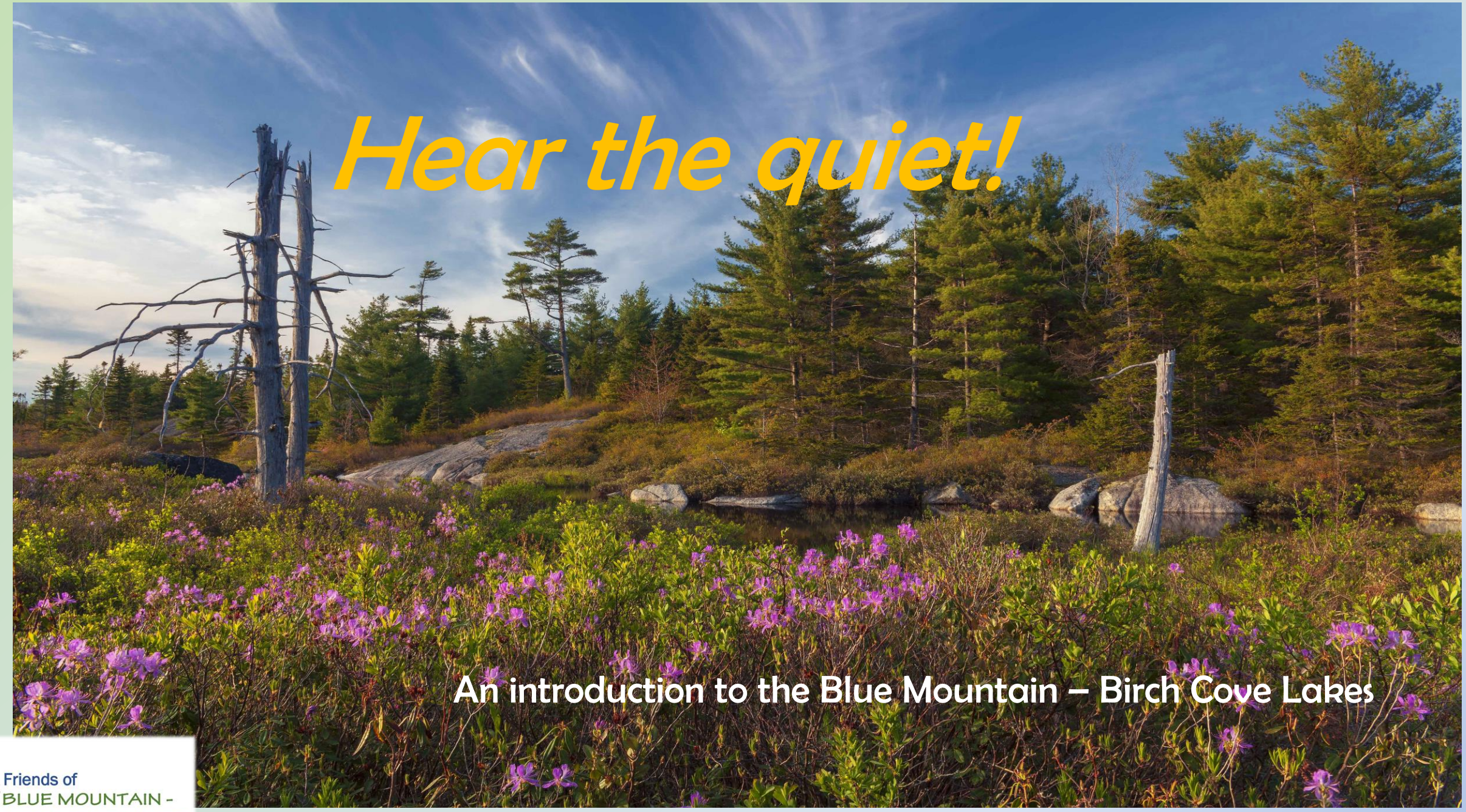

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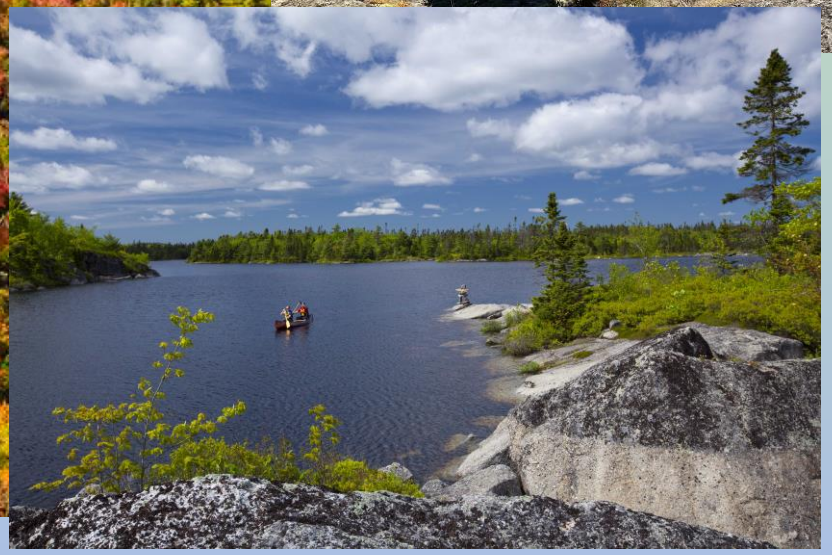
BIRCH COVE LAKES

