



# ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2021 TO MARCH 31, 2022

SHUBENACADIE CANAL COMMISSION

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# Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the Shubenacadie Canal Commission is located within Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

## Background



## The Shubenacadie Canal Waterway

The Shubenacadie Canal Waterway is a world-class destination for recreation, historical interpretation, and cultural heritage that connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Fundy. Completed in 1861, the canal system includes nine locks, two marine railways, eight lakes, several natural and artificial channels, and the Shubenacadie River. It begins at Halifax Harbour (Kjipuktuk) in Dartmouth and ends at the Bay of Fundy (Pekwitapa'qek) in Maitland.

Today, the Shubenacadie Canal Waterway includes a diverse range of resources. The Fairbanks Centre in Dartmouth serves as the main interpretive hub for the system, including a small museum and a working model of a set of canal locks. Lock 5 in Wellington is fully restored, and three more locks in Dartmouth have been mostly restored. The waterway also includes the Shubenacadie Canal Marine Railway in Dartmouth, reconstructed in 2018 and opened to the public the following summer. The system is dotted throughout its length with mixed-use trails and parks, docks for small watercraft, and interpretive panels explaining the history of key sites.

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## The Shubenacadie Canal Commission

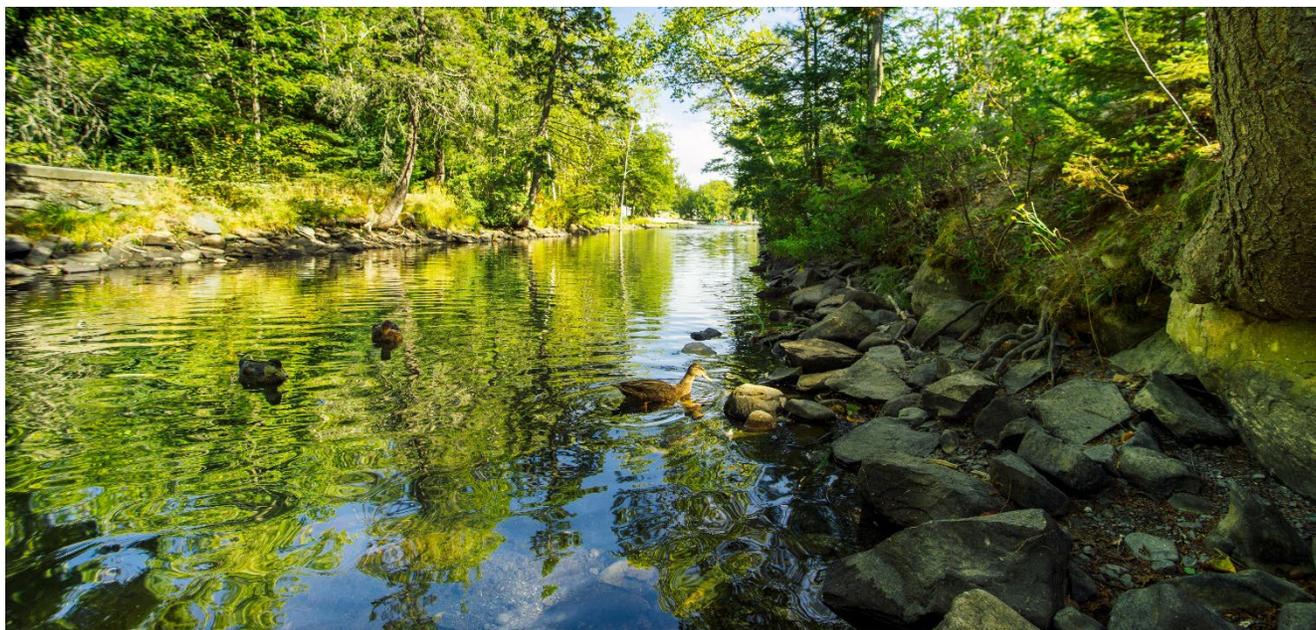
The Shubenacadie Canal Commission (SCC) was established through an Act of the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1986. Its mission is to restore, protect, and promote the historical, cultural, and natural heritage of the Shubenacadie Canal Waterway for all Nova Scotians, visitors, and future generations. The SCC operates and maintains several parcels of land in conjunction with provincial and municipal governments. It is headquartered at the Fairbanks Centre in Dartmouth, which it also operates.

The SCC is a registered charity with a board composed of 15 volunteer commissioners. As of 2020, it has two permanent staff positions, with additional staff often hired during peak tourist periods.

