



Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization

## PRESS RELEASE

### Vandalism Mars Nature Trail

July 17, 2010 Timberlea, Nova Scotia

\*\*\*Vandalism on the Bluff Wilderness Trail mars one of Halifax's most accessible hiking trails.\*\*\*

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 between 1 PM and 7 PM vandals destroyed signs and trees on the Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail located in Timberlea, NS. Rich Campbell, co-chair of the Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO) - which is authorised by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources to maintain and operate the trail - was contacted on the evening of Friday July 16<sup>th</sup> and advised that a sign located at the trailhead was torn from its posts and that some trees on the trail were damaged and uprooted.

Mr. Campbell indicated that the trailhead sign was previously vandalized between in June 2010. At that time the vandals defaced the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) order restricting use of the trail and wrote upon it: "DNR sucks it." Mr. Campbell has notified DNR and the RCMP about both incidents. He indicates that there has been occasional acts of vandalism, especially at the trailhead where a large map of the trail and notice of the trail's permitted use are posted. According to Mr. Campbell the vandalism has escalated and may be aimed at the rules that restrict the use of the Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail and the adjoining Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea (BLT) Trail (part of the Trans Canada rails to trails network).

If you have any information about the vandalism please contact the RCMP at 826-3100.

WRWEO (pronounced "ree-oh") is an organization of volunteers who work to protect and improve human and natural environments throughout the Woodens River watershed. The total area of the watershed is approximately 65 square kilometers. It includes large tracts of close-to-pristine wilderness, as well as recent and older settlements. The watershed includes all land, habitations and streams that drain into the Woodens River system and is part of the Five Bridge Lake Wilderness Area. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Nova Scotia government declared the Five Bridge Lake Wilderness Area a Candidate Wilderness Area. If designated these lands will be protected under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*.

For more information on the Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail visit WRWEO's website ([www.wrweo.ca](http://www.wrweo.ca) or

[www.blufftrail.ca](http://www.blufftrail.ca)) and consider supporting our efforts to protect it. Annual membership fees are only \$10 and donations designated for WRWEO may be made to the NS Trails Federation ([www.novascotiatrials.com](http://www.novascotiatrials.com)).

You can contact WRWEO at [wrweo@yahoo.ca](mailto:wrweo@yahoo.ca) or Rich Campbell at 876-7847 (home) or 489-0457 (cell) or write to WRWEO, Unit 14, Box 300, 3650 Hammonds Plains Road, Upper Tantallon, Nova Scotia B3Z 4R3.