

2015 Annual Report – Bras d’Or Lake Biosphere Reserve

The Bras d’Or Lake Biosphere Reserve is in its fourth year. There is an active group of 25-30 members who are involved in a variety of activities related to projects, governance, networking, and awareness building related to the promotion of the natural history of the area and how we can live more sustainably. Here are some highlights of our work over the past year and plans for 2015.



2014 Highlights

- Educational resource manual for Grade 4 science
- Master Plan for Signage throughout the Biosphere
- Launched the Bras d’Or Atlas – an on-line database for the Bras d’Or
- Walking Trail around the Bras d’Or – facilitated community meetings
- Organizational Matters:
 - AGM on Sustainable Farming - attracted >50 residents
 - Develop membership policies
 - Apply for Charitable Status with CRA
 - Trade mark our logo
- MOU with Parks Canada - produced a display for the Biosphere in the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, Baddeck

2015 Priorities [MAB 2015-2025 Objectives*]

- Educational Resource to be tested in schools this September [1,3]
- Develop trails and link with Trans Canada Trails [1,4]
- Expand coverage and promote use of the Biosphere Atlas [1,2,4]
- Maintain Social media presence through web site, Facebook and Twitter [1,2,3,4]
- Implement Biosphere signage further throughout the region [1,4]
- Produce “Bras d’Or Gems” for local papers [1,2,3,4]
- Publicly launch the display at the Bell Historic Site – June-2015 [1,3,4]
- 1st Annual Citizen-based Monitoring of the Biosphere – “Bras d’Or Watch” – July 2015 [1,3,4]
- Develop Social Enterprise capability [1,4]
- Expand the membership base for the Biosphere Reserve Association [1,2,3,4]

***MAB Objectives for 2015 – 2025 are to:**

1. Conserve Biodiversity, Maintain Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
2. Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Global Environmental Change, including Climate Change
3. Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development
4. Contribute to Building Thriving Societies, Economies, and Human Settlements