

Natural Landscapes



Spring 2009

Preserving Nature on Private Lands

A LOCAL HERITAGE SURVIVES:

ST. MARY'S RIVER CONSERVATION *BY JEN ORGAN*



SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY

Spring, a time of renewal and celebrations, has approached the St. Mary's River with further reassurance that its waters may run forever wild. The Nature Trust is thrilled to announce that a fourth stretch of land along the St. Mary's has been protected as part of the Nature Trust's St. Mary's River Conservation Legacy Campaign.

C.W. Anderson - a shipbuilder, mill-owner, and proprietor of a general store in Sherbrooke during the early 1900s - would be proud to know that his grandson, Murray, great-grandson, Jamie, and great-great-grandson, Reid, have committed to protect a property that has been in the Anderson family for generations. The C.W Anderson Conservation Lands cover 110 acres and span one

kilometer of shoreline along the Main Branch of the St. Mary's River, near Sherbrooke. Among the highlights of this property are mature Acadian forest that will help to foster suitable environments for the globally imperiled Atlantic salmon, and feeding grounds for bald eagles at the Mad Falls waterfalls. Many community members and recreationists associate this section of the river with its beautiful fall foliage.

In 2006, the Nature Trust began an exciting journey to preserve outstanding areas along the shores of the St. Mary's River. The St. Mary's River Conservation Legacy Campaign aims to protect four unique ecological gems found within the watershed: Atlantic salmon habitat, wood turtle habitat, old growth

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“A LOCAL HERITAGE”... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hemlock forest, and Acadian floodplain forest. The C.W Anderson Conservation Lands follow three other major land securements since the launch of the St. Mary's River Campaign. The total amount of conservation land protected along the St. Mary's River has now reached over 400 acres. The acquisition of this property was made possible through the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust (NSCSLLT). In 2008, the Nova Scotia government announced that approximately \$23 million of offshore drilling revenues received from Ottawa will go towards protecting private lands in Nova Scotia through the NSCSLLT. The Nature Trust is pleased that the the Legacy Trust has been allocated towards the C.W. Anderson Conservation Lands - the first Nature Trust project to receive funding from this source.

The significance of the C.W Anderson Conservation Lands expand beyond supporting ecological gems of the St. Mary's River. Conserving the land also protects a local heritage that has been present since the Anderson family first settled in Sherbrooke during the early 1800s. Exposure to healthy forests and waters have inspired the Anderson family, and many others, to become stewards of the land as many have before them. We hope that protecting this land fosters stewardship within the community.

NEW PROPERTY ON CAMERON LAKE: HOME TO CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL *BY ALISON SHEA*



A THREATENED CAROLINA REDROOT

The Nature Trust is excited to announce the conservation of a critical, ecologically sensitive property, providing habitat for two species-at-risk in Canada: the threatened Carolina Redroot and the threatened Eastern Ribbonsnake. One of the last remaining intact parcels of land on the Lake Ponhook system, this south shore property consists of 62 acres of mature forest and lake-associated wetlands, as well as over 2000m of shoreline on beautiful Cameron Lake.

This conservation initiative is extremely important to the survival of the Carolina Redroot in Canada, as Cameron Lake is one of only six lakes in the country (all located in Queens County) where the plant can still be found. Named for its slender blood-red roots, the Carolina Redroot has low reproductive rates (it



A THREATENED EASTERN RIBBON SNAKE

reproduces mostly by vegetative means) and requires a specialized low-nutrient habitat to thrive.

The fen areas of the property are also critical habitat for the threatened Eastern Ribbonsnake, which is found mostly in Queens and Lunenburg Counties. Identifiable by three bright yellow stripes on its dark slender body, this elusive, harmless snake can reach a maximum of 70cm in length. Little is known about the Eastern Ribbonsnake in Nova Scotia, and research is underway to learn more about this unique species at risk.

Thanks to the generous spirit of local residents and Nature Trust supporters, we can work together to conserve these beautiful, ecologically important habitats for the future.



