



ISLAND
NATURE
TRUST

MAR 2024
#160

**BE OUTSPOKEN
FOR NATURE!**

*Dedicated to the Protection
of Natural Areas in Prince
Edward Island Since 1979*

Magazine

INNT



Table of Contents:

1 - 3 Message from the Leadership Team

BE A GUARDIAN FOR NATURE

4 Introduction

5 - 10 Embracing the Guardian Spirit: A Journey of Stewardship

11-12 Nature's Guardians: Messengers from the Heart of Our Natural Areas

13-14 Calling All Coastal Guardians: Protecting PEI's Shoreline Wildlife Through Volunteering

15-16 Passport to Nature

17-19 Privately Protecting Natural Areas on Prince Edward Island: The Story of Kathy Stuart

20-27 Private Landowner's Frequently Asked Questions

BE OUTSPOKEN FOR NATURE

28 Introduction

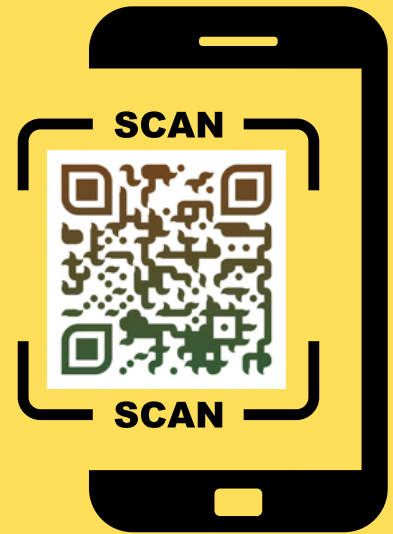
29-31 Strengthening Conservation Through Collaboration

32-35 Nature's Social Media Advocates: Amplifying Conservation Efforts with Island Nature Trust

36-38 Inspiring Your Voice on Social Media

39-40 Advocating for Nature with the Island's online communities

41 - 43 How to follow and share our posts on social media



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Throughout the magazine you will see QR codes accompanying some articles. The codes are a gateway to additional online info & resources.

When you see a code simply open your smartphone camera app, aim at the code and click the pop-up link on your screen. You will then be taken directly to the article or page on your smartphone browser.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

After three plus years as Executive Director of Island Nature Trust, Bianca McGregor has left INT to assume the position of CEO of the Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce. Her last day with the trust was Friday, January 12.

During her time at INT Bianca has made many contributions to our success and culture. She has shepherded the exponential growth of our land holdings and leaves the trust with a solid administrative and financial foundation.

While we're going to miss her dearly, we wholeheartedly support Bianca's decision to enjoy this new opportunity. The board and staff of Island Nature Trust wish to thank Bianca for her expertise, enthusiasm, and dedication to the organization.

We will be hiring a replacement for her role as Executive Director over the next few months. A Search Committee has begun its work.

In the interim, Shannon Mader and Melissa Cameron will share the position as Acting Executive Director(s). Their experience and knowledge will stand the organization in good stead as we begin a new chapter in our history. In addition to their new responsibilities as acting Eds, Shannon will continue as manager of the species-at-risk program at INT and Melissa will also retain her responsibilities as manager of philanthropy.

The Board would like to thank them both, as we all look confidently forward to pursue our mandate at Island Nature Trust. We will keep you posted!

The Island Nature Trust Board of Directors



A GOODBYE FROM BIANCA MCGREGOR

Dear Supporters,

It is with mixed emotions that I bid farewell to the staff, volunteers, donors and partners of Island Nature Trust. My journey with this wonderful organization has been nothing short of remarkable, filled with invaluable experiences and cherished memories that I will carry forever.

While at the Trust, I had the privilege of working alongside some very talented and dedicated individuals. I was on the receiving end of some remarkable and unwavering support, guidance, and camaraderie that not only enriched my professional life, but also left an indelible mark on my personal growth.

I cannot help but feel a tinge of sadness at the thought of parting ways with such an incredibly dedicated group of people that are doing so much good, for the benefit of so many. I will be watching with admiration as you continue to set and meet ambitious land protection targets, strengthen landscape connectivity and wildlife corridors, and ensure critical ecological services for Island communities.

It has been an honour and a privilege to work for the Trust. I love PEI so much. It's my home. Thank you for letting me play a small part in its protection for future generations of people and wildlife to enjoy.

With much pride and gratitude,

Bianca McGregor



LOOKING AHEAD WITH OUR ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear Supporters,

Spring is just around the corner, and here at INT, that means gearing up for another active field season. Over the next few months, you'll see our staff out and about as they host Passport to Nature events, monitor species-at-risk and survey our natural areas.

Spring is a time for hope and renewal, and as we watch the natural world wake up from its winter slumber, we are struck by the beauty and abundance around us. Here at the Trust, we are moving through our own seasons as well. As we bid goodbye to our previous Executive Director, we are committed to taking on the roles of acting co-Executive Directors and to have the opportunity to steward Island Nature Trust in this interim period.

On behalf of the dedicated staff, board members and volunteers at Island Nature Trust, we wish to express our gratitude for your commitment to conservation efforts here on PEI and look forward to connecting with you outdoors (or online!) soon.

Shannon Mader and Melissa Cameron



BE A GUARDIAN *for nature*

In the journey to become a Champion for Nature, our next stop leads us to the realm of hands-on conservation and dedicated stewardship. It's time to 'Be a Guardian for Nature.' This segment celebrates the heart and soul of our conservation efforts, where individuals step into the great outdoors to actively protect and conserve the natural treasures of Prince Edward Island.

Are you passionate about getting your hands dirty, engaging with nature up close, and making a tangible difference in the Island's ecological health? If so, 'Be a Guardian for Nature' might be the path for you. In this feature, we will explore the essence of being a volunteer through Guardianship, the various opportunities for involvement, and the profound impact these individuals have on our mission.

From Passport to Nature events that connect you with the Island's diverse ecosystems to the inspiring stories of volunteers who have taken stewardship to new heights, we invite you to immerse yourself in the world of active conservation.

Discover how your dedication can contribute to the protection of biodiversity and ensure a sustainable future for our Island. Get ready to roll up your sleeves, for in the pages of this magazine, we embark on an adventure with those who are truly 'Guardians for Nature.'





Embracing the Guardian Spirit: A Journey of Stewardship

Welcome to the heart of the 'Be A Guardian for Nature' campaign, where the essence of stewardship intertwines with the call to become custodians of Prince Edward Island's natural heritage. In the realm of conservation, stewardship is the cornerstone, and being a Guardian for Nature is the embodiment of this duty.

At Island Nature Trust, stewardship is not merely a concept; it's a way of life—a commitment to safeguarding our Island's ecological heritage for generations to come. As stewards of over 11,000 acres of land across PEI, we take on the responsibility of monitoring, maintaining, and restoring these treasured ecosystems in perpetuity.

Stewardship goes hand in hand with being a Guardian for Nature. It's about actively engaging with the land, immersing ourselves in its patterns, and standing as protectors against threats both seen and unseen. In essence, stewardship is the tangible expression of our role as Guardians—a pledge to uphold the integrity of our natural world. For in the act of stewardship lies the true essence of being a Guardian for Nature.



Understanding the Role of

THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

What Does “Stewardship” Mean?

Environmental stewardship encompasses the **sustainable use** of resources and the **protection and restoration** of the environment to enhance ecosystem structure and function.

Once Island Nature Trust acquires a property, we become responsible for monitoring and maintaining it in perpetuity to **sustain and enhance** the ecosystems we are protecting.

What Does Monitoring Entail?

INT staff, as well as a group of dedicated volunteers known as Conservation Guardians, are responsible for monitoring each Natural Area **at least once per year**.

During a monitoring visit, the main goal for staff and Guardians is to **look for changes to the natural environment** from a variety of sources, including natural disturbances (i.e., windfall, signs of plant disease), signs of human use (i.e., motorized vehicle tracks, footprints, evidence of camping), dumping, and boundary incursions.



Campfire remnants



Cutting along the property line



Dumpsite



Vehicle tracks

Secondarily, staff and Guardians record information about species occurrences, paying particular attention to document invasive species and species-at-risk.

INT staff use the information received during monitoring visits to **inform future work** on each Natural Area. Whenever possible, INT **prefers to passively manage** Natural Areas, allowing nature to run its course; however, there are instances where interventions are required.



Canada warbler found in Jenkins Complex Natural Area by Conservation Guardian Michael Salter



What Types of Interventions are Needed?

Active work to **mitigate risks** to the Natural Area and enhance ecosystems include cleaning up new and existing dumpsites, controlling access points to block motor vehicles access, infrastructure removal, native species planting, targeted invasive species management, and ecological forestry interventions.

