

Natural Landscapes



Spring 2005

Preserving Nature on Private Lands

Nature Trust and Province partner for land preservation

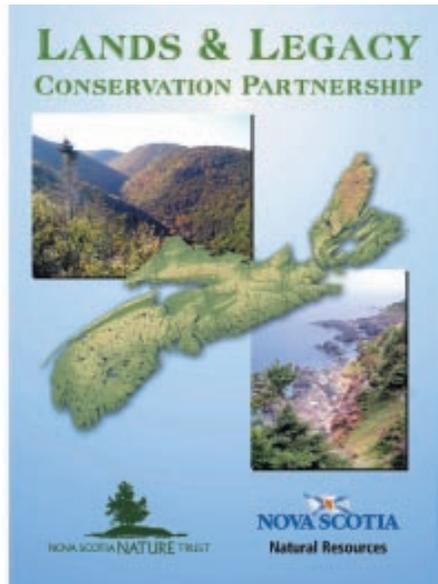
By Lisa Chisholm

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust is pleased to announce a landmark conservation agreement. With over 70 percent of the province in private ownership, significant private land conservation is a critical complement to conservation efforts on Crown lands. The Nature Trust, Nova Scotia's leading private land conservation organization, is the logical partner for the government in these efforts. On April 7th the Nature Trust and the Province officially announced the Lands and Legacies Conservation Partnership.

So what does this mean for the Nature Trust? Truly, it is great news. For Bonnie Sutherland, Executive Director of the Nature Trust, "the agreement is an excellent step forward for conservation in Nova Scotia." She emphasized that by supporting Nova Scotia's local land trust, the province is making an important local investment in land conservation capacity.

Under the terms of the agreement, the province will provide \$300,000 over three years for the securement of high priority conservation lands. The Nature Trust is to transfer \$300,000 of land to the Crown to be designated as protected areas. Although the agreement does not provide direct support for the organization or land securement costs, the funds provide an important base to encourage private sector matching funds.

So what does this agreement imply for the Province? The government gains a



valuable partner with a strong track record in community-based land conservation, stewardship and education. It gains access to a vital non-government tool for private land conservation, and leverages significant conservation dollars. For every dollar in the agreement, \$1 worth of conservation land is transferred to the Crown, and an additional \$1 of land is secured by the Nature Trust through acquisition or easement. According to Natural Resources Minister, Richard Hurlburt, "This agreement is a powerful tool for securing a land base which will benefit existing and future generations of Nova Scotians."

Joanne Himmelman, Executive Director of Land Services for Natural Resources, states, "ultimately, land will

be protected which would not otherwise have happened without the unique strengths and abilities of the Nature Trust." She adds, "the Nature Trust is a Nova Scotia group protecting Nova Scotia property. This partnership will serve as an ongoing commitment to the people of Nova Scotia." She stressed that, "this first time formal partnership is indeed special!"

The agreement builds on the foundation already set out by the Nature Trust—protecting priority natural areas of Nova Scotia for the long-term. The agreement also builds upon many years of cooperation between the government and the Nature Trust on a range of efforts from preserving critical habitat for migrating shorebirds, to protecting nationally endangered species.

The Lands and Legacies Conservation Partnership is a critical first step which hopefully will encourage even greater cooperation in the future. On behalf of Nova Scotians, the Nature Trust commends the Province for its investment in Nova Scotia's natural legacy.

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Friends of the Nature Trust

Aveda Earth Month Campaign for Endangered Species

By Sasha Liston

An exciting campaign led by Aveda will raise funds and awareness for the conservation of endangered species.

Aveda is an international, environmentally conscious company that makes and markets plant-based beauty products. Each year, Aveda launches an Earth Month campaign to raise funds and awareness for environmental issues. Over the past five years Aveda has raised more than \$3.5 million for its Earth Month conservation partners.

The Nature Trust is Aveda's Atlantic conservation partner for 2005. Funds raised in our region benefit the Nature Trust's Plants on the Edge initiative — a program to protect endangered plants of the Atlantic coastal plain.



Nationally endangered coastal plain plants

People can support Earth Month by purchasing special Earth Month products, by making an “Appointment for the Earth,” (massage, haircut, manicure etc.), or by making a donation.

