



*An ocean of  
opportunity*

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF BARRINGTON  
*Beaches Strategy*





The Municipality of Barrington's Beaches Strategy is an encompassing strategy that makes clear the need to manage our beautiful beaches in consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders. The MODB identified our beaches as one of their key action items in its Strategic Plan under Promotion and Support of the Tourism Industry. Council has committed \$250,000 over the next 5 years to support the improvement and development of its beaches.

Beaches are an important part of life not only within the Municipality of Barrington, but in Nova Scotia as a whole. Tourism Nova Scotia identifies the seacoast as one of its biggest tourism strengths, people choose to come to Nova Scotia to explore our seacoast, beaches and ocean. Beaches provide many recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors. Boating, fishing, swimming, surfing, walking, beachcombing, bird-watching, playing and sunbathing are among the common activities our beachgoers enjoy. Many of our beaches provide unique habitats for a variety of plants and wildlife, including species at risk that depend on our beaches for their survival. Our beaches provide protection to residents living near the ocean by acting as a buffer against the high winds and waves of powerful storms. Finally, beaches also play an important role in the economy, as spending time at the beach is among the fastest-growing nature-based outdoor activities for visitors to Nova Scotia.

The MODB Beaches Strategy includes five strategic outcomes. These five outcomes compliment one another and addressing them as equal priorities will achieve the strategy's vision: Our beaches are welcoming, accessible, clean, safe and healthy, today and for future generations to come.

#### **Our five strategic outcomes for our beaches are:**

- » **Everyone can experience a day at the beach;**
- » **Our beaches are vibrant, healthy and clean;**
- » **Our infrastructure compliments the beach and nature of the beach and is respected & maintained;**
- » **Our beaches are easy to find and help to tell our history, heritage and habitat; and**
- » **There is collaborative stewardship of our beaches.**





The Municipality of Barrington's beaches extend from Baccaro to Cape Sable Island and play an important role for our residents and visitors alike. We understand the need for them to be maintained, protected and where necessary, enhanced to ensure future generations are able to enjoy them.

Some of our beaches are included in the international network of Important Bird Areas and are particularly special as they provide critical nesting habitat for endangered Piping Plovers or are important stopover sites for migrating shorebirds during the late summer and fall.

Our Property Services team currently manages the amenities provided at our beaches, except for Sand Hills Provincial Park which is maintained by the Department of Lands & Forestry. Our operational or maintenance work includes providing and maintaining garbage bins & picnic tables, organizing the installation of port-a-potties during the summer months, maintaining the boardwalk/gazebo at North East Point beach, general lawn/vegetation maintenance where necessary, installation of signage and maintenance of parking lots where necessary/required.

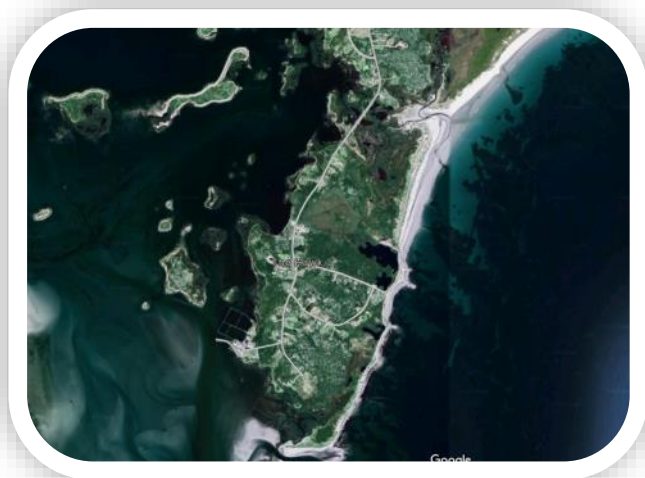
The Municipality also supports and participates on the Shelburne County Beach Stewardship committee which is committed to educating residents and visitors on the importance of healthy and safe beaches.



*Our beaches are welcoming,  
accessible, clean, safe and healthy,  
today and for future generations to come.*



# Our Beaches



## The Hawk Beach,

**Cape Sable Island** GPS: Lat 43.415975 - Lon -65.614321

The Hawk Beach is located on the most southerly tip of Nova Scotia. Walk this white sandy beach and explore the 1500 year old drowned forest exposed at low tide, a broad area of tree stumps still rooted in the original soil.

As part of the Cape Sable Important Bird Area (IBA) The Hawk is one of the best birding areas in Nova Scotia. From the beach you can view the Cape Sable Lighthouse, the tallest lighthouse in the Maritimes, standing at 101 feet tall.