### 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.



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# Reports

## Chair's Report: Sylvain Allaire

Due to Covid restrictions, the last year was once again challenging for the Shubenacadie Canal Commission. Our rental revenues were lower than budgeted and it proved nearly impossible for staff and volunteers to meet in person to conduct the business of the Commission. Nevertheless, significant progress was achieved in a number of projects that will improve access to the Shubenacadie Canal and promote the waterway.

I must commend our Executive Director Claire Halpern and our Office Manager, Paula Wheaton for their perseverance and outstanding work in difficult conditions. They have not missed a beat. Their dedication, patience, and attention to details are noteworthy.

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission would not exist without the contribution of many dedicated volunteers. I would like to specifically thank the following individuals who completed their appointment as Commissioner during the past year:

Bill McIntyre, past Chair of the Commission whose second 3-year term ended on September 3, 2021. Bill chaired the Commission for five years and will remain engaged in the capacity of past chair. His contribution to the success of the Commission is unquantifiable. I am glad that I will be able to rely on his knowledge and experience in the coming years.

Colin Mason, Chair of the Communications Committee, whose term ended on April 15, 2021. His contribution previously earned him the Henry Findlay Lock Keeper Award.

Barry Hurndall, Chair Waterway and Locks Committee, whose 3-year term ended on September 3, 2021. Barry has indicated he would remain involved as a member of the Waterway and Locks Committee.

Sue Sliming, past treasurer, whose 3-year term ended on June 4, 2021.

Katherine MacLellan whose 3-year term ended on September 3, 2021.

Judith Richardson who also ended her 3-year term ended on September 3, 2021.

I would also like to thank Robert Shaw, who as vice-chair, had to assume the role of chair pending the reappointment process for Brad Hodgins, Carolyn Johnson, and myself. Robert, along with George Clarke, Rachel Boehm, and Cait Green remained the only appointed Commissioners for 1/3 of the year and they served the Commission diligently. I would also like to welcome newly appointed commissioners David Bligh and Don McIver who joined the Commission December 16, 2021. Finally, I need to signal the important contributions of HRM Councillors Sam Austin and Tony Mancini to our deliberations.

At the time of writing this report, there are four issues of concern that are worth mentioning. First, and not for the first time, the provincial appointment of Commissioners was delayed to such an extent that there was an insufficient number of Commissioners to properly exercise adequate

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fiduciary responsibilities for a prolonged period of time. It is my opinion, shared by others, that the Act to Establish the Shubenacadie Canal Commission should be modernised to help remedy this problem as well as other issues. It is the intention of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission to submit recommendations to the government to that effect.

The second area of concern pertains to the operating budget of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission. While we are grateful that there was no further reduction in funding allocation, the status quo doesn't address the challenges that inflationary pressures exert on our very small staff. It also prevents the Commission from opening the Fairbanks Interpretation Center on weekends, especially during the summer months.

The third issue of concern relates to the degradation of the gate at Lock 3. An independent engineering evaluation of the condition of the gate concluded there was a high potential for failure in the short term. The information was communicated to the appropriate provincial staff, and we are eagerly waiting for the implementation of a remedial plan.

Fourthly, the proposal by Halifax Water to install water and sewage pipes across the Shubenacadie Canal near Lake Charles has the potential to generate adverse reactions when public consultations finally take place. It will also disrupt access to that section of the Shubenacadie Canal during the construction phase of the project. A date has yet to be announced.

Finally, I would like to thank our funding partners, donors, and sponsors. It would be impossible to realize the mission of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission without their support.

## Executive Director's Report: Claire Halpern

The 2021-22 fiscal year remained centered on the COVID-19 virus and compliance with provincial mandates and policies. The SCC continued to pivot and shift operating activities and protocols due to COVID-19, including creating and implementing a vaccine policy for the organization and the Fairbanks Centre. I am grateful for the hard work of Commissioners, staff, and volunteers who showed adaptability as we adjusted to our new realities.

Two capital projects were completed this year. The first was a partnership with SWEPS trails to install a new bridge at Portobello. Working together, the two organizations were able to accomplish a major park improvement to a previously underdeveloped site. The Shubenacadie Canal Commission and the Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society have a history of working in collaboration. These types of partnerships are essential for improving community outreach, pursuing a heritage river designation, and enhancing and developing trail networks. The bridge would not be possible without the help of our funders. The SCC thanks the Province of Nova Scotia for their funding through the Regional Trail Expansion



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program, Councillor Deagle-Gammon and Councillor Mancini for funding from the Capital District Funds, and BJH Management for their generous donation.

