



ISLAND  
NATURE TRUST

# 2019-20 IMPACT REPORT

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

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# INT



Piping Plover photographed by Sean Landsman for INT



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Congratulations, together we have had a banner year!

As you read highlights of the work of Island Nature Trust over this past year, I hope you feel a sense of accomplishment. The strides made, through your support, and the work of your board and staff are remarkable. A further 1,000 acres under protection provides space for wildlife to flourish where we can connect with nature today and in perpetuity. Together, we are leaving a legacy!

I encourage you to seek out these new protected natural areas. This report includes a map and descriptions of new properties, to give a glimpse of the wonder. We further encourage you to go to our website to get a fulsome view and find information around access. Not only will you feel the power of nature's therapy, but you will better understand the importance of the work of the Trust. These spaces support biodiversity and provide invitations to sit and reflect on what matters now and for our future.

Our Trust strives to meet the Canadian Land Trust standards and practices. This requires sound governance and management but also funding to ensure that we have the finances to steward the land in perpetuity and adhere to high operational and governance standards. The actual costs of acquisition are high and the benefits even higher. We will continue to need your support.

Stewarding in perpetuity is also a huge commitment and one that our volunteer conservation guardians and species at risk monitors make possible for us every day. Stewardship of natural areas includes elimination of invasive species, diversification of impacted native communities, and soft engineering to protect vulnerable areas such as coastlines. Indoors, our committee members also contribute their time and considered expertise to keep the work on track. These volunteer commitments are the key to our future.

As we witness the highest population growth rate in Canada and a corresponding increase in development, the time for strategic protection of land in Prince Edward Island is now.

Working together, through the Trust, can ensure a healthier tomorrow for this Island. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for Island Nature Trust. If you and your family are not already members, I encourage you to take this step. We need your voice to inform our work.

Finally, a sincere thanks to a dedicated and highly qualified team of staff. They make us look even better. I look forward to meeting you at events and hearing from you about your experiences in nature.

With kindest regards,

June Jenkins Sanderson



## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2019-20 fiscal year was full of opportunities for Island Nature Trust. With an increased level of support for biodiversity and protected areas by the Government of Canada, local collaborations to further land conservation gained momentum. Across the country, Canadians said "this is important for our future"; at the provincial level, Island Nature Trust translated that support into action.

When you read through this annual report, you can see the organization and its wide network of supporters achieving lasting conservation outcomes. The Trust achieved our goals while remaining largely the same operationally. This is a testament to the outstanding efforts of staff, board and volunteers. We cannot thank you enough and hope you feel a sense of pride as you review with us the roster of accomplishments we produced together.

As we plan for growth, we will be needing your continued support to meet the many challenges on the horizon. I am confident you will be there progressing tangible conservation outcomes alongside us!

With immense gratitude,

Megan Harris





# ACHIEVEMENTS 2019-20

**400+**  
**Islanders**  
directly engaged in  
land and species  
conservation

**420**  
**Hours**  
of monitoring and  
clean-up work  
carried out by our  
Beach Guardians

**952 ACRES**  
**2019-2020**

**+ 4183 ACRES**  
**1979-2018**

**56 natural areas**  
in total saved

**33**  
**Volunteers**  
protecting  
Trust properties

**430 Hours**  
of volunteer work  
carried out  
by dedicated  
Conservation  
Guardians

**12 properties**  
received new tree  
plantings and  
restorative work

**12**  
**Species**  
at risk  
protected by  
Trust programs

**14**  
**Land**  
Conservation  
New properties  
secured last  
year

**4**  
**Ecological Gift**  
donations

**174**  
**22**  
**Community**  
Engagement  
People engaged  
through the Passport  
to Nature event series  
Outreach events  
held outdoors



ISLAND  
NATURE TRUST

## VISION

To serve the Island community in natural areas  
expansion and conservation.

Island Nature Trust envisions a future where P.E.I.  
has a network of protected, robust natural areas  
championed by knowledgeable, engaged Islanders.

## MISSION



# LANDS SAVED



INT's board of directors set an ambitious target of 1,000 new acres saved in 2019-20. In the end, 952 acres were acquired as 14 separate parcels, representing 18.5% of all lands acquired by INT over 40 years. We are so grateful for the thoughtful actions of nine landowners who contributed to this success through full or partial donations of land. Four important purchases of land were made possible by close to 100 individual cash donors, along with support from the federal Nature Fund and local project partners.

The generosity of Islanders is being recognized regionally and nationally! In the 2019 calendar year, Prince Edward Island protected 11 Ecological Gifts, the second highest of any province in Canada and the highest per capita. Six of these gifts were to INT and INT staff assisted partners with two others. These impressive protected land milestones are a testament to a strong community of conservationists in PEI.



