

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Meeting

Land Development Borders Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area

Halifax Regional Council and Staff have entered into an agreement with Banc Developments for the sale of **180 acres of Public Lands** in the Bayers Lake Business Park. **The negotiations are being held in secret.** The Public will not know the details until the negotiations and sale are complete.



The northeast section of this development, approximately 37 acres, **borders the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area (BMBCL WA)**, which includes a **Trailhead into Susies Lake**. Originating in Fairview, popular use of this trail can be traced back to 1933. This Trailhead also contains an unique Granite Rock Plateau that serves as a natural entrance to the BMBCL WA and Susies Lake. The openness of this **Granite Rock Plateau would also provide an ideal Picnic Park** for HRM residents and a mid-day escape for employees of the Bayers Lake Business Park.

In addition, **there is no legal access to this section of the BMBCL WA.** Access can only be obtained by crossing the private property of Kent Building Supplies. Should this development proceed as planned, the public may never obtain legal access.



As a Board Member of the Halifax North West Trails Association (HNWTA), Bruce E Smith, will be making a visual presentation on September 13 at 7p. at the Keshen Goodman Library on Lacewood Drive (*across from the Canada Games Centre*).

This is not an anti-development meeting, however, it is the objective of the HNWTA, *and we hope that of the General Public*, to convince Halifax Regional Council and Staff to **set aside this unique parcel of 37 acres** – a small part of the overall development – **to ensure everyone will have legal and easy access** to this section of the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area and Susies Lake.

The HNWTA will also introduce the audience to the future plans for the extension of the trails in Halifax West. The floor will open to your questions upon completion of each presentation.

A preliminary plan for the development is available at:

http://www.halifax.ca/business_parks/BayersDevPhase1.html.

A large version of the plan can no longer be located on the HRM website.

Please contact besmith@eastlink.ca for a large version of the planned development.

We look forward to your participation on:

September 13 - 7p
Keshen Goodman Library
Thomas Raddall Room
Lacewood Drive, Halifax.
(across from the Canada Games Centre)

Please contact Bruce E Smith at besmith@eastlink.ca or 902 209 2010, for further information and media interviews.