

Press release
Protect Our Southdale Wetlands Society
15 August, 2022
HRM residents block clearcut machinery at Eisner Cove

Dartmouth – The August 15, 2022 video of the actions of Clayton Developments' and the Shaw Groups' deforestation contractor have been viewed by supporters of Protect Eisner Cove Wetland. "31 years as an activist and protestor," said Bill Zebedee, President of Protect Our Southdale Wetlands Society, "and I have never seen this level of careless disregard for human life by contractors."

Although the group conducting civil disobedience at the Gaston Road clear cut is separate from the Society, the protestors have the group's support and thanks.

"Some of us support both types of action (political and direct), some only one," said Zebedee. "Having two groups share the work allows everyone to participate and be heard."

He added, the actions of the contractors are criminal and should be investigated fully by both Halifax Regional Police and the Nova Scotia Department of Labour. "The contractor's actions could have injured people, intentionally or not. There needs to be a criminal investigation and, if warranted, criminal charges; such as assault or assault with a weapon against the machine operators. An investigation also needs to include what, if any, actions the company and Clayton Developments had in today's deplorable scene."

Zebedee added "if Clayton Developments' contractors can't be trusted with human life, how can we trust any of them with species at risk, wetland delineation or the Wetland Ecological Service Protocol?"

Minister Halman, Minister Lohr, and all the Houston government have no choice but to halt the development until police and Department of Labour run a full investigation, and, as Zebedee reiterated, allow the Society's consultants time to conduct surveys to confirm or disprove Clayton's consultant reports.