



January 19, 2022

## **COMMUNITY RALLIES AGAINST PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN DARTMOUTH**

A growing group of residents, from across HRM, has banded together to stop the development of the Eisner Cove Wetlands.

“We’ve been together since 2016,” says Bill Zebedee. “We stopped a proposal to subdivide a plot of land and build a new building on the north-side of the Woodside Industrial Park, by being vocal and we plan on doing the same thing here.”

At their January 11, 2022 Council meeting, Halifax Regional Councilors agreed to begin the development process with Zzap Consulting and Clayton Developments, on behalf of the landowner, A.J. Legrow Holdings Limited.

Known as the Southdale Future Growth Node, this will include 700 residential units in the 45 acre wooded area between Lynn Drive and Highway 111, and Gaston Road and Mount Hope Extension.

“This area is such an urban oasis,” said Zebedee. “Yet, we see Council, again, “paving over paradise”.

Zebedee also Chaired, in 2008-09, the HRM Penhorn/Woodlawn Community Liaison Group, that, in part of their Action Plan, called for the “...protecting the fragile wetland habitat.” I guess this is just another report that’s collecting dust on a shelf down at City Hall, added Zebedee.

This land, previously owned by InnovCorp, a Provincial Crown Corporation, was sold to Legrow at about the same time as the Owl Heads Park fiscale began.

The plan, presented to Council, proposes a bridge that will go from Mount Hope into the development itself. There will also be an extension of Lynn Drive into the new plan.

“The Eisner Cove Wetland is a diverse fen that has been whittled away through the years by city expansion,” says supporter Susan van Iderstein, in a letter to Mayor Mike Savage, Dartmouth Centre Councilor Sam Austin, et. al. “A small amount of wetland remains, protected and fed by a narrow belt of woodland. It is home to wildlife and to fragile plants.”

Zebedee, who lives a 2-minute walk from the western boundary of the planned area, says the wetlands are habitat for a variety of animals. “We often have deer, fox, raccoons, and other four-legged friends, and heron, osprey, hawks, and other feathered friends, in our yards.”

Zebedee, and a number of other area residents, claim they’ve even seen a pair of peregrine falcons in the wetland. “We’re worried about more destruction of habitat, and we want Council, and the developer, to hear our concerns before it is too late.”

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Penhorn/Woodlawn Community Liaison Group report and action plan  
<https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/about-the-city/regional-community-planning/PenhornFinalVision.pdf>

Video by Tara Alexis of the tree cutting in the proposed development area  
<https://www.facebook.com/132700057/videos/5450555014971428/>