The second capital project was the completion of the Dartmouth Marine Railway reconstruction by installing the plug to the exterior of the building. The plug controls the flow of water from the flume to the turbine. This project was made possible by funding from the Halifax Foundation.



The SCC office had another busy year, with activities returning to in-person with restrictions in place. The SCC implemented winter operating hours to handle the personnel challenges of checking proof of vaccination. Due to Covid-19, Avery Room rentals decreased for a second year in a row and room capacity was also reduced to adhere to public health guidelines. A large part of the SCC's revenue is from Avery Room rentals. Thus, to supplement our operating revenue, the SCC received the Federal Government's Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).

Outreach and education programs were expanded in 2020-21 and the Flume House tours, led by Richard MacMichael and our summer student, were reinstated. Richard also started a new weekly community event called History Hikes at Shubie Park. These hikes explore the historical sites and recreation features of Shubie and have become very popular with visitors and park users.

The SCC also designed a new outreach and recreation offering for the community called Walk the Waterway. From June to October, participants were emailed a weekly hike along, or near, the waterway. The emails included information such as washrooms, parking, and trail accessibility, as well as historical information about the sites and/or information about the flora and fauna. The hikes totalled 114km and anyone who completed 114km received a participation certificate. We had over 200 people participate in this fun initiative.

A new vendor was secured for Shubie Park, creating a small revenue stream for the organization. Caffe Lucca set up his mobile coffee cart at the park entrance. This was a great addition to the park, and it was wonderful to have fresh coffee after a morning walk.



As the SCC continues to adjust and adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become apparent how important and relevant the organization is to the people of Nova Scotia. Our park spaces have never been busier, and our outreach is consistently attracting new and larger audiences. As we expand the

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historical stories, we tell to be more inclusive, we look forward to a bright future that will have all visitors and Nova Scotians enjoying the Shubenacadie Canal Waterway and making it truly "yours to explore".

## Transitions Report

Launched in fall 2020, Transitions is a three-year research and planning project to increase awareness, access, and usage of the Shubenacadie Waterway as a natural and cultural resource. In 2021-22, Transitions moved from Phase 1: Consultation and Planning, to Phase 2: Research, Design, and Pilot Projects. The project has focused on funding pilot projects and embarking on the process of redeveloping the Fairbanks Interpretive Centre.

Transitions has focused on developing connections with community and building awareness about the project. The Transitions Advisory Committee (TAC) has grown to nine members, representing a range of communities and interests along the waterway.

As part of the Consultation and Planning phase, Transitions staff and committee members have consulted with members of the following organizations: Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Arrowhead Park Residents Association, Grant Murray Designs, East Hants Chamber of Commerce, Nova Scotia Museum, East Hants Municipality, Colchester Municipality, Town of Stewiacke, Acadia University, Saint Mary's University, and the Shubenacadie River Commercial Fishermen's Association. Connections have also been made with political representatives including East Hants MLA John A. MacDonald and Kings Hants MP Kody Blois. Community consultation and engagement was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

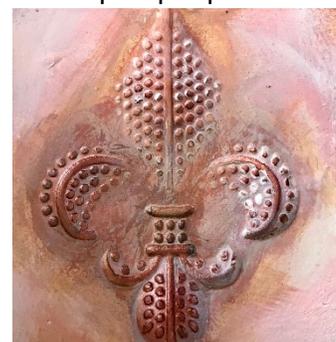
As part of Phase 2, six pilot projects have been awarded. Reviewed by the TAC, projects were selected to create new opportunities, engage diverse Stakeholders and Rights Holders, and improve the experience of residents and visitors to the river. The majority of the pilot projects will be completed in 2022-2023.

### **A for Adventure – Swim the Shubie Documentary**

Film documenting a 114km swim through the Shubenacadie Waterway that will inspire people to explore the Waterway.

### **Nancy Chiasson – Acadian Surfaces**

Ceramic artist Nancy Chiasson is creating original artwork based on the nature and Acadian cultural heritage of the waterway. Her artwork will be displayed in a public exhibition.



### **Dashboard Living – #MyShubieMilestone**

A video storytelling series that will highlight sustainable uses of the waterway and create a platform for sharing stories.

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### **Waverley Amateur Athletic Association – New Waterway Access Point**

Transitions funded the purchase and installation of a public docking system at McDonald Sports Park that will be installed in Spring 2022.



### **Letitia Fraser – African Nova Scotian Heritage**

Artist Letitia Fraser will create and exhibit a series of artwork based on Black settlement and community along the Shubenacadie Waterway.

