

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF LAKE WILLIAM TRAIL. DARTMOUTH. NOVA SCOTIA



The Dartmouth area of the Halifax Regional Municipality is blessed with over 30 lakes and waterways within the major urban area. The center point is the Shubenacadie lakes and river system, including Lake Banook, Lake MicMac, Lake Charles and Lake William with connecting rivers and smaller tributary lakes. In the mid-1800's, the system formed part of the historical Shubenacadie Canal.

OCL Group was retained to prepare environmental impact assessment report for the new hiking trail along the western side of Lake William. While much of the area is undeveloped and has not been subject to significant human development, there is a major railroad right-of-way along the proposed Trail alignment. There is also the issue of crossing five streams and three marshes. Construction of the hiking trail provides for connection to trails around Lakes Banook, MicMac and Charles and future connection to the Trans-Canada Trail system.

Project entailed preparing list of VEC's and evaluating construction and operational phases of the trail system. Critical features were preservation of extensive wetland areas and minimization of impacts to adjacent waterways. The EA was prepared to meet the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

Client: Shubenacadie Canal Commission