



ISLAND
NATURE
TRUST

2020-21 IMPACT REPORT

islandnaturetrust.com



INT

An aerial photograph of a highly fragmented landscape, likely agricultural land, showing a mosaic of green, brown, and orange patches. A large white silhouette of an eagle in flight is positioned in the upper right quadrant, its wings spread wide. The eagle's path leads towards the bottom left, where the text is located. The overall image conveys a sense of scale and the impact of land fragmentation.

REPAIRING A FRACTURED ISLAND

An Eagle-eyed view of Prince Edward Island's fragmented landscape.

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.

What a year! The ongoing effects of climate change and the global pandemic are testing us all greatly. Yet in the face of these disruptions, our small Island community and this Trust is proving to be resilient.

We urge you to take stock of significant accomplishments shown in this report of the last fiscal year – joining the board, staff, membership, and volunteers rejoicing in almost 6000 acres of natural area protected.

Consider what this Island looked like, “back in the day” with old growth forests suitable for harvesting ships masts, pristine rivers with diversity of wildlife, verdant hills, and pastures. Our Island has changed. As far back as the 1700’s, the Governor at Louisburg, was sounding the alarm to Louis XV, “...the woods {in Ile St. Jean} are being needlessly cut....it is necessary to take measures to prevent this disadvantage and establish order and regulation.” INT was founded on this sentiment, and we are acting! Our collaborative efforts with like-minded organizations and individuals are seeing real progress as we support the provincial goal of ensuring that 10% of our Island is protected – forever.

I can’t neglect to mention the education and stewardship component of our work – a critical element of protection in perpetuity. It is wonderful to hear the feedback from those of you who participated in our engagement events or joined forces in the work of stewardship. Your contributions are key and they energize the board.

A sincere thanks to the staff who bring their passion and exemplary skills to the work of the Trust every day. Thank you!

We have walked miles protecting the land of this Island and we “have miles to walk before we rest”.

We will do it together! In the meantime, we hope you will take opportunities to revel in the wonders of nature still on our doorstep. Thanks for taking part in the journey.

With kindest regards,

June Jenkins Sanderson
President



The 2020-2021 fiscal year was unlike any other. The achievements and continued growth experienced in the throws of a global pandemic are a testament to the hard work and dedication of Island Nature Trust’s staff, its board of directors, volunteers, partners and donors.

I’m proud to say that the work and support for Prince Edward Island’s natural landscapes and wildlife are continuing to trend upwards. Banner contributions from both the federal and provincial government, as well as growing engagement from national foundations, corporate partners, private land owners, and individuals shows the Trust is tracking another record breaking year of achievements for 2021-2022.

We are excited to share some of our plans for growth with you, and hope that you will not only follow our journey, but join us in making tangible and meaningful conservation outcomes throughout the province.

Warmest regards,

Bianca McGregor
Executive Director



ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-21

1400+
Islanders
contributing towards
land and species
conservation

**663
Hours**
of monitoring and
clean-up work carried
out by our Beach
Guardians

648 ACRES
2020-2021

+ 5032 ACRES
1979-2019
63 natural areas
in total saved

**51
Volunteers**
protecting Trust
properties

652 Hours
of volunteer work carried
out by dedicated
Conservation Guardians

10 Sponsorships
Nurturing mutually
beneficial
partnerships with
Island businesses

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

7
**Land
Conservation**
New properties
secured last year

4
**Ecological Gift
donations**

397
**Community
Engagement**
People engaged
through outreach,
events and
celebrations



**ISLAND
NATURE
TRUST**

VISION

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

MISSION

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

WHAT OUR NATURAL AREAS DO FOR ALL

Islanders are dependent on the many goods and services that nature provides.

As climate change increases its grip globally, Islanders are becoming aware of the need to preserve a way of life we have taken for granted for so long. For over forty years INT's 'ask' has and always will be a simple but profound one: Help us acquire and protect the natural spaces that sustain our collective wellbeing. On the following pages, explore a birds-eye view of the life giving ecosystems and its myriad of services we acquired in 2020-2021 to protect in perpetuity for the benefit of both wildlife and Islanders.



