

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Meeting

Update and Review

**Bayers Lake Business Park
Expansion and the 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 of the development proposal until the negotiations and sale are complete.

The northern section of the planned development **borders the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area (BMBCL WA)** which includes several **trailheads into Susie's Lake**. The popular use of these trails can be traced back to the 1930's and contain unique granite plateaus serving as natural entrances to the BMBCL WA and Susie's Lake.

Over the past year, the Halifax North West Trails Association (HNWTA) has been working with our government representatives, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and the HRM Planning Staff, as well as other stakeholders. According to the latest development plan, the HNWTA has been successful in securing the easterly border area of concern. However, the westerly section and the lands north of the watershed ridgeline remain unprotected.

Lately, our attempts to communicate with HRM Planning staff have been unsuccessful and this has us concerned.

The HNWTA is hosting this public meeting to bring the general public, interested and concerned individuals up-to-date on the present situation regarding access to the Wilderness Area and designation of the Regional Park.

HNWTA Board Member Bruce E. Smith will host this meeting and will make a visual presentation on the current situation as we understand it. A representative from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment will be in attendance and has been asked to speak. Bob McDonald, HNWTA chair, will review the Birch Cove Lakes Watershed boundary and the Watershed Study currently underway. A question and answer session will conclude the meeting.

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 HRM Staff to **protect the borders and the lake water quality within the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area (BMBCL WA).**

Bayers Lake Business Park and Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park. Report to Council, Dec 2011, is available online. Please note pages 7-9.

<http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/111213cai01.pdf>

For additional information, please contact Bruce E. Smith besmith@eastlink.ca or Bob McDonald at bobathome@eastlink.ca

Sponsored by the Halifax North West Trails Association

We look forward to your participation:

April 16 – 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Keshen Goodman Library
Thomas Raddall Room
Lacewood Drive, Halifax.
(across from the Canada Games Centre)