

# Gully Lake to Nuttby Mountain Trail System 'Concept to Completion'

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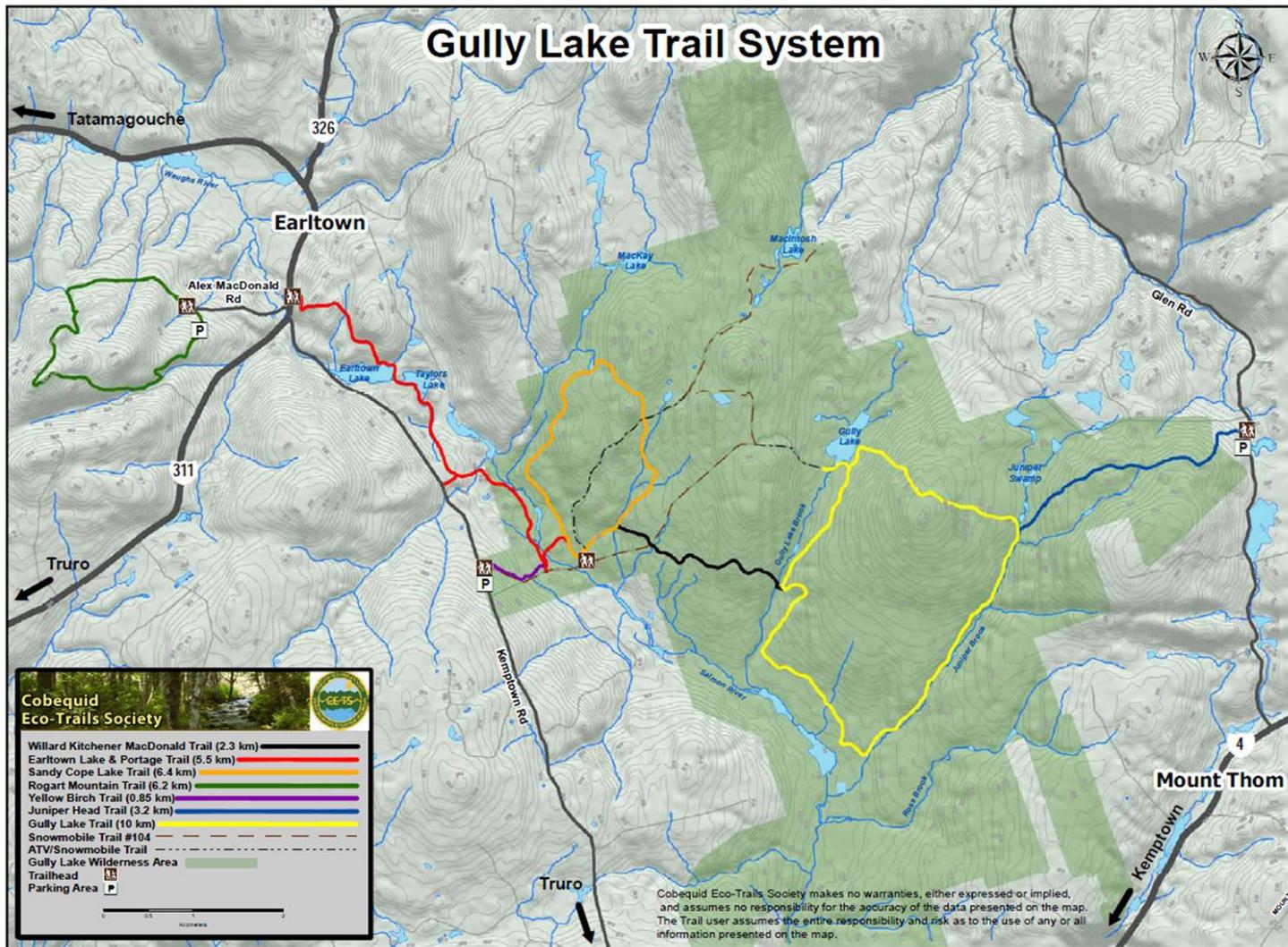
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# Scope

- Using the Gully Lake to Nuttby Mountain Trail System as an example, this presentation will look at how a trail system can be developed in partnership with community volunteers, a Municipality and the Province of NS
- Explore the relationships and partnerships of the community volunteers, private landowners, Municipality (Colchester), and the Province of NS in developing a premier wilderness trail

# Gully Lake to Nuttby Mountain Trail System



# Background and Timeline

- The concept of creating the Cape to Cape Trail (joining Cape George to Cape Chignecto) was beginning to take shape in the late 90's
- Colchester County began a trail strategy (2004) that included community consultation and development of a funding program to support capital development and maintenance (approved in 2005)
- Residents in Colchester expressed an interest in developing a long distance trail in the Municipality
- Volunteers formed Cobequid Eco-Trails Society with assistance from the County of Colchester and the Province of NS
- Planning began in the Gully Lake Wilderness Area and surrounding properties to development a trail system
- There is a process for developing trail in a Wilderness Area that is managed by Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) that was followed with help from NSE staff
- Private landowners were engaged throughout the planning and development process
- Cobequid Eco-Trails received a Letter of Agreement (Province of NS) and Lease Agreements (Private Landowners)
- The trail was built with public, private and volunteer resources over the course of two years
- It has become a year round trail destination and one of the premier trails in the Province



# Trail Planning Framework

## Trail must be planned to engender Stewardship

- Instilling a sense of ownership and responsibility with the public for stewardship of trails is a key ingredient of creating sustainable trails

## All trails affect our environment

- Trails are “wounds” – can cause erosion, altered drainage, siltation, quagmire
- Disturb wildlife, enable harvesting
- Affect other peoples use and enjoyment

## All Trails Change Over Time

- Trails must be designed in anticipation of changes to ensure that they will remain relatively stable with an appropriate maintenance schedule.

## Trails Support a Wide Variety of Visitor Contexts

- Trails are developed and managed to an approved standard specified visit values and experiences deemed suitable for the site.

## Every Step is an Experience

- Successful trails are designed to provide moment by moment experiences that bring users back again and again.
- The trail responds to the nuances of the site, the higher the value to the user.

# Liability Insurance, Legislation, and Risk Management

- The liability exposure on hiking trails for property owners, for other shared users, for supervising organizations, and for trail builders is limited by many means. It is limited through trail designers and builders liability insurance and through Trail builder group's general liability insurance.
- It is foremost limited by Nova Scotia Legislation and by risk management. Nova Scotia legislation indicates that "A user of a trail voluntarily assumes all risks that may be encountered on the trail when using a trail whether the person is on the trail or not." And that the only duty of the owner is "Not to create a danger with the deliberate intent of doing harm or damage to the person or the person's property." Risk management includes building to provincially accepted trail building codes, building under professional supervision, signage, trails inspection, and trail patrols. The success of these protections is evident by the lack of any history of litigation on the hiking trails of Nova Scotia in memory.