

Masstown to Wallace Blue Route Official Opened

By Linda Harrington

The province, in partnership with Bicycle Nova Scotia, opened the second segment of the Blue Route June 17th in Masstown. The segment stretches 55 kilometres from Masstown through the Wentworth Valley to Wallace.

"The Blue Route capitalizes on something Nova Scotia has in abundance - stunning scenery, ocean views, and picturesque towns and villages," said Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey, speaking on behalf of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Minister Geoff MacLellan. "The Blue Route has the potential to benefit our economy and increase Nova Scotia's attractiveness to cycling tourists."

The Blue Route plan is to connect the entire province through a network of bicycle routes, using trails and roads. Eventually there will be more than 3,000 kilometres of bike-friendly routes connecting one end of Nova Scotia to the other.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to support Bicycle Nova Scotia as they work towards their vision of creating 3,000 kilometres of connecting, standardized trail," said Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. "The Blue Route is guaranteed to become a source of pride for Nova Scotia and a shining example of what can be accomplished when all levels of government collaborate."

"As the Blue Route develops, it will support local active transportation, recreation, and cycling tourism opportunities for visitors," said Ben Buckwold, director of Bikeways and Blue Route Implementation of Bicycle Nova Scotia. "It can become a tremendous asset for residents, communities and local businesses across Nova Scotia."

The Blue Route will become an integral part of daily life in communities across Nova Scotia, providing infrastructure for bicyclists of all ages and abilities. It will offer different riding options, including hard-surfaced trails, quiet and scenic secondary highways, paved-shoulder bike routes and urban bikeways.

"We're excited to see the opening of the Blue Route in our community," said Masstown



Ben Buckwold, director of Bikeways and Blue Route Implementation of Bicycle Nova Scotia and MLA Karen Casey display one of the t-shirts promoting the Blue Route website and commitment to establishing 3,000 kilometres of bike-friendly routes. (Harrington Photo)



Daisy Roberts of Hub Cycle chats with Ben Buckwold, director of Bikeways and Blue Route Implementation of Bicycle Nova Scotia about future plans for the Blue Route. (Harrington Photo)



About a dozen cyclists turned out for the official opening of the second segment of the Blue Route June 17th in Masstown. Emcee Terry Farrell, MLA for Cumberland North, welcomed guests and introduced guest speakers Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North, Ben Buckwold, Director of Bikeways and Blue Route Implementation of Bicycle Nova Scotia and Ron Smith, Old Fletcher's Farm Limited (A division of Masstown Market). (Harrington Photo)

Market's Laurie Jennings. "We look forward to welcoming more visitors by bike and offering services they seek such as local food to fuel them on their adventures by bike." Masstown Market has offered to make extended parking space available for Blue Route cyclists across the road at Captain Cob's Corn Maze.

Over a dozen cyclists attended the official opening in Masstown before heading out

for their first ride on the Province's newest Blue Route.

In August 2015, the province opened the first segment of the Blue Route that takes riders from Pictou to East Mountain (Bible Hill). The entire route will be completed over a number of years, with new segments added as nearby roads and trails are developed or upgraded.

For more information on the Blue Route, go to: <http://blueroute.ca/>

Education is designed to help students do better and that includes supporting regular attendance at school through a province-wide student attendance policy. Recent information shows as many as 28 per cent of all students missed more than 16 days of school in 2014-15. That percentage rose to 37 per cent for students in junior high-middle school.

"By developing good attendance habits students will be in a better position to achieve success at school, in life, and in the workplace," said Ms. Casey.

Feedback will be received through an online survey, focus groups, and stakeholder consultations. The survey will be open until July 8. Based on that information, the department will develop a new policy that will be implemented in the fall. The questionnaire is available at www.novascotia.ca/education

The Action Plan for

Attendance Questionnaire closes July 8

Even though school has ceased for summer holidays, parents have until July 8th to participate in a "feed Back" survey on how to improve student attendance. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is asking for feedback from teachers, parents, students, administrators and employers about key issues and ideas to help improve overall attendance.

