

Natural Resources



Director View

Nova Scotia Challenges and Opportunities

October 5, 2010



Challenges in Nova Scotia today

- Maintaining priority with shrinking resources
- Fiscal constraints
- Succession planning
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Climate and the changing fire season
- Changing expectations



Recent Fire Events

Changing the fire landscape

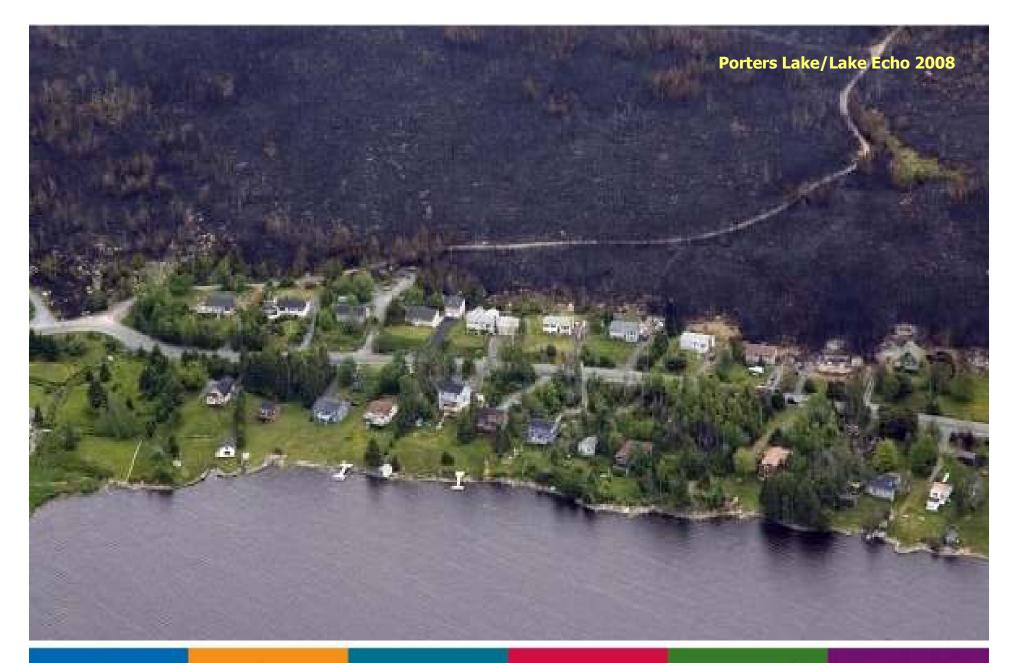
Porters Lake/Lake Echo Fire (2008)

- Spryfield Fire (2009)











Porters Lake/Lake Echo Fire

- Almost 2000 hectares
- 5000 people evacuated over 3 days
- 2 homes destroyed
- Within the Halifax Regional Municipality
- Wildland fire in their own backyard
- CIFFC Resources (NB & NL)



Traditional Response

















Spryfield Fire

- Approximately 800 hectares
- About 1500 people evacuated over 1 day
- 10 homes destroyed
- Within the Halifax Regional Municipality Core
- Wildland fire on their back door step
- CIFFC Resources (NB)



Different Response

- Two significant fires in consecutive years
- Questions on response
- Media intensity increased
- Thank you, but.....
 - Challenge against HRFE by insurance companies



Weather Events

- Hurricane Juan
- White Juan
- Flooding

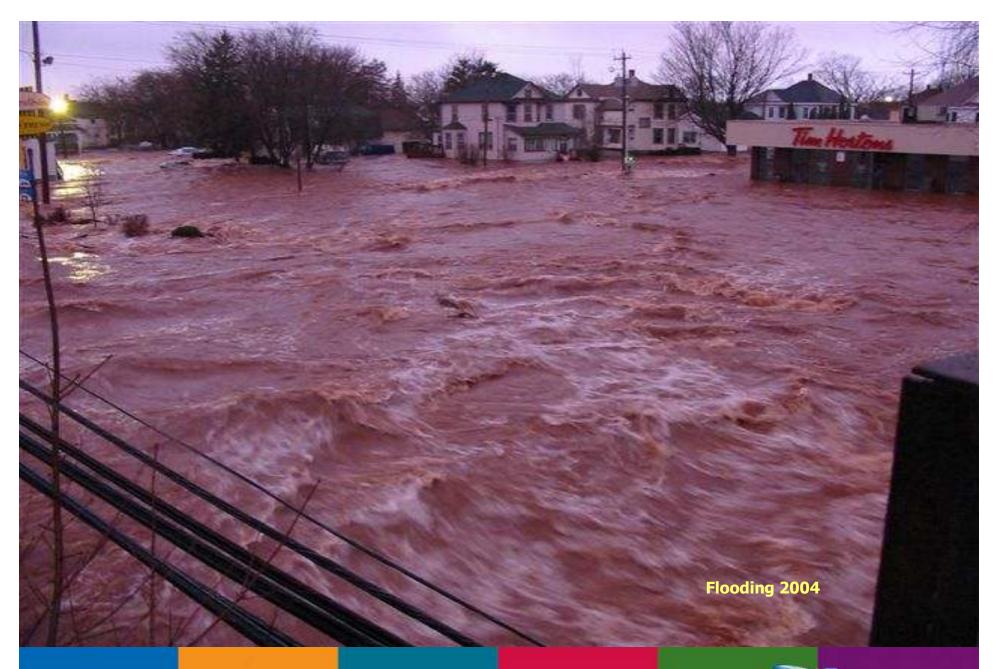












NOVA SCOTIA

Forest Strategy

- Three phase approach
 - Public Input
 - Panels of Expertise
 - Strategy Writing
- 2000 participants
- 600 submissions
- Third party involvement



What was said

- Status Quo No Longer Acceptable
- 5 new citizen values:
 - Sustainability
 - Diversity
 - Collaboration
 - Transparency
 - Informed Decision-Making



What will the new Wildland Fire Organization look like?

Today New



Exchange

Detection

Training

Equipment

Aviation

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Strategic

Expanded Partnerships

Climate Change

Global Dependence

Greater Expectations

Environmental Mgmt

Litigation

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Opportunities & Challenges on the Horizon

- Have to learn to 'think outside the fire'
- 'Strategic' is the new order of business
- Think nationally; Act locally
- Re-investment in people
- Consider All risk capabilities



Opportunities & Challenges on the Horizon

- Increasing complexity
- Expanded and different partnerships
- Prevention needs more respect
- Litigation and liability
- Continuous learning; after action reviews





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