

BACKGROUND

Nature Trust Announcement

- The Nature Trust has secured three coastal properties around Nova Scotia: stunning Cape Breton coastal highlands, a beautiful South Shore beach and wetlands, and a pristine coastal island.
- In order to ensure the future of these three lands, the Nature Trust conducted a successful campaign to raise the final \$200,000 needed to close all three properties.
- Through the matching funds available from government and other funding partners, this represents a \$1 million coastal conservation victory.
- Coastal areas 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% of Nova Scotia's coastline is privately owned, making the Nature Trust's role in coastal conservation particularly significant.
- This triple success is part of the Nature Trust's [Twice the Wild](#) campaign, which aims to double the amount of ecologically significant lands protected by the Nature Trust across Nova Scotia by 2023.
- The success in saving these three coastal wildlands was made possible by innovative collaborations in funding from federal and provincial funding pools as well as strong public turnout. This illustrates the growing political and public support for accelerating climate change solutions and meeting Canada's ambitious conservation targets.
- To donate, volunteer, or find out more, visit nsnt.ca or telephone the Nature Trust at (902) 425-LAND

The Properties

- **Lowland Cove** was one of the last inholdings of private land at the northern tip of Cape Breton.
 - o The property encompasses 40 hectares (100 acres) of coastal habitats and connectivity for wildlife.
 - o It also represents a milestone in linking together the proposed [Seawall Trail](#), which promises to be 48 kilometers of world-class hiking along the cliffs and highlands surrounding the Polletts Cove - Aspy Fault Wilderness Area.
- **Sand Beach** is 62 hectares (154 acres) of accessible coastal land just south of Liverpool.
 - o This easily accessible coastline has been enjoyed by generations of local families and visitors eager to swim, camp, birdwatch, and appreciate nature.
 - o Its mosaic of diverse habitats also provides refuge for migratory and nesting birds, and endangered species including several species of birds, turtles and lichen, as well as critical climate change mitigation benefits.
- **Middle Island** is the final island to be secured in a coastal archipelago at the mouth of the Medway Harbour on the South Shore.
 - o It is part of an island chain that also includes Great Island, Selig Island and associated islets to the north that have been protected by the Nature Trust, and Toby Island to the south, which is protected by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Middle Island completes the protection of the full chain.
 - o Nearby areas of the mainland have also been protected by the Nature Trust, including the Voglers Cove Conservation Lands, while others are pending designation by the provincial government as the Cherry Hill Beach Nature Reserve.
 - o It is a key waypoint on the Atlantic Flyway, a "bird highway" essential to feeding, resting, and

breeding for many migratory birds. Its protection ensures the long-term ecological integrity of the entire island chain.

- o The island's protection also 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.

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 70% 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.
- 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.

Twice the Wild

- In September 2020, the Nature Trust announced its goal of doubling its protected lands - for a total of 30,000 protected acres - by 2023. This campaign is called [Twice the Wild](#).
- We have met the public fundraising goal of \$4 million, which leveraged an additional \$16 million in matching funds from the government and other major funding partners, for a total of \$20 million.
- Reaching the public fundraising target means that we have fully maximized the matching funds available to help support our work to double our protected acres by 2023. However, we are continuing to raise funds in future to save and steward land through and beyond the campaign.
- Through the Twice the Wild campaign, we have saved 36 new 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 19,000. We will continue to announce new lands as they are saved, taking us toward our goal of 30,000 total acres protected by 2023.
- This campaign will help add land to signature projects along the St. Mary's River, Mabou Highlands, Bras d'Or, Kespukwitk, South Shore Coast and Islands, Wentworth Valley, 100 Wild Islands, and urban wildlands like the Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes. The campaign will also include creating brand new protected areas across Nova Scotia.
- The lands conserved through Twice the Wild will include critical habitat for wildlife from turtles and terns to marten and moose, coastal island sanctuaries for birds, towering old forests, pristine lakes and rivers.