Case Study: Removal of Abandoned Vehicles

The Stewardship team is responsible for **weighing the pros and cons** of engaging in active work on a **case-by-case** basis.

Some of our properties have a history of previous forestry or agricultural activities and therefore roads were once present on the site.

Consequently, our team occasionally finds abandoned vehicles on our properties.

It is up to the Stewardship team to **assess the viability** of removing the vehicles by considering the proximity to a current road, age of the forest, how long the vehicle may have already been there, and availability of funding.



In the summer 2023, two abandoned vehicle sites were discovered in the middle of 30 – 50-year-old established forests. In these cases, removing the abandoned vehicles likely will cause more environmental harm than leaving them in place.



Abegweit First Nation Black Ash Project



PEI Invasive Species Council Workshop for Guardians

Other Stewardship Work

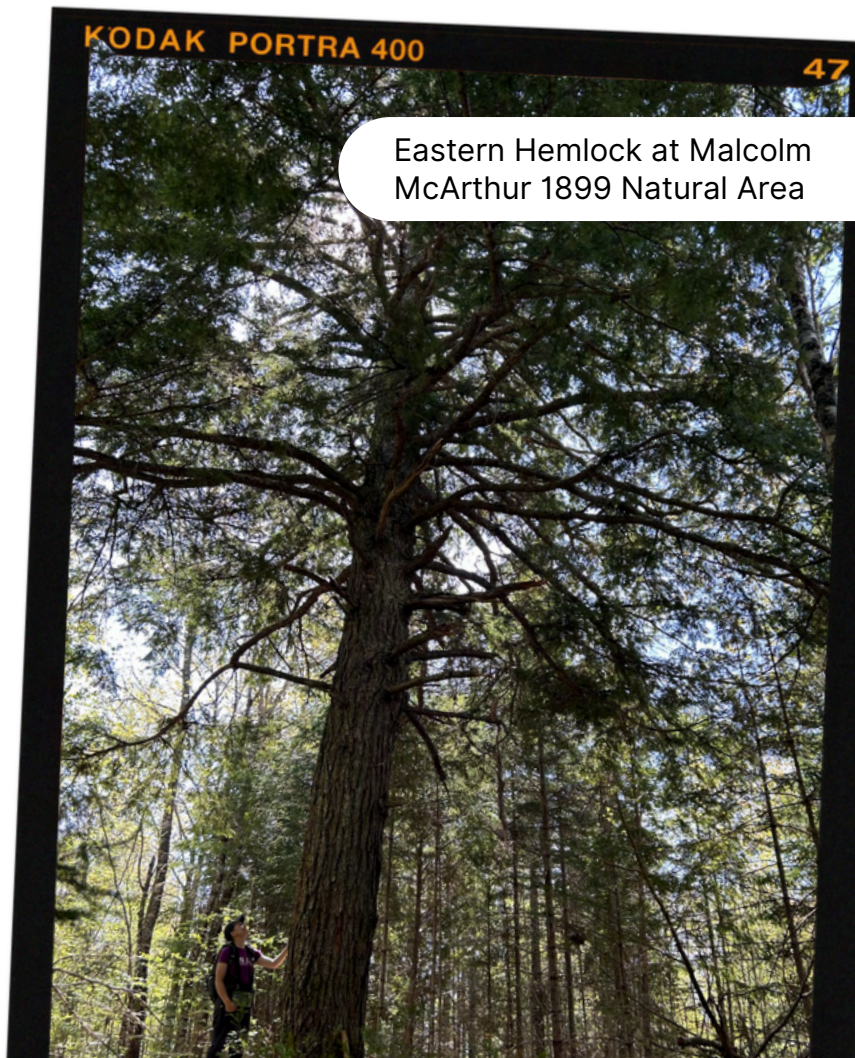
Our Stewardship team is also engaged in other activities, including helping to administer the Conservation Guardian program, maintaining INT’s footpath systems, and erecting directional and educational signage.

We also participate in Island-wide conservation planning, support initiatives by Indigenous-led organizations, and collaborate on projects with other conservation organizations, including watershed groups, the PEI Invasive Species Council, and the Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project.

2024 Field Season Sneak Peek

Our Stewardship team is currently working to plan the 2024 field season. Some of the goals for this season include participating in a project led by the PEI Invasive Species Council to **map eastern hemlock** stands across PEI and engage in a more rigorous sampling process for hemlock woolly adelgid.

Additionally, our Stewardship team will be focusing on planning and implementing **ecological forestry techniques** to restore monocultured plantations that currently exist on INT properties.



Eastern Hemlock at Malcolm McArthur 1899 Natural Area

How you can support

THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM



Volunteer Guardian Event: Planting at Perret McKinnon Natural Area



Volunteer Guardian Event: Krummholz Interpretive Walk with Macphail Woods

Become a Conservation Guardian

Help INT by monitoring an assigned Natural Area and submitting a report at least once per year.

The program also offers opportunities to take part in value-added activities, including interpretive walks, workshops, and hands-on activities.

Email us at engage@islandnaturetrust.ca or call 902-892-7513 for more information



Thank you to the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund for supporting the Guardian programs.

Other Ways to Support the Stewardship Team

Consider participating in our **Seed Tree Sponsorship** program.

Donate directly to INT and **specify** that you would like your donation to **support the Stewardship Team**.





Nature's Guardians: Messengers from the Heart of Our Natural Areas

For over four decades, Island Nature Trust (INT) has been dedicated to the protection of Prince Edward Island's natural landscapes and its at-risk plants and wildlife. In July, the organization achieved a significant milestone, surpassing 10,000 acres of protected land, and it's through the tireless efforts of over 70 dedicated Guardian volunteers that we aim to maintain the ecological integrity of INT's natural areas.

Chris Brennan, a 70-year-old Islander and one of INT's 76 Conservation Guardians, shares his motivation for being a Guardian for Nature: "It's a way to help nature a little and not feel as hopeless and anxious in the face of the major environmental crises we are experiencing."

Established by a group of passionate volunteers in 1979, INT's primary goal has always been the conservation of ecologically significant land. Since its inception, INT has safeguarded more than 100 natural areas on the island, including upland hardwoods, bogs, salt and freshwater marshes and coastal cliffs, beaches and dunes. As Kayle Laverty, Engagement Coordinator at INT explains, "As we acquire more land, our number of volunteers increases. Our volunteers are nature lovers who have a sense of community; they like to share their experiences and their knowledge."

For Guardians like Chris Brennan, the work is diverse and impactful. They engage in activities such as tree plantings and efforts to combat invasive species. They make regular visits to protected natural areas. Conservation Guardians report on human use and disturbance of natural areas, wildlife sightings and rare and invasive species observed. Chris describes his role: "I keep my eyes open for anything that goes wrong. I check that there are no motor vehicles, garbage, illegal tree cutting, invasive insects, that kind of thing."



The vulnerability of the island's forest landscapes, home to many species-at-risk, prompted Chris to step up a decade ago: "Forest landscapes are the most vulnerable on the island. I want to take care of these spaces at my level." In the past decade, he has witnessed remarkable progress in INT's work: "The area of land that they have protected has seen a jump in recent years. Through their work, we are seeing a return to the natural forest as the newly planted trees become established."

Island Nature Trust's mission extends beyond the conservation of land to encompass the conservation of wildlife, including critical species-at-risk initiatives. Among these efforts is the essential Coastal Guardian program, which plays a vital role in the conservation of piping plover and bank swallow populations in PEI. These at-risk coastal species face numerous threats, including habitat loss and disturbance from human activities.

The volunteer Coastal Guardians receive training to assist in monitoring the endangered piping plover and surveying our coastline for bank swallow colonies. Their efforts are crucial in ensuring the survival of these species.

In 2022 alone, staff and volunteers covered an impressive 763 kilometres of beaches. Additionally, they undertook shoreline clean-up initiatives, removing litter and debris to enhance the nesting environment for piping plovers and other coastal wildlife.

Supporting Island Nature Trust's species-at-risk work is vital in safeguarding the future of vulnerable species like the piping plover and bank swallow. Individuals can contribute to these conservation efforts by volunteering their time, participating in educational programs, and making donations to support ongoing initiatives.

In the face of climate change and growing environmental challenges, Chris Brennan encourages Islanders to take greater action: "By actively supporting associations like the Island Nature Trust, we give more power to civil society to put pressure on governments and change things. His optimism is evident as he observes the growing involvement of young people alongside him in the field. Island Nature Trust continues to nurture the spirit of a hands-on approach to conservation, uniting individuals of all ages and backgrounds in a shared commitment to protect the natural beauty of Prince Edward Island.

