



April 5, 2024

FROM:

The Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy

TO:

Minister Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables, NS

CC:

Premier Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia

Minister Tim Halman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, NS

Dear Premier Houston,

The KCC is submitting this letter as a formal complaint against the construction of a boardwalk currently taking place within the protected area of Kingsburg Beach, which extends between the Atlantic Ocean and the freshwater of Kingsburg Pond.

We note that there are currently two permits in place within this protected area: one for a Boardwalk and Bunkie and another for a Single Unit Dwelling. **KCC therefore also requests a moratorium** on any development beyond the boardwalk within the ecologically sensitive protected lands on Kingsburg Beach until this matter has been investigated and clarified to the satisfaction of the Riverport District communities by both the provincial and municipal offices that issued the permits.

I. THE PROTECTED STATUS OF KINGSBURG BEACH

The Department of Natural Resources protected the Kingsburg Beach between 1993-1995 under the Beaches Act:

KINGSBURG BEACH DESIGNATION

Made Under Subsection 5(1) of the Beaches Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 32, O.I.C. 93-253 (March 9, 1993), N.S. Reg. 52/93; O.I.C. 95-17 (January 3, 1995), N.S. Reg. 5/95

II. ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY OF KINGSBURG BEACH, 1995

by Christopher A. Miller, Ph.D., Conservation Environmentalist, Nova Scotia

4.0: REPORT SUMMARY

Kingsburg Beach can be considered environmentally sensitive for the following reasons:

- It is a dynamic system with sedimentary environments prone to rapid changes.
- Rising sea levels are forcing Kingsburg Beach to migrate landwards over time.
- Sediment impoverishment from onshore sources requires beach, dune, and backshore sediments to be recycled for Kingsburg Beach to avoid submergence.
- Kingsburg Beach contains a rich diversity of geomorphic features including beach ridges, primary dunes, secondary dunes, inter-dunal troughs, washovers, lagoons, deltaic deposits, backbarrier ponds, and backbarrier wetlands.
- Kingsburg Beach is one of only about 20 sites in Nova Scotia that contains prograded beach ridges.

- Kingsburg Pond is an important area for migratory birds and represents one of only a few documented cases in Nova Scotia where a water body has switched from marine to fresh water under rising sea-level conditions.
 - Kingsburg Beach contains an abundance of ecosystems (12 distinct habitat types) and species (at least 155 vascular plant species, 57 bird species, 12 mammal species, 4 amphibian species, and 1 reptilian species).
 - The protrusion of Kingsburg Peninsula from the rest of the mainland coast makes the Kingsburg Beach area an important focal point and staging area for birds flying along the coast.
 - Kingsburg Beach contains one of only five known inter-dunal swale wetlands in Nova Scotia, perhaps the rarest wetland type in the province.
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As documented above, this area is extremely susceptible to climate change and sea level rise. It makes no sense to be granting building permits within this environmentally sensitive area. If this construction is allowed to take place, there will assuredly be others lined up to do the same (there are an estimated 35 other possible building lots within this area).

When Natural Resources designated Kingsburg Beach protected, the intention was that no further development take place on this fragile land. Given the urgent need to counter the destructive effects of climate change, **the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy contends that the reasons for protecting Kingsburg Beach are even more important today than they were then.**

We would appreciate confirmation of receipt of our request and complaint, as well as the opportunity to meet with appropriate representatives for further clarification on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Janet Peace, Chair, Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy
Robert Buckley, Past Chair, Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy
Marilyn Congdon, Founding Member Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy