



# Island Nature Trust Quarterly

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

## **Canada's Conservation Vision: Making Protected Lands and Species-at-Risk a Priority**

Over the past year or more, quietly but slowly gaining traction, grand talks have been underway at the national and regional level in Canada. At conferences, workshops, in meetings and on conference calls, conservation professionals have been discussing our progress on meeting global biodiversity targets, including those related to protection of habitat and sensitive ecosystems.

In 2010, as a member of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Canada endorsed a 10-year strategic plan to reverse declining biodiversity around the world. One of the 20 targets in that plan was to build a protected areas global network that included at least 17 percent of land and fresh water and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas. In the 6 years that followed, Canada managed only a 1% increase in protected lands, from 9.6 to 10.6%. Needless to say, we have a long way to go by 2020 and nowhere more so than Prince Edward Island, with the lowest proportion of officially protected lands of any province in Canada (3.6%).

At the federal level, a plan is being formulated, with \$1.3 billion support for land and species-at-risk protection pledged in the February budget. A National Advisory Panel just released their report to the federal government, outlining a pathway to meet our obligations. You can find their recommendations online on the Pathway to Target One website (<http://www.conservation2020canada.ca>).

The recommendations of the advisory panel, if adopted and enacted by the federal government, could be game-changing for land conservation in Canada. They are not a small depart-

ture from the status quo but rather a complete shift in how land conservation is approached. Among the 38 recommendations is a call to create a new Conservation Act and Department of Conservation, which would embrace all existing federal divisions that work in the areas of protected lands and biodiversity (Parks Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, DFO marine protected areas staff, etc.). There is also a strong push to work collaboratively, particularly recognizing the need to use indigenous knowledge and western science in a recharged reconciliation with all of the other species with which we share the Earth. And it is also very clear that federal minds are strongly linking the interconnectedness of biodiversity and climate change. This report points directly to a 2017 paper that determined, at a global scale, "the avoidance of forest conversion and the avoidance of peat-land disturbance are the most significant low-cost natural solutions for climate change mitigation".

What does this mean for PEI? Island Nature Trust has been working hard to prepare as best we can for a push to meet our provincial target of 7% protected areas by 2020. It will mean a drive to find matching funding from Islanders, the Province and private foundations. Stay tuned... we hope to have some big announcements in the coming months. We will also need your continued support to achieve big things. Islanders have always been the backbone of our organization and will continue to be as we navigate through this upcoming year, our 40th birthday year!

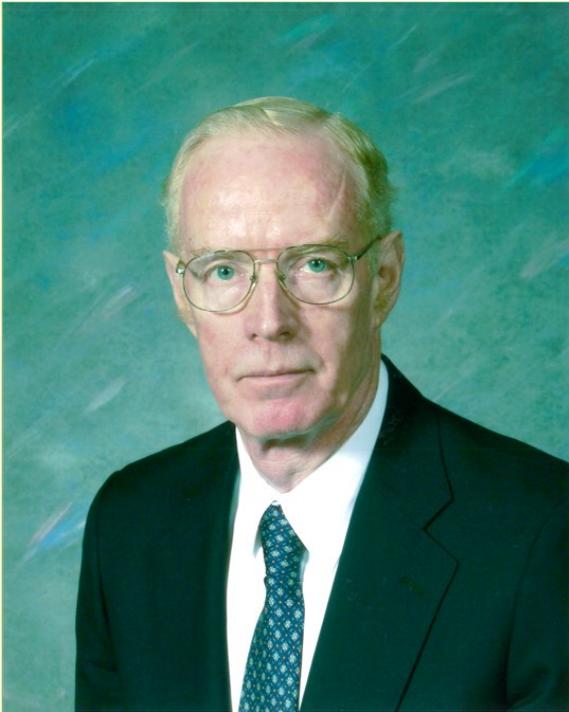
**- Megan Harris, Executive Director**

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## Supporter Profile



The rich forest floor of the *Hessian Farm 1810 Woodland Natural Area*

A classic island scene - a red dirt road that bisects the protected forest



## Stephen Hessian, Gifting the Family Farm Back to Nature

The Georgetown and Montague of old comes to life when Stephen Hessian relates a childhood spent immersed in regional economies and politics. Stephen was the first baby born in the newly constructed Kings County Hospital. His father's dual careers as a lawyer and a politician meant he perhaps had a heightened awareness from an early age of the wider world around him. He recalls the importance of trade with Boston and the West Indies to the eastern port towns, not just because it was likely the subject of dinner table conversation but also because Stephen himself remembers watching the puncheons of molasses, baskets of bananas, other exotic fare and coal being off-loaded from docked ships.

