

Natural Landscapes

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Volume 4, Number 2, Fall 1998

LANDOWNERS RECOGNIZED

At the Annual General Meeting in May, the Nature Trust recognized the important contributions of five generous Nova Scotian landowners. To celebrate their contributions, these landowners were presented with a Nature Trust Conservation Award.



Nature Trust president, Ian McLaren presents Jack Herbin with a Conservation Award for his generous donation

Four landowners received awards in recognition of their donation of land to the Nature Trust. These lands include: the Brothers Islands in the upper Bay of Fundy, donated by Jack Herbin; a woodland/farmland in the Gaspereau Valley, donated by Dr. Eric Cleveland; a small lakeside property near Sambro, donated by Jack and Darlene Stone; and a small but important saltmarsh area in the upper Bay of Fundy, donated by Dr. Alberto Trillo. These properties will be preserved by the Trust as conservation lands.



Dr. Alberto Trillo

Martin Rudy Haase was recognized for his donation of a conservation easement to the Nature Trust. The property was purchased by Jim O'Brien and Henry Fuller. Conservation easements are legal agreements that protect the natural features of land by permanently restricting certain uses. The landowner retains title and the right to use the land in ways that are compatible with the protection of its conservation values. This conservation easement protects a sixty hectare



Jim O'Brien, Henry Fuller & Martin Rudy Haase

property on the Bras d'Or Lakes in Cape Breton, including approximately two kilometers of undeveloped shoreline.

"The Nature Trust is pleased to present our first Conservation Awards to these generous landowners", said Nature Trust President, Ian McLaren. "A number of these properties are in areas experiencing increasing development pressures. It is only through the commitment of dedicated people like these individuals that we will achieve success in protecting some of the important remaining natural sites in these areas."

KThe award, a watercolour print depicting a Pileated woodpecker perched on the side of an old hemlock tree, was painted and designed by **Annette Luttermann** of Tantallon, Nova Scotia. Many thanks for this generous contribution.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sacred Worth Exhibition

Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, Baddeck
New Brunswick Museum, St. John, NB

Oct. 4 to Nov. 21
Dec. 5 to Jan. 4

Nature Trust/CPAWS Fund-Raising Dinner and Auction

with guest speaker David Suzuki (SEE DETAILS INSIDE!)

Friday, November 27
6:30 pm

PROTECTING LANDS, PRESERVING LEGACIES

The Nature Trust has launched its five-year province-wide “Lands and Legacies” conservation program, based on the success of last year’s Hants County project. Deanna Schofield, Lesley Rogers and Jim Holmes have joined Program Manager, Bonnie Sutherland to undertake this exciting initiative.

Seventeen sites throughout the province have been selected as priority conservation sites for the first year of the program. These priority sites include the habitat of rare coastal plain flora in southwest Nova Scotia and rare arctic alpine flora in Kings and Cumberland Counties. Other sites include the province’s only Thread-leaved

Staff have been visiting with the owners of these significant sites, providing information, and encouraging the owners to protect their lands. Initial response by landowners has been very positive. Without having any previous knowledge of the Nature Trust, the landowners were naturally curious to learn more about the Trust’s goals and methods. Interest was especially sparked when the landowners were given information about the various endangered flora species in their regions and how to identify them. Raising consciousness at any level regarding the natural environment can lead to an increased identification with the challenges that these landscapes face.

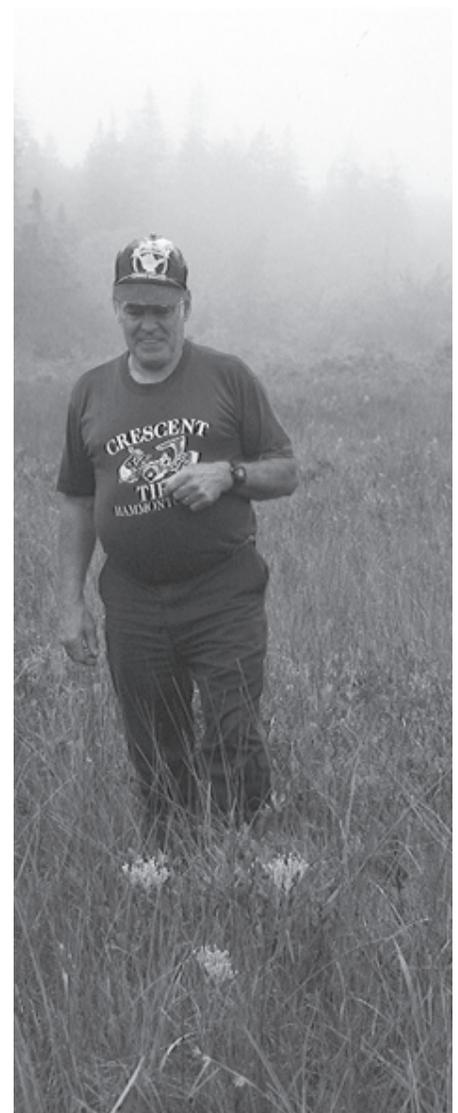
endangered species, protected areas will also be a priority within the plan. Input from various governmental agencies, non-governmental groups, naturalists or interested individuals will be encouraged, and all comments or ideas are welcome.



