



Annual Report

April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019



ROB WALSH PHOTOGRAPHY

Shubenacadie Canal
Commission



Table of Contents

THE SHUBENACADIE CANAL	2
<i>Mandate of the Commission</i>	3
<i>Mission Statement</i>	3
CHAIR’S REPORT	4-6
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT	7-8
MAINTENANCE REPORT	9
<i>Shubie Park</i>	9
<i>East Hants</i>	9
<i>Lake Williams Trail Development</i>	9
WATERWAYS AND LOCKS COMMITTEE REPORT	10
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT	11-12
A PLACE TO MEET & EXPLORE	13-14
<i>The Fairbanks Centre</i>	13
<i>The Avery Room</i>	13
<i>Guided Tours</i>	14
<i>School and Community Group Tours</i>	14
<i>Plant of the Week / Animal of the Week</i>	14
MERCHANDISE & PRODUCT SALES	15
SPECIAL EVENTS	16-18
<i>Switch Program</i>	16
<i>Canoe to the Sea 2018</i>	16-17
<i>Running Events and Outdoor Activities</i>	18
<i>HRM Recreation</i>	18
COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS	18
<i>Freedom Canoe and Kayak</i>	18
<i>Kings Pier Curated Collections</i>	19
<i>Lockside Canteen featuring Lemon Dogs</i>	19
THE HENRY FINDLAY LOCK KEEPER AWARD.....	20
SHUBENACADIE CANAL COMMISSION MEMBERS.....	21
CURRENT ASSETS / LAND HOLDINGS & MANAGEMENT.....	22
SPECIAL THANKS	23

The Shubenacadie Canal



The largest part of the Shubenacadie Canal system was shaped 12,000 years ago, as the last great Ice Age departed. It left in its wake a remarkable land and river chain that connected the Bay of Fundy with Halifax Harbour. It became a major highway for Nova Scotia's first inhabitants.

In 1796, the Nova Scotia Legislature voted funds to survey the system with the possibility of constructing a trade waterway along the system, but it was not until 1825 that Francis Hall submitted plans and estimates for a canal. Lord Dalhousie, the Governor General of the day, turned the first sod on July 25th, 1826, and started the largest construction project undertaken up to that time in Nova Scotia.

Unfortunately, construction problems and a lack of funds brought the endeavor to a close before its completion. It was

not until 1854 that the work would begin again. Seven years later, in 1861, the Canal vessel *Avery* made the first complete journey from Harbour to Bay, thus officially opening the 115-kilometre-long waterway. The waterway operated until 1871, when it could no longer compete with the railway.

After sitting idle for over 100 years, the Province of Nova Scotia realized the canal's heritage potential and the then Minister of Development, the Honourable Roland Thornhill, signed an agreement in 1984 to begin restoration of features of canal system. That work continues today.

Mandate of the Commission

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission (SCC) was created by an act of the Legislature in 1986 (amended in 2007) to:

“oversee and further promote the Shubenacadie Canal System including the operation of any information or interpretative centres pertaining to or belonging to the Shubenacadie Canal System.”

The SCC consists of a volunteer board of 15 members that are variously appointed by either the Province, Halifax Regional Municipality, the Municipality of the County of Colchester, or the Municipality of East Hants.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission is to preserve the historic features of the Shubenacadie Canal and to provide access to the waterway for the education and the enjoyment of the public. In order to achieve its mission, the Commission will pursue the following objectives:

- To carry out stabilization, preservation, and restoration work to the locks and associated features including the dams, head ponds and channels.
- To provide for the maximum practical use of the waterway by shallow draft watercraft.
- To provide for the interpretation of sites for visitors.
- To provide park-like settings for residents and tourists.



Reports

Chair's Report - Bill McIntyre

The 2018-19 operating year was a time of transition and progress which included the official opening and dedication of the Flume House and Marine Railway in Starr Park in Dartmouth, welcoming new board members, welcoming a new Executive Director as well as celebrating the achievements of our retiring one, planning the retirement of a long-time volunteer and past Commissioner, completing the final stages of the waterway access infrastructure, kickstarting an engagement process for communities and stakeholders along the waterway, and an increased profile for the Shubenacadie Canal and Waterway.

