

Forever wild

2020/2021 GRATITUDE REPORT

nsnt.ca





Adam Hill



Message from our Executive Director

Despite a challenging and difficult year, with a global pandemic and the isolation and uncertainty it brought, nature has had a positive and promising year. People have discovered or rediscovered nature to a degree we haven't seen before, and nature is unexpectedly high on the public and political agenda.

And thanks to you, the Nature Trust had yet another inspiring year for conservation gains. With your generous support, as donors, volunteers and conservation-minded landowners, we protected 15 new conservation lands encompassing 2,400 acres of Nova Scotia's most rare, unique and ecologically significant lands. We added to our growing legacy along the St. Mary's River and saved treasures including the landmark Blue Mountain Wilderness Connector, stunning coastal wilderness, old forests, and critical habitat for endangered species and migratory birds. And thanks to your generosity, we're better positioned to steward all of these new lands far into the future - fulfilling our promise of forever wild.

You are helping us to transform how we care for our lands and meet our stewardship commitments into the future, with game-changing new tools and continuing reliance on best-practice-based stewardship. And our wonderful Property Guardians are bringing to reality the vision of a hub-based, semi-autonomous network of volunteers all across the province - we are so grateful for your effort and dedication, which is crucial in caring for our rapidly growing mosaic of protected areas.

OUR MANDATE

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust works to protect Nova Scotia's outstanding natural legacy through private land conservation.

We're proud to be part of a growing conservation collaboration within Nova Scotia—with government, community, academic and Indigenous partners. We are also part of a growing movement of land trust leaders across Canada building the capacity, profile and impact of our sector.

There is so much to celebrate - and the momentum is continuing to grow. We are eager to move even closer to our goal of doubling our protected lands - for a total of 30,000 protected acres across the province - by 2023. Thanks to your continued support and inspiration, we know it's possible.

Bonnie Sutherland

Big Wins for Nature

Protected, Forever

CONSERVATION
LANDS SAVED

140

ACRES
PROTECTED

18,267

ACHIEVED IN
2020 / 2021

2,400

LANDOWNERS WHO HAVE
CREATED A NATURAL
LEGACY THROUGH THE
NATURE TRUST

97

Saving the Species We Love

NUMBER OF
SPECIES AT RISK
PROTECTED

30

NUMBER OF
SANCTUARIES SAVED

FOR
ENDANGERED
TURTLES

29

FOR
RARE PLANTS
AND LICHEN

24

FOR BIRD
SPECIES
AT RISK

23

A for Adventure

ACRES OF IRREPLACEABLE HABITATS SAVED

Habitat for species at risk **9,641**

Freshwater habitat **9,975**

Coastal habitat **9,126**

Old and unique forests **7,797**

Karst habitat
(gypsum cliffs and caves) **638**

Total: 18,267

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR NEW SUPPORTERS!

790 NEW
DONORS

71 NEW
MONTHLY
DONORS

9 NEW
GUARDIANS
OF THE LAND

55 NEW
PROPERTY
GUARDIANS

A for Adventure



Adam Cornick

Twice the Wild

In September we announced our ambitious **Twice the Wild** campaign to double the amount of land we protect and steward across the province by 2023. Jan LaPierre and Chris Surette of *A for Adventure* hosted a very special live-streamed online event to help us share this big news, with the support of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Jonathan Wilkinson, Mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality, Mike Savage, and 12-year-old Nature Trust volunteer and youth champion Maeve Boyne.

Nature has been the antidote to the stress, anxiety, and isolation of COVID-19 and other tragedies. People are rediscovering the joy that nature brings and appreciating being outdoors like never before. So what better time to take action to double our space for nature?

While we have been successfully conserving land in Nova Scotia for more than 25 years, we need to move much faster to save wild places – before it's too late. So we are aiming to duplicate what we protected in our first 25 years, in just a few years—15,000 more acres by 2023.

To achieve this bold objective, we launched a \$20 million dollar fundraising campaign. We aim to raise \$4 million dollars through our public fundraising campaign. These gifts will leverage \$16 million in matching funds from major partners including the Government of Canada and the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust. Every campaign donation will be matched 4:1, meaning a gift of \$100 unlocks \$400 more to create \$500 in new funds to save nature.

