



UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve

www.swnovabiosphere.ca

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2011 Newsletter

2011 Marks 10 year UNESCO Designation Anniversary

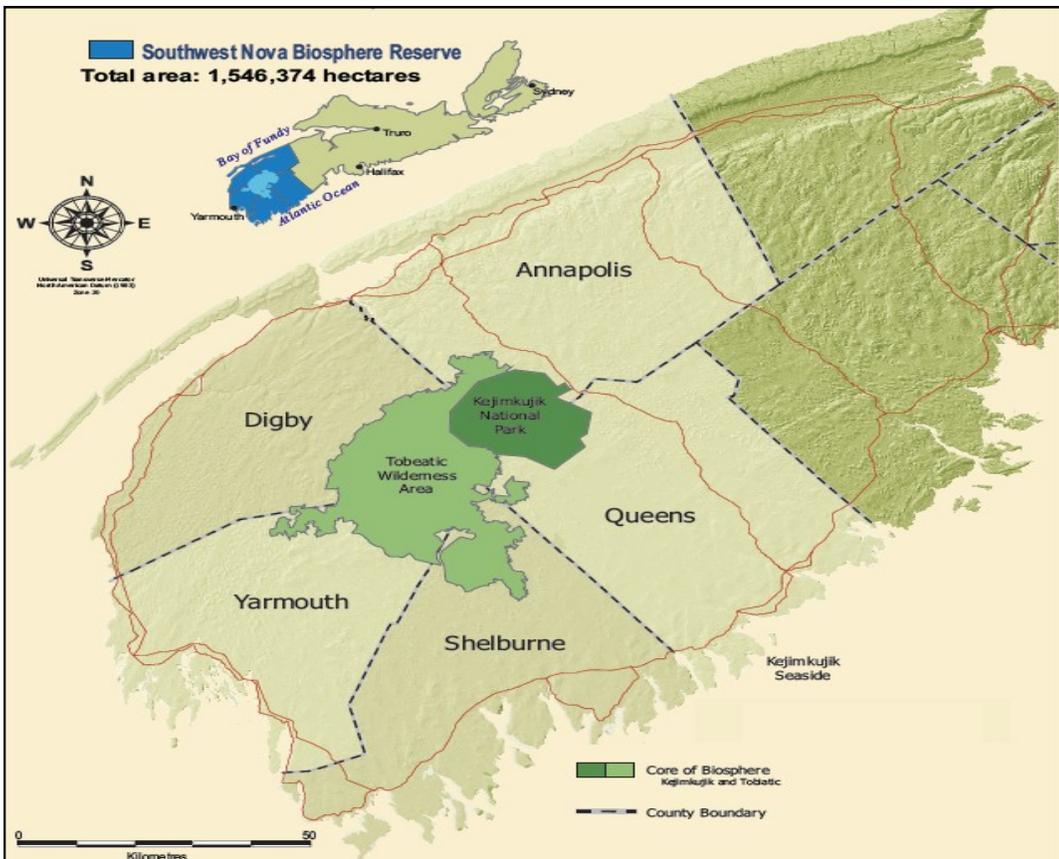
2011 is an exciting time for Nova Scotia. It marks the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve, and at the same time celebrates the new designation of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve (www.blbra.ca). With the anniversary, there also is a review process; the purpose of the review is to provide a reflection of the past 10 years, which highlights accomplishments and shows how those within the boundaries are working together, by ways of conservation, sustainable development and capacity building.

In case you are not familiar with the term 'Biosphere Reserve', it is a site that is established by a specific region and recognized under the UNESCO MAB Program (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization- Man And the Biosphere Program), to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science.

The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve encompasses the 5 counties of Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens, and their 16 Municipalities, totaling 1,546,374 hectares. At our core we have the nationally protected Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site and the provincially protected Tobeatic Wilderness Area, the largest in Atlantic Canada.

SNBR Quick Facts:

- Designated by the UNESCO MAB program in 2001.
- The 12th Biosphere Reserve to be designated in Canada.
- 5 counties of: Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens.
- The Core of the Biosphere Reserve is the largest protected wilderness area in the Maritimes.
- SNBRA is a hotspot for biodiversity and is home to 75% of Nova Scotia's species at risk.



Inside this issue:

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR	2
SNBRA ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CURRENT PROJECTS	2
MEET THE NEW MANAGER	2
SUMMER 2011/UPCOMING EVENTS	3
SNBRA VISION & MISSION	4
PROTECTED AREAS IN SNBRA (MAP)	4
NEXT ISSUE/CONTACT INFO	4

What A Biosphere Reserve Is NOT:

- It is NOT a new level of bureaucracy
- It is NOT a World Heritage Site
- It does NOT create any new regulations
- It does NOT restrict the rights of citizens- aboriginal or non-aboriginal
- It does NOT create new protected areas
- * <http://www.blbra.ca/faq/what-a-biosphere-reserve-is-not/>

What is a Biosphere Reserve?

