

# Forever wild

**2021/2022 GRATITUDE REPORT**



**OUR MANDATE**

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

## Message from our Executive Director

**W**hile we've faced another year of unique challenges and uncertainty, we have been heartened to witness the emergence of a positive and encouraging trend that brings new hope and energy to nature conservation in Nova Scotia.

We have seen unprecedented passion for nature and for taking action to save the wild places Nova Scotians love. Our supporters, volunteers and landowners have stepped up this year, more than ever before, including many brand-new friends of conservation.

In another banner year of conservation success, you have enabled us to protect 17 new conservation lands, harbouring more than 1800 acres of Nova Scotia's most ecologically significant natural areas. We've added to existing assemblages of conserved lands, extending critical habitat connectivity. We've protected more shorelines and coastal islands for migratory and nesting birds, secured essential habitat for at least 21 endangered species, saved corridors of coastal forests in Cape Breton, and we continue to protect even more urban wildlands, in the iconic Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes wilderness and the Purcells Cove backlands.

We have a refreshed strategic plan to guide us forward until 2025, and we continue to be humbled by your

commitment to help save and steward more nature. Thanks to you, our *Twice the Wild* fundraising campaign reached its target of \$4 million dollars, and we reached the milestone of 20,000 acres protected, forever. We've made great strides

in advancing our volunteer base, sector-leading conservation technology and other stewardship solutions that have increased our capacity to effectively care for 157 conservation lands.

Our journey continues in learning and building deeper relationships with our Mi'kmaw partners, and in strengthening the inspiring collaborations now in place with a diversity of government and non-government conservation organizations.

In a year of continued isolation and distance, we have become even more united with so many who share our passion for nature and our commitment

to work together for its future.

We are immensely grateful for your continued support. Thank you from all of us at the Nature Trust.



*Bonnie Sutherland*  
Bonnie Sutherland

# The Conservation Achievements You've Made Possible!

## CONSERVATION GAINS

CONSERVATION  
LANDS SAVED

**157**

ACRES  
PROTECTED

**20,178**

ACHIEVED IN  
2021 / 2022

**1,870**



## ACRES OF CRITICAL HABITAT PROTECTED FOREVER

For species at risk **11,475**

Freshwater habitat **10,912**

Coastal habitat **9,913**

Old and unique forests **8,530**

Karst habitat

(gypsum cliffs and caves) **995**

## BIG WINS FOR NATURE

NUMBER OF  
SPECIES AT RISK  
PROTECTED

**32**

### SANCTUARIES SAVED

FOR  
ENDANGERED  
TURTLES

**32**

FOR  
RARE PLANTS

**24**

FOR BIRD  
SPECIES  
AT RISK

**39**

## OUR WONDERFUL NEW SUPPORTERS

**1112** NEW  
DONORS

**39** NEW  
MONTHLY  
DONORS

**19** NEW  
CHAMPIONS  
OF THE WILD

**70** NEW  
PROPERTY  
GUARDIANS

**8** NEW  
LEGACY GIFT  
DONORS



DAVE S

## Twice the Wild: Celebrating success as we look ahead

In recent years, it's been nearly impossible to divert our collective attention from focusing on the mounting urgency and scale of environmental crises, with rapid biodiversity loss and climate change inspiring a global call to action. In early 2020, the government of Canada responded by making an encouraging commitment to protect 25 percent of Canada's lands by 2025, working toward a goal of 30 percent by 2030. To support that commitment, came an unprecedented multi-billion dollar investment in nature conservation.

We created an exciting opportunity to leverage this major funding to conserve more lands in Nova Scotia, but we needed to act quickly. In September 2020 we launched Twice the Wild, an ambitious campaign to double our protected spaces for nature in Nova Scotia. In our first 25 years we protected 15,000 acres, and our goal is to double that to 30,000 acres by 2025.

When we launched Twice the Wild, we set out to raise \$4 million in public funding. Through key funding partners, we could leverage four times that amount in matching funds for a total of 20 million dollars to save land, but we couldn't do this alone. With the dedicated leadership of our volunteer Campaign Cabinet, and the incredible outpouring of support from you - our partners, volunteers and donors, we reached this ambitious public campaign

target in December, just 15 months after the launch!

With the public funds raised, we can now unlock \$16 million of matching funds available from our generous partners, to generate a total of \$20 million to save nature in Nova Scotia. The result is that we're conserving more lands, and faster, than ever before. Although we've reached our first fundraising milestone, we continue to raise more funds to save Twice the Wild.

The pandemic impacts continue to bring new challenges to our efforts to protect land, including unprecedented competition for land, increased land costs, shortfalls in professional land services, and life-changing uncertainties for many landowners. Yet despite these challenges, in addition to reaching our fundraising milestone, we've reached an exciting conservation milestone too, with 20,000 acres of protected lands! We know that moving forward, we need to increase our conservation efforts even more.

Twice the Wild has been a big win for nature in Nova Scotia, and an incredible achievement so far. In the midst of

a pandemic, the support and commitment to work together for nature has been truly inspiring. We are so deeply grateful to our supporters for helping us reach these important milestones, and look forward to sharing more on the achievements you're making possible in the months and years ahead.

### CAMPAIGN STATS

- **\$4 million raised** in public fundraising + **\$16 million** in grants unlocked = **\$20 million total!**
- **2130 campaign donors**
- **1100 campaign donors** who are first-time Nature Trust supporters



# Thanks to Our Special Partners

We were honored to receive a transformational gift from the Sobey Family, which helped us reach the campaign target. The David and Faye Sobey Foundation committed \$900,000 toward the campaign, and Paul and Marsha Sobey contributed an additional \$100,000 to bring the total family gift to \$1 million. This gift unlocked four times its value in matching funds, generating an additional \$4 million to help us double the lands we protect across the province.

“We’re proud to be helping the Nova Scotia Nature Trust save our most beautiful and important natural areas so our children and grandchildren can continue to enjoy our wild rivers, lakes and forests, just as we have.” ~Janis Sobey-Hames, Chair of the David and Faye Sobey Foundation.

