

# 2009 Annual Report

Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association

SOUTHWEST NOVA BIOSPHERE RESERVE ASSOCIATION

2009



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## Chair's Report

In February 2008, the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SNBRA) learned that it would receive federal funding from Environment Canada. The transfer of monies did not start until January 2009. The two years of funding was compressed into fifteen months. Fortunately, we were able to hire Maegan Power-Noble as Project Coordinator.

During the three month window (January-March 2009) we completed the following projects:

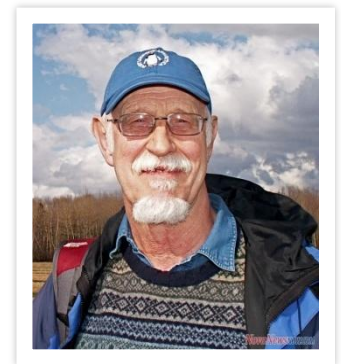
- Strategic/business plan retreat at Ledgehill ( see report on web site);
- Community mapping initiative with Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, Fundy Communities Development Association, Town of Annapolis Royal;
- Graphic design services for web site;
- Branding a new image for the association.

From the retreat we recognized the need for SNBRA to emphasize Sustainable Development at the regional scale. Each municipal unit has to complete an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) as a condition for receiving funds from the Federal Gas Tax Agreement. SNBRA can offer the regional (five county) perspective. This spring, with funding from the Nova Forest Alliance, Cliff Drysdale delivered a series of sustainable forestry workshops across the five counties.

The Board recognizes that sustainability implies inter-generational collaboration. In 2009-2010, we will concentrate on youth. This includes potential opportunities for the UNESCO schools program in Southwest Nova.

With Maegan, as full time coordinator we are in a position to strengthen our communications: newsletter, web site, events and NGO networks. SNBRA will be pro-active on new proposal writing to complement the federal funding.

Bob Maher,  
Chair Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association



BOB MAHER, CHAIR

### *Our Mission :*

*The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association will seek to balance the conservation of natural & cultural resources with sustainable resource development to support prosperous local economies and healthy communities with the voluntary support of education institutions, community , business and government partners.*

# ABOUT US

## YOUR Internationally Recognized

### UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

Our local governments, businesses and communities recognize the special qualities of our natural and cultural heritage, and joined together to help create our biosphere reserve. Together we creatively promote conservation & sustainable development which supports our local economies & communities.

We invite you to share and discover the deep sense of place within one of Canada's most unique regions. The community efforts for sustainability in Queens, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Digby and Annapolis counties are internationally recognized through distinction as the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.

From our Acadian forests of Kejimikijuk and the Tobeatic, to our diverse resource sectors of farming, forestry and fishing on the Bay of Fundy and Atlantic coasts, and to the vibrant communities between, this is a special place. Southwest Nova's rich heritage is prominent here. From the history of Mi'kmaq use of lands and waters for travel, sustenance, medicine and trade, to the rich Acadian culture still vibrant today. This is also a special place of Nature. The unique species of the region include many iconic species like moose, trout and eagle, and several endangered species including many rare plants, Southern flying squirrel and Blanding's turtle.

Our work at the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association supports these three elements of biosphere reserves: conservation, sustainable development, and capacity building for research and education. We invite you to share in these efforts.

### UNESCO & Man and the Biosphere (MAB)

A United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Biosphere Reserve is a place for promoting and demonstrating a balanced relationship between people and nature. SNBRA has received the designation as a reward and international recognition as a unique and special area. Biosphere reserves recognize core areas already protected by law and promote sustainable use & cooperation in the region surrounding these protected areas.

The three main functions of a biosphere reserve are :

**Conservation** : Contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems & biodiversity

**Development** : Foster economic & human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable

**Logistic Support** : Provide support for research, monitoring, education & information on issues of conservation and development.

For NATURE,  
we support conservation  
efforts and collaboration  
for success.

For CULTURE,  
we help promote the  
integrity of cultural  
resources and heritage in  
the region.

For INDUSTRY,  
we promote and  
encourage traditional and  
contemporary resource  
management. It identifies  
opportunities for  
enhancement and  
innovation.

