



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 15.7.1
Halifax Regional Council
July 9, 2024

TO: Mayor Savage Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Councillor Mancini, Chair, Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council

DATE: June 12, 2024

SUBJECT: **Support of Shubenacadie Waterway Nomination**

ORIGIN

June 12, 2024 meeting of Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council, Item 11.3.1.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Part 1, Clause 25(c):

The powers and duties of a Community Council include recommending to the Council appropriate by-laws, regulations, controls and development standards for the community.

RECOMMENDATION

The Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council recommends that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to prepare a staff report to consider a letter of support for the Shubenacadie Canal Commission in pursuit of their proposal for nomination of the Shubenacadie Waterway to be included as a waterway within the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) program.

BACKGROUND

Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council received a presentation dated June 12, 2024 from Claire Halpern, Executive Director of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, and Lauren Schofield, Research Coordinator to consider supporting the Commission's proposal for nomination of the Shubenacadie Waterway to be included as a waterway within the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) program.

For further information refer to the attached presentation dated June 12, 2024 (Attachment 2).

DISCUSSION

Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council considered the presentation dated June 12, 2024 and approved the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications will be considered in a future staff report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration will be considered in a future staff report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings of the Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Committee are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Community Committee for up to five (5) minutes during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Community Council are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications will be considered in a future staff report.

SOCIAL VALUE

Social Value will be considered in a future staff report.

ALTERNATIVES

Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council did not provide alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Extract from the June 12, 2024 Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council Draft minutes.

Attachment 2 – Presentation dated June 12, 2024.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.292.3962

Extract of Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council Draft Minutes – June 12, 2024

11.3.1 Nominating the Shubenacadie Waterway to the Canadian Heritage River System Program

The following was before Community Council:

- Request to present dated February 8, 2024
- Presentation dated June 12, 2024

Claire Halpern, Executive Director of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, and Lauren Schofield, Research Coordinator, gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Community Council. Presenters requested that Community Council provide support for the Shubenacadie Canal Commission in pursuit of their proposal for nomination of the Shubenacadie Waterway to be included as a waterway within the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) program.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council refer the presentation to Halifax Regional Council and recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to prepare a staff report to consider a letter of support for the Shubenacadie Canal Commission in pursuit of their proposal for nomination of the Shubenacadie Waterway to be included as a waterway within the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) program.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Attachment 2 Canadian Heritage Rivers System

Presentation to Harbour East-Marine Drive
Community Council
June 12, 2024





Outline

- About the SCC
- Canadian Heritage River
 - Supporting the Nominating of the Shubenacadie Waterway
- Discussion & Questions