Thanks to the incredible support and enthusiasm of friends like you, \$2 million in gifts have already been committed as of our year end (March 2021) - we are already halfway to our goal! Thank you so much to all who have helped us to reach this exciting milestone!



"It feels so good to be outside, to get out in nature," said Maeve. "But it also feels good knowing that we're sharing these places with wildlife and doing our part to keep the plants and animals safe."

What does Twice the Wild look like?

Twice the Wild means more protected acres all across Nova Scotia, like new lands added to our eight signature projects including the beloved St. Mary's River, the Mabou Highlands, Wentworth Valley and spectacular 100 Wild Islands, and urban wildlands like the beautiful Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes.

Twice the Wild also means more critical habitat saved for wildlife at risk, from turtles and terns to marten and moose, coastal island sanctuaries for our beloved birds, towering old forests, pristine lakes and rivers.

And finally, **Twice the Wild** means twice the space for the aspects of nature that are important to you. Twice the habitat. Twice the space to breathe. Twice the biodiversity. Twice the wildlife photography. Twice the forest bathing. Twice the places to spot an early-morning songbird. What does Twice the Wild mean to you?

Our Twice the Wild campaign cabinet

This landmark campaign is led by a high-profile cabinet, whose members have committed to making the Nature Trust their charity of choice with their own generous donations as well as their volunteer service to the fundraising effort.

The members of the cabinet are:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Peter Porteous (Chair) | Bill Morris |
| Paul Comeau | Douglas Reid |
| Henry Demone | Maureen Reid |
| John S. Hunkin, CM | Lara Ryan |
| Ella McQuinn | |

"The fact that this group of people has signed on to offer their expertise and breadth of experience in itself demonstrates the momentous potential and appeal of this campaign," says Rick Emberley, Chair of the Nature Trust Board of Directors.

"This campaign is about a unique window in time to make a forever difference," says Peter Porteous, Vice President of Business Development for Steele Auto Group and chair of the campaign cabinet.

The Special Places You've Saved

Through Twice the Wild we are protecting ecologically rich, rare and imperilled habitats and landscapes all across the province. We are also building critical landscape connectivity—linking together protected areas and creating natural corridors to ensure wildlife and wild spaces can thrive, forever.

WENTWORTH VALLEY

This vast forest and freshwater wilderness in the Wentworth Valley is home to mainland moose, turtles and birds, as well as rare old forests, ravines, wetlands, headwaters for one of the province's healthiest rivers and some of the best outdoor adventures in Nova Scotia. We are continuing outreach and engagement with owners of priority lands and are working toward our next conservation wins in this area soon.



KESPUKWITK WILD

Kespukwitk, one of the seven traditional districts of Mi'kma'ki, is recognized as one of Canada's Priority Places for conservation. Its critical lakes, rivers and wetlands are a hotspot for biodiversity, particularly species at risk of extinction. Many species of plants and wildlife are found nowhere else in Canada.

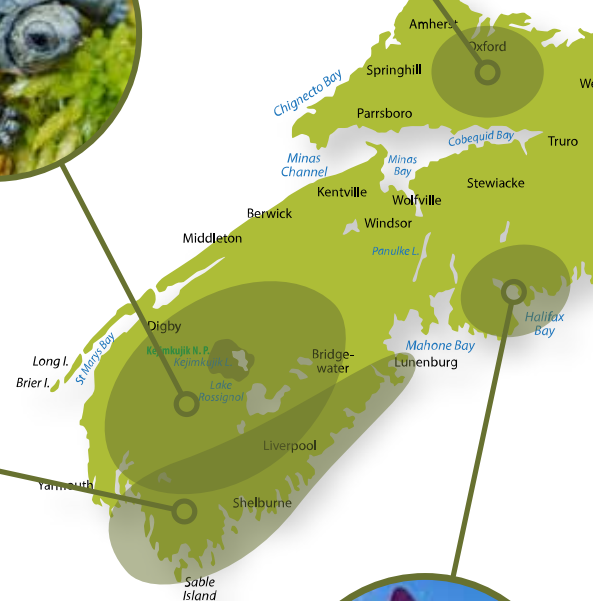
This year we added 82 acres at two new sites in this region, including rare plant shoreline on Ponhook Lake and sensitive turtle habitat in Bull Moose Meadow.