A unique, natural asset within 10 min of 200,000 residents of HRM

Quarry Lake

Susies Lake



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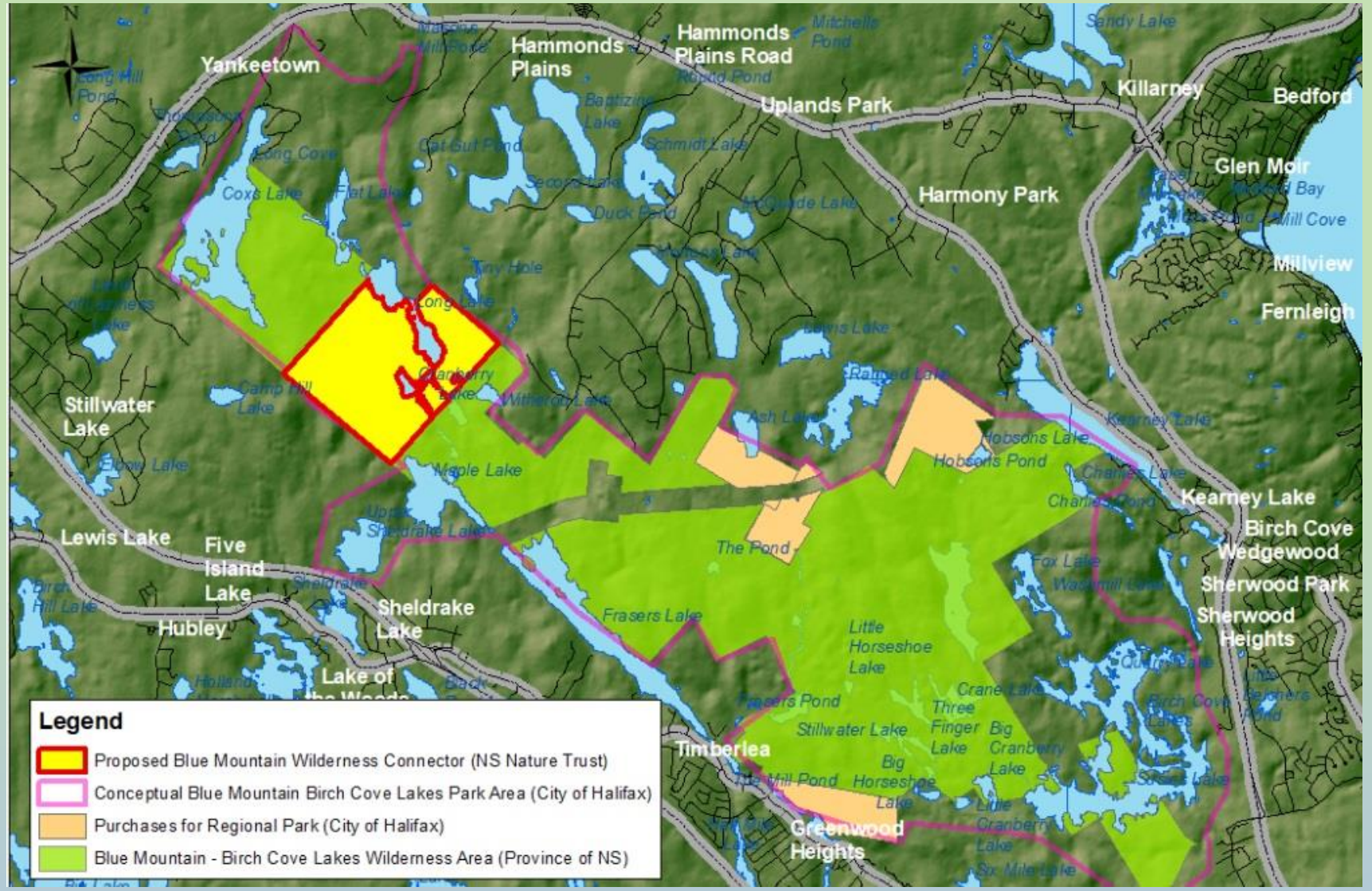

