

Chronicle Herald, Editorial

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HITS & MISSES

Hit

An oasis within a city best describes a piece of wilderness granted protected status in recent days. The Nova Scotia government has designated 1,350 hectares of former Crown land behind Bayers Lake Business Park as the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area.

The property features wetlands, a series of connecting lakes and stands of old red oak and red spruce, as well as being home to a small population of mainland moose and a rare Arctic-alpine plant called mountain sandwort.

The property will henceforth be free from pressures to develop it, in the process creating a place for nature lovers to savour so close to their metro home.

Miss

Americans have long thirsted after our abundant and valuable supply of water, but now they've gone to new lengths to claim it as their own.

A Disney-created promotional video ordered up by the Bush White House features famous U.S. landmarks, all part of a feel-good, patriotism-inspiring pitch to draw tourists to America. Trouble is, the Horseshoe Falls, located on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, is featured in the promo, not the other two falls that actually flow on American territory.

Hit

Matthew Moore has found a unique way to spend part of his lottery windfall. Hitting the jackpot last year with a ticket worth close to \$15 million, the 27-year-old resident of Pleasant Bay has bought a tract of pristine land in his native Cape Breton.

The land in question encompasses 120 hectares in Polletts Cove, including a 900-metre beach. The province refused to buy the property and give it protected status, saying the asking price of \$1.6 million was far above its appraised value of just over \$500,000.

Now the land belongs to Matthew Moore, who so far isn't saying what he'll do with the property. Here's hoping the land eventually ends up in public hands, and is granted protected status for all of us to enjoy.