SOUTH SHORE COAST AND ISLANDS

We are building on a growing assemblage of coastline and wild islands on Nova Scotia's South Shore. This area is recognized globally for its significance for the conservation and recovery of birds, many of which face alarming declines here in Nova Scotia and globally.

With your help, we were able to secure Spectacle Island. Its protection adds to a growing legacy of over 1,000 acres of bird habitat we have secured in the Tusket Islands and surrounding area, including the adjacent Peases Island, the Bald Islands (including the infamous Principality of Outer Baldonia), Seal Island and Bon Portage Island. The islands provide irreplaceable habitat for countless migratory birds, nesting seabirds, increasingly rare songbirds and shorebirds.



URBAN WILDLANDS

Haligonians are fortunate to have several major urban wildlands still intact, including the Pennant River, the Halifax Backlands, the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness/Bluff Trail and the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes. They provide irreplaceable space to explore and experience nature, right in our own backyard. They provide critical refuge for birds and other wildlife, and essential services from carbon sequestration to flood prevention.

You helped us to save the 560 acre Blue Mountain Wilderness Connector, filling a critical gap between existing protected areas that ensures that more than 5,000 acres of urban wilderness will remain contiguous.

This year 866 new acres along the Cape Breton coast were added through an incredibly generous anonymous land donation. The new protected areas continue to build on this important natural, cultural and historic legacy.

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The Bras d'Or Lake is a globally recognized Biosphere Reserve with unique ecological and cultural features. The shoreline, forests, and rare karst (gypsum) landscapes are home to unusual sinkholes, caves and critical habitat for endangered bats.



This beautiful "ribbon of green" shelters towering old forests, rare forested floodplains, threatened turtles, birds and Atlantic Salmon.

One of North America's last great ecologically rich and wild coastal island archipelagos, the spectacular 100 Wild Islands support every coastal habitat in the province, from pristine sand beaches and dunes to vast barrens, bogs, wetlands and coastal rainforests.

AND ELSEWHERE

Beyond our eight signature projects, we use strategic, science-based conservation planning to prioritize other important sites for protection.

An exciting new project focuses on the rare gypsum karst landscapes on the St. Croix River in Hants County. A new 165 acre conservation site preserves not only a globally rare and fascinating karst landscape, but beautiful old forest and rare plants including the provincially endangered Ram's-Head Lady's-Slipper.

Big wins for nature



Corey Isenor

Blue Mountain Wilderness Connector

With wonderful support from the community, government and environmental partners, we successfully completed the purchase of the Blue Mountain Wilderness Connector, a 560 acre flagship property at the heart of the beloved Blue Mountain–Birch Cove lakes. This purchase ensures that more than 5,000 acres of undeveloped wildlands remain unbroken, securing the future of one of the largest expanses of urban wilderness in North America.

This vast undeveloped area lies between Hammonds Plains, Timberlea, and Halifax and encompasses a mosaic of extensive forests, bogs and wetlands, rocky barrens and hills, sparkling rivers and three pristine headwater lakes. Hikers, paddlers, birdwatchers and anglers have long treasured the diversity of wild landscapes it boasts, as well as its proximity to Halifax.

The newly protected connector property bridges the large gap between already protected sections of the Blue

Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area, creating a contiguous 12 kilometer corridor important for wildlife.

“It’s a fantastic thing today – but it will be an absolutely astounding thing in thirty, fifty, a hundred years. As the surrounding area continues to develop over the next decades, the value of having such a large and wild green space within a major city will be more and more deeply appreciated. People will look back at what the Nature Trust did in 2020 and say, Look what we have today because of that.” ~Robin Wilber, Land Donor

Nature gives us so much, from physical and mental health, to habitat for wildlife, to adventures with our families. Saving land like the Connector is a gift that we can give back to nature. And best of all, it’s a gift that we will all get to enjoy, for generations to come.



Karst

We protected a number of sites - in the Plaister Cliffs on the Bras d'Or, and St. Croix - that are home to gypsum karst, a globally rare, fragile, and fascinating landscape. Less than 5% of Nova Scotia's karst landscapes are protected, and approximately 90% of the karst sites are located on private land, making the Nature Trust's conservation work a critical tool to protecting these unique areas.