Cultural

Non-material benefits obtained from ecosystems



Spiritual & inspirational



Educational



Recreational & aesthetic



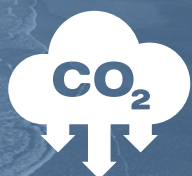
Flood protection



Water regulation & purification



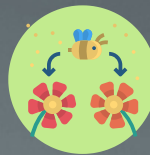
Climate regulation & carbon storage



CO₂

Regulating

Benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes



Pollination



Pest control



Erosion protection & soil retention



Biomass-based energy resources



Provisioning

Products obtained from ecosystems



Food & medicines



Groundwater supply & fresh water



Wood & fibres



Supporting

Services necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services



Soil formation



Nutrient cycling



Biodiversity

LANDS SAVED



On the back of ambitious targets achieved in 2019-2020 with nearly 1000 acres acquired in one year, our goal in 2020-2021 was to leverage this success by increasing protection of coastal and riparian wetland areas in PEI. With a total of 648 acres secured this year, every property except one is home to these dynamic ecosystems. These habitats containing forest and rivers, provide shelter for both land and water species. In addition, every property acquired delivers ecosystem services to Islanders such as fresh water, carbon sequestration and erosion protection.

1 GILLESPIE WOODLAND

A perfect example of important riparian forest. Located along the Indian River; this property belonged to one of the first private landowners to protect under the PEI Natural Areas Protection Act (NAPA) back in the early 1990's. The existence of a beautiful trail system provides opportunities for Islanders to engage with nature.

Donated by Yvonne & Bruce Gillespie.

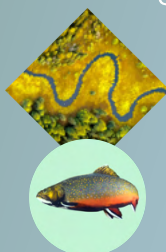
ECOGIFT DONATIONS



The Ecological Gifts Program is administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada. In cooperation with INT, the program provides Islanders with capital gains tax relief for gifts of ecologically sensitive land and partial interests in land.



ECOSYSTEM
LEGEND:
See page 8



2 PENNY'S POINT



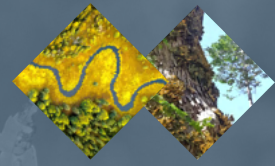
This small coastal parcel hosts important coastline in the Atlantic Maritime ecozone. Its acquisition will allow Island Nature Trust to conserve vulnerable beach-dune and coastal bluff ecosystems while restoring the land back to native coastal forest, once dominated by the Island's red oak and other native hardwoods.

"Penny would have been thrilled to know that the headland is now protected forever. We spent 60 years travelling to Fortune and she loved the area so much. She was concerned about the looming threat of development since our family observed first-hand the surrounding area being steadily built on over the decades." – Tom Welch, Donor

Donated by Tom Welch, Anne Lambert & Nancy Willis



3 MAPLECROSS UPLAND HARDWOOD



This parcel in the Belle River/Lewes area contains remnants of old growth woodlands that are rare in the province. It is one of many properties in the area that INT was eager to acquire and add to this old growth – Acadian Forest – network.

This forest also abuts the homestead property of former Premier and conservationist, J. Angus MacLean. The marriage of these two well-stewarded forest areas secures inter-connectivity and greater movement for wildlife in a larger forested block

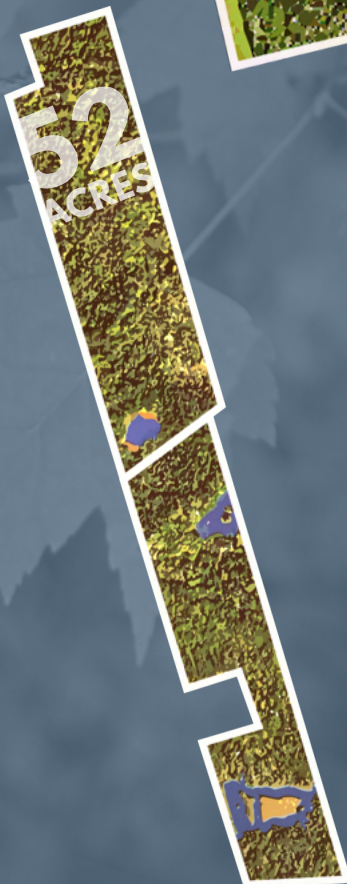
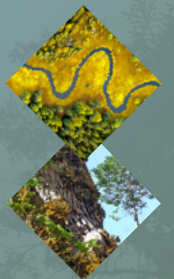
Acquired thanks to the MapleCross Fund and additional generous donations from 25 Islanders.

4 BUOTE HERITAGE WOODS

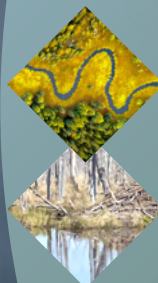


Consisting of upland hardwood forest, this property in central Queens County is habitat to old white pine and hemlock. It contains a picturesque trail system throughout.

