

Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails

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The BLT Trail begins in Beechville adjacent the Coca Cola plant in the Lakeside Industrial Park and continues for 9.25 kilometres terminating at Silver Birch Drive in Hubley. The trail proceeds at that point under the management of the St. Margarets Bay Area Rails to Trails Committee.

The trail is covered with crusher dust, compacted and treated with TEMBEC an environmental friendly sealer which keeps the dust to a minimum. The Cranberry Run section has not been covered with crusher dust but has been graded and treated and is walkable. Parking is available at the Trailhead in the Lakeside Industrial Park. Currently additional parking is available on the public highways and streets adjacent to the trail. Additional parking will be developed as funds become available.

The Trail is "multi use" and as such ATVs have access to the Trail. The speed limit for these vehicles is 20km per hour and this is strictly enforced. Bikers, joggers, walkers and ATV operators are encouraged to show respect for other users of the trail. The BLT Trail Committee hopes you enjoy your experience on our trail and encourage you to send us your comments and suggestions. Following is an itinerary starting at the eastern trailhead.

Blue Jay Way

This first leg of the BLT takes you through a corridor of birch, maple, spruce, fir and tamarack. After about 1km the trail follows the shore of Governor Lake providing a number of scenic vistas and an opportunity to enjoy the peace and tranquility associated with a wilderness experience. The total distance of *Blue Jay Way* is 1.75km and should take the average hiker about 40 minutes to cover at a leisurely pace.

Six Mile Falls

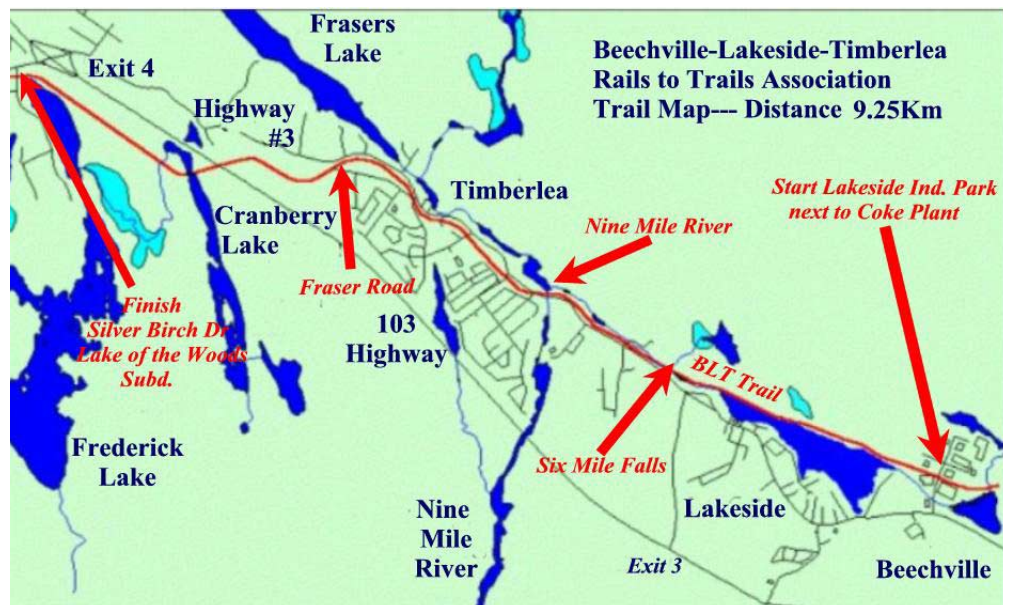
The second leg of your journey begins at the foot of the lake and is known as *Six Mile Falls*. You follow Governor Brook as you continue your journey and within 500 meters you will see a path to your left, which will allow you to cross the brook and walk through the church parking lot and get a coffee or other refreshments across the street. Continuing on you will see Six Mile Falls on your right about 500 m up the trail. Those interested in geology may want to examine the rocks around the falls, as the area has considerable amounts of amethyst contained within the rock formation. There is a rest area in front of the falls for those who wish to sit and relax. The trail carries on with Governor Brook on one side and the outflow of Six Mile Falls on the other. You will soon come to a small rail bridge. It is known as 6.2 mile bridge, a hold-over from the days when the rail line was in use. As you make your way along the trail you will notice the traffic from highway #3 which runs parallel to the trail until you get half-way through Timberlea. Next you will arrive at the Railway Bridge over the Nine-Mile River, which is an opportunity to stop and admire the view from the bridge. This brings you to the end of Six Mile Falls section; you have now traveled 4km and it should have taken about 1:15 min. since beginning your journey.

Fraser's Mill Walk

As you cross the highway you enter *Fraser's Mill Walk*. You will note there is a convenience store just past the beginning of the walk; your last chance for refreshments. This portion of the trail travels very close to the back yards of the residents. Approximately 1 km from where you crossed the highway there is a millpond on your right, just across Highway #3. This was the location of The Fraser's mill, the last water-powered sawmill in Halifax county, for which the walk is named. After crossing the last street that intersects the trail, you come to a quiet section of trail lined with oak, birch, maple and several varieties of softwood. Once you reach the tower at the end of Fraser's Road, you begin the last leg of your adventure. You have now traveled 6km and have been walking for 2hrs.

Cranberry Run

Cranberry Run is the most rural section of the trail. It affords the hiker an opportunity to get away from the highway and enjoy all of the wonders nature has to offer. You will travel through a bog area while enjoying the beauty of Cranberry Lake. You will see the large bog at Cranberry Lake and all of the good things associated with such an ecologically sensitive area. At the juncture by Cranberry Lake there is an ATV trail to your left and for those looking for an additional adventure you can follow this trail back to Pot Lake where you will see outstanding views and perhaps a moose! This hike to Pot Lake should take about an hour and a half. If you continue on the BLT Trail you are about 20 minutes from the trailhead on the western end of Cranberry Run.



Note: Lakeside Ind. Park, is approx. 1.5km past Bayers Lake Park entrance on #3 highway