



## KINGSBURG COASTAL CONSERVANCY

### Directors' Report 2020

The KCC Board of Directors continues to pursue our goals of acquiring and protecting lands on the Kingsburg Peninsula and thereby promoting access to our shoreline.

#### **Community Outreach**

The KCC was looking forward to celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our association this year but, unfortunately, Covid 19 put a stop to our preparations and we will now celebrate our quarter century of conservation and protection in 2021. However, Covid did not stop us from pursuing our ongoing engagement with our community, acquiring land and stewarding our properties.

We continue to collaborate with the Kingsburg Community Association and have formed a joint planning committee on the development of our View Lot at the corner of Kingsburg Road and Hirtle Beach Road. This property provides an iconic view of Kingsburg as you reach the crossroads leading to our two wonderful beaches: Kingsburg Beach and Hirtle Beach. Unfortunately, over a decade, it has become contaminated with Japanese Knotweed, a highly invasive plant. A joint committee was established to advise on addressing the management of Japanese Knotweed as well as potential uses for this property.

We have been exploring a broader use of our cabin on West Ironbound Island. The Nova Scotia Sea school continues to make use of the island but has suspended its activities this year because of Covid. We are now working with a group of artists in the area to consider the establishment of an Artist-in-Residence Program on the Island. For those that have visited the island, you will have experienced the panoramic beauty of Hartling Bay and the LaHave estuary as well as the rugged attractiveness of the island. We believe that a period of time on the island would be inspiring to artists of all kinds.

#### **Our Properties**

Last year we received two parcels of land of approximately 1.6 acres with water frontage bordering the Kingsburg Pond on Hirtle Beach Road. This year we were again successful in acquiring property on the Peninsula. In the late summer of last year, the Congdon and Papa families of Upper Kingsburg donated their half interest in two properties: one property intersecting the unused public road that originates from Lower LaHave to Upper Kingsburg (6.6 acres); and, a second property that adjoins an existing KCC property on the Shobac (2.4 acres). These properties support our longer-term goal of acquiring lands on the Shobac with the hope that the unused public road will someday become a hiking/biking trail across the western end of the peninsula.

In addition to the Congdon/Papa donation, we have received a further donation of land on Rose Head, bordering Middle Road and Rose Bay from Dee and Barb Hilburt. The property is approximately 20 acres, rectangular in form with approximately 500 feet of frontage on Rose Bay. The property was appraised at \$330,000 of which \$280,000 was donated with a cash exchange of \$50,000. With this addition we own approximately 69 acres on Rose Head with almost 1200 feet of frontage on Rose Bay and 125 feet of frontage on Kings Bay.

With these new additions to our portfolio, we now own or co-own 44 properties and steward 23 others. The total acreage is about 366. Because our mandate is the acquisition and protection of lands on the peninsula, our properties are now being linked to mapping software so that we can display maps as needed of the whole peninsula or specific sections of the peninsula. We are continuing our work of linking information about the natural features of the properties and their acquisition histories. Next summer we will introduce you to our interactive map, accessible through our website -- where a click on a property will display information for the public, KCC members, and the board.

### **West Ironbound Island**

The public mooring is back in use and is available to access the island for ourselves as well as the recreational boating community. Bald eagles continue to nest on the island as are Canada Geese. We now have Barred Owls and a variety of Hawks also nesting. There were 16 lambs born this spring with 22 mature sheep in residence. The sheep maintain the numerous meadows on the island and, not for them, we would have an island of spruce!

As mentioned in last year's Director's Report, significant renovations had been planned and are now underway on the cabin. As many may know, we inherited a well-built cabin as part of the acquisition of the island. We view the cabin as a valuable resource but a resource that has been underutilized. It has fallen into some disrepair and required a new roof, windows, etc. We are now looking at options to make the most use of the cabin and, for instance, the feasibility of an Artist-in-Residence program with artists spending upwards of a week at a time on the island. The cost of the renovations is expected to be close to \$40,000 and we are looking for any donations that will help to offset those costs. Already we have received a donation of 4 new solar panels to add electricity to power the necessary appliances as well as a tender to transport visitors from our mooring to the island.

### **Gaff Point**

Once the Covid related shut down of Gaff Point ended in late May, the group of Monitors quickly stepped up once again to walk the headland's trails to ensure the safety of those visitors who enjoy the beauty of this rugged part of our peninsula. Once opened, Gaff Monitor Nathan Bald and his family volunteered to spend time cutting trees and branches that had blocked a good portion of the trails after last winter's storms. Throughout the summer months, Gaff has seen a burst in new visitors, perhaps because of the province's encouragement for Nova Scotia

to better get to know special areas of their province. Due to Covid, we were unable to do our annual July workday to maintain and improve the trails. However, according to our Monitors, all trails are in fine shape. We want to again thank our monitors for their vigilance, care, time and appreciation they bring to their work in monitoring Gaff's trails. Our core group of a dozen members serve as monitors throughout the year. If you are interested in being a Gaff Monitor or helping with next summer's July workday, please contact us or Bob Buckley.

In summary, the KCC succeeds because of its committed membership and those individuals who offer to serve on our board and on our committees. Please consider serving on our Board! We would like to see representation from Rose Head and Hell's Point! And, if you know someone who lives in our area or enjoys our environs, please encourage them to join the KCC!

## **Goals**

The KCC Board of Directors offers the following goals for the year ahead and for the next three years:

One year (2020 – 2021)

- Expand the number of Board members;
- continue to seek ways to preserve land in the Shobac as well as Kingsburg Peninsula;
- raise the public's awareness of and investment in the work of the KCC in preserving coastal lands and maintaining public access through our acquisitions.

Three year (2020 -2023)

- Promote the preservation of and access to the Shobac and to West Ironbound Island;
- identify further uses for the cabin on West Ironbound Island to support community outreach;
- document, clearly define, and visually display the KCC properties.

*Submitted by the KCC Board of Directors, 01 September 2020*