Karst landscapes are formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks, which crumble easily and erode quickly. These landscapes are characterized by underground drainage systems punctuated by sinkholes and caves that form through this erosion, creating above and underground terrains that require extreme caution.

Most karst around the world is formed from limestone, but here in Nova Scotia our most common karst is gypsum. In fact, according to renowned cave biologist (and Nature Trust supporter) Max Moseley, Nova Scotia likely has the largest and best developed areas of gypsum karst in Canada, and amongst the best in the world. This highly three-dimensional landscape, as well as the alkaline environment created by the dissolution of the gypsum itself, attracts a specialized range of fauna and flora that rely on these characteristics to thrive.

Rare Perforated Ruffle Lichen

This winter, our Conservation Biologist made an amazing discovery: a lichen that has only been found at one other location in all of Canada!

Perforated Ruffle Lichen (*Parmotrema Perforatum*) has been described as "conspicuous" and even "showy." It is a relatively large foliose lichen, with a pale greenish-grey thallus and broad lobes that are usually 10-20 millimetres wide. A distinguishing feature of the lichen is its relatively large brown apothecia (cup-like structures with a spore-bearing surface), each with a hole in the centre, giving rise to the name "perforated." Its distribution is closely affiliated with the Southeastern Coastal Plain but also extends into several non-coastal southern regions.

Our Conservation Biologist Rich LaPaix was performing a site reconnaissance at a property on Ponhook Lake that was being considered for protection by the Nature Trust, when he happened to notice an unusual lichen growing on several Red Maple trees along the shore. It looked suspiciously similar to the photos Alain Belliveau had taken in 2016 at Kejimikujik Lake, which was the first confirmed occurrence in Canada. Rich took photos and a sample, which was sent to Alain at the E.C. Smith Herbarium at Acadia University for



further confirmation and safe keeping.

Not only is Rich's discovery only the second occurrence in Canada of this beautiful lichen, but at the time it was the only record outside an established protected area. The site has since been protected by the Nature Trust, as part of our campaign to protect Twice The Wild.



Advancing Coastal Island Protection and Stewardship

The Nova Scotia coastline hosts a relatively large number and diversity of islands. Some of these islands together form well-defined archipelagoes associated with some of the province's larger bays and exposed headlands, while others constitute more isolated features at varying distances from shore. The Nova Scotia Nature Trust has a long history of working to protect these unique components of our natural heritage and, along with our conservation partners, has been successful in advancing the protection of islands all around the province. The collection of coastal islands that are protected by the Nature Trust extend from the southwestern tip of the province, along the south shore, eastern shore, Bras d'Or Lake, and to northern Cape Breton.

So, what is unique about coastal islands? In addition to the benefits they offer to humans, many of the province's more isolated islands offer reliable breeding sites for marine birds, specifically for seabirds and waterfowl, because predators are not present as much as they are in similar habitat at mainland and peninsular locations. They also provide important habitat for other wildlife, including breeding boreal songbirds, migrating birds, and overwintering waterbirds. Unfortunately, climate change, development pressures, and the spread of invasive and problematic species are increasingly threatening the condition of coastal islands and associated biodiversity. Greater protection and collaborative stewardship are

recognized as important strategies for facilitating the long-term health and functioning of coastal islands throughout the province.

With thousands of islands along Nova Scotia's coast, identifying which islands are most in need of protection and stewardship can be challenging. As part of our commitment to advance island conservation, the Nature Trust has been working with partner organizations to improve our collective understanding of coastal islands, identify priorities for protection, and work towards their collaborative stewardship. Along with federal and provincial governments and other non-governmental environmental organizations, we have recently completed a first version of a coastal island "prioritization toolkit" to help support decision-making related to coastal island conservation. The toolkit includes a geodatabase of spatial information and a summary of key attributes related to island condition, associated biodiversity, and pressures influencing their long-term function. Although intended as a product to support decision-making, development of the toolkit itself has been invaluable in facilitating greater dialogue and common understanding amongst those with a focus on island conservation, protected areas planning, and stewardship. Moving forward, we will continue to work collaboratively with other partner organizations to advance the conservation of these systems.