### **Tourism – Experience the Shubenacadie Waterway**

Professional travel writers will produce stories and itineraries that draw attention to the wide range of experiences and businesses along the Waterway.

A research coordinator was hired to advance research partnerships, and to produce content and communications materials. Anna Richard was hired in October 2021 and brings a decade of experience in exhibition development, research, public programming, and interpretive development to the role. Anna has undertaken archival and community research, supported the development of pilot projects, and is advancing the development of new interpretive content for the Fairbanks Interpretive Centre. Transitions is funded by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Province of Nova Scotia, Communities Culture and Heritage.

## **Maintenance Report**

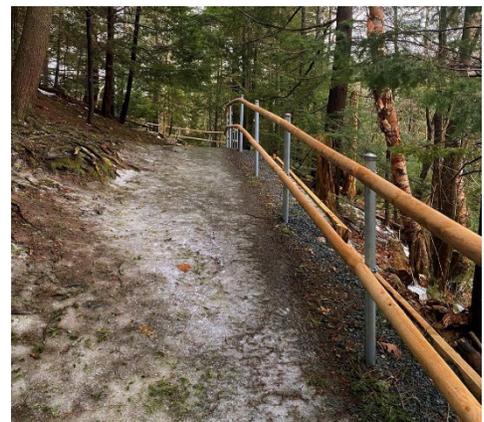
Under a License Agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia, the Commission has responsibility for the maintenance of provincial lands, buildings, and assets along specific areas of the Shubenacadie Canal. In 2021-22, the Commission carried out regular maintenance on these lands.

### **Lock 1**

Lock 1 is maintained with a SCC contract with Clintar Landscape Management. The only additional maintenance project at the site was the removal of knotweed by an SCC contractor.

### **Shubie Park**

The SCC has an agreement with HRM for park maintenance, and the fantastic park staff keep the well-used park in excellent condition. SCC maintenance projects for Shubie Park included replacing the fence at the deep cut, removing damaged trees from the deep cut, replacing the Lock 2 decks, and repainting the memorial benches.



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## Portobello

Portobello is maintained with a SCC contract with Clintar Landscape Management. Trees blown over during winter storms were removed from the path by a contractor.

## Lock 4

Lock 4 is maintained with a SCC contract with Clintar Landscape Management. At the request of neighbours of Lock 4, the SCC installed bollards on the trail to prevent motorized vehicles from using the site. Trees were blown over during winter storms and were removed by a contractor.

## Lock 5

Lock 5 is also maintained with a SCC contract with Clintar Landscape Management. Clintar removed the rotten and vandalized shed from the property and fixed the parking lot potholes. Security problems are still a concern at Lock 5, and the site was used as an illegal dumping area a few times over the winter.

## Lock 6

A local resident maintains Lock 6 Park, and we are thankful for this partnership. The park sustained major damage during the 2021-22 winter with many trees blown down. The most severe damage occurred to the viewing platform. The high waters and subsequent freezing caused the platform to be lifted from the screw piles. Repairs to the viewing platform are still underway.



## Finance Committee Report: Carolyn Johnson

Committee members: Carolyn Johnson, Sylvain Allaire, Brad Hodgins, Claire Halpern, and Paula Wheaton

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission (SCC) Finance Committee was formed in 2020. The committee's focus is to assist the Commission in carrying out its financial oversight responsibilities by performing ongoing monitoring, review, and advisory functions.

Meetings have continued monthly through 2021-22 using the zoom platform with some in-person as per provincial pandemic restrictions. Committee membership includes the SCC Executive Director, Commission Chair, Administrative staff, Treasurer, and a Transitions Committee representative. Committee members also sit on various SCC sub-committees such as Revenue Development, Governance, and Executive which allows for liaising across committees. Below is a highlight of work completed by the Finance Committee this past fiscal year.

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The Finance Committee provides a Finance Report monthly to the Executive Committee and to the Commission quarterly or as per scheduled board meetings. Finance Reports now include a breakdown of the SCC's Transitions project spending in all categories. The Finance Report includes items from the Executive Director's report or any SCC sub-committee with a potential for fiscal impact on the SCC; Payroll; CPP and EI remittance and CRA filing status; Securement of and status of donations and grants; Progress on any financial related policies; Monthly review of SCC financials; and CUA accounts information.

The Finance Committee updated the 2021-22 budget in August due to the extension of the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy. The additional funding paid for bench painting, Lock 2&3 feasibility study, Lock 5 building removal, and the Lock 3 decks. The budget was approved by the commission on August 31, 2021. In the winter of 2022, the Finance committee developed the SCC's 2022-23 budget. This was approved by the Commission on February 28, 2022.

