



ISLAND
NATURE
TRUST

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#156

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

Quarterly



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Land Stewardship Technician, Lance Moore and Land Stewardship Coordinator, Brittany MacLean assess the impact of Hurricane Fiona at the Buote Heritage Woods Natural Area in New Glasgow.



THANKING NATURE IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE FIONA

'It could have been worse!' This is the sentiment lingering in the minds of many Islanders after Hurricane Fiona hit the Island as a powerful post-tropical storm on September 23-24, 2022. Those who saw iconic sand dunes disappear and swaths of forested areas flattened by the winds witnessed the immediate impacts of one of the most damaging events in recent Island history. Nevertheless, the team at Island Nature Trust is striving for a more positive outlook and a regenerative way forward that can give hope to all Islanders.

'Nature did its job! Intact ecosystems shielded us from the worst effects of this storm, and we should all be extremely grateful for that,' says INT Executive Director, Bianca McGregor.

'There certainly is a sense of sadness when Islanders see their sand dunes eroded and stands of fallen trees, but these natural systems were what protected us from the worst effects of Hurricane Fiona,' she adds.



NATURE PROVIDES: THE ECOSYSTEMS THAT PROTECTED US DURING HURRICANE FIONA

The Island's Shield: Our coastline is shielded from potentially catastrophic storm surges by the Island's intact dune systems and krummholz forests. The before and after photos of dune loss on the North shore are shocking, but these iconic ecosystems have protected us all. Home to marram grass and other native plants, healthy dune systems are constantly shifting and act as buffer zones between vulnerable land behind them and the onslaught of the sea.

Krummholz forests act as a natural erosion buffer. The deep root systems and stunted and twisted vegetation of these windswept and salt-battered forest ecosystems hold the sandy coastline together where they still exist in PEI's windiest spots.

The Island's Shock Absorbers: In addition to providing a home to a wide range of flora and fauna, healthy, intact forest stands prevent erosion, filter and store water, regulate temperatures, and provide cultural benefits. As wind breaks, they absorbed much of the storm's destructive energy during Hurricane Fiona. Imagine an island without healthy forest stands – homes would take the full force of the winds, there would be nothing to act as shock absorbers.

The Island's Sponge: One of the many ecosystem services provided by wetlands is storm protection, which absorbs the wave energy thus dampening storm surges. They slow the speed of wind and flood waters before they reach our properties further inland. This is experienced directly in those areas around our coast where we have in-filled wetlands and built infrastructure in their place and experience regular flooding.



MEND A PATCH: The long road to regeneration

In order to support the regeneration of the ecosystems that protect our communities from extreme storm events, staff will conduct impact assessments to inform management plans across the Trust's 66 natural areas over the next several months.

'Now is the time to give nature space and time to regenerate' says Land Stewardship Program Manager, Amy Frost-Wicks.

'It's vital that our Island's ecosystems are allowed to rebuild, recover and regenerate so that they can continue to protect us from destructive storms in the future. Concerning our coastline, we work to foster education on the importance of people staying off the dunes. In our forests, we cut down dead trees that are leaning or hung up in the canopy. The wood is either laid flat to decompose, which rejuvenates the soil, or it is used to build brush piles, which provide wildlife habitat. This opens the canopy, allowing light to reach the forest floor, where it once didn't, and facilitates natural regeneration. Where necessary, we will help this process along with strategic seeding and planting of native species to enhance biodiversity.'

'The reality is that we need to facilitate rather than fix,' continues Amy. 'It's a human tendency to want to 'clean-up' as quickly as possible. However, cleaning-up and removing fallen trees from natural areas will do more harm than good to the ecosystems that need time to regenerate so they can continue protecting us. Also, doing work too soon after a natural disturbance event like this may pose a risk to human safety, as trees will continue to settle and fall over the winter.'

'I also can't stress enough how important it is that the public stay off the areas where sand dunes used to be. We need to let ecosystems begin working their magic. The sand will eventually start shifting and re-establish the natural shield around our coastline. This happens best when there is as little human disturbance as possible,' Amy adds.

This follow-up stewardship work will cost time and money, so Island Nature Trust is asking Islanders for help. Supporting the Trust's [Mend A Patch](#) campaign will enable Islanders to help restore the natural areas that helped protect us during Hurricane Fiona. Alternatively, the Trust is asking people to consider donating or selling lands with high ecological value to be conserved for future generations and ecosystem services.