While a childhood in early Montague exploring the hubbub of the waterfront might sound idyllic, unwritten rules of the culture of the time became the motivation to get away for Stephen as a young adult. Since Stephen's father was the first Liberal elected in Georgetown district in the early 1920's, then served again in the 1930's and 1950's, exposure to the negative side of public service was inevitable for young Stephen. He sought education off-Island at St. Francis Xavier, then at McGill Universities for engineering, and spent his working life of 50 years in the Canadian and U.S. pulp and paper industry. A strong advocate of formal education, he also served on the boards of many post-secondary institutions during that time, including the Confederation College and Lakehead University in Thunder Bay as well as John Abbott CEGEP/ College in Montreal.

Now retired and living in PEI and Ontario, Stephen has chosen to donate the land of the Hessian family farm to Island Nature Trust as an Ecological Gift. His father, one of eleven children, did not work the land in adulthood but felt a deep connection to it, buying it back when the farm became unprofitable. The land is now forest and wetland rather than field. It will remain undeveloped and be returned to the wildlife to make their homes. Stephen feels his father, Stephen, grandfather, Thomas, and great-grandfather, Gilbert, would be content to see this 70-acre plot of land retain the family ties as the Hessian Farm 1810 Woodland Natural Area. We are so grateful to Stephen, for recognizing the great value in this land as a refuge from that wider world of industry, for wildlife and for people.

# Our Lands

## A Newly Protected Forest Builds Connectivity in the Three Rivers Area



Leaves of a red maple tree in the *Hessian Farm 1810 Woodland Natural Area*

On the edge of Georgetown, a 70-acre parcel of mixed woodland has just gained protection in perpetuity. Through ownership by Island Nature Trust and designation under the provincial Natural Areas Protection Act and the federal Ecological Gifts program, this land will remain forest forever.

It lies adjacent to Easton's Pond and one land parcel up from Cardigan Bay, in an area that might have supported yet more cottage development. Instead, it is now set aside for wildlife, including the many migratory birds heard and seen here this summer. In the wetland margin, sora rail and pied-billed grebe compete for attention with loud, booming voices, while tree swallows dip and weave above the cattails. In the mature trembling aspen and red maples, the red-eyed vireo talks over the eastern wood peewee while woodpeckers ignore both and keep on drumming.

While much of the forest is young, it is diverse in vertical and horizontal structure. That structural complexity results in a noisy chorus of life, one that will continue to grow as the forest is allowed to mature over the coming decades.



Young forest and wetland areas in the *Hessian Farm 1810 Woodland Natural Area*

## Island Nature Trust Staff

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**Leanne Tol**, Farmland Birds Coordinator,  
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## INT Summer Staff

At INT, we are very lucky to have six fantastic summer staff on this year. We asked each of them to share a bit about themselves and what they have learned so far this summer.



### **Iain Crowell, Land Stewardship Technician**

I am in my second year working for INT, having spent last summer with the Piping plover program, and this summer as part of the land stewardship team. The experience and constant learning that comes with being out in the field has helped me tremendously in my studies in Environmental Science at Mt. Allison. One of the best things about my job is exploring mature forests; my personal favourite is our *Kildare Forest Natural Area!*

### **Brendan Kelly, Forest Bird Technician**

It has been a busy and exciting field season here at INT. Working in my field of study, wildlife conservation has been extremely rewarding. Collecting valuable information regarding species at risk like the Canada Warbler and educating members of the public about our forest birds has been a lot of fun. It is amazing to see such a diversity of bird species during our early morning bird surveys. I am looking forward to exploring more of PEI's rich natural areas.



