

Press release: Defend Eisner Cove Wetland

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HRM residents block clearcut machinery at Eisner Cove

On Sunday night, on the site of the proposed development in Eisner Cove, Dartmouth, HRM residents pitched tents between the logging equipment on site and the forest slated for clearcutting. (Access to the encampment is 50' from the end of Campbell Ave off Gaston Rd.)

Citizens have strongly opposed the development of this greenspace in the Southdale area of Dartmouth from the start. They are demanding the cancellation of a project that has been advanced without community consultation or a full environmental impact assessment. Under the current government's Housing Task Force arrangement, five unelected officials are making decisions behind closed doors, giving \$millions to developers. Fast tracked approvals mean insufficient oversight. Statements to media from Clayton Developments suggest that, in spite of receiving almost \$22 million to create affordable housing, the development will instead offer 'attainable housing units' renting at 80% of market rates.

Citizens have been denied effective input on a project that will destroy one of the last remaining undisturbed wetlands in HRM. The climate and biodiversity emergencies demand immediate action to slash emissions and protect nature. The provincial government is going in the opposite direction. Now citizens are getting in the way.

Quotes:

Jacob Fillmore said: "When will the destruction of nature for profit stop? This development will decimate 50 hectares of forest and the largest remaining wetland in Dartmouth. The housing proposed for this site will not be affordable. Some of the forest around the wetland has already been clearcut but not all of it. Enough is enough. We need a liveable planet. That's why I'm putting my body in the way of this machinery. We have to protect nature for people and for the rest of nature, and we have to start now."

Alan Collins said: "The world is facing a catastrophic climate crisis. Wetlands sequester hundreds of tons of carbon from the atmosphere. Once they are disturbed they release all of this carbon back into the atmosphere. Clayton Development plans to build a causeway through the center of this irreplaceable wetland. This is Ecocide!

We call upon Clayton Developments to sell this land back to a crown corporation, similar to what happened to Owl's Head. This wetland and forest should be protected as an urban educational park for families to learn about the wonders of nature."