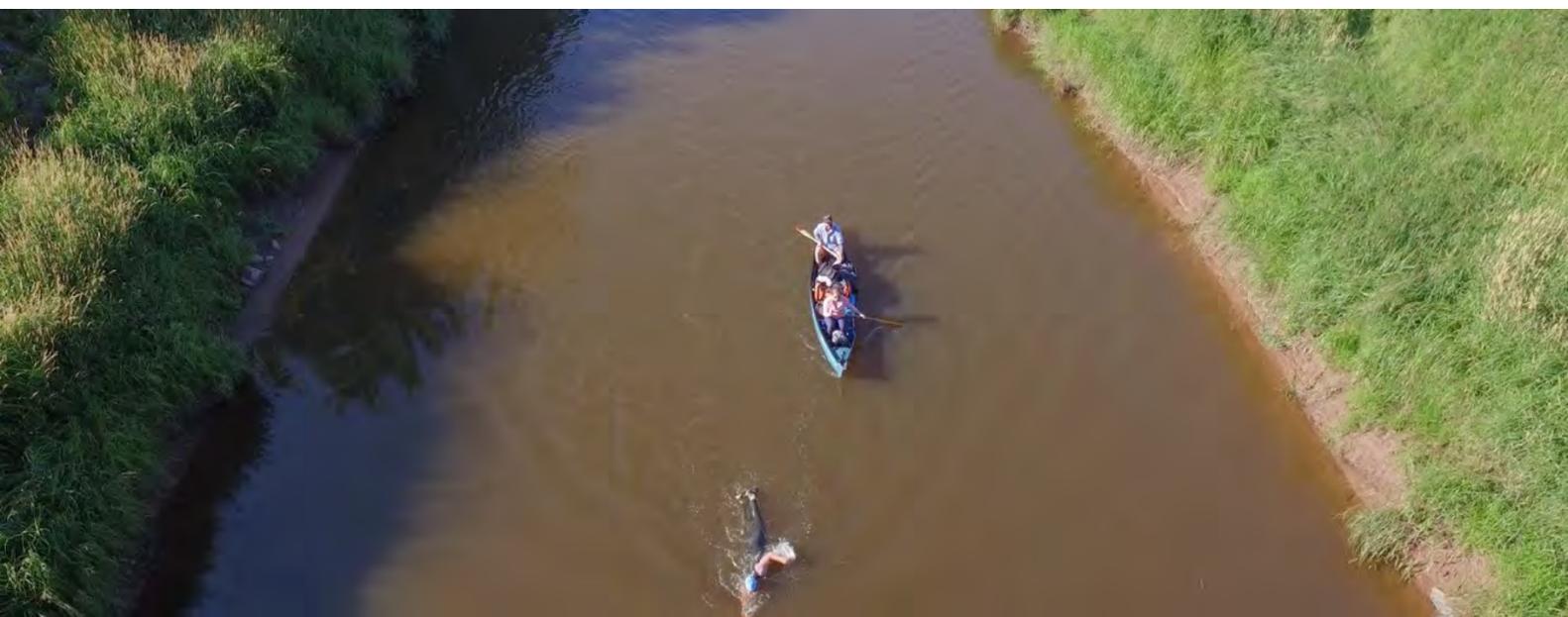


About Us

Shubenacadie Canal Commission

The mission of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission is to preserve the historic features of the Shubenacadie Canal Waterway and to provide access to the waterway for the education and the enjoyment of the public.

- Established in 1986
- Operate and maintain 9 parcels of land and an interpretive centre
- Representation from East Hants, HRM, Colchester, and the Province of NS



Canadian Heritage River

Nomination to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System is a key objective of the SCC's strategic priorities.

What is the CHRS?

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canada's national river excellence program that recognizes the natural, cultural, and recreational values of rivers across Canada.

The CHRS has no legislative authority—it is driven by voluntary participation, partnerships, cooperation, and community involvement.

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Heritage Rivers are recognized nationally for their outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational heritage. These rivers are an important part of Canada's rich heritage, and shape who we are as a nation.

The CHRS seeks to include rivers that represent the full spectrum of Canada's rich river heritage.

Rideau Waterway, ON (2000)



The Wolastopq | St. John River, NB (2013)



Fraser River, BC
(1998)





Jurisdictional representatives from NS Dept of Environment and Climate Change are working with us on the designation