In October we officially opened the Flume House and dedicated it to the memory of Doug Brownrigg, P.Eng., in recognition of his incredible contribution to the development of this amazing historic reproduction of the 19th century engineering work featuring the marine railway and the technology which harnessed the waterpower to drive it. We were pleased to welcome Doug's family to this event including his wife, Helen, and his children. We were also pleased to have Darren Fisher, MP, Councillor Sam Austin, Deputy Mayor Tony Mancini, and John Flewelling, President and CEO of CBCL Limited, join in the ceremonies and provide comments. Thanks to local media and the Mainland South Historical Society for their coverage and contributions to making this day a memorable one. We are also very grateful for the ongoing partnership with the Halifax Regional Municipality; their support with this project and the completion of the decking, stonework, and landscaping aspects of the surrounding Greenway marks a significant milestone in the development of this historical centrepiece for Starr Park.

The Commission welcomed Claire Halpern as our new Executive Director in early February 2019. Claire brings considerable experience in managing historical, cultural, and arts facilities and events including as Manager of Cultural Development for the City of White Rock, British Columbia, and as Coordinator of Artist Services at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. We are fortunate to have Claire on our team!

Doug Conrad retired from his position as General Manager in January 2019 after four years of excellent dedication and commitment to the work of the SCC. Doug's expertise in project management and business case development was much appreciated, along with his work as Chair of the Greenway Committee. We are very grateful for Doug's continued commitment as a volunteer on the newly formed Waterways and Locks Committee.

In March, we learned of Bernie Hart's plan to retire. Bernie was dedicated to the SCC, our longest-serving volunteer and a former Board Chair and Commissioner. While those who have worked with Bernie over the years are sad to see him step away, we are very appreciative of his incredible and long-standing commitment to the work of the SCC. His volunteerism spans decades and includes being one of the original founders. Along with his wife Barb Hart, he promoted the idea to establish this enterprise to the Province of Nova Scotia in the mid-1980s.

Bernie has left an incredible legacy of historic research and numerous public engagements that have educated young and old about the history and heritage of the Shubenacadie Canal and Waterway.

The SCC provided a successful business case to the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry to put into place a four-year funding arrangement. This arrangement was confirmed by the Minister, the Honourable Iain Rankin. This enables the SCC Board, staff, and volunteers to plan projects that further the mission of the SCC over a longer time horizon. The SCC will continue its efforts to generate own-source revenues through commercial ventures, product sales, and meeting facility rentals to further the fiscal stability of the organization. We appreciate the support of Matt Parker, Director of Parks at Lands and Forestry and departmental representative on the Commission, for advising the SCC on developing the case for the renewed funding. The Province clearly understands that the canal assets and parklands remain critically important recreational, cultural, and historic assets enjoyed by Nova Scotians and visitors alike.

There was a substantial changing of the guard with the welcoming of new Commissioners and thanking retiring ones. The SCC gives thanks to a number of Commissioners for their contributions whose terms expired in June 2018, including past Chairs Deborah Windsor and Mike Hughes, Greenway Committee members Joliene Stockley and Tim Schaus, and Steve Newton, for their volunteerism and commitment. Both Deborah and Mike have continued to volunteer with the SCC, and we are incredibly appreciative of their ongoing contributions.

We welcomed many new Commissioners, representing growth in membership, broader provincial representation, and exciting new ideas, skills, and experience! Brad Hodgins and Katie MacLellan were appointed by the Province during the year to represent East Hants and Colchester respectively; this marked a return of representatives that can bring the interests of those areas to the board table and enables the connection to communities along the waterway outlined in our strategic plan. We also welcomed Susan Sliming, Barry Hurndall, Sylvaine Allaire, Judith Richardson, and Carolyn Johnson to the Board.

The Greenway Committee has been reconstituted as the Waterways and Locks Committee, underscoring the broadening focus of the SCC for the waterway and locks within the coverage of our licensing agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia. We are pleased that newly appointed Commissioner Barry Hurndall, P.Eng., is chairing this committee, bringing considerable and lengthy experience with infrastructure and capital works projects. Going forward, the broadened mandate of the new Committee will include an assessment of the condition of the locks and associated infrastructure to determine maintenance and restoration needs and opportunities. I wish to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and contributions of volunteers Mike Hughes, Alden Killen, and Doug Conrad, as well as the leadership of Barry on this committee, the project management support of Claire, and fundraising support from Colin Mason, who chairs the Communications Committee.

We continue to appreciate the significant support of HRM in assisting the Commission to fulfill its mandate with this and other projects, including the important park maintenance work in Shubie Park and surrounding area. We also thank HRM Councillors Sam Austin and Tony Mancini for their invaluable assistance in our work and our mandate.