Stewardship Highlights

- Completed fieldwork for 28 baseline studies of our conservation lands and contracted out work for two more
- Worked together with Birds Canada to protect a Piping Plover nest (first one in five years at that site; two chicks fledged)
- Thanks to a generous donation, the Nature Trust now owns its first water-going craft- a canoe!
- Volunteers posted signs around Bull Moose Meadow's abandoned mine openings
- Property Guardians pruned the trail at Pennant River
- Boundaries re-blazed at one of our easements and two more properties planned for 2021
- Adult treehouse was removed at North Mountain Woodlands
- Two cannabis grow-ops resolved and removed at opposite ends of the province
- Began planning for turtle-themed project funded under the Habitat Stewardship Program, including our first landscape-level stewardship plan, encompassing 15 properties along the St. Mary's River and a habitat restoration project
- Selected a new stewardship database in preparation to transition to a much more technologically advanced way to do stewardship (implementation to begin in summer/fall 2021)







Volunteer Program Highlights

This year has been unlike any other, with many unexpected challenges resulting from the pandemic. Our regular field season was delayed and we were unsure if we would be able to meet our goals set earlier in the year as a result. But despite the challenges we faced, the Stewardship Team was able to achieve a remarkable amount this past season, including training a record number of new Property Guardians. We also saw the largest surge in volunteer interest ever, as many people spent time at home contemplating the things that matter most to them. It was inspiring to see that protecting the environment was at the top of many lists.

We took our orientation sessions online, resulting in increased capacity for participation as we removed the barriers associated with in-person meetings. This has meant that volunteers from across the province are able to be oriented faster than ever before and are able to connect with other folks from across the province.

Other highlights included:

- 55 new Property Guardians trained
- Launched two new volunteer hubs on the South Shore/Keji and in the Annapolis Valley, bringing us up to four active hubs
- First volunteer hub work party, in the North Mountain Woodlands

As part of our stewardship commitment, we aim to ensure that every property is monitored at least once every year. This year, volunteers visited more than half of our Nature Trust conservation lands, with staff completing the rest.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, we have been able to find opportunities to better train and engage our volunteers and have felt a renewed love for and commitment to nature from our volunteers and supporters. We are grateful for all of the continued support!



Enjoy more stories on our fantastic volunteers at nsnt.ca/volunteer/volunteer-stories/
Or share your own volunteering story with us at volunteer@nsnt.ca



Chris MacFarlane

Connecting Communities to Nature

As our conservation lands network grows, the scale and complexity of stewardship needed to safeguard these special places grows too. As a result, we need to rapidly scale up our land stewardship capacity to care for and manage over 140 conservation lands (anticipated to be over 180 by 2023).

Our greatest potential asset and ally in saving and caring for nature is our local community members. Our Connecting Communities to Nature initiative is about empowering local citizens to protect the places they love, to learn the skills, develop capacity and be part of a supported team network that enables them to become guardians of Nova Scotia's wild places. This volunteer force is a critical complement to our staff resources.

We are moving beyond a focus on individual volunteers and creating a new model of volunteerism, based on the principles of Engagement Organizing and the creation of volunteer 'hubs.' Engagement organizing entails a distributed

model of leadership that inspires semi-autonomous, locally led volunteer teams of Property Guardians who work collaboratively to care for a suite of conservation lands in their local community. It is about empowerment and engagement of local communities and citizens. This work is now underway in the 100 Wild Islands, the South Shore, the St. Mary's River, and the Annapolis Valley, with plans to expand the model across the province over the coming years.

This work is highly collaborative, working with partner organizations to improve stewardship capacity and capability throughout the province. We will be working with our partners to provide additional training opportunities for our volunteers to ensure the highest level of care for our conservation lands. By working together, we can promote a culture of stewardship in Nova Scotia that inspires future generations to take action.

Bird's Eye View

Understanding and conserving birds is critical in Nova Scotia for the benefits birds provide locally and for the role they play in global biodiversity. Bird's Eye View is a program that allows birders to do what they love—and help conservation efforts.

This year saw unprecedented growth in volunteer interest. As people spent more time in isolation they were able to focus on the things that truly matter to them, and for many, nature was very high on that list. 2020 also saw the largest number of Bird's Eye View recruits since the program's inception, and a higher than average level of engagement.

