



Caledonia Forest Natural Area

The *Caledonia Forest Natural Area* is 18.5 acres located in Caledonia, Kings County, Prince Edward Island. The *Caledonia Forest Natural Area* protects a section of the Valleyfield River and is home to a beautiful mix of young and mature Acadian forest species.

Acquisition and Legal Status

The *Caledonia Forest Natural Area* was generously donated by Emily Carrington on December 10th, 2013 and was designated under PEI's *Natural Areas Protection Act* on June 19th, 2014. Ms. Carrington remains a caretaker of the property and, although she lives off-island for most of the year, returns annually to visit the Caledonia Forest and tend the trees and shrubs she has planted over the years.

Surrounding Land Use

The *Caledonia Forest Natural Area* is bordered to the north by privately-owned forested land, to the east by County Line Road, to the south by privately-owned forested land, and to the west by a blueberry field. The section of the County Line Road where the natural area lies is designated as a scenic heritage road and is noted in Meacham's 1880 Atlas. Across the County Line Road from the *Caledonia Forest Natural Area* is a gravel pit.

Plant Community

The *Caledonia Forest Natural Area* is forested throughout, with a mix of Acadian forest species. The donor, Ms. Carrington, has planted many tree and shrub species that have helped to enhance and diversify the plant community. Tree species present in the natural area include red maple, sugar maple, striped maple, balsam fir, large-toothed aspen, yellow birch, white birch, grey birch, American beech, white pine, eastern hemlock, and white spruce. A few eastern white cedar and ash trees, as well as many red oaks, have also been planted on the property. Many shrub species can be found throughout the natural area as well, including pin cherry, pussy willow, red-berried elder, ground hemlock, witch hazel, and hobblebush (an uncommon species that was planted and transplanted throughout the natural area by the donor). Many wildflower and herbaceous species can also be found in the *Caledonia Forest Natural Area*, including pink lady's slipper, Indian cucumber root, lion's paw, shinleaf, and painted trillium. Some areas of the property have been cut over in the last 30 years and pioneer and second growth species are dominant in these areas.

Riparian Zone

A section of the Valleyfield River runs through the western portion of the *Caledonia Forest Natural Area*. Steep banks border the stream and are lined with large eastern hemlock and white pine. The Montague/Valleyfield, Brudenell, and Cardigan Rivers were designated in 2004 as Canadian Heritage Rivers by the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. Collectively known as Three Rivers, the rivers were given this distinction for their historical use as travel corridors by the Mi'kmaq and later by French and British settlers.



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Wildlife Community

The *Caledonia Forest Natural Area* is home to many wildlife species. Birds that have been noted in the natural area include winter wren, blue-headed vireo, ovenbird, hermit thrush, northern parula, golden-crowned kinglet and black-throated green warbler. Other wildlife species have also been observed using the area, including snowshoe hare, red squirrel, eastern chipmunk, and garter snake.

Access

The main access on this property is an old laneway starting from County Line Road. County Line Road is a seasonal clay road that intersects with Route 315 in Caledonia. County Line Road can also be accessed from the Brooklyn Road (Route 317) and from the Valleyfield Road (Route 326).

The old laneway used to access the natural area is directly across from a driveway leading to a gravel pit on the County Line Road. There are no trails on this property however the old laneway provides easy walking access to the Valleyfield River at the back of the property. Visitors wishing to venture off the established laneway should do so with a GPS or map and compass. There is no off-road parking.



The *Caledonia Forest Natural Area* is represented in green in the map above.