We wish to thank the Honourable Margaret Miller, MLA for Hants East, for her considerable interest in and support of the Transitions project. Although at a preliminary stage, this project aims to further one of our key strategic plan objectives for better engagement of communities along the Shubenacadie Waterway through consulting with stakeholders and coordinating projects along themes that complement the overall mission of the SCC, including promoting the historic, natural, and recreational elements of it. I particularly want to thank Brad Hodgins and Claire Halpern for taking a leadership role in this endeavour and the support of the Department of Communities, Culture, and Heritage.

Commissioner Bob Shaw will lead a team comprising Deborah Windsor, Claire Halpern, Sylvain Allaire, and Sue Sliming to revisit and improve governance and related organizational elements. Their work will be a key contribution to supporting the mandate in the coming year.

We were pleased to award Past Chair Deborah Windsor with the Henry Findlay Lockkeeper of the Year Award in recognition of her great contributions to the SCC Executive and service to the SCC. For the past five years, Debbie's strong leadership, strategic planning, and advocacy have positioned the SCC well in building a strong relationship with all levels of government. In addition to this, Debbie has played a key role in strengthening the governance regime of the organization's operations. She remains a committed volunteer and we are grateful for her continued contributions.

During the past year, the SCC's Communications Committee continued under the experienced leadership of Colin Mason. The committee includes Colin, Sylvain Allaire, Paula Wheaton, Jakki Brierley-Shorrock, and Claire Halpern. The Board is very pleased to have regular updates on communications and marketing activities, including the success of concerted social media and editorials. Paula continues to provide excellent support to that Committee on social media and administration. The year closed out with preparations for a targeted promotion of the canal and waterway on Halifax Transit buses in the coming year. The Committee Chair's report provides more detail on the past year's activities.

The Commission continues to benefit from the from the considerable experience and skills of our dedicated Commissioners and volunteers. Commission board members bring a wide range of professional background to the work of the Commission. As Chair, it is an honour to serve on the executive committee with Deborah Windsor, Past Chair, Vishal Bhardwaj, Vice-Chair Susan Sliming and Denise Trimm, who shared Treasurer duties through the year and Brad Hodgins as Secretary.

The Government of Nova Scotia and the Minister of Lands and Forestry can remain confident that the investment they provide is multiplied many-fold in terms of funds raised for capital projects, volunteer hours, and Commissioner dedication. We appreciate that the Government of Nova Scotia recognizes the value that the Shubenacadie Canal Commission delivers to the Province and its citizens and the dedication of knowledgeable staff. As always, we enjoy and value this continuing partnership.

Executive Director's Report – Claire Halpern

In November 2018, Doug Conrad, General Manager, announced his retirement after four years with the Shubenacadie Canal Commission (SCC). Doug stayed with the SCC until the end of January 2019. At this time, I, Claire Halpern, took over as the Executive Director. I am grateful for Doug's leadership and commitment to the SCC. Doug continues to be involved as a key member of the Waterways and Locks Committee.

During the past year, several important maintenance, repair, and improvement projects were undertaken using our project and operating funding at both the Fairbanks Centre and the Alderney Centre. With our partner Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the SCC completed year three (of a three-year project) of much needed improvements to various canal assets, including small docks, buildings, bridge decking, canoe launches, signage and marketing. This partnership with ACOA resulted in an investment of \$216,000 over the three-year project, with nearly \$73,000 completed in the past year.

2018-2019 key capital projects included a boardwalk through the wetlands at Lock 6 in East Hants. The boardwalk was funded by ACOA, the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, and the Municipality of East Hants. Other projects include a new patio garden at the Fairbanks Centre, a new dock at Shubie Park, and the opening of the Marine Railway flume house. Further details on capital projects are provided in the Maintenance Report.

The SCC entered their second-year partnership with Freedom Canoe and Kayak adjacent to the Fairbanks Centre. This provides visitors to Shubie Park who are interested in watercraft recreation an opportunity to rent boats and tour the Deep Cut as well as Lake Charles from the vantage point of convenient parking and access to the waterway. This is an important leasing revenue source for the SCC. Lemon Dogs, which operates the café-kiosk on the Fairbanks Centre patio, continued operations for another year too. Now at the end of a successful third season, this business provides beverages and refreshments and a wonderful selection of menu items for visitors to Shubie Park and the Fairbanks Centre. Kings Pier completed a second and final operating year leasing within the Alderney Centre from SCC. The Centre is located near the rapidly developing downtown Dartmouth core at Kings Wharf.

In addition to capital projects and maintenance, the SCC focused on the interpretation of the Canal with new signage and panels in Downtown Dartmouth, the Portobello Incline site, Shubie Park, and Lock 4. Other marketing initiatives undertaken were walking tour maps of Downtown Dartmouth in collaboration with Destination Dartmouth.

