

# Ship Harbour Long Lake Protecting a Wilderness Legacy

## Establishing Ship Harbour Long Lake Candidate Wilderness Area:

### Supports Nova Scotia's *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*

- Contributes to the province's target of legally protecting 12% of Nova Scotia's landmass by 2015.
- Provides a foundation for prosperity by helping make our province and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) an attractive place to live, work, and do business.



### Protects exceptional natural and recreational values

- Contains interconnected lakes, waterways and wetlands, old forests and large roadless areas.
- Provides habitat for rare lichens, the endangered mainland moose, and many other species.
- Includes part of a natural landscape which is inadequately represented in protected areas.
- Forms a wilderness corridor between White Lake and Tangier Grand Lake Wilderness Areas.
- Offers exceptional opportunities for wilderness recreation and nature tourism within HRM, featuring; areas of high scenic value, wilderness sportfishing and hunting, and major canoe routes.

### Demonstrates how government, industry and non-government groups can work together

A Letter of Agreement providing for the establishment of the candidate wilderness area was signed by: Department of Natural Resources; Nova Scotia Environment and Labour; Neenah Paper Ltd.; Ecology Action Centre; Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society; and Eastern Shore Forest Watch.

The agreement confirms approval by all parties to move forward with the designation of a wilderness area, based on the following elements:

- government approval of a 2007/08 forest harvesting plan on specific parcels within the candidate wilderness area to provide wood supply critical to Neenah Paper (less than 2% of area);
- moratorium on all new resource extraction, exploration and development activities;
- compensation for Neenah Paper's lost wood supply from the candidate wilderness area, replacing the operable and productive areas with other Crown lands of comparable value;
- establishment of a 14,000 hectare (34,600 acre) candidate Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area, reduced from an original proposal of 18,000 hectares;
- commitment to an open and inclusive public and stakeholder consultation process; and
- designation of a wilderness area, with finalized boundaries, within one year of the announcement.

#### Next Steps

- Information meetings with stakeholders.
- Stakeholder input into design of consultation process.
- Socioeconomic analysis and public consultation.
- Boundary finalization, and area designation.