Will be one of the largest urban parks in Canada!

BMBCL
Wilderness Area:
1767 Hectares (4366 acres)

HRM
Acquired properties:
208 Hectares (513 acres)

NS Nature Trust:
227 Hectares (560 acres)

TOTAL (To date):
2202 Hectares (5441 acres)

Plus, to-be-added properties

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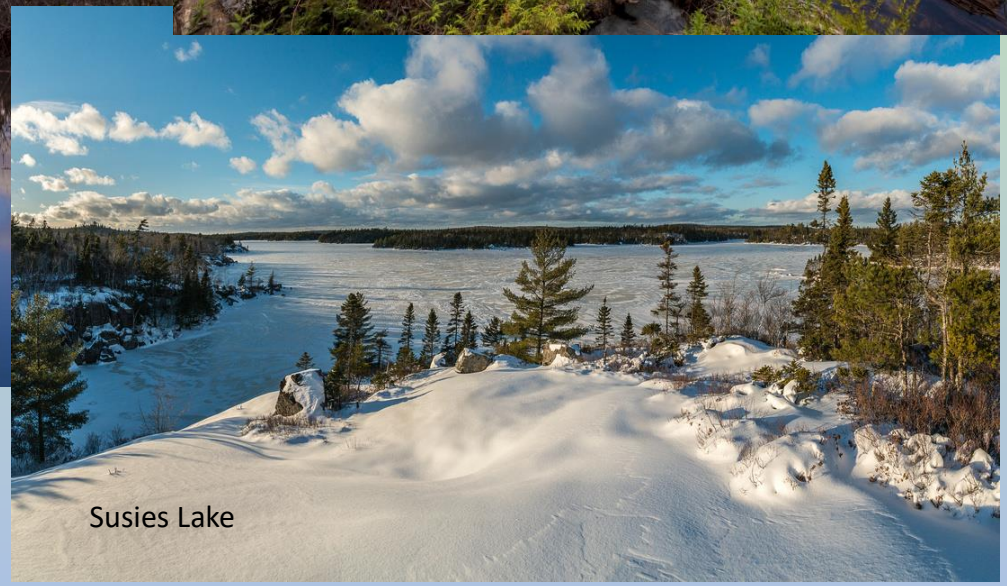
Every scene a picture

Hobsons Lake

Ash Lake



Susies Lake

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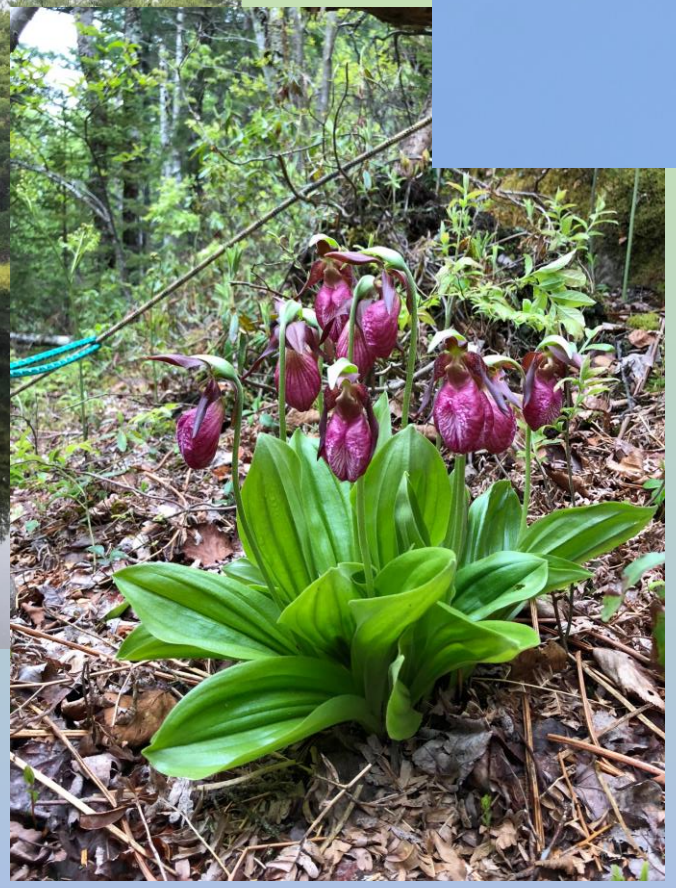
A home to our native flora & fauna