The SCC continues to advertise extensively on social media and various print media to make the public aware of the facility and the products available for purchase, which is another revenue generator for the organization. Paula Wheaton, Office Manager, and I continue to support the work of the Communications Committee in expanding the vision of the waterway, "Yours to Explore".

Planning began for the Transitions project, led by Commissioner Brad Hodgins with the support of the NS Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. This project engages communities and stakeholders along the Shubenacadie River system in the Municipalities of East Hants and Colchester and pursues a series of pilot projects to promote the cultural, recreational, historic, and natural attributes of this system. This project is combined with a plan to rejuvenate the interpretation centre at the Fairbanks Centre. Through best-practice techniques and archival research, the SCC would like to weave the stories of the Mi'kmaq, Acadian, and Gaelic communities, women and children, and other cultural communities into the exhibits and displays. At the core of the project is the opportunity to tell new stories and engage in different dialogue with the community. Transitions will show how the past can inform our present and how history, new technologies, and the natural environment together shape our future. The goal is to increase awareness, access, and usage of the river as a natural and cultural resource. We wish to thank the Hon. Margaret Miller, MLA for Hants East, for her considerable interest in and support of this endeavour, along with staff from the NS Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

The most impactful change of 2018-2019 was the retirement of SCC's longest-serving volunteer, Bernie Hart. Mr. Hart was one of the original commissioners appointed by the Province in 1986. He has volunteered with the Shubenacadie Canal Commission for over 34 years, and for the past 15 years, Mr. Hart has been volunteering full-time at the Fairbanks Centre. Most recently, his volunteer commitments have been as the onsite historian. Mr. Hart has done valued research on the Canal history, been a mentor to students, provided extensive guided tours to the public, and been an advisor on historical replication models. Bernie's extensive knowledge of the history of the Dartmouth community and the canal waterway system is considerable and well-documented. He has made an invaluable contribution to the preservation of this history for the benefit of all of us who enjoy this waterway. We all miss him dearly and wish him well in his retirement.

I am especially appreciative with the SCC's relationship with HRM, who continues to manage Shubie Park and repairs to the Fairbanks Centre. Their dedicated staff team keeps the park in excellent condition. I also wanted to express gratitude to our major funding partners, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Province of Nova Scotia, who enable us to carry out these valuable projects. Without operating and project funding, none of the activities of the past year would have been possible. Although I have only been on staff for two months of the fiscal year, I am excited to be part of this dynamic organization. I look forward to working with Commissioners and stakeholders to carry out the mission and mandate of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission.

Maintenance Report

Under a License agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia, the Commission has responsibility for maintenance of provincial lands, buildings, and assets along specific areas of the Shubenacadie Canal. In 2018-19, the Commission carried out regular maintenance on these lands as well as necessary renovations and repairs to the Fairbanks Centre and the Alderney Centre from funds within our budget. Under the ACOA grant, repairs and improvements were made to trails, docks, and bridges and new interpretive panels were installed in Downtown Dartmouth, Portobello, and Lock 4.

Shubie Park

Two Capital Projects were completed at Shubie park this year. The first was the installation of the new dock. Over the last year, the docks at Shubie Park have deteriorated rapidly. Extreme water level fluctuations had caused the sections to separate, the 20-year-old wood no longer held fasteners, and many of the planks were rotten. The new dock has eliminated steps, making it safer and more accessible. With the new dock, we hope to see increased use of the waterway.

The second, is a community garden on the Canteen's patio. With help from the local community (via a GoFundMe campaign) and local government, 12 4x4 plots for community use were constructed. The plots are used by Lemon Dogs, community members, and Halifax REC and their day camps.

East Hants

A major capital project was the Lock 6 Boardwalk. 250 feet of trail and 400 feet of boardwalk were installed across a wetland to allow access to Lock 6 Park. Previously, users would need to cross private property to access the park. The boardwalk was built with 2x10 framing and 2x6 decking and is elevated 18 inches above the high-water mark. This project provides public access to the park at a trail head directly adjacent to the existing parking lot. It also adds a unique park feature, as visitors will enjoy a panoramic view of the river while walking across a wetland.

Lake Williams Trail Development

Planning for the connection from Lake Charles to Lake William is being led by the Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS) and WSP with support from SCC under the River Lake Greenway Trails project, which will close many of the trail gaps from Dartmouth to Enfield.