Lesley Rogers shows Glendon and Steven Gavel coastal plain flora on their lakeshore

sundew bogs in Shelburne County, a unique cedar swamp in Yarmouth County, and rich old growth hardwood forests in the central region. These sites are priorities in terms of both their significance and their vulnerability in the face of increasing threats.

Over the coming months, the project will focus on building a strategic plan for private land conservation, which will include the identification and prioritization of ecologically significant areas. This strategic plan will focus on conservation of the provinces’ biodiversity, rare and



Clark Theriault proudly points out the rare Golden crest found on his Digby Neck property

SACRED WORTH OFF TO A GREAT START

TODD KEITH

The opening of the Sacred Worth exhibition on Earth Day, April 22 at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History was a big success. Attended by nearly 400 people, the gala event kicked off a two year tour during which the exhibit will travel to nine galleries in the Maritimes (see Natural Landscapes Vol. 4, No. 1).

Opening remarks were made by Nature Trust President Ian McLaren, who praised the government's efforts to protect the 31 wilderness sites, and highlighted the need to continue conservation efforts, especially on private lands. Alice Reed provided a personal account of her inspiration for this project, and recounted a harrowing tale of kayaking on the edge of a hurricane off Cape Breton. The Honourable Don Downe, Minister of the Environment, spoke of the importance of the government's protected areas strategy to the future of all Nova Scotians, and restated his commitment to enact legislation to formally protect the 31 wilderness

Kenny MacAskill, Minister of Natural Resources, Robert Chisholm, Leader of the Opposition, and Don Chard, NDP Environment critic were also present at the official opening.



Alice Reed shares her story on the exhibition

The Sacred Worth exhibit was seen by 14,515 people during its two-month installation at the Museum of Natural History. In July the exhibit moved to the University College of Cape Breton Art Gallery in Sydney for a two month run. The UCCB showing closed on September 25. Cape Breton residents have a second

with the peak of the autumn colour season. For those on the mainland who have yet to see the exhibit, the Baddeck run provides an ideal opportunity to view this outstanding exhibit while experiencing the splendour of Cape Breton in the autumn.

STEWARDSHIP PROJECT LAUNCHED

The Nature Trust, in partnership with the Quebec Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Centre for the Environment, has launched a special land stewardship project, "Land Stewards." The project will ensure effective long-term protection of all Nature Trust properties through baseline documentation and monitoring.

Baseline documentation is comprised of thorough field research through the use of maps, photographs and actual field study. Baseline documentation will allow the Trust to figuratively "take a picture" of its properties. Future assessments and monitoring of the properties can then be compared to this initial "picture" in order to detect any change, whether destructive or beneficial, that may occur. Any comparisons made will be evidence that can aid the Trust in enforcing its stewardship power in relation to the property. Land stewards will help to ensure that land conservation initiatives are not compromised.

As part of the project, the Trust will be seeking volunteers throughout the province who are interested in helping to monitor Nature Trust properties. Training and support will be provided for these land stewards. Anyone interested in being involved, please contact our office.



(left to right) Ian McLaren, Don Downe, Alice Reed, Russell MacLellan and Kenny MacAskill

sites. Finally, the Honourable Russell MacLellan, Premier acknowledged the importance of the Nature Trust's work in encouraging private stewardship in the province.

chance to view the exhibit on the island at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck, the third stop on the tour. The exhibit opened October 4 to run for seven weeks to coincide

NATURE TRUST AND STORA WORK TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH "SPECIAL PLACES"

KIRSTEN CRAVEN

Bevan Locke's official title at Stora Port Hawkesbury Limited is "Superintendent of Integrated Resource Management". When asked what exactly this title means, Mr. Locke laughs. Under his title, he is a wildlife biologist and forester who works for the forest products company by fielding questions and concerns from the public about the ways in which Stora is balancing the seemingly competing goals of forestry and maintaining biodiversity. For the uninitiated, Stora Port Hawkesbury is a forest products company that has been operating in Nova Scotia since 1962.