Donated by the Buote family



5 FOX RIVER



The two parcels on Norman's Rd in Eastern PEI consist of forests and wetlands of high ecological value, supporting rich networks of biodiversity. These ecosystems are key breeding areas for many migratory songbirds, bats and support rare orchids.

Natural carbon locking systems are prevalent accross the 52 acre property.



6 HANSEN-MACISAAC

INT's largest acquisition to date. The expansive area of continuous forest & wetland in Forest Hill is a natural carbon sink – absorbing significant amounts of CO₂ from the atmosphere. The property contains headwater streams of the St. Peters River near Whitlocks Pond; streams in this area are of significance to Mi'kmaq as traditional travel corridors.

Donated by Carl Hansen & Dan MacIsaac



7 VERNON RIVER RIPARIAN ZONE



Surrounded by an extensively farmed watershed, the ecologically diverse riparian forest provided on this property offers a stable buffer for two headwater tributaries delivering spring water to Vernon River and Orwell Bay.

The refuge is key to the breeding success of wild stocks of Atlantic salmon.

Donated by Garnet & Andrew Schellen



PEI ECOSYSTEMS

LEGEND

'Lands Saved': Page 4

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



COASTAL BLUFFS & SALT MARSH



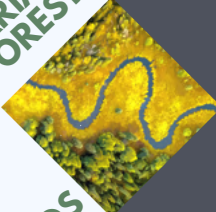
Offering natural protection from the impact of coastal storms. Home to bank swallow and foraging grounds for countless shorebirds, ducks and geese.

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 & RIPARIAN FOREST



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



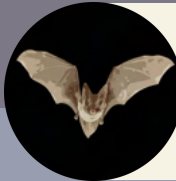
Forest habitat loss in wintering and breeding grounds, pesticide use and increasing extreme weather events are all current factors that may impact on these tiny neotropical migrants.

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.

BROOK TROUT



A native of PEI also known as speckled trout. Brook trout prefer small spring fed streams and ponds with sand or gravel bottom and vegetation.

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.

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 PRIORITY PLACES

A priority place is one identified as being of key importance for the protection of many at-risk species.

In 2018, Canada moved away from species-specific models for their recovery, as several performance measures across the country indicated limited progress in achieving population recoveries in species-at-risk despite concerted efforts and extensive resourcing. Instead a new model focused on protection of habitat was adopted. In Prince Edward Island, there are three habitats identified as priority places that support effectively all of our terrestrial species at risk: the forested landscape, the coastal north shore, and agri-managed landscapes of grassland and open farms.

Species at risk – the most vulnerable in our native wildlife network – are collectively monitored and protected through the efforts of all levels of government as well as non-government organizations.

COASTAL

PEI is 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. These shoreline systems offer natural beauty, but also services – buffering coastal communities from storms and supporting commercially important fish and shellfish species as well as the threatened bank swallow and endangered piping plover.

AGRICULTURAL

Since 2014, INT has coordinated the Farmland Birds program aimed at creating greater awareness of habitat needs for bobolink and barn swallow in rural Island communities. The program continues to see 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 1384 acres in delayed hay cut (after the safe date of July 15th).

FOREST

The federal and provincial governments identified the forested landscape as the most vulnerable to loss in Prince Edward Island. With just 4.4 % of our forests in PEI protected and 87 % of our land mass privately owned, there are significant challenges to protecting forests and returning them to a more diverse, resilient network of ecosystems. INT is contributing to the collaborative effort, through the creation of an early detection – rapid response framework for new invasive species on the horizon (like hemlock woolly adelgid and emerald ash borer) that could devastate some forest types in PEI. In addition, our staff have been hard at work investigating options to incentivize the retention of private forest on our Island.

PIPING PLOVER



40

volunteers assisted in the stewardship of piping plover, with 61 people informed about responsible use of beaches during nesting season

26TH

year of continued stewardship for the Piping Plover Program

25

successful fledglings on 7 nesting beaches – protected from human-related disturbance with signage & symbolic fencing



BOBOLINK



50

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

5TH

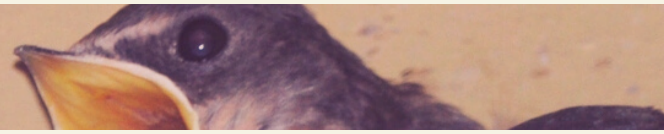
year monitoring Bobolink breeding productivity at select hayfields across PEI

