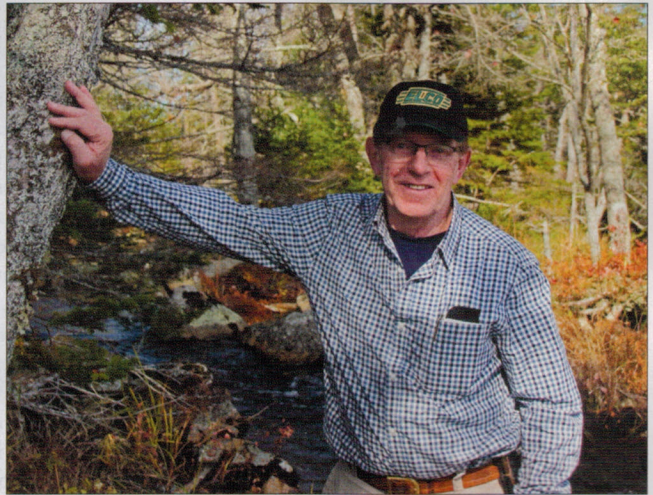


# Urban wildlands protected

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust announced in October that it had secured a deal to acquire a 232-hectare (575-acre) property in an area known as the Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes, a vast expanse of undeveloped wildlands between Hammonds Plains, Timberlea, and Halifax – cherished by hikers and paddlers in these communities. The parcel was considered critical not only because of its scenic value and its ecological richness, but because it provides connectivity between existing areas of protected land, creating a contiguous 12-kilometre corridor that is important for wildlife, including the endangered Mainland moose.

The owners of the property, Robin Wilber and Bill Fenton, agreed to sell it to the Nature Trust, and donated a sizable portion of the land's value as a charitable gift. Wilber, well known in Nova Scotia's forest industry, is an active outdoorsman, and he liked the idea that protecting this urban wildland would give more people a chance to connect with nature.

"As third-generation president and owner of Elmsdale Lumber Company, I take the responsibility of managing our forest resource very seriously," he said. "Many years ago, my father coined the phrase, 'Wise use of woodlands means sustained multiple use.' Every piece of letterhead and every envelope leaving Elmsdale Lumber is embossed with this statement. Not only is this a way to honour his legacy, but it



Robin Wilber, president and owner of Elmsdale Lumber Company, says he was happy to facilitate the protection of some land he co-owned in the Halifax area. (Nova Scotia Nature Trust photo)

is a way to continue spreading this timeless message. In my opinion, the wisest use of this particular piece of land is to preserve it for public enjoyment and a protected piece of land for wildlife habit. Its proximity to urban living is icing on the cake. My dad would be proud."



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