An international designation of recognition from UNESCO for a region that demonstrates a balance between humans and the biosphere.

The 3 basic functions of a Biosphere are:

1. Conservation
2. Sustainable Development
3. Logistics/ capacity building



UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve

A Message from the Chair

With the visit by the Ten Year review team, I realized how much had happened in the last ten years, and also what had not changed in Southwest Nova. The highlights would include:

The creation of the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI). MTRI continues to grow and diversify its research within the Biosphere.

The evolution of the Canadian Biosphere Reserve network across Canada with core funding from the federal government, Environment Canada. The latest, sixteenth reserve is Bras D'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve, announced this summer.

The first UNESCO school in Nova Scotia at Lockeport.

The 'low lights' (where we are putting our effort) include:

A focus for the last two summers on engaging young people in the region through day camps and exhibition displays.

A need to increase public awareness and business awareness through road signage and also branding the Biosphere Reserve values to the tourism industry.

With the new Manager, Lisa Kamperman, and with the continued support from the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), our short term ambition is to convert these lowlights into highlights. I look forward to closer collaboration between SNBRA, the departments of the provincial government, the regional development agencies and private business, to develop a buoyant, creative rural economy across the five counties. - Dr. Robert (Bob) Maher, PhD



"...I realized how much had happened in the last ten years, and also what had not changed in Southwest Nova."

SNBRA Accomplishments & Current Projects

- Nomination document 2001
- Buffer workshop 2003
- Creation of MTRI 2004
- Funding from Environment Canada 2008
- Strategic Planning Workshop 2010
- Branding Workshop 2010
- Summer Outreach program 2010 & 2011
- Community Mapping project 2011
- Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Networking project 2011
- 10 Year Periodic Review 2011
- Achieve Charitable Status 2011-12
- Implement branding 2011
- Implement signage on major highways 2012

[*www.swnovabiosphere.ca/our-projects/](http://www.swnovabiosphere.ca/our-projects/)



Meet the new Manager for SNBRA!

Lisa Kamperman is the new Manager for the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SNBRA); she went to University at Dalhousie in Halifax and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. Her work experience includes rural development on the provincial level in both Nova Scotia and Alberta.

When Lisa started with SNBRA, she recognized the importance of creating awareness of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve, especially with residents of SNBR. The new website that was created in 2010 was launched in January 2011, presentations were made to various groups throughout SNBR, and connections were made with partners throughout the region. Under the direction of a Board of Directors, made up from all areas of the SNBR, an action plan of five goals was established for the Manager to focus on: branding, signage, youth/community awareness and engagement, newsletter, and workshops. Lisa experienced the SNBR community pulling together when planning a tour for the 10 year review in June 2011; SNBRA board members and community representatives made themselves available for interviews and tours with the reviewers. In the late Spring SNBRA was fortunate to receive one federal and one provincial grant to fund two summer student positions. This has been a busy summer for SNBRA, attending the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association Annual General Meeting and workshops, SNBRA's AGM and 10 year review, all in June. The summer focus has been community and youth outreach and engagement with the help of the summer students.



Summer 2011 with our students: Graeme & Kate!

Summer 2011 thus far - A reflection on the month's events—by Graeme Matheson

- Familiarized ourselves with the goals, principles and mandates of SNBRA and gained understanding on the size of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.
- Participated in water invertebrate research with Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI).
- Visited Noah's Place Farm - a small, family run farm which sells goats milk soap and wool. They grow or raise the majority of their food and sell excess, (through their shop) to fund the farms operations.
- Clean the Annapolis River Project (CARP) - joined them in some Tunicate research.
- Lockeport Regional High School - we learned about their O2 program and the school greenhouse.
- Loon research at Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI).
- Planted a Monarch Butterfly Garden and took part in a Recycling Relay with Middleton Day Camp.
- Attended and participated in the Kejimkujik Mi'kmaw Celebration Day.
- Worked with the Municipality of Shelburne to plan and lead a cultural and historic geocaching activity at the Shelburne Founders' Days.
- Hosted information booths in Keji, Middleton Farmers Market and at Shelburne Founders' Days.
- Documenting all data for the Community Mapping Project of events from SNBRA, Summer 2011.
- SNBRA website and Facebook page updates of the events listed above.
- Created new brochures and new information posters for SNBRA.

What's next for us?

- Lawrencetown Exhibition/taking in events and networking (Aug 15).
- More Day Camps! - Clare Day Camp (Aug 16th) & Black Loyalist Day Camp (Aug 22).
- IncredIBLE lunch in Annapolis Royal/Farmers Market (Aug 21).
- Twitter & YouTube accounts!~

Visit our website to follow Graeme and Kate on their next adventure in the SNBR!



Milkweed in bloom



MTRI BBQ



Shelburne Founders' Days



Mi'kmaw Celebration Day at Keji



Lockeport Regional High School Greenhouse



Middleton Day Camp 2011— Butterfly Gardens!