“Earth Month gives our clients the chance to make a difference — while doing something for themselves,” says Cindy Dunn, Regional Earth Month Champion for Aveda. “We are also par-

ticularly excited that this year our efforts will support an initiative right here in our Atlantic Region.”

With the largest, most significant and intact populations of coastal plain flora in Canada here in Nova Scotia, and with these populations facing increasing habitat threats, the conservation benefits of Aveda's campaign are nationally, and even globally significant.

Bonnie Sutherland, Nature Trust's Executive Director suggests, “The Earth Month campaign is an excellent example of how our corporate partners can work creatively with us to raise funds and awareness for conservation.”

Sincere thanks to Aveda and the Aveda distributors and salon/spa staff for their Earth Month efforts.

CD project provides funding for Plants on the Edge

By Duncan M. Bayne

The Nature Trust's Plants on the Edge project received a funding boost thanks to a \$5,000 donation by the O Beautiful Gaia group. The money was raised by sales of a special CD launched by the women and their project partners from Atlantic New England and the Great Lakes region.

O Beautiful Gaia is a group of women who have come together to sing about their land and waters. In 2003 the group released a two disk CD, *O Beautiful Gaia — Love Songs to Earth*, expressing their joy in their connection to the land where they live and the other species that live there. It also, according to member Charolotte Keen, mourns the passing of species from our world, mostly due to human activity.

Much of the music was written by Carolyn McDade of New England, however women in each region were invited to provide original lyrics or compositions. Local contributions include music by Nova Scotia's Georgina Chambers and three instrumental pieces from Atlantic Canadian women, including fiddler Mairi Rankin.

Proceeds from the CD will support earth conservation in the region.

“The O Beautiful Gaia group is delighted to be able to support the activities of the Nature Trust's Plants on the Edge project, which dovetails so well with our group's intentions,” says Charlotte.

“We hope to continue to raise awareness of our need to protect and preserve

Nova Scotia's rich natural heritage through singing and participation in projects such as this.”

Check www.nsent.ca for updates on performances by *O Beautiful Gaia* at Nature Trust functions. To obtain more information on the singing group and CD, visit www.obeautifulgaia.com.

Morrow Foundation to help protect rare species

The Nature Trust is thrilled to have a new foundation on board for our endangered species efforts. Welcome and thank you to the F.K. Morrow Foundation, for the \$5,000 project grant towards Plants on the Edge.

Friends of the Nature Trust

Corporate Profile: Jacques Whitford demonstrates innovative ways to contribute to the Nature Trust

By Wanda Baxter

The lobby of Jacques Whitford is a beautiful place to wait for an appointment. The photographs on the walls aren't privately commissioned prints, created for the company and hung in their offices across the globe. The photographs are from the Nature Trust collection *Spirit of Place* by Joanne Chilton, and they are just one of the innovative ways this company has found to support the Nature Trust.

Marty Janowitz is the man behind connecting the organizations, and it is a natural fit. While his day job involves promoting Jacques Whitford as a senior marketing professional, his role as Nature Trust President is no less important to him.

Around the time the Nature Trust was organizing the *Spirit of Place* project, Jacques Whitford was planning to redesign its main office and its website. Marty suggested the company consider purchasing some of the Nature Trust's photographs for the main office, and offer a free *Spirit of Place* screensaver and rotating monthly calendar on their website www.jacqueswhitford.com for their upcoming web launch.

This isn't the only way Jacques Whitford has found to support the Nature Trust. This past December the company opted to use electronic holiday card distribution, and to pass the savings on to national and local charities, including the Nature Trust, as a charitable donation. The firm also supports the Nature Trust dinner and

and "climbs the walls" for conservation at our annual Climb-a-thon.

We acknowledge and thank Jacques Whitford for their continued support and commitment to the Nature Trust.

New corporate partners: Exxon, Minas Basin and Scotiabank

The Nature Trust gratefully acknowledges our newest corporate partners. Thank you for the generous donations and leadership in land stewardship:

Exxon Mobil \$5,000

Minas Basin/George Bishop \$3,000

Scotiabank \$2,000

Ontario-based Bluenosers form N.S. Nature Trust support group

A small group of Bluenosers living in Toronto's West End recently established the Ontario Friends of the Nature Trust.

