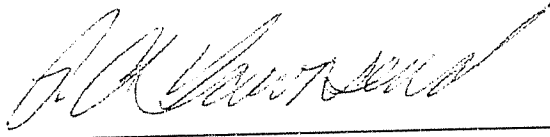




P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Halifax Watershed Advisory Board
October 19, 2011

TO: Chair and Members of Halifax Watershed Advisory Board

SUBMITTED BY: 
Phillip Townsend, Director, Planning & Infrastructure

DATE: October 12, 2011

SUBJECT: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the September 19, 2011 Halifax Watershed Advisory Board meeting, a motion was passed requesting a status update on the Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park as it relates to the Board’s mandate. The request was made in response to correspondence that the Board received from Wendy and Bob McDonald.

BACKGROUND

Regional Council has authorized the undertaking of a watershed study for the Birch Cove Lakes watershed which will then be used as a tool in negotiating boundaries for the Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park in relation to privately owned lands. Excerpts from the RFP which explain the study objectives and tasks of the consultant are presented as Attachment A.

DISCUSSION

Bedford Waters Advisory Board (BWAB) has been given the mandate to make recommendations over the entire Birch Cove Lakes Watershed. HWAB will therefore not be requested to make any recommendations in relation to this study.

In accordance with the study terms of reference (task A), a meeting has been scheduled for the consulting team selected to undertake this study, AECOM, to meet with BWAB members. The meeting is to allow the consultants to provide an overview of their approach and to allow for an exchange of information between the consultants and the BWAB members.

BWAB has scheduled a special meeting to meet the consultants on Wednesday, October 26 commencing at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Basinview Community School, 273 Basinview Drive in Bedford. The meeting is open to members of the public.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The consultant's tasks include a public presentation of the draft preliminary report with recommended water quality objectives and a public presentation of the draft final report. Comments from each of these meetings will be solicited and made available to Regional Council.

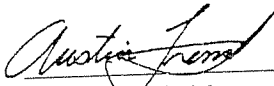
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Excerpt from the FRP for the Birch Cove Lake Watershed Study and Shubenacadie Lakes Sub-Watershed Study

Map 1: Birch Cove Lakes Watershed
Map 2A: Birch Cove Lakes Watershed
Map 2B: Birch Cove Lakes Watershed (Port Wallis lands)

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by : Paul Morgan, Planner, Planning & Infrastructure, 490-4482

Report Approved by: 
Austin French, Manager, Planning Services, 490-6717

**Attachment A: Excerpts from the RFP for the Birch Cove Lakes
Watershed Study and the Shubenacadie Lakes Sub-Watershed Study**

3.0 STUDY SCOPE AND REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Background

Regional Council of the Municipality has directed that watershed studies be undertaken in response to requests to initiate planning for new serviced communities through secondary planning processes. One of the requests is identified by the Regional Planning Strategy as “Highway 102 West Corridor adjacent to Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes Park” and the other as “Port Wallis”. The Birch Cove Lakes watershed study is expected to provide input into negotiations for a wilderness park. Further detail regarding these initiatives can be found at:

<http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/101116cowAgenda.html> (go to item 3)

The Regional Planning Strategy requires that watershed studies be undertaken as a prerequisite to more detailed secondary planning. The study objectives, as established by policy E-17, are set out as follows:

Watershed or sub-watershed studies concerning natural watercourses shall be carried out as part of comprehensive secondary planning processes. These studies shall determine the carrying capacity of the watersheds to meet the water quality objectives which shall be adopted following the completion of the studies. The studies, where appropriate, shall be designed to:

- (a) recommend measures to protect and manage quantity and quality of groundwater resources;*
- (b) recommend water quality objectives for key receiving watercourses in the study area;*
- (c) determine the amount of development and maximum inputs that receiving lakes and rivers can assimilate without exceeding the water quality objectives recommended for the lakes and rivers within the watershed;*
- (d) determine the parameters to be attained or retained to achieve marine water quality objectives;*
- (e) identify sources of contamination within the watershed;*
- (f) identify remedial measures to improve fresh and marine water quality;*
- (g) recommend strategies to adapt HRM’s stormwater management guidelines to achieve the water quality objectives set out under the watershed study;*

