



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



# BIOSPHERE HIGHLIGHTS

September 30, 2017

People & Nature; Better together

Vol. 1; No. 2

## In This Issue:

- Geese that don't migrate
- Community Suppers
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## The Four Pillars of every Biosphere:

- A healthy environment
- a healthy culture
- a healthy society
- a healthy economy

## Save The Date

**HIKE THE HILL  
AT THE LAKES GOLF CLUB  
BEN EOIN  
THURSDAY, OCT. 12, 1-4 PM  
IN THE BEAUTIFUL BRAS D'OR LAKE  
BIOSPHERE**



**COME AND JOIN THE NATURALISTS AND A STORY-TELLER FOR AN INFORMATIVE AND ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS.**  
Please note: Participants must register in *The Lakes Club House* before starting their self-guided hike. On site restaurant, lounge and snack bar services available. (Hike will be cancelled if weather is inclement; no rain date.)

**People & Nature; Better together**  
Sponsored by the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Assoc.

in cooperation with



## So Why Aren't The Geese Flying South?

Cape Breton has always had migratory Canada Geese flying through in the fall and spring. One of our first signs of spring was the stop-over of geese bound for further north. We did not have a Cape Breton breeding population.



In the spring of 1980, the Department of Lands and Forests (now DNR) initiated a 5-year program to establish a breeding flock of Canada geese in the wilds of Cape Breton. Surplus eggs were collected from flocks

in Ontario and were incubated at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. When the birds hatched and had grown to be a reasonable size (but before they had learned to fly), they were released into a large, fenced bog on the Cape Breton highlands. When the birds learned to fly they could easily escape the pen. Biologists call this process a gentle release.

Biologists hoped this would lead to a breeding population of geese on and around the extensive bog and lake systems of the Cape Breton highlands. One trait of the particular subspecies of Canada goose released is that they are reluctant migrants - seldom going further south than is necessary and generally returning north early. After several years it became obvious that many released birds migrated as far as the Cape Breton lowlands, stayed all winter in the open water of the lowlands of Cape Breton and remained there to breed in the spring. When the active phase of the project concluded in 1984, 757 birds had been released into the wild. Those birds have matured, bred and multiplied and have become a common site throughout the lowland waterways of Cape Breton. To this day very few are found in the highlands. (Dave Harris and Dan Banks)

Next month – Recognition of the work accomplished by our two summer students, Lauren Douglas and Jessica Langille.

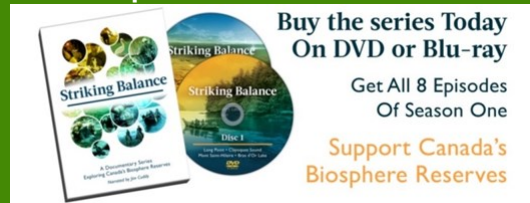
## Videos

A sneak peek at two European Biospheres - The Rhon in Germany and the Dordogne in France.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2sEQpbw4mw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yWm1kHr-k0&t=232s>

Here's a great gift idea for just about anyone which helps support our Biosphere at the same time.



Cost: \$30.00 (DVD); \$35.00 (Blu-ray).

Go to: [www.blbra.ca](http://www.blbra.ca) for details.

**Volunteer** - Consider volunteering for one of our projects. **We need your help!** Contact us to find out how you can give the gift of your time.

## Meet the Residents...



Common name: Bear's Head Tooth Fungus (*Hericium americanum*)

A rather unusual and edible tree fungus said to taste like lobster. Usually found on dead or dying hardwoods in late summer/early fall. More info at...

<http://www.firstnature.com/fungi/hericium-americanum.php>

(photograph at East Bay Hills Trail on 24/09/17 by E. Crosby)

## The Cultural Glue that are Community Suppers

Community suppers provide a friendly atmosphere, great food, and are well worth the detour to remote community centres, legions, or church halls. These events are a way for various groups to raise money while providing a great dinner for their community and its visitors. While volunteers are busy cooking, serving, and cleaning up, they usually will also have time for a quick chat. Their conviviality allows visitors to feel most welcome.

Many communities on Cape Breton Island have long traditions with community suppers. Suppers are held throughout the year and usually showcase seasonal or traditional options. Lobster suppers, fishcakes with beans, and pork roast dinners are common meals you may see advertised throughout the many communities that surround the Bras d'Or.

The fall harvest is a great time to experience some of the many traditional meals that are offered through community suppers in the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere watershed. The Celtic Colours International Festival (October 6<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>) showcases exceptional Celtic music from around the world and also celebrates the rich cultures of our communities including community suppers. These suppers help to empower communities and nurtures pride within them, promotes cultural diversity and raises awareness of the value of heritage.

