

Northwest Community Council

Trails Update

- **Sackville Rivers Association –
Walter N. Regan**
- **Friends of First Lake Society –
Bob Taylor**
- **Second Lake Regional Park Association – Shane
O’Neil**



Halifax Regional Trails Association made up of 22 groups believes in people being active and outdoors





The Sackville Rivers,
Second Lake Regional
Park and Friends of First
Lake organizations, all
members of HRTA,
request your support
through HRM Council
for funding in 2013





Walking - a first step!

Promoting Getting Active on HRM Trails



- The facts are clear that access to multi-use Active Transportation trails that are close to home:
 - Reduces carbon footprint to access an outdoor activity
 - Increases activity while reducing car dependence
 - Promotes a vibrant community
 - Contributes to making HRM a place of choice to live
 - Will help northwest metro become a tourist destination
 - Provides non-motorized access to local businesses and commercial centres





They come from away, they bring their children, they run, they listen to nature talks, they enjoy the river and lakes.....we have made progress....many km to go.



Lake Charles walkway



Over 10,000 school children in NWCC area

Bedford Sackville Connector Greenway

Fort Sackville Walkway

Total Time: Scott Manor House to Fortz House 5.2km 2Hrs

- Use trails at your own risk
- Non-motorized usage, except for motorized wheelchairs
- Cyclists must warn and yield to pedestrians
- Sections of trail under water when river floods
- To report vandalism call 490-5020, HRM 490-4000
- Trail closed at dusk (by-law P-600)

Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Since the 1980s the Sackville River Association, with the Bedford and Sackville communities, has been restoring and maintaining the health of the Sackville River watershed. www.sackville.ca 902-485-8129

Range Park

These habitat restoration structures in the river bed and wetlands in the Rite Range section of trail.

Scott Manor House

Habitat restoration structures in the river bed and wetlands in the Rite Range section of trail.

Funding Partners: NOVA SCOTIA Health, Promotion and Protection; HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY; CHB; Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency; Agence de Développement Économique de Nouvelle-Écosse; Canada



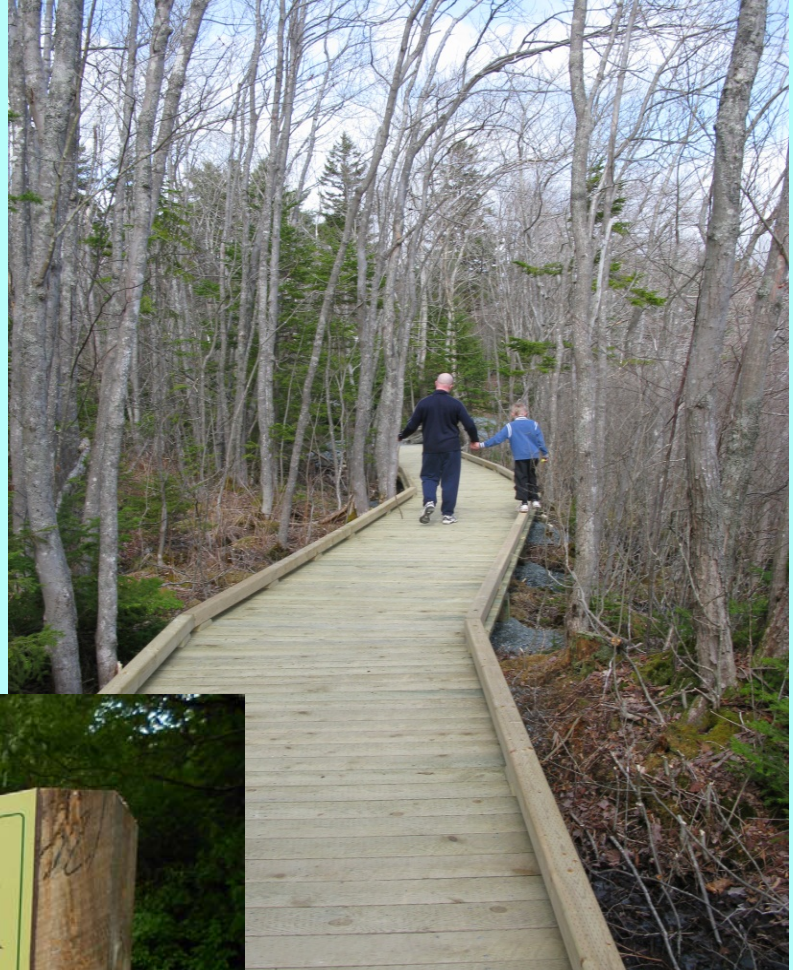
These trails are meeting an ever growing need
.....keeping our children active and outdoors



We are volunteers working with HRM



Together we have delivered many projects; completed many trails and some underway...soon to be 32km. For example linking Bedford to Sackville

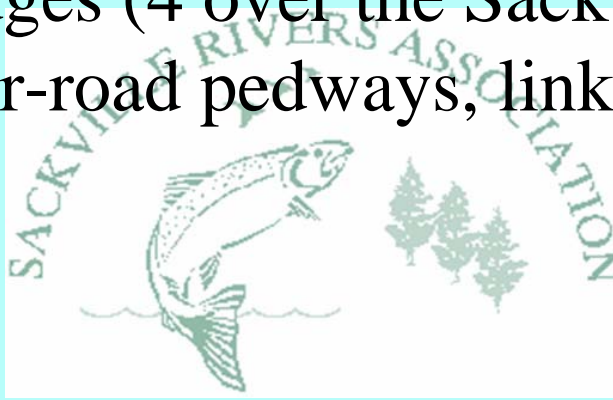




54 Years of Experience



- We are and have been active here because we want a better community
- We have been building trails for 20 years
- Collectively we have over 400 members from the community and we also donate and make use of thousands of volunteer hours and in-kind business donations and cooperation
- To date we have built over 16 km of trails
- They include 7 bridges (4 over the Sackville River); two boardwalks, 2 under-road pedways, links to over 700 acres of parkland.