The "Friends" organization has two goals. The new group wants to inform Ontario-based about the Nature Trust and its critical conservation work. Secondly, the group wants to raise funds for the Nature Trust.

"It seemed to me there was a real opportunity here," says Fred Holtz, former Nature Trust board member, who moved to Toronto in 2000 to help care for his grandchildren. "My granddaughters' school brought me into contact with area parents, some of whom turned out to be Nova Scotians

and it all started from there. It's surprising how many people here have Nova Scotia ties and remain strongly connected to its landscape."

Victor Hayes, a native of Glace Bay now living in Toronto adds, "We remember the Nova Scotia we grew up with and we want our children and grandchildren to have the same."

In March, Nature Trust Executive Director, Bonnie Sutherland met to strategize with the group.

If you know anyone living in Ontario who might be interested in helping, or for information, email Victor Hayes at victor.hayes@sympatico.ca

Halifax BMW donates multi-year gift

Halifax BMW Ltd. and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust are pleased to announce a new five-year partnership.

Ed Backman, the dealership owner, has pledged a generous \$5,000 donation per year, for the next five years. This provides the Nature Trust with a guaranteed \$25,000 for programs.

We sincerely thank Ed for providing financial security for ongoing Nature Trust work.

"We hope other corporations will follow BMW's lead," says Bonnie Sutherland, Nature Trust Executive Director. "Multi-year commitments are critical for our sustainability."

Nature Trust News

Volunteer Welcomes

We are pleased to welcome nine new volunteers to the Nature Trust team.

Susanne Wagner joined us as our Newsletter Coordinator. She will work with the staff and newsletter committee on all aspects of the newsletter from article selection and editing to layout.

Our new Volunteer Coordinator, **Brandon Handley** has been busy with recruitment of volunteers. He will work closely with our Office Coordinator to build a strong volunteer team.

Two student volunteers, **Sasha Liston** and **Lauren Allen** have been working with project staff on various outreach activities. **Tracy Oakley** was instrumental in securing prizes for our Climb-a-thon and is helping out in the office.

We would also like to welcome **Rob Wagner** and **Mark Campbell**, who are sharing their expertise in communications. **Dereck Day** and **Troy Cole** are sharing their graphic design skills. Troy is the creative master behind the gorgeous climbathon graphics.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Staff Changes

Bev Ramos, our multi-talented, exceptionally dedicated and versatile office manager has moved on to work full-time coordinating Scientists and Innovators in the Schools. As our first office coordinator, she made tremendous contributions to our events, programs and office systems. Bev is generously continuing to share her talents with us, as a volunteer on the dinner committee.

Three other staff members completed their project terms. Jill Pasquet helped out for four months with fundraising events and database management. Dave Trudell was on board for 12 months and never ceased to amaze us with his diverse skills and technical abilities, and his willingness to help out wherever needed as our projects assistant.

Jennifer Pinks served as a project coordinator for a number of conservation and stewardship projects over three years. With her high level of organization, she did a superb job keeping on top of complex project administration and deadlines. Jennifer put her wonderful people skills to work building our base of "conservation guardians," providing outreach and property monitoring, and liaising with our easement holders. The

high level of support she provided for all who worked with her will be missed.

Our sincere thanks to you all.



Jill (front), Jennifer (left), Bev, Dave, and Duncan

New Face at the NSNT

We are pleased to welcome **Mark McIntosh** as our new Office Coordinator. Working in the non-profit sector for the past 11 years, both professionally and as a volunteer, he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in program and volunteer management. We are thrilled he has joined the Nature Trust team.

2005 seasonal and contract positions are posted at ww.nsndt.ca



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Want to help make a difference? Gain valuable experience with like-minded people? We are currently seeking energetic individuals to fill various volunteer positions at the Nature Trust.

Donations Management/Database Coordinator and Assistant
Annual Dinner & Auction Committee: Committee Chair, Event Volunteers
Newsletter Committee: Writers, Layout and Design Support (layout utilizing Adobe PageMaker)
IT support
Major Gifts Team
Climb for Conservation 2006: Chair and Assistants

For more information on volunteer opportunities call 425-5263 or email volunteer@nsnt.ca

Nature Trust News

NSNT.ca — website gets new look for spring

For almost a year, two volunteers, Matthew Hogg and Greg Lukeman, have been hard at work on a complete rewrite of the Nature Trust website.