## 1 FREELAND

Eastern white cedar and white ash line Freeland Creek as it meanders across this 97-acre parcel of lowland forest and forested wetland. Wet forest soils support a rich diversity of ferns, shrubs, mosses and wildflowers.



## 2 GEORGE SAVILLE WOODLOT

This property helps protect headwater tributaries that feed the Fortune River and the Dingwell's Mills Wildlife Management Area. Beautiful hardwoods in this forested stand provide habitat for diverse bird species and a refuge for wildlife in an area experiencing extensive clear-cutting.



## 3 ROBERT (A GABRIELLE) ARSENAULT

Lying upstream from an extensive area of public forest lands and protected salt marsh, this forested wetland and bog in the upper watershed of Haldimand River extends the protection for uncommon flora and fauna in an area known to support high biodiversity.



## 4 WELLSPRING OF PEACE

This 6-acre parcel of forest on the Brudenell River is just downstream from existing INT land, the McGowan Natural Area (shown on the left) and across the river from Brudenell Provincial Park. Adjacent to the "Blueberry Express" train route and the oldest road in PEI, this land is now a haven for birds, frogs and all nature of river-loving wildlife.





# RE-CONNECTING HABITAT



## 5 ACADIAN MARSHES PERCIVAL RIVER



INT purchased 308 acres of coastal forest, bog, freshwater marsh, salt marsh and sand spit at the mouth of the Percival River, adding to the existing protected natural area donated to INT in 1997 & 2012. Botanical surveys by Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre identified many rare plants including three species of native orchid. This purchase was made possible with a significant financial contribution from the Canada Nature Fund.

308 ACRES



## 7 COURTIN ISLAND

Starting with the first parcel in 1985, INT has progressively worked to protect Courtin Island in Malpeque Bay. With the purchase of two 5-acre parcels this year, INT now owns roughly two-thirds of the island. It is home to uncantered mature beech trees, red oak & a rich forest understory inhabited by countless migratory songbirds. With one of the oldest known Mi'kmaq archaeological sites present on the island, these two acquisitions are also culturally significant.

## 6 IVAN'S BRANCH

The undisturbed peatlands on this property in the Portage Bog allow for carbon sequestration and groundwater filtration, while providing habitat for forested wetland plants and migratory birds. Over a number of years, INT staff have recorded the threatened Canada warbler using the area during the breeding season.





## 8 CROWN POINT



The purchase of 117 acre Crown Point headland in Alexandra was INT's most ambitious fundraising campaign of the year. The extensive salt marsh provides critical resting and foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl moving north - south on the Atlantic Migratory Flyway. It was secured in perpetuity thanks to significant contributions from the Canada Nature Fund, MapleCross Fund, the vendor and over 80 generous Islanders.



## 9 CONNICK WOODLAND

An Ecological Gift of land lying on a kame terrace south of Tracadie Bay, this parcel contains a dynamic mix of upland and lowland forest, shrub swamp peatland, stream and marsh. Of special note are the healthy red oak proliferating naturally, the presence of little brown bats and the giant white pine supporting multiple raptor's nests.



## 10 PRINCETOWN GRASSLANDS



This grasslands property overlooks Malpeque Bay, recognized internationally as an Important Bird Area and a Ramsar Wetland of Significance. The property protects the coastal bluff from development and is home to several nesting grassland birds, including the threatened Bobolink.

## 11 HENNESSEY FARM WOODLAND

With frontage on the Hillsborough River, this mixed-wood forest is dominated by wet-tolerant species, including red maple and black spruce. This parcel is another generous Ecological Gift. The field - forest mix lies adjacent to Cranberry Wharf Rd, an important historic travel route in Fort Augustus.





# CELEBRATING LAND

Did you know that 88% of land is privately owned in PEI? Compare that to most other provinces in Canada where Crown land makes up 80 – 90% of the land mass. Those statistics speak to the great need for private land conservation. Over forty years, Island Nature Trust has supported private landowners in PEI in their journey to protect the land

they love. When individuals make the big decision to donate land or support INT's purchase of ecologically significant land, we think it's worth celebrating! In 2019, land donors were profiled in our quarterly newsletter, with personal stories shared of why and how they chose to support land conservation. In addition, Celebrations of Land were held for new property donations in Fox Point, Canavoy and Pinette.



From left: Celebration of Land events took place at Deroche Pond, Canavoy Oaks and Wendell M. Profitt Natural Areas. Acquisitions drew the attention of CBC and generated an online media story that further extended the message of land conservation to Islanders.



Pictured is Judy Profitt, hugging a hemlock tree during the celebration of land event at our Wendell M. Profitt Natural Area in July 2019. Judy Profitt's significant financial contribution to INT's Stewardship Fund in honour of her late father, Wendell M. Profitt, allowed us to purchase a 70-acre parcel of rich riparian forest in South Pinette and protect this incredible forest forever.