Why trails?

- Best bang for the tax dollar
- In-kind volunteer support leverages HRM funds many times over
- You only need your feet to access the trails
- NWCC trails are almost all accessible by bus
- Wheelchair and stroller accessible
- Tactile and Braille signs on First Lake

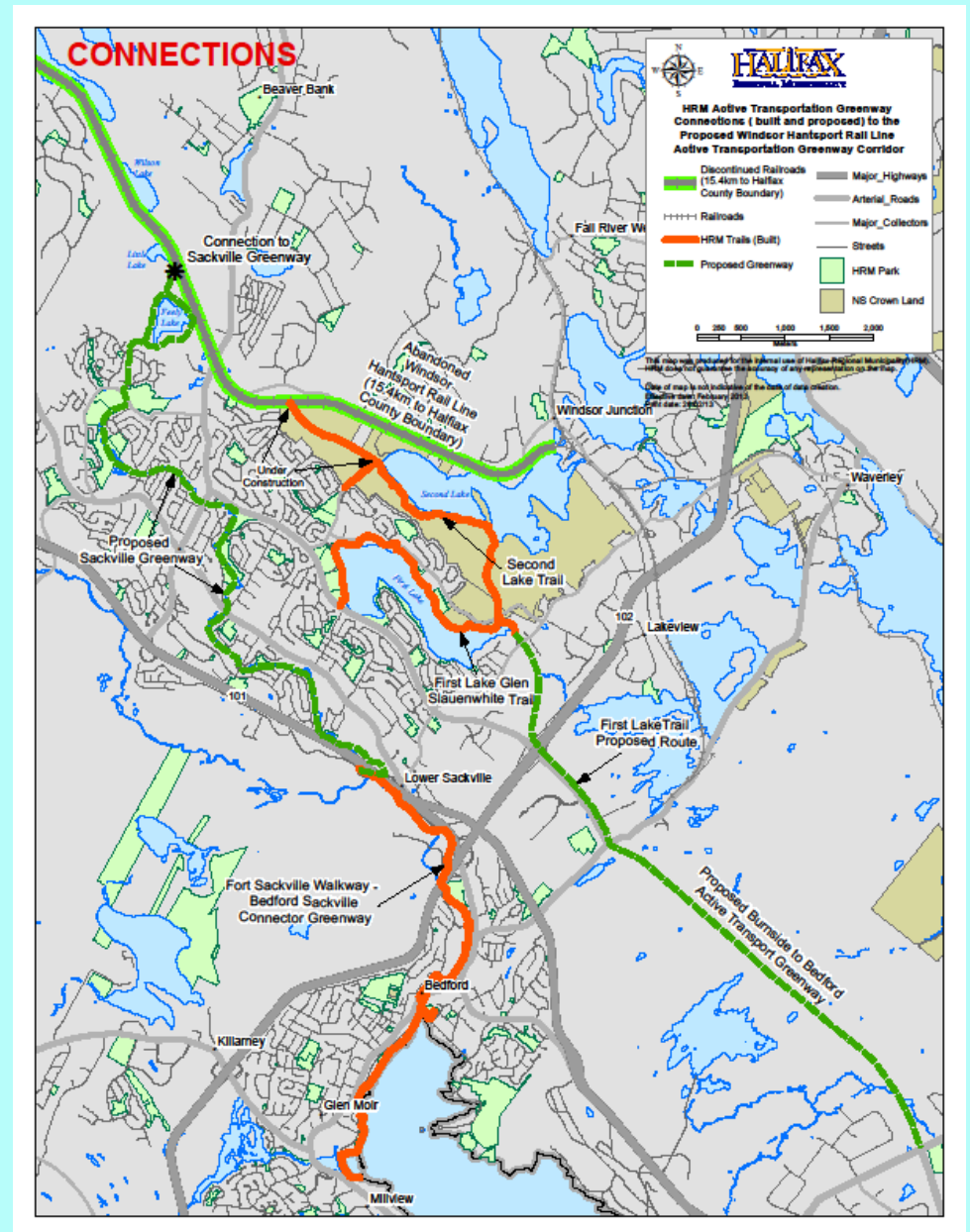




NS Doctors point out obesity rates and our poor rating.....directing us to get active!



HRTA is continuing to engage or expand with SWEPS; BeaverBank Kinsac; and other areas.





Thanks to North West Community Council for it's support to date

- Last year HRTA received funds from HRM to extend and maintain trails – for this we thank you
- This year HRTA has requested HRM to support the trail groups for \$900k capital and maintenance
- We promise to leverage that for you...to 2 to 3 times the value!