Waterways and Locks Committee Report – Barry Hurndall

The Greenway Committee changed its name to the Waterways and Locks Committee during the past year to reflect a broader mandate of capital works along the waterway. The Committee continued its work regarding the Flume House and Marine Railway. This work is nearing completion, with only minor work to be completed in the Flume House and some additional signage to be installed. Tours of the building and area will start in the coming year. Along with the daylighting work to be completed by Halifax Regional Municipality, this project is a key part of the HRM's Centre Plan for creating a historic and cultural district in Downtown Dartmouth. The site will also be an excellent public space to be enjoyed by citizens and visitors to the area.

SCC volunteers continued to work on completing the reproduction of the internal mechanical parts of the Flume House. All the major mechanical parts were installed inside the building, which reproduce the technology that powered the Inclined Plane. Many hours were spent on monitoring and supervising the installations. The project will be completed once the final major piece, the flume plug valve, is installed. The site services and landscaping were completed in mid-2018. This included a timber deck surrounding the Flume House, water, sanitary and electrical services and general landscaping (plantings, grass areas, stone walls, benches, and park amenities) through the support of HRM.

Additional signage has been installed at various points along the Shubenacadie River and replacement signs installed at other locks, including Lock 4. A walkway was installed at the entrance to Lock 6 to connect the trailhead to the main trail.

Work has started on an initial condition survey of the locks and canal infrastructure. When complete, this will provide a starting point for future condition surveys to monitor the ongoing state of the infrastructure. In addition, it will help identify future capital works required to maintain the condition of the locks and canal and to develop improvements.

Ongoing discussions are underway with HRM on a utility crossing arising from future work related to the Port Wallace development known as the Shubie Park Corridor. SCC has expressed concerns to HRM regarding the proposed routing of the proposed utility corridor which takes it through Shubie Park and across the Deep Cut via a planned bridge structure. These concerns are regarding the physical alterations and related risk to the canal infrastructure, parklands, and trails. Going forward the Commission will endeavor to be engaged and proceed in the best interests of our stakeholders.

Many thanks for the hard work and perseverance of the Waterways and Locks Committee: Bernie Hart, Alden Killen, Mike Hughes, Bill McIntyre, Doug Conrad, Debbie Windsor, Warwick Lambert, Barry Hurndall, and Claire Halpern.

Communications Committee Report – Colin Mason

2018 was a transformational year for the Committee in conjunction with the announced retirement of our GM and the resulting search for new executive and administrative leadership at SCC. One member of the committee was lost, and an additional replacement recruited. Significant in this regard was a new bilingual capability for our communications. The Committee also fulfilled a commitment to help raise funds for a Greenway Committee project.

In 2018-2019, some of the key initiatives tackled by the Communications Committee were:

- A written proposal was submitted and acknowledged by Canada Post with respect to designing and dedicating a postage stamp to the founding of the Shubenacadie Canal Company on the occasion of its Bicentennial celebration in 2026. Canada Post reported it will make its decision in 2023.
- The Committee met with MP Darren Fisher and secured an agreement to advocate on behalf of SCC in securing a special commemorative stamp. Further funding discussions with provided contacts at Heritage Canada were recommended by our MP.
- The Royal Canadian Mint was also contacted and a similar proposal for a commemorative coin was submitted in late 2018.
- A fundraising initiative was taken on by the Committee. Almost \$15,000 in cash and in-kind donations were raised to help prepare the Flume House for a fall official opening.
- A significant survey was conducted in the summer months with visitors to the park, with the help of the summer student. This was later followed by an online survey. Both showed very strong support for the park and canal property from our park users and supporters. The results were presented to the Board in the fall as a basis for a more formalized relationship with our customers.
- The Committee initiated a review of the contract arrangement with Tom Forrestall, which initially was a rather informal agreement. His series of 45+ watercolours is housed partially in the Fairbanks Centre, and SCC is authorized to promote and sell prints of the originals.
- The Committee coordinated a special Canal recognition event with an international Scout jamboree held in the Musquodoboit area. The Scout team was provided with complimentary SCC t-shirts.
- Media was contacted for the Flume House opening. Sponsors and donors were invited to the ceremony and to view a plaque in appreciation of their contributions. The event was held October 19th.
- The Committee initiated a meeting with Engineers NS to establish a liaison based around the core engineering nature of the Canal and Marine Railway. Engineers NS agreed to promote tours of the facilities with its members.

- The SCC logo was revisited and given a performance review. As a result, some final revisions were made and approved. The newly revised blue-green logo is now in use.
- The Committee explored the idea of producing a professional video of the waterway. Several meetings with videographers and production houses were held.
- The Committee discussed the idea of hosting events such as “Shred NS” within the park facilities as a source of revenue.

