

Natural Landscapes



NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST

Fall 2005

Preserving Nature on Private Lands

“Seeking Shelter” for Coastal Wilderness

By Stephanie Hughes

What started in the 1980s as an effort by the *Friends of Nature Society (FON)* to prevent development on an important piece of Nova Scotia's endangered coastline, has become a broad-based nature conservation campaign that has captured the hearts of Nova Scotians.

Between the eastern shore communities of Pope's Harbour and Tangier, Shelter Cove has been known for centuries for its deeply indented bays and tall cliffs, which provided protection and refuge to fishermen and journeying seafarers. Today, Shelter Cove is one of the province's last coastal headlands without access by road, and is a perfect representation of the beauty and splendor of Nova Scotia's undeveloped, open spaces. It offers something to everyone.

Outdoor enthusiasts love its unparalleled recreational opportunities. Its beautiful turquoise bays are perfect for paddling, and its rocky terrain for hiking. Wildlife buffs can track the endangered mainland moose and unusual plant life, watch the seals and otters, or spy on the eagles and osprey that call Shelter Cove home. Its undisturbed habitats and coastal ecosystems also provide the scientific community with tremendous opportunities for observation, research and education. For many Nova Scotians, saving Shelter Cove is important because people are worried about the rapid development and “fencing off” of our coast. They want their children to be able to experience the wild and beautiful coast they love.

Because access to the Cove is limited to hiking or boat, its diverse and unusual natural features have remained intact. Its back-to-



Photo credit: Oliver Maass

back, white-sand crescent beaches, dunes, salt marshes and rocky coastline—featuring tall cliffs, beautiful look-offs and tide pools—support a diversity of marine and wildlife. The area is a staging ground for waterfowl, and a feeding ground for seal, dolphin and whale populations.

Local media—as well as Nature Trust staff, volunteers and donors—have visited the site in July and August, enjoying boat tours, picnics on the beach, and guided nature walks by ecologists Dr. Martin Willison and Dr. Chris Miller. CBC TV media coverage and newspaper articles about Shelter Cove can be accessed from the Nature Trust website.

As the campaign to save Shelter Cove moves into its fifth month, it is continuing to pick up momentum and support from the community. Thanks to the generosity of foundations, corporations and individual donors, the Nature Trust is now only \$83,000 short of its goal (\$640,000 cash and in-kind) to forever protect the Cove through a combined purchase and

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Conservation

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donation, made possible by FON. When FON approached the Nature Trust about taking over the long-term care of the property, the connection was immediate and the two groups have since been collaborating to ensure that the Cove's natural features and habitats get the protection they deserve. To this end, FON generously donated a significant portion of the land's value, making the purchase of remaining land at Shelter Cove viable and affordable for the Nature Trust.

Since that pioneering commitment, the rest of the province has begun to rise to the occasion, providing thousands of dollars of cash and in-kind contributions, which are a testament to the importance of keeping magical places like Shelter Cove intact. Over \$125,000 has been contributed by individual donors—most notably by three generous

contributions from Rudy Haase, Graham Smith and an anonymous donor.

Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) is leading the corporate side of the campaign with a \$50,000 Environment Fund grant. MEC's Environment Fund, which annually receives 0.4 per cent of the co-op's sales, is dedicated to the protection of outdoor environment areas of significant recreational and wilderness value. Denise McDonald, Halifax store manager, is enthusiastic about the campaign and keen for others to pick it up. "Shelter Cove is a gem, a place where you can experience true wilderness and world-class outdoor recreation," said Ms. McDonald. "We're thrilled to make its permanent protection a reality." Visit MEC to see their excellent Shelter Cove Campaign promotion.

Other funders leading the charge to protect Shelter Cove and other coastal gems are the

Davis Conservation Foundation, Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program and the McCain Foundation. Boyne Clarke Barristers and Solicitors and The Printer, of Halifax, have provided generous in-kind support.

The Nature Trust will be providing campaign updates via its website and publications. Conclusion of the campaign will be marked by a public on-site celebration in the summer of 2006, and special events and activities for major campaign supporters.

A huge thank you to FON for helping us to save Shelter Cove, Oliver Maass for use of his images, Troy Cole for the beautiful design work for the campaign and all our generous campaign supporters.

Please help us save Shelter Cove. Donations are welcome by cash, stock and other securities or bequests.



CBC News at Shelter Cove
(l-r) Dr. Chris Miller and Dr. Martin Willison interviewed by reporter Cynthia Kent
Photo credit: Denise McDonald

Top Left Photo credit: Martin Willison

Bottom Left Photo credit: Denise McDonald

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Conservation

Three Rare Plant Coastal Properties Edge Closer to Securement

By Lauren Allen and Caitlin Hancey

Eight years of striving to save rare plants on the Atlantic coastal plain will shortly culminate with the permanent protection of three key properties, and the engagement of new volunteers to monitor their fragile flora.

