Highway 104 at Antigonish
WETLANDS

Why is wetland compensation necessary?

Nova Scotia has a "no net loss" policy regarding wetlands. Due to the foreseen disturbance of wetlands in the twinning of Highway 104, the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) will create, restore and enhance wetlands near the Antigonish Landing.

During the Summer of 2011, NSTIR and its consulting team have updated the plans for wetland compensation at the Antigonish Landing. An addendum document has recently been submitted to NS Environment, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), NS Natural Resources, and the Canadian Wildlife Service in order to provide more information and detailed plans for the proposed construction work in late 2011 and 2012 (*see pdf file on the CLC website*).

What compensation will be provided and when?

The compensation project involves seven components:

a) Crown purchase and protection of 11.3 ha of wetlands and 13.7 ha of riparian buffer adjacent to the Antigonish Wildlife Management Area (purchase complete);

b) Bank stabilization work by Habitat Unlimited and DFO on the West River (completed in August 2010; approximately 2000 tonnes along a 300 m-long section of river bank);

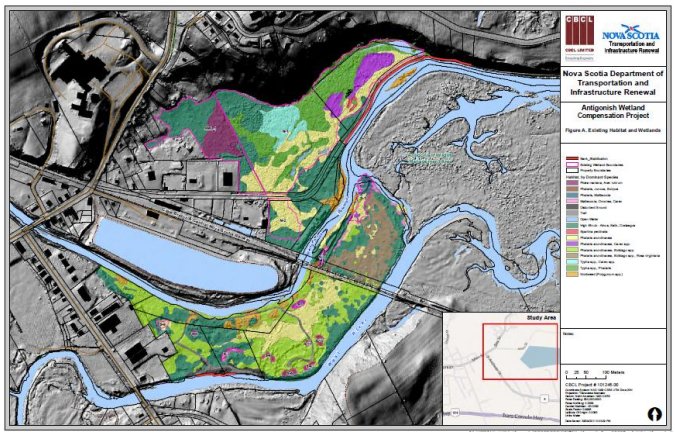
c) Bank stabilization work by NSTIR on the Rights River (3500 tonnes along a 500 m-long section of the Antigonish Landing Trail – completed in October 2011);

d) Restoration of ~10.8 ha of tidally-influenced wetland habitat via the installation of three culverts, stream channels and ponds (*North Site* adjacent to the Landing Trail; anticipated work in Fall 2011 to Summer 2012);

e) Creation and enhancement of ~4.8 ha of wetland habitat (*South Site* off St. Andrews Street between the Rights and West Rivers and the Cape Breton & Central Nova Scotia Railway; anticipated construction in Summer 2012).

f) Development of a new 765 m-long walking trail with wetland-interpretive signs and viewing spots, and renovations to 300 m of the original trail along the Rights River (anticipated construction in Summer 2012).

g) Invasive Alien Plant Program being conducted by the NS Agricultural College (long-term applied research program to determine optimal control of Japanese knotweed; work initiated in 2010 and continuing to at least 2015).



In addition to the many environmental benefits, this compensation project will provide new opportunities to the Public to (1) experience and learn about a variety of wetland habitats, (2) foster a greater appreciation for the range of ecological services provided by wetlands, and (3) become advocates for wetland conservation and stewardship.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact:

Bob Pett, Ph.D.
NSTIR, 1672 Granville St., Halifax, NS, B3J 2N2
Phone: (902) 424-4082;
E-mail: pettrj@gov.ns.ca

You can also visit the Community Liaison Committee website at: **www.104antigonish.ca**