

# Province urged to buy back forests

## Groups worry Bowater Mersey land will be sold

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MILFORD — A public campaign is heating up to convince the Dexter government to buy back thousands of hectares of Bowater Mersey lands to prevent it from falling into the hands of a multinational forest company from outside the province.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to regain control of those forests," Nicole Oliver, community research co-ordinator with the Mersey Tobetic Research Institute, said in a weekend interview.

The institute, spearheading the campaign, is a non-profit co-operative that promotes biodiversity, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in southwestern Nova Scotia.

The land includes three plots, making up 220,00 hectares, about four times the size of Kejimikujik National Park. The lands are in Annapolis, Halifax, Hants, Lunenburg, Queens and Shelburne counties.

Their future became uncertain when Résolûté Forest Products closed its Bowater Mersey paper mill in Brooklyn, Queens County, last June.

The province bought 10,000 hectares of Bowater Mersey's