

**Town of Bird Cove & St. Barbe Development Association
Undertaking to develop Hiking and ATV Trails at St. Margaret’s Bay**

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1. NAME OF UNDERTAKING

Bird Cove - St. Margaret's Bay Hiking and ATV Trails

2. PROPONENT

Town of Bird Cove
67 Michael's Drive
Bird Cove, NL A0K 1L0

and

St. Barbe Development Association
P. O. Box 120
Plum Point, NL A0K 4A0

Principal Contact Person For Purposes of Environmental Assessment:

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Executive Manager
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3. THE UNDERTAKING

(i) Nature of the Undertaking:

Development of Hiking Trail and ATV Trail

(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need For The Undertaking:

Our region is growing in dependance upon the Tourism Industry to provide economic opportunities. Important markets within the industry are family travellers, adventure tourists, history buffs and eco-tourists. The proposed development will appeal to all of these groups. We

propose to develop two adjacent trails, one for hiking and the second for ATVs which will consist of clearing brush where necessary, levelling ground, adding appropriate fill to support activity, prepare small clearings with picnic tables and bench seating.

Bird Cove has the remains of more than 4,700 years of archaeological history, dating back to the Maritime Archaic Indians. A portion of the trail to be developed follows routes the Indians may have used in their time. St. Margaret's Bay was a winter housing site within the Newfoundland tradition of families migrating between communities from Winter to Summer to be near the resources they needed to survive.

The region the trails pass through has a rich history. An important aspect of developing the trails is to *protect* the archaeological record of the area. ATVs and hikers currently use the area and are having a negative impact on the environment and the archaeological sites. By designating an area and developing trails, we hope to limit the misuse of environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.

The trail will begin in the Town of Bird Cove, near a trail system already developed to control access to archaeological sites. Existing unauthorized ATV trails will be re-defined and enhanced to allow for safe ATV traffic, with an adjacent, but separate, foot path for use by hikers. The Trail will follow the shoreline, at the required distance from the high water mark. At the bottom of St. Margaret's Bay the trail will branch, the ATV trail will continue on to the highway (route 430) where it will meet up with forest access roads. The hiking trail will continue along St. Margaret's Bay to meet up with trails put in place by the Association to access the Winter Housing Heritage Site.

The development will encourage greater, more environmentally friendly, use, which will bring greater economic benefits to our region, as well as, sustaining it for future generations. The trails and designated areas will help restrict the movement of people and reduce the danger of the area being affected by man's incursion into the wilderness. There are numerous sensitive areas that we want to divert

people from and protect while allowing enjoyment of such a beautiful natural resource.

4. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

(i) Geographic Location:

The Bird Cove is located approximately at **51° 03' 07.13" N, 56° 55' 52.31" W**, in St. Barbe electoral district.

Crown Lands Application:

[139800, Appendix A](#) Hiking and ATV trails

[139803, Appendix B](#) Hiking trails

The First Trail ([Appendix A](#)) will start at the bottom of the Bird Cove on the western side of the Town of Bird Cove toward the Strait at 51°2' 56.97", 56°56' 21.74", in a south easterly direction, cross an isthmus approximately 200m, then follow the shoreline for approximately 5,830m, it then goes overland, away from the shore toward route 430 for approximately 2,550m. At the highway users can connect to existing trails.

The Second Trail ([Appendix B](#)) will start at approximately 51°1' 35.19" N 56°53' 58" W, the point where the first trail diverges toward the highway. A look out & rest stop area will be developed at the point where the two trails meet. The second trail will follow the shoreline in a south westerly direction for approximately 6,700m to connect to existing trails, of the Association, at St. Margaret's Bay.