Calling All Coastal Guardians: Protecting PEI's Shoreline Wildlife Through Volunteering

Do you enjoy long walks on the beach? Do you love talking to people about healthy ecosystems and wildlife conservation? If you answered yes to both questions, you might make a great Coastal Guardian!

The Island Nature Trust species-at-risk team monitors at-risk birds in several Island landscapes. Our successes depend on the help of our incredible volunteers. Volunteering as a Coastal Guardian is an excellent way to explore PEI's beautiful coastline while helping two of our endearing species-at-risk. As a Coastal Guardian, you can survey for and report your sightings of piping plover and bank swallow. Training for Coastal Guardians will occur in early spring, where you will learn how to carry out shorebird and swallow surveys and how to inspire and motivate others to be good hosts to breeding birds along our coast.



Plover surveys start earlier in the season (early April) and should take place two to three times a week until September. Surveys for this species are a great fit for Coastal Guardians who live in or near the communities of Cardigan, Georgetown, Souris, Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings, Saint Peter's Bay, Rustico, or Kensington.

Swallow surveys begin in mid-June and wrap up at the end of July. Surveys for this species involve walking a section of the coastline and recording any bank swallow activity. We have divided up the coast into routes of varying lengths so you can walk as much or as little as you like by signing up for your preferred routes. In 2023, Coastal Guardians helped us cover over 500km of coastline and about half of active plover beaches.

Our ultimate goal is to survey from tip to tip, a feat that is not possible without the support of our volunteers.



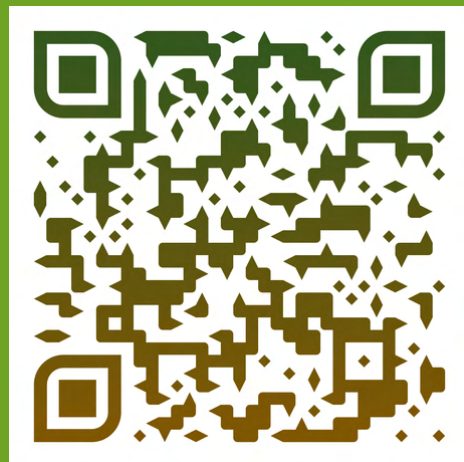
Additionally, volunteers can support the conservation of two farmland species across our province's vast agricultural landscape. The Trust has been engaging with local farmers and landowners since 2014 to conserve bobolink and barn swallow through our Farmland Birds program.

This program aims to raise awareness and provide support for these two species-at-risk. We have experienced tremendous support from local farmers with a variety of initiatives to support the success of these species.

These dedicated volunteers provide us with valuable information on sightings on their properties and may also allow staff to access their properties for monitoring visits. Best of all, many agreed to delay their hay cuts to help mitigate the chance of nest destruction.

If you have bobolink or barn swallow on your property and would like to learn more about how you can help, we encourage you to reach out to us at landbirds@islandnaturetrust.ca

**Interested in
volunteering with us?
Click or scan here:**



PASSPORT FOR NATURE 2024

We are so excited to share the new Passport to Nature event series for 2024! This year, we have added an additional event to our schedule in March. We kicked things off the first week of March with a Track ID Hike and Learn with the knowledgeable John LeLacheur. Following March, there will be monthly events until November. Don't hesitate to register; these events have limited space and will fill up quickly!

Upcoming EVENTS

*March
2nd*

Track ID Hike and Learn

We kicked off Passport to Nature 2024, exploring the exciting world of wildlife track ID at our Jenkins Complex Natural Area. John LeLacheur shared his hands-on knowledge of the subject while we took a hike and enjoy the great outdoors!

*March
14th*

Urban Green Spaces Walk and Talk

Join us for a walk at Fullerton's Creek Conservation Park and hear from our very own Kaylee Busniuk (Land Stewardship Manager) about all the wonderful things these spaces have to offer.

April

Youth Outdoor Survival Skills

Join Mark Arsenault and INT to learn all about outdoor survival skills. We'll learn how to build a lean-to, leave no trace techniques, go over first aid kits, we'll even build a fire together.

May

Spring Ephemerals and Lichen Walk

Join us for a combo walk and talk at our Kildare Forest Natural Area. Iain Crowell, ACCDC Botanist/Lichenologist, will help identify both spring ephemerals and some of our local lichen species!

June

Colony Visit and Book Reading

Let's learn about the beautiful bank swallow, their biology and the threats that they face. We will also have a special guest! Kara Griffin, author of Flitt's Call, will be doing a reading.




I cannot recommend these events enough. I have had the pleasure of working with the Passport to Nature series since I began at Island Nature Trust in 2023. Not only are these events packed with wonderful information, but they are an opportunity to bring people together. Both the leaders of these events and the participants are part of a beautiful community of people who care about our natural areas and the wildlife who call the Island home. The leaders of these events include professional ecologists and biologists, naturalists, and people who have real world experiences in a variety of topics related to our natural world. We are appreciative of all these incredible event leaders who take the time to share their knowledge at these events. Their generosity does not go unrecognized!

For me, being in nature is relaxing and truly brings me happiness. This feeling of calm and experiencing a connection to our natural world is what gives me the drive to protect it. I believe experiencing this connection to any degree makes us all want to learn more and do more to protect our wild friends, both plants and animals. Continued learning benefits us all, and the beauty of our natural world is that there is always something new to learn and experience!

As we set out on this journey of exploration, it's important to recognize the deeper significance behind these events. They serve as gateways to the 'Be A Guardian for Nature' pathway—an invitation to become stewards of our Island's ecological heritage. It isn't just about attending events; it's about embracing a mindset of stewardship and actively engaging in the conservation of our natural world.

We hope to see new and returning faces for Passport to Nature 2024 and look forward to exploring and learning together!

Kayle Laverty

Click or scan here
to register for our
Passport to Nature
events: 



Privately Protecting Natural Areas on Prince Edward Island: The Story of Kathy Stuart and Stuart Memorial Woodland Natural Area

Although Prince Edward Island is the smallest province in Canada, many call it home. This small Island boasts a large variety of landscapes, forests, rolling fields, rivers, wetlands, and beaches, all of which enhance the Islanders' attachment to the land. The Island is roughly 85% privately owned, and many of the landowners are long-term residents or visitors with special ties to PEI's natural beauty. For those with strong ties to the Island and its natural features, it is not hard to see that the pressure of development is decreasing the Island's natural spaces; and for some, the need to conserve these areas for future generations is evident.

In the case of the Stuart Memorial Woodland Natural Area, protection began with the love and passion of one of our valuable donors – Kathy Stuart. Born in 1950, Kathy was raised in Whim Road, a small community situated south of Montague in Kings County, Prince Edward Island (PEI). Kathy now lives in Meadowbank, PEI, where she has been happily settled with her spouse of 40 years. Throughout Kathy's life, she acquired four degrees, including a Masters in Island Studies from the University of Prince Edward Island. In 2010, Kathy won a major scholarship to attend the Australian National University in Canberra as a postgraduate student in environmental history, with a focus on Island biogeography.



Kathy continued to study for her Ph.D. for two years before her retirement in 2012. Now, Kathy spends her time volunteering as Past Chair of the PEI Woodlot Owners Association, being a step-grandmother of four, and expressing her creativity through writing, watercolour painting, and quilting.

Kathy's ties to Prince Edward Island stem from her ancestors, Selkirk pioneers from the Isle of Skye who originally settled in Belle River, PEI, around 1803. Before Confederation in 1867, the Crown granted Kathy's ancestors properties in Whim Road. By 1908, Kathy's paternal grandparents owned a 150-acre farm about one kilometre from where Kathy grew up.

In the late 1940s, Kathy's parents built their home on a 76-acre parcel just down the road from her grandparents; their family home was a labour of love, constructed from lumber harvested using a horse and sleigh.

Over the years, Kathy spent much of her time forming a connection with nature, harvesting firewood, blueberries, maple sap, and fishing trout from the Sturgeon River that runs through the property. During the summer months, Kathy's favourite uncle would visit from Ontario, and they would build trails together, stopping now and then for a drink from "Toothache Spring" – a natural bubbling spring that feeds into that River. Some of Kathy's most fond memories were spent atop a tall red spruce: she explains, "My favourite escape as a child was to the top of a very tall tree that stood alone, way above the treetops; it may have been a long-lived red spruce. From my perch, I could see for miles around, including St. Mary's Bay to the east where Panmure Island is located".