- (h) recommend methods to reduce and mitigate loss of permeable surfaces, native plants and native soils, groundwater recharge areas, and other important environmental functions within the watershed and create methods to reduce cut and fill and overall grading of development sites;*
- (i) identify and recommend measures to protect and manage natural corridors and critical habitats for terrestrial and aquatic species, including species at risk;*
- (j) identify appropriate riparian buffers for the watershed;*
- (k) identify areas that are suitable and not suitable for development within the watershed;*
- (l) recommend potential regulatory controls and management strategies to achieve the desired objectives; and*
- (m) recommend a monitoring plan to assess if the specific water quality objectives for the watershed are being met.*

The Highway 102 West Corridor lands are within the Birch Cove Lakes Watershed (see Map 1) and the Port Wallis lands are within a sub-watershed of the Shubenacadie Lakes system (Maps 2a and 2b). As Lake Charles also flows towards Lake Micmac and Lake Banook, these lakes shall also be included in the study.

Watershed studies have previously been undertaken for each of these areas (see Appendix A: Resource Materials).

3.2 Study Scope and Tasks:

The study scope is to address the matters identified in Policy E-17 of the Regional Planning Strategy. In association with requirements of Policy E-17, the following specific tasks are to be undertaken:

- A. Meet with the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, the Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society and the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board in a joint meeting and the Bedford Watershed Advisory Board in a separate meeting to explain the work to be undertaken and to hear any concerns or issues arising.
- B. Prepare a draft preliminary report for each study area with recommended water quality objectives for key receiving watercourses. Each report is to explain the criteria for the recommendations and will be presented at a public meeting and at a meeting of Regional Council for an endorsement of the recommendations. A separate public meeting will be scheduled for each watershed study and it should be assumed that separate presentations to Council will be required. Following each presentation at the public meeting, the Proponent will be expected to respond to questions arising and consider revisions based on the comments received which are to be incorporated into the final preliminary report

to Council.

- C. Review existing water quality data available and undertake a sampling program needed to establish a reliable and accurate baseline of the water quality in key receiving water courses.
- D. Review and update the modeling previously undertaken for each watershed study and identify any deficiencies or changes to assumptions to be made. Any changes or deficiencies are to be reported to the project steering committee before proceeding with updating the models. The modeling for the Birch Cove Lakes watershed should assume that the proposed Highway 113 will be developed.
- E. Undertake spatial modeling utilizing HRM LiDAR data for each watershed. The Proponent will use the data to develop an ArcGIS 9.3 Digital Surface Model (DSM) of each watershed. Further modeling will include the following tasks: watershed delineation including identification of vernal ponds, wetlands and intermittent streams; pre and post development analysis of impervious surface effects; and pre and post development watercourse sediment loads. Stormwater modeling is to take into account the anticipated effects of climate change (increased frequency and intensity of storm events).
- F. Evaluate the potential for existing control structures within each watershed to affect water quantity and quality in downstream watercourses. The evaluation is to provide a quantitative assessment of the impact on water quality measures and a qualitative assessment of the sophistication of management needed to be effective.
- G. Liaise with provincial and federal representatives to determine if any regulations or guidelines affect the study outcome.
- H. Prepare a draft final report for each study area which addresses the applicable matters identified under Policy E-17 for presentation at a public meeting (one for each watershed). Again, the Proponent will be expected to respond to questions and will consider revisions to the final report which is then to be presented to Regional Council.

3.3 Steering Committee

A steering committee comprised of municipal and provincial staff will provide direction to the Proponent. Key assumptions to be used in the study are to be endorsed by the steering committee and draft reports are to be forwarded to the committee for editorial review before being made available to the public.

3.4 Project Management

- (a) The Proponent shall designate in their proposal, a project manager. All coordination for services with the Municipality and the Proponent shall be the responsibility of the project manager. The project manager shall ensure that any substitutions in proponent team

personnel are approved by the Municipality's project manager.

- (b) The Proponent shall report to the Municipality through a review process and meetings at various stages of the work program. The work progress shall be measured against a defined budget and work schedule.
- (c) A written monthly progress report is to be submitted with a schedule of tasks achieved compared to the original base schedule submitted at the start up meeting. For instances where the schedule has not been achieved, a brief written explanation as to why shall be included. The progress report can be submitted either as a hard copy or as an attachment to an electronic e-mail.
- (d) The Proponent's Project Manager shall meet; liaise with regulatory bodies, utilities, other levels of government and members of the community, as required. However, no meeting with stakeholder groups, including landowners or representatives of landowners within the study areas, is to be held without authorization from the Municipality's Project Manager.
- (e) Copies of all correspondence related to the project including agreements reached on behalf of the Municipality shall be provided to the Municipality's Project Manager.

