



## Island Nature Trust Quarterly

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

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### A Season for Giving

I had the great privilege of attending the 2017 Canada Land Summit in Victoria BC earlier this month, thanks to funding provided by our sister land trust, Nature Trust of New Brunswick. The summit was a gathering of regional land trusts from across the country, organized by a new umbrella organization called Land Trusts Canada.

Wow... so much value packed into three days! With a focus on capacity-building, excellent seminars from North American leaders introduced us to tools for strategic decision-making, fundraising, operational sustainability, nation-wide standards and practices, and working with communities, including Americans and First Nations.

The challenges we face here as a private, non-profit land trust are the same as those faced by the larger land trust sector across the country. One challenge discussed frequently over the three days was the changing demographic of our nation, particularly as it relates to donations – the life blood of our organizations. The common thread: many of our donors are dying and they're not being replaced by a younger generation.

We talk about the debt-load of young people, particularly those with families, all the time, but we rarely put it in the context of the implications for the environmental charity sector. Many young people are extremely generous with their time and we are so grateful for that, but the truth is that land trusts need money, not only to buy and maintain land but to keep the lights on, the internet bill paid and the office staffed.



Hermit thrush observed this summer in the *Townshend Woodlot Natural Area*, which was expanded this year thanks to our generous donors. Photo by Brett MacKinnon

As we approach Black Friday and the added push to be a consumer, please consider saving your dollars for the Giving Tuesday that follows. On November 28<sup>th</sup>, we would love to accept your donations; truth be told, we'd love to accept them anytime but you might appreciate the added symbolism associated with Giving Tuesday!

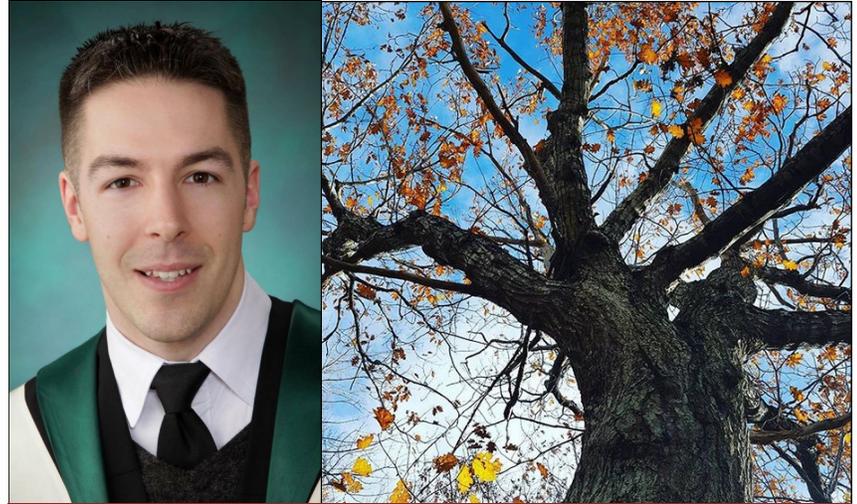
There are many options available to donate to Island Nature Trust. There are the traditional methods such as dropping cash by the office, mailing in a cheque or money order as well as calling in or mailing in your credit card information. Others opt to donate monthly via their credit card or have a monthly debit from their bank account. Donating via the internet on CanadaHelps (access via Island Nature Trust web site) is becoming more popular as well as sending an e-transfer via on-line banking. All donations are tax-deductible and receipts are issued. Receipts are sent directly from CanadaHelps if that option is selected for donating. In anticipation, thank-you most sincerely for your support!