The Nature Trust continues its mission to save rare plants on the Atlantic coastal plain through its Plants on the Edge project. This project is aimed at raising awareness of these unique species through outreach and education of landowners and land users, and through training of volunteer monitors to help spot and document coastal plain plants.

This has been an exciting and busy summer for the Plants on the Edge project, with three Atlantic coastal plain habitats in the land securement process and the development of new coastal plain literature. Staff has been busy meeting with landowners in southwest Nova Scotia, and walking their shorelines with them to point out rare species. In addition, 11 new volunteer plant monitors have been trained this season. All of them are very keen on getting out in the field to observe and record information on coastal plain plants and to support ecological con-

servations of critical habitat on their land.

In the near future, the securement of not one, but three properties containing Atlantic coastal plain habitats will be completed. This is big news! It marks the first Nature Trust properties to support coastal plain habitat. The Gillfillan Lake property, near Yarmouth, is home to the nationally threatened—and very beautiful—Plymouth gentian. Molega Lake, in Queens County, is home to two other properties which also provide excellent coastal plain habitat, supporting nationally imperiled species.

The production of both an Atlantic coastal plain field guide and a children's activity guide, are well underway and scheduled for completion this fall. The field identification

guide will include 30 of the coastal plain plants, and should be helpful to landowners and others when identifying plants in southwest Nova Scotia. The children's guide will include educational and fun activities for young plant enthusiasts.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of: The Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, The Government of Canada Ecological Gifts Program, the O Beautiful Gaia singing group, RBC Financial Group, the F.K. Morrow Foundation, the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund, and the William P. Wharton Charitable Trust, Aveda and generous donors who supported our recent campaign. We welcome donations to save these critical conservation lands.



Molega Lake



Plymouth gentian



Gillfillan Lake

Friends of the Nature Trust

AVEDA's Earth Month Campaign Helps Save Endangered Species

AVEDA international had a highly successful Earth Month 2005 Campaign. Over \$1,000,000 was raised through its salons and spas this past April to benefit endangered species conservation across North America.

Within Atlantic Canada, all funds raised benefit the Nature Trust's work protecting habitat for nationally endangered coastal plain plants.

Our congratulations and thanks to all the participating salons. Special thanks to the top fundraisers:

AVALON SalonSpa, Fredericton, NB.
Raised \$2013

LIFE SalonSpa in Halifax, NS. Raised \$1760

BANGZ Hair & Esthetics in Dartmouth, NS. Raised \$1500

Thank you as well to our donors and members who visited an Aveda salon during Earth Month to support this visionary and exciting campaign!

Marine Biology Students Saving the Coast

Dalhousie's Association of Marine Biology Students approached the Nature Trust early this year with an interest in doing something to help save critical coastal habitat. This ambitious and highly effective group organized a fundraising auction, held in the biology department at Dalhousie in the spring, as well as other fundraising activities. Our sincere thanks to the group (Erica Ring, Sophie Whoriskey, Jessica Pearson, Stephanie Howes, Chrissy Jones, Monica Bravo, Jessica Mitchell, Julie Sperl, Leslie Nasmith, Megan Veinot and DAMS Executive Council) for raising \$2187 towards our Campaign for the Coast.

RBC Foundation Helps Fund Conservation Education

The RBC Foundation, through its Atlantic Community Investment Committee, has generously provided a \$2,500 gift towards the Nature Trust's PLACES Education Project (People Learning about Conserving Endangered Spaces). This support will help in the publication of educational materials for both adults and children relating to our endangered species efforts, and materials encouraging volunteerism in our land stewardship program. A huge thank you to RBC for this generous support.



Through RBC Foundation

Memorial and Celebration Donations

The Nature Trust acknowledges the following donations:

Memorial gifts honouring:

Dr. William Merle Bancroft
Margaret Godsoe
Geoff Hogan
Joyce Lachance
Burton Langille

Celebration gifts honouring:

Elsie & John Frank
Clare Robinson

Membership Adds over \$11,000 to Trust's Funding

This year's annual membership drive, held between January 1 and April 28, was a great success. In just under four months, over \$11,000 was raised.

Special thanks are extended to those who participated in this year's membership drive by renewing their own membership, or by purchasing gift memberships as a way to introduce their family and friends to the Nature Trust.

Each renewal and/or gift membership qualified participants to win one of two great prizes:

First prize - a whale-watching tour with accommodation and breakfast at the Bay of Fundy Inn, Brier Island - won by Dan Earle.

