

# The Proposed Chain Lakes Wilderness Area

Peter Lake, Chain Lakes Protected Area



## Wilderness Areas...

- ... protect biodiversity for our own survival and the web of life.
- ... provide opportunities to appreciate nature, and support physical and mental health.
- ... protect endangered and at-risk species and their habitats.
- ... support wilderness recreation, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, and other associated uses.
- ... generate economic benefits as an attraction for the recreation and tourism sectors.
- ... reduce climate change impacts.

The Blomidon Naturalists Society is proposing a new wilderness area for Crown land in southwest Kings County. We need support to make it happen.

## Why Protected Areas in Kings County?

- The Nova Scotia government has recognized the value of protecting wild land to “nourish biodiversity, contribute to sustainable prosperity and provide access to nature — an important determinant of mental and physical health.”
- The Province has a legislated target of protecting 20% of Nova Scotia by the year 2030.
- This is an important step as only 13% of our province is currently protected. In Kings County less than 5% of the land is protected — we really need to get to work!

## Why the Chain Lakes Wilderness Area?

- The southwest corner of Kings County is the only major section of Crown land in the County that remains largely forested without human habitation.
- A good deal of it has been and continues to be clear cut. Yet there are pockets of old growth, forests that are older than 80 years, beautiful lakes, and pristine still waters and wetlands.
- Numerous endangered species have been identified in the area— the Canada Warbler, olive-sided flycatchers, wisqoq (black ash), and very rare lichens. There are snapping turtle nests, foraging chimney swifts and nighthawks, and even the elusive rusty blackbird.
- There is much to celebrate and protect, the pockets need to be linked as a wildlife corridor, and the cut areas can be restored given protection and time.







## What Does Protection Mean?

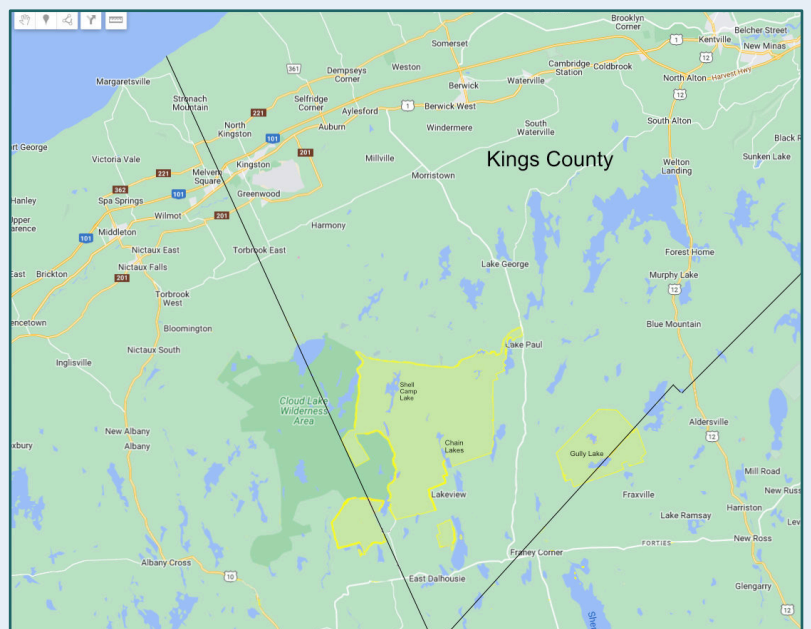
- Commercial resource development (e.g., mining, forestry, aquaculture, dams, pipelines, etc.) is absolutely prohibited, except where there are pre-existing commitments.
- Recreation activities with minimal environmental impact are permitted, including walking, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, and cross-country skiing. Trails and facilities for these activities can be developed.
- New trails or usage areas for motorized vehicles are prohibited. Motorized vehicle use can be approved on existing trails when the area is set up. We recommend existing snowmobile and ATV trails and usage in the area be guaranteed into the future.
- Access to private lands across the wilderness area can be assured. Existing land leases can be honoured.

## What Do We Need to Do to Make It Happen?

- It is time for all of us to step up and advocate for the protection of nature locally. That's what the Blomidon Naturalists are doing.
- The critical step is to obtain a pause on new resource extraction in the area, to protect it during the planning process.
- You can help by writing to the N.S. Minister of the Environment, Minister of Natural Resources, and your MLA, requesting a moratorium & protection for the area.
- Join the campaign to *Save Our Old Forests*.



For more information and ways to get involved in this effort, visit the Blomidon Naturalist web site at: [blomidonnaturalists.ca](http://blomidonnaturalists.ca).



The yellow shaded areas are the approximate boundaries proposed for protection.