf>) thereby repealing all previous municipal by-laws that dealt with the discharge of firearms and the possession, use and sale of air rifles and pellet guns. The new by-law essentially repealed all of the above bylaws and ordinances and replaced it with ... nothing.

Why nothing? Well, apparently HRM Council accepted a recommendation from the HRM police that the Criminal Code of Canada, and the Nova Scotia Wildlife Act together gave them all the authority that they needed to adequately deal with any issues that might surface in regards to the use of air guns in the municipality.

The major problem seems to be that very little information about this decision by Council got out to either the public or the policing authorities in HRM. A call by this writer to the HRM police department office to enquire about the rules that must be followed respecting air guns was met with a response that it is the position of the HRM Police that all BB guns and air guns are illegal to purchase or possess in HRM and they can be confiscated by police and the possessor charged.

When pressured to provide the governing laws upon which this position was based I was referred to a more senior officer who reiterated the earlier position that air guns are illegal in HRM and will be confiscated. When I pointed out that municipal bylaws regarding air guns had been repealed, the officer had no knowledge of that fact and felt that in any case the police were instead enforcing provincial regulations. But when pressured, the officer was unable to quote the relevant regulations giving them that authority.

After some more enquiries I was referred to police Superintendent Falkenham, officer-in-charge of Integrated Emergency Services (IES), who in turn referred me to Sergeant Tim Moser, police coordinator with the Provincial Firearms Office. Sgt. Moser offered a number of clarifications of what laws govern policing of air guns in HRM and indicated that there remain some grey areas.

Continued next page...



Air Guns continued.....

He also indicted that he regularly has had to advise police officers to return air guns that they had seized under Bylaw provisions that no longer exist and to drop the associated charges.

Both the Criminal Code of Canada and the Federal Firearms Legislation govern the possession and use of air guns in HRM. There is a great deal of difference in treatment under these laws based on whether the matter is a simple possession offence or a use offence for which charges are being brought forward. Very helpful information on the treatment of air guns can be found on the RCMP website at:

http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/fs-fd/air_gun-arme_air-eng.htm.

Basically, air guns with both a high muzzle velocity (greater than 152.4 meters or 500 feet per second) and a high muzzle energy (greater than 5.7 joules or 4.2 foot-pounds) – generally known as high-powered air guns – are treated as firearms for purposes of both the Firearms Act and the Criminal Code. The owner must meet the same firearms training and licensing requirements (POL; PAL) as for a conventional firearm and are also required to store, transport, display and handle them safely in accordance with the regulations supporting the Firearms Act. High-powered air rifles are classified as non-restricted firearms. High-powered air pistols are classified as restricted if their barrel is longer than 105 mm or prohibited if their barrel length is 105 mm or less.

Air guns with a maximum muzzle velocity of 152.4 meters or 500 feet per second and/or a maximum muzzle energy of 5.7 joules or 4.2 foot pounds are deemed under most circumstances to not be firearms and therefore are exempt from licensing, registration, and other requirements under the Firearms Act, and from penalties set out in the Criminal Code for possessing a firearm without a valid licence or registration certificate.

However, they are considered to be firearms under the Criminal Code if they are used to commit a crime. Further, the Criminal Code requires that reasonable precautions be taken to use, carry, handle, store, transport, and ship them in a safe and secure manner.

You should be aware that air guns that are not powerful enough to cause serious injury or death, but that were designed to resemble a real firearm with near precision are known as replica firearms. Replica firearms, except for replicas of antique firearms, are classified as prohibited devices, meaning that as an individual, you cannot import or acquire a replica firearm. You may keep any that you owned on December 1, 1998. You do not need a licence to possess them and they do not need to be registered. If you take a replica firearm out of Canada, you will not be able to bring it back in. Many Airsoft guns that are commonly available are highly detailed replicas of real lethal weapons and fall into this prohibited category.

Air guns that are not powerful enough to be classified as firearms and that do not resemble a real firearm closely enough to be considered a replica (an example would be a harmless air gun made out of clear plastic or a device that is obviously a child's toy) generally fall within the definition of an "imitation firearm". They are, however, subject to some penalties under the Criminal Code if used to commit a crime. Also, you need to be aware of the pig's eye criteria.

Tests carried out by the Forensic Laboratory Services-Firearms Section, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in Regina, Saskatchewan, have established minimum velocity necessary for nonconventional projectiles to penetrate the eye – something known as the pig's eye criteria based on the material used in tests that were performed.

To satisfy the Criminal Code of Canada's definition of a firearm, a barreled weapon must be capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person.

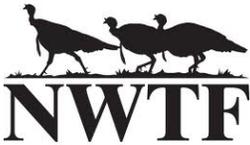
[Click here for the rest of the story](#)



The Halifax Wildlife Association was established in 1853 and is the oldest of its kind, (i.e. an association of hunters and fishermen), in North America. Its objective is to foster wise and sound management of the renewable natural resources of Halifax County and the Province of Nova Scotia so that their economic, recreational and aesthetic values may be perpetuated for future generations of our people.



NWTF International Jakes Camp



On April 26, 2013 in the beautiful spring woods of Maine, the first International Jakes Camp was held. This was a parent and child journey into the outdoor world of wild turkey hunting alongside some of the masters in the art of hunting the wild turkey. Award-winning caller maker Niles Oesterle from Missouri and Nova Scotia's famous wild turkey conservationist Terry Smith and many more outdoor leaders with storied backgrounds helped make this event a truly memorable experience for all involved.

