

## Deadwood

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Mayor Robert Stead. He said it's the first time the town has supported a student thesis by providing funding for a student under supervision of a professor, and in this case with advice provided by the Nature Trust.

"Janice's work is significant for us because it provides very important baseline study material for the file on the easement, and it's very important for understanding the property better," Stead said. "Hopefully this will lead to other projects, perhaps by recreation management or environmental science students, to enhance our understanding and appreciation of this property."

Acadia president and vice-chancellor Dr. Gail Dinter-Gottlieb agrees that this initiative is great for Wolfville and a valuable opportunity for students to give back to the town.

"This is a new level of community engagement at Acadia, where our students offer their academic expertise for the benefit of the community," Gottlieb says. "I'm very

pleased to know that an Acadia student and faculty member are contributing knowledge that will help protect and maintain this land so we can all enjoy it for years to come."

### Dynamics of deadwood

Bondrup-Nielsen, Flynn's graduate studies supervisor, is conducting research aimed at understanding how deadwood supports a particular class of insects and provides nutrients to soil over longer periods of time. He plans to conduct long-term studies on the property, to increase our knowledge of the dynamics of deadwood.

"In North America, we're just starting to understand the function of old growth forests and deadwood," Bondrup-Nielsen said. "This is a rare opportunity to gather some of the knowledge we're missing."

Bondrup-Nielsen says that the 747 acres in the project provides the community with not only recreational opportunities, but also a 'lab' where individuals can see how things change over time. He also believes it's a great opportunity for students to build a supportive relationship with the Town.