



## Report from the Steering Committee

November 23, 2008

CHEBUCTO WILDERNESS COALITION

### Master Plan for the Chebucto Wilderness Commons

As you may know, HRM has engaged a private consulting group, Environmental Design and Management (EDM), to develop a Master Plan for the western half of the Western Common, an area that is now being referred to as the Wilderness Common. The lands in question are largely owned by HRM between Highways 103 and 333 (the Prospect Road) extending west from the Ragged Lake Business Park to the area around Nine Mile River.

According to HRM's request, the Master Plan is to provide

- a framework for guiding the protection, development, management, and operation activities within the identified area,
- a long-term, comprehensive, ecologically sustainable vision for permitted and complementary land uses,
- a context for more effective governance of this area,
- an ongoing cooperative dialogue between HRM, adjacent land owners, and users of this area to uphold the guiding principles and achieve the objectives established in the Master Plan, and
- opportunities for public input and consultation.

Three Open Houses are scheduled for the near future for input and consultation.

Thursday, Nov 27 (7-9 PM)

1. Brookside Junior High School, 2239 Prospect Road
2. Keshen Goodman Library, 330 Lacewood, Clayton Park

Wednesday, Dec. 3 (7-9 PM)

3. Lakeside Fire Hall, 26 Myra Rd., Timberlea

**The CWC Steering Committee strongly encourages your participation in these open houses.**



EDM will be working closely throughout its development of the Master Plan with the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee (WCWAC), a committee formed in the spring of 2007 to advise HRM on the development of Western Common lands.

As the Crown land that the CWC wishes to protect under the Wilderness Areas Protection Act abuts the Western Common Wilderness land, the CWC Steering Committee regards its supporting members as stakeholders in the development of the Master Plan. While the CWC Steering Committee has not been approached directly by EDM for input, it has written to the Western Commons Wilderness Advisory Committee identifying a number of points that it would like to see addressed in the Master Plan and has offered to meet with and support the Advisory Committee in the development of the Master Plan. A copy of the letter is attached.

We will continue to keep you informed of the Wilderness Commons planning activities.

Attachment: Letter of November 19, 2008 to the Western Commons Wilderness Advisory Committee