

What We Are Working On

We are:

- **planning** development of a connected walking trail around the Bras d'Or Lake
- **creating** citizen-based monitoring activities
- **collecting** data of the lake and its surroundings through a program called Bras d'Or Watch
- **providing** resources for teachers, children and parents to learn about our biosphere
- **promoting** conservation of the Biosphere's biodiversity
- **fostering** sustainable economic development within our Biosphere
- **working** with community groups to combine environmental learning with outdoor physical activity
- **informing** the public through digital mapping the location of community organizations, businesses, trails and other points of interest
- **collaborating** with other watershed stewardship initiatives



Bras d'Or Watch 2015

Who is Involved?

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association (BLBRA) is a voluntary organization composed of any interested person who wishes to join. There is a twenty member Board of Directors which represents the various geographic regions within the watershed. Meetings are held in various locations around the Lake throughout the year to provide opportunity for local input.

We strongly encourage you to consider joining the BLBRA. The BLBRA needs you!

WHY?

- We need your ideas.
- Both you and your community will benefit from your involvement.
- Our smaller rural communities are stronger when they assert themselves as a unified front.
- With the unified focus of conserving what we have and by practicing sustainable economic development, we help to strengthen the "heart" of Cape Breton.



Contact us:

**Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere
Reserve Association**

Web site: www.blbra.ca

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The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve

People & Nature Better Together



www.blbra.ca



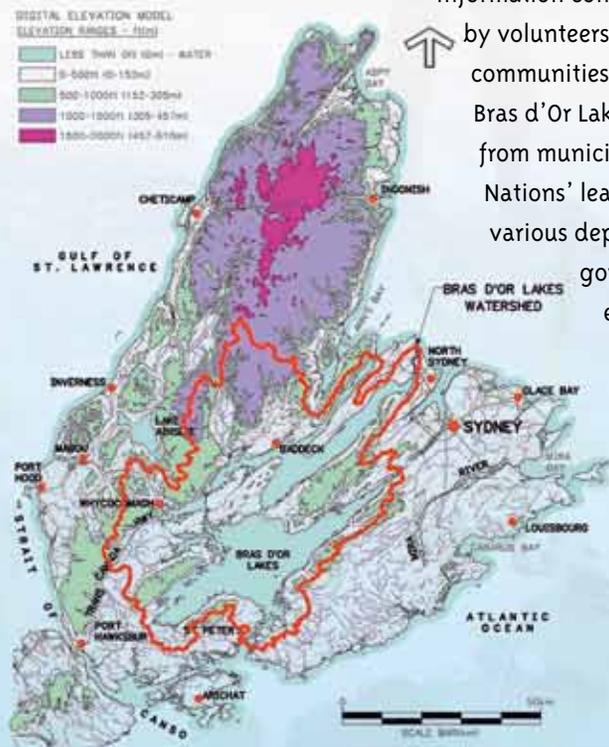
St. Patricks Channel

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere includes the Bras d'Or Lake and its watershed. It comprises some 3,600 km² in the centre of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada. (See map below) The Biosphere Reserve designation bestowed international recognition to this area and connected it to a world network of over 600 Biosphere Reserves in 120 countries.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared the Bras d'Or Lake Canada's 16th Biosphere Reserve in June, 2011. Securing this designation was the result of

information contributed by volunteers from communities around the Bras d'Or Lake; support from municipal and First Nations' leaders and various departments of government; and endorsement by the provincial and federal governments.



What is a Biosphere Reserve?

Biospheres are special regions around the world that have been recognized by UNESCO as examples of where people are trying to live in harmony with their environment. They are places where others may learn how to live more sustainably.

Biosphere Reserves **promote** a healthy:

- Environment
- Economy
- Society
- Culture

Through three Functions of:

- Conservation
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Logistic Support for teaching and research

A Biosphere Region...

- Is NOT a World Heritage Site
- Is NOT a new level of bureaucracy
- Does NOT create new regulations
- Does NOT create new protected areas
- Does NOT limit the rights of anyone

What are the Benefits of a Biosphere Designation?

Biosphere reserve status brings world-wide recognition to places where people are working in harmony with nature. For us it means the Bras d'Or Lake and its watershed are recognized as a good place to live, work and play.

Together with other Biospheres we are:

- sharing ways for nature to make life better for people and ways for people to make life better for nature
- combining traditional knowledge with science, education and culture for nature conservation
- applying successful "best practices" from other Biospheres that promote cultural, social, economic and ecological sustainability within the Bras d'Or Lake and its watershed
- proving that a sustainable way of living is not only possible but is already happening



Sustainable Forestry