# PEI ECOSYSTEMS

## LEGEND

'Lands Saved': Page 4

The interacting living and non-living systems that our conservation lands protect.



### COASTAL BLUFFS & SALT MARSH



Offering natural protection from the impact of coastal storms. Home to bank swallow and foraging grounds for countless shorebirds, ducks and geese.

### BEACHES & DUNES



Home to the endangered Piping Plover. PEI's marram grass-covered dunes protect coastal communities from PEI's wicked winter nor'easters while supporting a wealth of coastal wildlife.

### RIVERS & STREAMS



PEI's short, multi-branched freshwater systems are natural corridors for wildlife. The groundwater spring-fed streams support important coldwater species and many downstream industries.

### GRASSLANDS



In PEI, most grasslands form part of a managed agricultural landscape, but they still can support biodiversity, including the endangered bobolink.

### FORESTED WETLAND



These peatlands and cedar swamps are some of the most diverse ecosystems in PEI. Home to communities of warblers and other songbirds in the summer. Peatlands contain our carnivorous plants, like sundews and pitcher plants.

### UPLAND FOREST



PEI's natural upland forest is called the Maritime Acadian or Wapane' kati Forest. Dominated by hardwood trees like sugar maple, yellow birch and American beech, old growth upland forest in PEI supports trees that are 300+ years old.

### ISLANDS



Nearshore islands around the PEI coast are relatively isolated, undisturbed habitat for wildlife. Uncankered beech trees and large red oaks can be found here, along with colonial nesting birds like great blue herons.

### CANADA WARBLER



The threats to this iconic threatened bird include land conversion of breeding and nonbreeding habitat. In PEI, they are summer breeders in forested wetlands.

### BANK SWALLOW



Burrow nesters in sandstone cliffs, the big threats on PEI include loss of nesting habitat from erosion control measures along shorelines and predation of nests by introduced predators like cats, raccoons and skunks.

### RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD



Forest habitat loss in wintering and breeding grounds, pesticide use and increasing extreme weather events are all current factors that may impact on these tiny neotropical migrants.

### OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER



losses of this threatened songbird may relate to loss of habitat on the wintering grounds or declines in their insect prey species.

### BATS



The little brown and northern myotis are both endangered due to white-nose syndrome, an introduced fungal disease that causes them to prematurely emerge from hibernation.

### RED OAK



PEI's provincial tree is no longer present in large stands on PEI. Primarily a coastal species, it was extensively cut by early European settlers.

### EASTERN WHITE CEDAR



A native of PEI growing in areas with a high water table and frequently flooded soils. Its existence in our natural areas indicates alkaline soils and high biodiversity.

### AMERICAN BEECH



A medium-sized tree that grows slowly but can live for 200 years or more. Once common throughout the upland hardwood stands of PEI it has been killed or deformed by the introduced beech canker disease.



# SPECIES AT RISK



**48** volunteers assisted in the stewardship of piping plover, with 241 people informed about responsible use of beaches during nesting season.

**25TH** year of continued stewardship for the Piping Plover Program

**20** successful fledglings on 9 nesting beaches – protected from human-related disturbance with signage & symbolic fencing.

Some species are especially struggling for their survival. They are described as at-risk, and they often indicate a broken relationship between humans and our environment.



**47** Landowners participated in the ALUS Delayed Hay Program to delay hay cutting to a safe date of July 15th.

**4TH** year monitoring Bobolink breeding productivity at select hayfields across PEI.

**149** Bobolink fledglings were successful in 15 monitored fields across Prince Edward Island

INT led three species-at-risk stewardship projects in 2019–20 for the piping plover, bobolink and barn swallow.



**36** active nests from seven monitored sites across PEI during the 2019 breeding season.

**6TH** year delivering the Farmland Bird program

**147** successful barn swallow fledglings from monitored sites in 2019.





**35%** population decline in PEI since 1991

**THREATS:** Loss or degradation of habitat resulting from the recreational use of beaches.

ATVs, off-leash dogs, or even innocent beachcombers out for a walk often destroy plover nests or prompt the parents to abandon otherwise healthy eggs. In addition, garbage left behind attracts predators such as the red fox, raccoon, ring-billed gull and crow.

*Charadrius melodus melodus*

## PIPING PLOVER

Piping plovers cannot survive without safe, healthy beach habitat to breed, rest and feed. They are migratory birds that travel back and forth each spring and fall between their northern breeding grounds and southern wintering grounds (along the southeastern US coast and the Caribbean Islands).