116

Bobolink fledglings were successful in 14 monitored fields across Prince Edward Island



BARN SWALLOW



60

active nests from seven monitored sites across PEI during the 2020 breeding season

7TH

year delivering the Farmland Bird program

203

successful barn swallow fledglings from monitored sites in 2020



BANK SWALLOW



320

kilometers of PEI's shoreline walked, in the search for active bank swallow colonies

95

active colonies were identified as a result of this effort

150

hours worked by volunteers in contribution for the survey effort



ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH



INT is grounded in a culture of problem solving and collaboration. Through alliance building with the local community and institutions, this year we have delivered pragmatic solutions that have enhanced species conservation on our Island. Our staff's ability to pivot effectively in the face of both big and small challenges is what keeps this mission alive.

Last summer INT collaborated with local fishers and the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) to re-home a family of barn swallows that setup a home inside a moored fishing boat in Tignish Harbour.

The nestlings were discovered by INT researchers carrying out a survey of fishing harbours looking for barn swallows – a species at risk.

The pandemic disrupted seasonal fishing, meaning boats that are on the move daily, were now moored for long periods making them the perfect nesting environment for barn swallows.

The decision was made to build an artificial nest, to move the chicks and their parents to a safer location. However, moving the nest didn't work.

Thankfully the AVC stepped in and the chicks were cared for by its vets who – from dawn to dusk, every 30 minutes – fed the young swallows.

As the barn swallows grew, they were moved to a larger enclosure where they could learn to fly, and eat insects. By mid August the young barn swallows were ready to be reconstituted to the wild: a barn home with a nest and other barn swallows almost ready to fledge.

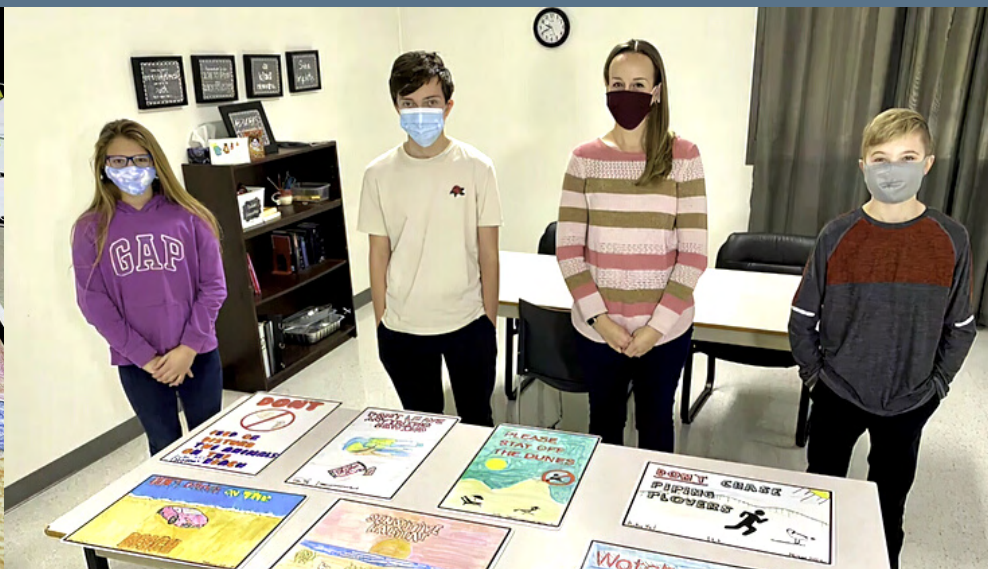


Hurricane Dorian swept through the Island in August 2019 leaving behind a trail of destruction. Extreme weather events such as this are a reminder of just how pivotal INT's unified approach of connecting species conservation to the broader envelop of shoreline protection is for combating the ongoing effects of climate change.

In January of this year, Staff from INT, watershed groups and volunteers walked hundreds of kilometres of P.E.I.'s shoreline looking for colonies of bank swallows. We and our partners were able to identify about 40 sites across the Island, along both the north and south shorelines. With the information gained from observations and drone footage, we noticed a lot of mowing taking place and

very little vegetation holding swaths of cliff together. This coupled with the increasing regularity of high wind events and diminishing protective ice sheets in the winter is putting the bank swallow and the shoreline at an increased risk of decline and erosion.

Sustained surveying and study of the data collected will enable INT to create best management practices for landowners, to protect the bank swallows and consequently the integrity of large areas of PEI coastline.