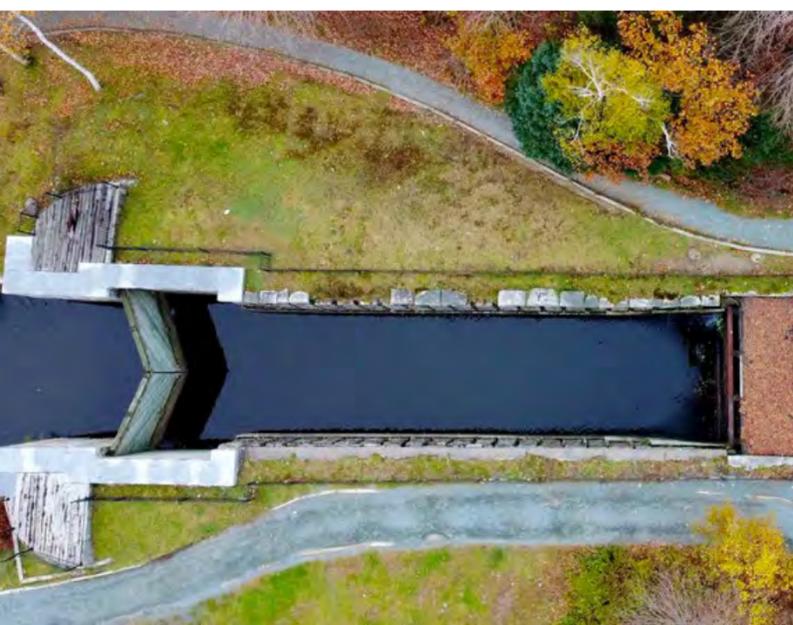
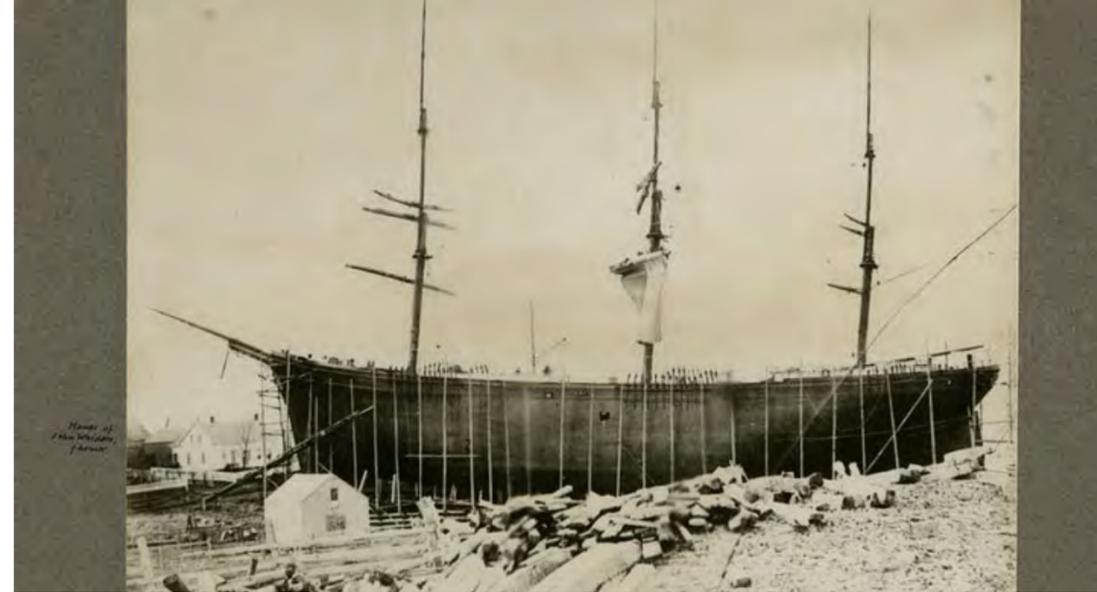


In Nova Scotia two rivers are designated: the Margaree River-Lake Ainsley and the Shelburne River

The Shubenacadie Waterway was identified by a federal /provincial panel as a river system to be included in the CHRS program.

For a river to be nominated, it must have a high level of public support and contain natural and/or cultural values of Canadian significance.





The waters, shores, and people of the Shubenacadie hold the stories of thousands of years of Mi'kmaq life; of settlement by diverse groups; of industry, engineering, and labour; of conflict and Canada's residential school system; of resistance; and of care for the environment and recreation.

Support is growing for the waterway to be recognized provincially and nationally for its cultural and recreational values.





Benefits

- Connect the many people, businesses, and organizations that care about the river through the process of applying to the CHRS program.
- Supports tourism and attracts visitors to the waterway
- Celebrate and support the cultural connections of Mi'kmaq with the waterway
- Funders and investors look favourably on a CHRS designation.
- Collaboratively create a plan to ensure the ecological, social, and economic benefits of the river are maintained.
- Build recognition, appreciation and stewardship of the waterway.
- National and provincial recognition of the importance of the Shubenacadie Waterway.