Currently, in a project spearheaded by the Nature Trust, Stora and the Nature Trust are working to identify ecologically significant areas within the 23,000 hectare domain of Stora's privately owned lands. According to Mr. Locke, Stora wants to identify these areas so that instead of being harvested, they can be protected under a long term protected areas system. Once these lands have been fully identified and assessed for conservation, Stora will work with the Nature Trust to ensure protection of these lands, possibly with tools like stewardship agreements, where, through assessment and monitoring, the Nature Trust would be responsible for enforcing conservation of the land.

Through this "Special Places" project, the Nature Trust and the company will be looking for land that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- unique natural landscapes not represented in the provincial Protected Areas Systems Plan;
- habitat of rare/endangered species;
- old forests;

- large relatively undisturbed natural areas;
- critical properties adjacent to existing protected areas;
- linkages between existing protected areas or other large natural areas;
- significant wetlands;
- uncommon or rare ecosystems or ecosites;
- other outstanding natural features.



Summer student assesses the ecological values of a priority site

So far, an extensive mapping process of Stora's private holdings, labelled by Mr.

Locke as "gap analysis", has targeted areas that show conservation potential. A further inventory of these sites has focused on pinpointing lands of "excellent ecological significance". He reports that 95% of these "excellent" lands found in Cape Breton have been visited for further assessment with the aid of maps and photos, in a process called "ground truthing".

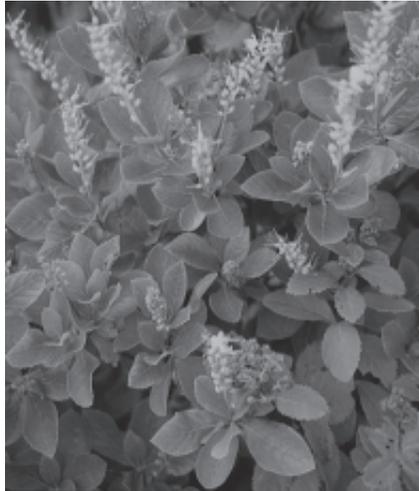
The first steps have been taken. Mr. Locke explains that the next step that both he and the Nature Trust, as partners, need to take is to determine whether the system used so far is acceptable. If it is, it can be implemented on the mainland. As well, lands already identified need to be assessed in more detail. This process is rich with potential. It has the power to contribute to conservation efforts and policies being made provincially and nationally. Yet, the project is unique because it targets ecosystems and landscape features that do not have the benefit of representation within the Nova Scotia government's Parks and Protected Areas System.

Not only does the project contribute to conservation initiatives already in existence (such as the Old Forest Strategy and the World Wildlife Fund's Endangered Spaces Campaign), it is a conservation model to which the corporate world can look to and emulate. Data gleaned from the study of Stora lands will aid the company in its long term management planning, and particularly in sustaining biodiversity on its lands. And where Stora and the Nature Trust go, other corporate landowners just might follow.

THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS: NEW LOCATION FOUND FOR THREATENED PLANT

KRISTEN CRAVIN

If it wasn't for the knowledge and experience that Lesley Rogers gained while working with the Trust's Lands and Legacies program, she might have paddled right by an important discovery! This past August, Lesley and her boyfriend, Roger Lewis, went to stay at a cabin owned by a friend of the family on Mill Lake, near Kejimikujik National Park. One morning, just before lunch, Lesley and Roger decided to go canoeing. While they explored the lake, Lesley was on the look out for coastal plain flora. The canoe trip proved both fruitful and fragrant! Lesley began to detect a sweet smell; a smell she compares to the smell of lilacs.



The fragrant Sweet pepperbush

She followed the scent and sighted white flowers on the shore. She was led to a previously undetected location of the Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*).

The Sweet pepperbush, stands approximately 5 feet in height, and produces attractive white flowers. This bush was previously only known to exist on Louis, Canoe and Belliveau Lakes in Nova Scotia. Based on Lesley's findings, recent field research was focused on this same area and three additional sites have been found. Because of these added areas, prospects have greatly improved for preserving this important coastal plain species.

FIRST NATURE TRUST WALKS A SUCCESS

In last year's Hants County Land Conservation Project, over 100 landowners with ecologically significant natural areas were part of a special conservation education program. Many of these landowners were keen to find out more about the rare plants and significant features on their properties, and within their local area. In response to this interest, the Trust is developing a rare plant booklet for the Hants County area.



Hants residents enjoy learning more about the natural values of their properties

This year, during the spring wild-flower season, the Trust invited local owners on a series of nature walks through some of these significant properties. Nature walks for other parts of the province are planned for next season!

