

Nature Trust’s 100 Wild Islands Campaign on Halifax’s Agenda

HALIFAX, NS (April 26, 2016)— As the Nova Scotia Nature Trust nears completion of its landmark **100 Wild Islands** conservation campaign, exciting news may be coming. Tonight, Councillor David Hendsbee is asking Halifax for \$300,000 to bring the Nature Trust’s \$7 million fundraising campaign to the finish line. The globally significant 100 Wild Islands Coastal Wilderness, located entirely within Halifax boundaries, will provide irreplaceable environmental, recreational and economic benefits for the City and the Province.



Nature Trust Executive Director, Bonnie Sutherland, is delighted to see Council considering support. “We would love to see Halifax join the federal and provincial governments who already have stepped up generously to help protect the **100 Wild Islands**. Many Halifax residents, individuals and organizations from across Nova Scotia and beyond, have enthusiastically jumped on board to bring the 100 Wild Islands dream to reality.”

Councillor Hendsbee’s \$300,000 request to fellow Councillors comes with unprecedented leveraging and benefits for the city. The Nature Trust’s major campaign champion and supporter, Halifax native Paul Gauthier, is contributing over \$3.5 million to the \$7 million campaign. He will match the city’s contribution dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of the City’s investment to \$600,000. For a small contribution, Halifax gains over \$15 million in coastal island wilderness, protected entirely through efforts of the Nature Trust and the Province of Nova Scotia.



Sutherland is optimistic city Councillors will support the initiative based on the incredible benefits the 100 Wild Islands bring to the City and its residents. “When the 100 Wild Islands campaign is complete, Halifax will be the only capital city in Canada with such an incredible, globally significant natural treasure within its borders!”

Halifax will be home to what has been described as Nova Scotia's most significant yet least-known natural treasure. Nestled between Clam Harbour Beach and Taylor Head, just over an hour from downtown, the 100 Wild Islands is a vast, wild archipelago of beautiful, unspoiled coastal islands. It is home to pristine white sandy beaches and idyllic clear blue lagoons, dramatic headlands and cliffs, and ecologically rich wetlands and even rainforest. Once complete, the 100 Wild Islands coastal wilderness will stretch 30km along the coast, encompassing over 280 islands, hundreds of kilometres of shoreline, 430 acres of wetlands, and rich diversity of wildlife.

Beyond the obvious environmental and nature conservation benefits, the protected lands make a significant contribution to city's Green Network Plan, and to goals of providing its residents with a unique place to live and recreate. The islands are a wilderness paradise for intrepid paddlers and sailors and have been treasured by the eastern shore community for generations.

Sutherland added, "The 100 Wild islands also provide unprecedented opportunities for ecotourism and rural economic development along the eastern shore, and emerging opportunities for world-class scientific research and education, in keeping with the Municipality's Economic Growth Plan and the One Nova Scotia vision"

The Nature Trust would like to thank the supporters of the 100 Wild Islands campaign and encourages all Nova Scotians to be a part of the incredible 100 Wild Islands story.

Reach out to your councillor and tell them your reason why the 100 Wild Islands should be protected today.

For spectacular photos, videos and stories about the 100 Wild Islands and opportunities to support the campaign, visit www.100wildislands.ca.

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