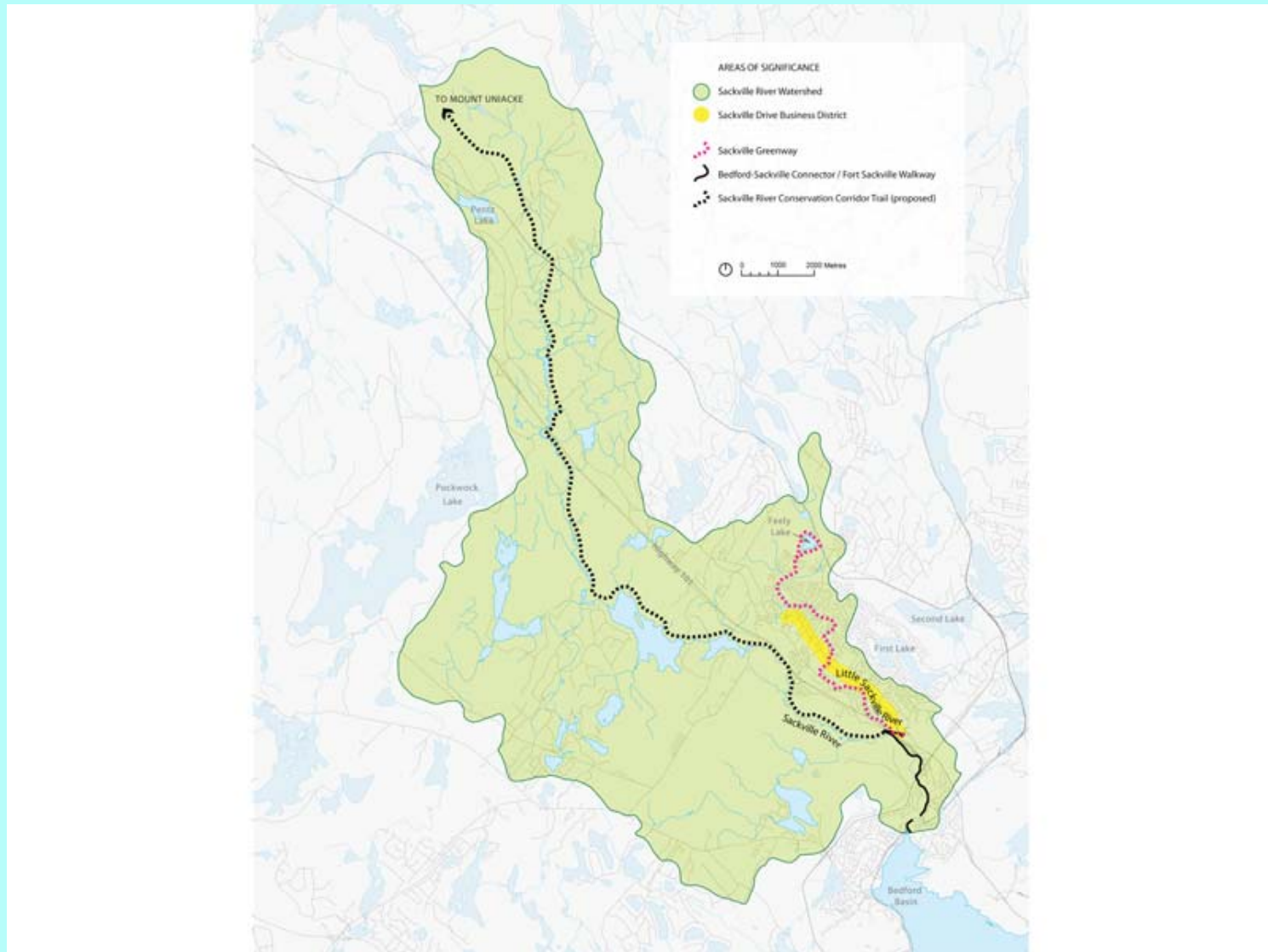




Where to go next (or why are we asking HRM for more trail funds?)