### **Katie Jordan, Field Technician**

Feeling a strong connection to the land and a desire to protect its vitality for future generations, I am grateful to have the opportunity to be interning with Island Nature Trust for the Summer. I look forward to continuing to gain new knowledge and experiences in this field. A little bit about me... my favourite animal is the red fox, my favourite INT natural area is the *Malcolm McArthur 1899 Natural Area*, and my favourite memory from the summer so far is helping with a bird inventory at the Basin Head Marine Protected Area .



### **Jenna Cahill and Vicki Johnson, Piping Plover Technicians**

Working with INT on the piping plover project this year has been exciting! Our daily routine consists of visiting beaches all over the island to monitor our favorite little shore bird. As summer progresses, we grow closer to each individual plover and their chicks. We've grown especially fond of the young plover-lad we named "Fleck". Fleck is a piping plover who has a small black spot (fleck) on his upper left breast. Fleck has been working tirelessly this summer to find the perfect location to raise his and his mate's chicks. We are so excited to say that Fleck is now situated with a nest at one of our favorite beaches! Needless to say, we have learned how important it is to protect this endangered species, and we have become huge plover lovers in the process!



### **Brett MacKinnon, Forest Bird Technician**

I am a Forest Birds Technician with INT for a second season. One of my main focuses this summer is conducting dawn call counts. These are bird counts conducted in the early morning hours, where we listen and record the species and number of individuals heard. With these counts we are targeting Canada Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher because they are Threatened species. I've travelled to many of INT's properties but a couple of my favourites thus far are the *Townshend Woodlot* and the *Malcolm McArthur 1899 Natural Areas*.

# Volunteer Page

## Get Outside With INT This Summer!

Summer in PEI is simply the best! Here are some upcoming opportunities to explore the great outdoors and lend a helping hand with INT this summer:



**July 20<sup>th</sup> - Hummingbird Information Session** - Join Cindy Cartwright, founder and Lead Researcher of Hummingbirds Canada (2010) and founder and coordinator of the Ontario Hummingbird Project, for a presentation on one of PEI's most-loved bird species, the ruby-throated hummingbird. 1:00pm at the Souris and Area Wildlife Federation Headquarters, 1358 Souris Line Road.

**August 8<sup>th</sup> - Exploring the Shore at Rock Barra** - Join Shannon Mader, our Species-at-risk Coordinator, for a workshop exploring the great beauty and wildlife at Rock Barra Artist Retreat. Explore the four distinct ecosystems at the retreat and identify the abundance of flora and wildlife on the beach and back dunes. Bring a camera and a sketch pad. Open to all ages. 1-4:00pm Donations welcome. No registration required.



This summer, Rock Barra Artist Retreat is hosting *The Waters & The Wild* - a whole series of nature and art workshops throughout the summer and fall. Visit their website for more information: <http://www.teresadoyle.com/rock-barra-retreat/the-waters-the-wild-workshops/>



**August 15<sup>th</sup> - Purple Loosestrife Pull and Cleanup at DeRoche Pond** - Help INT staff and volunteers work to eradicate the invasive purple loosestrife from the back dune and freshwater pond systems in the DeRoche Pond Natural Area. Volunteers can canoe the pond and pull purple loosestrife, or stay on land and assist with a cleanup and purple loosestrife pull in the parking lot and back dune areas. 10am-2pm. Please call the INT office at 902-892-7513 or email Julie-Lynn at [julielynn@islandnaturetrust.ca](mailto:julielynn@islandnaturetrust.ca) if you would like to join us.

**August 17<sup>th</sup> - Walk the Mudflats to St. Peter's Island** - Join INT staff as we trek across the mudflats from Rice Point to St. Peter's Island. On our walk over, we will discuss the rich natural and human history associated with this area. Be prepared for a 3 hour hike. Participation by donation. 8-11am. Please call the INT office at 902-892-7513 or email Julie-Lynn at [julielynn@islandnaturetrust.ca](mailto:julielynn@islandnaturetrust.ca) if you would like to join us. Rain date August 20<sup>th</sup>. **\*PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT & LIMIT OF 40 PARTICIPANTS\***



**September 10<sup>th</sup> - Beach Clean-up in Nail Pond** - Help INT staff and volunteers conduct a beach cleanup at our Charles Dalton Natural Area. As we clean, we will keep an eye out for shorebirds that may be stopping over during their migration south. Meet at the end of Phee Shore Road in Norway, PEI at 10am-12pm. We will supply gloves and bags. Bring a lunch and enjoy a picnic on the beach afterwards!

