



Shubenacadie Canal Commission

ANNUAL REPORT

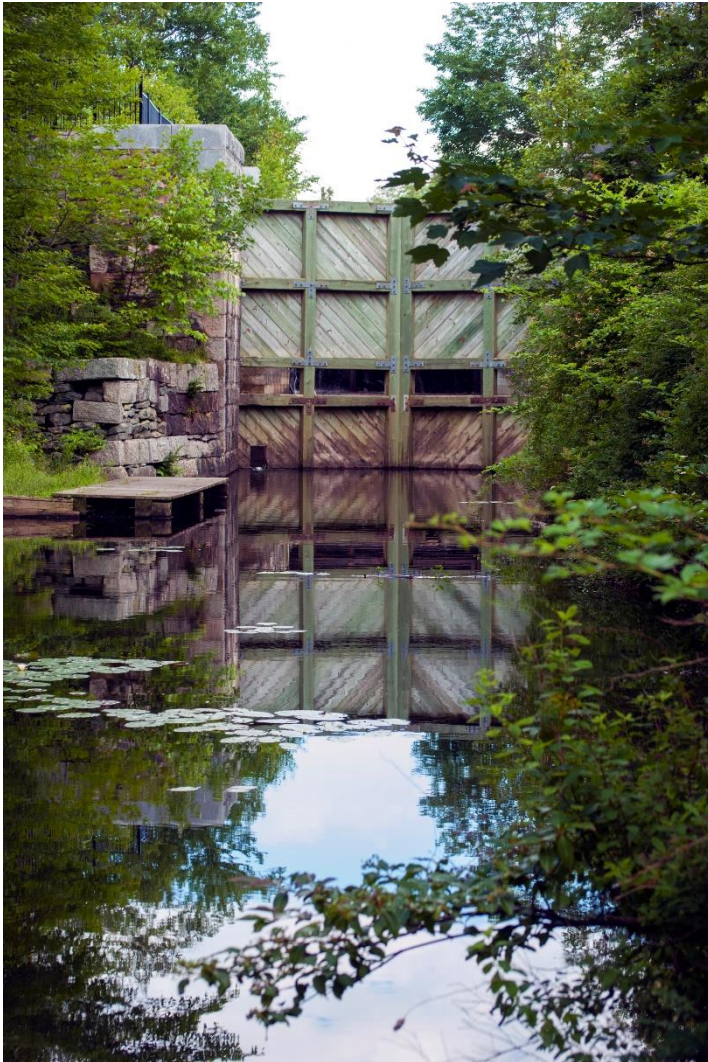
April 1st, 2016 - March 31st, 2017



TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE SHUBENACADIE CANAL	2
<i>Mandate of the Commission</i>	3
<i>Mission</i>	3
CHAIR REPORT	4-6
MAINTENANCE REPORT	7
<i>East Hants</i>	7
<i>Lake Williams Trail Development</i>	7
CANAL GREENWAY REPORT	8-9
COMMUNICATIONS REPORT	10
A PLACE TO MEET & EXPLORE	11
<i>The Fairbanks Centre</i>	11
<i>The Avery Room</i>	11
<i>Boardroom Meeting space</i>	11
<i>Guided Tours</i>	12
<i>Plant/Animal of the Week</i>	12
MERCHANDISE & PRODUCT SALES	13
SPECIAL EVENTS	14
<i>Switch Program</i>	14
<i>Canoe to the Sea</i>	14-15
<i>Open Forest Day</i>	15
<i>Running/Outdoor Events</i>	15
<i>HRM Recreation</i>	15
COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS	16
<i>Kayak and Canoe Rental</i>	16
<i>Kings Pier Curated Collections</i>	16
<i>Lockside Canteen Featuring Lemon Dogs</i>	16
THE HENRY FINDLAY LOCK KEEPER AWARD.....	17
SHUBENACADIE CANAL COMMISSION	18
CURRENT ASSETS/LAND HOLDINGS & MANAGEMENT	19
SPECIAL THANKS	20

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 1797, 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 1824 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 a close to the endeavor before its completion and it was not until 1854 that the work could begin again. Seven years later

in 1861 the Canal vessel, the Avery, made the first complete journey from Harbor to Bay thus officially opening the 115-kilometer-long waterway. The waterway operated until 1871 until the railway restricted usage.