These turkey hunting pioneers from the Canadian Maritimes awoke to a brilliant Maine sunrise, shivered in the early morning chill, heard the thundering gobble in answer to their own call, felt the warmth of fellowship around an evening campfire and tasted the skillfully prepared fruit of the hunt.

Our young hunters and their parents spent the morning of Friday April 26th in a classroom setting learning the basics of wild turkey natural history and hunting techniques. Roosting turkeys for the first

Youth Day hunt took place Friday evening, after an afternoon at the range, patterning shotguns and practicing firearm safety. On Saturday the 27th, in teams of three: guide, hunter and parent, the groups rose in the pre-dawn darkness with thoughts of gobbling toms in their sights. After the noon closing on Saturday the teams met for a streamside lunch and a swapping of stories.



1st International Jakes Camp



Many folks stayed down to enjoy a parent and child opening day hunt on Monday April 29th and "guides" were available to share their skills and knowledge. Congratulations to all involved. Plans are already in the works for more Maine Turkey hunting events.

DNR Open House - 2013

All Nova Scotians are invited to a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) open house, June 1 and 2, (Saturday & Sunday) at Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park in Shubenacadie, Hants County. The event will run from 10am-4pm both days.

Come and enjoy activities and displays for the whole family; lots to see and hands-on things to do. Admission is free. The grounds and buildings will be alive with exhibits and staff experts. People who like hunting, fishing, and wilderness hiking, camping, and off-highway vehicles will have plenty to see and do, so will people curious about minerals, fossils, animals, and the diversity of living things in nature. You can also learn about insects, wildfire fighting, forests and woodlots, map making and more.

**Report Fires,
Poaching or
Emergency
Wildlife situations**
1-800-565-2224

You are invited to **Download**

**Department of Natural Resources
Open House**

Saturday and Sunday, June 1st & 2nd
Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park

- Learn about Nova Scotia's parks, forests, Crown land use, geology, biodiversity, hunting and fishing regulations, and many other areas managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Open displays and hands-on activities, ask questions of natural resources specialists
- Experience the live animals of the wildlife park and enjoy the park's walking trail
- How fun while learning about DNR's role in protecting biodiversity, wildlife, and people in Nova Scotia
- Display career options with DNR — learn about the job of forester, wildlife technician, helicopter pilot, biologist, and others.

For Federation Members

Bell & Grant Limited recently sold their home and auto personal lines insurance business to Johnson Inc., an industry leading company that has been offering insurance solutions for over 130 years.

As a member of The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters (NSFAH), Johnson Inc. is pleased to offer you their voluntary Home-Auto Insurance Plan.

Call 1-877-775-5473 between 8:30 am and 8:30 pm AST for a quote and enter for your chance to win a \$5,000 pre-paid VISA. Visit www.johnson.ca/atlantic for

details. Make sure you identify yourself as a member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters.

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Johnson values the NSFAH. For each member not currently insured with Johnson, who receives a qualifying no-obligation quote, Johnson will donate \$20 to projects we support*



Mark your Calendar September 6-8 for the Nova Scotia Hunting & Outdoor Show.

THE CALL OF THE WILD AWAITS YOU at the BRAND NEW Nova Scotia Hunting & Outdoor Show at the Brand New Rath Eastlink Community Centre!

It's Atlantic Canada's Showcase for Hunting & Outdoor Enthusiasts!

This is the ideal time for an event of this nature...just weeks away from hunting season and fall outdoor activities with winter on the horizon.

This event will showcase the best of the hunting, fishing and recreational outdoors activities in one place, at one time! Everything that makes living and playing in Nova Scotia fantastic!

Exhibit categories will include:

- Hunting gear & equipment
- Firearms
- Archery
- Guiding and Outfitters
- Taxidermy
- Clubs and Associations
- Wildlife Conservation
- Muzzle Loading and Black Powder
- ATV/UTV
- Boats and outboards
- Power equipment
- Outdoor equipment
- Trucks
- Trailers
- Snowmobiles

Anything and Everything with The Outdoor including:

- Calling Demos
- HUGE Firearms Sale
- Hunting Experts
- Retrieving and Obedience Training Demos
- Special Guests

Show Hours

Friday, September 6
5 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, September 7
10 am - 6 pm

Sunday, September 8
10 am - 4 pm

Location

Rath Eastlink
Community Center
Truro, NS



Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

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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

The NSACH will be holding their Annual General Meeting for 2013 on June 15 out at the Shubenacadie Training Center.

All are welcome to attend this yearly event. The meeting will get under way at 11:00 AM sharp, finishing up by 2:30 PM.

Continued from page 1....

On the 29th of April, Federation representatives attended the official opening of 1,700 Kilometers of former Bowater Roads. Not all of the 2,500 Kilometers were opened and even those roads that were opened were subject to some restrictions. There are signs that will inform users that they are about to enter an environmentally sensitive area and should do so on foot, signs that the area has endangered species or habitat and should not be disturbed, signs that an area has sensitive plants or animal habitat so please take care and stay on the road.

A light lunch will be provided for all who attend and member applications will be available.

For more information, contact the NSACH via email at: nsach@eastlink.ca.

Or check their website: www.nsach.ca.

These lands belong to all Nova Scotians and they should all have access as long as they respect the land and use it responsibly. We in the Federation see no reason why these same principals could not be applied to Wilderness Protected Areas.

Wilf Woods
Nova Scotia
Federation of Anglers & Hunters



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**