Kate at Whipple Tree Farm

Mersey River Chalets & Nature Retreat



Graeme at Noah's Place Farm



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Contact us:

We'd love to hear from you!

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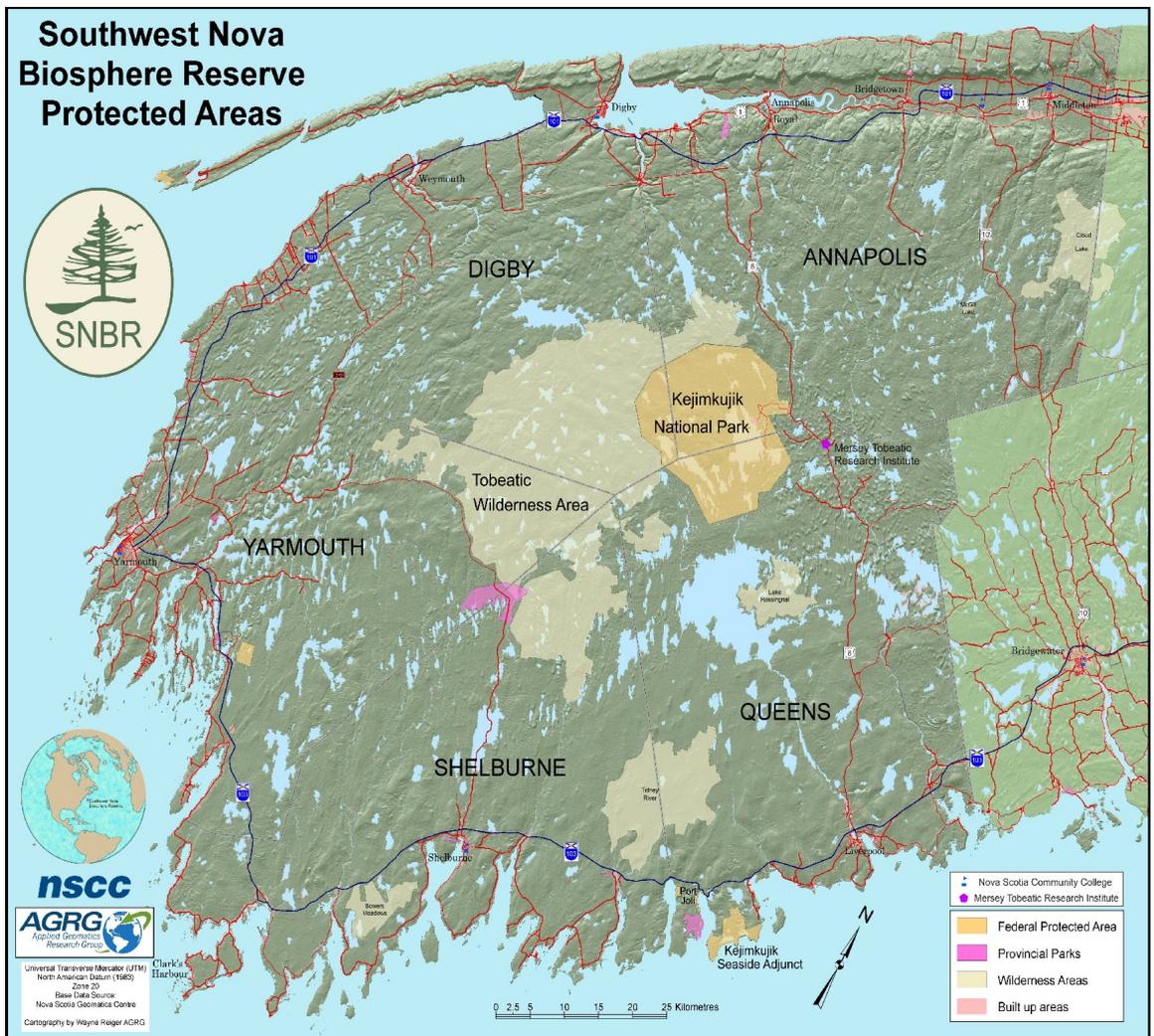
E-mail:
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www.swnovabiosphere.ca

Vision:

We envision a healthy and sustainable biosphere while respecting our culture, quality of life and natural resources.

Mission:

To deliver and facilitate programs that empower and educate youth, citizens, and industry on the benefits of maintaining a sustainable biosphere reserve while supporting scientific and other research necessary to effect the objectives of the biosphere reserve.



If your event highlights any or all of the 3 functions of a Biosphere Reserve:

1. conservation,
2. sustainable development
- or
3. capacity building

please send your information to: info@swnovabiosphere.ca by December 1st, 2011



Photo contest!

Check our website and facebook page for photo contest details to be announced in mid-October.



"Like" our page on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/UNESCO.SNBR>

Next Issue:

- Summer/Fall 2011 recap
- Meet our Board members
- Summer 2012 Plans