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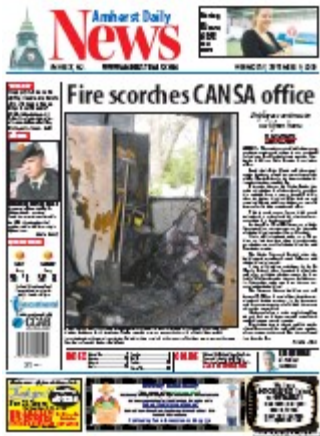
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Last updated at 10:45 PM on 08/09/09

# Ecology, wilderness groups oppose exploration plans for sanctuary 🚗

BRAD WORKS

The Amherst Daily News

AMHERST – A decision to grant an exploration agreement for oil and gas in and around the Chignecto Game Sanctuary has drawn condemnation from Halifax-based Ecology Action Centre.

Eastrock Resources has been given permission by the Nova Scotia Energy Department to conduct testing in an area from Eatonville, Cumberland Co., to Economy, Colchester Co., including the game sanctuary.

The exploratory licence will last for three years.

"The government and the current environment minister have indicated the Chignecto Game Sanctuary is being looked at and examined for potential protection, and at the same time here's another department issuing exploration licences for natural gas and oil. It just seems like the left hand and the right hand aren't aware they are attached to the same body," said Raymond Plourde, wilderness co-ordinator for the Ecology Action Centre. "Why would you allow for exploration when you are looking at protecting it?"

Plourde said if a viable resource was found, it would almost certainly derail the protection process. Harry Thurston of Cumberland Wilderness, an organization formed to pursue enhanced protection of the game sanctuary, agrees with Plourde.

"(The sanctuary) is the best and the last of wild area in northern Nova Scotia, and any development that puts that at risk is not acceptable," said Thurston.

[bworks@amherstdaily.com](mailto:bworks@amherstdaily.com)

09/09/09

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**Jeep from Nova Scotia writes:** There are already a few drilling rigs in parts of Cumberland and one is near the Sanctuary. It has been there several years. Guess what. The area does not look like the Alberta Tar Sands project or Fort MacMurray.

I think everyone should look at the comments from yesterday's news item about Eastrock.

Posted 09/09/2009 at 9:10 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

**Larry scopie from River Hebert, Nova Scotia writes:** Maybe if Cumberland Wilderness were to support a plan to protect some of the more sensitive areas of the Chignecto Game Sanctuary which was devised by Natural Resources with several of the sanctuary user groups present and that has already been presented to government by our local MLA and supported by our Count Councillors we would have some of the sanctuary protected by now.

Posted 09/09/2009 at 9:59 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

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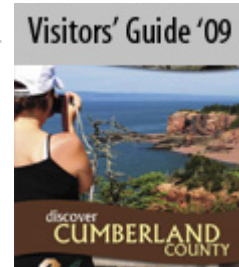


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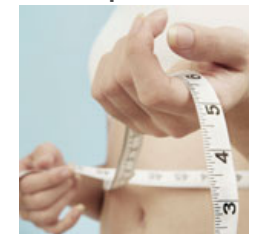


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