If you would like to experience a community supper within the Biosphere this autumn, there are several Celtic Colours community supper events scheduled. All meals cost between \$10 - \$20, and come with dessert and your choice of tea or coffee. Many of these community suppers are also scheduled around concert events, so check out the event schedule and maybe stick around for some toe-tapping fun! (Liz MacCormick)

For more information on concerts or community events, please visit: [celtic-colours.com](http://celtic-colours.com)

### **Àros na Mara: Lunch and Learn**

Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> ; 11:00am - 1:00pm  
Iona Port, Iona

### **Soul Food Supper**

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> ; 4:00pm - 6:30pm  
Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>; 4:00pm - 6:30pm  
Wagmatcook Culture & Heritage Cntr.  
Wagmatcook First Nation

### **Potluck Supper**

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm  
Cameron Hall. Whycocomagh

### **Local Harvest Thanksgiving Dinner**

Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>; 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
George's River Fire hall  
George's River

### **Thanksgiving Dinner by the Bras d'Or**

Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> ; 5:00pm  
Fisheries Building, Eskasoni

### **Little Narrows Luncheon**

Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
12:30pm - 1:30pm  
Little Narrows Community Centre  
Little Narrows

### **West Bay Rd. Fish Chowder Supper**

Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>; 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
West Bay Road Fire hall, West Bay Rd.

### **Iona Roast Pork Dinner**

Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>; 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
Grandona Royal Can. Legion Br. 124, Iona

## Remaining Schedule of BLBRA Meetings for 2017-2018

Location	Date
<b>OUR NEXT MEETING IS AT...</b>	
<u>Ross Ferry</u>	<u>Thurs., Oct. 19</u>
Boisdale	Thurs., Nov. 16
Baddeck	Thurs., Jan. 18
Potlotek	Thurs., Feb. 15
Whycocomagh	Thurs., Apr. 12
St. Peter's	Thurs., May 10
Iona (AGM)	Thurs., Jun. 21

NOTE: Meeting times are 1:30 -4:30 pm. No meetings are scheduled for December, March or July.

**Please join us when we meet in your community. Our meetings are open, and we'd appreciate your participation.**

**Consider joining the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association to help connect people and nature to inspire a positive future.**

### Annual Membership:

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$25.00
Business	\$30.00
Indiv. Lifetime	\$125.00

The BLBRA is a registered charity.

## Contact Us

website - <http://www.blbra.ca>

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P.O. Box 711  
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Or email us at: [contact@blbra.ca](mailto:contact@blbra.ca)

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram



## Notes from The Chair (Dr. Bruce Hatcher)

The September 2017 meeting of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Board reflected the maturity and diversity of the Association. The packed agenda occupied four full hours without a break. All six of the Committees had been active and made reports of their progress towards shared goals. As progress is made on individual objectives, the interrelationships between various committees become apparent: Bras d'Or Watch, Signage, Communications, Education, Membership, and Trails are all linked by people, locales and activities. The need for intercommunication and coordination is becoming greater as our accomplishments grow. This need extends beyond the Association to our varied partner organizations; the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI) for the Bras d'Or Lakes, the Bras d'Or Lake Preservation Nature Trust, the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association, and the United Nations Man and the Biosphere Program, to name a few. It amazes me how much we know collectively, how well we collaborate and how much we accomplish as an entirely volunteer organization!

On this last day of a glorious summer, we met again at the spacious and gracious Big Pond Community Centre. There we enjoyed a fine meal with our hosts after the meeting and then experienced an informative, illustrated summary of our Citizen Science endeavours from Board members, Annamarie Hatcher and David Harris. These participatory projects in coastal and forest monitoring have been generously funded (almost \$20,000 in total) by the Toronto Dominion Friends of The Environment Fund. The nightcap was a genuine and good-natured report on the aspirations, accomplishments and mechanisms of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation from Bill Vokey (Regional Branch Manager of the TD Bank). His words reminded me that people who have never seen the Bras d'Or Lake, (and perhaps never will) care enough about its health and the welfare of its people to pay tens, hundreds, thousands of dollars to sustain it through our efforts. We have a valued responsibility.



(Bill Vokey on the left with Bruce Hatcher)

The BLBRA welcomes your comments or suggestions. Let us know if you do not wish to receive this newsletter. Address your comments or suggestions to: [m.eileencrosby@gmail.com](mailto:m.eileencrosby@gmail.com)