For COMMUNITIES, we  
encourage people to work  
together for common  
goals in new and expanded  
partnerships.



# OUR OBJECTIVES

## Conservation

- ⇒ Promote increased recognition and understanding of the natural environment in Southwest Nova
- ⇒ Preserve the ecological integrity of the protected wilderness of Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site and the Tobeatic Wilderness Area through appropriate management and community Stewardship
- ⇒ Support voluntary conservation measures to protect landscapes, habitats, species and genetic diversity in the core, buffer and cooperation zones.
- ⇒ Encourage conservation of species of commercial and traditional importance.

**CONSERVATION :** Contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems & biodiversity

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT :** Foster economic & human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable

**CAPACITY BUILDING :** Provide support for research, monitoring, education & information on conservation & development

## Sustainable Development

- ⇒ Protect and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by citizens of the Southwest Nova Region
- ⇒ Promote increased recognition and understanding of the cultural heritage of Southwest Nova Region
- ⇒ Promote demonstration sites to illustrate traditional sustainable practices of the regional economy
- ⇒ Encourage development of innovative resource use and conservation techniques to explore new approaches to local resource issues
- ⇒ Encourage development of appropriate nature-based recreation that is ecologically sustainable

## Capacity Building

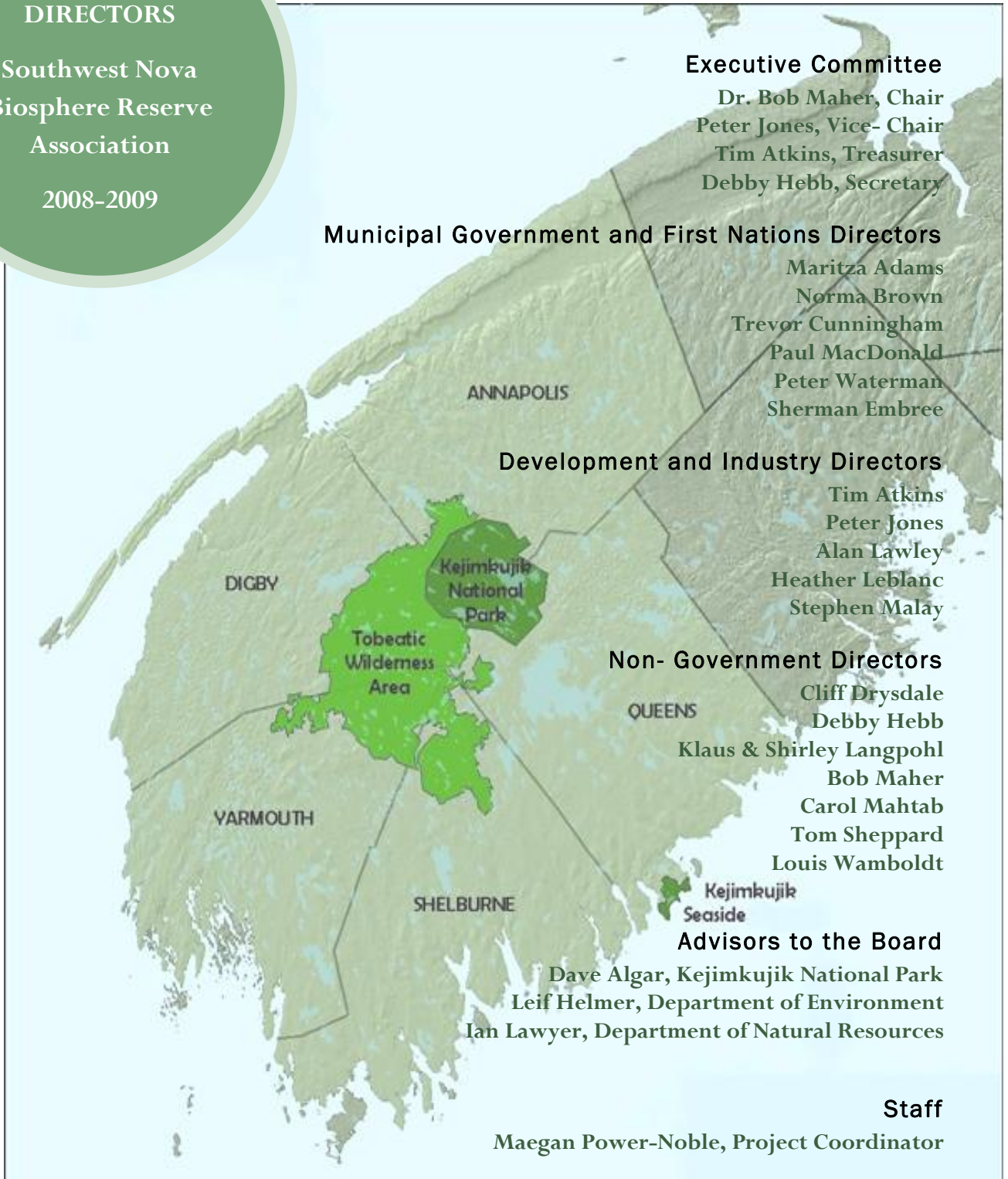
- ⇒ Gain the support and cooperation of the businesses, industries and communities of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve to balance conservation and development activities.
- ⇒ Facilitate citizen participation to inform conservation and development planning & implementation in SNBR
- ⇒ Develop and promote successful local examples of cultural, educational, ecological research and development in the region.
- ⇒ Develop opportunities for participation of students, teachers and community leaders in Biosphere Reserve activities to improve local awareness of cultural heritage and natural environment.
- ⇒ Support scientific research and monitoring of ecological systems and socio-economic patterns of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve, to obtain further understanding of environmental conditions to support sustainable resource management.
- ⇒ Facilitate cooperation among federal and provincial agencies and private landowners with respect to conservation and development objectives.
- ⇒ Facilitate the resolution of local issues and concerns, and identify opportunities for cooperation by bringing different sectors and perspectives to the table.