(ii) Physical Features:

- ▶ No major features connected with proposal.
- ▶ Area to be affected is St. Margaret's Bay near shoreline.
- ▶ Area adjacent to bay is forested and the ground has varying levels of moisture content (boggy in places).
- ▶ Artist's conceptual drawing not available.
- ▶ The trail will be a combination of natural walking surface with some boardwalk sections in areas too wet to use fabric mat and sand. Where the trails meet brooks or other bodies of water,

they will be skirted to avoid contact. A bridge may be necessary in one location to reduce impact from contact with users. The surface of the ATV trail will have to be supplemented with material with suitable drainage.

- ▶ The walking surface of the trail will be approximately one (1) metre in width, any boarded areas will be constructed close to the ground. The surface of the ATV trail will be two point five (2.5) metres wide.
- ▶ Existing footprint will be used wherever possible for trails, lookouts and rest stops. There is a network of trails being used by locals for ATVs and hiking, little new surface area will be impacted by the development of these trails.

(iii) Construction:

- ▶ Construction expected to require a four (4) month period.
- ▶ Proposed start date is October 2012.
- ▶ No potential resource conflicts.
- ▶ No potential pollutants, work will be completed using manual tools, hammer, handsaw, shovels, etc. Materials used will be natural and able to be absorbed into the landscape.
- ▶ No parking areas will be required.
- ▶ Distance markers to be placed every 500m to guide users.

(iv) Operation:

- ▶ Hiking trail with some boardwalk sections
- ▶ Permanent facility
- ▶ No pollutants during operation period
- ▶ No services to be installed such as water, septic or electrical
- ▶ No outdoor toilets or lighting
- ▶ No garbage receptacles, signs to promote take back what bring
- ▶ Signage to be placed appropriate to: denote distances, identify location of rest stops, to encourage conservation and to inform users to not litter
- ▶ Interpretative signage to be place at lookouts and rest stops

(v) Occupation:

The project is expected to employ one (1) carpenter supervisor and

twelve (12) construction assistants as well as contracted services for bringing materials and in some incidents, mechanical spreading.

(vi) Project related documents

None

5. APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING

A Crown Lands Application has been submitted to the Dept. of Environment and Conservation in Corner Brook requesting a licence to occupy the land on which the proposed trails would be constructed.

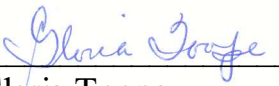
6. SCHEDULE

The St. Barbe Development Association is seeking approval by end of September 2012. Project start up date is scheduled for Early October of the same year. Construction may have to be paused with the onset of winter weather conditions and resumed in the spring.


7. FUNDING

Funds are in process of being approved in support of the proposed undertaking by the Department of Advanced Skills and Education, Innovation Business and Rural Development and Town of Bird Cove contingent upon approval of the Land Application.