After sitting idle for 114 years, the Province of Nova Scotia realized its heritage potential and the then Minister of Development, The Honorable 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 centers pertaining to or belonging to the Shubenacadie Canal System.”

The SCC consists of a volunteer board of 15 members that are assigned by the

Province, Halifax Regional Municipality, as well representatives from Colchester and East Hants counties.

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.



Chair Report

Bill McIntyre and Debbie Windsor

The 2016-17 operating year of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission (SCC) marked a year of excellent progress for the Commission. It was the first year of ACOA funding for a project to make significant improvement to assets along the Shubenacadie Canal. Funding from the Province of Nova Scotia to match the ACOA funding and to support staff to deliver these projects was key to the success of the year. The continuation of the operational stability also enabled the Commission to focus on increasing own source revenues from commercial partnerships, rentals and product sales. The Commission acknowledges that this kind of support underscores the Province's recognition that the Canal and its adjacent parklands and trails are important recreational, cultural, and historical assets to be enjoyed by all Nova Scotians and visitors.

Last year the SCC worked with N.S. Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) to identify renovation needs for the Fairbanks Centre in terms of improving the facility as a museum and interpretive centre and a much-loved community meeting place. TIR contributed toward heating and air quality management, as well as maintenance upgrades. This, along with other Commission upgrades makes the main meeting space a truly modern facility which can be promoted as both a revenue generator to support SCC operations as well as an attractive gathering spot. The Commission would like to thank the Province of Nova Scotia for these contributions.

The completion of the Flume House and the majority of the mechanical reproductions to be incorporated within this building all within the Dartmouth Inclined Plane/Greenway site marked a significant landmark in the development of a key historic attraction in Dartmouth's downtown.

HRM is the lead on this project, with the Commission providing an advisory role and funding for internal components. The SCC is grateful for the engagement of NSCC students and staff on key internal elements of the Flume House and the previous engagement of the public on the development of an interpretation plan for the site. The support of the management and staff of HRM which is the funding lead for the project has been very much appreciated. We also appreciate the outstanding historical, technical and project management expertise and countless volunteer hours that the Greenway Committee of the SCC have devoted to this project. Strong leadership has been provided by Doug Brownrigg, chair of the Committee and by Alden Killen, Mike Hughes, Bernie Hart, Tim Schaus, Roger Plant and Doug Conrad in advancing this project. Jeff Weatherhead devoted considerable time and energy toward crafting strategies and ideas for raising private funding to help move our interpretive and other projects ahead recognizing that we cannot do what we do without private and corporate benefactors and contributors.

The Commission retained Sperry Design to work with us to develop a comprehensive interpretive design for the Greenway area. This plan would be a nice complement to efforts to create a cultural district within the downtown Dartmouth core as part of HRM's Centre Plan. We would like to thank the Halifax Foundation for a \$30,000 donation toward the Flume House interpretation project.

We were pleased to award Darren Fisher, M.P., with the Lockkeeper of the Year Award in recognition of his long and substantial contribution to the development and preservation of the Shubenacadie Canal.

We appreciate the significant support of HRM in assisting the Commission to fulfill its mandate. We thank HRM Councillors Tony Mancini and Sam Austin for their invaluable assistance in our work with HRM on the Greenway project and on governance as members of the Commission. We have developed and continue to have a partnership with HRM staff including Planning, Building Services, Parks, etc. without whom we could not move forward with projects, run the Fairbanks Centre, and operate much of our parks & waterway access.