# OUR PEOPLE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Southwest Nova  
Biosphere Reserve  
Association

2008-2009



### Executive Committee

Dr. Bob Maher, Chair  
Peter Jones, Vice- Chair  
Tim Atkins, Treasurer  
Debby Hebb, Secretary

### Municipal Government and First Nations Directors

Maritza Adams  
Norma Brown  
Trevor Cunningham  
Paul MacDonald  
Peter Waterman  
Sherman Embree

### Development and Industry Directors

Tim Atkins  
Peter Jones  
Alan Lawley  
Heather Leblanc  
Stephen Malay

### Non- Government Directors

Cliff Drysdale  
Debby Hebb  
Klaus & Shirley Langpohl  
Bob Maher  
Carol Mahtab  
Tom Sheppard  
Louis Wamboldt

### Advisors to the Board

Dave Algar, Kejimikujik National Park  
Leif Helmer, Department of Environment  
Ian Lawyer, Department of Natural Resources

### Staff

Maegan Power-Noble, Project Coordinator

The working landscape for the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve encompasses the 5 counties of Southwest Nova Scotia : Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens

2009

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2009

# COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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## Community Mapping

Community mapping is the engagement of rural communities in the mapping of local knowledge about our history, culture, physical infrastructure and landscape. The maps should serve the needs of the community and can be shared with others electronically to make better decisions.

This work has involved collaboration with Fundy Communities Development Association, Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute and the Town of Annapolis Royal.

The future challenge is to find the technical support which is necessary to maintain and update online electronic atlases. We anticipate support will be forthcoming by collaboration with the Applied Geomatics Research Group (AGRG) at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) in Annapolis Valley Campus in Middleton.

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*A community is responsible for  
describing itself to itself,  
enabling a story to be told...*

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## “Creative Annapolis”

This project highlights the Creative Rural Economy in the town of Annapolis Royal. A survey of the area was conducted with a working group of the community, Team Annapolis, to list the resources in the area. Creative Resources were broken down into categories including Gallery ( Gallery, Market, Store), Museum, Performing Art, Sculpture, Visual Art and Unclassified. Future points can be added to this map and data collected on-line or paper-based.