Island Nature Trust's 2019 Piping Plover Program benefited from many funding partners who supported protection of this endangered species and its fragile coastal habitat. Environment and Climate Change Canada Habitat Stewardship Program, Maritime Electric Corporation Ltd., Canada Summer Jobs, the Province of PEI, Canadian Wildlife Service, private donations through INT, and other private funds were all used to support this longstanding, comprehensive monitoring, nest protection and engagement program.

**88%** population decline from 1968-2008

**THREATS:**

Destruction of adults and young during breeding season on agricultural land cropped for hay.

*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

## BOBOLINK

In 2014, Island Nature Trust began an outreach program aimed at creating greater awareness of barn swallow & bobolink and their habitat needs in rural Island communities. This year the Farmland Birds program produced positive results thanks to continued collaboration with rural landowners across PEI:

- The INT Delayed Hay program in partnership with the provincially led Alternate Land Use Services (ALUS) program resulted in 1,231 acres in delayed hay cut (after the safe date of July 15th).



**76%** population decline since the 1980's

**THREATS:**

Decline in insect abundance.  
Habitat loss from suitable wooden structures becoming less abundant or less accessible

*Hirundo rustica*

## BARN SWALLOW

- INT staff collaborated with members of the fishing community and visited 47 small craft harbours in PEI.
- Eight of the visited harbours had barn swallows present.
- 54 outbuildings where landowners are keeping barn doors open for barn swallow to nest.





# 70 individuals engaged with INT through the Farmland Birds Monitoring Program

A citizen science component has been integral to the success of the Farmland Birds program since the program began in 2014. Landowners and other volunteers can contribute directly to our understanding of long-term population trends, by observing and recording key dates related to the bobolink, barn swallow & ruby-throated hummingbird breeding season. The value of this program lies in its longevity and consistency; it is rooted in the concept that the public has a long-term relationship with the wildlife that share their backyards, and they can rely on INT to be there as a lead and source of expertise in their personal stewardship of a species-at-risk.

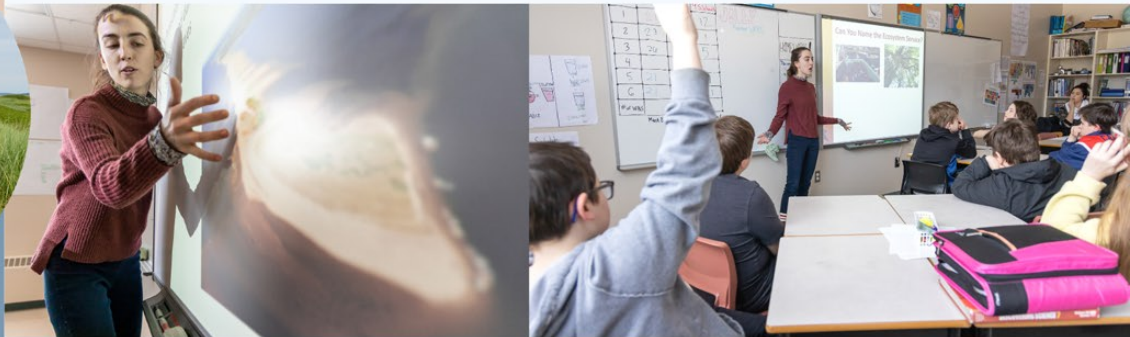


From left: A few of our active monitoring participants in 2019 - Paul Smith of Green Bay, Care Fortune of Eldon, Barb Jewell of York, Jackie Waddell of Green Bay, Mike LeClair of Fortune Bridge and Nancy Smith of Emyvale.



# BEACHDUNE ECOSYSTEMS

PEI is well known for its beautiful beaches, which attract thousands of visitors every year. Our coast is a dramatic combination of soaring red cliffs and sandy beaches backed by extensive dune systems and barrier beach ponds. The sandy beaches, dunes, and barrier islands that lie along the shore offer natural beauty, but also services – they buffer coastal communities from storms, buffer them from climate change and support commercially important fish and shellfish species as well as other wildlife. These areas are integral to the culture and resilience of the rural communities of PEI.



**7** schools across the province were involved in the program in 2019.

10 classes and 226 students participated.

To promote sustainable use of these important places, Island Nature Trust has partnered with local watershed groups and intermediate schools in western and central PEI since 2017. The grade 7 science curriculum, with its focus on ecosystems and forces of weathering, is perfectly suited to learning about a fragile habitat that lies in these students' backyards. Youth at this age are also able to understand the depth of connectedness between human actions and the health of their local environment.

"We know to be careful not to step on plovers eggs, or step on the dunes."

Jorja Forrest - Gulf Shore Consolidated School

"Sand dunes are important because they can protect inland areas from coastal erosion."

Jane Bruce - Immanuel Christian School

"The dunes protect us from storms hitting hard."

