

Remembering Rudy

Martin Rudy Haase 1922-2017

August 23, 2017--It is a sad day for nature in Nova Scotia, and for all of us at the Nature Trust as we learned that our dear friend Martin Rudy Haase passed away this week.

As all who knew Rudy can attest, his life was extraordinary. His passion for and commitment to environmental protection was unfailing and inspiring. And we were so incredibly fortunate and blessed to have Rudy as a friend, ambassador and supporter of the Nature Trust.

Rudy was an active member of our Board of Directors in the early years, helping to get the Nature Trust established and off the ground at a time when land trusts were a brand new concept for Nova Scotia and in their infancy all across Canada. He worked tirelessly over the next 20 years to promote the conservation of nature in Nova Scotia and the efforts of the Nature Trust.

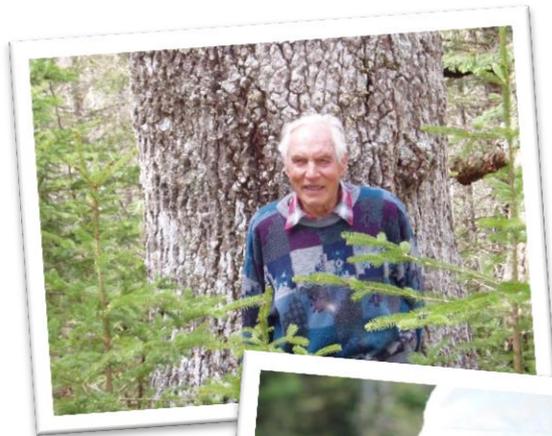
Rudy was a pioneer in many aspects of his life, including in land conservation. He was in fact the first landowner to donate a conservation easement to the Nature Trust, protecting, forever, a significant tract of land on the Bras d'Or Lakes. At the time (1996), the Nature Trust was a fledgling organization, and the provincial Conservation Easement legislation was brand new. But to Rudy, the uncertainties and questions involved with his landmark conservation gift were simply new territory to be explored; he forged the path that many others have now followed.

He later donated a second conservation easement, this time on the Eastern Shore, protecting four spectacular coastal islands, including the iconic Ship Rock Island.

In 2006 he facilitated the transfer of a spectacular coastal wilderness near Tangier on the Eastern Shore to the care of the Nature Trust, a property now known as the Shelter Cove Wilderness Sanctuary. Ship Rock and Shelter Cove are now part the Nature Trust's vast 100 Wild Islands coastal wilderness. Rudy foresaw the need to protect our irreplaceable coastal legacy long before most Nova Scotians were even thinking about land conservation, and well before there was even a land trust in the province.

In 2011, he protected yet another special place in Nova Scotia, his home property in Chester, Goat Lake Farm. The wonderful woodlands surrounding the entire Goat Lake are now protected, forever, through a conservation easement.

Rudy has been an ardent supporter of land conservation in other ways too, including sharing his stories and helping to inspire and encourage other landowners to protect their land.



He attended almost every one of the Nature Trust's annual fundraising Dinners over the years, and every keynote speaker, from Robert F. Kennedy Jr, David Suzuki, Robert Bateman, and Margaret Atwood to Justin Trudeau, was honored to meet Rudy and to hear of his contributions to environmental conservation.

In 2004, he was honoured with the *Nova Scotia Nature Trust Conservation Award* in recognition of his lifetime contribution to land conservation.

Prior to his involvement with the Nature Trust, Rudy established the *Friends of Nature Conservation Society*, to bring together like-minded people to help conserve our natural heritage. He initially forged this group to save a large coastal island in Maine facing immediate development threat. He also had a hand in preserving the only remaining virgin section of dry tropical forest in Costa Rica. This nature reserve spurred on the Costa Rican government's National Park system. FON has since gone on to accomplish many exciting conservation achievements including protection of natural areas in Nova Scotia. Rudy spearheaded a campaign to preserve one of our last unroaded, unspoiled coastal wilderness areas, Shelter Cove. He did this over 20 years ago, when others were not even beginning to think about or plan for the inevitable coastal development which now threatens conservation of and traditional access to our coast. In 2006, Rudy brought together the Nature Trust and the Friends of Nature to ensure the future preservation of this unique natural legacy.

Rudy's impact on conservation in this province is truly unparalleled. He has been a personal inspiration to so many Nova Scotians, including many of us here at the Nature Trust. In so many ways Rudy will be deeply missed. And will never be forgotten.