**- Megan Harris, Executive Director**

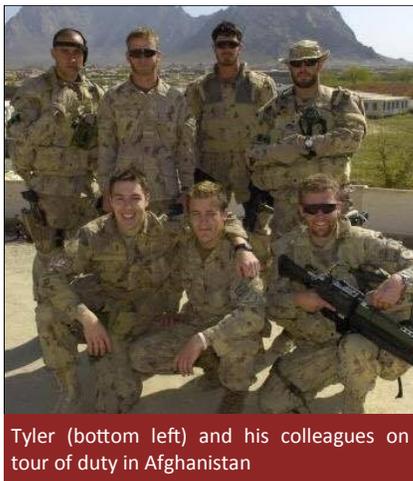
# Supporter Profile

## Tyler Coady: Breaking the Mold in Life and Conservation

At a recent conference of Canadian land trusts, a workshop on fundraising strategies strayed into a characterization of donors and more specifically, the sudden appearance of a philanthropic streak in Bill Gates. Earlier in his career when he was criticized for not giving to charities, Gates pointed out that he was 30 and to come back to talk to him when he was 70. When we think of those who might donate to land trusts, we similarly think of those who have gray at their temples. In this and many other ways, Tyler Coady does not fit the mold. Tyler is young, starting down a professional path that has already taken major unexpected turns, where financial security and planning a legacy gift might both be considered wonderful things for some day in the distant future. And yet, Tyler donated a significant portion of the fair market value of his Canavoy property to Island Nature Trust.



Tyler Coady and Jeremiah, a 110+ year old red oak that stands in *Canavoy Oaks Natural Area*



Tyler (bottom left) and his colleagues on tour of duty in Afghanistan

Tyler has been recognized at public events recently for another important reason. He is a veteran of military operations in Afghanistan, one who was injured by the detonation of an improvised explosive device, who suffers from post-traumatic-stress-disorder (PTSD), and who pursued two post-secondary degrees so that he could help colleagues that similarly suffer from their combat experiences. Tyler is now acting peer support coordinator with Operational Stress Injury Social Support (OSISS) in Charlottetown, where he puts into practice every day his thesis work on building resiliency in the community of Island veterans who suffer from PTSD.

Tyler's property at Canavoy could have been another piece of coastal land developed for summer cottages. It wasn't developed because Tyler felt so strongly that the sanctity of land, our homeland, is of immense value. In a world where so many of the global challenges seem beyond our influence or control, Tyler felt that donating land which he knew to be ecologically significant was something meaningful he could contribute. His sense of the intrinsic value of land came from a life influenced by being outside with family like his uncle, Daryl Guignion, and his grandmother, Helen Coady, who experienced the Island's natural value through day-to-day life, not as observers, but as participants. He, too, participated and learned to cherish the sight of bald eagles soaring overhead rather than fighter jets, great oak trees sheltering a rich diversity of life on the forest floor rather than shattered houses sheltering war-torn families.

Tyler, we cannot thank you enough, for all that you have given to Islanders and Canadians in your young life. Jeremiah, a 110+ year-old red oak that stands in what has become the *Canavoy Oaks Natural Area*, can stand longer now. It is protected so that it can feed a strong and resilient forest.

"We aren't just protecting a forest or protecting nature, we are protecting a symbol of what that nature means to us. To me, this seems to be a meaningful way to express a deeply held patriotism I have as a veteran."

# Our Lands

## Deroche Pond: A Complex, Rich Example of the Natural Diversity in Undisturbed, Coastal PEI

The north shore of PEI attracts international attention for its stunning natural beauty. Ironically, that aesthetic draw for visitors jeopardizes what might be considered some of the wildest landscapes remaining on the Island. The long-held, unified call from environmental organizations for some beach – dune ecosystems to be protected from encroaching development has been reinforced time and again, as we watch cottage development expand in a ribbon around coastal PEI.

One of the jewels in our small protected shore network is the Deroche Pond Natural Area. As early as the 1960s, there was recognition of this site's importance for waterfowl and migratory birds by the Canadian Wildlife Service and local conservationists. Deroche Pond lies directly



A Gray Catbird, an uncommon-rare species, observed on our Deroche Pond Natural Area in 2017



A pond edge in the western portion of our Deroche Pond Natural Area

east of PEI National Park at Dalvay; with storm-induced coastline changes, some of the beach – dune habitat now lies within the park boundary. The remaining natural area consists of a beach -fore dune - back dune - beach barrier pond - forested wetland habitat continuum, with additional native cranberry bog and freshwater stream elements. Threatened forest wetland birds such as the Canada warbler and olive-sided flycatcher are known to nest here, as are loons and many species of ducks.