### Current Status

Parking	No	Beach Name Signage	No - Destroyed by storm
Washrooms	No	Other Signage	Yes (currently not installed)
Change Rooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
Garbage Bins	No	Boardwalk Access	Yes (but privately installed)



## Daniel's Head (South Side) Beach,

**Cape Sable Island** GPS: Lat 43.513249 Lon -65.608507

Walk for miles on this white sandy beach. Like all our beaches, a great backdrop to your special day. A place to collect sea glass, swim or just relax and enjoy the sights and sounds! Another spot for that birding enthusiast.

### Current Status

Parking	Yes	Beach Name Signage	Yes
Washrooms	Yes (Port-a Pottie)	Other Signage	Yes
Change Rooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
Garbage Bins	Yes	Boardwalk Access	Yes



### Stoney Island Beach,

**Cape Sable Island** GPS: Lat 43.463583 Lat -65.577334

One of the more secluded beaches on Cape Sable Island. When you walk along the Stoney Island beach you will feel the warm silvery powdered sand between your toes. Another spot for swimming, walking, picnics or soothing the day away!

#### Current Status

Parking	No	Beach Name Signage	No
Washrooms	No (Vandalized in past)	Other Signage	Yes
Change Rooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
Garbage Bins	Yes (no recycle bin)	Boardwalk Access	No



### North East Point Beach,

**Cape Sable Island Causeway**

GPS: Lat 43.513249 Lon -65.608507

Located across the Causeway from the center of Barrington Passage. This beach is a local hot spot for swimming, soaking in the sun, playing in the white sand or catching a boat race or two! Stroll along the boardwalk, have a picnic in the gazebo or watch the sailboats and dorys in the Bay.

#### Current Status

Parking	Yes	Beach Name Signage	Yes
Washrooms	Yes (Port-a-potties)	Other Signage	Yes
Change Rooms	No	Picnic Tables	Yes (Gazebo)
Garbage Bins	Yes	Boardwalk Access	Yes (Floating Dock access)
Other	Wi-Fi Hotspot & Power Access		



### **Sandhills Provincial Park,**

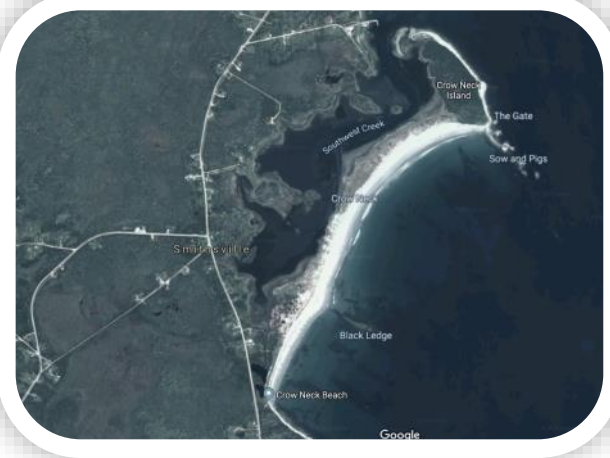
**Villagedale** GPS: Lat 43.530850 Lon -65.554485

Sandhills Provincial Park features a 2.5KM white sand beach. At low tide there are wide sand flats that are warmed by the sun, when the tide comes back in the water is warmed that makes this a unique beach for swimming and snorkeling. A spectacular sand dune system backs the beach area.

This provincial park offers the explorer beach combing, searching for sand dollars, deep sea clamming (in season), kite flying and so much more! Bring the family for the day, pack a lunch that can be enjoyed in the large picnic area. Sit back and soak up the fresh sea air!

#### **Current Status**

Parking	Yes	Beach Name Signage	Yes (Provincial)
Washrooms	Yes	Other Signage	Yes (Provincial )
Change Rooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
Garbage Bins	Yes	Boardwalk Access	Yes
Other	Outdoor Shower & Taps		



### **Crow Neck Beach,**

**Baccaro** GPS: Lat 43.468787 Lon -65.470762

**The property is owned by the Province, with the provision that it is protected as a Nature Reserve, and will also be protected through conservation by the Nature Trust and the Province.**

Crow Neck, located in Baccaro, is another beach for bird watching, beach combing or taking a nice leisurely stroll next to the Atlantic Ocean. Baccaro is the oldest place name in Nova Scotia. Just around the corner is the Baccaro Lighthouse; rebuilt in 1934 this 45 foot tall lighthouse is land accessible.

#### **Current Status**

Parking	No	Beach Name Signage	No
Washrooms	No	Other Signage	No
Change Rooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
Garbage Bins	No	Boardwalk Access	No



# Strategy Vision

The five strategic outcomes for the MODB's Beaches Strategy are complimentary. Being able to deliver on these outcomes as equal priorities will achieve the strategy's vision:

***Our beaches are welcoming, accessible, clean, safe and healthy, today and for future generations to come.***

## STRATEGIC OUTCOMES



### **Everyone can enjoy a Day at the Beach**

Our residents & visitors of all ages, abilities and backgrounds are able to enjoy the beach to explore, unwind & play on.