Highlights for our Bird's Eye View volunteer program this year include:

- 63 eBird checklists submitted by 17 volunteers, identifying 163 species on our conserved lands
- Our 500th checklist submission arrived in June – a program milestone
- 10 new BEV volunteers recruited through online outreach, continued partnership with the Nova Scotia Bird Society and interest generated through our Connecting with Nature webinar series
- A higher level of engagement from volunteers thanks to our efforts with outreach and educational events and a heightened interest in outdoor recreation after many months of lockdown due to the pandemic

Our work to protect bird habitat also included significant landowner outreach and education efforts, to help priority island property owners understand the importance of their island property for bird conservation.



Scott Leslie



Connecting with Nature

Our Connecting with Nature events are usually guided hikes, paddling excursions and boat tours that provide exciting opportunities to experience wild spaces across the province. Due to the unprecedented events of 2020, we took our Connecting with Nature events online, so that supporters could continue to learn about the fascinating wild places and imperilled species we protect. We hosted educational webinars on topics including coastal islands and bird conservation, conservation planning, and ecological landscaping.

We also took our Annual Conservation Showcase online for the first time, to celebrate the successes of the previous year and our goals for conservation in Nova Scotia, and a chance to gather - virtually - with other like-minded supporters.

Thank you to our Conservation Heroes

Thanks to your generous support, the Nature Trust is a driving force for land conservation in Nova Scotia. You've made inspiring, important conservation achievements possible. Whether your gift was large or small, it has made a difference and we thank you!

You are all conservation heroes and we wish we had the space to share each and everyone's story, but, as space is limited, here are just a few examples.



Dr. Jan Oudens & Isobel Ralston

MapleCross

Thanks to the inspiring investment of an exciting new conservation partner, the Nature Trust was able to protect, forever, the ecological gem called Spectacle Island. **Dr. Isobel Ralston and Dr. Jan Oudenes**, founders of the Ontario-based **MapleCross fund**, generously donated \$75,000 -- leveraging more than \$100,000 in Twice the Wild matching funds -- to acquire the island, part of a group of South Shore islands recognized as globally significant for birds and bird conservation. While Jan and Isobel have invested significantly in numerous land trust projects all across Canada in the last three years, Spectacle Island is their first project in Nova Scotia.

One of Jan and Isobel's primary objectives is to inspire all Canadians to answer the call to protect their country's natural environment -- and to help each of their projects make a bigger impact, they work to ensure that their donation also strategically leverages both local investment by the community and public sector funds. "We hope to inspire other Canadians to appreciate the irreplaceable nature we have in our own backyards, and to join us in protecting this legacy," says Jan.

Robin Wilber and Bill Fenton

The Blue Mountain Wilderness Connector is a 560 acre property at the heart of the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes, a huge wildland within Halifax Regional Municipality. This major win for nature would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support of the landowners, **Robin Wilber and Bill Fenton**. They recognized the unique and irreplaceable conservation value of these particular lands and agreed to forgo potential development, instead selling their land to the Nature Trust and generously agreeing to donate a sizable part of the land's value as a charitable gift.

Both lifelong outdoor enthusiasts, Robin and Bill appreciated the importance of the canoe and hiking routes that went through the property as well as the intrinsic value of its natural state.

So when the Nature Trust approached them to ask whether they might consider donating or selling their land for conservation, "it was very much an automatic decision, to just say, Yeah sure!" remembers Bill. Robin adds, "It was a no-brainer to say yes. This is exactly how this land should be used." They replied within an hour.

"We don't look at it as parting with this land, but as sharing it with everyone for the community good," says Bill. His son (also named Bill), who lives in the area, agrees: "It's fantastic that we'll be able to enjoy it for years and years to come, like everyone else."



Robin Wilber

Ray Titterington

Victor "Ray" Titterington spent the last 25 years of his life carefully crafting his seven acre property in Port L'Hebert, in Shelburne County along Nova Scotia's South Shore. He created his abode piece by piece, from the floors to the door frames to the many carvings including carousel horses. The heart of Ray's home was both his greenhouse, which he filled with a range of cacti (some of which grew to touch the glass-topped ceiling) and his workshop where he spent countless hours working on his carvings. The house was completely and uniquely his own.