Sackville Rivers Association – the River Trail Vision



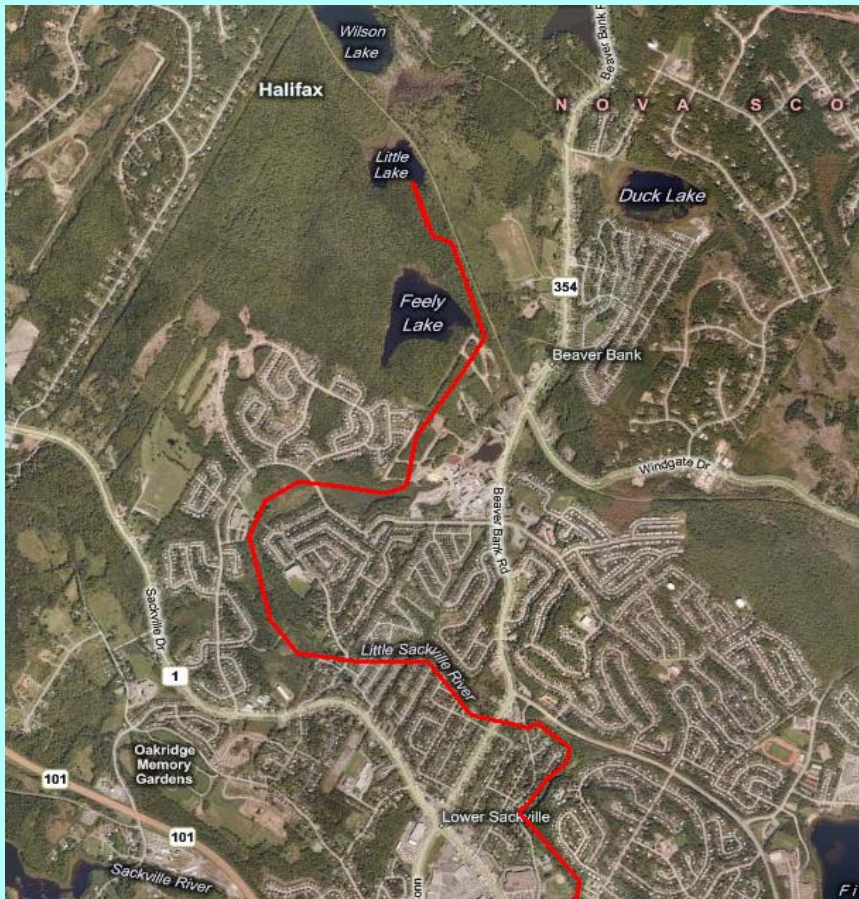


Where to go next - SRA

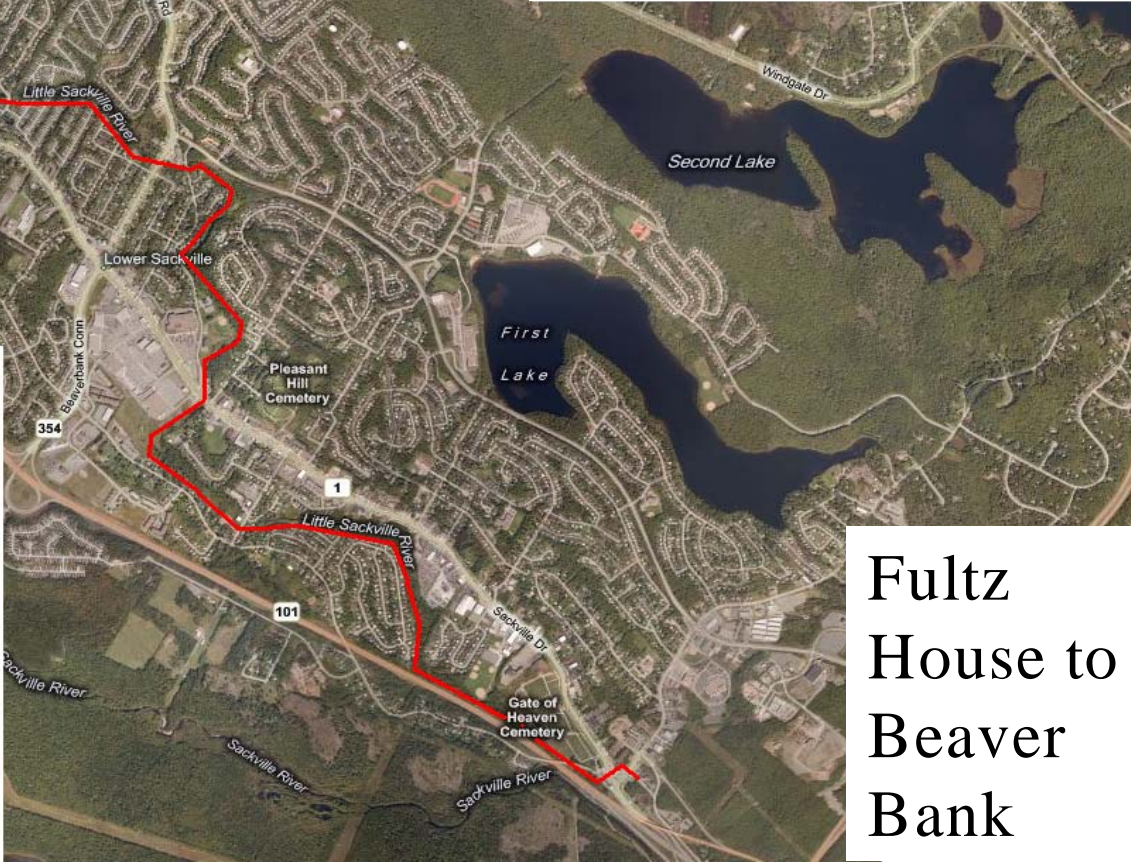


- To build the Sackville Greenway Trail along the Little Sackville River
 - This 12 km trail will link the Bedford-Sackville Connector to Beaver Bank concentrating on Phase B, the Downsview Mall Section
 - This will make progress on a safe Active Transportation corridor connecting Beaver Bank – Millwood area to Downsview and Fultz House at Cobequid
 - Focused support for acquisition of the Windsor Junction to Hantsport railway corridor for an Active Transportation Greenway