Earlier this year students from Immanuel Christian School created artwork to help raise awareness of ecologically sensitive P.E.I. beach habitats. The INT Beach Dune Ecosystem curriculum for 7/8 graders teaches children across PEI about engaging with beach ecology responsibly. Inspired by the teachings from INT staff, students created their own awareness signage.

The program now entering its fourth year, gives opportunities for students to learn hands-on in nature. Considering that many children have experienced an extended period of decreased outdoor activity due to the pandemic, the successful delivery of this year's program was a priority.

This Spring the students artwork was printed onto signage and installed at Barachois Beach – home to the endangered Piping Plover.



5 Schools across the province were involved in the Beach Dune Ecosystem program in 2020.

9 classes and 217 students participated.

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

INT staff responded decisively to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing that many Islanders were eager to give back to nature in the midst of this daunting scenario, the Trust moved quickly to ensure that engagement with the public didn't suffer. As a result – with social distancing protocols in place – our yearly Land Conservation Guardian recruitment drive was a roaring success.

We welcomed 16 new guardians, all of whom attended the event hosted at our Ravenwood office location in Charlottetown.

Concluding the training and site visit, each new guardian was assigned to the stewardship of a natural area in their vicinity. The Trust is enormously grateful to our conservation stewards who act as our eyes and ears in 41 of our 60+ natural areas across PEI.



In addition, a citizen science component integral to the success of the Farmland Birds program continued. Landowners and other volunteers are contributing 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.



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 Bennett 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 annual event has raised over \$49,000 for natural areas conservation.

Other community stewardship endeavours included beach clean-up events with 17 volunteers and guardians with help from the province at our natural areas in Percival River and Poverty Beach.

LAND STEWARDSHIP FIELD SEASON

Stewarding land responsibly in the context of protection forever is a significant undertaking. It lies at the heart of Island Nature Trust's mandate for land conservation.

Natural areas maintained by Island Nature Trust have varying needs, including forest diversification through planting of native trees and shrubs missing from the mix, control of invasive species, cleanup of garbage from beaches, wetlands and forest, trail maintenance, and monitoring and enhancement for wildlife use.

Trees and shrubs planted for coastal erosion control at the Princetown Grassland Natural Area, Seacow Head Cliffs Natural Area, and the Neuffer Natural Area

322



188

Trees and shrubs planted as part of forest restoration efforts at the Kildare Forest Natural Area and the Newton Cross Hardwoods Farrell Forested Natural Areas



4605

Plugs of maram grass planted at Cousins Shore & Crowbush as part of ongoing 'soft engineering' dune restoration projects

Pounds of invasive plant species (including purple loosestrife and white clover) removed from the DeRoche Pond Natural Area and the Charles Dalton Natural Area

309



6

Sites surveyed for invasive insects (hemlock woolly adelgid and emerald ash borer)



1327

Pounds of trash removed from the shores of our Acadian Marshes - Percival River Salt Marsh Natural Area and Poverty Beach



Volunteers who came out to various Land Stewardship events this summer, including beach cleanups, plantings, and invasive species removal efforts

40



2

Old culverts removed from streams in our Natural Areas, to help restore the integrity of the waterways



New Conservation Guardians added to our network across the island

25



652

Volunteer hours contributed by Conservation Guardians



Natural Area, Trail Code of Care, and other stewardship signs installed at various Natural Areas throughout PEI

18



7

Autonomous recording units (ARUs) placed in the field to record bird songs and identify species present in various forested areas, in collaboration with the Abegweit Conservation Society



Especially large, old trees hugged while doing fieldwork!

5

OUR GUARDIANS

LAND STEWARDS

51 active and dedicated volunteers.

3 knowledgeable land stewardship staff were hired in 2020.

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

The dedication of our Conservation Guardians is what keeps our stewardship mission alive.

With 63 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 4 years (2016 to 2020). 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.

SPECIES STEWARDS

40 hardworking beach volunteers.

18 new volunteers trained in 2020.

60 motorized tracks observed. Down from 126 in 2019.

172 off leash dogs. Up from 58 in 2019.

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 staff observed a rare instance of breeding red-breasted mergansers (mom and 4 chicks). These birds are nesting in sand dunes and by coastal ponds, but are not common in PEI.



EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

The staff and board of INT drew inspiration and comfort from time spent in the natural environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through our website and social media channels we promoted and invited trail use and offered up customised guides for the public to enjoy our natural spaces responsibly. We spread the message that it's important to get outside and engage with the flavours of nature that our protected natural areas and trails can provide, for the good of Islanders physical and mental health.

