

Nature Trust Works to Save Wild River Gem *Bringing “World Rivers Day” to Life*

September 29, 2014 (Halifax)—The Nova Scotia Nature Trust celebrated World Rivers Day by announcing their campaign to protect a spectacular piece of Nova Scotia’s river legacy. The Nature Trust is hoping to protect a highly significant 54 hectare property, valued by conservationists for its magnificent old growth forests and endangered birds and turtles. Its towering trees, beautiful islands and unique wildlife are also treasured by the paddlers, birders and anglers who know and love the river and this idyllic spot in particular.



Launching the campaign to save the site is a fitting way to mark World Rivers Day, an international day to celebrate rivers and to encourage stewardship of the planet’s freshwater river legacy.

One of the best known ecological gems of the St. Mary’s River, this property near Glenelg, Guysborough County, is home to a 140-year-old old growth Eastern Hemlock forest, wetlands, brooks, and over 4 kilometers of undisturbed river shoreline. Two substantial islands in the

river, also part of the property, support some of Nova Scotia’s last intact Acadian floodplain forests, with massive old Red Maples and Yellow Birch, rare floodplain plants, and numerous ephemeral pools used by frogs and other amphibians.

The site provides critical habitat for three species on Canada’s endangered species list: Wood Turtle, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Canada Warbler. Protecting intact riparian habitats is also a vital part of preserving the ecological integrity of the river, home to imperilled Atlantic Salmon.

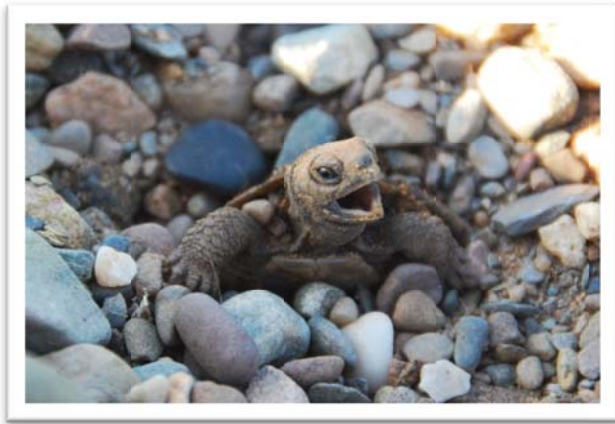


The Nature Trust has a time-limited opportunity to acquire this river gem and add to its five conservation sites (240 hectares) already protected on the river. The Nature Trust needs to raise \$260,000 to secure the site by the November 1 deadline, and to ensure its long-term protection.

Nature Trust Conservation Coordinator, Karen McKendry is optimistic that will happen. “Observing World Rivers Day celebrations across the globe this weekend, it’s clear that rivers are important to all of us,” she noted. “Whether people are passionate anglers, wilderness paddlers, or simply Nova Scotians who take great pride in our beautiful rivers, we are confident they will step up to help protect this nationally important river legacy, right here in Nova Scotia.”

McKendry encourages Nova Scotians to mark World Rivers Day by taking action to protect an irreplaceable piece of our freshwater legacy. Supporting this campaign is a way to make a real, lasting difference to a river that needs our help. Tax-receipted charitable donations can be made online at www.nsnt.ca or by calling the Nature Trust at (902) 425-5263.

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Wood Turtle

Olive-sided Flycatcher (glennbartley.com)



*Canada Warbler
(Ronnie D'Entremont)*

Three Canadian species-at-risk finding refuge on the St. Mary's River Property