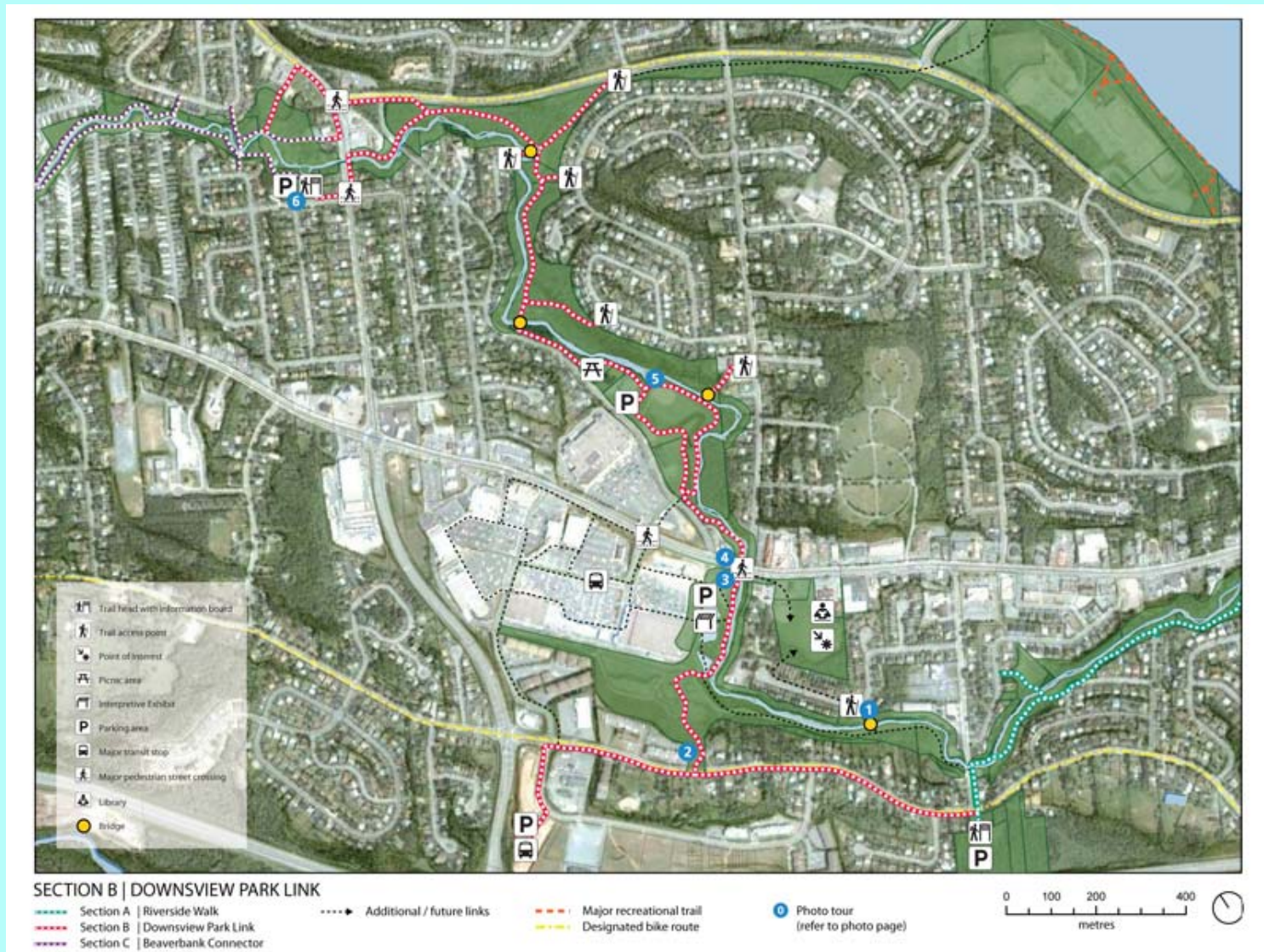


Little
Sackville
River
Greenway
Trail



Fultz
House to
Beaver
Bank

Sackville Greenway Phase B



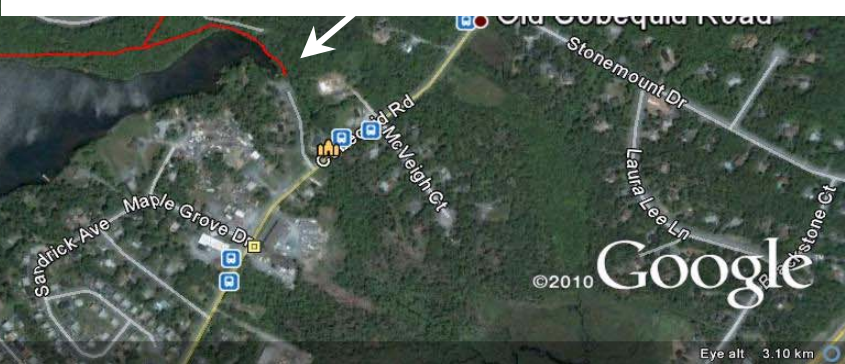


Where to go next - FoFL



- To complete the trail from Glendale south to Johnson Crescent around First Lake
 - More signage is included in this next phase.
 - Doing the routing plan from the Burnside Connector to the Windsor Junction to Hantsport Railway corridor