Kathy's father, Leslie Stuart, was a renowned fiddler, WWII war veteran, and a history teacher at Montague Regional High School. Shortly after his retirement, Leslie passed away in 1975, leaving the estate to his wife, Mary Stuart, where she continued to live until her passing in 2004. Kathy described her mother as "an amateur naturalist who loved the outdoors, always discovering new things about the natural world under her stewardship".

In addition to the original homestead, Mary acquired three neighbouring properties containing woodland and wetland, for a total of 255 acres, so that she could protect the original homestead from further development, this would later become the Stuart Memorial Woodland Natural Area, in their memory. Together, Kathy and her mother stewarded this property with the help of the provincial Forest Enhancement Program (FEP).

Along with her brother, Bob, Kathy inherited her grandparent's 150-acre "up the road" property in 1988. Although he lived in Nova Scotia, Bob was active in the development of a program with the Cardigan Fish Hatchery to grow naturalized trout fingerlings in Stuart's Dam which was on the North branch of the Sturgeon River that flowed through their property. Kathy became more active in the management of the resource-rich woodland property after Bob passed away in 1996. Kathy's agreement with the provincial Forest Enhancement Program allowed her to hire a local woodsman who genuinely respected Kathy's goals to preserve biodiversity and protect wildlife. When Kathy inherited her mother's woodland in 2002, she reluctantly sold her grandparents' property "up the road" to a local relative who wanted to live in the community and would provide quality stewardship for the land.



From a young age, Kathy was aware of the strain that development was putting on natural areas and understood the need to preserve them. In 1988, when the Natural Areas Protection Act (NAPA) was first introduced, Kathy was excited about the possibilities to protect the natural features of her land in perpetuity. The NAPA prohibits development and subdivision, so when the time came for Kathy to pursue formal protection of her parent's property to ensure its perpetual protection, she subdivided the old homestead from the rest of the property and sold it to a young Island family. It took several years of working with biologists and staff at the Forestry Department, but by 2017, the four parcels that made up the property became designated under the NAPA in her parents' memory. Once that was done, Kathy decided to donate the Stuart Memorial Woodland Natural Area to Island Nature Trust sooner rather than after her own passing. Since Kathy had prioritized protection and sustainable stewardship over keeping the property in the family for generations, donating the property to Island Nature Trust seemed like a "No brainer."

Kathy's story is one of many – and her contributions are priceless. Regardless of your goals, there are options for those who want to protect the Island's natural ecosystems. Whether you want to actively steward your land by increasing biodiversity and resilience or allow the land to naturalize passively; if you want to protect your land and pass it down for future generations to enjoy or donate later, it is easier when we work together.



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Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



Private Landowner's Frequently Asked Questions:

Many of Prince Edward Island's residents have strong ties to the Island and would like to see the natural features that define the landscape preserved for future generations to enjoy. There are several options for private landowners who are interested in protecting their properties from future development and conserving the land's natural features. Island Nature Trust has an "[Options booklet](#)" available for people interested in exploring land conservation opportunities.

For landowners who want to keep their properties in their family for future generations, but also want to ensure that they are not developed in the future, using a legal mechanism such as the Natural Areas Protection Act (NAPA) might be the right option. Protecting land under the NAPA is a big decision, and big decisions are often paired with several questions. We hope to answer a few of them here today.

WHAT TOOLS OR OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO CONSERVE MY PROPERTY?

Legally designating your property under the NAPA or Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA)

- NAPA is the gold standard of land protection for property and includes a restrictive covenant that is bound to the property's deed in perpetuity – this is usually reserved for ecologically significant or sensitive land that may contain unique ecosystems or habitats for species at risk. Designated lands can be owned and sold, but they cannot be developed or subdivided. There are often heavy restrictions on NAPA-protected properties, which is why NAPA is more suitable for established parcels that do not require work or maintenance.
- WCA is generally more flexible and can allow for more management opportunities and is generally more suitable for parcels that are managed for specific species or wildlife groups. Land can be designated under the WCA for a term (i.e. 20 years), or in perpetuity, these lands can also be owned and sold, but cannot be developed or subdivided while designated.



ACTIVELY STEWARDING YOUR PROPERTY WITHOUT DESIGNATION



Applying for the provincial Forest Enhancement Program (FEP).



Working with local watershed groups (i.e. Managing invasive species along streams or planting trees in the riparian zone).



Attending free information sessions environmental groups hold to learn more about land stewardship.



Reporting rare and invasive species – and posting them on iNaturalist.



WHY WOULD I PROTECT MY LAND?

Protecting land under the NAPA provides benefits such as:

- Biodiversity conservation
- Climate change mitigation
- Preservation of natural areas for future generations.
- Provincial property tax exemption

WHAT LAND CAN BE DESIGNATED UNDER THE NAPA?

For land to be protected through the NAPA, it must meet the definition of a natural area. Under the Natural Areas Protection Act, a “**natural area**” is described as a parcel of land that:



contains natural ecosystems or constitutes the habitat of rare, endangered or uncommon plant or animal species.



contains unusual botanical, zoological, geological, morphological or palaeontological features.



exhibits exceptional and diversified scenery.



provides a haven for seasonal concentrations of birds and animals.



provides opportunities for scientific and educational programs in aspects of the natural environment.

For properties or portions of properties that currently do not fit within the scope of the Natural Areas Protection Act, a landowner can explore other options for conservation, such as the WCA. Properties designated under the WCA contain land that supports wildlife and its habitat.

What activities are prohibited on NAPA-designated land?

The above is as specific under Section 3 of the Natural Areas Protection Act.

Exceptions may be granted for prohibited activities for management or public interest purposes if pursuant to the Act.

For properties or portions of properties that may require more management that do not fall within the scope of the Natural Areas Protection Act Regulations, a landowner can explore other options for conservation, such as the WCA.



Cutting,
destroying or removing of trees, shrubs or other vegetation



Planting
or otherwise introducing non-native plant or animal species;



Operating snowmobiles,
dune buggies, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles or any other motor vehicles;



Creating,
constructing or paving roads or other rights-of-way, driveways, docks, landing strips or parking lots;



Erecting
or constructing buildings, signs, fences or structures of any kind;



Dumping,
filling, excavating, mining, drilling, dredging or otherwise adding or removing topsoil, loam, gravel, sand, rock, minerals, gas or petroleum products or other surface or sub-surface material of any kind;



Constructing,
drainage ditches, dams, retaining walls, transmission towers and lines, pipelines or other undertaking which affects the topography of the land.

WHAT IS PERMITTED ON NAPA-DESIGNATED LAND?

Legally designated areas can still be enjoyed and maintained, as long as the activities that you wish to carry out are outlined in the NAPA restrictive covenant or other corresponding documents.

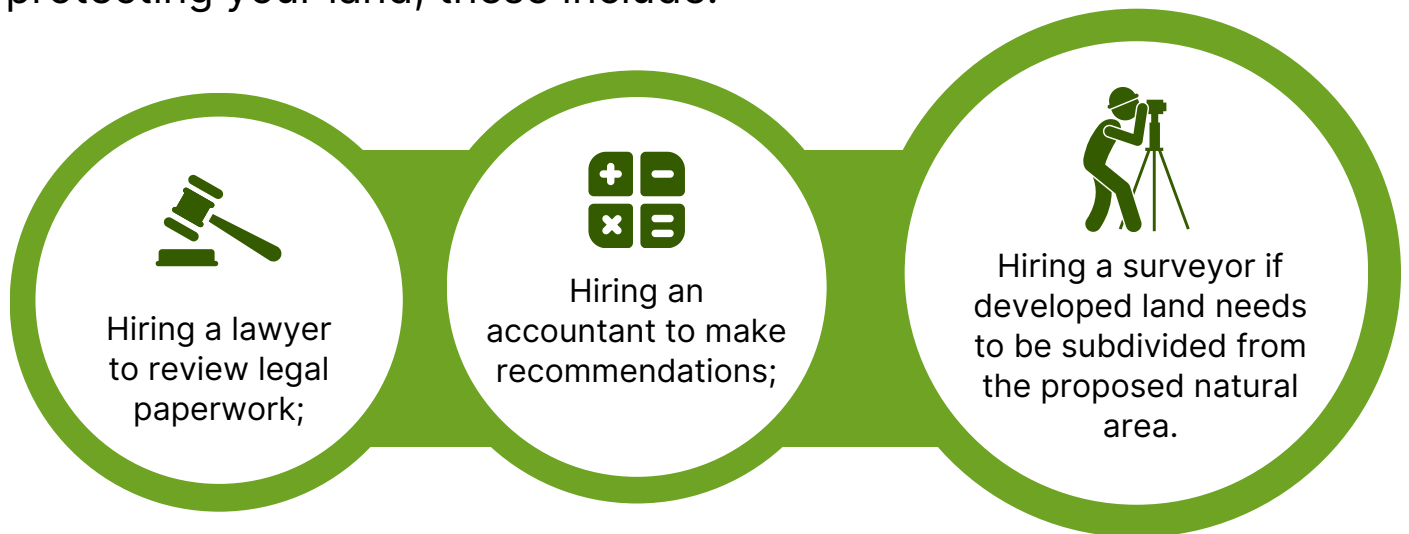


CAN I REMOVE THE NAPA DESIGNATION?

