

A Brief History of the Rail Line in Shelburne

Starting from as far back as 1868 there has been talk of the Railway in Shelburne. However, it wasn't until the early 1900's that anyone saw anything happening in the town. The first regular run of the train through Shelburne on January 9, 1907 would put an end to 38 years of anticipation. The line, which ran from Halifax through to Yarmouth, was named the Halifax and South Western Railway (H & SW). This line was a standard gauge line that was not built for speed or comfort. The ride from Halifax to Yarmouth would take 11 hours and would not prove to be the smoothest ride ever. "Hellish Slow and Wobbly" was the appropriate tag given to the rail line. The name, Halifax and South Western Railway, was the name the line would carry until the 1950's although it had been taken over by the Canadian National Railway (CNR) in 1919. This line was used for the transportation of passengers, mail, fish, boats and various other items. The last mail run was in 1967 and the last passenger run was in 1969. In 1984 the ties and rails were taken up. The station was demolished in January 1985. After the abandonment of the rail line, the "tracks" were used as an unofficial "walking trail" by locals.

The idea of developing the abandoned rail line in the Town, for recreational purposes, had been considered since as early as 1991. In April of 1997 the Shelburne County Trails Association was formed. Discussion began within the Town of Shelburne Parks and Recreation Commission to develop the abandoned line into a linear park. On May 20, 1998 a meeting was held between the Shelburne County Trails Association, Department of Natural Resources and the Town of Shelburne Parks and Recreation Commission. At that meeting it was decided that the Parks and Recreation Department would develop the 2.5 km section of the abandoned rail line from King Street to Roseway River as a linear park. The Shelburne County Trails Association developed the section of the rail line from Roseway River to Birchtown. The Municipality of the District of Shelburne now maintains that section.



First Engine of the Halifax and Southwestern (H & SW) Railway at Shelburne



Train Station – Shelburne



Last train leaving Town

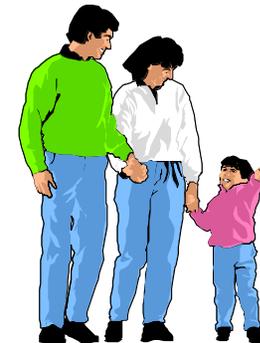


Water Tower – Black's Brook

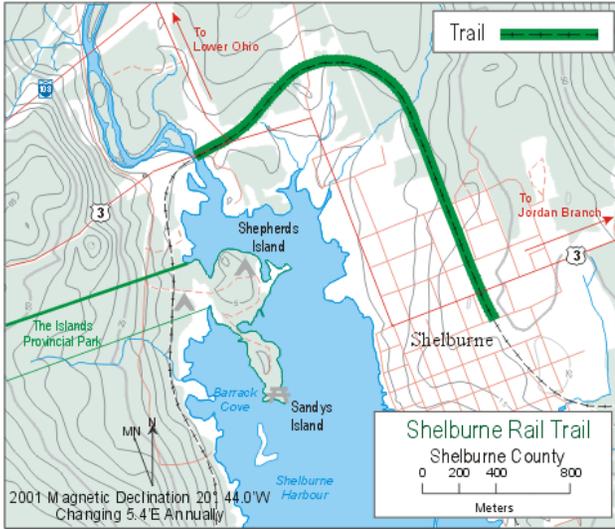
Rail Line Trail



Shelburne Nova Scotia



“a little history.. a lot of nature”



Trail Distance Chart

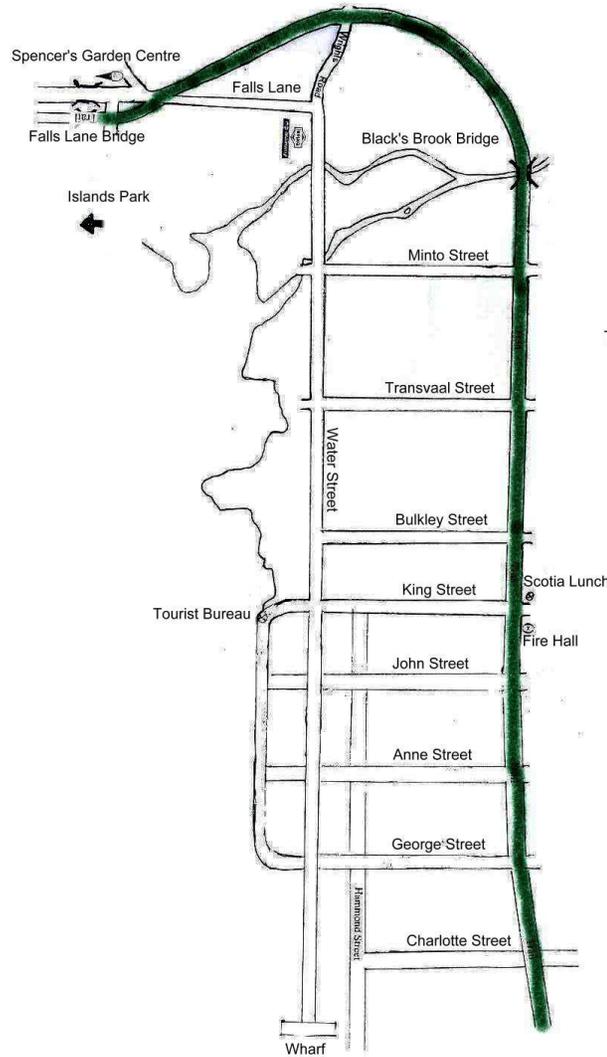
- King Street to Falls Lane Bridge - 2.5 km
- Bulkley Street Loop - 1.2 km*
- Transvaal Street Loop - 2.2 km*
- Minto Street Loop - 2.5 km*
- Wrights Road Loop - 4.0 km*
- Falls Lane Loop - 5.0 km*

Distance is measured from Trail Head at King Street by the Fire Hall/Community Centre.

* Loops are measured starting at Trail Head to the street and returning to the Trail Head via Water Street.

For further information contact the
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Typical trail sections