Second prize - a one-night stay for two adults at the beautiful Oceanstone Inn & Cottages - was won by Roy and Barb MacKinnon.

Special thanks to Mariner Cruises and Oceanstone Inn for their prize donations.



New Nature Trust Office

The Nature Trust has a new home. As of June 30, 2005, please visit us at Suite 517, 5th floor of the Roy Building, 1657 Barrington Street, Halifax. A big thank you to staff and special volunteers, Traci and Tiana Hutchinson, who helped to make our move successful. We also wish to thank Charlotte McLean of the Decorating Shop for her free design consultation and Interspace for a very generous donation of furniture.

2004 Annual Reports now available!

To receive your copy, call the Nature Trust at 425-5263.

Nature Trust News

New Staff Joins Nature Trust Team

We are pleased to welcome five new staff members to the team.

Caitlin Hancey joined the Nature Trust in May to work on the Plants on the Edge project. She has a background in anthropology and environmental studies and has worked with environmental and community development organizations nationally, in Nova Scotia and in Central America.

Student volunteer turned staff member **Lauren Allan** also joined the Nature Trust in May, after graduating with a BSc in Biology with a minor in Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University. For the past three summers, Lauren has worked for the NS Department of Natural Resources, focusing on conservation of wood turtles at the St. Mary's River watershed. She is now working as a conservation assistant on the Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora project.

Rounding out the Nature Trust Conservation team is **Peter Green**. His role at the Nature Trust involves annual monitoring of our various properties, preparing and implementing stewardship plans for newly protected areas, and providing GIS expertise



Back (l-r) Carly Nilson, Bronwen Hook, Mark McIntosh, Lauren Allen
Front (l-r) Bonnie Sutherland, Stephanie Hughes, Caitlin Hancey, Peter Green

around the office. Peter studied at St. Mary's University, the College of Geographic Sciences, and Dalhousie University, specializing in Geographic Information Systems and community planning.

Bronwen Hook has recently joined us to spearhead the development of our volunteer program, through a 10-month project funded by the Canada Volunteerism Initiative. Bronwen has worked primarily in the field of International Development, with most of her work focused on education and the environment. A seasoned traveller, she has a BSc in Agronomy and MSc in Rural Development.

Also working on the development of our volunteer program, as well as on capacity building, **Stephanie Hughes** completed a degree in International Development at St. Mary's University. Since graduating she has worked and volunteered in community development, both nationally and internationally.

One staff member completed a summer term with the Nature Trust in August. **Carly Nilson** helped out for three months assisting with stewardship and special events. Our sincere thanks to the Atlantic Centre for the Environment for funding this intern position.

AGM Wraps Up with Highlights and Volunteer Appreciation

By Susanne Wagner

The 2005 annual general meeting provided members and volunteers with an opportunity to look back on the past year, which marked the Nature Trust's 10th anniversary, and to prepare for the coming year with new board members.

Vice-president Dale Smith welcomed everyone to the event and highlighted some of the organization's achievements over the past year. "Things are starting to happen," he told those gathered. "We have a significant number of properties acquired and more landowners coming forward." "We are pretty excited about the process to date."

Duncan Bayne, the Nature Trust's land securement coordinator, made a brief presentation about land securement and outreach programs. He talked about several

of the properties the Nature Trust is working on acquiring and their attributes, including the spectacular Shelter Cove and old forest wood turtle habitat on the St. Mary's River.

Also addressing the audience was Michelle Raymond, the MLA for Halifax Atlantic. She praised the staff and volunteers for the vital work they do.

"When Bonnie (Sutherland, the Nature Trust's executive director) talks about the challenges, the words 'ideas' and 'energy' keep coming up," said Ms. Raymond. "The idea behind conservation easements empowers people and is the best way to encourage people and let them know they play a part in protecting these special places."

In addition, special presentations were made

to three members, who are moving on from the Board of Directors including Mary McInnis, George Alliston and Mike Coolen.

A sincere thank you to these board members for their lasting contributions to the Nature Trust.

The evening closed with a special slide presentation by Bonnie Sutherland. It reminded members and volunteers why they are working together to conserve properties throughout the province.

On a final note, volunteers were presented with special certificates of appreciation and a token gift as a thank you.

Nature Trust News

Initiative Provides Funding for Volunteer Programming

By Bronwen Hook

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust received funding from the Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI) to develop new structures and tools to provide greater support to our volunteers. This will help make volunteering as uncomplicated and as rewarding as possible. The project will run until March 2006.