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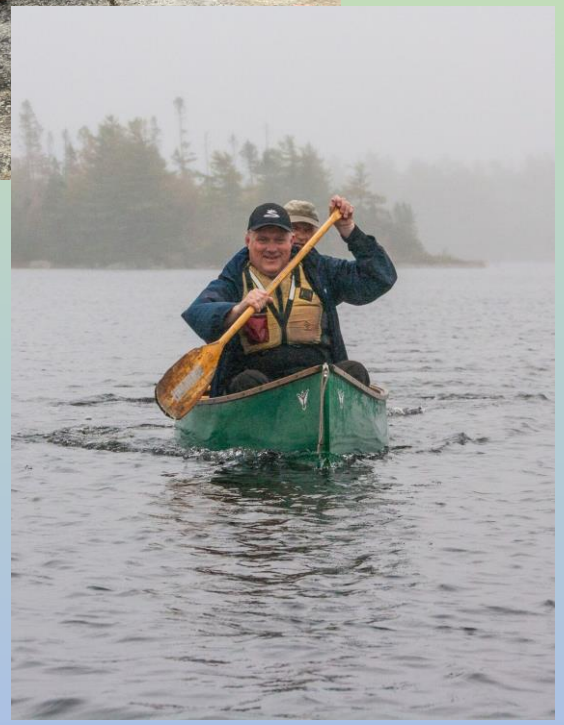
Enjoyed by many year round



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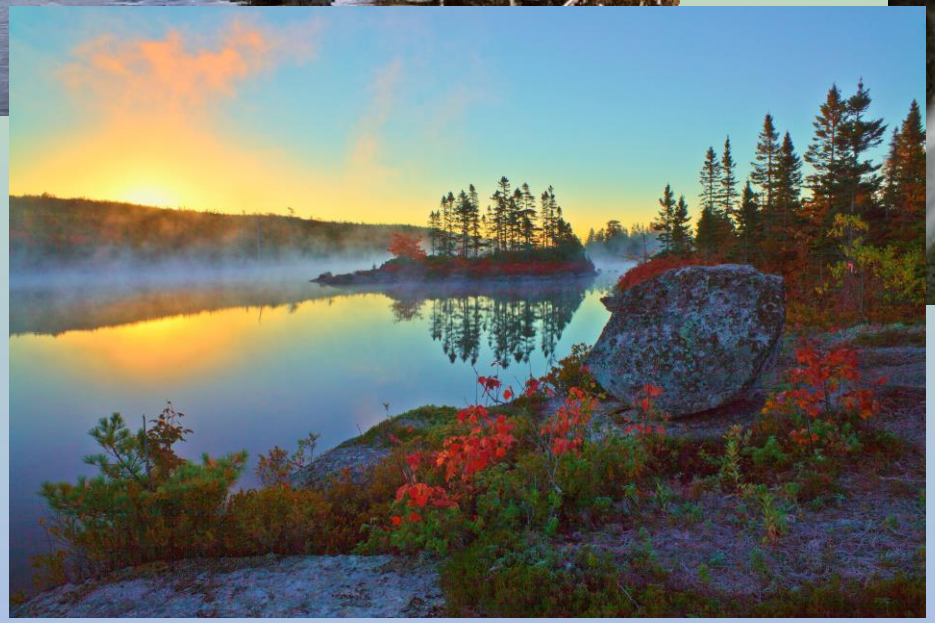
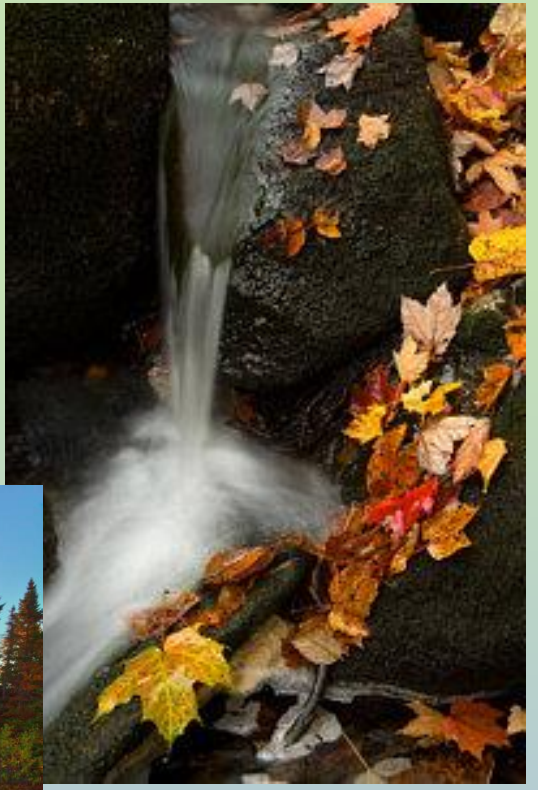
The source of clean water from two watersheds





