

Press release: Defend Eisner Wetland

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Work halted at Eisner Cove Wetland: protestors propose solution

The Defend Eisner Wetland direct action group is asking for a stop and swap. They want the province to exchange a parcel of developable land within HRM for the Eisner Cove Wetland in order that the whole forest and wetland can be protected in perpetuity while allowing a housing development to go through on less ecologically valuable land. In the meantime, they say the current temporary halt to logging activity on the site should become permanent.

All logging equipment was removed from the site on Tuesday, following tense encounters between protestors and machine operators. On Monday afternoon operators started up machines and began cutting with protestors only feet away, in contravention of worksite safety regulations. Occupational Health and Safety have initiated an investigation. The group is continuing to monitor and maintain a presence on the site.

On Friday, August 19th from 10am-12pm they will support the Protect Our Southdale Wetland Society Rally outside the offices of Clayton Developments at 255 Lacewood Drive in Halifax.

Quotes:

“Turning somewhere as ecologically important as the Eisner Cove Wetland into a housing development should never have been on the table. The climate and biodiversity crisis is bearing down on all of us. It is terrifying. What will it take for government to start behaving as if the emergency is real? I’m doing what I can, standing up in defense of nature, in defense of my future. This development has to stop. Sacrificing nature for economic development has to stop. There is a better way. It’s time to think outside the box” - Tara Lapointe

“What we are proposing is a solution other jurisdictions have used successfully. When someone wants to develop a parcel of land that should not, for the greater good, be developed, One option is to exchange it for a parcel that can be developed without adverse effect. There are sites in HRM where you can build a housing development without destroying the largest remaining wetland in Dartmouth. Check out the website ‘This should be housing’ for some options. We are not pretending it will be easy but neither is climate catastrophe. The kind of swap we are proposing would be a win for all who need a livable planet and a win for the housing supply.” - Susan Van Iderstine