WORDS OF A BIRDER

By DENNIS GARRATT-NATURE TRUST LAND SECUREMENT COORDINATOR



RED BELLIED WOODPECKER

Being a newly arrived birder (from the UK) to Nova Scotia, I was surprised to discover that a large proportion of rare/scarcely birds overwintering in Nova Scotia spend their time in urban and suburban yards. With hindsight this should not have been a surprise given that the areas outside urban and suburban yards are frozen solid (don't get too much of this in the UK!). The proliferation of bird feeders supplies a large volume of nourishing food. Indeed, without this food supply a lot of birds regarded as summer migrants to Nova Scotia and other regular overwintering birds would probably perish.

So, the pursuit of rare and interesting birds this winter has seen me visiting a variety of urban and suburban yards, meeting the always friendly and enthusiastic owners who spend a lot of dollars helping "their" birds get through the winter. Both the owners and the birds have made it a worthwhile and interesting winter. My list has included such goodies as bohemian waxwings, brown thrasher, red bellied woodpecker, brown

headed cowbird, varied thrush, pine warbler and house finch.

Nature Trust Needs a New Home

The plans to demolish the Roy Building have been approved by HRM. This means the Nature Trust desperately needs a new office in a difficult rental market. We are asking for help from our devoted members to think creatively about the possibilities for our new home. Converting a house into offices? Donated or reduced rates from a generous property owner? Any help or leads would be much appreciated. Please contact Alison at nature@nsnt.ca or 425-5263

WHAT IS THE CONSERVATION PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION ACT?

A new Act in Nova Scotia, passed (unanimously) during the Fall 2008 session of the provincial legislature. Basically, it means the following things:

- A new category in the property tax assessment system has been created, called "conservation lands" (there is a strong definition of this in the Act)
- For conservation lands owned by a land trust, the land trust will no longer have to pay property tax
- For landowners who hold conservation easements with a land trust, the landowners will no longer have to pay property tax on the conservation portion of their lands (but will do so for other use areas including residential)

High property tax had been a barrier to landowners wanting to protect their land for over 15 years. Due to a quirk in our province's property tax system, the property tax for landowners who protected their land faced potential increase in their taxes, as well as tax penalties. In addition, land trusts paid taxes on their permanently protected lands every year or faced a time-consuming and not guaranteed tax grant application process.

This impediment has now been removed, meaning savings for individual landowners and land trusts, who are working hard to save Nova Scotia's natural heritage. The Act will be an incentive for people thinking about protecting the natural values of their properties.

SPECIAL EVENTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS SPRING/SUMMER 2009

We have many great opportunities for you to get out and experience the conservation achievements that our members' support makes possible. For detailed event information, please watch for our monthly e-bulletin Landlines, visit www.nsst.ca, or contact our friendly staff at the office (902-425-5263).

APRIL

APRIL 1 – APRIL 30

Aveda Earth Month



A month of activities and events to raise funds and awareness for clean water through land conservation. Contact your local Aveda salon or visit our website for a list of events and ways to get involved. See our next newsletter for a follow up story.

APRIL 22

Aveda Walk for Water on Earth Day

Participate in a benefit walk in Point Pleasant Park on Earth Day. Join the walk, suponsor a walker from the Nature Trust staff team or from your local Aveda salon (call the Nature Trust or visit our website).

APRIL 27

Volunteer/Member Night, NT showcase, and Annual General Meeting

An appreciation reception for members and volunteers, a showcase of Nature Trust successes for the year, and AGM. Location: St. Mary's Boat Club, Halifax. 5pm, all welcome



MAY

MAY 23

Meander River Conservation Lands guided walk
Guided hike at Meander Conservation Lands property (by Smiley's Provincial Park, Hants Co.), learn about spring wildflowers.

MAY 24

Vogler's Cove Stewardship Day
Help clean up the beach of the Nature Trust's Vogler's Cove Conservation Lands.