Jade Lok - Immanuel Christian School





# ENGAGING YOUTH THROUGH CONSERVATION

INT understands that today's youth are the future leaders and stewards of our natural heritage. Several successful youth engagement projects were undertaken with schools across PEI this year.



## Kildare Forest Clean-up with Westisle School



## Ecosystem Walk with Immanuel Christian School

In 2019, INT hosted a Species at Risk contest in partnership with Prince Edward Island National Park open to PEI students and classes in grades 7 to 9. Contest participants were asked to create a short public service announcement for PEI residents and visitors about a species at risk of their choice.

Pictured below are the winners of this contest from Immanuel Christian School enjoying their prize:



## Engagement with Charlottetown Holland College Transitions Class:

Eager students joined INT for a Locke Shore Beach Clean-up. An educational walk through the Malcolm McArthur 1899 Natural Area. The latter walk included helping to plant red oak and white pine trees, which will help to diversify the existing forest on the property!







Melanie McCarthy became a fully fledged Land Conservation Guardian in 2019. She casts a protective eye over our recently acquired Crown Point property in Alexandra.

This is her story on what inspired her to become a Guardian.

## A CONSERVATION JOURNEY

Melanie from Stratford credits her father for her love of nature (particularly birds). She remembers as a child using birch bark from a tree to start campfires, her father would make sure that they thanked the tree. Recently, Melanie found her calling in wildlife conservancy by becoming a Land Conservation Guardian with Island Nature Trust.

Melanie's journey from initial curiosity of birdlife on the Island to becoming an active steward began in 2014. She heard about INT after meeting members at Nature PEI birding events held that year. After subscribing to the INT quarterly newsletter, Melanie became familiar with and supported INT's mission to preserve the Island's natural heritage. With first-hand experience, Melanie realized that INT's events were delivering rewarding opportunities to engage with knowledgeable coordinators and volunteers. She was learning more about birdlife and its connection to nature conservancy in general.

Melanie attended many more events over the coming months, such as INT Land bird's education session at Milton Hall in 2016 and the INT annual dinner, where she donated items to the raffle.

Over the years, Melanie was always keeping an eye out for INT events promoted in the newsletter - attending when she could. Fast forwarding to 2018, she was invited by a group of experienced birders to take part in the National Park Christmas Bird Count and in Spring 2019 she joined the Bird Banding Workshop - learning to capture, band and release songbirds at the MacPhail Woods banding station.

She reflects, "I learned so much from the birders, especially a new appreciation for identifying birds through hearing rather than seeing them."

In Spring of 2019, Melanie joined INT as a member during the Birding Educational Sessions and learned even more through regular communications and member events.

An INT volunteer suggested that her love for nature could be expressed in practical and purposeful ways by being a steward. Melanie was always interested in acquiring her own land to explore and protect - Guardianship made perfect sense to her.

Over the years, Melanie has donated to land acquisition targets, volunteered in monitoring programs for the threatened bank swallow and in September 2019 registered for her first Neil Bennett Birding Classic fundraiser with a team called "Winging It".

We thank Melanie and all of our incredible volunteers for the work and dedication they infuse into the Trust. We simply couldn't protect our Island without you!





# OUR GUARDIANS

## LAND STEWARDS

**33 active and dedicated volunteers.**

**Four knowledgeable land stewardship summer staff were hired in 2019.**

**Baseline documentation reports (BDRs) were drafted for all new properties.**

Conservation Guardian volunteers are our eyes and ears on the ground in our natural areas. Their dedication is what keeps our stewardship mission alive.

With 56 distinct natural areas across the Island, from Nail Pond to North Lake, and a small staff, INT must work efficiently to continue to meet the needs of our growing land portfolio. Natural area needs include continued monitoring for human use, invasive species management, garbage removal, forest diversification and management, and sign installation.

Thanks to dedicated support through the EcoAction Community Funding Program, Island Nature Trust's Conservation Guardian Program has been effectively re-instated over the past 3 years (2016 to 2019). The purpose of the Guardians program is to establish a network of individuals and groups that are committed to local stewardship activities in the medium to long term; and to expose communities to the multitude of values that INT natural areas hold for them.

Training was prioritized this year with a series of immersive workshops held for Conservation Guardians. Stewards learned from highly knowledgeable staff on topics such as invasive species and forest bird identification.

## SPECIES STEWARDS

**30 hardworking beach volunteers.**

**9 new volunteers trained in 2019.**

**118 motorized tracks observed. Up from 16 in 2018.**

**172 off leash dogs. Up from 104 in 2018.**

The Piping Plover Guardian Program was initiated in the early 1990s by a handful of concerned volunteers.

