



Bras d'Or Watch 2016: Let's see what we can find

Between 1898 and 1923, Dr. Alexander Howard MacKay (the superintendent of education for Nova Scotia) set up a ground-breaking program of environmental observation for rural schoolchildren. Students became keen observers of the timing of natural events. The annual reports that MacKay based on their extensive observations have been crucial in our current understanding of climate change impacts in the province.

Having a 'thousand eyes' observing changes in the Bras d'Or Biosphere would be a powerful thing.

- We would learn about the ecosystem that surrounds us
- We would engage with other citizens and visitors who want to learn about the ecosystem
- We would develop close connections with the scientists that are doing research here
- We would teach our children to be enveloped in nature rather than observing it on a screen
- And we would record the many observations that will be used to describe changes in the Biosphere as our global climate changes

Bras d'Or Watch is a project which was launched by the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association in 2015 to enable and support citizen-based monitoring in the Biosphere. **'Bras d'Or Watch Field Day'** will be held on July 16, 2016 at seven sites around the Bras d'Or Lake. Simultaneous sampling of several ecosystem properties will take place on the lakeshore and in the shallow waters of the Bras d'Or Lake. Sampling at each site will be overseen by an ecologist and everyone is welcome to come and watch, learn and participate. Many other activities will also be taking place at these sites on the day. Based on this field day we will develop a report card for the Bras d'Or Lake and a plan for future sampling. Come and be part of the excitement.

For more information, please contact: annamarie_hatcher@cbu.ca