The Finance Committee reviewed the draft Land Donation Policy (402), draft Procurement Policy (302), and draft Planned Giving Policy (403) that were approved by the Commission in 2021-22. Moving into our next fiscal year 2022-2023, the Finance Committee will develop a policy for an SCC Contingency Fund for board approval.

Many thanks to the hard-working members of the Finance Committee for their on-going commitment to the committee's mandate in support of promotion and preservation of our unique canal and waterway.

## Governance Committee Report: Robert C. Shaw

Committee members: Robert Shaw, Sylvain Allaire, Bill McIntyre, Debbie Windsor, and Claire Halpern

Governance Committee (herein ref. GovComm) priorities over the past year have been the following items:

- A. Population of the Organization's Standing (3) and Operational (5) Committees.
- B. Activation and engagement of Commissioners for service on the respective SCC Committees inclusive of Transitions.
- C. To ensure the disciplined use of Committee Terms of Reference (TOR), editing when required and approval of TOR changes when needed by the Commissions.
- D. Review and submission of related recommended changes to the Shubenacadie Canal Commission Act of 1986:
  - a. Within such to accommodate efficiencies to the Commissioner appointment process.

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- b. And, to secure the considerations of Government how to engage First Nations representation within the Mission of the SCC.

While Covid 19 had impact upon the regularity of GovComm meetings, the Committee did continue its work and adapted accordingly under the circumstance.

Regretfully this past year, 2021, gave illustration to the dysfunction of a governance model that accommodates four (4) appointing agencies: the Province of Nova Scotia, the Municipality of East Hants, the Municipality of the County of Colchester, and the Halifax Regional Municipality. This model creates complexities within the cycle of succession and the suspension of appointments.

The cessation of appointments and approvals became problematic prior to, during, and following the provincial election of 2021. This reduced our fiduciary capacity significantly and gave cause for a period to cease board meetings resulting in a slowdown of some SCC initiatives.

However, during this time several meetings were held with senior representatives of the Province to enlighten them and to offer SCC request for change that would hopefully avoid such circumstance reoccurring.

Within these meetings the agendas also included the topic of how the Commission could engage the Indigenous community within our mission. These discussions readily recognized the cultural sensitivities of this community and the paradigm that differs dramatically to the one currently established.

It was concluded that while the Commission wishes the inclusion of First Nations representation, the process to accommodate such has to be resolved by Government to ensure that an optimum outcome is achieved for all through an appropriate communications process.

Government agreed to receive and review the recommendations for needed changes to the “Act” once developed by the SCC. This process has commenced with detailed review of the “Act” by members of the GovComm and has been initially vetted through the Executive Committee (ExComm) for further feedback.

The documentation to go to the Province for their consideration will be reviewed and eventually approved by the ExComm. SCC Commissioners will be provided with a copy of these recommendations.

Changes to an existing Act present an element of complexity and process that takes time both in preparation and presentation. Sponsors to help us along the legislative path have been identified. The work needed may produce the desired changes by the fall of 2022 or early 2023 dependent upon the legislative agenda of the coming months.

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Introducing a process to embrace Indigenous inclusion within our work is largely reliant upon the expertise and will of Government to enable such. Once our compliment of Commissioners is resolved through the current appointment process, it is expected that we will have our committees return to a productive routine.

## Waterway and Locks Committee Report: Barry Hurndall

Committee Members: Alden Killen, Mike Hughes, Bill McIntyre, Doug Conrad, Debbie Windsor, Warwick Lambert, Dave Bligh, Nancy Sutherland, Tin Murphy, Barry Hurndall and Claire Halpern

The Committee welcomed a new member this year – Tim Murphy.

Outstanding work on the Flume House was completed with the installation of the flume plug valve.

Work continues a draft asset management plan for the locks and canal infrastructure. This will provide an ongoing assessment of the assets and lays out a long-term plan for further condition surveys and infrastructure improvements. 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 continuing with HRM and their consultants on the proposed utility crossing related to the Port Wallace development. Concerns were raised by SCC regarding the location of the proposed crossing and the design and look of the bridge. After further revisions the location and bridge design were essentially acceptable to the committee. The public consultation process has not yet started.

The upstream gate/wall at Locks 2 and 3 were inspected several times during the year and deterioration of some of the main timbers documented. A consultant was hired to carry out an assessment of the gate structure with work completed recently. The report recommended that parts of the structure be replaced, and other repairs made. Lands and Forestry were informed of the SCC concerns over the structure and the report has been forwarded to them for further consideration.