The Michelin Corporate Foundation was created to support innovative and socially committed projects in countries where Michelin is present. This year, they selected two projects in North America to receive major funding support, and we were so humbled to receive an award of \$300,000 for Twice the Wild – our first major international grant.

An additional \$1.2 million was generated in matching funds, and we have been able to translate that support into more protected places in Nova Scotia already this year. We are sincerely thankful for the support of the Michelin Corporate Foundation and local Michelin employees who helped secure this generous gift.



## Special thanks to our campaign cabinet

The success of our campaign was led by a high-profile volunteer cabinet, whose members committed their time and talents for more than a year to inspire financial support for Twice the Wild. We could not have achieved our goal of \$4 million without their passion and energy and we are so thankful for their dedication.

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

# New Conservation Lands

Conservation science and our first official strategic Conservation Plan guide our conservation priorities. We make our decisions based on the most ecologically rich, rare and at-risk species, habitats and landscapes including endangered species, coastal areas, freshwater ecosystems, important bird habitats, old/unique forests and urban wildlands. With our Twice the Wild campaign, we are protecting unique and important biodiversity, mitigating climate change impacts and building vital landscape connectivity. Thanks to you, we have saved 17 irreplaceable landscapes in the past year!

## KARST

Occasionally we protect unique and rare places that fall outside of our eight focus areas. Last year, we added an exciting new gypsum karst landscape on the St. Croix River, and we were happy to build on this new assemblage again this year. This area supports rare ecological features and habitat that are underrepresented within the provincial protected areas system. An additional 194 acres have been conserved in this area, providing permanent protection for the endangered Ram's head Lady Slipper and the special karst landscape in this part of the province.



## KESPUKWITK WILD

Kespukwitek, or Southwest Nova Scotia, is one of the seven traditional districts of Mi'kma'ki. Recognized as one of Canada's Priority Places for conservation, it is a hotspot for biodiversity, with many species of plants and wildlife at risk of extinction. Thanks to your support, we have added eight properties, and more than 700 acres of newly protected lands within this important area.

Eight new conservation lands at Ponhook, Springhaven Duck and DeLong Lakes, Lac de l'Ecole, Barren Meadow, Hectanooga and Pleasant River protect lakes, rivers and wetlands providing refuge for rich biodiversity including an impressive 19 species at risk. From one of the most significant concentrations of Eastern White Cedar forests, to refuges for endangered turtles, moose and birds, you have helped make great strides in protecting our most rare and threatened species.



## Species at Risk Protected

### Reptiles

Blandings Turtle  
Eastern Ribbonsnake  
Snapping Turtle  
Painted Turtle

### Lichens

Blue Felt lichen  
Wrinkled Shingle lichen

### Trees and

### Herbaceous Plants

Eastern White Cedar  
Long's Bulrush  
Plymouth Gentian  
Redroot  
Water pennywort

### Mammals

Bats  
Mainland Moose

### Birds

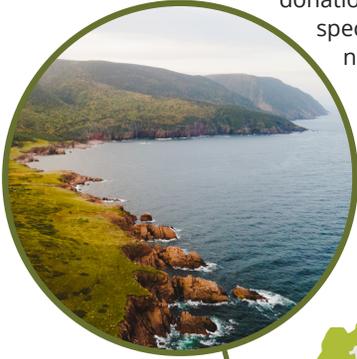
Barn Swallow  
Canada Warbler  
Eastern Wood Pewee  
Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Piping Plover  
Evening Grosbeak

*Thanks to you, the important biodiversity and habitat in all of these areas will be protected forever.*

## CAPE BRETON

Cape Breton includes two focal areas of conservation priority, and we are pleased to add another 200 acres of land to our care. The highlands near Mabou encompass wild coastline, rugged hillsides and coastal forest. This year, we welcomed a generous land donation in Mabou, as well as the addition of a significant inholding in the spectacular Lowland Cove. Both of these properties will add to a growing network of protected lands which will build on the stunning natural legacy in this area.

The Bras d'Or Lake is another special place for conservation, and is globally recognized as a Biosphere Reserve. Thanks to a special partnership with the Bras d'Or Preservation Nature Trust, the conservation of McKinnons' Point has been transferred to our care, and will ensure the protection of this Bras d'Or Lake coastline forever.



## URBAN WILDLANDS

Sometimes, urban areas are not top of mind when we think of conservation, but protected wildlands near urban centres are critical to our conservation strategy. These spaces preserve important habitat for wildlife, plants and birds, as well as providing nature-based solutions to climate change and climate change impacts, such as carbon capture and flood prevention. Urban wildlands also provide nearby green space to explore and reconnect with nature, which is recognized as an effective means to support our health and wellness.

Your support has allowed us to add more protected lands to several beloved areas within the Halifax area, including new property immediately adjacent to the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes wilderness, and additional lands in the Purcells Cove "backlands." As we build on these growing assemblages of protected areas, we are extending critical landscape connectivity for nature.



## COASTAL AREAS

Coastlines and wild islands are important for conservation because they protect an ecologically rich mosaic of habitats, including pristine beaches and dunes, saltmarsh, wetlands, bogs and coastal forest. In some cases, they are also well-loved locations for recreational activity and community engagement. Some of our newly protected coastlines are also adjacent to other provincially protected areas, which provides large, connected habitats for wildlife and birds to move safely, and for nature to thrive long-term.

Wild coastlines and islands are increasingly difficult to find - more than 85% of the province's coastal lands are in private ownership - but with your help, we have secured more than 500 acres of spectacular coastlines and an island along the South Shore, including Port La Tour, Sand Beach and Middle Island. These very special places protect endangered and rare species such as the Piping Plover, other migratory and nesting birds as well as lichens and turtles. With shorebird populations declining 40% over the last decade globally, protecting habitats they need, all along their migratory path, is critical to their long-term viability.





Steven McGrath

## Priorities for Conservation

We're proud to have completed the organization's first multi-year, strategic Conservation Plan. The plan will guide our conservation efforts and decision-making, ensuring we target the most important lands as we double our protected areas by 2025. It complements other national, provincial and regional conservation planning, including efforts by government, Mi'kmaw partners, other land trusts and non-governmental organizations.

