

July 24, 2024

Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of the District of East Hants  
Box 230 - 15 Commerce Court, Elmsdale, NS B2S 3K5  
[info@easthants.ca](mailto:info@easthants.ca)

Dear Ms. Ramsay:

**RE: Update on Protection of Provincial Lands at Cockscomb Lake, Shelburne County**

On behalf of Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (ECC) and the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR), I'm reaching out to provide an update on provincial lands at Cockscomb Lake, East Hants, which are committed for protection in the Province's 2013 Parks & Protected Areas Plan.

The Plan identifies a 31-hectare candidate provincial park at the northwestern end of Cockscomb Lake.

To simplify administration and management, we are now considering adding the candidate provincial park site to the adjacent [Devils Jaw Wilderness Area](#).

We are aware of conversations several years ago between NRR and the Municipality of East Hants regarding the municipality's potential use of the provincial lands at Cockscomb Lake as a managed public beach access point, understanding that developing overland access would be challenging.

Please be assured that designation of this site as wilderness area will allow for continued public use of the beach and woodlands. Maintaining biological diversity and compatible human use and recreation are both important objectives of the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*. As a wilderness area, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change would also be able to enter into an agreement with the municipality or other interested party to manage the site consistent with the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*. This can include infrastructure development like a parking area and trails, but not major infrastructure such as a drive-in campground.

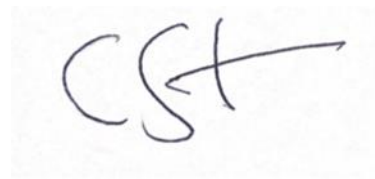
Before government makes final decisions on adding the Cockscomb Lake site to Devil's Jaw Wilderness Area, we are providing this update on the planned designation change from provincial park to wilderness area and an opportunity for the municipality to provide feedback.

Please refer to the attached map of the locality. You may also review our Parks and Protected Areas [map](#) for more details. This FAQ document provides additional information on wilderness areas: [https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/faq\\_wa.asp](https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/faq_wa.asp).

The Province continues to review and complete planning and technical work to enable the designation of remaining undesignated sites from the Plan, including at Cockscomb Lake. The next batch (group) of sites may be designated and announced in the coming months, with additional sites from the Plan expected to be designated later in 2024 and 2025. The designation of candidate wilderness areas, nature reserves, and provincial parks is approved by Executive Council (Cabinet) through individual Orders in Council (O.I.C.s).

Please contact Oliver Maass ([Oliver.Maass@novascotia.ca](mailto:Oliver.Maass@novascotia.ca); 902-223-3840) or Ben Buckwold ([Benjamin.Buckwold@novascotia.ca](mailto:Benjamin.Buckwold@novascotia.ca); 902-899-5319) if you have questions, would like additional information, or would like to share feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CS' followed by a stylized flourish.

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Craig Smith  
Director, Protected Areas and Ecosystems  
Nova Scotia Environment & Climate Change  
Cell: 782.409.3075  
Email: [Craig.Smith2@novascotia.ca](mailto:Craig.Smith2@novascotia.ca)

Attachment: JPG map of the candidate protected area site

cc:

Oliver Maass, Policy & Program Coordinator, Protected Areas and Ecosystems (ECC)  
Ben Buckwold, Park Planner, Parks and Outreach (NRR)  
Tara Crandlemere, Director, Parks and Outreach (NRR)