Although our Passport to Nature series took a one year hiatus, we didn't allow COVID-19 to completely disrupt the delivery of some summer events. Popular activities, such as the Walk to St Peter's Island were once again on this years' agenda. Staff relished the opportunity to share knowledge in person to incredibly eager audiences as we recognise that we all retain knowledge more effectively when we are immersed and using all of our senses in the learning experience.



The Trust can't thank our donors enough but we strive to do so by hosting yearly engagement events at a newly acquired property. In 2020, donors and supporters were invited to a celebration event at our Crown Point Wji'kijek Natural Area in Alexandra. About 30 people joined INT staff in exploring the area on October 4th, with a group taking part in a nature walk along the headland, and another group kayaking around the point. While enjoying the sunshine, those attending listened to stories about the natural and cultural history of the area – dating back to the time of the Mi'kmaq. Crown Point was known for millennia as Wji'kijek “the place where stumps are found.”

The Outciders: A night-time jaunt under the luminous glow of the full moon – two dozen individuals joined us on a majestic & adventurous fundraising nature walk through our Jenkins Complex Natural Area in Mount Albion in November. The Trust teamed up with Red Island Cider & Bar1911 to host a get together after the walk at Bar1911. Attendees had an opportunity to try one of Red Island Cider's wonderfully tasty drinks.

SPONSORSHIPS & Partnerships

PHILLIPS AGRI SERVICE

Over the last twenty-five years INT and Phillips Agri Services both experienced significant benefits by selling bird seed to their customers and our supporters alike. What started as selling seed on the back of a truck has evolved to become an all-year round fundraising alliance with Phillips Agri Service donating nearly \$100k to the Trust.



MARITIME ELECTRIC

Since 2010, Maritime Electric has supported INT's monitoring and stewardship of the endangered piping plover on PEI beaches. With 60 beaches to monitor and a long summer nesting season, staff and travel budgets are always stretched. The financial assistance and volunteer stewardship of the Maritime Electric team has been critical in maintaining a high standard of monitoring and protection.



RED ISLAND CIDER

This new partnership has seen the popular cidery launch exclusive quince cider in our name and provide refreshments at outdoor INT events such as 'The Outciders' in fall of last year. The ongoing collaboration is regularly promoted and advertised via our social media channels.



COPPER BOTTOM BREWING

This year INT partnered with Copper Bottom's Give Back Initiative. Raising funds for the protection of the endangered Piping Plover, the brewery launched the Plover Helles Lager with a portion of the proceeds going to the Trust.



SABLEARC STUDIOS

Since 2016 SableARC has sponsored stewardship activities of the Trust. Funds have helped us purchase the tools necessary to carry out restoration projects across our natural areas.



SEKISUI DIAGNOSTICS

Together, Sekisui and INT have conducted beach cleanups and planted hundreds of trees and shrubs in natural areas across Queens County. Yearly sponsorships from Sekisui help us carry out our ambitious stewardship mission across 60+ natural areas.



LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

The 'Let's Protect Our Island' collaboration between INT and the PEI Liquor Control Commission is a five year partnership. Purchase of participating products between April and May resulted in a donation to the Trust. \$100k was donated to the Trust since the beginning of the initiative.



**INT is dedicated to
nurturing mutually
beneficial partnerships
with Island entrepreneurs,
businesses, non-profits and
public figures**

HONORARY PATRONAGE

This year the Trust announced its first honorary patron – the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island: Antoinette Perry. Her Honour provides a supporting role to the Trust in promoting its mission to the public at events across PEI.

Her Honour is a proud Acadian who enjoys celebrating her culture through her involvement in community and cultural organizations.