Since 1995, INT has been coordinating the program, which monitors and protects piping plovers on provincial beaches. Piping Plover Guardians protect endangered piping plovers from human disturbances, educate beach users on the plight of the species, and monitor nests on the north and southeastern shores of PEI in the spring and summer.

A program highlight this year: INT was able to monitor productivity on the Hog Islands sandhills chain for the first time, thanks to Mark Arsenault and his crew at Forest, Fish & Wildlife.





# COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP



Left: In September 2019, INT staff and volunteers planted and protected over 100 red oak trees in three of our natural areas. The beautiful oak trees were generously donated by Arbor Nursery in Earncliffe. We planted:

- About 30 oak trees in our McGowan Natural Area in Brudenell, where we are working to diversify an old field white spruce stand.
- 35 oak trees to diversify an area that we are reforesting in our Bristol Creek Natural Area.
- 89 oak trees in our Barbara P Parsons Natural Area, along the Bangor Road, which will grow into a beautiful oak forest and buffer the rest of the natural area from the road.

265 people were engaged through 19 community stewardship events held in natural areas across the Province. Events included beach and roadside cleanups, invasive species pulls, and tree and shrub planting.

Right: In August 2019, shoreline cleanups took place on the Murray Islands in Murray Harbour in collaboration with Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Province of PEI, and in Foley's Pond thanks to INT staff, Conservation Guardians and volunteers.



Left: INT staff team up with Abegweit Conservation Society to remove invasive purple loosestrife from Deroches Pond Natural Area in July 2019.

Below: INT staff, Conservation Guardian volunteers and personnel from the PEI Military Family Resource Centre plant trees at the Jenkins Complex veteran's serenity area in June 2019.

In 2019, the dream to create a serenity space in one of our natural areas came true. The serenity area is intended to be a quiet refuge for veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder, and other physical and psychological injuries. Their families, friends and support systems are also welcome. At the heart of the 600+ acre Jenkins Complex, INT planted a peace circle of red oak and red maple, with native shrubs lining a winding path into the middle. Eventually, these plantings will grow into a beautiful, private grove that feels safe and sheltered for veterans using the space.







As part of a new corporate sponsorship program, companies and their employees can "Spend a Day with INT" working in a natural area for which they contribute funds that support the short- and long-term stewardship expenses.



Pictured: Sekisui Diagnostics employees spent time planting trees and shrubs at the Jenkins Complex and Bristol Creek Natural Areas.



Picture below: Each autumn for the last 25 years, Island Nature Trust and Nature PEI have joined forces in a team event for birds and nature. The Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic is both a fund raiser and an important citizen science event.

Sponsored bird counts used as fund raisers have been of fundamental importance in supporting nature conservation in Canada; the Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic Fund Raiser has raised over \$47,000 for natural areas conservation.



Other stewardship activities completed this year included the installation of nest boxes in four natural areas (pictured above), construction of a loon platform at the DeRoche Pond Natural Area, and the completion of a loon survey at two natural areas.



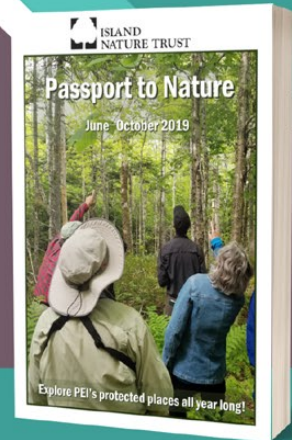


# EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

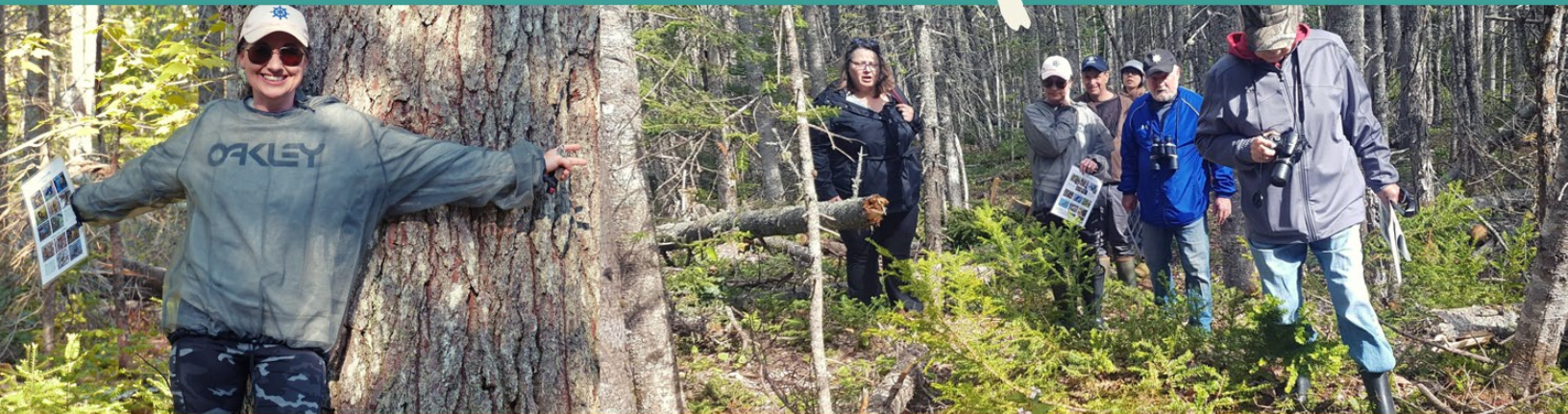
In the last few years, Island Nature Trust's outreach focus has moved to immersive nature education and experiential activities for the public. Our strategy is that, young and old, we all retain knowledge more effectively when we are immersed and using all of our senses in the learning experience. We hope that the messages children, youth and adults receive through our programs will carry with them for the rest of their lives. If you don't love it, you won't protect it. It is through a deep connection to nature that conservation begins.