Long term sustainability continues to be a focus of the SCC. To this end the commercial partnership with Kaynoe, the canoe-kayak rental business that operates near Fairbanks Centre, continued. Our park visitors appreciate and value the 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. Another commercial venture, Lemon Dogs, now operates the café-kiosk on the Fairbanks Centre patio providing refreshments and an exceptional menu for the enjoyment of visitors. We are pleased to learn that after a successful first season that they plan to operate again during the upcoming season. The Alderney Centre located near the rapidly developing downtown Dartmouth core at Kings Wharf became home to King's Pier which provides unique clothing and accessories to shoppers. This enabled continuation of lease revenue from this unique location.

During the past year, the SCC's Communications Committee under the experienced leadership of Colin Mason pursued a well-crafted strategic communications plan with the excellent support and marketing and promotions expertise of volunteer JoAnn Alberstat. The execution of this plan combined the energies and expertise of this team supported by the social media skills of Office Manager, Paula Wheaton. Impressive and growing performance metrics attest to the success of their efforts to engage Nova Scotians. Also, media relations and stories about the work SCC continues to do for the Nova Scotia community were featured in various media throughout the year.

The SCC completed year one (of a three-year program) of much needed improvements to various canal assets including small docks, buildings, bridge decking, canoe launches, signage and marketing. This partnership with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency will invest some \$216,000 over the three-year span of the project with nearly \$73,000 completed in the past year. Thanks to our General Manager, Doug Conrad, for developing the strong business cases for this and other funding applications and for the efficient and high-quality management and delivery of these projects.

Commissioner Mike Hughes continues to provide volunteer maintenance support on an ongoing basis. His efforts are greatly appreciated. And, Bernie Hart who is recognized as the resident historian for the Commission continued his ongoing, daily, and totally volunteer efforts as he has for over the past decade. Throughout the year he has provided numerous presentations, public tours, school demonstrations and media interviews. His expertise, as well as the volunteer time and enthusiasm he provides to the Commission is valued and appreciated.

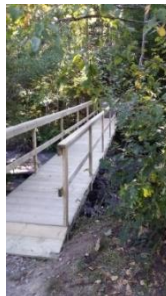
The Commission continued to benefit from the excellent skills and experience of our dedicated Commissioners and volunteers who bring to our board table a variety of valuable experience and skills from the following sectors: legal, engineering, government and business management, public relations, education and so forth. These dedicated individuals share a passion for developing and enhancing the manmade and natural assets of the Canal and waterway systems and moving forward with opportunities to enhance them.

We are grateful to the efforts and contributions of our retiring Commissioner, Suzanne Roy. Suzanne provided exceptional skills to the Commission and volunteered long hours in transforming the Commission's financial systems. In her four years on the Commission she served as Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. Her contributions toward improving financial systems and due diligence, innovative thinking and strategic networking provided strong results for the Commission and were well appreciated.

Similar to last year, the SCC began this fiscal year with some uncertainty regarding the Province's ongoing support of our Provincial mandate. However, we remain optimistic that the Government of Nova Scotia continues to recognize the value the Shubenacadie Canal Commission delivers to the Province and its citizens and will continue to partner with us and provide the support needed to continue operations with our dedicated and knowledgeable staff. The Government of Nova Scotia and the Minister of Natural Resources can be confident that the investment they provide is multiplied many-fold in terms of funds raised for capital projects, volunteer hours, and Commissioner dedication. We certainly welcome and value this continuing partnership.

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. For example, included in this agreement SCC is responsible for the provincial lands in Shubie Park and for ongoing maintenance of Fairbanks Centre and Alderney Centre. In 2016-17, 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. Thanks to TIR for acting on EXP consultants Building Condition Assessment Report on the Fairbanks Center. Repairs were made to the siding, both wooden and pre-cast. The building was painted and mini-split heat pumps were added to the Avery Room. Under the ACOA grant repairs and improvements were made to trails, docks and bridges.