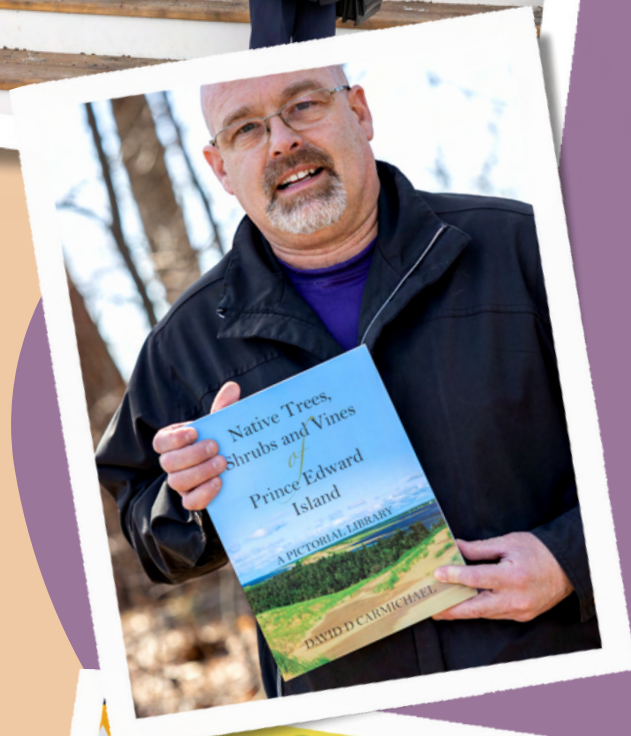
AMERICAN FRIENDS

Since 2018, we are a grantee and partner with American Friends of Canadian Conservation. This American charity is able to provide American taxpayers with charitable tax receipts that can be applied to donors' U.S. income.



ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARD

The Trust partnered with the Community Foundation of PEI to award five scholarships to students in select Island schools involved in environmental issues, sponsored by local Realtor Leigh Jenkins of Century 21.



TUNING INTO NATURE

Teaming up with the PEI Symphony Orchestra for the first time – in the fall of 2020 the Trust and supporters from both organizations enjoyed a unique and immersive sensory fundraising event at our trail in Tryon. Walkers were engaged with nature while listening to six Island musicians representing various musical genres at different spots along the trail.



MERCHANDISE

Last year horticulturist David Carmichael partnered with INT to launch his book *Native Trees and Vines of PEI*. Proceeds of the sale went to the Trust. In addition, artist Heather Millar designed artwork for the launch of a range of Trust t-shirts that went on sale to the public in January. Dave Broderick of Alberton carves and paints a beautiful Great Blue Heron every year – donated for us to raffle and raise funds for natural area protection and stewardship.

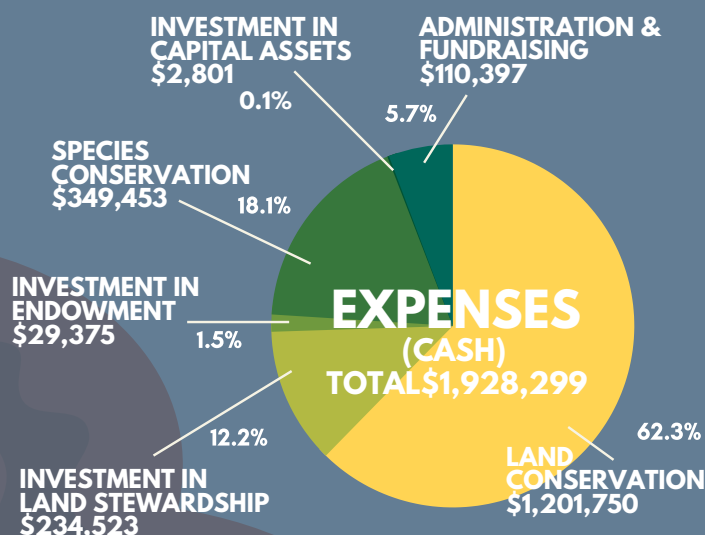
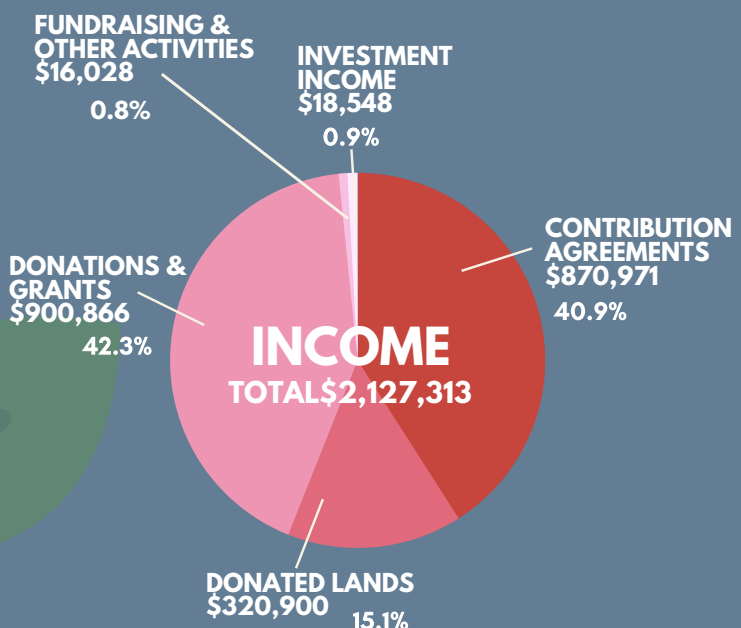


