



Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association

Cliff Drysdale, Chair
Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Assoc.
RR#1 Middleton, NS B0S 1P0

E-Mail: cliff.drysdale@semsns.ca
Website: www.swnovabiosphere.ca
Phone: (902) 825-4884

To Chronicle Herald

Sept 8/17

CBC Information Morning Radio

Final draft

CTV News

**Digby Courier, Yarmouth Vanguard, Annapolis Spectator, Liverpool Advance,
Annapolis Spectator**

To whom it may concern attached is a media release concerning the UNESCO recertification of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.

UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Re-certified

The UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve has been re-certified by the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme following a comprehensive Periodic Review Process. There are 17 Biosphere Reserves in Canada and over 600 across the world. The globally prestigious UNESCO designation recognizes the unique biodiversity, high level of scientific activity, rich cultural diversity and progressive nature of the region.

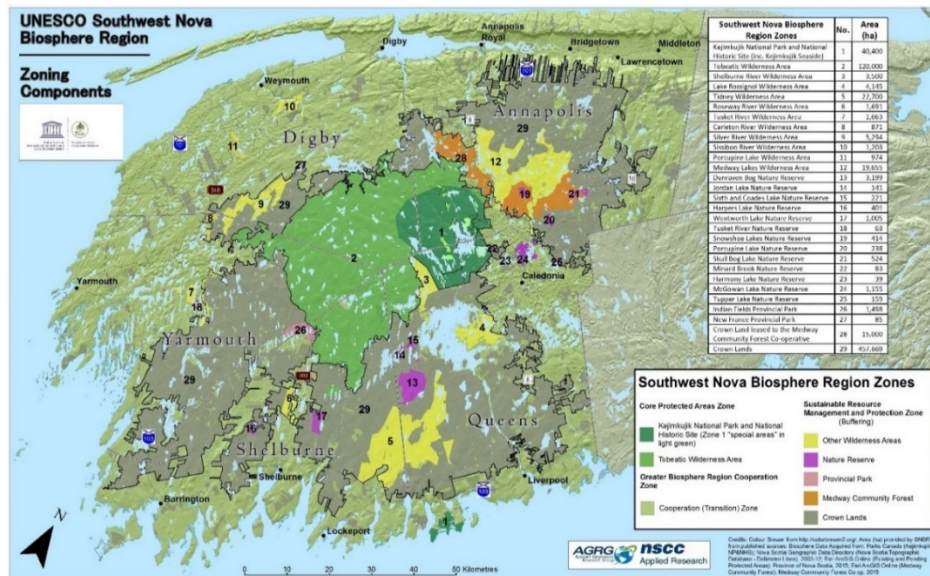
The UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Region has an area of 15189 sq. km). 100,000 persons live in communities in Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth Shelburne and Queens Counties.

Since the initial Biosphere Reserve designation on September 11/2001, the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SNBRA) has been administered by a board of directors including hard working community volunteers and representatives from municipalities throughout the region.

The UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SNBRA) mission is to support advancement of sustainable resource management, science, and education, while recognizing cultures and communities as global examples of rural progress. The fishery, forestry, agriculture and recreation continue to be important elements for socio-economic prosperity in southwestern Nova Scotia.

Biosphere Region zoning: As part of UNESCO re-certification requirements a revised Southwest Nova Biosphere Region zoning system was developed in 2016 with the input of

SNBRA, Parks Canada, Environment Nova Scotia, and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.



A Biosphere Reserve ‘**Core Protected Area**’ features Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site and the Tobeatic Wilderness Area. A ‘**Buffer Area**’ includes Western Crown Lands and Environment NS protected areas. A ‘**Zone of Cooperation**’ includes private land holdings and communities in the region.

The buffer zone and zone of cooperation feature working landscapes including forest harvest, agriculture, and other active land use practices. When issues arise associated with biodiversity or other resources, scientists and managers from appropriate jurisdictions will address them in a cooperative fashion.

Federal and Provincial government agencies work collaboratively with the Committee on Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) Species at Risk Recovery Team, universities and in the region, to protect critical habitat, define protected areas and biodiversity rich landscapes. Species at risk include Nova Scotia mainland moose, Blanding’s and wood turtles, ribbon snake, boreal felt lichen, Canada warbler, olive-sided flycatcher, rusty blackbird, and other rare members of the water pennywort Atlantic Coastal Plain flora assemblage.

A Western Crown Land Advisory Committee meets regularly for field inspections, and provide input for adaptive management. The public is kept informed about Crown Land management including harvest methods, cultural sites, riparian habitat protection, and recreation activities, while change is monitored.

Education, public and tourism information: SNBRA’s priorities include strengthening collaboration with First Nations, educational institutions, and NGO’s.

In partnership with the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Centre of Geographic Science, and Applied Geomatics Research Group, with Government of Nova Scotia, and Municipal Council funding support, SNBRA is facilitating development of a unique online “*Interactive*

Science Atlas” for use by residents, tourists, scientists, educators, students, land owners/managers and businesses.

The innovative ‘Interactive Science Atlas’ will be usable by smart phone and provide on-site access to a range of map layers and data on biophysical characteristics, research, land use information and heritage features for the Southwest Nova Biosphere region. The project will advance study activities, standardized information management, and promote the concept of “Open Science/Open Data to increase the power of research.

SNBRA is proposing that in partnership with a variety of educational institutions, government, and businesses, our region can be a world leader in resource management geomatics application development.

Currently the SNBRA web based “*Touring Through Time/Une Tournée Dans L’Passé*” map **app** along with travel literature and signage encourage visitors to enjoy towns, parks and site-specific attractions. It is accessible on the SNBRA website www//swnovabiosphere.ca

Yarmouth Cultural Heritage and Science Interpretive Centre: The developing UNESCO Biosphere Region “Cultural Heritage and Science Interpretive Centre” in the Town of Yarmouth presents exhibits, stories and other educational information associated with Biosphere Reserve principles. SNBRA is also exploring opportunities to develop educational opportunities and designate “**Centres of Cultural and Scientific Excellence**” in southwestern Nova Scotia.



Yarmouth. Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve ‘Heritage Culture and Science Interpretive Centre’

Challenges for the future: Chairman Cliff Drysdale identified several significant challenges for the Biosphere region:

“Our region’s UNESCO designation implies that Southwestern Nova Scotia serves to demonstrate a high level of civic development, sustainable resource use, biodiversity protection,

and responsible socio-economic practices for consideration by the rest of the world. Maintenance of UNESCO status is a dynamic challenge for our region that will require continuing innovation, collaboration and adaptive management of the highest order.”

“Communities in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Region should recognize tourism marketing opportunities associated with the internationally recognized UNESCO designation. Improving signage on highways and municipalities will identify the region as a ‘special place’ for residents and visitors. Incorporating the Southwest Nova Biosphere Region logo in municipal and other tourism publications will increase essential public awareness.”

“As the Southwest Nova Biosphere Region programme develops there is an essential need to build upon staff capacity to support scientific, cultural and educational programming. SNBRA is exploring a number of options toward this end that will necessitate partnerships with government, educational institutions, NGO’s and businesses.”