A feasibility study was carried out on Lock 3 to see if it can be made fully operational as part of the 2026, 200-year anniversary of the canal. This would allow the lock to be navigable for small boats, canoes, etc. and will provide a valuable learning experience for park visitors. In addition, a study was carried out on Lock 6 funded by the Transitions Project to see if it can be repaired or stabilized. Both reports were received and are under further study by the committee.

Construction of a new bridge crossing the canal at Portobello was completed. SCC, SWEPS, and the province jointly funded this work as part of the trail being constructed by SWEPS. The SCC contribution amounted to \$16,666. This has been funded by contributions, HRM, and SCC funds.

Many thanks for the hard work and perseverance of the Waterway and Locks Committee.

## Revenue Development Committee: Rachel Boehm

Committee Members: Rachel Boehm, Katherine McLennan, Cait Green, Bill McIntyre, and Claire Halpern

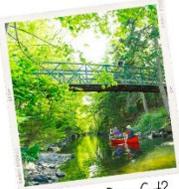
This past year has been a time of growth in the revenue development domain for the SCC. We introduced our first Planned Giving program, which provides opportunities to match donors with opportunities for legacy gifts. What a wonderful way for citizens to honour the memory of a loved one or leave a personal legacy that will impact communities for generations to come. We also introduced a Leadership Giving program that recognizes donors who contribute gifts of \$1,000 or more and matches them with a specific recognition level named after the various lakes in our waterway. We revised our recognition program that includes bridge plaques and benches, and we hope to add a pet memorial plaque program very soon! Finally, we continued to promote our Adopt-a-Lock program that matches donors with a particular lock along the canal, allowing meaningful personal and family connections with our historic waterway.

The committee organized a monthly 50/50 raffle which began in June 2021 through Rafflebox. The raffle raised close to \$1,000 for the SCC, with many of the winners donating a portion of their winnings back to the organization.

The committee spent a considerable amount of time planning a new annual fundraiser: a kayak raffle to raise important funds for park and paddling infrastructure while also building our brand as a world-class paddling destination. The kayak raffle will be launched in May 2022 and the winner selected in early July 2022. We are grateful for the many commissioners and volunteers who have contributed to these developments and who help us raise awareness and funds in our communities.

### Donate today to support your waterway!

HAVE YOU EVER...



*Canoeed the Deep Cut?*



*Sent a boat down the model locks?*



*Hiked the Canal Greenway?*

Support the Shubenacadie Canal Commission in offering these one-of-a-kind opportunities!



Choose your donation program:

- Adopt a Lock
- Leadership Giving
- Caring for the future with Planned Giving
- Monthly Donor
- Volunteer

Your tax-deductible donation will help us build new docks and trailheads, and maintain the historic Canal Locks and our beautiful parks.



Visit [www.shubenacadiecanal.ca](http://www.shubenacadiecanal.ca) or call 902-462-1826 for more information!

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# A Place to Meet and 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.

## 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

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission historical guided tours program was a hit once again this summer and fall. Capturing the interest of young and old, volunteer Richard MacMichael lead groups through two unique tours. The first were scheduled historical hikes at Shubie Park which gave folks a glimpse into how the canal operated and the construction of the deep cut. The second tour was onsite at the Marine Railway in Starr Park, Downtown Dartmouth. Richard welcomed the community to see the inside of the full-scale replica of the Flume House and explained the mechanics that controlled the Marine Railway. Thanks to the support we received from the Canada Summer Jobs program we were able to hire Braden McLaughlin for 8 weeks to help with guided tours.



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# Product Sales & Special Programs

## Shubenacadie Canal Waterway Merchandise

Our merchandise features the Yours to Explore Logo and the original Shubenacadie seal. These items include water bottles, t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, toques, and ball caps.

Besides branded items, we also offer other items for sale related to the Shubenacadie Canal Waterway. Three books are available: *River of Dreams: The Saga of the Shubenacadie Canal* by Donna Barnett, *Ribbon of Water: The Shubenacadie Waterway from the Air* by Andrew Younger with Allan Billard, and *Banook Canoe Club: Voices from Our Past* by Allan Billard. There are maps of the waterway available for purchase as well.



Furthermore, the SCC has continued its partnership with noted artist Tom Forrestall to offer original paintings and prints of canal scenes for sale. Various prints are available for purchase.