The Nature Trust relies on the generosity and kind support of volunteers to accomplish its mandate of protecting ecologically valuable private lands. Recently, a questionnaire regarding volunteer involvement was

sent to many of our volunteers. Thank you for the time and care you took in responding to this first step in exploring the needs and preferences of our volunteers. Your responses will help us to devise volunteer policies and procedures for those who work far from Halifax, often isolated from Nature Trust staff and other volunteers, as well as those who live or work close to HRM.

The next step in this process is to invite selected individuals to several focus groups being held in the fall of 2005. These meetings will group volunteers from different sectors: the Regional Working Groups, members of the Board, those working on their own, and those working in committees or in the office, and will refine how the new policies and procedures can make their work

more efficient and how the Nature Trust can best support volunteerism.

After these consultations, the project staff will analyze these contributions and develop a volunteer manual. This will contain policies and procedures to guide recruitment, selection, orientation, training, communication, and recognition of those who so generously offer their time, effort and expertise.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage.



Volunteer Opportunities

To volunteer or for further information please call 902-425-5263 or email volunteer@nsnt.ca

Annual Dinner and Silent Auction Committee

This committee plans the Nature Trust's premiere fundraising event. Taking place each October, the committee works almost year round planning the event, and needs volunteers interested in obtaining raffle prizes and auction items, coordinating public relations and ticket sales, obtaining corporate sponsorships, and assisting with the set-up and tear-down the day of the dinner.

Field Volunteers

There are many ways to get involved in the Nature Trust field volunteer programs. Become a Rare Plant Monitor or Property Guardian. These positions offer flexibility and the opportunity to spend time in the great outdoors! These are seasonal positions and will re-open in the Spring. Until then, if you're looking for a great way to get involved, keep reading...

Office and IT Support

If you're interested in administration/office work, you might consider working at the Nature Trust office where tasks include assisting with mail outs, event committee work, data entry, letter writing, filing, and much more! We also need someone with experience to work on an "as-needed" basis to update the Nature Trust website and help out with computer troubleshooting.

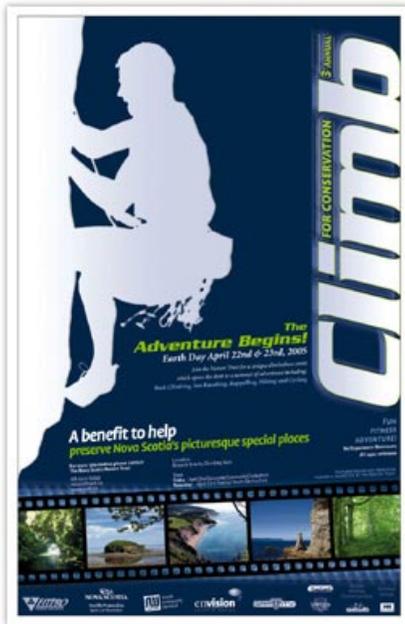
Newsletter Committee

If you have experience with writing, photography, layout, editing (did we mention writing?), this is the committee for you! One of the perks is attending Nature Trust special events and fundraisers in order to cover them.

We are looking for a crew of eight volunteers to help us with the removal of an old shack and debris on our Moody Lake property in Williamswood. Help us beautify this stunning property while enjoying the great outdoors. Please call the office if you can spare a few hours.

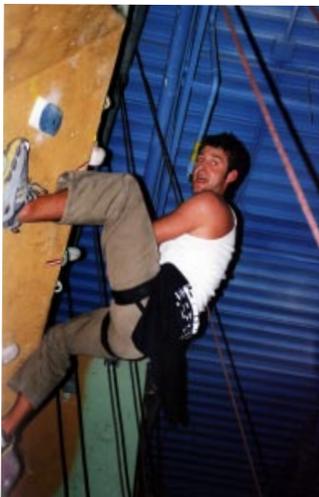
Major Event

Climb for Conservation – The Adventure Begins



The Nature Trust celebrated Earth Day on April 22nd with its 3rd Annual Climb for Conservation. The event raised \$8000 to support the work of the Nature Trust. Climbers ranging in age from 6 to 65, scaled the walls at Beyond Gravity Climbing Gym in Bayers Lake Industrial Park.