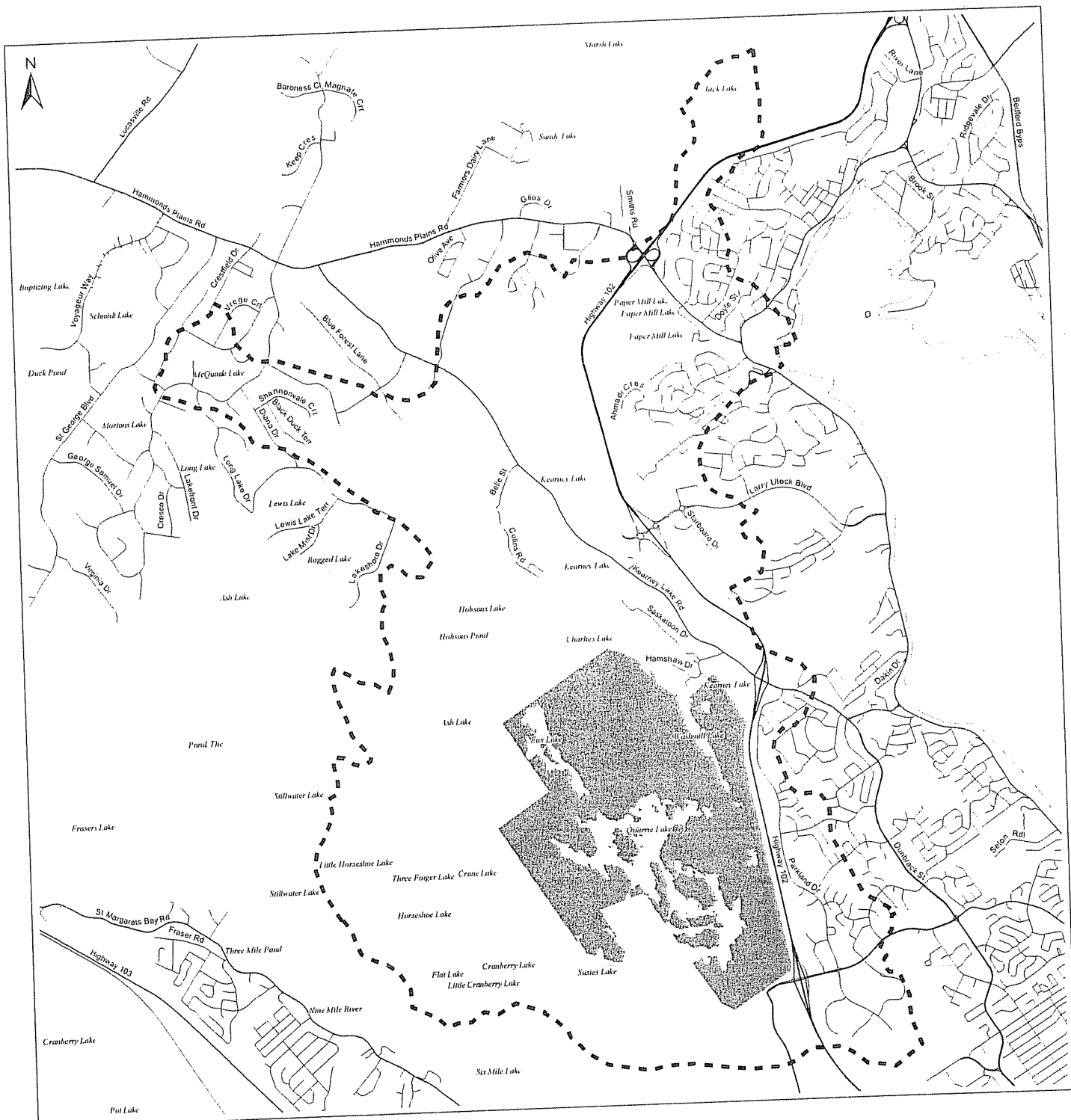
3.5 Community Engagement Strategy

For all projects with a Community Engagement component, the Proponent must comply with the intent and recommendations of the Municipality's Approved Community Engagement Strategy. The approved strategy can be accessed on The Municipality Website at:



<http://www.halifax.ca/crca/documents/CommunityEngagementStrategyDec92008.pdf>

3.6 Timeframe

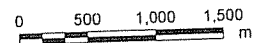
The Municipality would like to have these studies completed as expeditiously as possible but also needs to ensure that sufficient time is given to ensure that the study objectives of policy E-17 are addressed. The Proponent will therefore submit a time frame for completion which can be achieved for each study area.