KThanks to **Karen Potter** for her help with the Plant Guide and to **Jim Wolford** for assistance with the guided walks.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Have you paid your **1998** membership dues? Just a reminder that it is membership renewal time. Please mention the Nature Trust to like-minded friends and colleagues who might want to join the Trust, make a donation, or get involved in protecting their land with us. These memberships and contributions enable us to continue to protect special places in the province.

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL AUTUMN GALA EVENT

THE CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS
SOCIETY - NOVA SCOTIA
IN CONJUNCTION WITH

THE NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST

PRESENTS



DAVID SUZUKI



ON

CANADIAN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Friday, November 27th

This evening includes Dinner and Silent Auction
\$45.00 per plate

Proceeds will go to support the Nova Scotia Nature Trust

6:00 p.m. Reception and Silent Auction
7:00 p.m. Dinner followed by
David Suzuki's keynote address

The Westin Nova Scotian
Commonwealth Room 1181 Hollis Street, Halifax

For ticket reservations or more information please contact:
Nova Scotia Nature Trust: 425-5263

Advance tickets available. Space is limited. Both individual
and table (of 10) bookings are welcome.

David Suzuki's books will be available with proceeds being
donated by Stoddart Publishing to the Nova Scotia Chapter
of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

Special thanks to our very hard working event co-ordinator **Maggie Moss**, and the fundraising volunteers: **Jennifer Nichols, Alice Holt, Joanne McCormick** and **Richard Nickerson**

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

Support the important work of the Nature Trust by joining our team of volunteers. We welcome all kinds of support, from aiding with fundraising and promotional efforts, to land stewardship, and newsletter publication/distribution.

NATURE TRUST WISH LIST

- Looking for the donation/long-term loan of:
- Office computer (preferably Pentium)
- Laptop/notebook computer
- Small table
- Fax machine
- ArcInfo
- Scanner

KA BIG THANK YOU TO

- Eric Hundert and Joanne and Bill McCormick for the donation of office desks
- Tom Goodwin for the computer software
- Bank of Nova Scotia for the desk and files
- Economical Insurance Group for a fax machine
- Zurich Canada for various office supplies
- ADI Limited for the office dividers.

RAFFLE WINNERS

June 22nd proved to be a fruitful day for the winners of our Scenic Adventure Raffle:

- First prize** - trip to Sable Island (Ms. McGillivray of Halifax, NS)
- Second prize** - yachting excursion on the Bras d'Or Lakes (Kok-Leng Tay, of Dartmouth, NS)
- Third prize** - sea kayaking trip on the Eastern Shore (Jon Percy of Granville Ferry, NS)

Winners of the Sacred Worth Exhibition catalogues were: (Miki O'Kane, Beverly Grove, Cynthia Grove, Bill Grant, Bay Francis, and Laurie Mireau)

Congratulations to our winners!

KA And many thanks to all who helped to sell raffle tickets.



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- Alice Reed

Natural Landscapes, the newsletter of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, is published periodically. It aims to keep members updated on Nature Trust projects, issues in private land conservation, and special events, and to provide a forum for readers to discuss relevant topics.

Natural Landscapes depends on the input of readers for content. All are invited to submit articles, notes, letters, commentaries, or important notices. Please send submissions on IBM compatible 3.5" diskettes or paper to:

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 Halifax, NS
 B3J 3C4
 fax: 902-429-5263
 email: nature@edm.ca

Further information on the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and its activities can be found by accessing our homepage at: <http://chebucto.n.s.ca/Environment/NSNT/>

KSpecial thanks to all the volunteers helping out with the newsletter: Kirstin Craven, Trudy Evans, Rebecca Fleming, and Robin Willcocks

JOIN THE NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST

Membership in the Nova Scotia Nature Trust is open to any person or corporation interested in the protection of Nova Scotia's natural beauty and native biological diversity. Members receive the newsletter, *Natural Landscapes*, are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting, and may participate in the various committees of the Trust. Members also have the satisfaction of knowing that they are making an important contribution to the protection of Nova Scotia's outstanding natural areas.

Name _____ Organization (if applicable) _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ Province _____ Code _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

information on options
 \$15 Student \$25 Individual \$40 Family \$50 NGO \$100 Supporter / Corporate
 for protecting my land. \$500 Friend of the Nature Trust \$1000 Benefactor Other _____
 (Charitable # 889627691RR0001)

Please make cheque or money order payable to:

I would like to volunteer
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Nova Scotia Nature Trust, P.O. Box 2202, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3C4

OUR SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO:

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