Our new Conservation Plan focuses on the processes and rationale that guide our land securement work, and will achieve the following:

- Serve as an internal and external reference for the Nature Trust's conservation priorities
- Document the conservation planning process that guides our work

- Identify land securement goals
- Identify focus areas and provide rationale for their identification
- Highlight criteria for parcel prioritization and assessment
- Guide all conservation decision-making

Our conservation work is organized under six project themes: Endangered Species, Coastal Areas, Freshwater Ecosystems, Important Bird Habitats, Old/Unique Forests and Urban Wildlands. Specific goals and objectives are outlined for each theme to help guide our efforts in a way that is consistent with our land securement vision. Within these themes, we've identified focus areas that support ecological systems with relatively high conservation value. The plan also provides a framework for evaluating land securement

opportunities outside of these focus areas, taking into account the overall ecological integrity, biodiversity, connectivity, climate change resiliency, nature-based solutions, and ecological representation.

The conservation plan has been reviewed and modified with input from members of the Nature Trust's science advisory network and has been endorsed by the organization's Conservation Committee and Board. Like many of our successes, the Plan was completed through ongoing collaboration and sharing of information and perspectives with a wide variety of organizations and individuals – thank you to all our partners who have been involved.



## Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora

Nova Scotia is home to many natural treasures, including a unique group of almost 100 species of flowering plants known as Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora, many of which grow nowhere else in Canada! This unique group of plants arrived here through a geological legacy originating more than 10,000 years ago when the sea level was 100 m lower than it is today and exposed much of the area between Nova Scotia and Massachusetts. Plants invaded this exposed area as they followed the retreating glaciers northward. Later, melt water from the glaciers caused sea level to rise and cut off coastal plain flora in Nova Scotia from other populations.

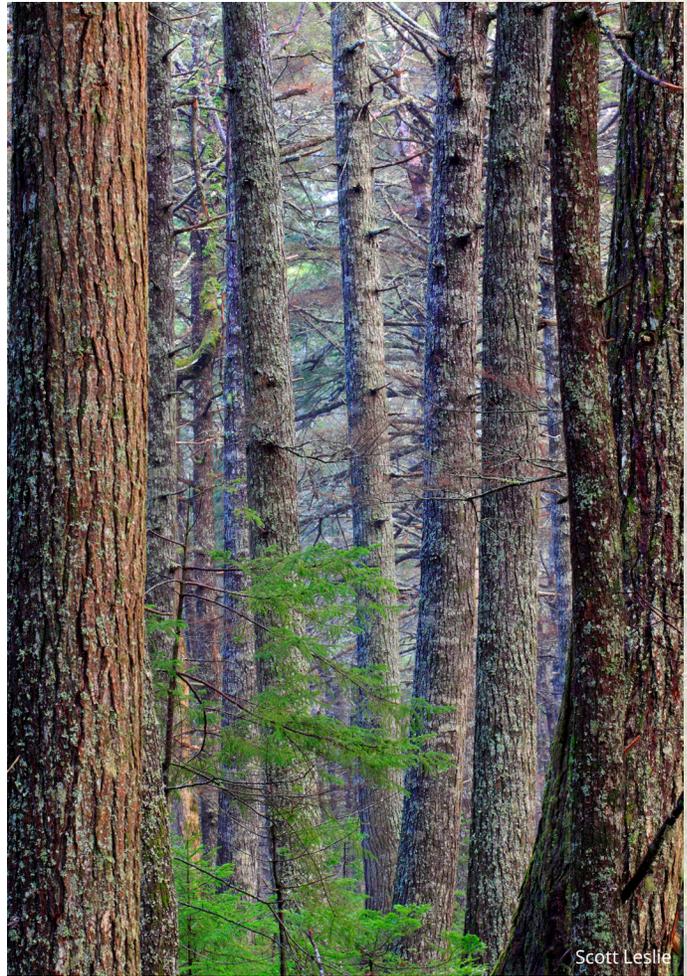


*Thread-leaved sundew*

Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora are concentrated in the southwest part of the province where they are found along the shores of inland lakes and rivers, in wetlands and coastal salt marshes. Many of these plants are considered at-risk, reflecting

biologically limiting factors such as small population sizes, range limitations, and limited reproduction capabilities. However the most imminent threats are from human activities including cottage and residential development, shoreline alterations, nutrient pollution, all-terrain vehicle use, infilling, and other disturbances.

Globally, Nova Scotia contains some of the largest remaining areas of intact coastal plain habitat and many of the most important sites are in private ownership and facing increasing development pressures. We have a long history of working to protect important Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora habitat and we are committed to continue pursuing land protections particularly in the Tusket River watershed and areas surrounding Ponhook, Molega and other nearby lakes.



Scott Leslie

## Hemlocks Get a Helping Hand

Hemlock forests across Nova Scotia are threatened by Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, a tiny, invasive, sap-sucking insect. The trees need more time to adapt to this newcomer and need our help to actively control Hemlock Woolly Adelgid populations over the next decade or longer. Forest scientists are researching a long-term remedy that uses tiny natural insect predators to control this pest, but chemical vaccination control is necessary in the interim.

Last fall, a passionate group of volunteers rallied together to take on an impressive task: to raise funds, create the necessary partnerships, and quickly mobilize a pilot project to test an inoculation program which may save one of the best remaining hemlock stands in the province, the forest at Sporting Lake Nature Reserve. The team showed remarkable dedication and achieved impressive results at this remote island site in a short period of time.

The Nature Trust was honoured to support this project and we look forward to applying the lessons learned to fighting Hemlock Woody Adelgid which has unfortunately made its way to some of our protected areas.



A for A

## A Coastal Trifecta

One of the most exciting achievements in the past year was a successful campaign to save three outstanding coastal properties: a pristine coastal island, a beautiful South Shore beach and wetlands, and stunning Cape Breton coastal highlands.

When we announced our efforts to save these three coastal gems, Nova Scotians once again stepped up to demonstrate their love for our iconic coast. Thanks to an outpouring of public support and our matching fund opportunities, we succeeded in purchasing all three – a rare opportunity and impressive feat!