The Committee continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each month and provides a monthly written report of its activities, plus a social media summary, to the Commission Board.

A Place to Meet & Explore

The Fairbanks Centre

The Fairbanks Centre has been host to many looking for interpretation of the Shubenacadie Canal. This museum features a working lock replica that helps to show young and old a glimpse of how watercraft made their way through the canal. The facility is available year-round and can be booked for receptions or other special events. The site is shared with Canal locks 2 and 3, making it one of the most historic settings in Dartmouth.

In the summer of 2018, the map wall was renovated, and in the fall, the museum space was repainted. Both projects were part of our ACOA funding arrangement.



The Avery Room

The Avery Room space can be transformed for many different events, from meetings to receptions. This destination location has made the Avery Room a very favourable venue for repeat bookings.





Guided Tours

Bernie Hart, a seasoned volunteer tour guide, has been providing guided walks and presentations upon request for over 12 years. During walking tours, Bernie provides individuals and groups with the opportunity to identify trees, plants, and birds in areas along the canal locks located in Shubie Park. Along the route, they can see archeological remains where people along the canal had houses, community centres, and rock walls. The presentation is concluded inside the Fairbanks Centre with a demonstration of how the locks operate.

In early 2019, after 35 years as a dedicated volunteer with SCC, Bernie retired from his volunteer roles. Bernie poured his heart and soul into the SCC. During that time, he played many roles, and if something needed to be done, Bernie was always the first to volunteer. He has a volunteer's heart and a deep love for the Shubenacadie Canal Waterway.

School and Community Group Tours

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission continues to offer guided tours and educational programs to community groups and schools. During the months of May-August 2018, we had summer support from student Sophie Poulos.



Plant of the Week / Animal of the Week

This year, the Commission continued with the Plant of the Week and Animal of the Week educational series in Shubie Park, Dartmouth. Both programs ran from June – August and were promoted online as well as in the community bulletin board.

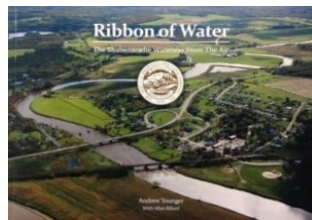
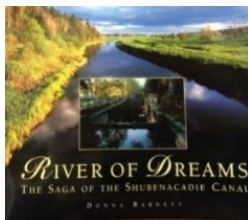
Merchandise & Product Sales

Our merchandise features the Yours to Explore Logo. These items include water bottles, t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, toques, and ball caps. All are available for sale at the Fairbanks Centre or online.



The Shubenacadie Canal Commission's Canal Bench Program was created to provide individuals and organizations the opportunity to commemorate a person, place, or event, while at the same time enhancing the Shubenacadie Canal Waterway for all. Currently, the benches are being placed in the beautiful Shubie Park, which is the location of the famous "Deep Cut" and Locks 2 and 3.

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission's Memorial Plaque Program was created to provide individuals and organizations the opportunity to commemorate a person, place, or event along the historic Shubenacadie Canal. Currently, the program is available in Shubie Park, Dartmouth.



In addition to clothing and benches, other items can also be purchased in our Fairbanks Centre location or online at

www.shubenacadiecanal.ca/shop. We carry Shubenacadie Canal and River System maps as well as two books on the history and landscape

along the waterway, *River of Dreams* and *Ribbon of Water*.

The Commission partnered with well-recognized artist Tom Forrestall in offering his original paintings and reproductions of canal scenes.



Special Events

Switch Program

On June 3, 2018, members of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission participated in the Switch Dartmouth Event, organized by the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission. We set up a booth where our volunteers were available to explain the historical aspects of the Canal Greenway Project in at Starr Park, Dartmouth. The Switch program is a Downtown Dartmouth live event where Portland Street and Prince Albert Road are closed to car traffic and opened for walkers, rollers, cyclists, dancers, and more.



Canoe to the Sea 2018

When 142 paddlers turn out to canoe and kayak 20 kilometres on the Shubenacadie Canal (Fall River to Dartmouth) and come away with broad smiles on their faces, you know it was a good day on the water!

When you add in the family members and other spectators who came along to watch the fun, there are a lot more folks who now appreciate how beautiful the urban portion of the Shubenacadie Canal and waterway is and what a pleasure it can be to experience it firsthand... from the water level.

The event started at the new beach and floating wharf behind the Gordon Snow Community Centre in Fall River and was blessed by bright sunshine and a light tail wind. Of course, the colourful display kayaks, surf skis, canoes, and safety boats on the water added to the attractive summer scene.