These items are available for sale at the Fairbanks Centre and online at

[www.shubenacadiecanal.ca/shop](http://www.shubenacadiecanal.ca/shop).

## Memorial Bench Program

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission's Memorial Bench Program provides individuals and organizations the opportunity to commemorate a person, place, or event while enhancing the Shubenacadie Canal Waterway for all. Currently, all benches are being placed at the beautiful Shubie Park, which is the location of the Deep Cut and Locks 2 and 3. The office sold five benches in 2021-22.



## Memorial Plaque Program

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission's Memorial Plaque Program provides 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. Plaques are installed on boards at Hart Bridge, located at the entrance to the Deep Cut. The office sold three memorial plaques in 2021-22.

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## Adopt-a-Lock Program

In 2019, the Shubenacadie Canal Commission began the Adopt-a-Lock Program. For a tax-receipt donation of \$25 or \$50, an individual may symbolically "adopt" a lock or other significant site along the canal. Each \$25 donation comes with an adoption certificate and an eight-page booklet about the site. For \$50, adopters receive the same package as the \$25 tier, plus their choice of a stuffed animal inspired by local fauna or a framed photo of the site.

Two more sites were added to the Adopt-a-Lock Program this year. Now you can symbolically adopt the Dartmouth Marine Railway, Lock 3 at Shubie Park, Lock 4 in Fall River, Lock 5 in Wellington, and Lock 6 in Enfield.



## Special Events

### Walk the Waterway

This past year, we added a new community interpretive program to encourage exploration of the Shubenacadie Canal Waterway. The program is called Walk the Waterway and each week, from May to October, we sent a suggested hike to participants and provided background historical information about the site. Through weekly emails, Nova Scotians learned about the Acadian history of the dykes, Mi'kmaq creation stories from the Bay of Fundy, the flora and fauna of the river, and the mastodons that once roamed Nova Scotia. The program was very successful, and we are excited to make it a yearly event.



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## Portobello Bridge Opening

On September 17, 2021, at 2:00 pm, the new Portobello Bridge and Trans Canada Trail extension was officially opened to the public. Dartmouth East MLA Tim Halman and Shubenacadie Canal Commission Chair, Sylvain Allaire were onsite to cut the ribbon and invite guests to cross the bridge and walk the new trail. The Portobello Inclined Plane has remained a relatively undeveloped historic site. With the new bridge and the completion of this section of the Trans Canada Trail, this Portobello Incline Plane is now a destination for all and truly yours to explore.



## Running Events and Outdoor Activities

Due to COVID-19, all running events were cancelled. We look forward to seeing the return of these initiatives in 2022.

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## Shubie Park Tree Lighting

After a one-year hiatus, the Shubie Park Tree Lighting was back and bigger than ever. The event is a partnership between the Councillor Tony Mancini and the Shubenacadie Canal Commission. The event featured live music, marshmallows roasted on the fire, hot chocolate and coffee donated by Tim Hortons, fireworks, and a visit from Santa Claus. Fun was had by all.



## HRM Recreation

HRM Recreation once again offered summer camps during the months of July and August. The Adventure Earth Centre offers a set schedule of programs during the year at the Fairbanks Centre. Many young campers eagerly took in the unique natural experiences that Shubie Park offers, and some also participated in guided tours.



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## Commercial Partnerships

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

### Wildwood Water Sports

Wildwood Water Sports offered canoe and kayak rentals for recreational paddling from June to October. The service enables hundreds of locals and tourists to experience the Shubenacadie Canal the way its builders intended: from the water.



### Lockside Canteen by Lemon Dogs

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



### Caffè Lucca

Caffè Lucca is a little Piaggio Ape 50 scooter-truck carrying a mobile espresso bar. They are based in Dartmouth, NS and serve a full menu of espresso-based drinks and delicious, locally made treats. Appreciated as much for the classic Italian coffee it serves up as it is for the magical and magnetic atmosphere it creates, this hard-working 'Ape' (Italian for bee as Vespa is for wasp) is a fun-hub.



## 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.

The commission recognized Barry Hurdall this year for his work in leading the Waterway and Locks Committee through several vital tasks that further the Commission's objectives. Work was completed on initial engineering assessments of the conditions of our locks and canal infrastructure. This important work initiates the asset management plan that will guide the Commission's future board members and staff to identifying the most needed work and structural priorities. Barry also oversaw the work of repairing the mitre gate and identifying the potential risks involved with the structural integrity of both Lock 2 and 3. During this last year, Barry and his Committee took considerable time

to study the planned utility corridor proposed for the Deep Cut by Halifax Water and a local developer to support a major residential development in Port Wallace. Barry has been a great volunteer whose efforts have made a big impact on the SCC. Congratulations Barry!