Lowland Cove is a stunning example of northern Cape Breton's incredible coastal mountains and rugged wildness. Its protection provides connectivity for wildlife, and also represents a milestone in linking together land for the proposed Seawall Trail, envisioned to provide 48 kilometers of world-class hiking.

Sand Beach represents the potential for balanced synergy between people and nature. This wild coastline has been enjoyed by generations of visitors, and its mosaic of diverse habitats provides refuge for migratory and nesting birds, and endangered species including several species of birds, turtles and lichen.

Middle Island is the final link to ensure the ecological integrity of an undeveloped coastal archipelago off the south



Ashley MacDonald

shore's Cherry Hill beach, now fully protected by the Nature Trust, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Province. The island supports the movement of bird colonies within and beyond the archipelago – a critical step in helping to address rapid decline in global bird populations and impacts of climate change.

While coastal habitats are among the most ecologically important in our province and beyond, they are also highly sought after for development, and at increased risk from the accelerating effects of climate change. Opportunities for protection are notoriously rare, but saving privately owned, ecologically valuable land is precisely why the Nature Trust exists, and we were thrilled and thankful for this great achievement in coastal conservation.



Mathias Durnfor



Heather Leslie

## Stewardship Highlights

In spite of pandemic-related challenges, our commitment to protect and conserve our wild places has not wavered. Our dedicated teams of staff and volunteers have enabled us to monitor and steward our growing number of protected lands, and together we've achieved some great gains for nature in the process. Our stewardship work over the past year has been a gratifying balance of activities. We've removed unwanted structures, invasive species and hazards, and we've added exciting new technologies, and new Property Guardians across the province. To all of you who hike, paddle, cut, photograph, count and monitor nature — we are deeply thankful!

A few highlights:

- Re-activation of volunteer work parties! We installed boardwalks, trail tags, and a new footbridge at Pennant River, completed much-needed trail maintenance at

Purcells Cove, and at an easement site on the South Shore, all with the help of some hardy and handy volunteers.

- Removal of derelict structures, an abandoned bus, hunting blinds and even some cabins from a number of properties
- Installation of well covers (built by volunteers) to prevent future accidents
- Removal of entangled grapevines at Barren Meadow, helping to restore important habitat
- Restoration of a former grow-op site and boarding up broken windows in an old house
- Teaming up with local hunters to encourage responsible hunting practices on Nature Trust land.

Our Property Guardians continue to be an indispensable support for our growing stewardship responsibilities, and are wonderful ambassadors in the community.





Property Guardian Training



Ashley MacDonald

Lowland Cove

## Advances in Stewardship Technology:

We were very excited to begin field tests of our new property database, Landscape, with excellent results, and we have now started to train our Property Guardians with tablets and mobile devices to use this program. Landscape will allow both staff and volunteers to access vital property information while in the field, to geolocate photos taken, to track features and their location on the property and to automatically upload property reports and photos directly to our cloud-based database. This technology will be a game-changer for our stewardship work in the years ahead as it will automate many of our monitoring and reporting functions and create efficient data sharing and analysis. As the number of protected lands in our care continues to grow, Landscape will be vital to help expand our capacity to ensure our commitment of “forever wild.”



Meander guided hike

## Volunteers Saving Nature

Volunteers are a precious resource and an integral part of the Nature Trust team. We simply could not accomplish all that we do without their support. Although the pandemic put a temporary damper on our volunteer program, there has been a humbling amount of interest from new volunteers to support our work. The past two years have inspired new ambassadors for nature as many people found a heightened connection with the natural world, and a deeper appreciation for the value of conservation. Volunteering is an empowering way for individuals to create a tangible impact for nature, for personal well-being and for our communities.

With all of that positivity coming our way, we were so pleased to re-energize the volunteer program and once again connect for in-person events and training. We have a new, more streamlined onboarding process, and we're identifying priority volunteer roles across the breadth of the organization that will help us build our capacity for conservation, stewardship, fundraising, outreach and leadership.

We have reconvened Volunteer Hub meetings with all four regional volunteer teams and held group training events in Halifax, the St. Mary's River area, the Annapolis Valley and Cape Breton. Training sessions for new Property Guardians have resumed, and we are also re-engaging with our wider volunteer base. This includes the talented people that help us with writing, photography, mailings, maintenance, research projects and more.

We also have the pleasure of working with a dedicated network of talented Board and Committee members and professional advisors. The generosity of spirit and time that these individuals contribute is inspiring, and we are so very grateful to have them as part of our team. Thank you to all of the amazing Nature Trust volunteers!



*NSNT board social*



*Volunteers Clearing Garden at Nature's House*



*Meander River Hike with Campaign Cabinet*

## Shoutout to TD Bank

Thanks to the TD Bank Group for their generous support of our Connecting Communities with Nature Program. For the next four years, this program will support the development and implementation of our volunteer program, in particular our Property Guardians, Hubs and community outreach volunteers. It's a way to engage local citizens to protect the natural places they love: restoring and maintaining wild places, and creating connections between community and nature.



**TD READY  
COMMITMENT**

Enjoy more stories on our fantastic volunteers at [nsnt.ca/volunteer/volunteer-stories/](https://nsnt.ca/volunteer/volunteer-stories/)  
Or share your own volunteering story with us at [volunteer@nsnt.ca](mailto:volunteer@nsnt.ca)



## A dedicated volunteer retires!

Bruce Blakemore first connected with the Nature Trust in 2009 when she and her late husband, Hugh Jones, wanted to conserve their own coastal property at Purgatory Point. They were both keen outdoors people, saying “We had a large organic vegetable garden (I still do), were birders, amateur geologists, and loved to hike and be on the water exploring new places. The irony is that we worked in the theatre which meant we spent our working life in a black box. All the more reason to find joy in the great outdoors.”

Bruce and Hugh shared a love of visiting secluded beaches, harbours, bays, inlets, and coves. But as the years passed, they were increasingly concerned about development pressures on the coastlines. When nearby Crow Neck Beach became a Nature Trust conservation land, they immediately volunteered to become Property Guardians.