## “Port George Community Story” , Fundy Community Development Association

The Fundy Community Development Association spans the Fundy Coast of Southwest Nova from the communities of Margaretsville to Delap’s Cove, Annapolis County. This project’s long term goal is to map socioeconomic interests important to communities along the Bay of Fundy coastline in Annapolis County. It is hoped the final product will be a website that ensures community members and visitors will have access to local history of these unique communities. This project has a high level of community engagement incorporating local stories, hand drawn maps, aerial photography, historical maps and photos.

## “Lake Atlas”, Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI)

An interactive web atlas that utilizes MTRI data including water quality, physical characteristics, fish species present, ice cover data and loon observations for lakes sampled in Southwest Nova Scotia by volunteers, researchers and MTRI staff. This data previously existed in paper based copies only.

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## Creative Rural Economy Workshop

In March 2009, the Town of Annapolis Royal hosted a workshop on ‘Building the Creative Rural Economy’. The premise of the CRE is that residents in rural southwest Nova Scotia have made conscious decisions to conduct their business in the region so that they can enjoy the ‘quality of life’ and a ‘sense of place’.

The challenge is to provide the underlying infrastructure which allows creative professionals to live in a rural setting and yet to market their products and services worldwide. There is also a strong obligation to mentor the next generation.

# PROJECTS - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## **Integrated Community Sustainability Planning (ICSP)**

The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan is an important document that will provide direction on how our communities can achieve their desired future while maintaining a balance between its environmental, social, cultural and economic qualities for the 10, 20, 30+ year time frame. ICSP's will be developed in each of Nova Scotia's municipalities with a draft submission September 2009 that will allow for Federal transfers of gas tax revenues.

SNBRA Board members have become engaged in the ICSP process and it was decided upon priority at the strategic planning retreat in March 2009. Presentations on the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve with a focus on sustainability were made to each of the 5 municipal councils including Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Queen's and Shelburne. The South Shore has formed an ICSP network linking the municipalities of Shelburne, Yarmouth and Argyle and invited SNBRA to participate in their Natural Resources and the Environment forum. SNBRA Board members have also participated in community round tables and community cafes in the counties of Queen's, Annapolis and Digby.

## **Nova Forest Alliance**

The Nova Forest Alliance (NFA) is a partnership of landowners, researchers, industry, First Nations communities, environmentalists, educational institutions, forest community areas, forest professionals and government, committed to finding sustainable solutions for forest communities. By bringing together a diverse group of organizations, NFA ensures all stakeholders have a voice in the future of Nova Scotia's forests. NFA is part of Canada's Model Forest Network. The Nova Forest Alliance were partners in the following two projects:

**Analysis of Voluntary Planning Materials for Sustainable Forestry Workshops by SNBRA.** The purpose of this project is to review the voluntary planning materials collected in the summer of 2008 at public meetings on the topic "The Future of Nova Scotia's Natural Resources" in order to incorporate them into the SNBRAs planning for sustainable forestry workshops. SNBRA delivered a suite of community workshops throughout the biosphere reserve in the Spring of 2009. In order to avoid duplication and community overload, the results of the Voluntary Planning sessions were analysed prior to engaging the communities. The proponents reviewed all Voluntary Planning materials with a special focus on forestry related issues (may include biodiversity), produced a summary report which identifies the recurring issues, their frequency and the geographic distribution of responses, made a set of recommendations to the SNBRA Board on the community workshops to be funded by the NFA. The summary report identifies recurring issues, a set of recommendations and a report on related issues from Voluntary Planning sessions in Phases 2 and 3.

**Community Mapping : Developing the capacity of rural communities to design, develop and maintain sustainable resource maps of their region.** A series of workshops in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve will be conducted to obtain community participatory research (PAR) for the development of a thematic electronic resource atlas resulting in local ownership of the resource geography and data sharing agreements with government agencies. The over-riding theme is sustainable development, one of the key values defined under the UNESCO-MAB program. Collaboration will be maintained with all levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal. The results from the project will have significant potential for other geographies in rural and remote Canada as well as internationally. Proponents will work with communities of Southwest Nova to define a set of thematic maps on sustainable development, provide workshops on community mapping to community groups to design their thematic maps using GIS, support communities to create web GIS maps for sharing with the larger public, establish a framework for community updating and sharing of electronic maps, develop agreements for data sharing between community groups and government agencies, publish an electronic atlas and provide a final report on methodology, lessons and products.