"Our teachers and schools do an exceptional job to support students and their families, but there is a need for improvement when it comes to attendance," said Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey.

"We all have a role to play to better understand the complexities around why some students are missing valuable class time. The new policy will provide a consistent approach in schools and be

based on research and what Nova Scotians tell us in response to the discussion paper."

The department has already started discussing issues around attendance with teachers and administrators and with the Minister's Advisory Council on Student Issues.

The key issues include: looking at why students miss school; the best ways to improve attendance; considering incentives; supports and consequences; what is working in our schools and research on best practices elsewhere; the responsibilities of parents, schools, school boards, community partners, and students; the importance of flexibility, based on the student's individual circumstances and the professional judgment of teachers and equity and fairness in applying an attendance policy.

55 Km Bike Trail – Masstown to Wallace opened

Cyclists can now venture onto a 55 Km bicycle trail which stretches 55 kilometres from Masstown through the Wentworth Valley to Wallace in Cumberland County. In partnership with Bicycle Nova Scotia, Karen Casey, representing the province opened the second segment of the Blue Route on June 17 at ceremonies held at Masstown Market.

"The Blue Route capitalizes on something Nova Scotia has in abundance - stunning scenery, ocean views, and picturesque towns and villages," said Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey, on behalf of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Minister Geoff MacLellan. "The Blue Route has the potential to benefit our economy and increase Nova Scotia's attractiveness to cycling tourists."

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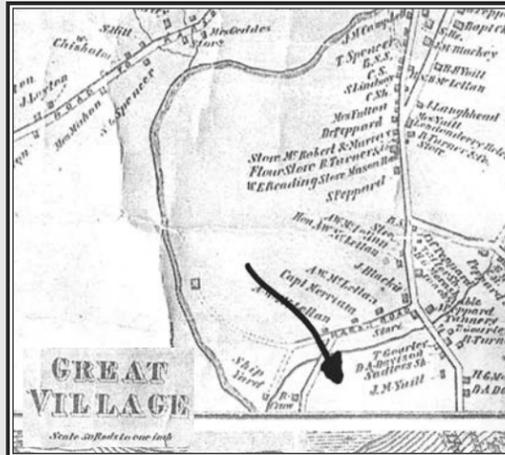
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The Deadline for the August issue of
The Shoreline
 Journal is July 19
 VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.theshorelinejournal.com

Historic Sites

"GRAVEL PIT AT GREAT VILLAGE"



Highway # 2 in West Colchester, which runs along the shore from Glenholme to Parrsboro, was paved in the mid 1930's. The road between Glenholme and Five Islands was paved using gravel from a pit at Great Village, located, by the arrow on map #302, on Wharf Road, near the Great Village Shipyard of the 19th century.

The N.S. Department of Highways hired Dufferin Construction, of Ontario to do the work and they set up an operation on the site of a heavy gravel deposit on Wharf Road, complete with a crusher operation and asphalt plant, supported by a bunkhouse and cooking facility on site. By 1938 the contract was completed and the equipment was dismantled and shipped back to Ontario by rail from Londonderry Station. The abandoned pit soon filled with water and became the local skating rink, and in the spring, when the water was deep, a place where small boys could float a plank raft.

Today, the site is part of Joe Cooper's "Balamore Farm", the high banks have been re-contoured and a pump house has been added to move the pit water to the adjacent farmland for irrigation. Picture #1 shows the crusher and asphalt plant, picture # 2 shows asphalt being laid in Lower Five Islands. This picture is courtesy of Merton Eagles of Great Village. Picture # 1 is part of the Archives collection of Great Village photos.

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The Shoreline Journal, in collaboration with the Colchester Historical Society Archives, have inaugurated an ongoing feature utilizing a combination of the digital "A. F. Church Maps" to pinpoint the circa 1875 location of a Colchester site of historical importance, and connect it to an archival photograph of that site, in that frame.