Matthew, who by day is a web designer for Internet Solutions of Halifax, did all the design, development, and coding.

Greg, an Nature Trust board member, collected the content and acted as “project manager.”

In addition to the new design, Matthew created an interface for staff to easily and quickly update the site with recent news and events. We’ve also been working on several new features, such as an interactive property explorer and a opt-in/out mailing list.

You are invited to explore the new site and we would appreciate any comments, or suggestion for improvements: nature@nsnt.ca.

Our sincere thanks to Greg and Matt for their hard work. We highly recommend Matt for any web work you might need! (www.isl.ca)

Visit nsnt.ca to win

Feeling lucky? Visit the new Nature Trust website, and find the “click here to win” link for your chance to win great prizes.

New guide takes the weight out of plant identification

By *Duncan M. Bayne*

One of the impediments to enjoying the beauty of coastal plain plants is the difficulty of identifying species from existing wildflower guides. The only guide covering all species is Roland’s hefty two-volume *Flora of Nova Scotia*. Weighing in at 5 lbs. 13 oz., the books have been known to cause botanists to walk with a shoulder tilt, leading to the condition known as “botanist’s slope”.

To make life easier, and more enjoyable for us all, a team of intrepid Nature Trust volunteers will produce *A Guide to the Identification of Coastal Plain Plants*. At

less than 4oz, the guide will be light and field friendly. It will identify both rare and widespread coastal plain plants with photographs and interesting ecological information.

Our gratitude to all the landowners in southwest Nova Scotia for their help in working with the Nature Trust to protect these endangered species and their fragile wetland habitats.

Our thanks also to the rare plant monitors whose volunteer efforts each year, through rain and shine, allow us to track the status of these endangered species and their critical habitats.

SINCERE THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



**F.K. Morrow
Foundation**



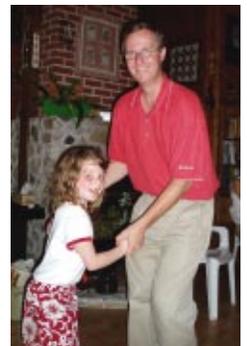
Nature Trust Ceilidh Celebrates Mabou Easement

The Nature Trust held a celebratory Ceilidh in Glendale July 16th to commemorate the first donation of a conservation easement in the Mabou Highlands. The Treat family (Bob, Marylou, Sharon, Carolyn, Roger, Rory and Jessica) generously protected a stunning 275 acre coastal property.



The Ceilidh was well attended, attracting more than 70 locals and friends of the Nature Trust. The event bolstered enthusiasm for continued efforts to protect Cape Breton’s precious coastal lands. Thank you again to the Treat family for this wonderful natural legacy, and to Bob and Marylou for joining the celebration.

Many thanks as well to Andrew, Delores and Frank Casey for generously opening their home to us, and providing the music and hospitality that made the occasion such a memorable one.



Leaving a Legacy

Exciting bequest leaves Nature Trust unique lands for future generations through planned giving

By Heather McKinnon and Emma Boardman

Priscilla Huntington was one of the first people to sign up for the Nature Trust's new planned giving program.

She fell in love with the province when she first visited as a teenager, 66 years ago. At that time, Priscilla and her parents drove around the scenic dirt roads of Cape Breton, including the Cabot trail. She still has fond memories of being permitted to drive much of the way with her brand new licence.

Years later, when she had the means to buy a second home, memories of her first visit led her back to Nova Scotia. She purchased a property near Guysborough, where, for the last 30 or so years, she has cherished and enjoyed her extended summers. Around 1980, Priscilla and a friend bought the adjacent property that was known as the "Carr" property.

The combination of her long-time concern with conservation, and her understanding that Nova Scotia was too remote for most of her family to enjoy the property, made planned giving a

great option for Priscilla. When making her will in March of 2004, she decided to bequest this Manasette Lake property to the Nature Trust, ensuring that the natural beauty of this significant coastal wetland would be preserved forever. She discovered that by leaving the land to the Nature Trust in her will, she could benefit from U.S. estate tax benefits, just as if she'd donated to a U.S. charity.

Priscilla chose to work with the Nature Trust because she appreciated that we are a local, Nova Scotian land trust.

