

Annual Report

Here are some of the highlights on progress in the four areas of the Hike NS Strategic Plan, covering activities between April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

Advocacy

- Provided input on the draft provincial Trails Strategy and endorsed a final draft
- Sent a letter of support to the Halifax Regional Municipality for the Green Network Plan
- Made a submission to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment on the NS Coastal Protection Consultation
- Became a member of the Healthy Forest Coalition

Promotion

- Piloted the Mood Walks project where two youth serving agencies participated in 5 hikes involving 116 participants
- Held the Fall 2018 Guided Hike Series and Winter 2019 Guided Hike Series across NS including 81 events for 1,700 participants organized by 50 partners
- Partnered with Digby Pines and Liscombe Lodge on two hike-eat-stay adventures in fall of 2018
- Partnered with the Young Naturalists Club on the Dark Chocolate Hike fundraiser in February 2019
- Partnered with Goose Lane Editions on the July 9 Waterfalls of NS book launch
- In November 2018 representatives from IAT-NS attended the International Appalachian Trail Annual General Meeting of the North American Chapters in Campbellton, NB

Capacity Building

- Offered 7 Outdoor Council of Canada (OCC) courses to 55 participants across NS including Field –Leader Hiking courses, Navigation Maps & Compass courses, a Field Leader - Overnight



The Halifax YMCA's Immigrant Services Youth Group enjoy a hike at Victoria Park in Truro in fall of 2018 as part of the Mood Walks project.



The Cape to Cape Committee of the Pictou County Trails Association guide a hike in February 2019 in Scotsburn.



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module and a Field Leader - Winter module

- Offered 9 Re-Connecting with Nature workshops to 147 participants across NS
- Trained 8 new OCC course instructors and conducted retraining with 8 Re-Connecting with Nature instructors

Leadership

- Held the Hiking Summit in Ingonish May 11-13, 2018 with 250 people attending (and a waiting list of 100 people!)
- Presented the Coxheath Hills Wilderness Recreation Association with the Summit Award, recognizing their leadership in the growth and development of hiking in Nova Scotia
- Increased membership dues in August 2018 yet managed to keep membership levels steady
- Continued partnerships with The Trail Shop, MEC, the Outdoor Council of Canada, Leave No Trace Canada, the International Appalachian Trail, Hike Canada, the Nova Scotia Outdoor Network, NS Trails, Goose Lane Editions and many others

Hike NS thanks the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage for its ongoing support.



Participants explore during a Re-Connecting with Nature workshop in Berwick in May 2018.



Former Hike NS President Garnet McLaughlin, Coxheath Hills Wilderness Recreation Association representatives Emile Roach and Andy Pittman and Hike NS board member Debra Ryan.