MAY 31

St. Mary's River "River Days" Event, Property Celebration, guided walk, and BBQ
Join the Nature Trust and the St. Mary's River Association to celebrate a new Nature Trust property. Join a guided walk and enjoy a community BBQ afterwards.

JUNE

JUNE 6

Gaff Point Stewardship Day
Join the Nature Trust, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy to work on trails at the rugged Gaff Point headland, and learn about local flora and fauna.

JUNE 13 (raindate June 20)

Member Appreciation Event
A guided hike, picnic, and hands-on land stewardship activities for the whole family. Location: Wolfville Watershed Nature Preserve and Wolfville Ridge Conservation Lands.



BLANDING'S TURTLES PHOTO: TOM HERMAN

JULY

JULY 12

Turtle Day
Celebrate the amazing and endangered Blanding's turtle, and the new Nature Trust's conservation lands protecting turtle habitat, with a guided walk and turtle activities.

AUGUST

AUGUST 21

Coastal Plain Flora Walk at Gillfillan Lake
A guided rare plant walk, and opportunities to do land stewardship on our Gillfillan Lake Conservation Lands (near Yarmouth).

CLTA CONFERENCE TO COME TO HALIFAX

Great news for Nova Scotians: the Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA) will hold its annual conference in Halifax in September 2009! The CLTA unites and works for land trusts from across Canada to strengthen the land trust movement in Canada. The annual conference, hosted by the Nature Trust, is a fun, hands-on conference, with many skill-building workshops. Feel free to call or email Karen at karen@nsnt.ca with any questions or input. Sept. 24 – 26, 2009, at the Westin in Halifax. More info will be available soon at www.clta.ca.

Also, look in the next edition of Natural Landscapes to find out how the Nature Trust rated in the recent CLTA organizational review



STEPHEN LEWIS CHAMPIONS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AT NATURE TRUST'S 11TH ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

BY STACEY BYRNE



THE VIVACE CHILDREN'S CHOIR OPENS THE EVENING

While maintaining a sense of optimism throughout the evening, internationally-renowned speaker and activist Stephen Lewis did not mince words when he delivered his insightful and timely keynote address at the Nature

Trust's 11th Annual Dinner & Silent Auction.

On October 30, 2008, the audience of over 500 listened intently as Lewis passionately delivered his message about

remarked, "The Nature Trust is a crucial partner in helping the province meet its commitment to protect 12 per cent of our land base. We believe the health of our environment is linked with a healthy economy, so the Nature Trust's efforts are applauded."

The event raised a tremendous \$54,000 which will enable the Nature Trust to continue its conservation work in Nova Scotia. Without the support of sponsors, this event would not be possible and the Nature Trust would like to sincerely thank the following event sponsors: Michelin (presenting sponsor), O'Regan's (gold sponsor), Corridor Resources (bronze sponsor), Halifax International Airport Authority (bronze sponsor), The Chronicle Herald (event media sponsor), Wade Atlantic (print sponsor), Air Canada (raffle sponsor).

The Nature Trust is especially grateful to Michelin, a very successful international business, for taking on the role of being the presenting sponsor. Grant Ferguson, former Plant Manager

"Everything the Nature Trust does fuses with larger environmental issues." -Stephen Lewis



the importance of urgent, dramatic action and "environmental solidarity" to curb the environmental degradation that the planet is experiencing. More specifically, Lewis called for a "dramatic reduction in carbon" and a "dramatic shift to renewable energy." Referring to the Nature Trust as an "extraordinary cause", Lewis noted that "everything the Nature Trust does fuses with larger environmental issues."

During his speech at the event, Minister of the Environment Mark Parent



MICHELIN'S GRANT FERGUSON



PATRICK O'REGAN AND MC SARAH DENNIS DRAW THE DOOR PRIZE

at Michelin's Waterville facility, shared details about Michelin's commitment to the environment.

O'Regan's is the event's gold sponsor, a distinguished local businesses recently recognized with the 2008 Business Excellence Award. Thank you, O'Regan's!

