

## **DELAPS COVE WILDERNESS TRAIL CELEBRATES 25 YEARS**

**ANNAPOLIS CO. JULY 30 , 2010** – After 25 years, Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail still remains a favourite spot for nature enthusiasts who appreciate the opportunities for hiking, bird watching and photography. A celebration is being planned to mark this anniversary on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

In 1985, the Municipality of the County of Annapolis purchased land from Bowater Mersey Paper Company Ltd. located in Delaps Cove along the Bay Shore and placed it in the capable hands of Recreation Services to maintain and manage. It was named Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail.

“A person cannot help but be impressed by the natural splendour of the scenery offered at the Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail. It truly encompasses the beauty of our area, both forests and coastline, giving locals and visitors alike an appreciation of the area’s beauty,” said Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton. “The fact we are celebrating the Trail’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary speaks volumes about the staff’s dedication to the trail’s success.”

Of the hundreds of people who visit the trail each year, many are visitors to this area, coming from the USA, Europe or from across the country. The Trail provides a wonderful opportunity to show-off the area and share the natural beauty it offers. This is evident in the various testimonies left by visitors in the guest book – “Beautiful Trail”; “Nice to visit and hike while camping, I will surely come back”; “Nice trail, very scenic and not too difficult so all abilities can enjoy”; “It’s been 20 years since I’ve been here, still beautiful”; “Thank you for making a little bit of Canada so accessible”.

“The Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail is much more than a place to go for a hike; it’s an educational tool for our area. It’s a true look into the natural beauty of the County of Annapolis and all it has to offer,” said Debra Ryan, Manager of Recreation. The trail takes in three main ecosystems: (1) forest, (2) coastline, and (3) stream. Each ecosystem has its own unique flora and fauna. Interpretation sites are located along the trail to provide you with information about the natural habitat.

The Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail meanders through 130 acres of canopied forests. It consists of two nature trails - Bohaker Trail, a 2.2 km loop (one hour walk), and Charlies Trail, a 1.9 km loop. Both trails are linked by the Shore Road Trail (2.7 km one way). The return walk will take approximately three to four hours. The area surrounding the trail system was once a thriving Black settlement with, at one time, close to 70 inhabitants. Census records show that this community was in existence since at least 1838, but it probably dates back much earlier, perhaps to the period after the American Revolution when many Free Blacks received grants of land in the County.

The Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the annual Walk with Nature on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 p.m. The official cake cutting will take place at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

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