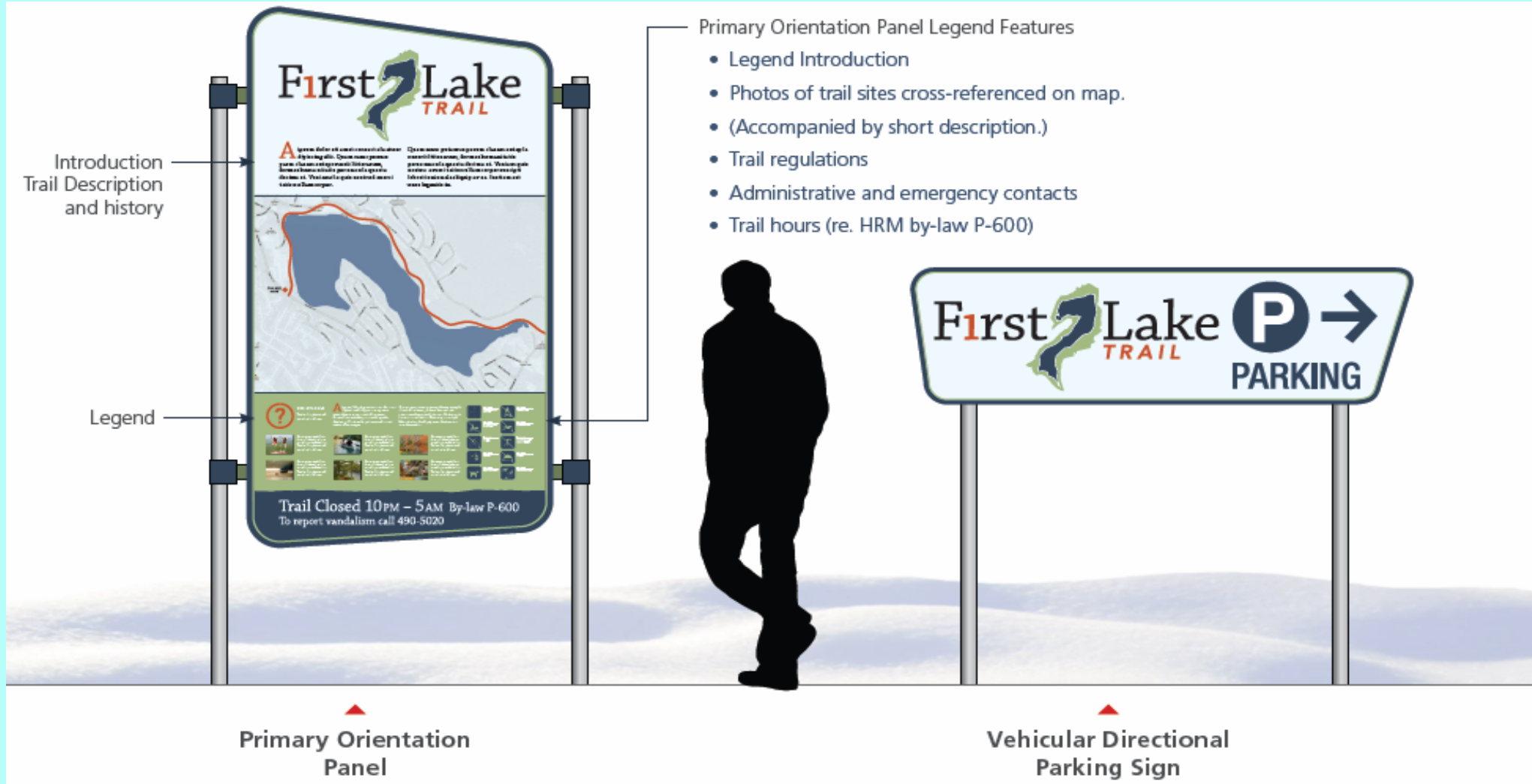


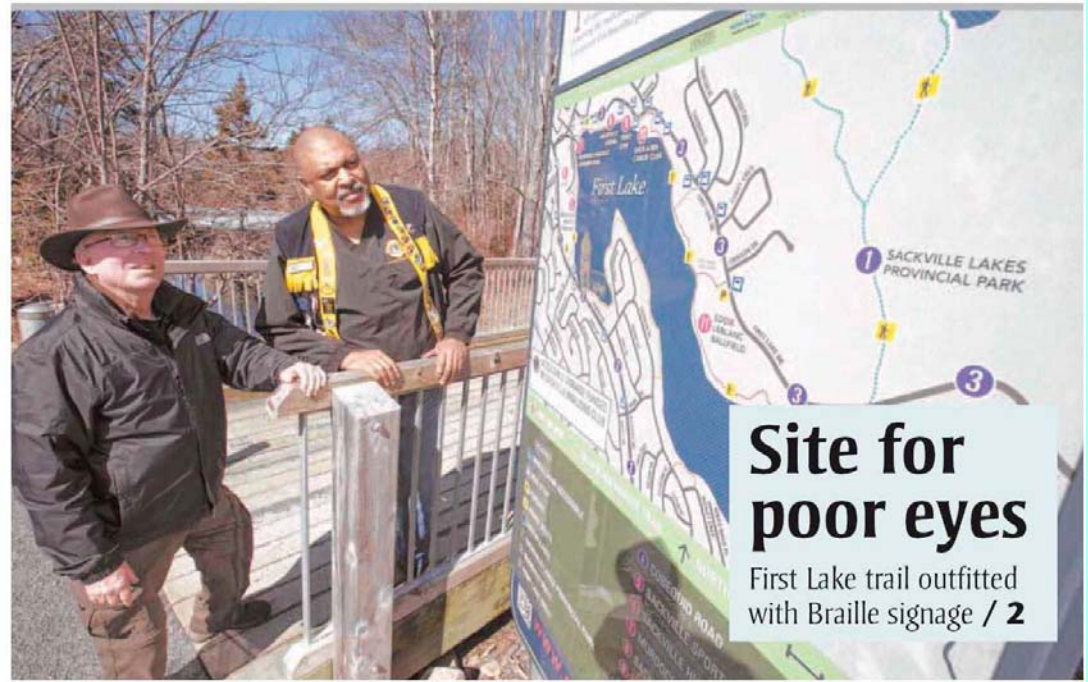


First Lake Trail, Glendale Drive to Sucker Brook Lane

Signage concept

First and Second lakes





Site for poor eyes
 First Lake trail outfitted with Braille signage / 2

Bob Taylor, chairman of the Friends of First Lake Society, and Perry Oliver of the Sackville Lions Club look over new signage at the First Lake Greenway trailhead on Sucker Brook Road in Lower Sackville on Thursday. (PETER PARSONS / Staff)

Trail breaks ground with Braille signs

First Lake signage guides blind, visually impaired

By **MICHAEL LIGHTSTONE**
 Staff Reporter

Louis Braille would likely be pleased. So should David Suzuki and Ansel Adams. A wheelchair-accessible nature trail in Lower Sackville that has been years in the making now has signs that are tactile and include Braille for path users who happen to be visually impaired or blind.

