



The Bras d’Or Lake Biosphere Reserve was 6 years into it’s 10-year mandate. There were 20 Directors on the voluntary board with 5 in the executive. ACAP, CBU, CEPI, the four Counties, the Bras d’Or Preservation Nature Trust and NSCC continue as active partners. Credit unions and banks continued to provide funding and lots of help was provided by other NGO’s.

An active group of members continued to be involved in a variety of activities related to projects, governance, networking, and awareness building related to the promotion of the natural environment and how we can live more sustainably. Here are some highlights of the work over 2017 and plans for 2018.

2017 Highlights

- Started planning for the Climate Change Adaptation Colloquium & Forum
- Created abstract for 2018 Community Conservation Research Network (CCRN)
- Moving ahead with the signage project with funding from ACOA and 35% by BLBRA contribution.
- Forest Monitoring project and pilot effort ongoing. Hike-the-Hill event held.
- Bras d’Or Watch 3rd annual event held at Grand Narrows, St. Peter’s and Eskasoni
- World’s Ocean Day booth provided by BLBRA volunteers.
- Completed two Capstone Trails projects with the Dalhousie’s College of Sustainability.
- Educational resources including the draft Geology resource, the ‘Shorebirds’, Plamu (salmon), tree identification, Acadian Forest and the Habitat Balance units being piloted or published.
- Conversation started on developing a new website and expanding our use of social media
- Support reached for educational tourism, aboriginal tourism opportunity, cultural tourism and winter tourism as a sustainable practice.
- Participated in CCUNESCO AGM and dialogue with neighbouring Biospheres

2018 Priorities

- Grow membership
- Update the website
- Continue the development of tourism
- Continue development of trails
- Continue the annual citizen science initiative - Bras d’Or Watch
- Continue to participate in annual events around the Lake that allow us to promote the three pillars of the Biosphere
- Maintain and update our display at the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site