DATE: August 28, 2012

SIGNATURE: 
Gloria Toope
Executive Manager -SBDA

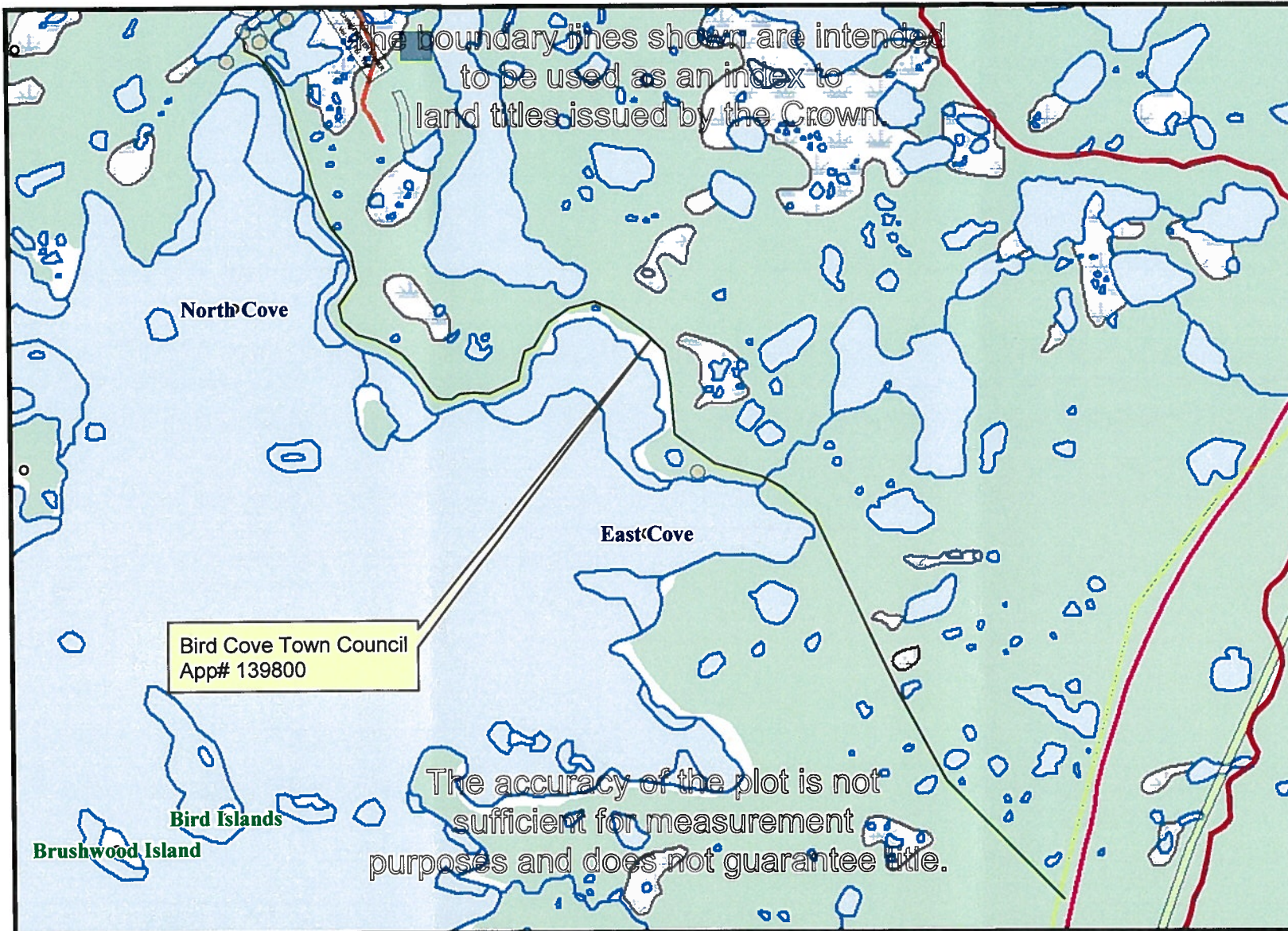
DATE: August 28, 2012

SIGNATURE: 
Richard May
Mayor Town of Bird Cove

APPENDIX A Crown Lands Application 139800

ATV and hiking trails

Government of Newfoundland & Labrador Department of Environment & Conservation



NOTE TO USERS

The information on this map was compiled from land surveys registered in the Crown Lands Registry.

Since the Registry does not contain information on all land ownership within the Province, the information depicted cannot be considered complete.

The boundary lines shown are intended to be used as an index to land titles issued by the Crown. The accuracy of the plot is not sufficient for measurement purposes and does not guarantee title.

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For inquiries please contact a Regional Lands Office.
Corner Brook - 637-2387
Gander - 256-1400
Goose Bay - 896-2488
St. John's - 729-2654
Clarenville - 466-4074