While Ray was quietly living his life in Port L'Hebert, he decided to bequeath his entire estate to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to support our mission of protecting Nova Scotia's natural legacy.

Because of Ray's incredibly generous donation, the funds from the estate will be used to save and protect Nova Scotia's breathtaking natural beauty, endangered species, and wild spaces. In this way, Ray's legacy will live on in pristine rivers, forests, barrens, meadows, bogs and coastline protected forever because of him.



Jason Roth & Cheryl Steadman-Roth

Jason Roth & Cheryl Steadman-Roth have been active supporters of the Nature Trust for many years. As long-time supporters, they recognized the huge benefit an ongoing pledge of unrestricted funds would provide for the Nature Trust, so joined other future-thinking supporters who are part of our Guardians of the Land donor group.

"I'm fortunate that I had a good career, worked hard, invested wisely and spent responsibly, so that now Cheryl and I can look to our legacy and support the causes we feel deeply about," said Jason. "We are pulled to the very essence of the Nature Trust. In a world where the individual might feel powerless and despairing about the state of things, he or she can join forces with the Nature Trust to deliver actions with far-reaching and measurable impacts."



Jack MacKillop

Jack MacKillop recently donated his Long Hill property to the Nature Trust, adding to a growing collection of protected karst, forest, and coastal lands east of Baddeck on the Bras d'Or Lake.

"I always knew I would come home. This is where the memories are. And that's part of why I chose to donate my land to the Nature Trust. When you've lived somewhere for so long, it becomes a part of you. I didn't want to see the property developed. I wanted to make sure that parcel of woodland stayed exactly as it was when I was a boy, and I played and climbed amongst those trees."

Patrick Reid

Patrick Reid was already a Nature Trust supporter, but decided to become a monthly donor to help make sure the Nature Trust could keep doing important conservation work even through the challenges presented by the pandemic.

"With everything going on, I was worried that donations might see a drastic decline, so giving a little to the Nature Trust each month is my way of helping in a time of need. I see my monthly donations almost like a membership, allowing me to enjoy stunning natural beauty whenever I want – at least, once the virus has passed!"



Enjoy more inspiring donor stories at nsnt.ca/giving/donor-stories/
Or share your story with us at donorstories@nsnt.ca

*If you're feeling extra
thankful for
nature these days,
show your love!*



Become a monthly donor. Adopt a turtle! Raise funds for nature. Give a tax savvy gift of stock or mutual funds. Leave a legacy gift.

Most important, share your love for nature with friends and family.
Your passion makes all the difference.

Take action to save nature today.
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Special Thanks

THANK YOU to everyone who made a donation last year.
Whether small or large, your gift made a difference to nature and land conservation!



Scott Leslie

New Land or Conservation Easement Donors

Bill Fenton
Robin Wilber
George Eddy Company Ltd.
Anonymous donors

New Bequest/Legacy Gift Donors

Donald & Joleen Gordon
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Marilyn MacDonald
Anonymous donors

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Anonymous donors

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Ean Van Der Spoel
Joey Yazer
Virginia Zinner
Anonymous donors

We want to offer particular thanks to two major partners whose support has been critical in our achievements over the past year:

Recognizing the urgency for conservation action, the **Government of Canada** has committed to protect 30% of Canada's land for nature by 2030. They've backed this promise with the single largest investment in nature conservation in Canadian history—an historic \$1.3 billion investment in biodiversity. That includes the Canada Nature Fund, which encourages land trusts, Indigenous groups, and other community partners to be a big part of the solution. This funding is helping us match donations to our Twice the Wild campaign with 4:1 leveraging power.

The **Nova Scotia Land Legacy Trust** has been a transformational force in enabling us and other land trusts to vastly increase the pace and scale of conservation across the province. Their funding directly supports every single conservation achievement of our Twice the Wild campaign.

And **THANK YOU** to our many other greatly valued donors, too numerous to mention by name, whose support makes big wins for nature possible!



