

Archibald Lake Wilderness Area

Archibald Lake Wilderness Area is 398 hectares or 983.5 acres. Its 100% owned by the Crown and is considered in full an Eastern Shore Quartzite Plain.

Ecological Values:

- Represents areas that are unique ecosystems in Nova Scotia, Eastern Shore Quartzite Plain
- Productive forest drumlins (**Drumlins** are elongated, teardrop-shaped hills of rock, sand, and gravel that formed under moving glacier ice.)
- Area of old tolerant hardwood forest
- Lake frontage on Archibald and MacDonald Lakes
- Habitat for provincially endangered mainland moose at times seen swimming in Archibald Lake
- Habitat for native species such as Brook trout
- Archibald brook helps water levels and water temperatures within lower river
- Archibald Brook provides an oxygenated holding pool at the inflow for migratory Atlantic Salmon and sea-run Brook trout

Recreational value:

- Old roads used as ATV trails
- very popular brook trout fishing lakes
- popular area for hunting
- popular area for trapping
- potential for much more recreational use in the area
- ecotourism opportunity

Archibald Lake and MacDonald Lake flow outflow ends up entering the river in Stillwater just above the big green Stillwater to Waternish bridge. The inflow is called Archibald Pool which is just below the famous Ford Pool run and right in front of the old Oland's Cabin. No longer owned by Oland's but locals refer to it by that name. Archibald brook is about 5km long and is amazing brook trout and wood turtle habitat. Approximately halfway up the brook there is a small waterfall that prevents Atlantic Salmon from using the rest of the system up from this point. Archibald Lake has long been one of the St. Mary's River Valley's most significant lakes with world class Brook Trout angling. It has been said that the two lakes have an underwater connectivity to them, and fish can swim back and forth freely. This drainage basin flows in a completely different direction than the McKean Drainage basin. Atlantic Gold has identified Archibald Lake as one option for the gold mine's site process wastewater (effluent) to be discharged. If the project were to go ahead a pipeline from the process site to Archibald Lake would be built (approximately 6km) and large swaths of woodland would be cut. The Project Description says that start up will require 300,000 meters cubed to 500,000 meters cubed of water from Archibald Lake. Production requires an expected daily raw water

withdrawal to be in the range of 50 meters cubed per day (= 50,000L/day). A water withdrawal approval is needed for water withdrawals greater than 23,000L/day.