

# Diana Whalen, MLA for Halifax Clayton Park

## *Keeping in Touch*

### Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area

On October 30, 2007 the Province announced that 3,350 acres of the Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes (BMBCL) area will be protected!

This area is comprised of rugged forests, pristine lakes and unspoiled nature. It is enjoyed by hikers, mountain bikers, canoeists and others and is on the doorstep of Clayton Park.

This news will protect an area nearly 20 times the size of Point Pleasant Park and it gives HRM the largest urban wilderness park in the country!

Strong community support made this announcement a reality. It would not have been possible without public awareness and concern for the environment.



A group of hikers enjoy the view at Susies Lake.



People wrote letters, came on hikes, signed the petition and spread the word that these lands should be saved for future generations.

Thank you for making it happen!

*Diana*

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# Our Campaign to **Raise Community Awareness**



“Generations to come will look back on this moment in a positive way and will be thankful for the decision to protect this special place. One of the stalwart champions for this area was Diana Whalen whose unwavering support helped make this happen.”

**Raymond Plourde, Ecology Action Centre**

At the announcement with Diana Whalen are community champions Chris Miller (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society), Bob McDonald (Halifax Field Naturalists), Wendy McDonald (Halifax Northwest Trails Association) and Raymond Plourde (Ecology Action Centre).

## **How We Did It**

### **2003 - 2007**

**Visits** to Schools

**Presentations** to community groups

**Public hikes**

**Media attention and Articles**

**Petition**

**2004 & 2005** - letters to Ministers of Natural Resources & Environment and Mayor Kelly

**May 04 & July 06** - questions in Legislature

**October 2004** - Introduced Bill #133

**Dec. 2004 - Feb. 2005 - Presentations** to Chebucto and Western Community Councils, and Bedford Watershed Advisory Board to seek HRM support for BMBCL

**Spring 2005** - Ecology Action Centre brochure sent to 12,000 homes in Clayton Park riding

**June 2005 - MLA Town Hall** meeting at Keshen Goodman Library

**October 20, 2005** - Late **Debate in the Legislature** on BMBCL

**March 2006** - Consultants report identified the boundaries of the proposed wilderness park

**June 2006 - HRM Regional Plan** names BMBCL a Regional Park

**Budget Speech 2007** references BMBCL

**October 30, 2007 - Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area is announced by Provincial government!**