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For Immediate Release

Artists Rally to Help Nature Trust Save Blue Mountain Urban Wilderness

Halifax NS - Thanks to a group of nature-loving artists, Haligonians can enjoy the beauty of Nova Scotia's nature from the comfort of the indoors this month, and help the Nova Scotia Nature Trust save a critical "missing link" in the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes urban wilderness.

WILD, a special art exhibition, runs February 8-28th at the Chase Gallery in the Nova Scotia Archives. This nature-themed exhibition will highlight the exquisite reality of wild space as seen through the eyes of ten very different artists, who have all agreed to donate at least 20% of the exhibition proceeds to the Nature Trust's 'Save the Wild Blue' campaign.

'Save the Wild Blue' will protect 575 acres of exceptional wilderness just 20 minutes from downtown Halifax. The land, known as the Blue Mountain Wilderness Connector, was originally slated for forestry and residential development. Fortunately, the property's owners recognized that some places are just so special and so strategic for conservation, that they truly are irreplaceable. The owners, Robin Wilber and Bill Fenton, agreed to sell the property for conservation, including a generous in-kind donation to kick-start the \$2.4 million fundraising campaign to acquire and safeguard this unique property. Development of this critical link between two disjunct sections of protected wilderness would have destroyed the very heart of the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes. Its protection ensures connectivity for a 12 kilometer wildlife corridor, a landscape linkage identified as essential in Halifax Green Network Plan.

After hearing about the campaign, Shelagh Duffet, organizer of the event and a contributing artist, knew that it was something she wanted to support. "I used to swim in Suzie and Quarry Lake as a teenager and now I hike in the area. I want to do all I can to help preserve and protect this beautiful area for the future."

And she's not alone – Shelagh reached out to her artist friends and gathered up 9 more artists to help support the cause.

The opening reception of the **WILD** will take place on Saturday February 8th, 12-4 pm at the Chase Gallery, in the Nova Scotia Archives, with an opening presentation at 1 pm. The creative artists involved in **WILD** are Danny Abriel, Mark Brennan, Shelagh Duffett, Kimberley Eddy, Melanie Fontaine, Gord MacDonald, Lori MacDonald, Timothy McGuire, Suzanne O'Callaghan and Anne-Marie Spears.

Charitable donations to help 'Save the Wild Blue' can be made at www.nsnt.ca or by calling (902) 425-LAND.

"We are so delighted and honoured that Shelagh and her artist friends are so generously raising funds and awareness to help save the Wild Blue," noted Nature Trust Executive Director, Bonnie Sutherland. "We hope Nova Scotians will be inspired to support the show, make a charitable donation, or host their own fundraiser to help save this irreplaceable natural gem, right here in the city."

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Contact

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