

Overcome consumerism by giving the 'gift of nature'

2 days ago By: [Victoria Walton](#)



(Meghan Groff/HalifaxToday.ca)

This holiday season, a local environmental organization is giving people the option of gifting conservation to people on their list.

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust has gift options ranging from adopting a turtle to sponsoring a full acre of old growth forest or coastline.

"The recipient gets a beautiful certificate that says a bird was adopted in your name, and they get a sort of educational package that explains what that gift has done, how this gift that they've received is helping to protect habitat," says Bonnie Sutherland, executive director of the charity.

Other options include adopting a bird, a family of birds or turtles, or a donation specified for preserving the Blue Mountain Wilderness Connector.

Sutherland says it's a gift that benefits the environment but also educates the recipient about how the Nature Trust is protecting land and species.

"We work with private land owners to protect old growth forests and lakes and rivers and coastline and wild places for nature and also places where people can go and snowshoe and hike and swim and do all those things we love to do outdoors," she tells NEWS 95.7's The Todd Veinotte Show.

She also says that donations to environmental organizations are a good way to get out of consumerism this

holiday season.

"You feel really good instead of getting another gift that's just actually contributing to global warming and the plastics building up in our oceans," she explains.

For environmentalists who are feeling negative about the impact of gift-buying at holidays, Sutherland says it provides a way of giving a present that doesn't harm the environment.

"It kind of gets people thinking about what they can do on a positive side, cause we're all kind of overwhelmed with the negative, the fear, the doom and gloom," she says.

Sutherland thinks many Nova Scotians are waking up to the severity of the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis and are being more conscious when making purchasing decisions.

"We're hearing about it, we're seeing it everywhere. People who wouldn't have thought or said the word environment even 10 years ago, it's now very top of mind for a lot of people and for our government, which is exciting to see," she says.

For the gift giver, Nature Trust gifts also provide tax-deductible charitable donation receipts.

"They're making a charitable gift but at the same time they're giving the gift of nature to someone. It's a really great way to share your concern about the environment with friends and family," says Sutherland.

The gifts range from a donation of just \$10 up to \$500 to sponsor an acre of coastline.

"It's all about protecting nature, especially close to our cities and right in our own backyard," says Sutherland.

"I think sometimes we think about those crises being in another part of the world but it's right here in Nova Scotia, we need to do a better job of protecting wild places."

A Gift of Nature can be bought online through the [NS Nature Trust website](#), via phone, or by mailing in a form.

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Good gift idea.



[ophicleide](#) Dec 8, 2019 2:52 PM

and it doesnt come wrapped in plastic :)



***About the Author:* Victoria Walton**

After graduating from journalism at King's, Victoria Walton now works in the film industry and as HalifaxToday.ca's weekend editor.

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