The trail, at First Lake in Halifax Regional Municipality, is being built in stages. Construction started around six years ago, but the project's sign element is a more recent component.

According to Bob Taylor, chairman of the Friends of First Lake Society, fabrication and installation of more than 20 signs on the scenic trail cost around \$50,000. Taylor said the non-profit group receives funds from the three levels of government, corporate sponsors and a local service club.

"The Sackville Lions Club's contribution for the tactile portion was \$12,000," said the retired salesman who worked in the printing business.

He said tactile signs "are just like the other signs, except that they've got Braille on them and they've got raised (lettering in clear type) so that sight-impaired people can read them, even if they can't read Braille."

A relatively fit walker should be able to do a round trip on the trail in under two hours, Taylor said. The path is at water level, so there are no hills, and it will accommodate bicycles but not motorized devices, he said.

Motorized wheelchairs, though, are allowed on the trail.

Taylor said his group consulted with a visually impaired resident, Troy Naufits, before embarking on the sign project. Naufits, who uses a guide dog, Momo, told The Chronicle Herald that Braille and tactile signs were his idea.

The regional office of the CNIB has endorsed the sign work.

"On behalf of our clients, CNIB commends the Friends of First Lake Society for their commitment to accessibility and creating a community space that can be utilized by all residents, regardless of vision loss," spokeswoman Nicole Lawrence said Thursday in an email message.

"We feel this new Braille and tactile trail signage is a great step toward creating a more inclusive, barrier-free society for individuals living with blindness or partial sight" in the Halifax area, Lawrence said.

Taylor said the trail isn't quite finished, and neither are its markings. He said future signs could include interpretative guides for users, but that would be contingent on funding.

"We have limited resources."

Interpretative signs would help all trail users learn more about the lakeside environment that surrounds them, Taylor said.

(milightstone@herald.ca)



Where do we go next - SLRPA



- Complete phase 2 of the Canopy Creek Trail
 - Finish the surface of the trails for ease of use
 - When complete this will link First Lake Drive and Cobequid to Beaver Bank with an Active Transportation Corridor
 - Windsor Junction to Hantsport railway corridor development as an AT greenway