FINANCIALS

This year (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021), Island Nature Trust invested \$ 2.1 million in land conservation, species conservation, stewardship and operating activities to achieve the many accomplishments highlighted throughout this report. Your support made this level of investment possible. The two largest sources of income in the year were donations and grants (42.3%) and contribution agreements (40.9%). Island Nature Trust's expenditures primarily related to land conservation (62.3%) and species conservation (18.1%), with administrative and fundraising costs less than 6% of total expenditures. An additional \$ 2,400 was invested in capital assets and capitalized, therefore not reflected in the expense chart.

Island Nature Trust finished the year in a healthy financial position, with \$ 6.5 million invested in conserved lands. During the year, COVID support was received in the form of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Canada Emergency Business Loan. 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, setting aside 10% of the fair market value of each property acquired in the fiscal year. These practices will support land stewardship in perpetuity to create resiliency against climate change and other impacts.

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.



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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020-21

MEETING INTERNATIONAL TARGETS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

The collective goal of our partners in conservation is to protect 10% of our Island and be the first Province in Canada to reach Net Zero. With a land base of approximately 1.4 million acres, this equates to 140,000 being protected across the Island.

10%

A NETWORK OF NATURAL AREAS TO SECURE

In the midst of a global pandemic, INT secured over 600 acres of wetland and riparian forest in 2020. Our goal this year is to acquire a further 1,500 that lie adjacent to our existing natural areas in fortifying our 'corridors of connectivity' mission.

STRANG RD Ecogift

CROWN POINT Split Receipt

MISCOUCHE Purchase



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 forested, coastal and riparian wetland for protection.

LEADING ECOSYSTEM- BASED STEWARDSHIP

With 5,680 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 at-risk ecosystems. Two areas we are focusing on are increasing biodiversity and promoting resiliency to a changing climate. For example, planting native species such as red oak that are long-lived and projected to do well with climate change.



**INTERESTED IN
DONATING OR
SELLING LAND?**

You have many options and the result is of great benefit to both you and the wildlife you could help to protect. Learn more at islandnaturetrust.ca/conserving-land

Let's have a chat! Contact our Director of Conservation, Megan Harris at conserve@islandnaturetrust.ca or call 902-566-9150



An eagle-eyed view of Elm Road, one of several properties featuring in our 2021 matching campaign. Funds donated towards its acquisition will be doubled by the provincial government.

The Elm Road opportunity in Corraville, Kings County expands on the contiguous provision of wildlife habitat in the headwaters of the ecologically and culturally significant Midgell River. It consists of riparian forests and wetlands of high ecological value, which are significant carbon sinks and a natural remedy against the ongoing effects of climate change.



An aerial photograph of a patchwork landscape with various colored fields (green, brown, orange, red) and a winding river. Overlaid on this is a large, stylized quilt pattern. The quilt consists of several triangular and rectangular patches in blue, red, yellow, and green. The blue patches are solid. The red patch has a white leaf pattern. The yellow patch has a white bird pattern. The green patch has a white tree pattern. The text 'Saving our island' is written in a white, cursive font across the top of the quilt.

Saving our island



ISLAND
NATURE
TRUST

Mending the patchwork landscape that is PEI

Mend a patch, match a patch or add a patch - to make a difference

Our Island is fragmented. Over the past 40 years, Island Nature Trust has been working towards securing a network of protected natural areas across PEI to benefit future generations of Islanders and wildlife.

With growing threats to nature and the environment, we need to bring the remaining untouched patches into protection and, through conservation efforts, mend the ones that have the potential to help us combat the effects of climate change.

Help us stitch back together the ecologically significant patches of our Island and imagine a reconnected natural home - like creating and gifting a family patchwork quilt - passed from one generation to another.

Mend a Patch - donate to our stewardship fund to help our conservation efforts

Match a Patch - donate to our matching campaign to help us acquire over 650 acres

Add a Patch - donate land and INT will protect it from all future development

Learn more & contribute islandnaturetrust.ca/patchwork

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