The NAPA is a permanent mechanism used to protect ecologically significant areas in PEI; these areas are designated as “Natural Areas” and will be conserved in perpetuity. Designation can only be removed from public natural areas on Crown land, by the Minister of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action under very special circumstances which are outlined under Section 3, subsection (3) of the Natural Areas Protection Act.

Are there any costs associated with designating my property under the NAPA?

There are some circumstances where costs may be associated with protecting your land, these include:



Costs may also be associated with the construction of a Forest Management Plan for the property or other stewardship work (i.e. planting trees, and silviculture activities).

How will protecting my land impact the property's value?

Protecting your land under the NAPA, or other legal mechanisms removes development rights for the property, which will decrease the Fair Market Value of the land. This means the land cannot be developed, commercially harvested, or converted in any other way in perpetuity.



How long does it take to protect my land?

The length of time it takes to protect your land is variable and depends on whether you need to subdivide, perform a survey, have documents reviewed by a lawyer or accountant, etc. since these activities will increase the amount of time. Generally, protecting land under the NAPA takes approximately 6-12 months.

Who can help me protect my land?

1. INT and the Province
2. Other land trusts
3. Ducks Unlimited
4. Nature Conservancy of Canada
5. Municipalities

If we have not answered your questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, and ask!

For more questions about private stewardship, contact:

Cassandra Stoddart (Private Stewardship Coordinator)

cstoddart@islandnaturetrust.ca

For other questions, please get in touch with our

administrator – admin@islandnaturetrust.ca

Or call – (902)892-7513



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Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

**Click or scan here to
download
'Protecting Natural Areas
in Prince Edward Island:
A Landowners Guide'**





BE OUTSPOKEN *for nature*

In the digital age, the power of voices and connections cannot be underestimated. It's time to 'Be Outspoken for Nature' as we continue our journey to becoming a Champion for Nature. This segment is dedicated to those who can amplify their passion for conservation and our Island's natural beauty through the digital realm and peer-to-peer advocacy.

Are you digitally savvy, socially conscious, and eager to make a difference without leaving the comfort of your online world? 'Be Outspoken for Nature' is the path that allows you to raise your voice for nature and spread awareness about the importance of conserving Prince Edward Island's biodiversity.

In this feature, we will dive into the world of digital advocacy, providing you with resources and insights to effectively champion INT's mission online.

Discover how you can be a vital part of the digital conservation movement, and how collaboration with our partners plays a dynamic role in our collective mission. 'Be Outspoken for Nature' is not just a call; it's an opportunity to use your voice to drive positive change, foster collaboration, and celebrate the beauty of our Island home.



Strengthening Conservation Through Collaboration

INT'S VITAL NONPROFIT PARTNERSHIPS

Conservation is a collective effort that requires collaboration and active participation from various organizations and individuals. Island Nature Trust (INT) recognizes the importance of forging partnerships with like-minded organizations to achieve its mission of protecting Prince Edward Island's natural heritage. These partnerships extend beyond shared goals; they represent a shared commitment to conservation and the collective responsibility we hold to safeguard our environment. By engaging with these organizations and amplifying their efforts on social media, individuals can play a vital role in advocating for nature and supporting INT's conservation initiatives.

Don't forget to like, follow, and share content from these organizations on social media, and inform yourself by visiting their websites to stay updated on their latest initiatives and opportunities for involvement. Join the conversation and Be Outspoken for Nature today!



Abegweit Conservation Society: With a focus on Indigenous-led conservation efforts, Abegweit Conservation Society collaborates with INT to conserve and protect the natural heritage of Prince Edward Island.

Website: <https://abegweitconservation.com>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/abegweitconservationsociety/>



Community Forests International: Dedicated to community-led forestry initiatives, [@forestsinternational](https://www.forestsinternational.org) empowers local communities to sustainably manage and protect forested areas. Their collaborative approach aligns closely with INT's goals of promoting forest conservation and community engagement.

By supporting community-based forestry projects, Community Forests International contributes to the long-term stewardship of forest ecosystems on Prince Edward Island and beyond.

Website: <https://forestsinternational.org>



Ducks Unlimited: Focused on conserving vital habitats for waterfowl and other species, [@DUCAtlanticCanada](https://www.ducks.ca) plays a crucial role in safeguarding wetlands. Their expertise and resources complement INT's efforts in wetland conservation.

Website: <https://www.ducks.ca>

Environmental Coalition of PEI – Eco PEI: Eco PEI works towards environmental sustainability and advocates for conservation efforts in Prince Edward Island. Collaborating with INT strengthens the collective impact on environmental issues.

Website: <https://www.ecopei.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ecopei/>



Forest Fish and Wildlife Division, PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action: This provincial government division plays a critical role in managing and conserving PEI's forests, fish, and wildlife resources. Collaboration with INT enhances efforts to protect biodiversity and promote sustainable resource management.

Website:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/environment-energy-and-climate-action/forests-fish-and-wildlife>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FishWildlifePEI/>



L'Nuey: Focusing on Indigenous-led conservation, L'Nuey collaborates with INT to protect and preserve the natural landscapes of Prince Edward Island, honoring Indigenous knowledge and practices in environmental stewardship.

Website: <https://lnuey.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lnueypei/>



MacPhail Woods: A nonprofit organization dedicated to forest restoration and education, @MacPhailWoods aligns closely with INT's goals of protecting and restoring forest ecosystems. Their partnership strengthens efforts in sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

Website: <https://macphailwoods.org>



Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI: As representatives of the Mi'kmaq people on Prince Edward Island, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI plays a crucial role in protecting Indigenous rights and promoting environmental stewardship. Collaboration with INT supports efforts to integrate Indigenous perspectives and practices into conservation initiatives.

Website: <https://mcpei.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MikmaqConfederacyofPEI/>



Nature Conservancy Canada (PEI chapter): Dedicated to protecting natural habitats, @NCC_CNC shares INT's commitment to conservation. Their collaboration facilitates the acquisition of ecologically significant lands, expanding the protected areas network on the Island.

Website: <https://www.natureconservancy.ca>



Nature PEI: Promoting the appreciation and understanding of PEI's natural heritage, @NaturePEI enhances public engagement and fosters a deeper connection with nature among Islanders. Collaborating with INT amplifies conservation efforts and encourages community involvement.

Website: <http://naturepei.ca>



Parks Canada: Managing national parks and historic sites @ParksCanada shares INT's goal of conserving natural and cultural heritage. Collaboration facilitates the exchange of expertise and resources, contributing to broader conservation initiatives.

Website: <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/pe/pei-ipe>



PEI Invasive Species Council: Combatting invasive species is integral to protecting native biodiversity. INT collaborates with @peiinvasives to implement invasive species management strategies helping to mitigate the threats posed to PEI's ecosystems.

Website: <https://peiinvasives.com>



PEI Watershed Alliance & Watershed Groups: With a mission to protect and enhance the Island's watersheds, @PEIWatershed provides valuable support in managing water resources sustainably. Collaborating with INT strengthens efforts to conserve riparian zones and maintain water quality. There are 25 community-based watershed groups on the Island working on their local wildlife habitats.

View them all here: <https://peiwatershedalliance.org/groups/>

Website: <https://peiwatershedalliance.org>

In the pursuit of safeguarding Prince Edward Island's natural landscapes and biodiversity, Island Nature Trust recognizes the indispensable role of collaboration with various conservation partners. These partnerships are instrumental in advancing INT's mission and ensuring the protection of the Island's precious ecosystems.

