

The Evening News (New Glasgow,NS)				Order/Commande 117697
Date 31.10.2007	Circ. 8500	Page 9	1 / 1	

Wilderness area near Metro to be preserved

TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

The province is protecting a piece of wilderness in Halifax's western suburbs that's 20 times larger than Point Pleasant Park.

The Tory government announced yesterday it's designating 1,350 hectares (3,350 acres) bounded by Timberlea, Rockingham and Hammonds Plains as the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area.

"It will be preserved forever for people to explore, study and enjoy nature," Environment Minister Mark Parent said. "City dwellers will actually be able to take a bus to a protected wilderness area."

Environmental advocates and members of the community have been fighting for years to protect the Crown land, which is surrounded by fast-developing communities with a population of about 100,000. Chris Miller of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society said he's proud to be from a city and a province that's willing to protect such an outstanding wilderness area.

Ray Plourde of the Ecology Action Centre called it a "wonderful gift" to the city and its citizens.

Halifax Daily News