Of the approximate 2,300 acres originally identified as ecologically sensitive candidate area, roughly 60 % (1,380 acres or 558 ha) is now owned and protected by the Province and Island Nature Trust. As land becomes available, Island Nature Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada continue to reach toward 100 % protection for this coastal gem. Island Nature Trust purchased our first parcel of land at Deroche Pond in 1985. This year, we are excited to announce that we have added a small 14.5 acre forest wetland block to our total holdings in this important natural area.

Thank-you so much to all who answered our plea for funds this summer and enabled us to purchase this key addition to the Deroche Pond Natural Area!



INT staff canoeing the ponds at our Deroche Pond Natural Area



INT Field Technician, Chelsey, removing purple loosestrife from the back dune of the Deroche Pond Natural Area

## Featured Contributor



**Shannon Mader** is the Species at Risk Coordinator at INT. Shannon likes long walks on the beach, fall jaunts in the forest and thinks conserving species is cool! She has moved to part-time hours to spend more time with a couple of fun little fellas, but you

can find her in the office Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays all winter! You can contact Shannon via email at [projects@islandnaturetrust.ca](mailto:projects@islandnaturetrust.ca)

**Megan Harris**, Executive Director  
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**Julie-Lynn Zahavich**, Stewardship Coordinator,  
[julielynn@islandnaturetrust.ca](mailto:julielynn@islandnaturetrust.ca)

## 2018 Heron Raffle

Dave Broderick of Alberton carved and painted this beautiful Great Blue Heron! Every year, Dave donates a heron for us to raffle and raise funds for natural area protection and stewardship.

Raffle tickets for our heron are \$5 or 5 for \$20.

The draw will take place at the Annual INT Dinner and Auction in April, 2018.

Tickets are available at the INT office in the Ravenwood building on the Experimental Farm in Charlottetown, or by calling 902-892-7513



You could win this hand-carved and painted Great Blue Heron!

## Partnerships

### ACCDC: A Data Powerhouse in the Maritimes



New vascular plants found in PEI. From top left clockwise: Buxbaum's Sedge (*Carex buxbaumii*), Large Purple Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera grandiflora*), and Elliptic Spikesedge (*Eleocharis elliptica*)

The botanists at Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (ACCDC) know plants, and they know that basic soils provide the necessary suite of conditions for biodiversity hotspots in the Maritimes. Soils in PEI and many other areas of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are fairly acidic; most of those with basic tendencies were converted to agriculture long ago. However, with the help of regional partners like Island Nature Trust, the ACCDC team have pinpointed a few remaining pockets of diversity on basic soils.

This year was the second in a three-year partnership among conservation groups across the Maritimes focused on increasing our knowledge of regional biodiversity hotspots. A total of 5 new vascular plants, 8 new bryophytes and 6 new lichens were recorded for PEI. Many of these species are wetland or old forest species and were found in riparian margins of streams, along the edges of barrachois ponds or in forested wetlands in Prince County. In addition to the value of data collection, this project will serve INT and NCC well as we gain a clearer picture of where we can still find rare and ecologically sensitive communities of native plants.

Thank-you Sean Blaney, David Mazerolle and Alain Belliveau, botanists extraordinaire, for your amazing plant ID skills and your patience in teaching INT staff more about the uncommon native plants of PEI – even extending the loan of pants to unsuspecting summer students!

# Volunteer Page

## How to be a Volunteer in 2018

Volunteering in 2017 can look very different than it has in the past. Gone are the days where volunteering meant showing up for an hour a week just to add a bullet point to your resume. INT volunteers are passionate, knowledgeable, critical parts of our conservation team! We have found that the best team members are those that are following their passion. Lend us your passion, your enthusiasm, your talents!

**Here are just a very few of the skills that we require on an on-going basis:**

- Photography
- IT Skills
- Fundraising
- Event Planning
- Tree Planting
- Trail Clearing
- Plant Identification
- Wildlife Monitoring



A few of INT's passionate volunteers helping to clear trails at the *Jenkins Complex Natural Area*

The time commitment may be significantly less than you expect. Many of our volunteers incorporate their volunteer activities into their existing daily routines. For example, many of our best Piping Plover Guardians are cottagers who like to get out for a walk on the beach each day. Now they take a notebook along and report back to us! Many tell us that it has added a little excitement to their daily walk. We are willing to bet that you have something to offer and INT can use your skills! Drop us a note to learn more.