# CAPACITY BUILDING OF SNBRA

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## Strategic Planning – Work Plan Development

A facilitated two day strategic planning workshop for the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SNBRA) Board of Directors was held in March 2009 at Ledgehill, Annapolis County. The focus of the workshop was to develop a targeted work-plan for the duration of the Environment Canada funding; instigate a dialogue about organizational strengths, vision and mission; adopt structural changes to ensure board success; identify working groups; and articulate organizational priorities. Three Working groups based upon the 3 pillars of the biosphere reserve : 1) Conservation 2) Communications and 3) Development ,were formed during this retreat.

## Development Working Group

The Development Working Group focuses on project and partnership development of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association. SNBRA's linkage to the Integrated Community Sustainability Planning (ICSP) process was identified as a high priority at the SNBRA Board Retreat due to time-lines and mandate. ICSP's are mandatory for all municipalities across Nova Scotia, to enable the Federal Government to transfer gas tax revenue directly to the municipalities for infrastructure dollars. ICSP's are a mandated planning exercise focused on sustainability , economic, environmental, social and cultural goals. SNBRA is now actively involved in the ICSP process and this working group will further develop it's action plan and focus on additional projects and partners.

## Communications Working Group

Communications and marketing was agreed upon as a high priority during the SNBRA Board retreat held in March 2009. The SNBRA Communications Working Group developed several projects including the development of promotional material, organization of the self identity workshop, SNBRA Branding, and website design and structure.

## “Self Identity” Workshop, Branding of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve

In April 2009 a workshop was held in Shelburne , NS to develop the market branding of the organization. A facilitated session with John Adman Maelstrom and the SNBRA Board of directors resulted in a creative brief for SNBR. This brief focused on the strengths of SNBR including the international designation and recognition of UNESCO and the unique and special place in which we live. The brand will be further developed and market tested over the spring and summer with the website launched in the fall of 2009.

## Website Redevelopment

The redesign of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association website is a priority of the organization. Prior to the launch of the website many internal steps needed to be taken to ensure the website accurately reflected the organization. This included strategic planning, self identify workshop, branding and content development.

## SNBRA AGM & Open House 2009

Guests were invited to participate in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Open House and Annual General Meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 held in Annapolis Royal. The Open House will showcase displays by partner organizations within the biosphere reserve area. These include : Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site; Species at Risk; Mersey Tobetic Research Institute (MTRI); Nova Scotia Department of Environment, Annapolis County Recreation, Nova Scotia Community College and Regional Development Agencies.



# FUNDING

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## Funding

In January 2009 Environment Canada announced 2 years of funding for the capacity building of the 15 Biosphere Reserves in Canada and the formation of a National Secretariat in Ottawa representing the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association. Each Biosphere Reserve hired a Project Coordinator who then attended a national project coordinators workshop held in February 2009. The Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association hired an Executive Director and Administrator as representatives at the CBRA Secretariat.

Year 1 funding for the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SNBRA) was received in late February 2009 and utilized on Strategic planning of the SNBRA Board of Directors, Promotions & Communications, Graphic Design, Website Redesign, Community Mapping Project, General Office and Meeting Expenses, Travel, and Human Resources. Year 2 funding comprises the core operational funding of the SNBRA Project Coordinator including Human Resources, Travel, and Office and Meeting Expenses.

Nova Forest Alliance funded 2 projects in 2008-2009 including Community Mapping and Sustainable Forestry Workshops. The Municipalities of Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Queens and Shelburne and Towns of Bridgetown and Digby also contributed funding to be used in to support projects and operations related to the municipalities including our involvement with the Integrated Community Sustainability Planning.

## Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association (CBRA)

The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve is a member of the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association. This national network represents the 15 biosphere reserve in Canada and contributes to the capacity building of each biosphere reserve, development of national projects and increasing awareness of biosphere reserves at a national level.

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“Local action, combined with national vision, for the environment and economy, is possible.”