The Nature Trust thanks the event committee – Corey Miller, Karen McKendry, Zsofi Koller, Karen Thompson, Rosanne Bowes, Gerri Elliot, Sandy Low, Joanne McCormick, Rene Scrutton, Darlene Stone and Stacey Byrne. Thanks also to the following event volunteers: Teresa Fisher, Tara Simmonds and photographer Clark Richards. The Nature Trust extends a great deal of gratitude to those who supported and attended the event, as well as those who kindly donated the more than 100 items for the (live and silent) auctions and raffle. Special thanks are also extended to the Vivace Children's Choir for the lovely music, Jeremy Webb for doing a fantastic job as an entertaining live auctioneer, and Sarah Dennis, Vice President of the Chronicle Herald, for doing a splendid job as the evening's emcee.

The Nature Trust Annual Dinner & Silent Auction has become one of the most anticipated events of the year for those interested in the preservation and conservation of Nova Scotia's natural

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED SPONSORS:



NATURE TRUST STAFF AND DINNER VOLUNTEERS

Join the Nature Trust for our 12th Annual Dinner & Auction on **October 15, 2009!** An exciting evening with a diverse selection of auction items, a wonderful meal and inspiring speaker, **Maude Barlow!** Author, Activist and Advocate Senior Advisor on Water Issues to the United Nations

 A close-up portrait of Maude Barlow, a woman with short, reddish-brown hair, wearing a light-colored top and a necklace. She is smiling slightly.

Location: World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax

To order your tickets (Early Bird pricing applies until July 15, 2009) for the 2009 dinner and silent auction please call us at 902-425-5263

CRT: A GIFT THAT GIVES, NOW AND LATER

BY SHEILA BANKS



Dorothy (Nancy) Scobbie, long time supporter of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, died peacefully on January 9. She taught math, established the fencing club, and served as librarian and archivist at the Halifax Grammar School. Her former pupils, relatives and many friends remember her vast stores of energy, her fiery spirit, and crackling sense of humour.

Dorothy has left a rich legacy to the Nature Trust, through a generous Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT).

A CRT is a creative way of giving that benefits generations to come while protecting your income today. This is

how it works. You make an irrevocable transfer of assets (investments, real estate, insurance, etc.) to a trust, with the Nature Trust as beneficiary. You continue to receive income from the trust during your life. You also receive a donation receipt for the value of the capital that the Nature Trust will receive when the trust is terminated.

A CRT can mean tax savings for you and a lasting natural legacy for others. Does this planned giving approach interest you? Discuss it with your family, your financial advisor or lawyer, or contact us for more information. You will be protecting tomorrow, today.

BEHIND THE SCENES SUPPORT

The Nature Trust is pleased to gratefully acknowledge the support of two Nova Scotia firms who have found significant and creative ways to contribute to our success.

Boyne Clarke Barristers and Solicitors, a prominent firm based in Dartmouth has long contributed not only the time and expertise of its staff on our Board of Directors and volunteer committees, but also a generous discount on legal services—an essential component of every land conservation project.

Turner Drake & Partners Ltd., a leading real estate firm in Halifax and long-time

provider of real estate consultancy, has also recently joined the Nature Trust as a corporate supporter. Through their generous sponsorship of the Nature Trust's properties program we will be better able to obtain high quality and cost effective valuations, which are necessary for all property transactions

Support like this allows the Nature Trust to continue its effective protection of properties and to direct fundraising resources where they're needed most. We extend our sincere thanks to Boyne Clarke and Turner Drake.

PROFILE: MONTHLY DONOR

MARGARET MACDONALD



Nature Trust staff Karen McKendry met with our first and longest running monthly donor and past board president, Margaret MacDonald to discuss this unique and critical way of giving.

Karen: When did you become a monthly donor?

Margaret: I became a monthly donor as soon as the Trust made it available to donors.

Karen: What do you get out of being a monthly donor?