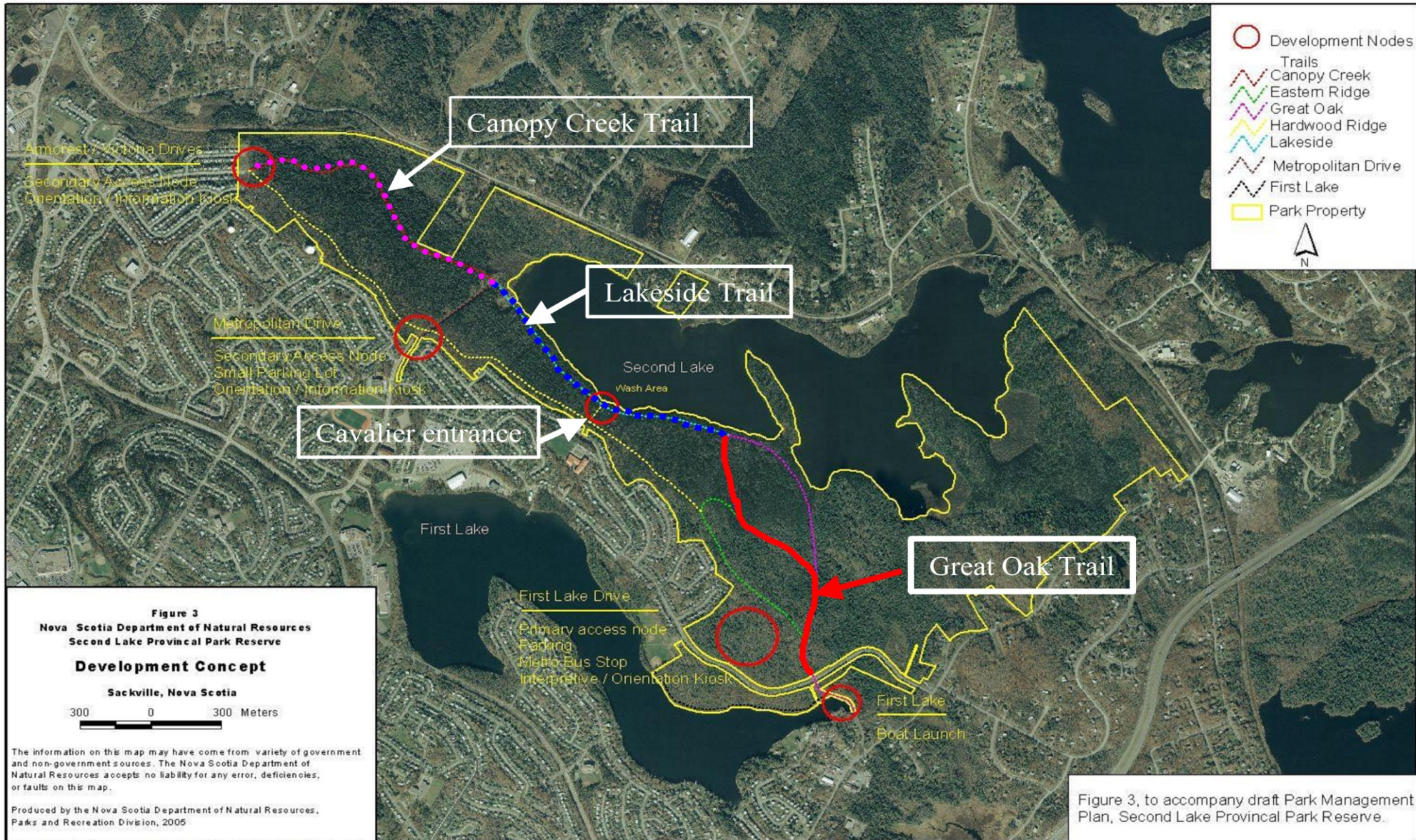
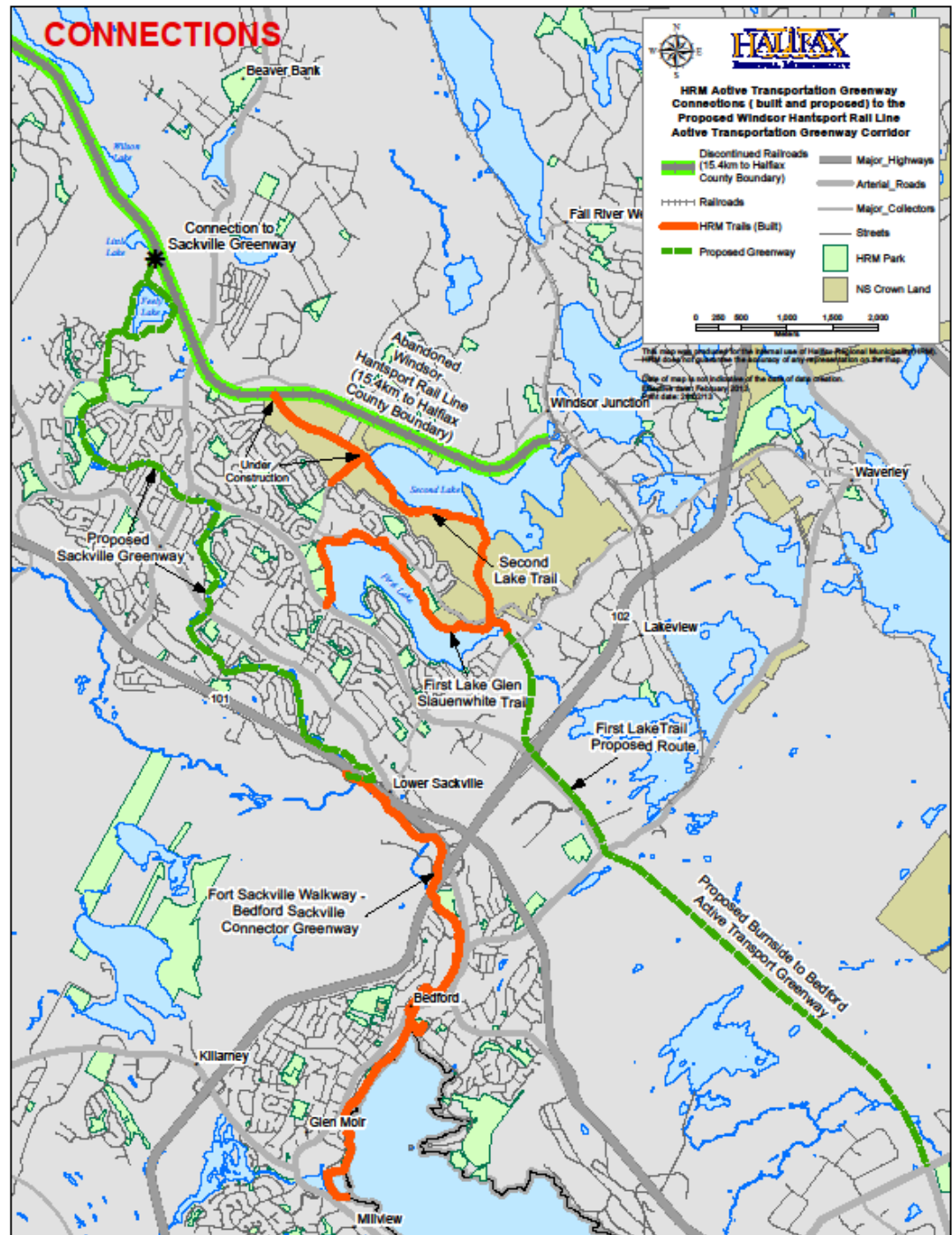


Figure 3, to accompany draft Park Management Plan, Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve.

Windsor Junction to Mount Uniacke Railway – our future Greenway Corridor



We welcome you to join us

- The proof of the pudding is in the eating.....
- We invite the NWCC members to one of our guided walks with HRTA along the First Lake Trail in May or the Second Lake trail in October.
- Please join us for a walk of the trail!

Thank you for your time