In 2019, for the first time ever INT created a Passport to Nature. The passport is a booklet containing information on a series of events we have organized throughout the year. The 'wildly' successful event series helped Islanders and visitors alike experience and learn more about PEI's protected places.

INT held nine events in natural areas between May and October and received overwhelming positive feedback on the series from 174 participants.



## KILDARE FOREST BIRD WALK



## WALK TO ST PETER'S ISLAND







As part of our fundraising workshop series, volunteer hosts Kathleen and Dave MacNearney led a guided mushroom walk for participants in October 2019 (above).



Top L-R: Culloden Forest walk event, dipping for aquatic critters with INT staff in Deroche Pond natural area and Forest Bird Technicians, Brendan Kelly and Brett MacKinnon, lead a Forest Bird Walk through the Townshend Woodlot Natural Area.

Bottom L-R: Percival River natural area walk, Bird Banding Workshop with master Bander Fiep de Bie at the MacPhail Woods banding station, the farmland bird walk in China Point, guided tour of Bonshaw Hills woodland with Diane Griffin, Nature Photography Workshop with Stephen DesRoches, concluding with the wildflower walk in Kildare.





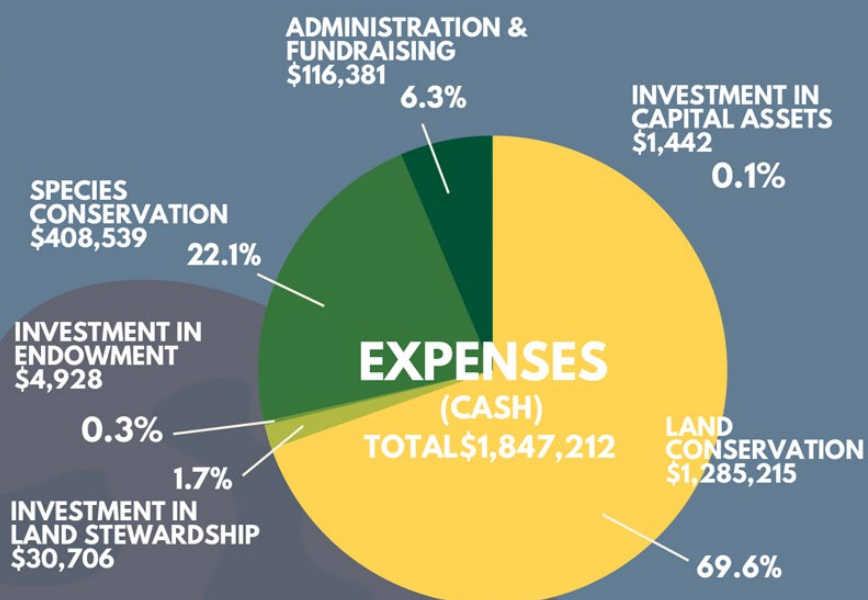
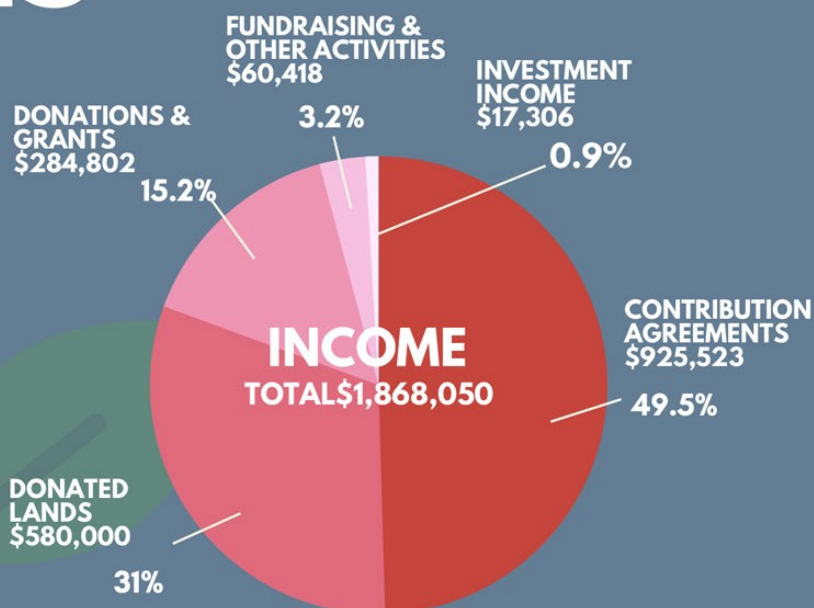
# FINANCIALS