East Hants - Two new canoe launch sites were built in Lantz and Milford by East Hants Parks and Recreation. The site added much needed access to the waterway. Trail improvements were made at Lock 6 Park.



Lake Williams Trail development

HRM has purchased the former Chappell lands and planning for the connection from Lake Charles to Lake William is being led by SWEPS, with support from SCC, under the River Lake Greenway Trails project which will close many of the trail gaps from Dartmouth to Enfield.

Canal Greenway Report— Shubenacadie Canal Marine Railway

Doug Brownrigg

Activities on the Canal Greenway Project continued throughout 2016 – 2017. In early spring, 2016, work included the rehabilitation of the in-ground turbine chamber and construction of a reinforced concrete ring beam on top of the chamber walls, designed to support the load from the Flume House.

Finally, structures began to appear above ground during the summer of 2016 with the construction of the Flume House and elevated timber Flume. In keeping with the historic methods of construction, the reproduction of the Flume House included heavy pine timber with mortise and tenon joints, i.e. no metal fasteners or nails/spikes. The timber framing was assembled on the ground and erected in sections like a giant “mechano” set.

SCC volunteers were kept very busy throughout the year taking up the challenge of reproducing the mechanical systems that powered the Inclined Plane. Many, many hours were spent in studying how the system worked, producing detailed drawings, managing the tendering and fabrication of the elements and developing an installation plan. It is expected the mechanical infrastructure will be installed during the summer of 2017.

The following is a summary of the key components:

- **Steel Turbine:** Fabricated by students and staff at the Akerley NSCC Campus, ready for installation
- **Bevel, Crown and Pinion Gears:** Full size replicas fabricated and ready for installation
- **Cable Drum:** Approx. 12-foot dia., designed and tendered, under fabrication
- **Bed Plate, Pillow Blocks, Shafts and misc. elements:** Designed and tendered, under fabrication

HRM tendered a project for the site services and landscaping in October 2016 and it was awarded in early 2017 for construction completion in the September. The project 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).

A key objective of the SCC is to promote the Marine Railway Project and engage the public at every opportunity. Several initiatives were undertaken during the year to help achieve the objective, including:

- Presentation of the Project to the HRM’s Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council
- Retaining Sperry Design to produce an *Interpretive Master Plan* document
- Application and acceptance for SCC representatives to present the Project at the World Canal Conference in Syracuse, NY in September 2017
- Initiate and help coordinate a Time Capsule installation in the Flume House by Grade 12 students at Dartmouth High School.

Many thanks for the hard work and perseverance of the Canal Greenway Committee: Bernie Hart, Alden Killen, Mike Hughes, Bill McIntyre, Tim Schaus, Doug Conrad, Roger Plant, Cameron Ells and Brookes Snyder.



Communications Committee Report— Colin Mason

The 2016 Strategic plan identified a number of communications and marketing issues and attached accompanying strategies. Foremost amongst these was the establishment of a Communications Committee to prioritize activities and implement programs that would raise the visibility of the Shubenacadie Canal and help grow visitation and revenues.

Under the Chairmanship of Commissioner Colin Mason, the inaugural monthly meeting of the Communications Committee was held on June 14, 2016. The initial emphasis was on upgraded social media communications and enhanced media publicity for the Greenway Project.

Since that date a number of initiatives have been undertaken by the Communications Committee. Here is a summary:

- Recruitment of members with journalistic, social media and e-commerce backgrounds to serve on the Committee.
- Significantly increased articles and interviews with the print and broadcast media, focused largely around the Greenway project and the restoration of components of the marine railroad in downtown Dartmouth.
- Adoption and integration of a new “Waterway” logo and brand identity program
- Launch of a new website and adoption of a social media management platform (Mav Social).
- A broadening of activity and promotion using the available online and social media tools, especially Facebook and Twitter.
- Hosting of an NSCC media training program for members of the NSCC board and volunteers.
- Review and upgrade of collateral materials (brochures, posters, etc.).