Scale 1:30,000

Compiled on Nov 15, 2011

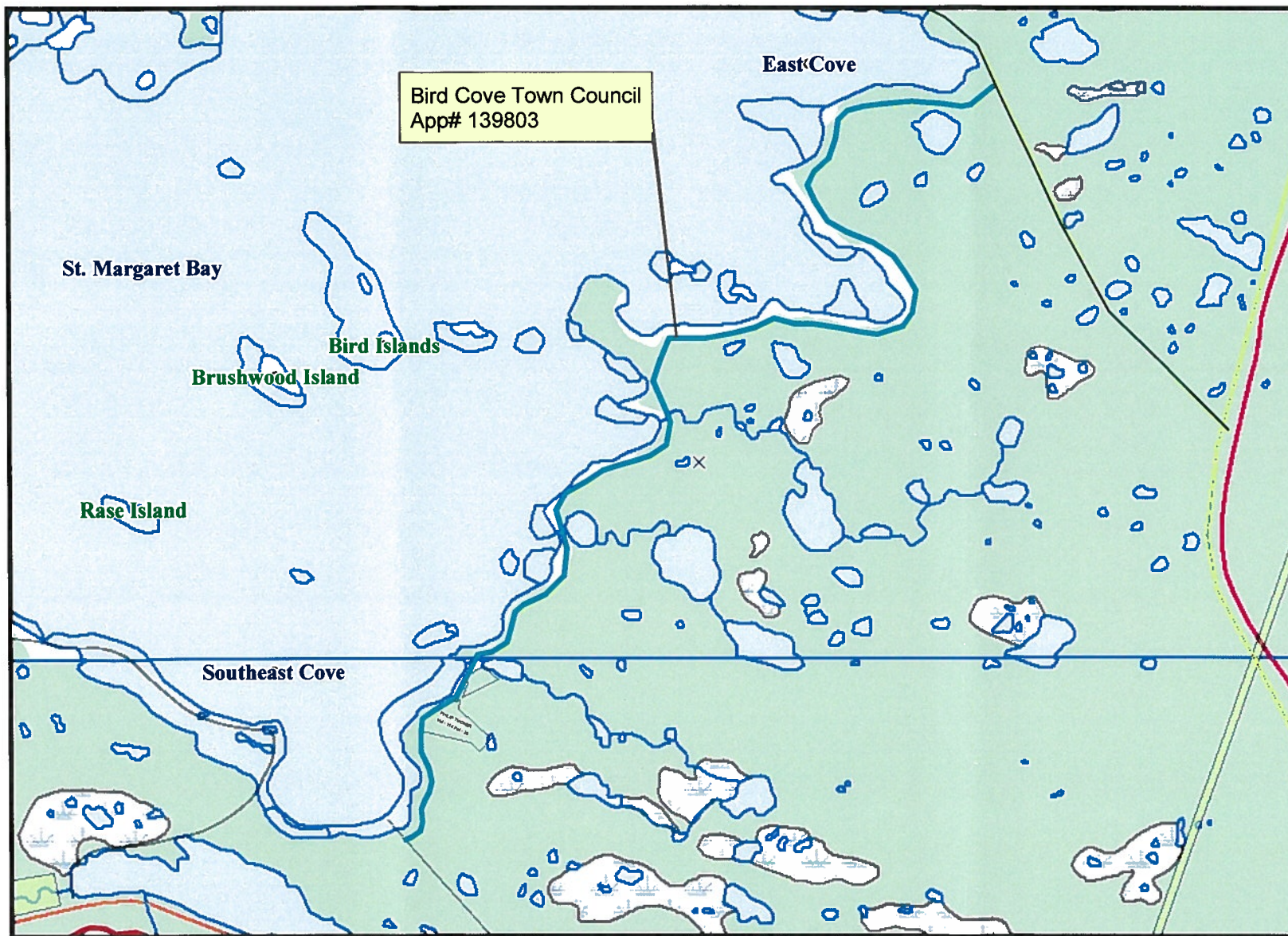


Crown Lands Division



APPENDIX B **Crown Lands Application 139803**

Government of Newfoundland & Labrador Department of Environment & Conservation



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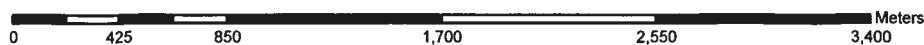
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