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A mitigator to climate change

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A long history

The Mail-Star The Chronicle-Herald • Friday, July 13, 2001

NOVA SCOTIA

Group urges greater land protection

Consultant's report too focused on logging, Ecology Action Centre says

By David Jackson
Provincial Reporter

To log or not to log?

That is the question the Ecology Action Centre wants the province to ask itself.

Kermit deGooyer, the centre's wilderness co-ordinator, said Thursday that recommendations from a recent consultant's report were too focused on how the province can benefit from logging on Crown land.

"The question that needs to be asked is, how does Nova Scotia benefit the most from its Crown land base?" Mr. deGooyer said in a telephone interview.

He suggested Nova Scotia would see a greater benefit from protecting wilderness areas and using them for nature tours and other recreation than allowing logging.

Mr. deGooyer said he's seen cost-benefit analyses of protecting government land in the United States and would like to see a similar study in Nova Scotia.

He made the comments a day after the province announced it will accept most of the recommendations Fredericton consultant AgFor Inc. made in its report.

The report dealt mostly with how the province could make more money and better manage logging on Crown land.

Dan Eidt, director of forest management on Crown lands for the Natural Resources Department, said he knows the Ecology Action Centre wants more land declared off limits to harvesters.

"This report doesn't really change that issue — it's still out there," he said. "It's an issue that had to be addressed whether that report was there or not."

Mr. Eidt noted the centre and the public have their say on Crown lands through the integrated resource management process. That process has the government trying to find a balance of uses for Crown land through consulting the public and staff in various departments.

Mr. deGooyer said the AgFor report indicated some land now leased to forest companies could be subleased. He said a past roadblock to getting land protected was the fact that so much of it was tied up in licences, so if that changes, the centre wants

Environment VS. INDUSTRY

The disputed territories

The battle for our wilderness

Why the departments of Natural Resources and Environment are about to face off

The Chronicle Herald MAIL STAR Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2007

Province protects priceless property

By DAVENE JEFFREY
Staff Reporter

A piece of wilderness under pressure from Halifax's urban sprawl will now become the home to only flora and fauna.

The Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area, 1,350 hectares of former Crown land, is being given protected status.

"What a wonderful gift the province has given to the city of Halifax," said Raymond Plourde of the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax.

Environment Minister Mark Parent made the announcement at a ceremony Tuesday in Hammonds Plains.

The property, featuring wetlands, a series of connecting lakes and stands of old red oak and red spruce, is directly behind Bayers Lake Business Park between Timberlea and the Kingswood subdivision in Hammonds Plains, Mr. Plourde said.

"This area could have easily been consumed within a couple of years," he said.

Mr. Parent acknowledged developers have been eager to learn what the government would do with the land. But leaving the area wild "will make Halifax more livable," he said.

