

MASTHEAD NEWS

New Bridge Across the Nine Mile River Soon to be Completed

Trail users exploring the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road in the Five Bridges Lakes Wilderness Area will be pleased to learn a new steel 66-foot bridge is being installed across the Nine Mile River.

Volunteer Mike Marriott, Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust Board member, and the president of the Safety-Minded ATV Association, has led the project.

With help from many other dedicated club members, they all have spent many volunteer hours this summer and fall working with engineers, suppliers, and the provincial Department of Environment preparing the area on either side of the waterway.

Nearly completed, the project is ready for the bridge installation, perhaps by year end, or in early 2017.

The new bridge replaces an older structure in poor condition that dates to the 1980s.

Once the bridge is in place, trail improvements will continue from there to Goodwood, which allows the multi-use route to connect to trails in Tantallon/Seabright and to the St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails system.

To visit the new Nine Mile River bridge, trail users can use one of several trail entrances including:

- * Goodwood (the bridge lies 6 km beyond the entrance area located adjacent to the HRM parking lot on Old Coach Road, Hatchet Lake)

- * Joshua Slocum Road in Lewis Lake (20 km from that entrance)

- * Tantallon (from the St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails 23 km)

- * Old Halifax Road in Glen Haven (20 km from that entrance)

- * And the Westhaver Loop in Glen Margaret (15 km from that entrance).

The nine Mile River is a scenic destination and was once a productive salmon river.

However, years of pollution and misuse have resulted in the river no longer being able to support a viable Atlantic salmon run.

The river does sustain a healthy trout population, however.

The project is an effort of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust with funding from several supporters including Connect2 (a provincial grant), the Bay Treasure Chest, HRM Councillor Matt Whitman, and the Prospect Road Recreation Association.

Mike Marriott also said that he would like to thank Iain Rankin, MLA Timberlea/Prospect, for working alongside the volunteer teams.



The area where the new bridge will be installed.