Since Hurricane Fiona, Island Nature Trust has had an outpouring of offers to help with the cleanup – we humbly thank Islanders for their support. For those of you wanting to donate your time toward stewardship efforts, we are asking the public to reach out to our Engagement and Outreach Coordinator at jmerth@islandnaturetrust.ca. Johanna will be able to take their information – adding them to our contact list.

While we are confident in the abilities and skills of our trained staff to facilitate ecosystem regeneration in our natural areas, we will be sure to reach out to Islanders if extra hands are required for any of this work, where necessary and when it is safe to do so.

DONATE TODAY! Fundraising initiatives must begin sooner rather than later in order to support restoration work by our staff. In the event that another Fiona strikes before these natural areas have had time to recover, what will we do? Let's ensure that in the future we can continue to say, 'it could have been worse.'



ADD PATCH:

Buote family donates legacy upland hardwood forest in New Glasgow

It's a crisp fall morning. The leaves crunching under our feet betray the silence as Rowena Lawlor and Faren Buote accompany me into the Buote Heritage Woods Natural Area in New Glasgow. The stand of old white pine trees greeting us at the entrance to the trail have a stoic presence. The forest is looking unusually skeletal for this time of year thanks to the recent destruction of Hurricane Fiona. Only a few isolated red and amber patches are visible, indicating some leafed branches were spared the intense winds that tore through the rest of the canopy not long ago.

'This is the spot where my siblings and I came across a large owl last year,' says Rowena, one of eight siblings who - as a family - donated the woods to Island Nature Trust in 2021. Her voice crackles with emotion. 'Walking together in the woods it suddenly appeared ahead of us in the trees. It felt like the owl was our mother Clarice proudly looking down on us. She would have been so happy to know that this land is now protected, forever'.



The Buote Heritage Woods Natural Area is a 39-acre parcel in central Queens County, consisting of upland hardwood forest and habitat to old white pine and hemlock. It is habitat to iconic species such as little brown bats, ruby throated hummingbirds, and brook trout. Despite recent storm damage evident throughout the scenic trail system, it was these healthy and intact forests that prevented a more devastating outcome. This space is resilient, and nature will heal if given the space and time to do so. Buote family members, who have lived with this forest for over half a century, know and appreciate this sentiment and the many benefits healthy and intact forests provide. One of which is their knowledge that this forest is a bastion for their family spirit. Nevertheless, it's the unifying memories that anchor them to this space - the knowledge of their parents' deep respect for this land.

Families just like forests are hosts to constantly shifting, changing, and evolving lives. As these woods play a part in a larger story of partnership in which flora, fauna and fungi work together to create thriving ecosystems, the Buote family's association with Island Nature Trust enhances a common good - conserving natural areas for the benefit of both people and wildlife. The intertwining of these two fates exemplifies a respect for nature's life-sustaining and protective qualities these ecosystems provide to not just the Buote family, but to all Islanders.

In their youth, the siblings worked tirelessly on the land, helping their mother and father maintain and run the farm. As the children came of age, they inevitably flew from the roost to pursue career opportunities in other provinces across Canada. At some point on their separate journeys, all the children longed for their family home. It's the land and the sea that speaks to them. The memories and 'good times' are infused into the fabric of a beautiful landscape that all Islanders can appreciate. Today, it's the knowledge that their pocket of land will be protected forever by Island Nature Trust that connects them. Yet, coming to a consensus on what was the best way forward for the land was challenging.



L-R: Selwyn Buote, Vernon Buote, Lise Buote, Faren Buote, Vera Collister, Beryl Doiron, Rowena Lawlor. The eighth sibling Glenn Buote passed away during the donation process and is not present.

'It was no easy feat for our family to agree on a vision for this land but that's when Island Nature Trust stepped in,' says Faren.

'Firstly, it was clear that Island Nature Trust had the patience and flexibility to shift the pieces of our puzzle into place to help our family see a clear long-term plan for the woods. Even if it meant entertaining many different and sometimes conflicting needs of the siblings.'

'Secondly, we felt that the Trust at its core had the best interests for both wildlife and people. For our family and others to enjoy and appreciate the space was very important for us.'

'Thirdly, it was a pleasant surprise for the family to receive significant tax relief because of the land donation's 'ecologically sensitive' status.'

The Buote's donated their property through the Ecological Gift Program, a federal program providing a way for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations, while providing tax relief.

Normally, even donated land is subject to capital gains tax. This can be significant if a property has been owned for many years and experienced a large



increase in value. The Ecological Gifts Program removes this capital gains tax.

Since the family has owned the property for a considerable period, they elected to use the Ecological Gift Program to eliminate this tax. The Trust applies for this program on behalf of the land donor. In addition to the tax relief, a charitable tax receipt was provided for the fair market value of the donated land.