As the event was meant, in part, to showcase and attract paddlers to a major portion of the Shubenacadie Canal, the volunteer commission which oversees the operation of the waterway provided assistance with the repair and re-positioning of some of the many portage docks required for navigation in small boats.

Municipal Coun. Steve Streach gave paddlers a brief introduction to all the work which the HRM has been doing in the area to make the lakes safer and more accessible for the public. Through his efforts, both the Gordon Snow Community Centre accessed at the starting line and the Lions' Beach used for the finish line were provided by the HRM at no charge.



The input of the province was also acknowledged and MLA Bill Horne, who was participating with his daughter in individual kayaks, was thanked by the organizers. The crowd was treated to a preliminary start of 14 sprint canoeists and kayakers who planned to race against each other the whole way to Lake Banook. The winner covered the distance in under two hours. The vast majority of entrants were there purely for the recreational adventure, however; for most of them, it took over four hours to complete the five lakes and climb the five portages to Dartmouth.

The pre-event promotion in two newspapers resulted in a very large number of registered paddlers. Highlighting the event as 'no charge' for paddlers over 65 years and for fathers participating with their children also increased registration. Ages ranged between 5 and 77, making for an "Everybody" event, not just focusing on "Seniors" or "Fathers' Day".



The revenue foregone from entry fees for the 29 senior paddlers was valued at \$1,450. Those expenses, plus the added newspaper advertising, were recovered, in part, by an \$1,800 Age-friendly Communities grant from the NS Department of Seniors.

Along with the newspaper advertising, other major cost items included additional safety boats to cover the higher-than-expected participation, extra food, and more frequent shuttle bus trips for paddlers to access their vehicles back at the start in Fall River. A standard Income Statement is attached.

Canoe to the Sea 2018 was a high-profile activity in both Fall River that morning and on Lake Banook later on in the afternoon. One popular highlight was the participation of a five-person "North" canoe sponsored by Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia (CKNS). This was the 30th anniversary for the event as it continues to offer a very positive experience for many paddlers. Hopefully, each of the sponsors, including CKNS, agreed. It certainly attracted significant media coverage, as can be reviewed at Pat Healey's (reporter for The Laker) Twitter site and in the local newspaper.



Allan Billard
June 2018

Running Events and Outdoor Activities

Throughout the year, the Commission supported running events and outdoor activities. The Commission provided groups with access to space in the Fairbanks Centre for registration, designated space in the park, and volunteer staff to assist when needed. In 2018, the Commission supported such activities as the MEC Annual Shubie Park race, Shubie Classic 5K walk/run, and the annual Holiday Tree Lighting. Other activities supported by the Commission include the Maritime Ship Modelers Guild event, picnics and fundraisers for local community groups, and Canadian Forces training in Shubie Park.

HRM Recreation

HRM Recreation once again offered summer camps during the months of July and August. The Adventure Earth Centre now offers a set schedule of programs during the year at the Fairbanks Centre. They have also hosted a number of public events including Family Winter Fest. Additionally, during the summer of 2018, HRM offered free bike borrowing through their Try-a-Ride program in Shubie Park.



Commercial Partnerships

As part of its efforts to generate additional revenues to support its operations, the SCC has implemented a few commercial initiatives, in addition to the rental of its board rooms.

Freedom Canoe and Kayak

Freedom Canoe and Kayak, a private operator offering rentals of canoes and kayaks for recreational paddling, had a successful season in 2018. The service enables hundreds of locals and tourists to experience the up-close scenic adventure paddle of the Shubie Canal from May to October.



Kings Pier Curated Collections

The Alderney Centre is an important source of revenue for the SCC. For the past two years, Kings Pier Curated Collections, a local independent vintage clothing store, operated in the Alderney Centre. In early 2019, they did not renew their contract.



Lockside Canteen Featuring Lemon Dogs

The Lockside Canteen is located adjacent to the Fairbanks Centre on the Patio in Shubie Park. It is currently operated by Lemon Dogs. They offer a variety of items including their uniquely flavoured lemonade, handmade ice pops, tacos, and other snacks.



The Henry Findlay Lock Keeper Award

This award is presented to friends of the Shubenacadie Canal and Waterway who dedicate their time and effort towards improving this provincial heritage resource and its parklands for the enjoyment of all residents and tourists.

This year, Deborah Windsor was presented with the Lock Keeper Award. She was recognized for the work she had done as a Commissioner and for her strong commitment to the SCC Executive, including as Past Chair. We are grateful for her leadership, strategic planning skills, and strong advocacy on behalf of the SCC along with her extraordinary volunteer commitment.

