

## Smart cities protect green spaces

We have a tremendous opportunity here to protect an important part of our city's rapidly disappearing natural heritage. Let's do the smart thing and save this wilderness jewel at our doorsteps. For ourselves... and for future generations.

## Government Commitments

Originating with the international commitments Canada made at the Rio Earth summit, Nova Scotia has made significant commitments to conserve native biodiversity and to protect wilderness areas. So far, those commitments have not been met. Some solid progress has been made in recent years, but much more still needs to be done.

## Take Action!

**Call or write the Premier, the Mayor your local MLA and HRM councillor. Tell them you want the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Area protected from new roads and development and left instead for nature and for people to have and enjoy.**

***Do it now before it is too late!***

"Open space planning is the foundation of the Regional Planning process. Protecting this land will help preserve the very assets that make HRM a special place to live."

*HRM Regional Plan Fall 2004"*

"If we don't continue on with the (Protected Areas) program, then future generations of Nova Scotians will suffer a tremendous loss."

*Deputy Premier Ron Russell, Daily News, Feb. 2003*

"My government also knows... that Nova Scotia's economic progress cannot come at any price and that we have a responsibility to future generations to protect more of Nova Scotia's most valuable lands."

*Premier John Hamm, Speech From The Throne, Sept. 2003*

(The Government of N.S. will) "continue to work towards a comprehensive system of protected areas."

*Provincial Government Green Plan  
"Towards A Sustainable Environment", June 2003*

"Nova Scotia is lagging behind in its commitment to complete a representative network of protected areas. More needs to be done, and time is of the essence. Nova Scotia has very little intact wilderness to choose from, so you have to save the best of what's left quickly before it's gone."

*Monte Hummel, President  
World Wildlife Fund Canada, Nov. 2003*

For more information visit:

**[www.publicland.ca](http://www.publicland.ca)**

contact:

**[birchcovelakes@yahoo.ca](mailto:birchcovelakes@yahoo.ca)**



With support from the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation

PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER

# Blue Mountain- Birch Cove Lakes Proposed Wilderness Area

## Help Save this Important Wilderness Area!



*Loons, Lakes & Moose  
in our Midst... and  
on The Road to Oblivion.*



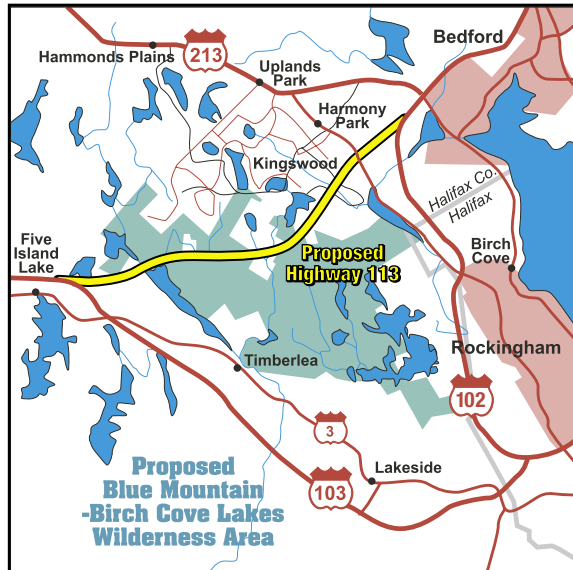
# Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area

## A natural treasure on Halifax's doorstep

The Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes area is a remarkable piece of publicly owned Crown wilderness land at the outskirts of the city of Halifax. Lying just behind the Bayers Lake Business Park and across highway 102 from Clayton Park, it stretches between Kingswood subdivision and Timberlea. It boasts an amazing, rugged and wild terrain comprised of a vast system of lakes, with undisturbed backlands, forests, important wetlands, and an abundance of wildlife.

Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose still roam these hills, loons, deer and beavers live here and osprey can often be seen circling in the sky. Walk up the 500' summit of Blue Mountain and treat yourself to a spectacular 360° panorama of the entire wilderness area, and beyond. From here you can enjoy the incredible views of Halifax, Dartmouth, the Bedford Basin and the rolling hills of the Chebucto Peninsula in the distance.

Twenty-two undeveloped lakes occur here, just waiting to be explored by canoe or on foot. The water is clean and cool and perfect for swimming in summer and skating in winter. Wildflowers and wild berries grow in profusion. Here it's never hard to find an isolated beach, a point of land, or perched boulder to claim for yourself. And it's all a mere bus ride away from Atlantic Canada's largest urban area. A natural sanctuary in the middle of a growing city. A place worth preserving for ourselves and for future generations of Haligonians.



### *Under Immediate Threat! Urban Sprawl and Highway 113*

The Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes wilderness area is unfortunately threatened as suburban sprawl continues to chip away at this wilderness from its edges, one development after the next. Unbelievably, our government has done very little to control this degradation and in many ways has been actively encouraging it. The province has sold off parcels of public land here to private developers and is planning next to ram a 4-lane highway right through the very heart of the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes wilderness area. The purpose of this proposed new highway is simply to shave off 8 minutes of driving time for commuters traveling between Highways 102 and 103. This will fragment and destroy the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes wilderness area forever, denying future Haligonians the opportunity of experiencing its natural beauty and discovering its ecological treasures. If it's not protected, it will be gone... soon.

### *It won't last if we don't protect it!*

"Blue Mountain - Birch Cove is exactly the kind of ecological gift we need to preserve if our city is to continue to be seen as a clean, green, healthy place to live, work and play. Our natural areas are part of our quality of life. We cannot afford to lose them."

**Raymond Plourde,**  
Wilderness Coordinator Ecology Action Centre

"The Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes area is just minutes from the homes and apartments of Clayton Park. Those who live nearby have seen first hand how quickly neighbourhoods emerge from forests. We love our community and we recognize that a tremendous opportunity exists to create a protected wilderness area in easy reach of so many."

**Diana Whalen, MLA, Halifax Clayton Park**

"The last thing we need in the HRM is another road through such a pristine area. Highway #113 makes absolutely no sense to me. Our natural areas must remain our treasures. We must protect them."

**Bill Estabrooks, MLA, Timberlea-Prospect**

### *Outstanding Natural Values*

- Headwaters for the Nine Mile River and Kearney Lake - Paper Mill Lake watersheds.
- Important habitat and wilderness corridor for Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose population.
- Old-growth forest stands, with native hemlock, red spruce, white pine, and yellow birch.
- Provincially-significant wetlands, with examples of bogs, fens, swamps, marshes.
- Diverse aquatic systems with frontage on twenty-two distinct lakes.
- Outstanding low-impact outdoor recreational opportunities including hiking, canoeing, bird watching, fishing, swimming and skating.
- Blue Mountain summit with 360° panoramic view of Metropolitan Halifax.
- Interesting geologic features, including large perched boulders (ice age deposits) and deep granite fissures.