The property is an excellent example of a coastal wetland and has many significant features. These include 1300 feet of unaltered coastline and 1500 feet of Ragged Head that runs into Nova Scotia's largest bay, Chedabucto Bay. This 72-acre property contains a unique Tombollo formation, brackish (part saltwater/part freshwater) Ragged Lake and fresh water Carr Lake, along with the fresh water wetland in the centre of the property. The property supports important waterfowl habitat, and a coniferous forest with large balsam fir, and black and white spruce.

Thanks to Priscilla's generosity, forethought, and recognition of the ecological significance of the land, it will now be protected for future generations.



Duncan Bayne, Nature Trust Land Securement Coordinator, at the Manasette Lake property

A Note to Our U.S. Friends

A bequest of land or money by a U.S. resident to a Canadian charity is recognized by the IRS as a charitable gift for U.S. estate tax purposes (just the same as bequests to a U.S. charity).

Nature Trust launches planned giving program

By Heather McKinnon and Emma Boardman

What better way to leave a lasting legacy than to ensure the protection of private land in Nova Scotia long after you have passed on?

The Nature Trust is pleased to announce the launch of its planned

giving program. This is an option for people who would like to make a real, lasting contribution that will benefit private land conservation in Nova Scotia.

There are many choices available, from leaving a small bequest in your will, to donating ecologically significant land.

We urge anyone interested in making a

planned gift to discuss options with their family and their lawyer, before making a final decision. The Nature Trust can provide you with any more information you might need, and work with you to help find the option that works best for you and your family.

Look for the Nature Trust's new planned giving kit this spring.

Leaving a Legacy

Unique donor recognition gift handcrafted in pewter

By Susanne Wagner

The Nature Trust's planned gift donor recognition program embraces the talents of pewter craftsman, Greg Amos. He has created a lasting gift for donors that they will treasure into the future. Much in the same way that future generations will treasure the donor's gift to the Nature Trust.

For 30 years Greg has created beautiful, handcrafted pewter pieces capturing themes from the nature. From sand dollars to starfish, and flowers to pinecones, his work depicts our natural surroundings in perfect detail.

Located in picturesque Mahone Bay, Amos Pewter specializes in creating interesting giftware including ornaments, wall art, picture frames, jewellery and tabletop accents.

Greg says occasionally his company is asked to design a special project like this. "We're pretty picky about what we take



Greg Amos in his Mahone Bay gift shop with examples of some of his creations.

on because of the energy it takes to create these things. You have to pick projects you support emotionally or that are easy technically," he says. "It's easy when it is an organization like the Nature Trust."

Greg designed a wall hanging for the donor gift. "We felt, because of the scale of the donation, we wanted to recognize it a little differently." Working with the Nature Trust's logo, he created a piece of art recipients will be proud enough to hang on their wall.

The first donor gifts are now ready and will make a lasting keepsake.

Please let us know if you have included the Nature Trust in your will so we can recognize your gift and ensure we can meet your wishes.

Gifts of Life Insurance

Life insurance is a planned giving option allowing donors to give a larger gift than they likely could during their lifetime. Donors can purchase a new policy, or make the Nature Trust beneficiary of a policy they no longer need.



Darlene and Jack Stone, generous donors of the Nature Trust's first planned gift of life insurance

Six easy ways to make a planned gift to the Nature Trust

There are many ways to make a planned gift to the Nature Trust and receive income benefits too:

Leaving a bequest in your will

You can include a percentage of your estate, a fixed amount, a residual bequest (after heirs and others have been cared for), or a contingency bequest (in case something happened to you and your heirs)

Donating stocks, bonds and mutual funds

There are special tax incentives for donations of publicly listed securities (now or in your will)

Charitable gift annuity

Donate a lump-sum gift, and receive annuity payments for the rest of your life

Donating a life insurance policy

You can purchase a policy benefiting the Nature Trust, or naming the Nature Trust on an existing policy you no longer need

Creating a charitable remainder trust

An option for those who want to make a large gift and retain the investment income

Other planned giving tools such as RRSPs or wealth replacement insurance

Contact the Nature Trust for more information on planned giving: (902) 425-5263 or nature@nsnt.ca

National News

Ground-Breaking National Conservation Initiatives

By Bonnie Sutherland

The Nature Trust has been active in two significant national conservation initiatives. Both provide exciting long-term benefits for the Nature Trust, for the other land trusts across the country, and for the protection of Canada's natural legacy.

Since the first national land stewardship conference in Guelph in 2000, support has been growing for a national land trust organization. Land trusts face unique challenges not shared by other conservation groups. Such challenges range from income and property tax issues, technical easement drafting, monitoring and defence requirements, to the need for long-term funding to "steward" and enforce conservation restrictions on protected areas. Many have expressed a need for a common voice for land trusts, and for increased cooperation and resource-sharing.

In 2003, a small group of land trusts began planning for a formal coalition to serve the needs of the Canadian land

trust community. Surveys were conducted to gauge support for such an initiative, and to determine priority issues facing land trusts.

A steering committee was created to move the effort forward, with a representative from each province and territory, Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy Canada, and Environment Canada. The steering committee is in the process of legally incorporating the "Canadian Land Trust Alliance" and applying for charitable status.

The Alliance will be based on a model similar to the highly effective Land Trust Alliance in the United States, which provides a wealth of resources, professional development, networking opportunities, and technical guidance for land trusts. It has an excellent record in influencing legislation and funding for the benefit of the more than 1500 land trusts in the U.S.

The Alliance's top priority is the creation of national land trust standards and practices, expected to be released in

May. The document will be an excellent resource for land trusts, and an important "quality-control" mechanism for Canada's growing land trust movement.

The second priority is to address the challenges to cross-border conservation (i.e. U.S. residents wishing to protect land in Canada--see article on page 9). The Nature Trust is leading an initiative through the emerging Canadian Land Trust Alliance to create a U.S.-based charity, "Friends of Canadian Land Trusts," to support Canadian land trusts with their cross-border conservation gifts.

The steering committee is grateful to Environment Canada for funding support for creation of the Alliance.

The Nature Trust also acknowledges the **George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation** and the **Donner Canadian Foundation** for funding to support the Nature Trust's role in these national conservation capacity-building initiatives.

NATURE TRUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 28 - Aylesford Conservation Lands Field Trip with George Alliston, Kings County

June 25 - Wolfville Ravine Field Trip with the Blomidon Field Naturalists, Kings County

July 16 - "Parks are for People" Walk with Dave MacKinnon - Black River Bog, Inverness County

August 14 - Gillfillan Lake Rare Plant Walk with Duncan Bayne, Shelburne County

August 14 - Minas Basin Shorebirds Field Trip with Jim Wolford, Kings County

September 18 - Volunteer Picnic and Nature Walk - Captain Arnell Conservation Lands, Halifax County

October 15 - Annual Dinner & Auction - Halifax Casino Hotel

Watch the NSNT.ca website for updates and for more summer adventures!

Conservation

Captain Arnell Conservation Lands – A Sign of Things to Come!

By Jennifer Pinks

In 2003, the Field Brothers of Halifax donated a 30-acre parcel of wilderness in the Purcell's Cove area to the Nature Trust. The property closing was marked by a celebration and nature walk in May 2004, with more than 150 people in attendance, including four generations of the Field family.

The Trust's stewardship work at the Captain Arnell property has been generously supported by:



This parcel of wilderness is well known to local nature enthusiasts who enjoy the peace and tranquility of the woodlands, or cool off with a dip in Purcell's Pond.

The property was used in much the same manner early in the 20th century when the Field brothers' grandfather, Captain Kenneth Carstairs Arnell, first settled at Purcell's Cove. As development pressures continue to escalate in HRM, it is comforting to know this natural gem in the centre of the municipality will skirt the blades of the bulldozer in perpetuity.

The property has strong local support, bolstered by a team of volunteers who help to keep an eye on the property. We are pleased to have one of Captain Arnell's great grandchildren, Tyler Field, as one of our monitors.

Tyler is keenly familiar with the property and its complex network of pathways. As a biology graduate, he continues to marvel at all the subtle biological treasures these lands hold. In 2004, Tyler led several guided walks through the property; first, to introduce others to the biological richness of the site and, second, to ensure all participants negotiated their way back to the trailhead! Take up the outdoor challenge and listen to the birds, take photos, cool off in the pond, or hike back to Flat Lake. En route to Flat Lake, ensure that you stop at the large granite outcrop for a great view of the city.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer land steward for the Captain Arnell property or other Nature Trust properties, give us a call at (902) 425-5263.

Leading the way across the border

By Duncan M. Bayne

Who would believe that a major challenge facing land trusts and conservation organizations across Canada is accepting the donation of conservation easements and land? Yet for U.S. residents who wish to protect land with a Canadian land trust, the path can be complex and difficult.

Many U.S. citizens own land in Canada, often extensive natural areas of ecological importance such as coastal islands, pristine lakeshores and vast tracks of older forests. As witnesses of rapid urban sprawl, industrialization and landscape change in their home states, they appreciate the wild and natural splendour of Canada. Many wish to protect their property.

Yet the range of issues for "cross border" donations are complex, from international tax implications to special documentation requirements on both sides of the border. The issues are unique, both for Canadian land trust personnel, usually dealing with conservation gifts by Canadian donors, and for U.S. donors, familiar only with land conservation within the U.S.

The Nature Trust is spearheading a technical "how to" guide that will successfully lead Canadian land trust staff and U.S. donors through the complex steps of successful cross-border donation. With the recent establishment of a technical advisory team of U.S. and Canadian legal, tax and accounting professional experts, our guide will be ready by summer.

Peter Mushkat, a lecturer in environmental law at Dalhousie University, is very ably managing the project. Through the Dalhousie Law School Pro Bono Students Canada program, three Dalhousie law students have kindly volunteered to research specific areas of these complex issues: our thanks to Megan Ash, Erica Fraser and Wade Mills for their enthusiasm and expertise.

Sincere thanks to our funding partners:

Donner Foundation
Canadian Foundation
Fondation canadienne
Donner



Environment Canada's
Ecological Gifts Program

Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Salamander Foundation

Conservation

Coastal Conservation: The campaign continues

By Jennifer Pinks

Nova Scotia's 12,000 kilometer coastline is spectacular and diverse yet quickly succumbing to the pressures of development. There is overwhelming consensus among Nova Scotians to "Save our coastline!" The Coastal Conservation project, now entering its third year, has responded to the rally cry with the formal protection of two coastal properties to date, and capacity building to steward coastal lands.

One of the project highlights was the formal protection of the 183-acre Musquodoboit Harbour property. It lies on the east shore of the Musquodoboit Harbour estuary, an area designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

In combination with the long-term efforts of other conservation agencies and organizations, our securement and stewardship of this property will help in maintaining the ecological richness of the estuary as a significant waterfowl refuge.

We also celebrated the closing of the Treat Family Conservation Easement in the Mabou Highlands in July. A second easement in the Mabou Highlands is nearing completion.

Another project highlight has been building coastal stewardship capacity through volunteerism. The project is helping to establish a team of enthusiastic, conservation minded volunteer coastal guardians who have agreed to be our "eyes and ears on the coast." This past year, volunteers were recruited for each of our coastal properties across the province, from western Cape Breton to the Bay of Fundy and on to the Eastern Shore.



Musquodoboit Harbour Conservation Lands

Each team will visit their assigned property at least once or twice each year to monitor for changes. They will advise the Nature Trust on possible threats or disturbances that may impact the biological integrity of the site.

Maintaining a local presence helps, not only in keeping a watchful eye on the sites, but also in enhancing a community conservation ethic and encouraging appropriate uses of Nova Scotia's precious coastal lands.

Thank you to all of our coastal guardians. We greatly appreciate your efforts and look forward to your reports in the coming months.

The Nature Trust will be announcing formal securement of additional outstanding coastal properties in 2005, including sites in western Cape Breton, the eastern shore and south shore. Watch the website and upcoming newsletters for this exciting news!

As part of the current coastal project, the Nature Trust is also creating large roadside signage for three of our coastal properties: Musquodoboit Harbour, Brothers Islands and Yellowhead.

If you are interested in becoming a coastal guardian, please give us a call. There are a few spots open! In particular, there is a guardian opening in the Bras D'Or Lakes area. Fringe benefits include beautiful walks in the woods, magnificent vistas, and tranquility. Give us a call at (902) 425-5263.

We graciously acknowledge the generous support of our project funders:

**CANADIAN
WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION**

**DAVIS
CONSERVATION
FUND**



Nature Trust Events

Annual dinner celebrates decade of Nature Trust triumphs

As the latest visiting cruise ship prepared to set sail out of Pier 21 into the late autumn sunset, Nature Trust supporters gathered to celebrate the Nature Trust's 10th anniversary at the Annual Dinner and Auction.

Special guests included Nova Scotia's Minister of Natural Resources, Richard Hurlburt, and Minister of Environment and Labour, Kerry Morash. Both praised the Nature Trust and its work.

Marty Janowitz, Nature Trust president, was the energetic master of ceremonies once again, and spoke of the Nature Trust's highlights for 2004.

Celebrating our 10th anniversary was the theme of this year's dinner, and the organizers made a special effort to make it a light-hearted and fun event. This was reflected in a slide show before dinner celebrating some of the Nature

Trust's successes and the people who made them happen.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, major donors, and past members of the Board of Directors were invited to a special pre-dinner reception. It was exciting and inspiring to bring together many of the dedicated and visionary volunteers who have shaped the Nature Trust and whose dedication is a large part of the organization's success.

Entertainment was provided by comedian Bette MacDonald and fellow entertainers including musician Bruce Guthro.

Special thanks to our sponsors:



The Honorable Richard Hurlburt, Minister of Natural Resources, celebrates the partnership between the government and the Nature Trust

The Honorable Kerry Morash, Minister of Environment and Labour, reminding dinner attendees of the vital role of private land conservation in Nova Scotia

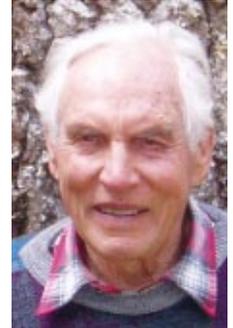


**Watch the next issue of
Natural Landscapes for
highlights from
Climb for Conservation 05**

Nature Trust honours Rudy Haase

By Bonnie Sutherland

The Nature Trust presented its 2004 Nature Conservation award to Martin Rudy Haase. Set up in 2000, the award recognizes the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to private land conservation in Nova Scotia.



No award can truly reflect Rudy's extraordinary and almost legendary passion and commitment to the environment. He has tirelessly put his time, money, and land towards conservation efforts around the world, from Costa Rica and Maine to our own backyard, since 1953.

Rudy has been a supporter of the Nature Trust since its very beginning, and a long-time hard-working conservation activist. In his typically pioneering way, Rudy was the first landowner to donate a conservation easement to the Nature Trust. His first easement protects a spectacular undeveloped headland on the Bras d'Or Lakes. Rudy subsequently donated a conservation easement on four coastal islands on the Eastern shore. He was an active member of the Trust's Board of Directors, and remains a member of our regional working group in Chester.

There is no end in site for Rudy's plans...He is already working on a major project with Nature Trust to protect a coastal wilderness area, and has other properties up his sleeve!

From all of us at the Nature Trust, thank you Rudy, for your generous support, your inspiration and your leadership in land conservation.

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It takes oases of all kinds to make a perfect world

Writer Harry Thurston speaker for fall dinner

By Susanne Wagner

According to Harry Thurston, it isn't the size of a protected space that matters, it is the fact that it is protected. An award-winning author and naturalist, Harry is the keynote speaker for the 8th Annual Dinner on October 15, 2005.

Now living in Tidnish Bridge, outside of Amherst, Harry understands the importance of protecting unique pieces of land. His travels have taken him to exotic places such as Easter Island and the Dakhleh Oasis in Egypt's Sahara.

Known for his contributions to *Equinox Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Harrowsmith* and *Audubon*, Harry is also the author of 16 books. His writing includes a collection of poetry *If Men Lived on Earth* (Gaspereau Press 2000) and his most recent non-fiction *A Place Between the Tides — A Naturalist's Reflections on the Salt Marsh* (published by Greystone).

In his address he plans to draw parallels between Easter Island, the Dakhleh Oasis and the hectare-sized salt marsh in his own backyard.



Harry Thurston, author and naturalist

"I'm going to look at these two themes and tie in my own salt marsh — another oasis closer to home," he says. "It's a double-edged theme — the danger of small isolated areas and the importance of preserving these areas. It's critical that we save these fragments." He adds, "The salt marsh taught me how saving small parcels can make a difference."

The presentation will be illustrated with some spectacular images from his personal collection.



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