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Eastern Shore site protected

Ship Harbour Long Lake joins list of Nova Scotia wilderness areas

By DAVID JACKSON Provincial Reporter

Fri. Sep 18 - 4:46 AM



Conservationists applauded the announcement Thursday that the Ship Harbour Long Lake will be a provincially protected wilderness area. (IRWIN BARRETT)

A swath of the Eastern Shore that is home to stands of old forest, raised bogs and large wetland complexes has officially become a provincially protected wilderness area.

Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau announced the designation of the Ship Harbour Long Lake area on Thursday.

The area covers 14,700 hectares.

Conservationists applauded the measure after spending years in lobbying the province to protect the Ship Harbour Long Lake area.

"It's one of the ecological jewels of the province," said Chris Miller, who is a national manager in

Halifax of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

"It's a wonderful day for conservation in the province."

Formal work on designating the Ship Harbour Long Lake site started in 2007.

Neenah Paper, along with a coalition of three environmental groups and the Environment and Natural Resources departments, signed an agreement to work on the designation.

Raymond Plourde, wilderness co-ordinator with the Ecology Action Centre, called the area a "true wilderness gem."

"After more than a decade of advocacy for this area to be protected, we and the Eastern Shore Forest Watch folks and the wider environmental community are delighted to see the government having put this through," Mr. Plourde said Thursday.

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"It's been a long time in coming."

The Ship Harbour Long Lake area is the home of more than a dozen endangered species, including the mainland moose.

Mr. Miller said he was encouraged that several hundred hectares of land identified in the public consultation on the protected area were included in the final designation.

He said it was important to protect the area's forest, especially considering how much clearcutting has been taking place in the province.

(djackson@herald.ca)



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