The family members are in staunch agreement about one thing. They never want the forest cut down. Over the decades, the family witnessed clear-cutting on adjacent woodlands - alarming them all. With 87% of the Island privately owned, the looming threats of continued development on the Island are palpable. There is a pressing need to save what untouched land remains with land donations from families - such as the Buotes - being pivotal to the Trust's mission to preserve our Island for people and wildlife.

When Ernest Buote, the sibling's father purchased the land in 1960 for \$1000 it was for practical reasons. By harvesting wood for fuel and barn building, they were able to live self-sufficiently. Once the land was donated, the Trust applied for the PEI Natural Areas Protection Act, to put a restrictive covenant on the property and protect the woods from deforestation. This commitment to preserving the forest in its current state and to ensure that it endures forever was vital to the family's peace of mind. Typically, wood is not cut in INT natural areas, however, the Trust worked with the Buotes to develop a management plan, which included a clause that would allow the family to continue accessing a small amount of wood on the property for firewood.



Faren Buote & Rowena Lawlor take a walk through the woods donated to the Trust by the family in 2021

The other family desire was to make the space accessible to all. It was Faren's vision to have an active footpath system on the property - supported by the entire family who wanted Islanders to enjoy the space.

The primary mandate of INT is, as a private land trust, to conserve the wild nature of the land. It maintains footpath networks in 6 of its 66 natural areas for the use and enjoyment of neighbours. A healthy balance between recreation and land conservation has and always will be a challenge. Thriving ecosystems are not compatible with sustained encroachment from the public. However, INT understands the Buotes sentiment of sharing the land with Islanders, especially since the mental health and physical wellbeing of Islanders is reliant on their immersion in nature. Consequently, the Trust created a management plan to allow for stewardship of the footpath system existing on the property. Maintenance of the property is drawn from a stewardship fund to help pay for planting native trees and shrubs, footpath maintenance, surveying, and other important efforts.

'One of the most important goals for our family was the ability to name the trails in honour of our parents Clarice and Ernest, as well as the siblings. A kind of living memorial,' says Rowena.

And today, I see just that. Walking through the Buote Legacy Trail, I'm surrounded by the family spirit. Turning down 'Rowena's Twist' opening to 'Vernon's Flyover', bifurcating to 'Vera's Run', I can sense the vibrancy of their personalities and their lives imprinted on this space. In these homemade footpath signs, the symbol of family legacy permeates the fabric of this vibrant enclave for nature continuing to endure in parallel with the Buote's heartwarming Islander spirit.

'As young siblings we bonded over long and strenuous hours on our adjacent farm. The forest gave us, and especially my father a place of peace. We respected it. It's given so much to our family over the decades and now we as a family have a chance to not just give back to the forest, but also gift it to Islanders as well,' says Faren.

As we walk out of the heritage forest towards the parking lot, the cathartic sounds of forest nature fade away, replaced by the rumble of trucks and construction machinery in the adjacent lot.

Faren turns to me with a wry smile, 'Protecting this place is the best thing our family has ever done!'

By Ben Russell
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Interested in donating your land to the Trust?
Visit islandnaturetrust.ca/add or call 902-8927513

VOLUNTEER FEATURE:

Denis Gallant

-Conservation Guardian

For the last three years or so, I've been volunteering for INT as a conservation guardian (i.e. property field monitoring) in Prince County. INT has great conservation properties all over PEI – with a wide diversity of property types/habitats to explore on foot or by boat. The main property that I visit on a regular basis in the summer months is the Acadian Marshes Natural Area at the junction of the Percival River and Egmont Bay. The Acadian Marshes is over 400 acres and includes mixed woodlands, a large 50 acre bog, a 1.5 km sand spit, a salt water creek/marsh, and borders both the Percival River and Egmont Bay. After 3 years of exploring the property, I'm still checking out new areas and encountering new habitats and species. Using iNaturalist, I've now recorded 138 species on the property. If you are a nature lover or an outdoor enthusiast - what's not to like (well, maybe the mosquitos in the summer months)!

For me, volunteering as an INT conservation guardian brings my love for the natural world together with a number of my other interests and hobbies. When monitoring properties or shorelines, I'm out hiking or paddling in great natural locations and get to play around with some nature photography and GPS navigation. Recently, I've also been trying my luck at detecting some of PEI's rarer birds using a low-cost acoustic monitor.

