

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Council Meeting: April 26, 2016

Subject: Contribution of \$300,000 to the NS Nature Trust 100 Wild Islands Legacy Campaign.

Motion for Council to Consider: That Council request a staff report to identify potential sources of funding for a \$300,000 contribution towards the NS Nature Trust 100 Wild Islands Legacy Campaign.

Reason: The Halifax Economic Strategy 2016-2021 states that the municipality ought to utilize its Ocean Advantage and promote the potential of Coastal Tourism and "assess the feasibility of a rural action committee to foster rural economic development." The Musquodoboit Harbour - Sherbrooke Strategic Tourism Expansion Program (STEP) projects that the Eastern Shore's Bay of Islands archipelago will be a tremendous natural attraction for eco-tourism opportunities, and the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) State of the Landscape Report: Issues and Opportunities identifies the coastal areas as being of high value ecologically, socially, culturally and economically. Furthermore, HGPN Section 3.3.3 Water Recreation and Public Access identifies the 100 Wild Islands Legacy Campaign as one of the KEY OPPORTUNITIES to create a partnership of conservation and eco-tourism along the Eastern Shore.

The NS Nature Trust's 100 Wild Islands project on Halifax's Eastern Shore is close to reaching its \$7 million fundraising goal, which will protect over 100 wild islands valued at well over \$14 million. The NS Nature Trust made a presentation to HRM Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee (July 3/14) and its initial request for \$500,000 over two years has now been significantly reduced to \$300,000 over the same timeframe because of the success of its 100 Wild Islands Legacy Campaign.

It is important to make this financial contribution as our commitment towards this philanthropic partnership of preserving and promoting this ecological destination for generations to treasure into perpetuity.

Outcome Sought: Staff Report to identify potential funding sources for this contribution.

Councillor David Hendsbee

District 2