The province has given protected status to the Blue Mountain-Bi
tares of former Crown land behind Bayers Lake Business Park th

The province has committed to protecting 12 per cent of Nova Scotia's land mass by 2015. By adding Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes, the province is nearing the nine per cent protected mark, Mr. Parent said.

He said the area contains an estimated 1.6 million trees that contribute to further g the province by prov "carbon sink" — the eq of taking 50,000 cars off for one year.

Seventeen lakes wit veloped shorelines are i in the area, which is 18 t size of Point Pleasant P

or just be outside, this is particularly good news," he said.

Besides trees and lakes, the tract is home to a small population of mainland moose and a rare Arctic-alpine plant called mountain sandwort.

The importance of green spaces was stressed during consultations in developing HRM's regional plan. The city plans to buy property boarding the protected area to create a regional park.

A government releases says protecting the area won't interfere with the proposed Highway 113, a connector for highways 102 and 103 that the province

GREEN HALIFAX

Mark Parent: HRM back-tracking on wilderness park is "height of political Machiavellianism"

Former minister of environment slams mayor Peter Kelly over Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes

Posted By **Tim Bousquet** on Tue, Dec 15, 2009 at 10:03 AM

Mark Parent back when he was a Tory minister.

Earlier this year, the province officially designated 1,350 hectares west of Bayers Lake Industrial Park as the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness. The designation capped a two-year effort that began under former minister of the environment Mark Parent.

But last month, Halifax mayor Peter Kelly told the CBC that **he won't agree to the city buying about 400 hectares of privately owned land in the area**, even though the land is designated in the HRM regional plan as wilderness park.

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BMBCL memories!

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Friends gets started May, 2018 - now 700 members

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...and, we're out there!

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Pressured by development on all sides

Friends of
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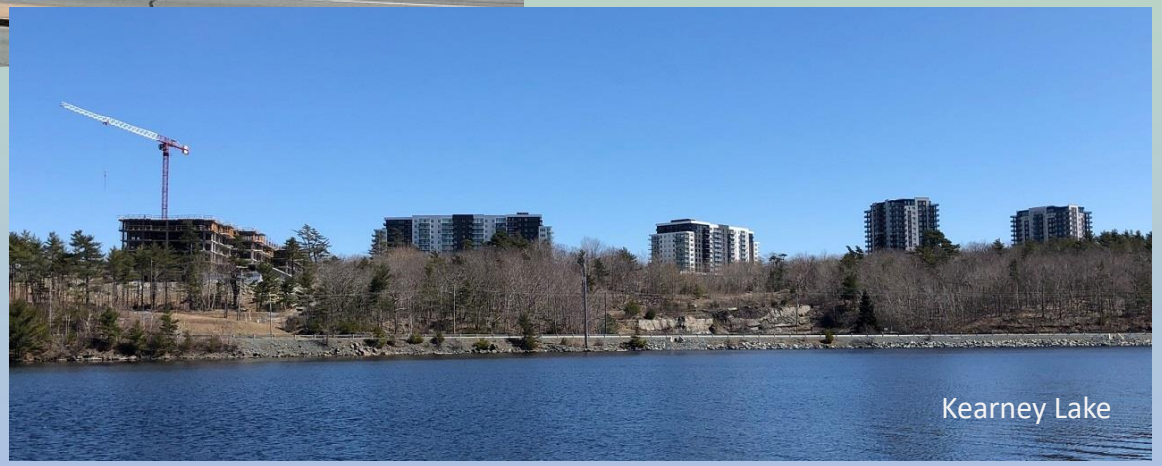
...thousands more will be (are!) living close by



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The BMBCL as an Economic Driver

Lacewood Drive to Bayers Lake

Ontario Hikers

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HRM has begun to acquire properties adjacent to Wilderness Area