Map 1
Birch Cove Lakes Watershed

-  Watershed Boundary (Kearney Run)
-  Hwy 102 West Corridor Lands

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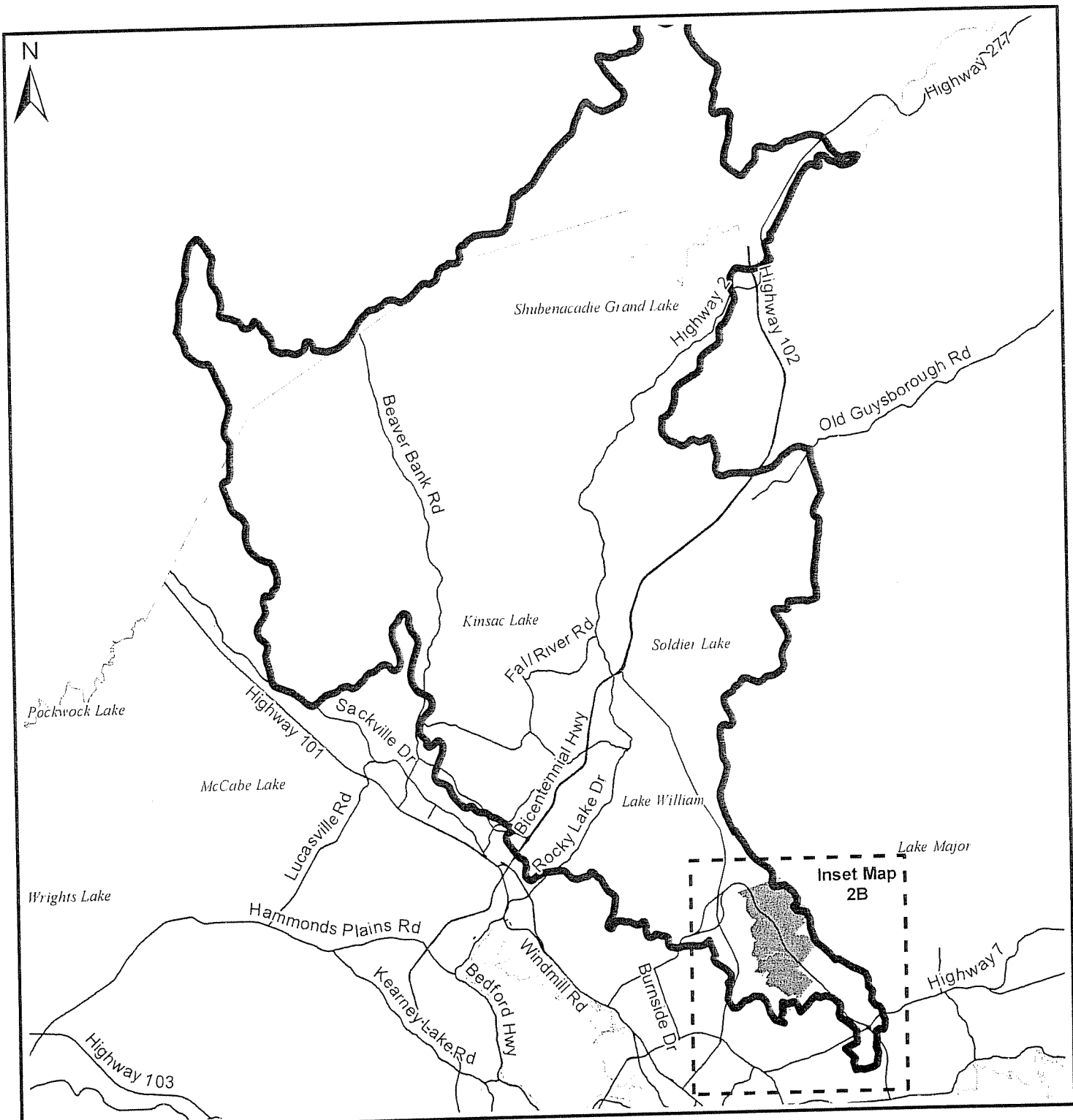