Earlier recipients of the Lock Keeper award are:

2001	Peter Connor	Long Term Planning
2003	Scott MacKnight	Environmental Design
2005	Ian Bailey	Portobello Plane Archaeology
2007	Joe MacDonald	Parkland Maintenance
2008	Bob MacDonald	Trail Development
2009	Frank Horne	Heritage Preservation
2011	John O'Connor	Fund Raising
2012	Alden Killen	Marine Railway model and design
2014	Bernie Hart	Long term volunteer and canal historian
2015	Mike Hughes	Long term promotion, maintenance & development
2016	Darren Fisher	Development & ongoing promotion of the Shubenacadie Canal System
2017	Suzanne Roy	Leadership and extraordinary volunteer commitment
2018	Deborah Windsor	Leadership, strategic planning, and advocacy



Presentation of Lock Keeper Award to Deborah Windsor by Commission Members

Executive Committee 2018/2019

Bill McIntyre (Province) ~ Chair ~ Term expires September 2021
Vishal Bhardwaj (Province) ~ Vice Chair ~ Term expires June 2021
Susan Sliming (Province) ~ Treasurer ~ Term expires June 2021
Brad Hodgins (Province) ~ Secretary ~ Term Expires June 2021
Deborah Windsor (Province) ~ Past Chair

Commissioners 2018/2019

George Clarke (HRM) ~ Term expires November 2020
Michael Hughes (Province) ~ Term expired June 2018
Steve Newton (Province) ~ Term expired June 2018
Joliene Stockley (Province) ~ Term expired June 2018
Colin Mason (HRM) ~ Term expires November 2020
Denise Trim (HRM) ~ Term expires November 30, 2019
Robert Shaw (HRM) ~ Term expires November 30, 2019
Sylvain Allaire (Province) ~ Term expires September 3, 2021
Barry Hurdall (Province) ~ Term expires September 3, 2021
Carolyn Johnson (Province) ~ Term expires September 3, 2021
Katherine MacLellan (Province) ~ Term expires September 3, 2021
Judith Richardson (Province) ~ Term expires September 3, 2021

Many thanks, to the Commissioners and Representatives whose term ended during this past year. We appreciate your continued support.

Ex-Officio

Matt Parker, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Tony Mancini, Halifax Regional Municipal (HRM) Councilor
Sam Austin, Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Councilor

Volunteer Secretariat

Bernard Hart
Mike Hughes
Alden Killen

Staff

Doug Conrad, General Manager (October 2014 – January 2019)
Claire Halpern, Executive Director (February 2019 – Present)
Paula Wheaton, Office Manager (September 2014 – Present)
Sophie Poulos (Summer 2018)

Committees

Communications Committee
Finance Committee
Waterways and Locks Committee

Current Assets / Land Holdings and Management

Halifax Regional Municipality			
Property Known As	Approx. Size	P. I. D.	Registered Owner
Lock 1 Lake Banook	0.75 acres	94474	SCC & HRM
Locks 2 & 3 Shubie Park	55+ acres in 15 parcels	00255505 to 40857898	"The Queen" & DNR
PortoBello Plane	6.3 acres	40128977	SCC & DNR
Lock 4 Lake Fletcher	0.75 acres	00510065	SCC & DNR
	0.06 acres	40645608	DNR
	0.25 acres	40705501	DNR
	200 sq. m.	40705519	DNR
Lock 5 Wellington	14+acres in 8 parcels	00529727 to 40705063	DNR
River Access Hwy #2	0.5 acres	40662744	DNR
Municipality of East Hants			
Property Known As	Approx. Size	P. I. D.	Registered Owner
Lock 6 Horne's Settlement	7.1 acres	45289477	SCC
	2.2 acres	45218260	DNR
Lock 7 Enfield	7 acres	45077401	SCC
Riverbank in Elmsdale	1.5 acres	45151743	SCC

Special thanks to the following organizations for their contribution to the Shubenacadie Canal Commission in 2018/2019

Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Halifax Regional Municipality
Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage
Municipality of East Hants
Halifax Foundation
Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society
CBCL Engineering Ltd.
Nova Scotia Community College
Clintar Landscape Management
Conrad's Brothers



© Shubenacadie Canal Commission
The Province of Nova Scotia
54 Locks Road
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Canada
B2X 2W7

(902)462-1826 | Email: info@shubenacadiecanal.ca
Website: www.shubenacadiecanal.ca