*Richard Murzin, President, Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association*

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## Hiring – Project Coordinator

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Maegan Power-Noble was hired as a full time Project Coordinator of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association as a result of the Environment Canada Funding. Maegan's office is located with the Applied Geomatics Research Group at the Annapolis Valley Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College in Middleton, Nova Scotia.

Maegan will be responsible for the coordination of projects and the development of new and expanded partnerships in the region. Maegan has recently returned to Southwest Nova after 6 years working and living in Nunavut Territory as a project manager on a variety of programs including international sport event management, health care and Tele-health. Her experiences, working with committees spanning various levels of Government, corporations, community stake holders and volunteers gives a unique insight to SNBRA. The common denominator in all of Maegan's work is having people meet, network and collaborate to develop, implement and expand new and existing projects. SNBRA strives to maintain a balanced relationship between people and nature while supporting the three elements of biosphere reserves: conservation, sustainable development, and capacity building for scientific research and education.

# OUR PARTNERS

## Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI)

In July, 2004 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute. MTRI was formed to manage and operate a research institute to conduct environmental, social and cultural research and monitoring in the Mersey watershed and the Tobeatic Wilderness Area in the core of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.

The Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute is a non-profit cooperative with a mandate to advance collaborative research, monitoring and management that promotes sustainable use of natural resources in Southwest Nova Scotia. The institute operates a field station in Kempt, Queens County which provides office and work space and basic accommodations for researchers carrying out studies in the area. Specific area of research interest include aquatic health, riparian buffers, landscape connectivity and species at risk. MTRI is a cooperative of land managers and researchers working together with a common mission and vision.

*MTRI's VISION : Creative & innovation  
member-directed research of the natural world &  
the human management of natural resources.  
MTRI envisions research openly shared with the  
public that promotes biodiversity conservation  
and sustainable use of natural resources in the  
Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve*

## Biosphere Reserves

Several SNBRA Board members and advisors have been assisting the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association with their nomination document and process. Cliff Drysdale has been actively involved with Gabon, Africa during their preliminary process of developing a nomination document to become a biosphere reserve.

## Our Partners

Partners of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve include organizations that work directly with the Association on projects that support the functions and goals of Biosphere Reserves : conservation, sustainable development, education, community development and multi-sector cooperation. This is not an exhaustive list of groups that support the Biosphere Reserves; it simply lists partners of current and recent projects.

### Government

- Environment Canada
- Parks Canada
- NS Department of Environment
- NS Department of Natural Resources
- NS Department of Tourism
- Municipal Councils
- Town Councils
- Destination Southwest Nova
- Regional Development Agencies

### Associations

- Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association (CBRA)
- Man and the Biosphere (MAB)
- UNESCO

### Community

- Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI)
- Tusket River Environmental Protection Agency (TREPA)
- Tobeatic Wilderness Area
- Friends of Keji
- Friends of Port Mouton
- Nova Forest Alliance (NFA)
- Fundy Community Development Association (FCDA)
- Team Annapolis
- Revitalize Lockeport
- Bras d'Or Biosphere Reserve
- Home & Land Owners
- Youth & Schools

### Academic

- Applied Geomatics Research group (AGRG)
- Acadia University
- Dalhousie University
- Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC)

### Culture & History

- MacDonald Museum
- DesBrisay Museum
- Acadia First Nations
- Bear River First Nations

### Industry

- Nova Scotia Power
- Abitibi Bowater Mersey

# MOVING FORWARD

SNBRA recognizes that ‘sustainability’ implies connectedness in both space and time. Our footprint is Southwest Nova Scotia. We will look at the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) process from the perspective of the region, including all municipalities and the five counties: Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens. Our timeline is cross-generational. We will look at the changes in the creative rural economy which encourage the next generation to live in the region and support their quality of life through sustainable landscape practices. This includes the quality of water, air, soil, wildlife and vegetation.

## Creative Rural Economy

The premise of the Creative Rural Economy is that residents in rural southwest Nova Scotia have made conscious decisions to conduct their business in the region so that they can enjoy the ‘quality of life’ and a ‘sense of place’. The challenge is to provide the underlying infrastructure which allows creative professionals to live in a rural setting and yet to market their products and services worldwide. There is also a strong obligation to mentor the next generation.