# Island Nature Trust Projects

## Shorebirds...not simply “birds found at the shore”

**Contributed by:** Shannon Mader, Species-at-risk Coordinator

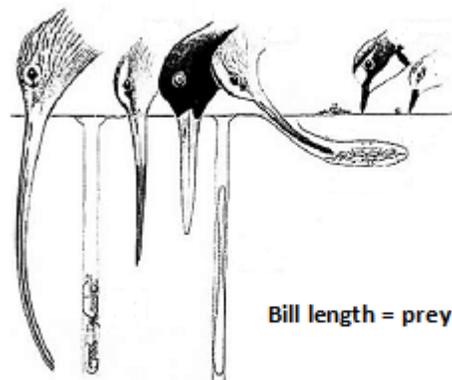
Don't even get me started on Shorebirds. I could go on and on until someone stops me. There are so many fascinating, awe-inspiring, amazing things to learn about shorebirds! After I recently posted a video to Facebook showing the different feeding strategies of two shorebirds (Piping Plover and Sanderling), I realized that others may be as fascinated as I am by the wide array of strategies shorebirds have evolved for feeding. I will write about their herculean migrations in a future newsletter!



### So first of all, what is a shorebird?

They are the families of plovers, sandpipers and related others that are part of the order Charadriiformes. Most of these birds can be found along the shore, especially during migration, but they are also found inland, upland, on arctic tundra and at sea. There are approximately 215 shorebird species world-wide. In Canada, 75 shorebird species have been recorded and of those, 47 species breed or occur regularly within our borders. Shorebirds generally have long legs for wading in shallow water and long bills. They are **NOT**: gulls, terns, seabirds or herons.

### Feeding Strategies; the bill dictates the diet!



Copyright Peter Lane, Shorebirds in Australia

Plovers have a short bill and rarely probe. Most of their prey is localized by sight (note the large eyes in relation to body size).



The Scolopacidae, a family of shorebirds that includes the sandpipers, have elongated bills, which they use to probe for buried invertebrates. Intriguingly, most species do not need to touch their prey directly but use a sensory structure in the bill tip that provides a remote touch sense. This bill-tip organ consists of a set of bony pits housing clusters of mechanosensory cells known as Herbst corpuscles. The precise mechanism of prey localization, however, is still unknown. How cool is that?

Shorebirds need to be efficient feeders. They need to eat up to one-third their body weight every day to fuel their active lifestyle as well as build up fat reserves for their long migrations. To do this, they need long periods of time to forage undisturbed!