This year saw the addition of a new Summer Adventures Series with a number of prize incentives including access to great adventures such as kayaking and canoeing, hiking and cycling, and rappelling. Excellent prizes were devoted for top fundraisers including:



Top Individual Fundraiser - Ingo Eckoldt

Top Individual Fundraiser – Ingo Eckoldt

Liscombe Lodge Adventure Weekend for two, SUV rental from Enterprise Rent-a-Car and a one-hour massage donated by The Physio Clinic

Top Adult Team – Drinkers with a Climbing Problem

Yacht trip for four on Mahone Bay

Top Female Fundraiser – Michelle St. Onge

“Becoming an Outdoors Woman” course and Women’s hiking weekend with Scott Walking Tours

Top Women’s Fundraising Team – Good To Go

All-inclusive sea kayaking weekend donated by East Coast Outfitters and guided by Deborah Stover

Top Youth Fundraiser – Britney Belzevic

Gripped Magazine and Canadian Geographic one-year subscriptions, rock climbing with Vertigo Climbing School and Ski Martock package

Top Youth Fundraising Team – Cougars

Rappelling course with Beyond Gravity Climbing Gym

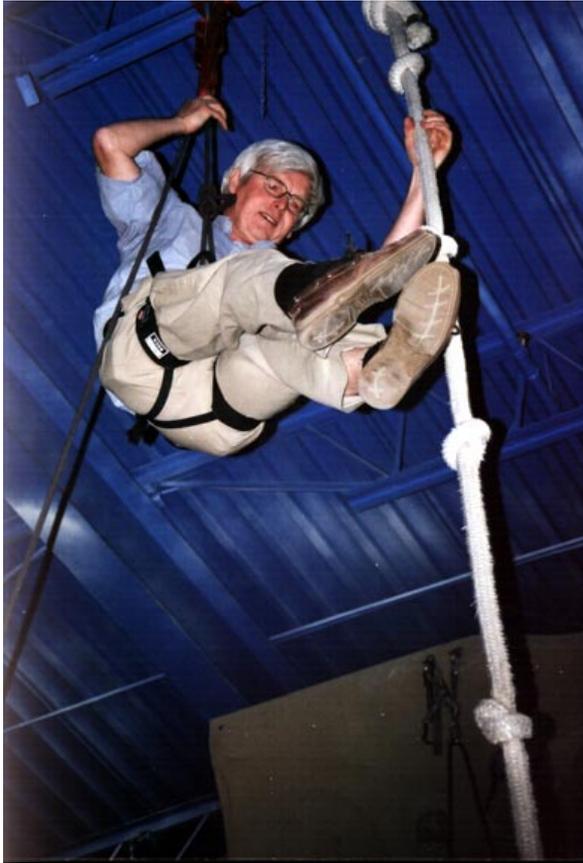


Event Climbers

A very special thank you to our volunteers: Tracy Oakley, Vince McLean and Jenni Duggan. Thanks to Paul Griffith, Fitpro Experience for event management, and to Jennifer Wyatt and Beyond Gravity staff for making this event a success. Special thanks to our event climbers.

Major Event

Climb for Conservation Continued...



Chester Chimps team member Syd Dumaresq



Envision team member Troy Cole

We Wish to Thank our Climb For Conservation Sponsors and Prize Donors:



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ACL CONSTRUCTION

Applewicks - Blumenstrasse Artworks - Body Shop - Burnt-Out Candles - Canadian Geographic
 Carsand Mosher - Climb Nova Scotia - Comfy Corner Café - Discovery Centre - Eastern Front Theatre
 Echo Rock Guides - Encana - Enterprise Rent-a-Car - Great Ocean - Gripped Magazine - Halifax Dance - Hornblower Books
 Joanne Chilton - Martock - Mary MacInnis - National Geographic - Nubody's - RCR Hospitality Group - The Physio Clinic

Nature Trust News

Nature Trust Launches Summer Adventures Program

With generous funding from the Office of Health Promotion Community Grant Program and Go For Green, the Nature Trust launched a series of outdoor adventures this summer. These events are designed to encourage active enjoyment of, and learning about, the natural world. As development pressures increase on our natural areas, the need to preserve those places where people can escape the city, learn about the natural world, and enjoy outdoor pursuits grows even stronger.

Highlights include a sea kayaking excursion to the Nature Trust's Shelter Cove property, a canoe trip exploring the nationally significant endangered plants the Trust is working to protect in southwest Nova Scotia and a series of guided walks in partnership with naturalist groups and government ecologists.

On Sunday, August 14th, the Nature Trust, in conjunction with the Blomidon Naturalist's Society, co-hosted a walk along the Minas Basin with shorebird expert Jim Wolford.



Gillfillan Lake Walk – August 14, 2005

The ten enthusiastic 'birders' who attended the walk were there to observe the annual migration of the semi-palmated sandpipers. Despite the less than perfect viewing conditions, Jim impressed everyone with his knowledge and enthusiasm for these migratory birds.