*“We decided that we would visit every solstice and equinox. But it is such a wonderful place that visits became more frequent. Walking a stunningly beautiful beach on a regular basis is hardly an onerous volunteer job!”*

Over time, Bruce and Hugh visited many Nature Trust conservation lands, and they were regular participants in other Nature Trust activities such as cleanups and bird watching hikes. After many years of loving care and attention for the Crow Neck property, Bruce has decided to “retire” from her role as a Nature Trust volunteer. Bruce has decided to retire from her role as a Nature Trust volunteer, although her commitment continues as a dedicated monthly and legacy gift donor.

Her visits to this special property have provided important information to our stewardship team for many years, and she has been an important part of our work to protect Crow Neck Beach forever. Please join us in sending best wishes to Bruce for a well-deserved rest, and a big thank you for her lasting dedication to coastal conservation and stewardship!



## Staying Connected

Once again, we needed to shift some of our “usual” activities as a result of the pandemic, and we hosted several virtual events throughout the year. Although it’s always much more enjoyable to see everyone in person, we were pleasantly surprised with the interest and enthusiasm of our supporters as people across Canada (and abroad) logged in to join us for different topics!

## Turtles are Tops

In early March we presented the “All about Turtles!” webinar, which was attended live by over 90 people, including Nature Trust donors and volunteers, members of the public, and all-around turtle enthusiasts! Only four species of turtle are native to Nova Scotia – Blanding’s Turtle, Wood Turtle, Common Snapping Turtle, and the Eastern



Painted Turtle. All of them are at risk of extinction, due in large part to habitat loss and degradation of wetland and riparian ecosystems. The webinar was a well-received opportunity to enhance education and awareness about turtles in Nova Scotia, and allowed viewers from around the world to participate. The session generated great interest, and is now available for viewing on the Nature Trust YouTube channel.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7urP\\_GkMzgU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7urP_GkMzgU)

## The Shoutout Showcase

We are always so proud and excited to share our latest conservation wins, and this year we tested our first live-streamed Conservation Showcase. It was an opportunity to share our highlights of the past year, to thank our dedicated supporters, and to show off some breathtaking video footage of newly protected areas across Nova Scotia. With hundreds of participants logging in to our website, YouTube and Facebook channels during the event, we were able to reach an audience that far exceeded our usual in-person event, allowing us to engage more people than ever! Our Shoutout Showcase is available to watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNHHB51ri34&t=1649s>

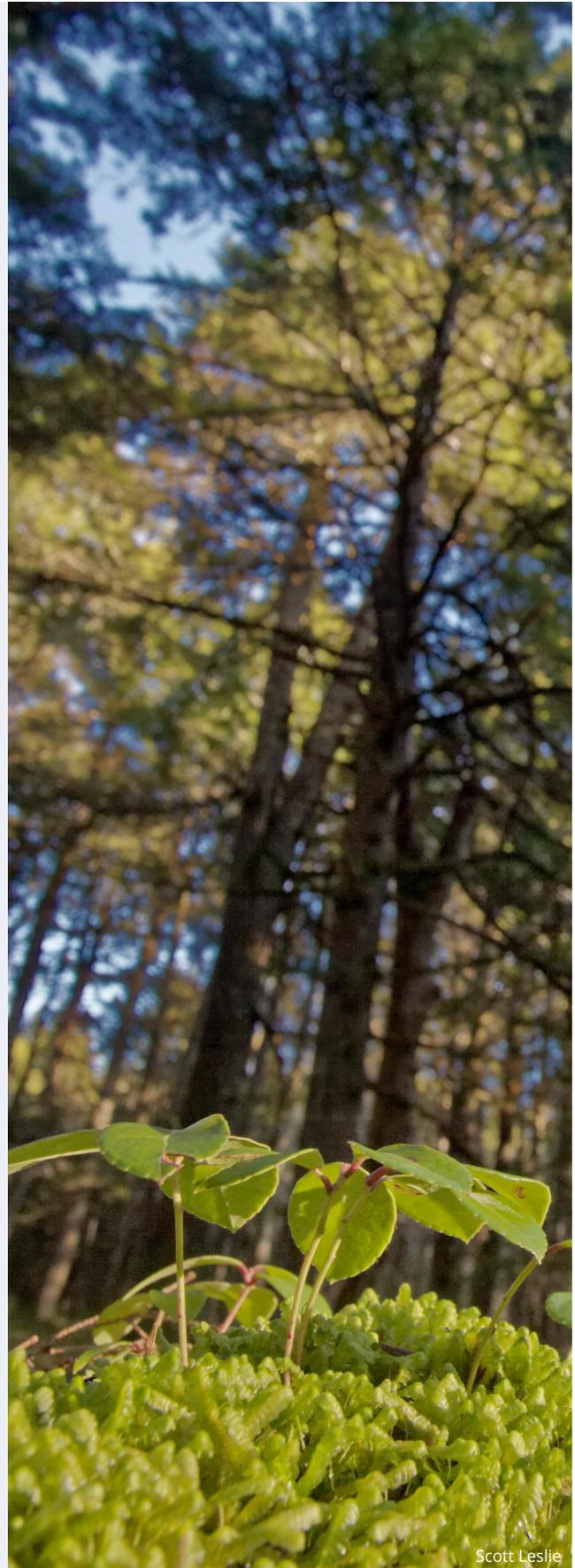
## Best Practices in Stewardship

There are countless factors to consider in the world of land stewardship and it's extremely beneficial to learn from stewardship staff with other land trusts. Earlier this spring, we paired with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick to co-host a virtual meetup for stewardship staff from seven different land trusts to discuss unique and common challenges. Topics included mining licenses on conservation lands, reforesting old fields, managing beloved trails that are in danger of being overly loved by Covid-weary explorers, using satellite imagery to monitor remote properties, empowering volunteers and more. Although we are separate organizations, we all have conservation at heart. Considering the challenges facing wild spaces today, it is crucial that we work together and strengthen each other's knowledge.

## Education and Updates for our Supporters

We're so grateful for the generous support of our donors, and we enjoy the opportunity to give something back! Thanks to virtual meetings, we were able to provide a personalized Nature Trust update with our Executive Director for our Champions of the Wild — regardless of where they live. These virtual sessions are one way in which we can share the latest news about conservation wins, challenges and plans on the horizon with one of our most dedicated groups of major donors.