Hobsons Lake

Barrett Lands

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HRM property acquisition

Armco Lands

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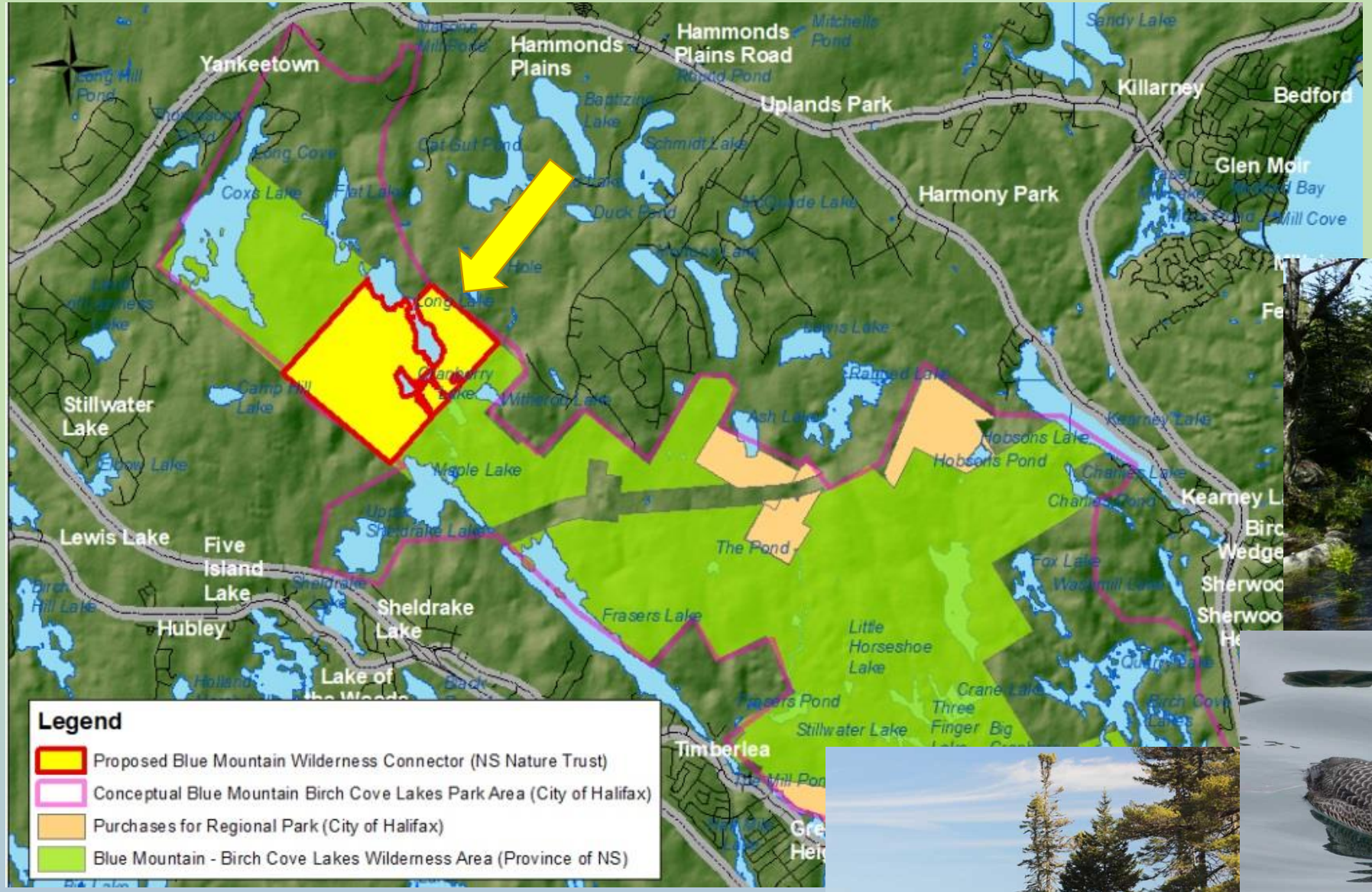
Nova Scotia Nature Trust

227 Hectares (560 acres)

"Connector Block"

Save the Wild Blue Campaign



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Not just for today or tomorrow, …but forever!

Ash Lake

Wild Child Forest School

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Thank you for the opportunity to share our story.

For more info, please visit our website: bluemountainfriends.ca

(...where you can JOIN Friends online!)

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friendsofbluemountainbirchcovelakes@gmail.com

With special thanks to our contributing photographers:
Irwin Barrett, Mike Bayer, Al Havill, Ray Plourde, Dave Gordon, Heather Leslie, Rob Thacker, Diana Whalen, Richard Vinson

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Blue Mountain Summit

Presentation prepared by: Richard Vinson