Nature's Social Media Advocates: Amplifying Conservation Efforts with Island Nature Trust

Conservation isn't solely the responsibility of organizations or governments; individuals hold immense power to drive change, especially in the digital era. Social media platforms serve as potent tools to amplify voices and advocate for crucial causes like environmental conservation. Here's how you, as an individual, can leverage your social media channels to support Island Nature Trust and contribute to conservation efforts:

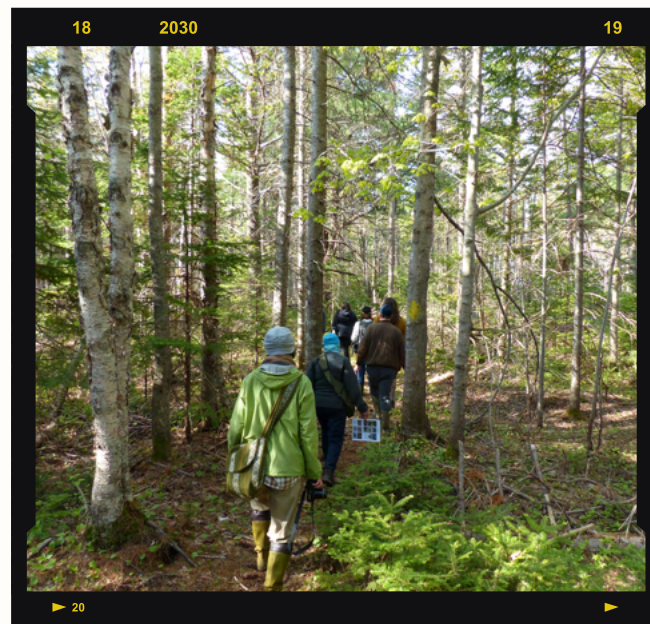


SHARE THE STORY:

Your social media channels are a canvas to paint the picture of environmental importance. Share the compelling stories behind Island Nature Trust's conservation efforts. Share INT publications such as our annual [Impact Report](#) and [Quarterly Magazine](#), which feature success stories about protected land to ongoing ecosystem stewardship initiatives, every narrative contributes to raising awareness.

EDUCATE AND INFORM:

Become a source of knowledge. Share informative articles from our [website news](#) section and resources page or videos from our [YouTube channel](#). Highlight the significance of biodiversity, the impact of climate change, and the importance of protecting PEI's natural habitats.





AMPLIFY CAMPAIGNS:

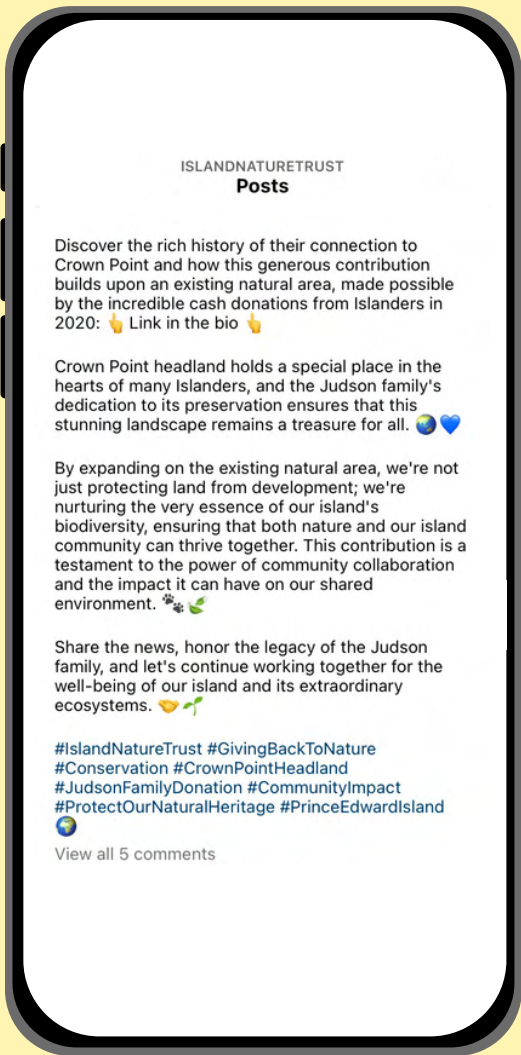
When the Trust launches a campaign or initiative, be the amplifier. Share campaign messages or donation drives to your audience. Encourage participation and engagement within your network.

Featured Campaign: Protecting the Wabanaki-Acadian Forest

CREATE ENGAGING CONTENT:

Put your creativity to work! Generate content that captivates your audience's attention. Share personal experiences about your interaction with nature, photos of local flora and fauna, and involvement in Trust-related events, such as the Passport to Nature series.





USE HASHTAGS AND TAG THE TRUST:

Maximize your content's reach by using relevant hashtags and **tagging Island Nature Trust in your posts**. This increases visibility and creates a direct connection to the Trust's official channels.

- [@IslandNatureTrust](#)
- [#IslandNatureTrust](#)
- [#GivingBackToNature](#)
- [#AdvocateForNature](#)

ENCOURAGE ACTION:

Don't just inform—motivate action. Encourage your audience to participate in Passport To Nature events, workshops, clean-up drives, volunteer for the Trust's guardians programs, or donate to specific conservation campaigns such as the [Protecting the Wabanaki-Acadian Forest](#).

ENGAGE AND FOSTER COMMUNITY:

Initiate conversations around conservation and be outspoken. Engage with your audience by asking questions or discussing pressing environmental issues. Cultivate a community that shares your passion for conservation.





With the funding support of:



COLLABORATE AND NETWORK:

Connect with like-minded individuals, influencers, or organizations passionate about conservation. Collaborate on initiatives or joint campaigns to widen the impact of your advocacy.

MEASURE IMPACT AND CELEBRATE MILESTONES:

Track your advocacy efforts. Measure engagement metrics, the reach of your posts, and the responses received. Celebrate milestones achieved, whether it's increased awareness, funds raised, or community involvement.

PERSIST AND STAY INFORMED:

Conservation advocacy is a continuous journey. Stay updated on environmental issues and changing trends. Stay in touch with Trust news and initiatives by subscribing to our [mailing list](#) and following us on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Persist in your efforts even when challenges arise.

You possess the power to spark conversations, inspire action, and drive change. By dedicating a portion of your online presence to advocating for conservation and supporting Island Nature Trust, you become a crucial voice in the collective effort to preserve our planet's natural treasures for generations to come.

Each share, like, or comment contributes to a greater cause—so wield your social media presence as a force for positive change and let your advocacy echo across digital landscapes.



Click or scan here to subscribe to our mailing list

Inspiring Your Voice on Social Media

In today's digital landscape, social media isn't just a platform for sharing updates—it's a powerful tool for advocacy and change. Across Canada, everyday individuals are stepping into the spotlight, using their online presence to champion conservation causes and inspire meaningful action. As Island Nature Trust continues its critical work to protect Prince Edward Island's natural heritage, it's time for each of us to realize the potential of our own voices on social media and become confident advocates for conservation.



Think of the influencers you admire—their impact often stems from their authenticity and consistency in sharing their passions and beliefs.

Take **Emily Chung (@mle_chung)**, for example, a science journalist with CBC News. Through her engaging storytelling, Emily has sparked conversations about environmental issues, encouraging her audience to take notice and take action.

You can follow in her footsteps by sharing your own experiences with Island Nature Trust's conservation efforts, inspiring others to join the cause.

Alexandra Cousteau, granddaughter of legendary explorer Jacques Cousteau, is an environmental advocate and water policy expert. Through her Instagram account, **@acousteau**, and **Facebook page**, she shares stories about water conservation, marine ecosystems, and sustainable living practices, inspiring her followers to be mindful of the planet.



Dr. David Suzuki, a renowned Canadian environmental activist, scientist, and broadcaster. Dr. Suzuki has a significant presence on both Facebook and [Instagram](#), where his foundation regularly shares posts about environmental issues, conservation efforts, and ways individuals can make a difference. Their engaging content resonates with a broad audience, inspiring followers to act and support causes related to protecting the environment.

On Facebook, [@DavidSuzuki](#), has thousands of followers. The foundation shares articles, videos, and updates about environmental activism, providing valuable insights and resources for his audience to stay informed and engaged.

David Suzuki's consistent advocacy has inspired countless individuals to become stewards of the environment. Likewise, by regularly sharing posts about Island Nature Trust's work on your social media channels, you can amplify the organization's mission and inspire others to get involved.



And then there's Dr. Roberta Bondar ([@RobertaBondar](#)), whose passion for conservation shines through her advocacy efforts and her passion for avian photography. As Canada's first female astronaut, Dr. Bondar has a unique perspective on our planet's fragility and the importance of protecting it. By following her lead and sharing your own conservation stories, you can motivate your followers to take meaningful action and support Island Nature Trust's initiatives.



Lastly, a prominent Indigenous journalist and author, Tanya Talaga ([@TanyaTalaga](https://twitter.com/TanyaTalaga)) often shares insights into Indigenous perspectives on environmental stewardship and land conservation. Through her Twitter account, she amplifies the voices of Indigenous communities advocating for environmental justice and protection of natural resources.