Since engaging with INT, I feel that I'm helping in a small way to protect key shorelines and natural areas for today and future generations. We are all part of nature, so it's not easy to describe the impact it can have on us. When out for a hike or paddle in a natural environment, I always end-up feeling refreshed and a sense of wonderment. So, let's hope this magic never goes away for future generations!



Stewardship at home!

Melissa Cameron
Fund Development Coordinator
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Like many Islanders, our family is grappling with the effects of Hurricane Fiona in both our backyard and in our adopted homeland, the Island. Having moved to Prince Edward Island in 2021 from Toronto, Ontario, the lure of the night sky, the open views and the wonderful community drew us here. We purchased a hobby farm in Orwell. We grew abundant gardens, and our children ran freely outdoors, often playing in the old maple and linden trees where we hung swings.

Also new in this past year was a great personal career development. I joined the Island Nature Trust as their new Fund Development Coordinator in September of 2022 and was welcomed by an incredible team of engaged and generous co-workers, all sharing the goal of the protection and preservation of our Island's natural areas.

As it was for many of our friends and neighbors, Hurricane Fiona drastically altered the landscape of our community and of our property. In the days preceding the storm we prepared as best we could. In the garden, I harvested all that I could from our apple trees. I brought in tomatoes that were barely blushing and the children kept busy harvesting grapes. We checked on the tree supports for our tender new plantings that had gone in during this past spring. The work felt meaningful, and on Friday night before the storm, I walked the land with our St. Bernard puppy Rose, feeling the transition of the weather as the storm winds started to pick up.

By morning, as the gale winds howled, we truly saw the scale of the devastation outside our home. As we gave thanks for the safety of our home and family, our eyes were drawn over and over to the uprooted 200-year-old linden tree, the limbs fallen from the large maple and the 50-foot fir trees, snapped in two. The Annabelle hydrangeas that cheerily engulfed the base of our front porch were barren and battered and our raspberry patch looked more like trampled sticks, denuded of all their foliage.

Returning to the Island Nature Trust office post storm, the team gathered and the shared grief over the destruction of the natural wonders of our island was couched with the deep gratitude explored by the stewardship team who so eloquently shared with us how the natural features of our island protected us and absorbed the very worst of the storm.

Now, as we get back to work and the urgent need for funding to protect our natural areas is greater than ever, we look not only towards what can be done island-wide but also in our own backyards. The incredible connectivity of nature is more apparent than ever as we steward our own choices moving on from the chaos of the storm.

I wanted to share our path forward as we start to assess the changes to our backyard ecosystem and offer some suggestions as we let nature take the lead in healing our island. With the help from our incredible ecologists here at INT, we have come up with some tangible and actionable options for caring for your own patch of PEI.

1. Observe and assess; the implications from the storm and how it has impacted your local ecosystem around your home may not be apparent within even the first few weeks post-storm. Observe what has changed and take note. It may be useful to look back through old pictures or your camera roll to see how the storm has changed the landscape and what plant materials have been damaged or removed.
2. Choose a closed-loop system; where the space permits, keeping the storm debris and using it for composting or wood chips allows the organic materials from the trees and plants on your land to regenerate your property.
3. Give thought to a replanting plan; you may want to choose to plant native varieties where non-indigenous ones once stood. The resilience of these plants can be greater when faced with major storm events as they are adapted to our specific climate and conditions.
4. Expand the variety of plant material on your land by choosing plants that have different ecological functions. Adding plant habitats and food sources for birds, pollinators, insects and beyond will have a real impact on the island's restoration.

So, what does that look like in our little homestead? Follow along as we endeavor to move through the four-step process above. We'll be sharing photos, plant lists and more and welcome your questions and feedback.





The Big Picture

Journey with us into our beautiful natural areas as we explore the flora, fauna and fungi post Hurricane Fiona. The incredible resilience of our natural areas are photographed here by the Island Nature Trust team who have been hard at work monitoring these ecological spaces that are teeming with diversity.

Help us build The Big Picture by sending in your photos of robust Natural Areas across PEI! Tag us and use #givingbacktonature on social media or send your photos to:

bigpicture@islandnaturetrust.ca



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SPECIES CONSERVATION:

Piping Plover

by Sarah Hirtle
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Shorebirds are experiencing the effects of climate change firsthand due to their dependence on coastal habitat. Some shorebird species nest in coastal habitats, whereas others depend on the availability of key migratory stopover sites along coastlines. The unremitting coastal threat of sea level rise coupled with an increase in the frequency and intensity of hurricanes impacts shorebird species like piping plover throughout their range. This range includes their breeding grounds in Eastern Canada where they nest on sandy, cobbled beaches, and their overwintering grounds in the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, and the Bahamas where they feed and rest. Despite being separated by thousands of kilometers, these breeding and overwintering grounds are linked through their proximity to hurricane paths. So, what happens to piping plover habitat during hurricanes?