# INT Fundraising Dinner Donors 2018

“Harry’s Pond” Kelvin Grove Original Watercolour	Sally Blake Hooff
One Night Stay in a Treepod	Tree Top Haven
“Stream in Fall” Bonshaw & "Tidal Pool" Cavendish Photos on Canvas	Mel Gallant
Brant Goose, Passenger Pigeon & Great Blue Heron Carvings	Dave Broderick
“Serenity” Original Acrylic	Sharon Smith
Antique School Desk	Kevin Griffin
Inn at St. Peters \$200 Gift Certificate	Missy & Larry Baschkin
Woodland Original Acrylic	Charlene Corrigan-Felker
One Night's Accommodation	Fairholm Inn
“The Yellow Dory” Original Acrylic	Richard Vickerson
Basket of Goodies	Cardigan Farmers Market
Decorative Art Piece by Lenny Gallant	Birdmouse
2 - Green Fees	Belvedere Golf Course
Queen Size Wool Duvet	Belfast Mini Mills
3 - Wooden Santas	Emmett Curley
“Distant Danger Raccoons” Ltd. Ed. Repro.	Robert Bateman
Las Vegas Golden Knights Package	Mike & Mary Ellen Kelly
Passenger Pigeon Carving	Dave Broderick
“Northern Transport” Ltd. Ed. Repro. by Ted Harrison	Pat & Cathy Chan
\$25 Gift Certificate	Rossignol Winery
\$50 Gift Certificate	Dundee Arms Inn
2 Green Fees	Green Gables / Anderson's Creek Golf Course
Estate Planning	Katie Morello, Cox & Palmer
500 Litres of Home Heating Fuel	Kenmac Energy
One Night's Accommodation	Holman Grand Hotel
\$100 Gift Card to Confederation Centre of the Arts	Linda Berko
“Path/Sentir Roma, PEI” Original Watercolour	Noëlla Shorgan
2 Tickets to Jesus Christ Superstar	Confederation Centre of the Arts
Bloomfield Park Photo	Rosemary Curley
Precious Memories Box	John Somers
Canine Gift Basket	Global Pet Foods
Rust Check from Charlottetown Rust Check	Greg Mader
“The Whale Who Wanted to Fly” Shadow Box	Niki Heddle
Red Oak Tree	Lairds Tree Care
20 Kg. Birdseed	Cardigan Feed Service
3 - Bird Feeds & 2 Bird Houses	David Murphy
2 - <i>Nature of PEI</i> and 2 - Flower Photos	Shirley Gallant
8 - One Gallon Trees, 2 - Suites of Fishing Licences & 1 - Cap	Forests, Fish & Wildlife
Cheese Set, Indoor BBQ Grill & Peacock hor's-d'oeuvres Set	Bill Bowerbank & Evelyn Martin
Electric Chainsaw & Antique Egg Crate	Joyce Dewar
Butter Dish, Miniature Tea Set, Wooden Cheese Server & Pottery Bowl	Lynne Murphy

# INT Fundraising Dinner Donors 2018

Cows Basket	Scott Linkletter
Original Painting	Joan Thompson
Wash Tub & Washboard, Electric Juice, Elegant Hot Mitts, Chinese Chamber Pot, Orefors Swedish Glass Bowl, Australian Aboriginal Art	Liz Townsend & Harry Robertson
Writing of a Will	Geoff Gibson of Campbell Lea
Earrings & Necklace by Barbara Nymark	Red Sand Jewellery
3 Hand Carved Humming Birds and Cherry & Yellow Birch Cutting Board	Dave McBurney
Tin Daisy Garden Ornament	Willowbend Studio
Cutting Board, Bird Bath Dripper & Bird's Eye Maple Clock/Barometer	Shelley Burton
\$150 Gift Certificate	Phillips Agri Services
"Great Blue" by Arlene Rice	Details Fine Art Gallery
Pottery Plate by Ron Arvidson	Arvidson Clay
Naturopathic Consultation	Gretchen MacLean, N.D.
Night in oTENTik	Parks Canada
"Lynx" Original Pastel/Pencil Drawing by Julie Kuiper	Brenda Penak
Hand Knit Hat & Shawl by Ruth Aquilani	Sew What?
Guided Tour & 2 Bottles of Maple Syrup	Jackie Waddell
10 Pounds of Blueberries	Paul Gallant
Assorted Hot Sauces	Maritime Madness
3 - Ten Pounds of Mussels Gift Certificates	PEI Mussel King
Tea Pot & Tea	Lady Baker's Tea Trolley
1 - Case of Assorted Honey	Heatherdale Honey
Pail of Honey & Assortment of Beeswax Candles	Bristol Berry Farm
Plover Paintings	David Schneider
Pottery Plate by Ellen Burge	Premier Wade MacLauchlan
Brook Trout Photo	Sean Landsman
Pottery Plate by Ellen Burge	Clay Impressions
"Shore Facing East from Cable Head to Greenwich" Original Watercolour	Shelagh Hewitt Kareda
Harbour Passage for Two	Outside Expeditions
Bugaboo Base Camp Set	Sporting Intentions
2 - Two Night's Camping	PEI Provincial Parks
Embroidered Chickadee on a Blossom Branch	Denise Motard
Hand Knit Owl Hootie Hat & Owl Cowl	Judi Allen
Insulated Rain Jacket	Shop and Play
"Victory Chimes" Hooked Wall Hanging by Marolyn Dodge Matthews	My Way
\$50 Gift Certificate	PEI Preserve Company
Assortment of Soap	Kettlegrove Soapworks
2 - Five Kgs of Blueberries Gift Certificates	Wymans of PEI
2 - Hand Woven Baby Blankets & 2 Tea Towels by Barbara Henry	Flinder's Weavery
Olive-sided Flycatcher Silver Necklace by Jim Aquilani	Vitamin Sea Studio
2 - Pet Check Up Gift Certificates	Charlottetown Vet Clinic
Oil Change & MVI	Summerside Toyota