As many as 200,000 sandpipers annually congregate on the shores of the Minas Basin to fatten up for their non-stop trek to their wintering grounds in South America. The sandpipers are best known for their spectacular aerobatics as large flocks often fly as one, resembling more a school of fish than a flock of birds. Other species were also observed during the walk, including the lesser yellowlegs, cedar waxwings, a red-tailed hawk and numerous bald eagles.

The Nature Trust held two Atlantic coastal plain flora walks this summer: the first on Ponhook Lake on August 13, and the second on Gillfillan Lake on August 14. Both walks were very well attended, with members of the O Beautiful Gaia singing group coming out for a special "thank you" walk at Ponhook Lake, and both local residents and naturalists attending the Gillfillan walk.

At Ponhook Lake, the group was pleased to spot three of the species listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada: golden-crest and redroot, both of which are threatened, and Long's bulrush, which is a species of special concern. Southwest Nova Scotia is the only place in Canada where each of these three species is found. At the Gillfillan walk the next day, the group saw a wide array of coastal plain species.



Shelter Cove Kayak Trip – September 10, 2005

Nature Trust News

Nature Trust Lanches Summer Adventure Series continued...

The highlight was the breathtaking Plymouth gentian, which was abundant along the shoreline. Watch the website for updates on other Nature Trust adventures and excursions. Everyone is welcome to join the adventures.

Many thanks to the Office of Health Promotion Community Grants Program and Go For Green for their support. And to our summer adventure partners: Coastal Adventures, Hinterland Adventures, Halifax Field Naturalists, the Blomidon Field Naturalists and Nova Scotia Protected Areas Branch of the Department of Environment and Labour.



Nature Trust Events August/September

Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Guided Walks – led by Duncan Bayne

Saturday, August 13th, Ponhook Lake

Sunday, August 14th, Gillfillan Lake

Minas Basin Shorebirds Walk – led by Jim Wolford

Sunday, August 14th, Bay of Fundy

Coastal Plain Flora Guided Canoe Trip with Hinterland Adventures

Saturday, August 20th, Wilsons Lake

Shelter Cove Kayak Trip – in partnership with Coastal Adventures

Saturday, August 10th, Tangier

Captain Arnell Nature Walk

Sunday, September 18th, Purcell's Cove

Adventures are open to the public—see www.nsnt.ca for the schedule.

Baddeck Welcomes the Nature Trust

The Nature Trust held an information reception at the Baddeck Yacht Club on July 5. A large crowd of supporters turned out to hear first hand about the Trust's recent accomplishments. They were joined by Nature Trust members, other local and summer residents eager to learn more about the Nature Trust's efforts to preserve outstanding conservation lands in Cape Breton. The Nature

Trust has already secured three Cape Breton properties, and is actively working on four additional sites.

The event brought forward more landowners keen to ensure that their unique properties remain just as they are, forever.

The Nature Trust was pleased to have in attendance members of the Treat family (Bob, Mary Lou and Carolyn), donors of a conservation easement in the Mabou Highlands and Jim O'Brien and Henry Fuller (current owners of the Washabuck Conservation easement).

See the Victoria Standard coverage of the event at www.nsnt.ca.



Photo: Victoria Standard

Atlantic Land Trusts Partner to Preserve Endangered Species

The Island Nature Trust (PEI), the New Brunswick Nature Trust and Nova Scotia Nature Trust launched a joint conservation effort this year. Through this project, the three land trusts were able to secure permanent protection for several critical conservation sites. These sites protect an endangered Peregrine Falcon nesting site in New Brunswick, an old growth forest (including Butternut trees) in PEI, and Coastal Plain Flora, old growth flood plain forest, and endangered Wood turtle habitat in Nova Scotia.

Our sincere thanks to Paul Chamberland and the Habitat Stewardship Program for their generous support, and to our partner land trusts in PEI and New Brunswick for joining us in this cooperative effort.



Nature Trust News

CAPP Energy in Action

The Nature Trust partnered with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) and the St. Mary's River Association (SMRA) for CAPP's Energy in Action Day. Through this initiative, CAPP supports community stewardship activities each year in 12 communities across the country. On October 3rd, CAPP, the Nature Trust and SMRA brought together volunteers for a habitat restoration/tree planting project on a Nature Trust conservation property on the St. Mary's River. The land, belonging to Dr. Hardy and Barbara Eshbaugh, will soon be protected by a permanent conservation easement with the Nature Trust. Although the property supports extensive areas of Acadian forest and important river habitat, sections of the site were cleared for agriculture. This project will help to accelerate natural regeneration of the original floodplain forest along the river. The general public joined us for a community barbeque at the St. Mary's River Association Interpretive Centre in Shelburne following the tree planting. For details about the Energy in Action Day, please contact the Nature Trust office at 425-5263 or visit www.nsnt.ca.



