

Renew Your Membership Now – It's More Important Than Ever!

April 2009

Open letter to the Forest Watch community:

In 2008 your support helped us support and monitor the progress of our beloved Ship Harbour Long Lake Candidate Wilderness on its long journey to FINAL PROTECTED STATUS. Although the Province promised final wilderness designation by the end of 2008, it is now four months later, **we do not yet have a firm date for final designation**, and "competing interests" especially mining, are threatening publicly-supported, ecologically-sound boundaries.

We need your help now to push for a protected wilderness area that respects the integrity of the forest eco-system and protects the watershed, wildlife habitat and endangered species. We cannot take our eyes off this process for even a moment.

With your help Forest Watch is hurtling into its twelfth year, working harder than ever for the health of the Acadian forest eco-system on the Eastern Shore. In the past year Forest Watch has also:

- launched ***Honour in the Woods***, a documentary film produced by Forest Watch filled with insights from Nova Scotian woodlot owners about a variety of low-impact forestry practices.
- undertaken regular citizen-scientist monitoring of water quality in Scraggy Lake (where the proposed Moose River Gold Mine would dump effluent), in conjunction with the Community Mapping and Maritime Monitoring Project of St. Mary's University.
- continued to explore legal options to address mining issues.
- participated in public consultation processes about Ship Harbour Long Lake, provincial water strategy and provincial natural resources strategy.

In the coming year Forest Watch will focus its work on three major themes:

- 1. Protected Areas** – press for final designation with enhanced boundaries of Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area.
- 2. Low Impact Forestry** – promote and distribute **Forestry Suite**, which includes ***Honour in the Woods***, ***Restoring the Acadian Forest***, the brand-new book by forester Jamie Simpson, and a binder of written information.
- 3. Proposed Moose River Gold Mine** – continue to monitor developments and contribute to the province-wide conversation about the long-term impacts of mining on communities and the environment. We will also continue monitoring water quality in Scraggy Lake.
- 4. Coastal Issues** -- deepen our understanding of the principle that when the water is healthy, the surrounding lands and forests will be healthy.

This work is continuing. **We need all the help we can get, and that's where you come in.** Your steady efforts and your financial support through memberships have made it all happen, and we can't thank you enough. So please accept a friendly but important reminder that **it is time to renew (or begin) your membership with the Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association.**

The more paid-up members in Forest Watch, the more influence we have with our elected officials. It's as simple as that.

So please, take a few minutes now to attend to this small but vital task. Please print and complete the membership form below and mail it with your contribution to:

Eastern Shore Forest Watch, Comp.10 Site 2, RR # 1, Head Jeddore, Nova Scotia, B0J 1P0

We thank you for your ongoing support.

Patricia Egli, Treasurer