## Volunteer Profile



### Sean Landsman

Photographer, Writer

Sean began his journey as a nature photographer in 2010 and, clearly, he's a natural. He has a distinctive ability to connect the viewer to his subject, and to share a story through still photography. Sean is also a passionate conservationist, a lover of the fishes, and it turns out he's got a way with words as well! We are grateful that he recently decided to lend his considerable skills to INT and the cause of the Piping Plover in PEI.

Sean is not our typical volunteer, in that he didn't sign up for one of our existing Guardian programs. Instead, he identified a way that he could use his own unique set of skills to further the cause of an important conservation issue, and the work of INT.

In June this year, Sean joined INT Species at Risk staff for a day in the field as they conducted their work on the Piping Plover Conservation Project. He captured some amazing shots of the enigmatic Piping Plover, their plight on the beaches of the East Coast, and some of the hard work that goes into protecting this endangered species. Over the winter, Sean is rolling it all up into a story for *Saltscapes Magazine* to share this important work with the rest of Atlantic Canada and beyond!

You can find more of Sean's work on his website: [www.seanlandsmanphotography.com](http://www.seanlandsmanphotography.com)

# Island Nature Trust Projects



## Helping Farmers Help Wildlife

Contributed by: Leanne Tol

### Bobolink project

This season Island Nature Trust worked collaboratively with the PEI Division of Forests, Fish and Wildlife to monitor for Bobolink across the province. Through a federally funded pilot program called Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) we were able to continue with an expanded version of our Farmland Birds program, now in its 4th year. Forests, Fish and Wildlife designed and conducted an additional survey program to identify nesting Bobolink in areas where they have not previously been reported or were only known from historical records.

### What we did

We once again contacted the landowners and volunteers who have been a part of this project over the years. Our volunteers help out by recording data on the timing of breeding events and allowing INT staff to visit their properties to monitor the birds—we are always looking for new volunteers!

Fourteen Bobolink sites were monitored throughout the breeding season (May–July) to get a count of adults and fledglings. One key observation we focused on was when fledglings were first seen. Once fledglings are spotted, it means that although they may still be practicing their long distance flights, they are able to get out of the way of any mowing machinery. Bobolink tend to leave their breeding grounds shortly after young are fledged—towards wetter areas such as marshes and coastal regions—and ideally, waiting to mow the field until the birds have left the site is best. However, timing is of the essence and farmers must cut their hay before too much nutritional quality is lost. Fledge date is a good compromise!

Recording fledge dates on PEI will allow us to see if they match up with the recommended 'safe cut' date of July 15th, and we are working together with farmers to determine, based on field observations, as soon as it is safe to cut.

### What else is being done?

This year, 653 acres were delayed to protect Bobolink and their nests. It is wonderful to work with farmers who are sympathetic to the plight of these birds and are willing to help out however they can!

And there may soon be some help for those farmers that want to protect Bobolink on their land. PEI's Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program hopes to include delayed hay within their program starting in 2018. Farmers will be able to apply for financial compensation to delay their haying until after July 15th, allowing Bobolink to successfully fledge before the nest is disturbed. The data we collect regarding fledge dates has been shared with ALUS and has helped to inform the process to include delayed hay.

Bobolink, Barn Swallow and Bank Swallow have all just been officially listed as Threatened under the federal Species at Risk Act (November 2017).

# Notes & News

## Murray Islands Cleanup

Did you know there are six offshore islands in Murray Harbour, and INT owns two of them? Poverty Island is a beach barrier island that shelters the harbour from the wind and waves of the Northumberland Strait, while Thomas, Reynold's, Herring, Gordon's, and Cherry Islands lie behind. These islands are protected under the PEI Natural Areas Protection Act and owned by conservation groups, Island Nature Trust (INT), Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), and the Provincial Government. INT owns Gordon's Island and Herring Island. Recently, INT organized a very successful Murray Islands Cleanup.

