

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust Receives Colin Stewart Conservation Award for 2015

Established by the Halifax Field Naturalists in 2004, the Colin Stewart Conservation Award was created to honour Colin's lifetime of contributions towards nature conservation initiatives in Nova Scotia. He helped to get many of Nova Scotia's most significant and enduring conservation efforts going, from the Halifax Field Naturalists, Piping Plover Guardian Program, the Nova Scotia Trails Federation to Nature Nova Scotia. As the WWF Endangered Spaces Coordinator for the Province, he helped push for the establishment of 31 Wilderness Areas across Nova Scotia.

The award was first presented to Colin, and is now given annually to an individual or group in recognition of significant conservation efforts in Nova Scotia. This year's award was announced in early October, during a special event celebrating the Halifax Field Naturalists' 40th Anniversary.



HFN and Nature Trust member and long-time volunteer Richard Beazley introduced the 2015 award. He said, "The CSCA recipient for 2015 is 21 years old, hard-working, known throughout Nova Scotia, ambitious, energetic, outgoing, loved by both women and men alike, unpretentious, and successful--- the Nova Scotia Nature Trust! Likely no one would be more approving than Colin Stewart himself, who played a key role in the founding of the Nature Trust."

Betty Hodgson, Colin's widow, presented the award to the Nature Trust's Executive Director, Bonnie Sutherland.



"We are so honoured to accept this award and to have our conservation efforts recognized by the Halifax Field Naturalists," said Ms. Sutherland. "It is especially touching that it is the Colin Stewart award, because Colin was such an important figure in the Nature Trust's creation and establishment. He preserved and encouraged the founding board members, served as a long-time advisor to the board, and he also coached and mentored so many of us in the early and challenging years of getting the Nature Trust and our programs off the ground. His passion for protecting natural spaces was unrivaled and truly inspiring. We are honoured to accept this award created in his memory."

Ms. Sutherland also congratulated the Halifax Field Naturalists on their 40th anniversary and thanked them for ongoing and greatly appreciated support. Not only are many HFN members also members of

the Nature Trust, many also volunteer countless hours towards the Nature Trust's conservation efforts. HFN cooperates on field trips with the Nature Trust and conducts greatly appreciated volunteer biodiversity surveys on Nature Trust properties. She thanked HFN for their past donation in support of the Purcell's Cove Conservation Lands and for the very generous \$5000 gift in support of the Nature Trust's 100 Wild Islands Campaign.

Thank you to the Halifax Field Naturalists from all of us at the Nature Trust for their continued support and partnership and for this special honour.

To learn more about the Halifax Field Naturalists and the Colin Stewart award, visit <http://halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca>