



Island Nature Trust Quarterly

Dedicated to the protection of Natural Areas on Prince Edward Island since 1979

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Fresh, Bright...Spring!

Spring still has a shaky hold on the province as I write this but there are hopeful signs it's *en route*. Birders report daily on sightings of early arrivals like red-winged blackbird. Crocuses are cautiously poking up from partially frozen soil. And of course it is time again for the Island Nature Trust annual fund-raising dinner!

We hope to see you out for a great meal, good company and an all-round entertaining evening on Friday, April 22nd at the Red Shores Raceway. This is such an important fundraiser for us, and the timing is particularly critical.

Like those spring migrants, we arrive at the beginning of a new fiscal season with our gas tank close to empty, hoping to fuel up quickly and get on with the crucial business of land management, species-at-risk projects and nature education.

We hope you will consider supporting us by attending, donating an auction item or donating cash. The future looks brighter with natural areas in it! And as spring progresses, we are all champing at the bit to get out to our natural areas, assess their management needs



A bird's nest in a birch tree at Noonan's Marsh in Borden. Shannon and Julie-Lynn were out to check the site for our upcoming Project Webfoot fieldtrips.

and start restoration work where needed.

The shorebirds and grassland birds are also on their way. Shannon and Julie-Lynn are already taking the occasional trip to the beach searching the shore for piping plovers.

I hope to see many of you on my travels, out experiencing this season of new, fresh life.

- Megan Harris, Executive Director

Supporter Profile



Joyce and Sinclair MacKay: Islanders Caring For Island Landscapes

Envisioning a future that is interwoven with the best parts of the past is something I think many of us dream of. Joyce MacKay has found a way to make that dream happen by giving selflessly of her time and property. In 2014, she donated 124 acres of mixed woodland and meadow on the Indian River to Island Nature Trust.

Joyce and her late husband Sinclair owned New London Farms Inc. which began as a mixed crop and livestock operation and shifted to mainly potatoes over time. Their story reads like that of many a rural Island family, bursting with activity - farming, nursing, raising three wonderful children and contributing to a vibrant community life through volunteer service. Joyce was teaching Sunday School while Sinclair volunteered with the local rural fire department and in between there were all of the activities for the children.

Yet, amidst the bustle were moments, afternoons, special days captured to enjoy the woods and streams around them. Joyce grew up in Bothwell, east of Souris, and remembers spending most of the daylight hours outside with her siblings – they would come home when they were hungry! Later during family life, Sinclair and son John would walk back to the Indian River to fish for brook trout. Joyce walked in the woods with her children collecting berries in the summer and leaves in the fall, and she's happy that as adults they now love those places too.

Joyce's dream for her Indian River woods is to see it used by future generations as a tranquil space for nature walks, fishing and in the winter skiing and snowshoeing. She wants to protect the trees in a watershed where forest cover is scarce. To that end, she began actively managing diversification of her woodlots in 2002. Now Joyce has entrusted that vision to us. We will work hard to fulfill her wishes for a healthy, diverse woodland open for nature education and immersion.

"The environment is where we all meet; where we all have mutual interest; it's the one thing that we all share "

- Lady Bird Johnson (1912-2007)

Our Lands

Malpeque Bay: Teeming with Life and Now with 90 More Acres Protected

Stunning, raw, alive, dynamic – these are all words used to describe the northern coastline of PEI. Equally applicable would be vulnerable, sensitive, at risk. The naturally shifting dunes, sandstone cliff faces and low offshore islands face the Gulf's rough waters and more extreme weather patterns. Their protection from further development pressures is a long-standing priority for all three land trusts on the Island.

Island Nature Trust is excited to announce that we now have two more properties in Malpeque Bay to add to our land portfolio – one on Big Courtin (Bunbury) Island and one on Gunning Shore in Sherbrooke. The properties were acquired through a split-receipt part donation, part purchase from Donna MacKay and Eric Johnston of Summerside. A Celebration of Lands will be held this summer after bug season!



The shoreline of our Gunning Shore property, with Courtin Island in the background, in Malpeque Bay.



A beautiful patch of ferns on Courtin Island.



Malpeque Bay is an important stopover site for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, including Hudsonian godwits (*Limosa haemastica*)

Featured Contributor



Barb McDonald is INT's Executive Assistant. 2016 will mark Barb's 32nd year with the Trust. When she started, we were still located on the third floor of Beaconsfield. Since then, Barb has helped organize 31 fund raising dinners, taken minutes at over 200 board meetings, been the welcoming face that's greeted anyone who's walked through the INT doors, and so much more! We don't know what we would do without you, Barb! You can contact Barb at admin@islandnaturetrust.ca

Megan Harris, Executive Director
exdir@islandnaturetrust.ca

Shannon Mader, Program Coordinator
projects@islandnaturetrust.ca

Julie-Lynn Zahavich, Stewardship Coordinator
plover@islandnaturetrust.ca

Sign up for an electronic newsletter!

Save a tree and help us save postage costs to spend conservation dollars on conservation!

You can help us *save paper and get information faster by getting your INT Quarterly via email. If you forward your email address to Island Nature Trust, we will send you the newsletter electronically as a "PDF" file. 160 members currently receive their newsletter this way, and we would like to see that number increase!*

Email us admin@islandnaturetrust.ca to request your newsletter in electronic form.

Thank you!



Partnerships

PEI, Ours to Protect:
An Exciting New Five-Year Partnership!



As anyone who has worked with a non-profit organization will know, chasing funding dollars to complete the work you are dedicated and mandated to do often takes a disproportionate amount of time. When you can secure a source of general funds and – my gosh, for more than one year – it's like all the best holiday celebrations wrapped into one! That's why we are so excited to announce a new five-year funding partnership between Island Nature Trust and the PEI Liquor Control Commission.

During a six week period from April 1st to May 10th each year, up to a \$1 from the sales of tagged beer, wine and spirits will go to Island Nature Trust for natural areas and wildlife protection. As our property portfolio increases, so do our costs for responsible land management. These funds will help us reforest, restore, and respond to climate change.

The following suppliers are participating in this campaign: Labatt Breweries, Molson Coors Canada, Moosehead Breweries, SAB Miller, Sleeman Breweries Ltd., Andrew Peller Ltd., Atlantic Spirits & Wines Ltd., Bacardi Canada Inc., Charton Hobbs, Constellation Brands, Corby Spirit & Wine, Diageo Canada Inc., E & J Gallo Winery, Eisenhauer Agencies, Forty Creek Distillery Ltd., Franklin Imports Inc., Innovative Beverages, Kirkwood Diamond Canada, Mer et Soleil, Philippe Dandurand Wines, PMA Canada, Trafton Agencies Inc., and Treasury Wine Estates.

Woohoo! Drink up people! Responsibly, of course.

Volunteer Page

Get Involved with INT This Summer!

Summer is a busy time at INT. From May through August, especially, our staff are busy running programs, conducting field work, and attending events. We can always use more help, so if you have an interest in conservation or any special skills you would be willing to share let us know! Here are just a few opportunities to get involved with INT this summer:

If you enjoy spending time on the beach, are comfortable talking to other beach users, and own a pair of binoculars, you may be interested in becoming a Piping Plover Guardian. Plover Guardians choose a piping plover beach (most of which are along the north shore and in eastern PEI) and commit to monitoring “their” beach at least once per week. Guardians report back to us on the status of nesting plovers, talk to beach users about how to minimize disturbance, help out with events, and assist with installing symbolic fencing.

This year, we are revitalizing our Conservation Guardian Program. Conservation Guardians adopt one of our natural areas, visit the property as often as they can, and report back to us on the condition of the area. Training in identification of invasive species, bird calls, and other wildlife signs will be provided. Our properties are island-wide, so there are volunteer opportunities in every county!

If you are a farmer or rural landowner, and you have nesting barn swallow or bobolink, you may be interested in our Farmland Birds Program. This year we are focused on gathering sightings of these birds, so if you see them around let us know!

If you are more of an indoor person, but you still want to get involved, get in touch with us and we will find a job for you!

Volunteer Profile



Emily Mutch

Piping Plover Guardian

Thank-you, Emily, for all you do to help protect piping plovers on PEI!

Emily Mutch has been a Piping Plover Guardian with Island Nature Trust since 2013. She is currently completing her Lab Tech training for the Potato Quality Institute. Prior to that she was doing pollination research on low-bush blueberries, and before that she worked with us here at INT on the Piping Plover Program!

Emily monitors a couple of beaches in eastern PEI, including Panmure Island and Wood Islands. She has also helped train new volunteers, and she and her family regularly do their own impromptu beach cleanups. It was time spent with her family outdoors that initially sparked Emily’s interest in nature and conservation.

She remembers going on hikes, cross-country ski trips, and camping trips to Panmure Island as a child. Her love for the outdoors and appreciation of nature led to a strong desire to want to work in the field of conservation, and inspired Emily to pursue a BSc in Environmental Biology at the University of Prince Edward Island.

Emily’s favourite part of being a Piping Plover Guardian is the opportunity to enjoy a quiet stroll on the beach, while working to help protect an adorable endangered species.

Emily will be back on the beach in 2016 as a Piping Plover Guardian for a third season. If you see her on the beach, stop and say hello! She is very friendly and knowledgeable!

Island Nature Trust Projects

Audubon Florida



Martin Paquet

2016: A Big Year for Piping Plovers

Contributed by: Julie-Lynn Zahavich

As we dig out our lawn chairs and fire up our barbeques, Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus melodus*) are beginning to prepare for their long journey north. These small shorebirds nest every summer along the Eastern Seaboard and in the Atlantic Canadian provinces. Prince Edward Island hosted 54 individual breeding piping plovers last summer.

Every year, Island Nature Trust (INT) staff and volunteers conduct a Piping Plover census. During this time it's all hands on deck as we survey over 60 Piping Plover nesting beaches, over 9 days in June, to get an accurate snapshot of the population.

Every five years, an International Piping Plover Census is undertaken. During an international census, every historic Piping Plover nesting beach on PEI is surveyed. The same effort is undertaken in other plover jurisdictions, including their wintering grounds.

From January 18 to February 1, 2016, our colleagues in the southern US, Mexico, and the Caribbean were out scanning beaches and sandflats for Piping Plovers. It was this effort during the last International Census in 2011 that led to the discovery of a major wintering area for Piping Plover in the Bahamas.

For many years it was unknown where a large portion of the plover population was wintering. During the 2011 census over 1000 Piping Plovers were found wintering in the Bahamas. The discovery of this critical area for wintering Piping Plover and other shorebirds led to the creation of the Joulter Cays National Park in the Bahamas in September, 2015.

This new national park will permanently protect 113,920 acres of sandflats, mangrove forest and undeveloped islands. The sandflats within the park are used by more than 10% of the Piping Plover population during the winter months, and by other shorebirds that visit our shores, including the endangered Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

Our Piping Plover Stewardship Program will get underway at the start of April. Every summer we monitor breeding pairs on provincial beaches, and talk to beach users about how they can minimize their disturbance of these vulnerable birds. It certainly is nice to know, after all the work we do on their breeding grounds, that our plovers have a safe place to spend the winter.

We are hosting a volunteer training session this spring for anyone who may be interested in becoming a Piping Plover Guardian. Guardians participate in all aspects of the Plover Program – from collecting data and monitoring pairs to beach cleanups. Get in touch with us if you would like to attend!

Our 32nd Annual Fundraising Dinner



Every year, Dave Broderick, from Alberton, donates a hand-carved and hand-painted Great Blue Heron. We sell tickets on the heron all year long and draw a winner on the evening of our fundraising dinner! You can still purchase heron tickets by calling our office or in-person at the dinner!

Our 32nd Annual Fundraising Dinner will be held on Friday April 22nd, at the Red Shores Race Track and Casino. The evening will feature a live and silent auction, raffles, and fabulous door prizes!

Every year, many generous Islanders contribute to our dinner by donating their original art and reproductions, crafts, carvings, handmade products and other items to be auctioned at our event. Their contributions help us raise funds to run projects and manage our lands.

Here are just a few of the wonderful donations we have received so far. Thank-you to all of our dedicated supporters!

Tickets for the dinner are \$50 and are available at our office or by calling Barb at 902-892-7513.

See you on April 22nd!



This fabulous gift basket is filled with delicious treats and gift certificates! It was generously donated by the vendors at the Cardigan Farmer's Market.



This beautiful, handcrafted, precious memories box was donated by long-time INT supporter, John Somers. John also participates in our Farmland Birds Program.



These beautiful hummingbird carvings were carved and donated by long-time INT volunteer and Piping Plover Guardian, Dave McBurney. He uses exotic wood to carve the hummingbirds and mounts them on driftwood pieces he finds in his travels.



Ron Arvidson is an INT supporter, avid birder, and potter extraordinaire. He has generously donated these stunning, nature-inspired mugs to our dinner.

Are you interested in contributing to our fundraising dinner—with an item or service, or on the night of the event as a volunteer? Get in touch with Barb via email or call our office!

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers!

Our Generous Donors in 2015

Percy Affleck	Sally Blake Hooff	Kent Murnaghan
Judi Allen & David McBurney	Peter & Melissa Hooley	Barry Murray
Jeffie Anderson	Carol Horne	Peter & Stephanie Noonan
Dr. John Andrew	Ben Hoteling	Harry Norton
Mark Arenault	Shelagh Hewitt Kareda	Martin O'Grady
Martin Arsenault	Herb Isherwood	Dwaine Oakley
John & Jean Baird	Myrtle Jenkins-Smith	Jackie Olafson
Rose Barbour	Dana Jeffrey	Glenn & Maryanne Palmer
Dr. Bernice & (late) Claude Bell	Geraldine & George Kelly	Donald J. Patton
Dr. Barbara Bloom	Derek Key	Brenda Penak
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Brian Brown	Edward & Agnes Laughlin	Brad Potter
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Ann Dutton	Dale & Jean Mader	Renwick Spence
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Garry Gregory	Patricia McGowan & Dusty MacLure	Church Cherry Valley
Diane F. Griffin	Allie McLennan	Anne Arvidson Driving School
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Dr. Rosemary Henderson	Mary Cameron Morneau	Echo Foundation
Michael Hennessey	Jeanne Morse	Fitzpatrick & Company
Beth Hoar	James & Barbara Munves	Green Thumb Photography

Our Generous Donors in 2015

Jacinta Gallant Law Office

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TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Eagle Adoptions:

Conor Mullally (2)

Fran Sark

Sherwood School

West Kent School

Ecole Evangeline

Scott Wells (in memory of B.J. Wedge)

Kestrel Nest Box Adoption:

Marina Creamer & Family

Claude Arsenault & David Bulloch

Hazel & John Robinson

Lise & Mike Lafontaine

Ashley Patriquen

Peter & Melissa Hooley

Sylvia Moore

In Memoriam Donations:

The names underlined are those that are remembered with donations from

those listed below each:

Janette Shinn:

Steven Goole

Fred Doiron:

Vera Collister

Irene Gallant

Vera Collister

Jeanette Jones:

Clarence Ryan

Bob Wight:

Alice Crook

Hugh Gillespie:

Steven Moate

Keel Cottrelle LLP

Peter White

Julia Turnbull

Warren & Barb Baguley

Joe Fera

Ben Harrison

Christine (Tina) Hatton

David Baile

Dimock Stratton LLP

2 - Anonymous

Bill & Terry Bisset

Janice & Everett Sabourin

Helen Vine

Dianne Heximer

Bradley Cooper

Women Together at Timothy Eaton Church

Robert Bruvels:

Gerald Gray

Cathy Grant

Jim Matheson

Mary L. MacLean

Cheryl Molyneaux

Donna Langille & Ken Rodd

John Baker

Park West Lodge

Service Canada Employees

St. John's Service Canada Office

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PPS Directors - Service Canada

Roberta Somers

Peggy Johnston

Neenie Bernard

David Miller

Helen & Norman

Annie Sample & Marcia Smeltzer

George & Marcia Smeltzer

John Somers

Sinclair MacKay

Joyce MacKay & Family

Upcoming Nature Events

Apr 22nd—Island Nature Trust's 32nd Annual Fundraising Dinner & Auction—Help INT raise funds to protect natural areas on PEI. Happening at Top of the Park at Red Shores in Charlottetown with reception starting at 6pm and meal at 7pm. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at the INT office or by calling 902-892-7513.

Apr 27th—Wild Island Spaces to Explore—Our Executive Director, Megan Harris, will be presenting at the Confederation Centre Library in Charlottetown at 7pm.

Apr 29th - May 1st—The Messenger: Imagine a World Without Bird Song will be playing at City Cinema. The Messenger tells the compelling story of songbird decline (see the April issue of *The Buzz* for show times).

May 3rd—The PEI Spider Project —Caleb Harding will be the guest speaker for Nature PEI's May meeting. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm at Beaconsfield's Carriage House, corner of West and Kent, Charlottetown.

May 14—Allisary Creek Impoundment Birding Field Trip—Join Nature PEI and Birding on PEI for a birding field trip to the Mount Stewart Wildlife Management Area. Meet at the Indigo parking lot in Charlottetown at 8:00 am to carpool, or meet at Hillsborough River Eco-Centre in Mount Stewart at 8:30 am. Register with Dan McAskill at jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca or at 902-393-4385.

May 28—Nature PEI's Bain Bird Count—This is Nature PEI's spring bird count. The count provides a snapshot of the birds migrating to PEI over a 24 hour period. For more information, contact Dan McAskill (contact info above)

Board of Directors

Island Nature Trust is governed by a Board of Directors of 12 to 16 members. Each member serves up to two three-year terms.

In November, 2015, we welcomed Linda Berko to our Board of Directors. Linda replaces Tom LeClair as the Museum and Heritage Foundation representative. Welcome Linda and thank-you to Tom for serving 15 years on our board. Tom was our second longest serving board member in INT history!

Executive:

Dwaine Oakley	President
Randy Dibblee	Vice-President (Nature PEI)
Rob Mackay	Treasurer
Donna Gill	Secretary

Group Representatives:

Luke Peters	PEI Wildlife Federation
Linda Berko	Museum and Heritage Foundation
Marina Silva-Opps	University of Prince Edward Island

Remaining Board Members:

Sharon Clark
 Carol Horne
 Will Horne
 Kathleen MacNearney
 Sandra McConkey
 Paul Smith
 Michael Walsh

We are...

Island Nature Trust is a non-profit, private registered charity dedicated to permanent protection of natural areas on Prince Edward Island. We acquire lands through purchase and donation for protection and help private landowners protect their own properties through legislation and promotion of good land management practices. We also protect species-at-risk, restore lands and undertake public nature education.

Donations are always welcome.

Contact Us:

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 PO Box 265
 Charlottetown, PE
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Phone: 902-892-7513

Fax: 902-628-6331

E-mail: admin@islandnaturetrust.ca

Find Us Online:

www.islandnaturetrust.ca



@peinaturetrust



Island Nature Trust

Donate



This summer and fall we will be reinvigorating and revamping our Conservation Guardian Program. With over 3,620 acres of protected natural areas spread across PEI, it is a challenge for us to visit, assess, and manage all of our properties. Our Conservation Guardian Program will provide training to volunteer guardians who are willing to adopt a natural area and report back to us on wildlife presence, human use, invasive species, etc. Please consider donating to help us cover the costs associated with running this program. Your donation will be helping to protect and enhance valuable wildlife habitat across the Island. When you donate, please specify that your donation is for our stewardship efforts.