Margaret: I find being a monthly donor makes it so much easier for me to meet my own commitment to helping the Nature Trust financially. My monthly donation becomes part of my regular "cost of living". If I want to make a larger donation to the Trust, I can just increase my monthly donation and spread it over the whole year. The donations are, of course, charitable donations for tax purposes.

Karen: What do you think the Nature Trust gets out of your monthly support?

Margaret: Having spent five years on the Board of Directors, I understand how important it is for the Trust to have a dependable source of funding so that planning can be done to make the future of the protected properties secure. The "math" on the concept of monthly donations has always impressed me;

CONTINUED ON P 9

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: THE START OF A GREAT CAMPUS INITIATIVE



NINOTCHKA SEQUIERA AND MANDY EMMS OF DALNT AT GREEN WEEK ON CAMPUS

The Dalhousie Working Group of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust is a new addition to Dal campus. The society was formed after Jonathan Mulle, DalNT Director, was asked by a friend of the Nature Trust to offer advice on how to increase younger membership. Jonathan, nearing the end of his bachelor degree, took the advice offered by a few folks on campus with an eye to conservation and began DalNSNT.

With fellow students Mandy Emms, Liam Miller and Ninotchka Sequiera, the society came to be under the guidance of their liaison at the Nature Trust, Alison Henning. Their first official event was the display they set up in the Student Union Building. They spent five hours speaking with fellow students about the work of the Nature Trust. The event, a part of campus initiative Green Week, helped bolster society membership significantly, which will translate into more membership, volunteering and fund raising for the Trust.

This event was followed up on campus

with a presentation before the freshman Environmental Science class. Combined, these two events have engaged and raised the interest of over thirty Dalhousie students. In the first week of April, the society will hold its first annual general meeting to vote in the executive for the coming school year (as Jonathan and Ninotchka are graduating) and to plan for next years' events. Only a couple of weeks old, and launched on top of thesis writing, medical school and end-of-semester flurry of papers and exams, it seems likely that there'll be big things to come from DalNSNT in the coming school year!

MONTHLY DONOR MACDONALD CONT FROM P7...

for example, if 500 donors gave \$10 per month, that amounts to an annual, and most importantly predictable, income for the Nature Trust of \$60,000.

To become a monthly donor, please contact the Nature Trust at 902-425-5263 or nature@nsnt.ca and we will be happy to help you get started.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ACCOUNTANT

The Nature Trust requires a senior volunteer to oversee our finances and accounting.

PROPERTY GUARDIANS

Keen to spend time outdoors and contribute to land conservation? Join the Nature Trust and network of volunteers in ongoing stewardship of over 4,000 acres of land in Nova Scotia

REGIONAL WORKING GROUP COORDINATOR (VALLEY)

A leadership role for one with keen planning and organization skills. Assist with coordination of field work in Wolfville area

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

We are looking for a committed individual to coordinate, edit, and design our bi-annual Natural Landscapes

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

We are looking for experienced marketing and communications professionals to help implement our PR program.

WEBSITE DESIGNER

We are looking for someone with web design knowledge who can maintain content updates and cosmetic design changes to our site. We would also like to find someone to help with the re-design of our site.

If interested in any of these positions, please see www.nsnt.ca or contact us at 425-5263 or nature@nsnt.ca.

THREE MAUD LEWIS PAINTINGS, A CREATIVE WAY TO GIVE...

Donations sometimes come in forms that might surprise and inspire you. Such was the case with a recent donation from a Nature Trust supporter. This donation came in the way of three Maud Lewis paintings, to be sold and the proceeds to be given to the Nature Trust. The paintings are for sale now at Zwicker's Gallery, who, wanting to support the Nature Trust, has facilitated the appraisal and sale of the artwork at a charitable discount. To find out more, visit Zwicker's Gallery at 5415 Doyle Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. *Full story to come in next Natural Landscapes...*

EXCITING STEWARDSHIP GIFT FOR THE WOLFVILLE WATERSHED

We are delighted to share that we have received a very generous gift of \$25,000 from David and Margaret Fountain for our Wolfville Watershed Nature Preserve Endowment Campaign. The Fountains have been valued supporters since bringing our MacKinnon's Brook Suite CD project to fruition. Our sincere thanks for their kind and much-appreciated support.