### **Our beaches are vibrant, healthy and clean.**

Our residents and visitors are able to enjoy clean stretches of white sand beaches and help to maintain the cleanliness of them.



### **Our infrastructure compliments the beach and nature of the beach and is respected & maintained**

Our infrastructure is planned, managed and maintained with the best interests of the beach, stakeholders, residents & visitors alike in mind.



### **Our beaches are easy to find and help to tell our history, heritage & habitat.**

We install proper signage both at the beaches and wayfinding signage to guide our visitors to our beaches. We install stewardship signs and interpretive panels to help educate & inform.



### **There is collaborative stewardship of our beaches**

All levels of government, key stakeholders, the community and visitors who benefit from the Municipality's beaches contribute to their management.





## Everyone can enjoy a day at the beach

With a growing, ageing and increasingly diverse population, it's very important to manage our beach environment so that everyone can experience a day at the beach.

For the Municipality of Barrington, this will mean

- » People of all abilities can enjoy a day at the beach.  
The beaches are open and accessible to everyone - whether you are on foot or in a wheelchair, you will be able to enjoy our beautiful beaches.
- » Residents and visitors will be able to enjoy a day at the beach swimming, surfing, body boarding, playing, sunbathing, birdwatching, photography or attending events



### Action Items

#### 1. Deliver infrastructure that will support beach access and use

We will conduct an assessment of existing infrastructure that supports people's access to our beaches. This will include parking, amenities, access points and equipment that will support better access to our beaches for everyone. We will maintain and further develop infrastructure on the appropriate beaches where and when necessary. We will conduct community engagement/surveys on beach experiences.



## Our beaches are vibrant, healthy and clean

The value of a natural beach environment is often overlooked and provides significant social and economic benefits in addition to beach ecological values. The Municipality of Barrington is fortunate to have 6 naturally beautiful, white sand beaches. Maintaining these vibrant, healthy and clean beaches is important

For the Municipality of Barrington, this will mean

- » Reducing the flow of traffic over sand dunes, protecting them from negative impacts
- » Encouraging and educating people on the importance of litter free beaches
- » Organizing beach clean ups at least once a year
- » Working with local groups and organizations to help protect our beaches and wildlife
- » Residents and visitors will be attracted to our world class white sand beaches



### Action Items

#### 2. Monitor and improve the vibrancy of our beaches

We will work with local groups, residents and organizations who are actively engaged on our beaches to help maintain the vibrancy and health of our beaches for both visitors and wildlife.

#### 3. Maintain clean beaches

We will ensure adequate garbage and recycling bins at each beach where deemed necessary. We will encourage residents to pick up after themselves and their pets when using our beaches. We will acknowledge the volunteers who take their time to clean our local beaches. We will organize a yearly beach clean up day.







## **Our infrastructure compliments the beach and nature of the beach and is respected and maintained**

Each one of our beaches are unique and therefore should be managed with specific characteristics in mind. Not every beach needs infrastructure in place to improve the quality of the beach experience.

For the Municipality of Barrington, this will mean

- » Working with various levels of government, community groups, residents to support and analyze various types of infrastructure development and implementation on and around our beaches
- » Consider each beach individually and how it's used, promoted and managed and develop them according to their specific characteristics in mind
- » Maintain and improve the user experience at our beaches

### **Action Items**

**4. Develop a Beaches Resource Team who will work together with the best interests of our beaches, residents, wildlife and visitors in mind.**

This will be made up of various government organizations, including Department of Natural Resources, Bird Studies Canada, Shelburne County Beach Stewardship Committee, council, staff and residents.

**5. Fund, support and maintain infrastructure development at our beaches, that support our overall vision and outcomes of our beach strategy.**

## Our beaches are easy to find and help to tell our history, heritage and habitat

Enabling our residents and visitors to easily find our beaches will help make the user experience that much better. Sharing a bit of our story adds to that experience and helps to educate people on their surroundings and the habitat that share our beaches. Through the use of QR Codes, we can connect visitors and residents to relevant information, videos, resources (wildlife, flora, fauna) that pertain to each beach and surrounding area.

For the Municipality of Barrington, this will mean

- » Better signage that will allow residents and visitors to find our beaches
- » Interpretive panels that will help educate and inspire
- » Improve the overall beach experience, including Beach Logs where visitors can leave their comments, suggestion and experiences they have had on our beaches.



### Action Items

6. Develop a signage strategy that incorporates wayfinding signage, beach signage and interpretive panels when and where required, which is consistent with our branding. This will work to incorporate the Municipal brand, logo and colours creating consistency with other signage within the Municipality.
7. Work with local historical societies/groups, government organizations and Bird Studies Canada for relevant photos and information for interpretive panels
8. Install and maintain all signage and interpretive panels.