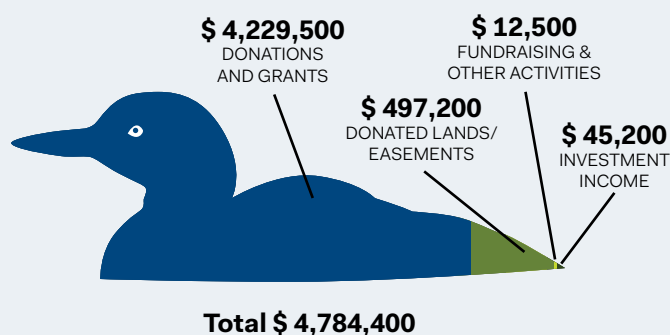
Financial Accountability

This year (April 2020-March 2021) we invested \$4.27 million (93% of expenses) in our charitable programs. These funds supported land conservation, stewardship, education and engagement.

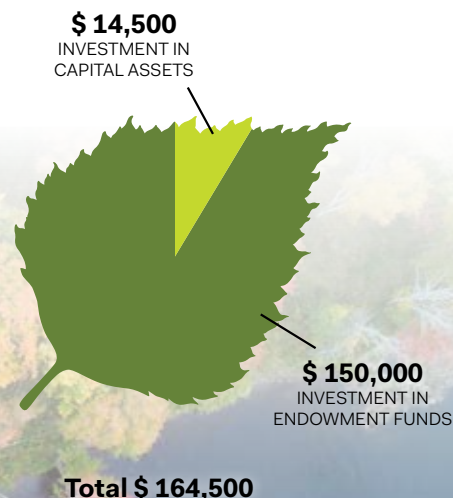
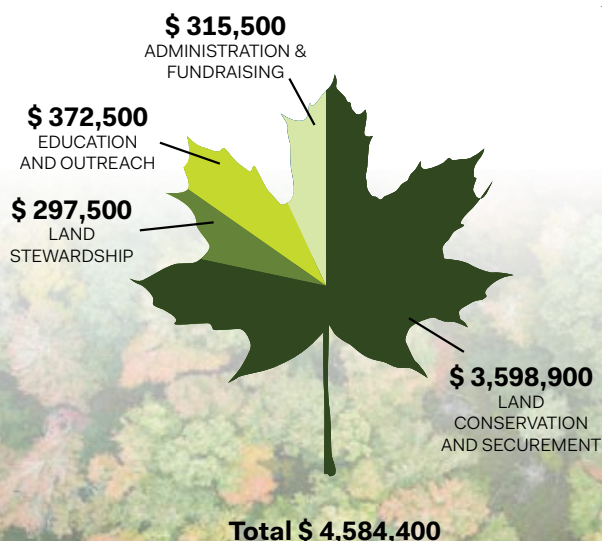
We maintained a healthy balance sheet, with no long-term debt and \$21.1 million in conservation lands and conservation easements. We have secured \$11.6 million in endowment funds – a testament to our commitment to organizational sustainability and meeting our long-term land stewardship commitment to the lands entrusted to our care.

Our financial statements are audited annually by an external auditor. Investments are managed by investment professionals Connor, Clark and Lunni, overseen by an Investment Committee and subject to our investment policy.

Income



Expenses



YOUR DEVOTED BOARD AND STAFF TEAM

BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Emberley (Chair)
 Chris Wilson (Vice-Chair/Secretary)
 Keith MacIntyre (Treasurer)
 Peggy Cunningham
 Camila Das Gupta
 Molly LeBlanc
 Rochelle Owen
 Peter Porteous
 Judy Robertson
 Lara Ryan
 Whipple Smith
 Henry W. Fuller (Emeritus)
 Dale Smith (Emeritus)

STAFF

Ross Firth (Director of Conservation)
 Barbara Haley (Leadership & Legacy Giving Director)
 Janine Jaffrey (Stewardship Field Assistant)
 Rich LaPaix (Conservation Biologist)
 Lisa Matte (Director of Philanthropy & Engagement)
 Christina Nunn (Office Coordinator)
 Dyan O'Dell (Bookkeeper)
 Joanna Skomorowski (Stewardship Coordinator)
 Bonnie Sutherland (Executive Director)
 Nick Wilkinson (Database Coordinator)



Thank you!

*to all our generous supporters, donors,
volunteers, and conservation partners!*



Nature thanks you too!