For the first time in several years, we were happy to host (virtually) an education session for donors to learn more about income tax reduction through estate planning. We know that many of our supporters are interested in potential estate gifts – as a means to create a legacy for conservation in Nova Scotia. Many eager participants joined Financial Planning expert, Glenn Stewardson, for this informative session.



Scott Leslie

# Our Incredible Supporters

We are so fortunate to have thoughtful, committed and generous donors who support our land conservation work all across the province. Thank you! You are all heroes of conservation.



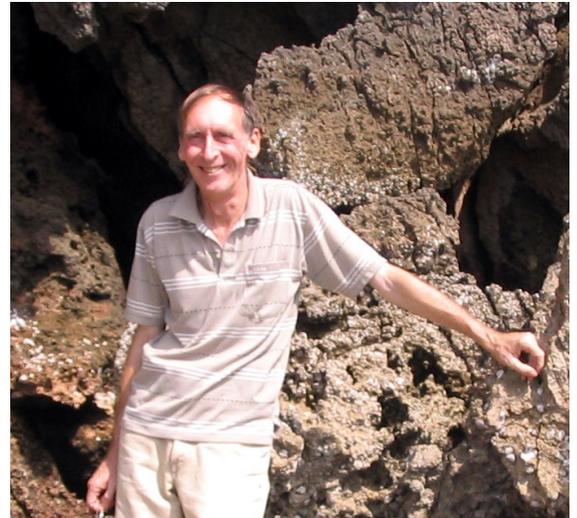
## Dr. Louisa Jones

Famous for its chestnuts and wild mountain pastures, the Cévennes region of France is the home of our first international Champion of the Wild. Louisa chose to become a Champion this year, extending her incredible generosity to preserve nature and promote biodiversity in Nova Scotia with funds left to her by her parents.

Louisa has lived in France since 1975, but she's Canadian by birth. Her career as a professor of French and Comparative Literature eventually led her and her French husband, the late Bernard Dupont, to settle in France. Together they purchased a farmhouse and spent 40 years gardening, restoring ecosystems and planting trees on their property.

*"My grandparents and uncle were naturalists of some repute in Nova Scotia, and their influence remained with me. In the last thirty years I have written a lot of books about gardening but always from an ecologically sound viewpoint."*

After learning about the Nature Trust from a friend, and inspired by her family, she decided to become a Champion of the Wild, using funds left to her by her parents "I thought they would have liked it to benefit something Nova Scotian." Her generous multi-year pledge of unrestricted support is now a way to continue her family's contribution to conservation in Nova Scotia.



## Max Moseley

Max has always been passionate about conservation and natural history. Growing up in the northwest of England, outdoor activities nurtured his love of cave exploration and environmental protection, and he became an independent cave biologist. Max's research interests include gypsum caves and karst topography, and for more than 50 years, he has been investigating and documenting the fauna, caves and karst of Nova Scotia. The Nature Trust's recent protection of gypsum karst sites was especially inspiring to him.

*"Of course, I am particularly keen to see gypsum karst areas protected, and I was very impressed by what the Nature Trust is accomplishing. Now that I am in my seventies, I am looking to what I can leave of value behind me, above and beyond the information that I hope others will be able to build on. I am delighted that the Nature Trust is now acquiring and protecting examples of these rare and remarkable landscapes."*

After learning about estate planning options, Max made a decision to add a bequest to the Nature Trust to his will. "By naming the Nature Trust as a beneficiary, my brother will still get the legacy I want to leave for him, but the balance will go to a charity that I support. It's something I can do that is positive: helping make sure that as much as possible of our province's land and biodiversity are protected and preserved."

Thanks to Max's thoughtful gesture, his planned gift will help ensure that Nova Scotia's natural legacy, to which he has devoted so much of his life, will be protected forever.



Chantal Lavoie

## Zack Metcalf

As a conservation-focused journalist, Zack Metcalf has worked with environmental charities across the Maritimes. The Nature Trust helped introduce him first-hand to truly wild natural places, and his vehement support of locally-led land conservation has grown from there. Although he currently lives on Prince Edward Island, it was an easy decision to become a monthly donor to our Twice the Wild campaign.

The first place he lived in Nova Scotia was in Purcell's Cove. "I felt starved for natural exposure," he remembers, "so I walked in a random direction and the first place I stumbled on was this gorgeous little wilderness in the backlands. It turned out that it was a Nature Trust property." He was thrilled to learn that a charity had been working for decades to protect the area he'd chosen to explore, and since then, he has visited Nature Trust conservation lands all over the province.

The Twice the Wild campaign inspired him to support the Nature Trust even from outside the province. He understands the power of a regular ongoing donation, and he made a generous commitment to monthly giving. He hopes that his monthly donation not only will help provide financial stability but will also help inspire other supporters to join the community of monthly donors.

*"To my knowledge there's no single charity in Canada that has a bigger impact on climate change," says Zack. "The Nature Trust is probably the best organized and locally focused in the country."*

## STEADFAST SUPPORT: CHAMPIONS OF THE WILD

For several years, we have had the honor of recognizing a very special group of loyal donors as "Guardians of the Land". In an effort to avoid confusion with our volunteer Property Guardians, we re-branded this honor to "Champions of the Wild". This group of special donors support the on-going fundamental work of the Nature Trust through a multi-year significant pledge. They understand that for land conservation to take place, a vast array of other work must also happen—everything from educating landowners, holding events, running the office, stewarding our land, training volunteers and, of course, saving land. Their gift of undesignated funding means that we can direct their support to whatever area needs it most in any given year, and we can rely on their ongoing gifts into the future, making the Champions program a truly valuable and appreciated way to help us protect "forever wild". Our sincere thanks to our Champions of the Wild.