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## There is a collaborative stewardship of our beaches

The beaches within the Municipality of Barrington are enjoyed by and provide benefits to many people. Residents, visitors, businesses, government/non profit organizations and wildlife either directly or indirectly benefit from our beautiful white sand beaches. It is important that we work together to ensure they are maintained and healthy for generations to come.

For the Municipality of Barrington, this will mean

- » Everyone understands the benefits to having vibrant, clean, healthy and accessible beaches
- » There is investment in managing our beaches from various levels of government and those who benefit from the beaches within the Municipality.
- » Research and community engagement activities help to keep everyone informed and have a more balanced approach to decision making
- » Stakeholders are informed and actively participate in actions required to manage, protect and maintain our beaches and those who use them.

### Action Items

#### **9. Develop collaborations and partnerships that support our beaches strategy**

We will partner with other levels of government, community members and organizations that support our strategy and approach to our beach management. We will seek funding from various sources that will help to implement our plan.

#### **10. Actively engage local stakeholders in regards to our beaches strategy**

We will support and promote a joint stewardship for our beaches. We will provide opportunities for open communication and engagement with our residents about protecting our beaches and the wildlife that call them home. We will continue to educate users of our beaches on best stewardship practices.

## The Local Wish List

**Keeping in mind that each one of our beaches are unique, they should be managed with specific characteristics in mind. Not every beach needs permanent infrastructure in place to improve the quality of the beach experience.**

Here is some of the feedback received from local residents on how we could create a better beach experience for everyone:

- » Accessibility - both for those with disabilities and just better access to our beaches
  - » Better parking areas
  - » Washroom facilities
  - » Change Room Facilities
  - » Outside fresh water tap - helpful for cleaning off sand after you are done at the beach
  - » Picnic Tables
  - » Bicycle Racks
  - » Adequate Garbage and Recycle Bins
  - » Camping facilities at Sand Hills Provincial Park
  - » Better signage
  - » Cleaner Beaches
  - » Boardwalks
  - » Seasonal buildings that can be rented out for tourism providers, food vendors, artisans, etc.
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# Overview of Key Actions

The key actions of the Beaches Strategy are laid out over the next 4 years. Key implementation actions identified in the strategy will be addressed through available core funding laid out by council and successful application through various funding programs. The strategy will assist staff and council in capital planning and annual work processes. At the end of year four, we will reassess the Strategy to align with the strategic planning and goals of council

## 2019

ACTION ITEMS
Purchase land at Stoney Island Beach
Develop parking area at Stoney Island Beach

## 2020

ACTION ITEMS
Structured engagement sessions - online surveys and community engagement sessions
Assessment of existing infrastructure and develop a plan for future infrastructure
Evaluation of our beaches and finding one that will work the best for accessibility
Develop collaborations and partnerships that support our beach strategy
Work with local groups, residents and organizations to organize yearly beach clean ups
Provide waste bins where appropriate and provide better opportunities to help keep our beaches clean
Recruit and Facilitate a Beach Resource Team
Actively engage stakeholders, residents to support and promote stewardship of our beaches
Develop signage and directional signage for the beaches that work with our branding.

## 2021

### ACTION ITEMS

- Work with local groups, residents and organizations to organize yearly beach clean up
- Seek funding opportunities where needed to help build new infrastructure for our beaches
- Develop collaborations and partnerships that support our beach strategy
- Actively engage stakeholders, residents to support and promote stewardship of our beaches
- Develop infrastructure as assessed and planned in previous years

## 2022

### ACTION ITEMS

- Work with local groups, residents and organizations to organize yearly beach clean up
- Design and develop Interpretive Panels where they are deemed necessary
- Install Beach Logs at designated beaches
- Include QR Codes on signage that will allow visitors and residents to access information on our beaches through the use of technology
- Develop appropriate infrastructure as assessed and planned in previous year
- Seek funding opportunities where needed to help build new infrastructure for our beaches
- Actively engage stakeholders, residents to support and promote stewardship of our beaches
- Reassess Beach Strategy to align with strategic planning and goals of council







Successful implementation of the Municipality of Barrington Beaches Strategy will be indicated by cleaner, healthy, vibrant, accessible beaches that will allow everyone, including wildlife to enjoy a day at the beach.

Improving the status of our beaches is a shared responsibility that requires action from more than just the Municipal government. Individual residents, community organizations, different levels of government also have an important advocacy and stewardship roles to play. We must remain respectful of the natural environmental roles our beaches play and keep in mind the unique users on all levels. Each strategic outcome in our plan compliment one another and all play an important role in the vitality and health of our beaches for our generation and into the future.

*Life is Better  
at the Beach*







*An ocean of  
opportunity*

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