

450-acre Little Harbour Conservation Lands protected near Owl's Head

Nature Trust raising final funds to protect unique Eastern Shore coastline

BACKGROUNDER

About the Announcement

- The Nature Trust has recently acquired Little Harbour, an area encompassing nearly 450 acres and stretching five kilometres along the Eastern Shore coastline.
- The announcement is positive news amidst growing public concern and urgency to protect Nova Scotia's coast.
- This newly protected area complements the Eastern Shore Islands Wilderness Area, federal land being designated as part of the Atlantic Archipelago National Wildlife Area.
- This property is adjacent to the Owl's Head Provincial Park, building on this 657 acre site that was the subject of significant public outcry and demand for its protection.
- Over 70 per cent of the funds needed to secure and ensure the long-term protection of the property has already been raised through support of the Canada Nature Fund Target 1 Challenge and the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust.
- \$700,000 left to raise with support from the public
- Another major announcement is coming in the weeks ahead to advance protection of more coastal areas
- We hope Nova Scotians who are concerned about saving our coastlines will support these special opportunities by donating today.
- Donations are tax deductible.
- To donate or find out more, visit nsnt.ca or call 902-425-LAND.

Little Harbour

- Little Harbour is located at the western end of the 100 Wild Islands directly adjacent to Owl's Head Provincial Park, encompassing 446 acres and five kilometres of Eastern Shore coastline. It includes mainland and a portion of Cranberry Island, forming both sides of the harbour.
- The property supports a diversity of coastal ecosystems, including an extensive and ecologically important saltmarsh; tidal flats; a rocky coastline; beaches and bogs; and coastal softwood forest and barrens.
- It provides important breeding habitat for a diversity of birds, including boreal songbirds, common eiders, terns and raptors, as well as important migration and winter habitat for harlequin ducks and purple sandpipers.
- Protecting the harbour ensures it can never be privatized, commercialized or developed, and ensures people can continue to explore and enjoy this wild area for generations to come.

The 100 Wild Islands

- Little Charles is part of an island archipelago known as the 100 Wild Islands, most of which is now protected area (Nature Trust conservation lands and provincial wilderness area). It consists of over 280 islands, including some of the largest private islands in Nova Scotia. The archipelago stretches 30 kilometres along the

coast and encompasses hundreds of kilometres of shoreline, 430 acres of wetlands and a rich diversity of wildlife.

- Over 85 per cent of the islands have been protected to date.
- The Nature Trust has an active crew of volunteer 'property guardians' helping to care for the 100 Wild Islands (and more volunteers always welcome).
- Coastal habitats, particularly islands, are among the most ecologically important in our province and beyond. However, not only are they highly sought after for development, but they are also at increased risk from the accelerating effects of climate change.
- 85 per cent of Nova Scotia's coastline is privately owned, making the Nature Trust's role in coastal conservation particularly significant.

Twice the Wild

- Saving Little Charles Islands is part of the Nature Trust's ambitious Twice the Wild campaign, announced in 2020, which aims to double the amount of ecologically significant lands protected by the Nature Trust across Nova Scotia—to 30,000 acres—by 2025.
- This major conservation action is a direct response to the urgent global call to action to address biodiversity loss and devastating impacts of climate change.
- Through Twice the Wild, the Nature Trust has protected 43 conservation lands to date, including the Blue Mountain Wilderness Connector, Port La Tour Beach, and more. These new lands encompass more than 4,400 newly protected acres, bringing the total number of Nature Trust-protected acres to more than 20,000.
- This campaign will add land to signature projects along the St. Mary's River, Mabou Highlands, Bras d'Or, Kespukwitk, South Shore Coast and Islands, Wentworth Valley, and urban wildlands like the Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes. The campaign will secure brand new protected areas across Nova Scotia.
- The Nature Trust's ambitious conservation efforts contribute directly to the provincial commitment to protect 20% of Nova Scotia by 2030, and federal commitments to protect 25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust

- The Nature Trust is Nova Scotia's leading private land conservation organization, active in protecting our natural legacy since 1994.
- The organization protects ecologically significant natural areas through private land conservation, offering a unique solution for a significant conservation challenge. Unlike most of Canada, over 65% of Nova Scotia is privately owned, not government land. Land Trusts provide landowners with a non-government community-based option for protecting their land.
- Private lands include many of the most ecologically important areas, yet face unprecedented development pressures and other threats.
- Through permanent conservation easement agreements, we help families to protect their treasured and ecologically important family lands. We also accept land donations and bequests of land, and in exceptional cases, we purchase outstanding and threatened natural areas.
- All conservation lands entrusted to our care become part of the land legacy that we safeguard for all Nova Scotians. Our commitment is to protect those lands, forever, through ongoing monitoring, stewardship and management.

- An active program of volunteer “property guardians” help care for this growing network of protected areas.
- Our innovative, community-based educational initiatives are helping to build understanding and appreciation for the natural world. We give Nova Scotians the knowledge and tools they need to take an active part in protecting the places they love and ensuring that the legacy is passed on to future generations.
- The Nature Trust is an active partner and collaborator in conservation with all levels of government, with other non-profits and local communities.