The Committee continues to convene monthly and coordinate its activity in keeping with both the long term strategic plan and the day to day communications and marketing issues that impact operations and the growing awareness of the Shubenacadie Canal Waterway amongst key audiences.

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 on how watercraft made their way through the canal. This year the model enjoyed a bit of a facelift. This 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

This space enjoyed a renovation in 2015. Now in addition to the renovation the destination location has made the Avery Room a very favorable venue for repeat bookings. With the addition of an exterior fire door we have increased the capacity to 140 thus opening up many new opportunities and bookings.



Boardroom Meeting Space

During 2015, the back workspace was converted into a boardroom which is now warm and appealing. It's a great space for small size groups. It has a pull-down screen and WiFi and can accommodate 6-8 around the board room table.



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 centers, and built rock walls. The presentation is concluded inside the Fairbanks Centre with a demonstration of how the Locks operate.

School & Community Group Tours

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission conducted 8 guided tours and educational programs to Community Groups. During the Months of May-August 2016 we had summer support from students Martin Earle and Bethany-Lynn Walsh.



Plant of the week /Animal of the Week

This year the Commission expanded on the Plant of the Week educational series to include an Animal of the Week series, highlighting animals found in Shubie Park, Dartmouth. Both programs ran 14 weeks (June – August) and were promoted online as well as in the community bulletin board.

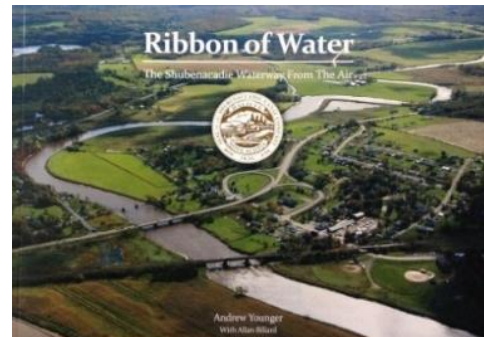
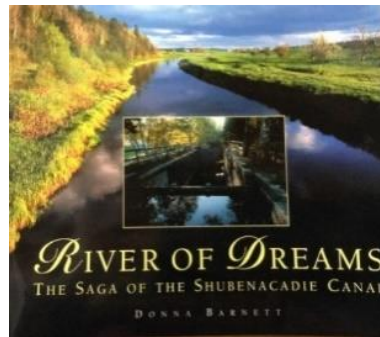
Merchandise & Product Sales



We continue to offer SCC apparel and other merchandise. One area that we highlighted this year was the availability of our memorial benches. These memorial benches are installed along the Canal land and throughout Shubie Park.



In addition to clothing and benches the following items can also be purchased in our Fairbanks Centre location or online at <https://www.shubenacadiecanal.ca/shop/>. We carry Shubenacadie Canal and River System maps, 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 Forestall, in offering his original paintings and reproductions of canal scenes.

Special Events

Switch Program

On June 4 members of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission participated in the Switch Program. We set up a booth where our volunteers were available to explain the historical aspects of the Canal Greenway Project in 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 2016



This was the year to brave the renowned tidal bore on the Shubenacadie River. The decision was made to paddle UP the river, and see what it was like following the incoming tide.

Yes, and 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 lower portion of the Shubenacadie Canal and waterway is and what a pleasure it can be to experience it first-hand... from water level.

The event started in the village of Maitland and was timed to miss the actual big incoming wave of tidal water and to ensure that the paddlers experienced the very best which the Bay of Fundy can offer. Of course, the weather was splendid and with such a colourful display kayaks, surf skis, canoes and safety boats on the water, it was a beautiful scene.



Paddlers were given a water safety demonstration beforehand by representatives of the Canadian Coast Guard and then tracked for the whole route by safety boats from Shubenacadie River Runners outfitters. Added to that, several colonies of bald eagles kept a careful eye out enroute.



This year, FMP Matrix, a local drone operator, prepared a video. It was the first such video production ever done on the Shubenacadie River and was distributed widely with the idea of showing paddlers how and when the river is a safe and fun experience.