## Networking & Partnership Development

The SNBRA Communications and Development working groups will be challenged with increasing the awareness of our organizations within the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve, along with identifying partners and potential funders to develop projects and programs for the benefit of the region.

SNBRA also will strive to “connect the dots” within the biosphere reserve via collaboration of non-government organizations based on the pillars of sustainability including: environment, sustainable development and sustainable tourism. Connecting the similarities in the Integrated Community Sustainability Plans will also be a focus of the upcoming year.



## UNESCO Schools

SNBRA will work with schools within the southwest nova region and the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) to receive designation as a UNESCO School. By taking part in the ASPnet and conducting pilot projects, our schools have the opportunity to make significant contributions to improve the quality of education by reinforcing the Aspnet pillars : learning to know; learning to do; learning to be and learning to live together. In a world that has become complex and interdependent, ASPnet activities strive to provide holistic learning and meaningful knowledge. A collaborative workshop for interested schools and other organizations interested in pursuing the UNESCO ASPNet designation, sustainability lesson plans, and youth outreach will be held in the fall of 2009 with the national ASPnet coordinator. These groups include NSCC, MTRI, CARP, SNBRA, and the Town of Lockeport . We will also be networking with other Biosphere Reserve project coordinators who participate in the UNESCO ASPnet school program to gain understanding and lessons learned of the process.

## Keji Scenic Trail – 12 Months of Experiences

A multi stakeholder group including the Municipality of Queen’s, Municipality of Annapolis, Town of Annapolis Royal, Parks Canada, Department of Tourism and non-governmental organizations will meet with the hopes of revitalizing and marketing the Keji Scenic Drive. The Keji Scenic Drive highlights the core of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve and promotes sustainable tourism, conservation , and healthy lifestyles with 12 months of experiences.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND YOUTH OUTREACH

## Community Engagement

SNBRA recognizes the importance of engaging all communities within southwest Nova Scotia. Many projects will be piloted within a specific community with the premise of the project being easily transferred to any other community in the southwest nova region.

### Port Mouton, Queen's County



Friends of Port Mouton invited SNBRA to speak at a community meeting in June 2009. Also presenting on conservation areas were Parks Canada and Department of Fisheries, Marine Protected Areas Branch.

The Friends of Port Mouton Bay are local residents, fishers, property and business owners, and visitors who speak with one voice. They recognize that the commercial lobster fishery and tourism are sustainable and economically viable industries with long histories in the bay. They recognize that the economic worth of Port Mouton Bay is in its undeveloped seascape, natural marine environment and exceptional

shoreline along with its long term economic future depends on upholding these values for the next generations. The Friends of Port Mouton Bay are meeting as a community over the summer months to decide their next steps as a community. Priorities include regeneration of the health of the bay and related research initiatives. SNBRA will have continued involvement with this group of engaged citizens.

### Lockeport Community Revitalization Initiative, Shelburne County

The Town of Lockeport has partnered with Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), Municipality of Shelburne, and the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association, on the Lockeport Revitalization Initiative. This is part of a larger "Revitalizing Nova Scotia" process that builds on the strength of our tradition of service learning and ongoing commitment to our communities. As a part of the Lockeport Revitalization pilot, there will be a two-day event, October 8 & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, featuring guests from the Revitalization Institute including Storm Cunningham, a diversity of stakeholder groups from across the province, and stories of revitalization efforts and opportunities. The second day of the event will focus specifically on the revitalization of Lockeport and surrounding communities and will engage participation and formally launch the initiative within the community in conjunction with their Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

## Youth Outreach

Reaching the youth of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve area is crucial for sustainability of any programs of our region. Several steps have been taken to encourage youth involvement. The SNBRA Board of Directors will have a Youth Advisory panel made up of youth of each of the 5 counties of the biosphere reserve. During the collaboration workshop of environmental NGO's youth outreach was decided to be a priority, and obtaining UNESCO designated schools in our region was at the top of the action plan. A portion of the SNBRA market research occurred with focus groups of students in high schools of Annapolis, Digby and Queens counties.

[WWW.SNBRA.CA](http://WWW.SNBRA.CA)

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**Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association**

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