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Jane Allen & Rochelle Owen               | Wendy & the late Bob McDonald     |
| Karen Beazley & Ken Crowell              | Catherine A. Milne                |
| Alison & Larry Bogan                     | Jean Milne                        |
| Anne Campbell & John Lindsay             | Wayne & Hilary (Sears) Paquet     |
| Fred & Nancy Chipman                     | Richard Rachals                   |
| Byron Corner & Patricia Robertson-Corner | Judy Robertson & Daughters        |
| Corinne & Jack Duffy                     | Jason Roth & Cheryl Steadman-Roth |
| Rick & Mary Emberley                     | Alastair Saunders & Chris Corston |
| Chris & Hiya Field                       | Paul & Susan Scott                |
| Henry W. Fuller                          | Susan Sherwin & Richmond Campbell |
| Anne Gillies & Nathan Brett              | Whipple Smith & Jim Kanellakos    |
| Helga Guderley                           | Darlene Stone                     |
| Verna J. Higgins                         | Rick & Janet Whitman              |
| John Himmelman                           | Gregor Wilson & Erica van Vulpen  |
| Christopher Hopgood                      |                                   |
| Klaus & Joan Jensen                      |                                   |
| Louisa Jones                             |                                   |
| Susan H. Kashanski                       |                                   |
| Stewart Lindsay                          |                                   |
| Keith & Dany MacIntyre                   |                                   |
| Judy Manchester & David Stevenson        |                                   |
| Bob & Peggy (Colthart) McCalla           |                                   |



## Daniele Hart

In celebration of her 60th birthday, Daniele chose to rally her friends and family to protect nature by asking them to support the Nature Trust. A canoer, hiker and biker, Daniele has a deep appreciation for the natural world, and she wanted to do something meaningful to commemorate this milestone birthday.

Daniele and her husband made a lead gift to the Nature Trust and then wrote to family and friends, "It is our belief that in addition to what government does, we, as individuals, can help to preserve land in perpetuity for the creatures and life forms with whom we share this precious planet...It honours our ancestors, ourselves, our children, and all future generations, who will be grateful that we had the foresight to buy land while it was still possible."

Daniele's email resonated with many friends and family members who responded with donations in her honour to the Nature Trust, raising almost \$10,000! With the majority of funds donated to the Twice the Wild Campaign, Daniele's birthday fundraiser unlocked an additional \$40,000 in matching funds to generate \$50,000 in total to help double the protected spaces in Nova Scotia.

*"In our capitalist society, it's really the only way to preserve land. You can count on government for some of it, but this is an opportunity to preserve land that private owners have," says Daniele. "Just seeing the massive deterioration of environment everywhere—any opportunity we have to preserve something, let's do it."*



## Mariele Guerrero

Last summer, the intrepid Mariele set out on a mission to circumnavigate mainland Nova Scotia on a stand-up paddleboard. This incredible effort was a project that she created to raise funds in support of the Twice the Wild campaign. After 1213km, 43 days of paddling, and 31km of portaging, Mariele's Expedition SUP Mi'kmaw'ki raised \$5000 for the Nature Trust! Donations came in through all types of social media shares, friends, family and total strangers, and was all the more special because her contributions were leveraged to generate a total of \$25,000 to save natural spaces across Mi'kmaw'ki / Nova Scotia! We're humbled by Mariele's inspiring event and her amazing physical feat – thanks to Mariele!



## Bob Williams

Bob has always had an affinity for nature and the outdoors. He was brought up in the country, where forests, streams, and wildlife were only a short walk away. Over time his outlook expanded from simple personal enjoyment to include a concern for the preservation of wild and beautiful places. But in the midst of climate change and land use pressure, he's been haunted by the persistent question: how can one make a difference?

In 2014, he learned of the Nature Trust's work to preserve land and habitat for wildlife, and he was inspired to make his first sizable donation which helped save habitat for the endangered Blanding's Turtle.

"That was the first of many donations to the Nature Trust. Their devotion to preserving the natural wonders of Nova Scotia's land and its biodiversity is wonderful. Being part of that process

provides me with a sense of accomplishment and permanent results. It goes hand in hand with my concern about climate change."

To support his philanthropic plans, Bob established a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) with a financial organization specializing in Charitable Giving. He named his fund 'Embracing Climate Change', and the Nature Trust is now a recipient of donated funds. Recently, he chose to support the Twice the Wild campaign through his fund, helping us move toward the goal to double the protected lands in our care.

*"I'm particularly happy and proud that 'Embracing Climate Change' had a significant impact on early success for this campaign. Congratulations to the Nature Trust and all their donors for their work and contributions."*

Enjoy more inspiring donor stories at [nsnt.ca/giving/donor-stories/](https://nsnt.ca/giving/donor-stories/)  
Or share your story with us at [donorstories@nsnt.ca](mailto:donorstories@nsnt.ca)



# Our Generous Supporters

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



## NEW LAND OR CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONORS

Bras D'Or Preservation Nature Trust  
Larry Cochrane  
Keith & Anne Fraser  
Bob & Lee Ann Kinzer  
David A. Longard  
Donald W. Longard  
Barry & Shirley Zwicker

## NEW LEGACY GIFT DONORS & ESTATES RECEIVED

Karen Beazley & Ken Crowell  
The late John Black  
Mike & Debbie Blaesing  
Sheilah A. Domenie  
The late Gloria M. Fletcher  
The late Judith Grant  
Wendy McDonald  
The late Terrence Paris  
The late Cheryl E. Pearce  
Barbara & Eric Ruff  
The late Robert B. Stailing

The late Victor (Ray) Titterington  
The late Lisa Marie Walzak

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Hazen Burton  
Corey Cholock  
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Geoff Wills  
and donors who wish to remain anonymous

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East Coast Credit Union

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Farnell Packaging Limited  
Michelin Corporate Foundation  
Nature's Way Canada  
Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust  
O'Regan's Halifax Ltd.  
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Rainbow Development Holdings Ltd.  
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Heidi Taylor & Denis Leclair  
Stanley Van Dyke & Linda Cameron  
Doug Weatherbee  
Phyllis Westbury  
Bob Williams & Glenda MacKinnon  
and donors who wish to remain anonymous

## **Big Thanks to the Conservation Game-Changers**

### **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA**

The Government of Canada has made a commitment to protect 30% of Canada's land for nature by 2030, to save nature and to advance nature-based solutions to climate change. They have backed this ambitious promise with billions of dollars in conservation funding — the single largest investment in nature conservation in Canadian history. The Canada Nature Fund and the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund were established to encourage and support land trusts, community organizations and Indigenous groups in advancing land conservation across the country.

### **THE NOVA SCOTIA CROWN SHARE LAND LEGACY TRUST**

In 2008, the province created the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust to provide funds for the conservation of natural areas on private lands in Nova Scotia. Their funding has had a transformational impact for us and our land trust colleagues. Since inception, the Land Legacy Trust has helped Nova Scotia's land trusts protect almost 35,000 acres and 179 conservation sites. The land trusts and the Land Legacy Trust are a critical complement to government protected areas. To date, land trusts have leveraged 65 million dollars in conservation work, a 300% return on investment for the province. While the fund's 15-year mandate is set to expire in 2023, we are confident the government will ensure the future of this essential tool for reaching the province's promise of 20% of Nova Scotia protected by 2030.

Thanks to both of these critical partners, we have been able to leverage donations to our Twice the Wild campaign by four times, escalating the pace and scale of land conservation here significantly, and bringing us closer and closer to our doubling the space for nature.

And **THANK YOU** all of our valued donors. Your support and your thoughtfulness has truly made a difference for land conservation in Nova Scotia!

# Create a Natural Legacy



When you name the Nova Scotia Nature Trust as a beneficiary in your will, you are creating a natural legacy that will endure forever. Your gift, no matter what size, will save and protect important wild places for nature and for people too, for now and for generations to come.

To learn more about leaving a gift in your will visit  
[nsnt.ca/giving/leave-a-legacy](https://nsnt.ca/giving/leave-a-legacy) or call **1-877-434-5263**



# Financial Accountability

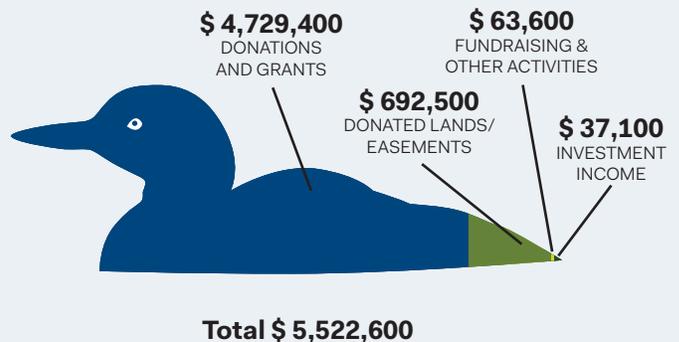
In the past year, we invested \$4.84 million (92% of expenses) in our charitable mandate, advancing land conservation, land stewardship and management, as well as community engagement and education.

Our balance sheet remains positive and strong, with \$24.5 million in conservation lands and easements. Our endowment fund has grown to \$15.69 million, providing us with operational stability and security to ensure that our long-term commitment to stewardship is protected into the future. We established an operating reserve fund this year, to stabilize finances and ensure sustainability for the organization, a cushion against unforeseen events, losses of income or large unbudgeted expense.

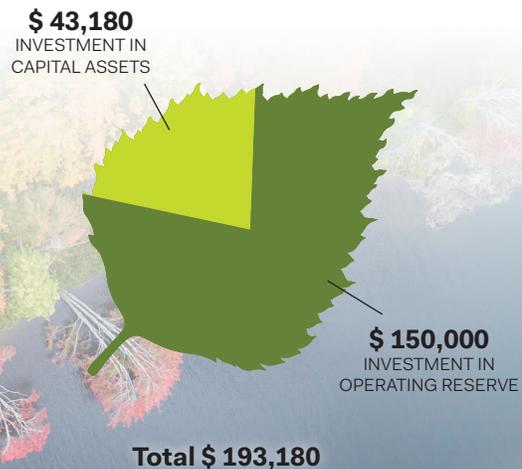
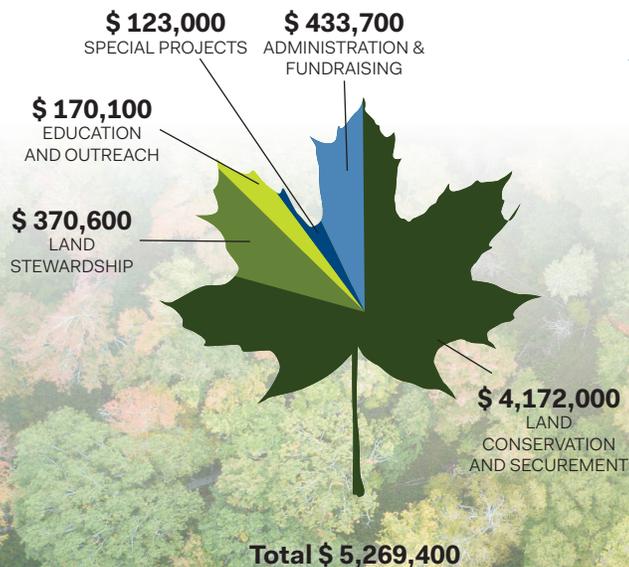
Our financial statements are audited annually by an external auditor. Investments are managed by Connor, Clark and Lunn, and overseen by an Investment Committee, subject to our investment policy.



## Income



## Expenses



## YOUR DEDICATED BOARD AND STAFF TEAM (APRIL 2021-MARCH 2022)

### BOARD MEMBERS

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

### STAFF

Colin Dunphy (Operations and Administration Lead)  
 Ross Firth (Director of Conservation)  
 Barbara Haley (Leadership & Legacy Giving Senior Advisor)  
 Janine Jaffrey (Stewardship Technician)  
 Rich LaPaix (Conservation Biologist)  
 Lisa Matte (Director of Philanthropy & Engagement)  
 Christina Nunn (Volunteer Coordinator)  
 Dyan O'Dell (Bookkeeper)  
 Megan Pagnello (Land Conservation Lead)  
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 Devin Sturge (Marketing & Communications Specialist)  
 Bonnie Sutherland (Executive Director)  
 Anna Weinstein (Marketing & Communications Lead)  
 Nick Wilkinson (Donor Database Coordinator)



# *Thank you!*

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



*Nature thanks you too!*