On Friday, October 13th, a group of eighteen, including staff from INT, NCC, and the Province, plus a wonderful group of volunteers, embarked on a mission to do a major cleanup on Thomas, Reynolds, Gordon's, and Herring Islands. The weather was beautiful – calm winds, sunny and warm. All four islands were cleared of debris from the beaches. Gordon's Island was cleaned thoroughly, from the wetlands to the perimeter of the forest, where spring tides had deposited a large quantity of material.

The majority of the debris on all islands was fishing and aquaculture-related: Styrofoam and black polystyrene buoys, rope, mussel socks, and bait bags. Gordon's Island also had a full blue barrel of hydraulic fluid on the southwestern shore. Our Executive Director, Megan Harris, INT Conservation Guardian, Jim Aquilani, and local fisherman and INT volunteer, John LeLacheur, removed the barrel and Megan delivered the oil to friends at Gaudette's Transit Mix Ltd. in Tignish to be salvaged and re-used!

Overall, it was a successful venture, with a total of 880kgs (1,940lbs) of debris being removed from the Murray Islands – not including the hydraulic fluid!



A few of the crew members that helped to clean the Murray Islands on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Upcoming Nature Events

**Dec 5<sup>th</sup> - The PEI flora: Regional Themes and New Discoveries** — Sean Blaney from the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre will be the guest speaker for Nature PEI's monthly meeting. 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield Carriage House in Charlottetown (corner of Kent & West).

**Dec 14<sup>th</sup> to Jan 5<sup>th</sup> - The Audubon Christmas Bird Counts**—These are held annually across Canada, United States, Latin America and the Caribbean. Nature PEI hosts four of these 24 km diameter count circles:

**Dec 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) - The East Point Christmas Bird Count**—Please contact Dwaine Oakley at 393-6223 or [dwaine.oakley@gmail.com](mailto:dwaine.oakley@gmail.com) for details and to register.

**Dec 17<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) - The Prince Edward Island National Park Christmas Bird Count**—Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at [jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca) for information or to register.

**Dec 26<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) - The Hillsborough Christmas Bird Count**—There will be a pot-luck after the event for participants at 6 PM. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at [jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca) for information or to register.

**Dec 30<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) - The Montague Christmas Bird Count**—Please contact Scott Sinclair via E-mail at [scsinclair@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:scsinclair@pei.sympatico.ca) for information or to register.

**Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday) - Christmas Bird Count 4 Kids**— This second annual event will take place in Stratford. Please contact Nature PEI for more information.

**Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - Time to renew INT membership!** — A membership renewal form is on the next page

**Jan 9<sup>th</sup> - Sable Island: Horses and Nature**— The Hon. Diane Griffin, Dr. Kathy Martin and Jackie Waddell will be the guest speakers for Nature PEI's monthly meeting. 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield Carriage House in Charlottetown (corner of Kent & West).

## Board of Directors

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

At the AGM in September, Kathleen MacNearney, board president, stepped down after serving two three-year terms, and Paul Smith stepped down as well. Their active participation on the board will be missed by all.

Three new board members: Judi Allen (President), June Sanderson, and Dr. Dan Coffin were elected at our AGM in September. Welcome!

### Executive:

Judi Allen	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
Kevin Teather	University of Prince Edward Island

### Remaining Board Members:

Sharon Clark	Carol Horne
Dr. Dan Coffin	Laura Kell
Joyce Dewar	June Sanderson
Adam Hood	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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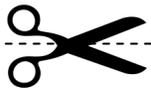
@peinaturetrust



Island Nature Trust



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## Your 2018 Membership Is Now Due!

Please take a moment to fill out the form below and return it to the address above with your membership fee. Your membership means Island Nature Trust is stronger. **Thank you for your support!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category:** Student (\$10) \_\_\_ Single (\$20) \_\_\_ Family (\$25) \_\_\_ Sustaining (\$50) \_\_\_ Active \$100) \_\_\_

Supporting (\$250) \_\_\_ Life (\$500) \_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Tax receipts will be issued for all donations)

**Payment Method:** Cheque \_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_

**Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_