# INT Fundraising Dinner Donors 2018

Baffin Boots

*Historic Furniture of Prince Edward Island*

2 Tickets to Victoria Playhouse

Northern Saw-whet Owl Photograph

Fox & Hummingbird Earrings by Peter Llwellyn

Handwoven Door Mat by Lyette Sansoucy

Dinner for Two at Lobster on the Wharf

One-of-a-Kind Hand Knit Scarf by Lynne Douglas

\$50 Market Money

Two Tickets to Indian River Festival

2 VHS Transfers

Thailand Purse and Metal & Wood Wall Art

His & Hers Red Oak Pens by Sid Watts

Snowy Owl Reproduction & "A Foggy Day" Photo

4 One-Hour Paddle Board or Kayak Passes

Barn Board Chalk Board

\$150.00 Gift Certificate

Pottery Serving Bowl

Covehead Lighthouse Photo by Judy Profit

Sea Glass Earrings by Teri Hall

2 Hand Knit Toques & 2 Mommy & Me Slouch Hats

Cedar Waxwing Photo by Winston Maund

2 Tickets to Union Duke, July 18<sup>th</sup>

\$50 Pilot House Gift Card

Hand Painted Silk Scarf by Heather Walker

Willow Wreath by Paulette Kelly

2 Tickets to Trailside

\$50 Gift Card

Northern Saw-whet Owl Photo by Shirley Gallant

\$50 Gift Certificate

Unique Bird House

Printing of the Program

Beaton's Wholesale

PEI Museum & Heritage Foundation

Victoria Playhouse

Brett MacKinnon

Shoreline Design

Weaverly Yours

Steven Larkin

Sheep's Clothing

Charlottetown Farmers Market

Indian River Festival

Back Alley Music

Barbara & David Cairns

Watts Tree Farm

John Rowe

By-The-Sea-Kayaking

Sterling's Woodworking

Island Softeners

McAskill Woodworking

Sand Dune Studio

Fire & Water Creations

Beth Hoar

W.P. Maund Photography

Harbourfront Theatre

Donna Gill

Silkwalker Originals

Love Grass Farm

Trailside Music Café & Inn

Crafters Burgers

Sharon Clark

Kings Playhouse

Dario Zannier

KKP Charlottetown

*Thank  
You*

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped us organize our annual fundraising dinner this year, and to those who helped us on the night of—the event couldn't happen without your support. An extra special thank you to INT board member, Randy Dibblee, who has been the Master of Ceremonies at 33 of our 34 fundraising dinners, starting in 1985!

## 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. Board members participate in a number of committees that help guide the work of Island Nature Trust.

### 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
Joyce Dewar	Adam Hood
Laura Kell	June Sanderson
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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### Find Us Online:

[www.islandnaturetrust.ca](http://www.islandnaturetrust.ca)

 @peinaturetrust

 Island Nature Trust

 islandnaturetrust

## INT T-Shirts Now Available!



Do you want to support the work we do here at INT and look good doing it? Well we have the answer for you! INT T-shirts are now available for sale at our office in Charlottetown.

Shirts are unisex, 100% cotton, V-necks. On the front is the INT logo and an outline of a blue jay contributed by local birder and INT supporter, Ron Arvidson. On the back are the words that guide our work, "Conserve Protect Engage".

T-shirts are available in sizes: small, medium, large, and extra large, and cost \$25 each.