



Adventure in every step

Hike Nova Scotia Annual Report 2013-2014

The following progress was made on Hike NS's strategic directions from April 2013 to March 2014.

Advocacy

- Provided input on the NS Provincial Recreation Policy
- Supported the Backlands Coalition to preserve wildlands in Purcell's Cove
- Supported the launch of the new provincial Portage & Hiking Trail fund
- Created a "Help Make Change" page on our website giving people a list of ways they can influence decision-makers through consultations, petitions and other public engagements



Stakeholders gather with former Health and Wellness Minister Maureen MacDonald (second from right) for the launch of the new Portage & Hiking Trail Fund in August 2013.

Promotion

- 275 participants attended 12 events in the Fall Guided Hikes series
- 500 participants attended 27 events in the Winter Guided Snowshoe Hike series
- The Hiker Distance Award Program and the Youth Hiker Challenge continue to be popular
- In January and February the Hibernating is for Bears Contest had tremendous response with well over 100 photos posted on Twitter, Facebook and through email by people all over Nova Scotia, with lots of media coverage
- 4 Leadership Level 1: Hiking courses were held for 43 participants in partnership with the Outdoor Council of Canada



The winning entry in the Hibernating is for Bears photo contest, by Leslie Johnston of Stellarton.

Leadership

- Held a successful Hiking Summit in St. Ann's, Cape Breton with 40 participants
- Awarded the Summit Award to Hike the Highlands Festival for outstanding leadership and commitment to the growth and development of hiking in Nova Scotia
- Continued to promote the International Appalachian Trail (IAT) in Nova Scotia
- Provided support for other organizations in their efforts to protect wilderness and preserve and expand hiking opportunities (see Advocacy)



Participants gather at the Hiking Summit in St. Ann's, Cape Breton in June 2013.

Strong Organizational Presence

- With almost 220 members (associate, individual, family and group members), Hike NS represented over 1880 Nova Scotians in 2013-14
- Partnered with 15 organizations on the fall and winter guided hikes
- Continued partnerships with the Outdoor Council of Canada, Leave No Trace Canada and others



Deb Ryan (left) and Claire MacNeil (right) of Hike Nova Scotia present Tom Wilson of the Hike the Highlands Festival with the Summit Award at the Hiking Summit in St. Ann's, Cape Breton in June 2013.

Hike NS thanks the Nova Scotia Department of Health & Wellness for its support.