Canoe to the Sea 2016 was a high-profile activity for the waterway and a very positive experience for the paddlers.

Open Forest Day

Shubie Park played host to the June 25, 2016 Open Forest Day. Bernie Hart and our summer students Martin and Bethany-Lynn were onsite for this event. There was a SCC station at lock 3 and we participated in the "passport to success" game as part of the "history and culture" category. The Fairbanks Centre was open with someone in at the lock model for the entirety of the event displaying and explaining how the locks were used and why.



Running Events and Outdoor Activities

Throughout the year the Commission supports 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 2016 the Commission supported such activities including events like; MEC Annual Shubie Park race, Sole Sisters Race, Salvation Army Santa Run and the annual holiday Tree Lighting. Other activities supported by the Commission include the Nova Scotia Ship Modelers Guild event featuring a Model Boat Sail on the Canal; a three-day Art Show in the museum; picnics for local community groups; Canadian Forces training in Shubie Park; church plant/bake sale

HRM Recreation

This year the HRM offered summer camps during the month of August. It was very well received and other programs were offered during the winter months (snowshoeing/WinterFest).

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.



Kayak and Canoe Rental

Kaynoe Rental, a private operator offering rentals of canoes and kayaks for recreational paddling had its fifth successful season in 2016. The service enables hundreds of locals and tourists to experience the up-close scenic adventure paddle of the Shubie Canal from May to October. This year a storage shed was built for canoes and kayaks close to the rental dock.



Kings Pier Curated Collections

Kings Pier Curated Collections, a local independent vintage clothing store, continued to operate in the Alderney Center. They offer carefully selected luxury vintage attire and accessories.



Lockside Canteen featuring Lemon Dogs

The Lockside Canteen is located adjacent to the Fairbanks Centre on the Patio in Shubie Park. It is being operated by Lemon Dogs. They offer a variety of items including their uniquely flavoured lemonade, handmade ice pops, hot dogs with gourmet toppings 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, Darren Fisher, former Councillor and current Member of Parliament was presented the Lock Keeper award for his exceptional support to the Commission and his ongoing interest in the promotion, use and development of the Canal system.

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



Presentation of Lock Keeper Award to Darren Fisher by Commission Members

Executive Committee 2016/2017

Bill McIntyre (Province) ~ Chair, Vice-Chair (term expires June 2018)
Deborah Windsor (Province) ~ Past Chair, Treasurer, Chair – (term expires June 2018)
Suzanne Roy (HRM) ~ Treasurer (term expired November 2016)
Doug Brownrigg (HRM) ~ Vice Chair (term expires November 2018)
Timothy Schaus (Province) ~ Secretary (term expires June 2018)

Commissioners 2016/2017

Vishal Bhardwaj (Province) ~ (term expires June 2018)
George Clarke (HRM) ~ (term expires November 2018)
Michael Hughes (Province) ~ (term expires June 2018)
Steve Newton (Province) ~ (term expires June 2018)
Donica Poirier McGougan (Province) ~ (term expired March 2017)
Joliene Stockley (Province) ~ (term expires June 2018)
Colin Mason (HRM) ~ (term expires November 2017)

Ex-Officio

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

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

Volunteer Secretariat

Bernard Hart
Alden Killen
Jeff Weatherhead

Staff

Doug Conrad, General Manager (October 2014 – Present)
Paula Wheaton, Office Manager (September 2014 – Present)
Martin Earle, Summer Student (May 2016 -August 2016)
Bethany-Lynn Walsh, Summer Student (May 2016 -August 2016)

Committees

Greenway Committee
Heritage
Communications
Fundraising

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 2016/2017

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NS DNR)
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)
Halifax Regional Municipality
Halifax Foundation
Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS)
CBCL Engineering Ltd.
Nova Scotia Community College
Clintar Landscape Management
Conrad's Brothers



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