Previous recipients of the Lock Keeper award are:

- 2001: Peter Connor, long-term planning
- 2003: Scott MacKnight, environmental design
- 2005: Ian Bailey, Portobello inclined plane archaeology
- 2007: Joe MacDonald, parkland maintenance
- 2008: Bob MacDonald, trail development
- 2009: Frank Horne, heritage preservation
- 2011: John O’Connor, fundraising
- 2012: Alden Killen, marine railway model and design
- 2014: Bernie Hart, longtime volunteer and canal historian
- 2015: Mike Hughes, longtime promotion, maintenance, and development
- 2016: Darren Fisher, development and ongoing promotion of the Shubenacadie Canal System
- 2017: Suzanne Roy, leadership and extraordinary volunteer commitment
- 2018: Deborah Windsor, leadership, strategic planning, and advocacy
- 2019: Warwick Lambert, digital promotion of the marine railway
- 2020: Colin Mason, marketing and communications

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# Special Thanks: 2021-2022 Donors

Listed below are individuals and organizations who donated to the SCC between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022. Thank you all for your generosity! Your support of the of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission allows us to continue with historical restoration and reconstruction work as well as the development of new sites and recreational opportunities along the canal.

## Individual Donors

### *\$500*

- Alden Killen

### *\$200 - \$300*

- Rosemary Bulley
- Robert Shaw

### *\$20 – \$100*

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| ➤ Kathy Chapman    | ➤ Kathy Fickies  |
| ➤ Cathy McKelvey   | ➤ Stephen Tilley |
| ➤ William McIntyre | ➤ David Lycan    |
| ➤ John Macleod     | ➤ Meghan O'Neil  |

## In-Kind or Product Donations

The following organizations gave generously of their time and resources.

- Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society
- Clintar Landscape Management

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## Funding Partners

The following funders supported SCC projects.

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agencies
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
- Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage
- Halifax Regional Municipality
- Municipality of East Hants
- Halifax Foundation



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# Commissioners, Staff, and Volunteers

## Executive Committee 2021-2022

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Appointed By</b>	<b>Term Expiry</b>
Sylvain Allaire	Chair	Province	December 15, 2025
Robert Shaw	Vice-Chair	HRM	November 30, 2023
Carolyn Johnson	Treasurer	Province	December 15, 2025
Brad Hodgins	Secretary	Province	December 15, 2025
Bill McIntyre	Past Chair	Ex Officio	N/A

## Commissioners 2021-2022

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Appointed By</b>	<b>Term Expiry</b>
Rachel Boehm	Chair, Revenue Development Comm.	HRM	November 30, 2023
George Clarke	Chair, Human Resources and Nominations Comm.	HRM	November 30, 2022
Cait Dixon		HRM	November 30, 2022
David Bligh		Province	December 15, 2025
Donald McIver		Province	December 15, 2025
Mike Cooper		Colchester	November 30, 2024
Sam Austin	HRM Councillor, District 5	Ex Officio	November 30, 2024
Tony Mancini	HRM Councillor, District 6	Ex Officio	November 30, 2024
Matt Parker	Representative, Dept. of Natural Resources	Ex Officio	N/A

## Staff

Claire Halpern, Executive Director (February 2019 – Present)

Paula Wheaton, Office Manager (September 2014 – Present)

Carson Cameron, Summer Program Administrator (Spring 2021)

Brayden McLaughlin, Summer Tour Guide (July-August 2021)

Anna Richard, Research Coordinator, Transitions (September 2021-Present)

# Current Assets and Land Holdings

## Halifax Regional Municipality

Property	Approx. Size	P. I. D.	Registered Owner	2020 Assessment
Lock 1 Lake Banook	0.75 acres	00094474	SCC & HRM	\$265,600
Locks 2 & 3 Shubie Park	55+ acres in 15 parcels	00255505 to 40857898	"The Queen" & DNR	
Portobello Plane	6.3 acres	40128977	DNR	
Lock 4 Lake Fletcher	0.75 acres	00510065	SCC & DNR	\$77,000
	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	Approx. Size	P. I. D.	Registered Owner	2020 Assessment
Lock 6 Horne's Settlement	7.1 acres	45289477	SCC	\$44,000
	2.2 acres	45218260	DNR	
Lock 7 Enfield	0.5 acres	45077419	SCC	\$10,000
Riverbank in Elmsdale	1.5 acres	45151743	SCC	\$800