In the April 2019 to March 2020 fiscal year, Island Nature Trust invested \$1.9 million in land conservation, species conservation, stewardship and operating activities to achieve the many milestones highlighted throughout this report.

Island Nature Trust finished the year in a healthy financial position, with no long-term debt and \$5.8 million in conserved lands. Through the year staff and board members worked to ensure the long-term success of the organization by adding to the Endowment and Stewardship Funds. These practices will support land stewardship in perpetuity to reinstate natural resilience against climate change and other pressures.

Financial statements are audited annually by an external auditor, Fitzpatrick & Co. Investments in the Endowment and Stewardship Funds are subject to an organizational policy and are managed by RBC Dominion Securities Inc. Financial operations are overseen by Island Nature Trust's treasurer, as well as a finance committee. Please contact our office to receive a full copy of the financial statements.

[finance@islandnaturetrust.ca](mailto:finance@islandnaturetrust.ca)



## OUR DEDICATED BOARD AND STAFF

### EXECUTIVE:

June Jenkins Sanderson  
Jan Matejcek  
Rob MacKay  
Linda Berko

### GROUP REPRESENTATIVES:

Gerald MacDougall - *Nature PEI*  
Keila Miller - *PEI Wildlife Federation*  
Kevin Teather - *UPEI Biology Dept.*

### GENERAL DIRECTORS

Mary Acorn  
Patricia Caporaso  
Bruce Craig  
Joyce Dewar  
Jurgen Krause  
Stéphane LeBlanc  
Michael Walsh

### STAFF:

Iain Crowell  
Megan Harris  
Tory Hartley-Cox  
Vicki Johnson  
Brendan Kelly  
Shannon Mader  
Brett MacKinnon  
Lyndsay MacWilliams  
Barb McDonald  
Michael Speelman  
Leanne Tol  
Julie-Lynn Zahavich





# OUTREACH & STEWARDSHIP LEGEND



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1. Walks & Workshops
2. Citizen Science
3. Natural Area Clean-Ups
4. Delayed Hay Program
5. Invasive Species Management
6. Planting & Restoration Projects
7. Cultural Partnerships

## SPECIAL THANKS 2019-20

### LAND DONORS:

Duncan McNeill & Diana Boulton  
Carol Townsend  
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# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020-21



## MEETING INTERNATIONAL TARGETS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

The Province of Prince Edward Island has set a target of 7 % of the landmass or 86,000 acres protected by 2020. INT continues to be a key contributor to natural areas protection and will be working hard to maximize our input to this provincial goal.

## ADDITIONAL NATURAL AREAS TO SECURE

On the back of ambitious targets achieved in 2019 with nearly 1000 acres acquired in one year, we look ahead to achieving a similar acreage target in 2020.



## NURTURING STRONG CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

Prince Edward Island is the most densely populated province in Canada. No conservation-minded organization can reach their goals working in isolation. INT is a partner on several multi-faceted conservation initiatives that we hope will show strong successes in the coming year, including a collaboration to create a new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area, an effort to reduce human impacts in PEI's coastal environment, and coordination of a Maritimes-wide drive to secure coastal and riparian wetland for protection.

## LEADING ECOSYSTEM-BASED STEWARDSHIP

With 5,000 acres in INT's care, we continue to search for resources and diverse knowledge to lead by example in coastal and forest stewardship. Priority actions include prioritizing the silviculture work needed in many of our impacted forest lands, instating early detection protocols for invasive forest insects that are on the horizon, and developing guidelines for best practices in coastal ecosystems.



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COVID-19 has and will continue to impact our conservation and fundraising goals. However, INT is experiencing a phase of strong growth - now more than ever we have an opportunity to increase our impact. Join us in working harder to preserve Prince Edward Islands unmatched natural and cultural heritage.





Piping Plover chick photographed by Sean Landsman for INT



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