Our thanks to CAPP, the SMRA, Mark Pulsifer and the Eshbaughs for making this exciting stewardship project possible. The Nature Trust is working to secure other conservation lands along the River, protecting old growth forests, endangered Wood turtle habitat and helping to preserve Atlantic Salmon. Watch for our campaign launch in spring 2006.



CAPP Energy in Action volunteers at the St. Mary's River floodplain forest restoration site



Canso Girl Guides and Natural Resources' Dave Sweet, tree planting volunteers



Nature Trust Executive Director Bonnie Sutherland, CAPP's Paul Barnes, SMRA President Dale Archibald and Anadarko's Troy Geertsen

Help Protect Even More Land Become a Conservation Guardian!

Join the Nature Trust *Conservation Guardians Monthly Donor Program*. Make your dollars go further in protecting critical conservation land in Nova Scotia by:

- Lowering administrative costs
- Providing a steady, reliable source of funding for the Nature Trust, allowing us to be more efficient, plan long-term and therefore put more dollars directly towards conservation
- Allowing us to respond quickly to threatened properties that need protection
- Using less paper to process your monthly gift

For just \$10/month, the Nature Trust can accomplish important things such as:

- Preserve forever, one acre of nationally endangered plant habitat
- Create signage for a property to ensure users respect the land
- Conduct a formal monitoring visit of a conservation site to ensure compliance with easement restrictions
- Provide training for a team of volunteer land stewards to help protect one of our conservation sites

It is quick, easy and convenient to sign up. Your gift is automatically deducted from your bank account monthly. You can cancel, increase, decrease or pause your monthly gifts at any time. As our thanks for joining, *you will receive a beautiful Spirit of Place screensaver and note cards*. Contact us at 425-5263 or nature@nsnt.ca for more information on this exciting opportunity.

Leaving a Legacy

You Can Help Save Nova Scotia's Wilderness – Leave a Legacy in your Will

By Sharon Glynn

As native Nova Scotians, my husband and I have always loved the natural beauty of this province. Whether it was hiking along rugged granite cliffs by the ocean, canoeing through quiet lakes, or experiencing the vivid colors and crisp air of autumn—it is indeed a unique and wonderful place.



Planned Gift Donors Chris Bennett and Sharon Glynn

We have enjoyed the thrill of seeing wildlife and plant life, and being able to identify different birds and plants, from the smallest flower to the largest tree.

Our philosophy has always been that this must be preserved. Once it is gone, it is gone forever. It has been very disturbing to see how people have built cottages and homes on these sensitive ecosystems, not only destroying plant and animal habitat, but preventing the public from accessing these areas. We believe that the mentality of “private property” is harmful to the environment and to society in general.

In the last few years we have really noticed how lake and oceanfront development has been spreading at an alarming rate in this province. And it seems that people are building bigger and bigger “cottages” and homes, and they are quite

happy to cut down trees and alter the landscape.

During this time, we have also become involved with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

Two and half years ago we moved to Victoria, B.C. At this time we needed to update our wills. Although we don't have children, we certainly could have left all of our estate to family members. I'm sure that would have been a welcome gift—use it to go on a trip... buy some new furniture...

Suddenly, however, we started to realize that the environment needed our help more than people. Wasn't this so much more important and consistent with our personal philosophy? Why not give smaller gifts to family, and leave a legacy to the Nature Trust?

This was a wonderful opportunity to make a real and lasting contribution to protecting Nova Scotia habitat. We want to help conserve it for all future generations, so we have left a legacy to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

In fact, if you want to leave a real legacy to your family members, isn't this a better way to do it? They will always have that wild place on Nova Scotia's beautiful granite shores or quiet woods that they can enjoy. Tell them that you have helped save a small part of Nova Scotia on their behalf and for all living things on this planet.

Chester Group Works Towards Preservation in Mahone Bay

By Syd Dumaresq

The mission of the Nature Trust's Chester Working Group is the preservation of the islands and shoreline of Mahone Bay through donation acquisition or conservation easement. The highlight of this year's activities was a reception graciously hosted by Dudley and Jim Grove at their summer home in Chester. This event was attended by over 100 supporters who turned out to hear our message of conservation.

Our fourth public lecture, held this summer, was on the ongoing effort to re-establish the

Roseate Tern colony on Quaker Island. Thanks to Heather Ollivella and Andrew Boyne for delivering excellent lectures on this fascinating subject.

The Chester Working Group continues to cooperate with the Mahone Islands Conservation Association (MICA), who concentrate their efforts in the southern part of Mahone Bay.

Our group also sent a team to the Climb for Conservation event and had an enjoyable experience.