But you don't have to be a celebrity to make a difference. Your voice matters, and your social media posts have the power to inspire change. Whether you're sharing photos of your favorite hiking spots, discussing the importance of biodiversity, or highlighting Island Nature Trust's conservation projects, every post contributes to a larger conversation about protecting our planet.

So, let's harness the influence of social media to amplify our collective voice for conservation. Be confident, be consistent, and be unapologetic about sharing your passion for nature. And don't forget to include Island Nature Trust's handle, [@IslandNatureTrust](https://twitter.com/IslandNatureTrust), in your posts to raise awareness and inspire others to join the movement.

Together, let's make a difference—one post at a time.





Advocating for Nature with the Island's online communities

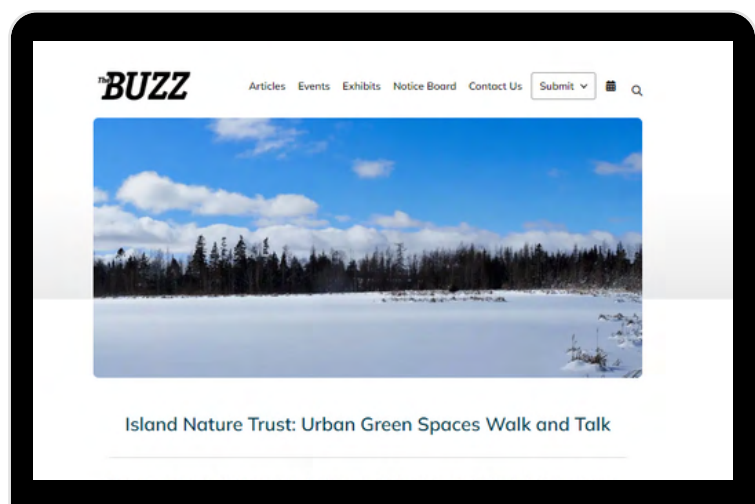
As Island Nature Trust's Content Specialist, spreading the news about our events and updates is crucial to create awareness and hopefully encourage our community to advocate for nature. One effective way we do this is by sharing our news on local Facebook groups. This helps us inform people about important updates, conservation efforts, and upcoming events. It also allows members of our community to interact with our content and show support for our work.

This approach isn't exclusive to us; any organization can use it to boost engagement organically. By actively participating in these groups, it has helped us increase attendance at our events and grow the numbers of people we reach and engage with our social media content. To increase our outreach, we collaborate with other vital organizations in our community, such as platforms like [the Buzz](#) community events' board, have proven to be successful in ensuring our events gain visibility within the community. As the go-to guide for what's happening on PEI, they've helped us reach a broader audience and foster a sense of community engagement.

“Over the last three decades, [The Buzz](#) has really become a staple of the Island diet — as a way for people and communities to connect, for all the talented and creative folks to promote themselves to both locals and visitors, and for businesses to get their messaging out to tens of thousands of readers every month.

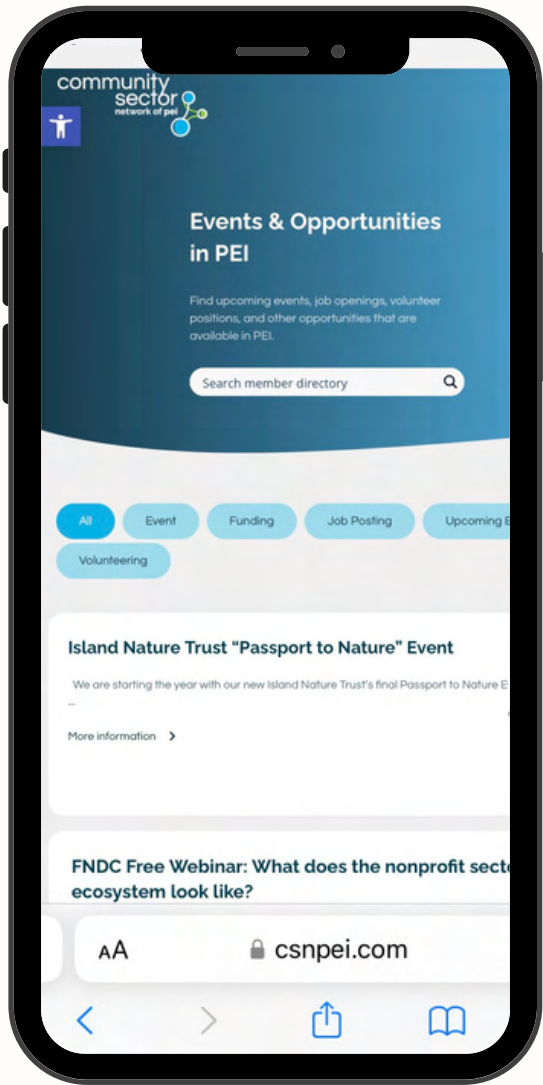
“New Buzz Day” is in itself a monthly cultural event on PEI.”

Yanik Richards,
[The Buzz PEI](#)



Additionally, the Community Sector Network of PEI have helped us amplify our message by featuring our news and events in their newsletter and website, aligning with their mission of developing an empowered community sector using its collective voice for change.

Moreover, we greatly appreciate the support from the Island Studies newsletter, which consistently shares our goals, updates, and events through their channels. Their collaboration allows us to extend our reach and connect with more people who are passionate about PEI and share a deep connection to our Island.



“CSNPEI was formed to strengthen and promote PEI's *community sector*. It aims to raise awareness about the sector's importance, foster collaboration among members, advocate for its needs, and ensure access to necessary resources.”

The community sector refers to a range of organizations, groups, and initiatives that work to address social, cultural, economic, and environmental issues. These organizations and groups may be nonprofits, charities, social enterprises, community development organizations, advocacy groups, and volunteer organizations.

Alexia Riche,
The Community Sector Network of PEI

Through these resources, we've strengthened our ability to spread awareness, build community connections, and collectively advocate for nature. We're incredibly grateful to these organizations for their unwavering support. Together, we've amplified our message and reached more people. Without your continued support, we couldn't continue making a positive impact and inspiring others to look around and understand the importance of protecting our Island.

Thank you for helping us make a difference!

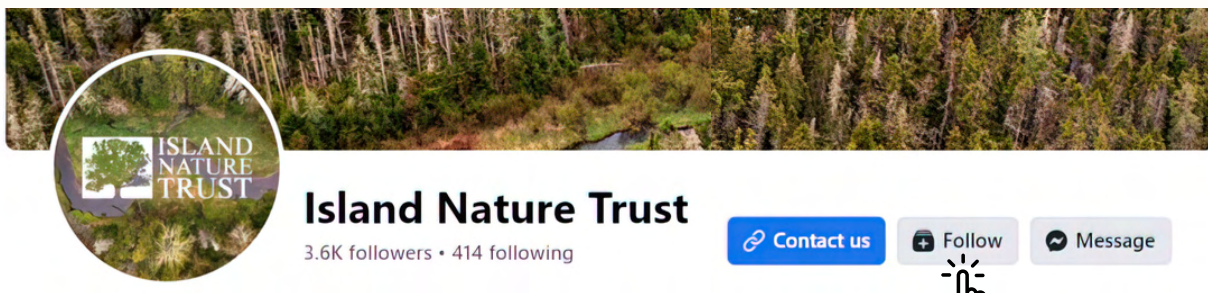
How to follow and share our posts on:

FACEBOOK



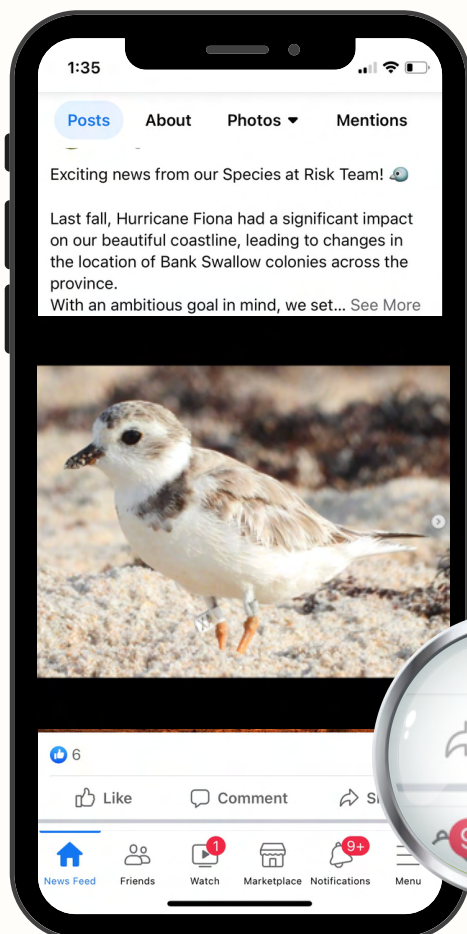
1.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to reach our page facebook.com/islandnaturetrust



2.