Bedford / Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Upper Sackville /
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January 25, 2011

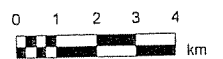
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Map 2A: Shubenacadie Lakes Watershed

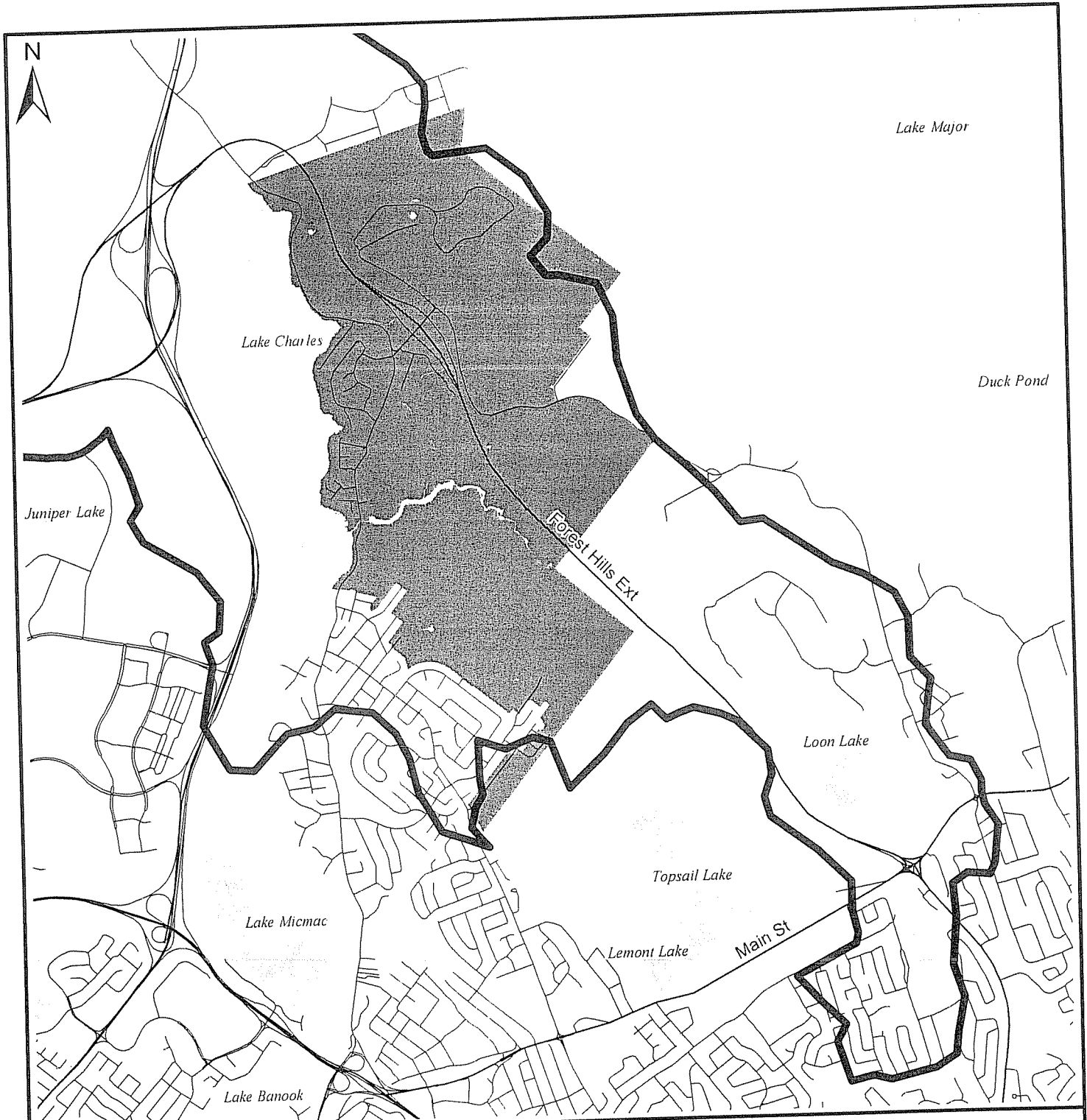
-  Study Area (Shubenacadie Grand Lake)
-  Port Wallis Lands

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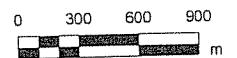
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Map 2B: Shubenacadie Lakes Watershed

-  Study Area (Shubenacadie Grand Lake)
-  Port Wallis Lands

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