We invite all our friends and supporters to experience this very special place on June 13th, at our first member appreciation day (guided nature walks, picnic and habitat stewardship day!)-see event page for details.

CELEBRATORY GIFTS

Rolf Jones
Francine and Michael McCarthy
Wolfgang Maass
Rosemary and Trevor Lloyd
Cecily Moss
The Mullin Family Spruce Point, Volger's cove
Heather White and Eric Mackie
Heather McKean, and Kathi and Tony Sweet
Karen McKendry and Oliver Maass
Geoff, Jake, and Jen Gray
David and Margo McCurdy
Heather Brill and Adam Kristenson
Martin Willison
Michael W. Baker

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Dorothy Mary Gordon Mackenzie Gray Miller
Anne Macdonald Thomsen
Peter Brock
Douglas Pierce and Robert Bain
Judy Green
Douglas Pierce and Robert Bain
Jamiee Gammon
Sydney Horton
Anne Hoyt
Dorothy Ross
Greg Trask

A SPECIAL THANKS TO NEW VOLUNTEERS

Anne Campbell
David Nicholson
Sheila Banks
Alison Shea
DalNT
Jen Organ
Peter Macdonald
Ashley Martell
Janice Kenefick
Caley MacLennan

FRIENDS OF THE NATURE TRUST

<p>MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS, MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND IN-KIND SUPPORTERS WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.</p> <p>SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS:</p>	<p>COASTAL CAMPAIGN</p> <p>Donner Canadian Foundation Fondation canadienne Donner</p> <p> </p> <p>Anonymous donor</p> <p><i>Davis Conservation Foundation</i></p> <p>Sage Environmental Program</p>	<p>PROPERTY STEWARDSHIP</p> <p>Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)</p>
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<p>BLANDING'S TURTLE AND EASTERN RIBBONSNAKE PROJECT</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Nova Scotia Species at Risk Conservation Fund</p> <p>Shell Environmental Fund</p> <p>The Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk</p> <p>Nova Scotia Crown Share Legacy Trust</p>		

Planned Giving: How will you be remembered?

There are many ways to arrange a planned gift, large or small. Such gifts provide preferential tax treatment that benefits your estate and financial plan, by off-setting income tax.



- Bequest
- Gift of Stock or Mutual Funds
- Life Estates
- Trusts and Annuities
- Life insurance
- Gifts of Land/Easements
- Real Estate ("Trade lands")

Please call us to find out more about leaving a natural legacy through planned giving..

1-877-434-LAND

*If you want to make a positive personal impact, save land.
Practically nothing we can do in our lives will make more of a difference.
One hundred years from now, our children will be gone, our endeavors largely forgotten, but
land conservation will stand as tribute to our care and forethought.*

—Land Trust supporter



NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST

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Send submissions for
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P.O. Box 2202, Halifax, NS B3J 3C4

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Nature Trust.

\$15 Student
 \$30 Individual
 \$50 Family
 \$50 Non-profit
 \$100 Supporter/Corporate
 \$500 Friend
 \$1000 Benefactor

Yes, I would like to donate \$_____ (please enclose cheque or include VISA number below)

Yes, I would like to support the Nature Trust year round.
Please withdraw a regular monthly donation of \$_____ from my account on the 15th day of each month. (void cheque enclosed)

Yes, I am a regular monthly donor, but would like to make a special gift. Please deduct an extra \$_____ from my account this month.

Name _____
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- A cheque to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust is enclosed.
- I will pay with a VISA card (Please fill out information below).

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 Signature

- Please send me news by email to save paper and trees.
- Please send a charitable tax receipt.
- Please send information on how I can leave the Nature Trust a legacy gift (i.e. wills, RRSPs, bequests, etc.).
- Please send information on volunteering.
- I have included the Nature Trust in my will.



NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST