



### **Nature Trust Protects Coastal Habitat near Medway Harbour**

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust announced the permanent protection of two new coastal preserves at the 10th Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on October 25th with special guest speakers Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson. Located near Port Medway, the spectacular coastal wilderness of the Long Cove Conservation Lands and pristine undeveloped coastline of Vogler's Cove Conservation Lands will be protected forever.

The 145 acre coastal wilderness of the Long Cove Conservation Lands is located between Long Cove and Ragged Harbour. Several islands, over five kilometres of shoreline and a variety of wetland, coastal and forested areas provide excellent habitat for a diversity of birds and wildlife. This property is one of the few undeveloped coastal areas of its size remaining along the South Shore. These lands were acquired by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust through a combined donation and sale by the owners. A portion of this property will be transferred to the Crown and designated at the Province's highest level of protection as a *Nature Reserve*.

A stunning piece of coastline at Vogler's Cove, in Lunenburg County, was generously donated by Dr. Mary Hunter. This 21 acre property has over 700 meters of undisturbed shoreline and diverse coastal habitats. This beautiful landscape is truly an ecological gem. To Dr. Hunter -a Nova Scotian living away- this land is not only valuable for its ecological significance it is also very close to her heart. As she states: "if I can't be there and give it love and protection then I'll have the Nature Trust do it for me."

The momentum of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust's conservation success continues to build. According to Nature Trust Executive Director, Bonnie Sutherland, "These recent coastal acquisitions are particularly exciting in light of the startling revelation that 95% of the coast is not public, but in fact privately owned. We need to act quickly to protect the best of our coastal legacy, before it is too late."

The Nature Trust wished to extend a sincere thank you to all the gracious partners who assisted in providing funding for this important project. Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Donner Canadian Foundation, the Nova Scotia Departments of Natural Resources and Environment and Labour as well as many private donors, the landowner and family are all to thank for the protection of this truly tremendous property.

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust commits to permanent protection of the natural values of all conservation lands entrusted to its care. We still require contributions for the Long Cove Conservation Lands to help cover the cost of long-term funding for the property's stewardship efforts and endowment fund to ensure that the land remains a natural treasure and a valued community resource. The income earned on the endowment fund provides for a long-term program of monitoring, enforcement, management, community outreach and volunteer stewardship. Help us to preserve Nova Scotia's coastal legacy for future generations by generously supporting this project.

## **For Immediate Release**

**Lunenburg Co. and Queens Co., Nova Scotia January 2, 2008**

At the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, we depend on the work of volunteers to ensure proper stewardship of conservation lands. It is essential that this exceptional place be protected now while the natural features that make it so unique are still intact. Our volunteer Property Guardian Program provides opportunities for people to get involved, to get outdoors and to enjoy this unique place and the marvels of nature.

### **Contacts**

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **The Nova Scotia Nature Trust**

- is a conservation charity dedicated to protecting outstanding natural areas on private land.
- works at a community level to protect significant natural areas.
- is the **only** province-wide **land conservation organization** based in Nova Scotia.
- works with private landowners to **protect forever** Nova Scotia's natural legacy, from rare and endangered wildlife habitats to outstanding coastal lands and old growth forests.
- fosters close co-operative relationships with volunteers and local communities
- is registered as a charitable organization under the province's Societies Act, 1994.
- is a designated conservation organization under Nova Scotia's Conservation Easements Act, 1992.
- has protected over 3,500 acres of outstanding conservation lands.

#### **Wild Land Conservation in Nova Scotia**

- 75% of all land, including 95% of the coastline, in Nova Scotia is privately owned.
- These lands are unprotected by government which only has authority over Crown Lands.
- Development of the coastline in Nova Scotia is occurring at an unprecedented rate.
- Loss of habitat is the leading threat to endangered species and biodiversity in Canada.