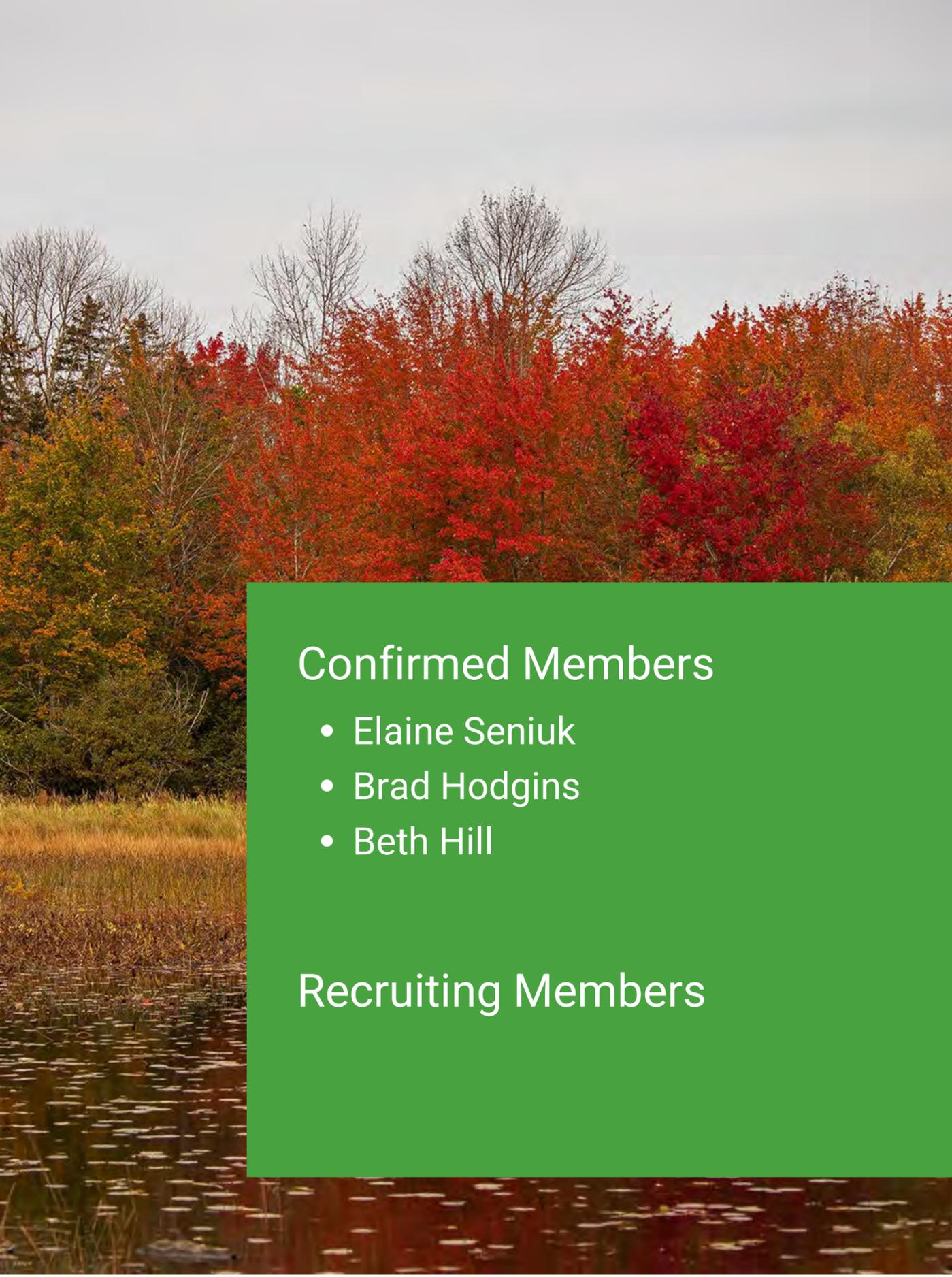
Process

- Garner broad community support
 - Department of Environment and Climate Change
 - Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
 - Municipalities
 - Sipekne'katik First Nation
 - Local businesses and residents
 - Community organizations
 - Transitions Advisory Committee
- Support received from the Municipality of East Hants, Municipality of Colchester and HRM CAO
- Updated and complete a background study
 - Draft study completed in 2009
 - Identifies the waterway's natural, cultural, and recreational values
 - Funding received from Parks Canada
- Partner with Province to advance nomination to approval



Timeline

- 2023-25
 - Support for Nomination
 - Complete and submit background study
- 2025
 - Complete Nomination Documents
- 2026-27
 - Complete Designation Documents
- 2027
 - Review and approval of Designation Documents



Heritage River Advisory Committee

Members representing key stakeholders and interests meet monthly to provide advice and recommendations that advance the Transitions project.

Confirmed Members

- Elaine Seniuk
- Brad Hodgins
- Beth Hill

Recruiting Members

Purpose

- To guide the development of the Canadian Heritage River Systems background study.
- To advise on the development of a community support plan for the project.
- To work on community outreach such as public workshops or forums.

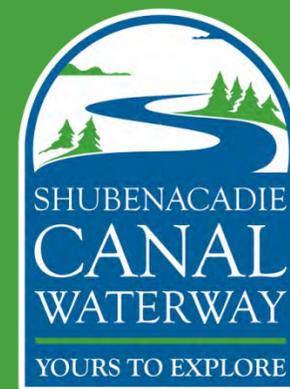


Support from Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council to pursue the nomination of the Shubenacadie Waterway as a Canadian Heritage River.



Thank you for the opportunity to present.

Questions?



For more information:
info@shubenacadiecanal.ca
www.shubenacadiecanal.ca/heritage-river