For the upcoming year, our activities will be:

- communicating directly with island and shoreline land owners to promote conservation

- planning next year's reception and public meeting

- working with the Municipality of Chester to tighten zoning regulations regarding islands and shoreline

- working in conjunction with the Halifax office of the Nature Trust and with DNR to identify islands already publicly owned

- other methods of raising awareness locally.

Anyone interested in joining the Chester Working Group please contact Syd Dumaresq by calling 425-3271 or email spda@ns.sympatico.ca.

Leaving a Legacy

Legacy Circle Donors Honoured at Special Event

The Nature Trust honoured a very special group of donors this July at the K.C. Irving Environmental Centre in Wolfville.

Membership in the Nature Trust's Legacy Circle is an honour bestowed on those individuals or groups who have taken action to ensure a future conservation legacy in this province, either through the donation of land or a conservation easement, or through a planned gift, such as a bequest, gift of life insurance or RRSP to the Nature Trust.

Legacy Circle Members Honoured at a Celebratory Reception in July:
Back row: Klaus Jensen, Stuart Lindsay, John Gutting, Jason Roth
Middle row: Mary Lindsay, Suzanne Gutting, Rudy Haase (also representing the Friends of Nature), Jack Herbin, Wolfville Mayor Bob Stead, Cheryl Roth.
Front row: Curtis Chipman



This inaugural Legacy Celebration included a reception in the Centre's garden room, guided tours of the botanical garden with Centre director, Peter Romkey, and a Nature Trust slide show.

Legacy Circle members were also presented with a unique pewter recognition plaque created by artisan Greg Amos.

We owe so much to these very generous conservation leaders. Our heartfelt thanks to all who traveled across the province to

attend. We hope to have the opportunity to meet with our other Legacy Circle members over the coming months.

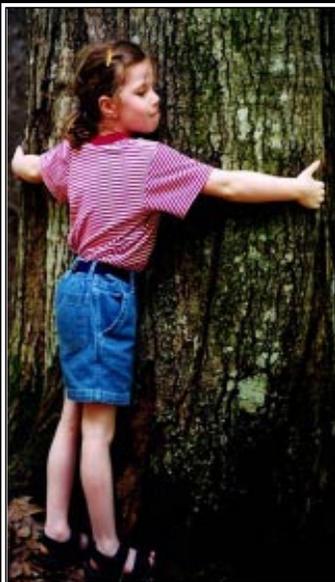
Thank you as well to Peter Romkey and the K.C. Irving Environmental Centre and to our local working group members who provided assistance.

If you have included the Nature Trust in your planned giving, please let us know, so we can include you in our Legacy Circle and ensure we honour your gift.

Exciting New Donation Option

There is a new way for Nature Trust friends to support critical conservation work. The Nature Trust is now set up to receive gifts of securities, such as mutual funds, bonds, and stocks. Such donations provide significant tax advantages.

We have just recently received our first gift of stock, and hope this new giving opportunity will open new support possibilities for our faithful members and donors. It is easy to do, and provides extra tax savings for your charitable gift. Please call the office to find out more.



*Preserving nature
on private lands for
future generations*

A PLACE BETWEEN TIDES, BY HARRY THURSTON

Reviewed by Bronwen Hook

Harry Thurston's book, *A Place Between Tides*, combines personal memoirs of a childhood spent close to a salt marsh and the natural history of the salt marsh where he has lived for the past decade.

It is a book that lends itself to quiet hours spent in a hammock (where I mostly read my copy), and it doesn't much matter if you fall asleep over it — the slow tides and seasons of the marsh pass and return, and its natural rhythms do not require strict attention!

The book is comprised of a series of 12 essays recounting the unfolding of life during the months of the year in the region of Nova Scotia that Mr. Thurston calls home: the Tidnish River of Cumberland County.

The reader discovers a wealth of detail about the lives of the non-human citizens of the salt marsh: the birds, fish, and mammals that each take their turn as predator and prey. Nor are the plants forgotten: there are few that can abide this harsh environment and the description of how they do so is fascinating.

As Mr. Thurston recounts his observations of the natural world, he also weaves in stories from his boyhood in a similar environment, as well as anecdotes about his neighbours and friends. This back-and-forth between human and animal worlds makes for an easy-going read which I very much enjoyed, particularly as the author's writing is both precise and poetic so that one's pleasure is both in content and in form.

Harry Thurston was special guest speaker at the Nova Scotia Nature Trust's Annual Dinner and Auction, held on October 15, 2005. Harry is also the author of 16 books. His writing includes a collection of poetry *If Men Lived on Earth* (Gaspereau Press 2000).



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