

The Bras d’Or Lake Biosphere Reserve was the new kid on the block back in 2011. Over the past 5 years the commitment by volunteers and the awareness of the designation grows steadily. There are both ongoing and new projects underway that promote the objectives of the MAB program of action. 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 2016.



2015 Highlights

- Educational resource manuals for Grade 4 science – Cultural perspectives emphasized
- Piloted a “20 hectare classroom” with Ski Ben Eoin and Cape Breton University
- Held the inaugural “Bras d’Or Watch” – July 16, 2015 – Citizen-Scientist liaison and monitoring of the watershed at six sites
- Walking Trail around the Bras d’Or – large scale maps distributed to get community feedback
- Display at the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site
- Organizational Matters:
 - AGM with discussion on: “The Value of a Small Woodlot”
 - Developing membership policies
 - Achieved Charitable Status with Canada Revenue Agency
 - Logo is now a registered trademark

2016 Priorities

- Educational Resource materials to be applied to the provincial curriculum
- Develop trails through mapping, signage and web access
- Expand coverage and promote use of the Biosphere Atlas
- Use the “Communication Toolkit” to expand awareness in the region
- Participate in the MAB “Proud to Share” Facebook program
- Maintain and update our display at the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site
- Produce “Bras d’Or Gems” for local papers
- 2nd Annual Citizen-based Monitoring of the Biosphere – “Bras d’Or Watch” – July 2016
- Work with partners – e.g., CEPI Conference - November; World Oceans Day activities – June 4-5, 2016; Community Events during Celtic Colours International Festival