Click the "Follow" button at the top of the INT page.



3.

Click the "Share" Button on the post you would like to share.

Write something if you wish to comment on the post for your own followers to see.

How to follow and share our posts on:

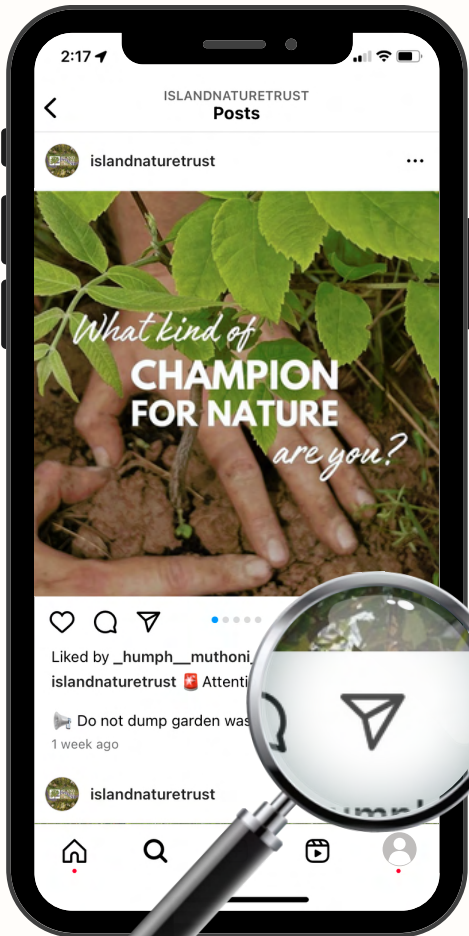
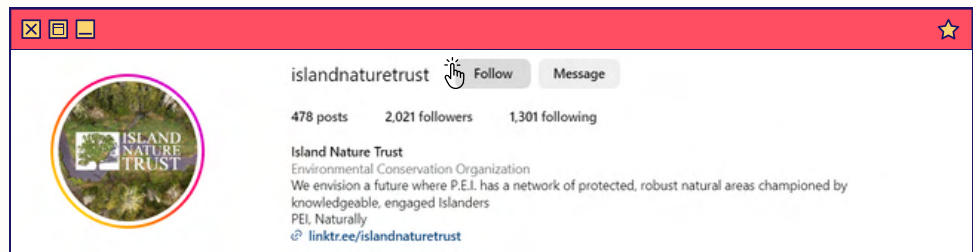
INSTAGRAM



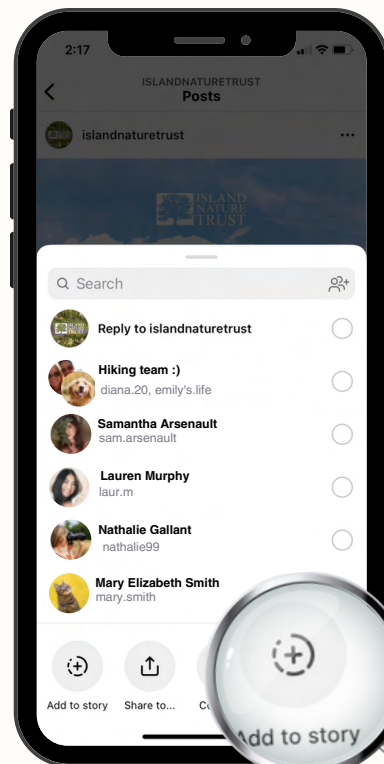
1. Scan this QR code with your smartphone to reach our page [instagram.com/islandnaturetrust](https://www.instagram.com/islandnaturetrust)



2. Click the "Follow" button at the top of the INT page.



3. Click the "📁" button on the post you would like to share.



4. Finally, click the "Add to Story" button.

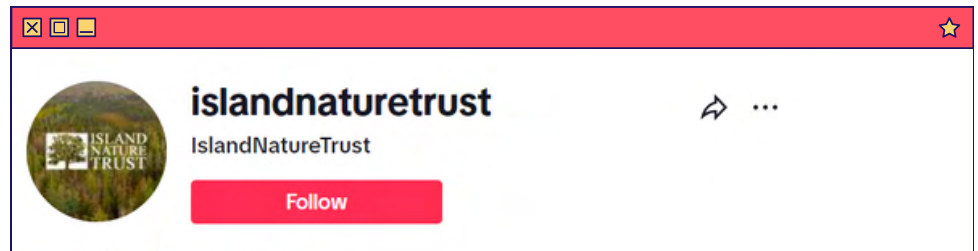
How to follow and like our posts on:



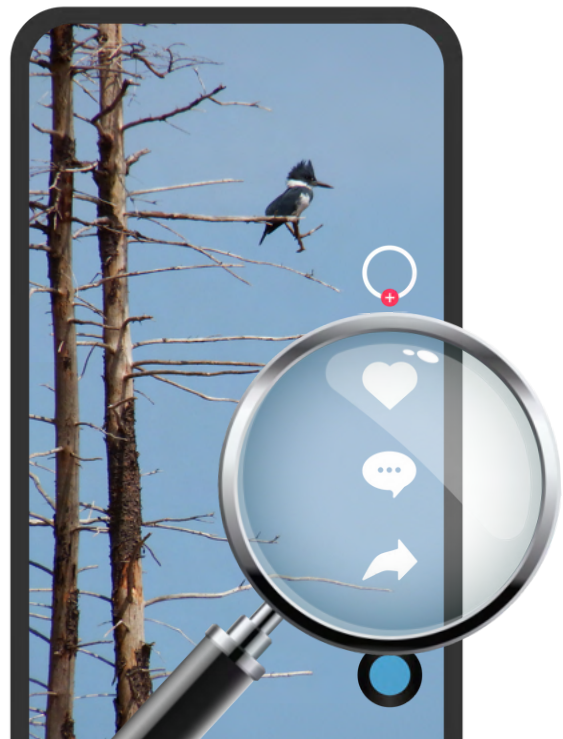
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<https://www.tiktok.com/@islandnaturetrust>



2. Click the "Follow" button at the top of the INT page.



3. Click the "❤️" button on the post you would liked.



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[instagram.com/islandnaturetrust](https://www.instagram.com/islandnaturetrust)



<https://www.tiktok.com/@islandnaturetrust>

Send us a message



INVEST IN NATURE



Invest in Nature is a pathway to support Island Nature Trust for those who are passionate about protecting the natural beauty of Prince Edward Island and securing a sustainable future through financial contributions and land donations. Discover the direct and immediate ways you can invest in the Island's ecological health and support the mission of Island Nature Trust.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO INVEST IN NATURE?

Being an investor in nature means directly contributing to the protection and conservation of Prince Edward Island's natural landscapes. Your support not only strengthens the roots of our conservation efforts but also ensures the long-term sustainability of our Island's biodiversity.

Want to chat about investing in nature?

Contact our Manager of Philanthropy, Melissa Cameron at development@islandnaturetrust.ca or call (902) 892-7513.



SCAN
OR
CLICK



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND 'MATCH A PATCH' CAMPAIGN

Cash contributions are the lifeblood for Island Nature Trust's work, acquiring natural land for protection, stewarding ecosystems, and promoting education. Amplify your impact with the 'Match A Patch' campaign, where generous donors triple the value of your support.

Scan or click to learn how your financial support can help sustain the Wabanaki-Acadian forests in PEI.



LAND DONATIONS: PERPETUAL PROTECTION

Consider donating your ecologically significant land to Island Nature Trust. This act goes beyond mere charity; it becomes a lasting legacy for nature conservation.

By gifting your land, you ensure that it remains undeveloped and protected forever.



SEED TREE SPONSORSHIP: CULTIVATING BIODIVERSITY

The Seed Tree Initiative offers a unique way to contribute to land stewardship and conservation. By sponsoring a seed tree, individuals or businesses actively participate in the restoration and well-being of our Island's ecosystems.



LEGACY GIVING: ENSURING A LASTING IMPACT

Legacy giving is a pathway to provide enduring support for Island Nature Trust's mission. By including the Trust in your will or estate plan, you create a legacy of nature conservation. Your commitment will benefit the environment and the Island's biodiversity for years to come.