Recent, powerful storms have provided scientists with opportunities to study the consequences of hurricanes on plover habitat. When Hurricane Arthur hit North Carolina in 2014, plover nests and chicks were lost to the storm. However, Arthur's uncharacteristically early arrival in July of that year made it the earliest storm to hit the state since record keeping began in 1851. Hurricane season peaks in September, a time by which the bulk of Eastern Canadian plovers have migrated to their wintering grounds. In other words, plovers typically have adequate time to nest and outgrow the most vulnerable stages of their life cycle without major interference from storms.

Life on the wintering grounds may not be such a tranquil respite, at least for the remainder of the hurricane season. When Hurricane Matthew hit the Bahamas in 2016, it destroyed key roosting habitats for plovers across the archipelago's low-lying islands and cays. Roosting habitats are the places shorebirds rest when not actively feeding or engaging in breeding behaviours. They can be seen huddled down in the sand, with head tucked and resting on one leg or behind driftwood or clumps of wrack.

When these refugia are lost to wind and wave action, surviving birds must find alternate roosting locations. This can be an energetically expensive process. For monitors on the wintering grounds, identifying new roosting sites can be challenging both in the immediate aftermath of a storm and for several years afterward. It is often not until the birds return to the breeding grounds that we get a clearer picture of impacts experienced on the wintering grounds, since plovers exhibit a high degree of fidelity, or attachment, to nesting beaches.

Although hurricanes inflict severe damages on built infrastructure, they are natural disturbance events. Piping plover are a disturbance-dependent species, meaning that they not only benefit from, but require, the dynamic coastal remodelling effected by hurricanes. Researchers found that before Hurricane Sandy in 2012 plovers preferred to nest away from the ocean, while after the storm their nesting preference shifted strongly to overwash zones. Overwash occurs on sandspits and barrier beaches when waves from storm surge crest over sand dunes, burying vegetation and depositing sediment in its place. This effectively creates new corridors between the ocean-facing and bay-facing sides of the beach for plovers. Nesting near overwash zones means that foraging adult plovers and newly hatched chicks are located closer to feeding hotspots replete with their favourite food sources.

While it has been challenging to witness changes to the Island's beach-dune ecosystem, all is not lost. By resetting portions of the coastal ecosystem to an earlier stage of ecological succession, the potential exists that in 2023 piping plover may nest at sites where they have not previously nested or haven't nested for many years.



SPECIES CONSERVATION:

Farmland Birds

by Benjamin Henger
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Bobolink are a ground nesting bird species and, with the decline of natural grasslands throughout their range, frequently nest in managed hay fields. They are increasingly threatened by early hay cuts, and this is one of the primary reasons they are listed as threatened in Canada. As part of our Farmland Birds Program, Island Nature Trust has been working towards the conservation of bobolink on the Island since 2014. This work includes monitoring potential nest sites to help gain a better understanding of their abundance, habitat use, and reproductive efforts. To do this, we work closely with farmers and landowners that are delaying hay cuts and allowing us the opportunity to monitor their fields. By delaying hay cuts until after July 15th, it allows adult bobolink enough time to build nests, lay eggs, and raise their young so that once it does come time to cut, young are old enough to fly out of the way and avoid machinery. This program is in partnership with the department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, the Alternate Land Use Services (ALUS) program, and the department of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) through Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL).

This is my first year as the Farmland Birds Program coordinator and I had a wonderful time working outside and getting to know the many passionate landowners who care deeply about the wildlife they are sharing their lands with. One thing I did not realize I would enjoy as much as I did was the early mornings. Mornings are prime time to bird watch as this is when they are most active. For us, that meant starting our days at 6am. As a former varsity level athlete, I thought my early mornings were behind me. The birds, however, don't care how early it is. They have a very short season in which to establish a territory, attract a mate and raise a family; they are not waiting for me to hit snooze! I find that all part of the fun though, working as a biologist. We work outside with our respective species, and we are at the whim of their schedule. If you want to get good data, you need to work around them and that is just the way it has to be. I also found comfort in getting up early each morning because it reminded me of my old training schedule and, by getting up before most others, I would feel a sense of accomplishment. Getting out into the field and listening to birds in the still morning air is incredibly peaceful. Even with fresh morning dew soaking me from the waist down.

We would like to thank the farmers and landowners that have delayed their hay cuts and thus allowed many bobolink chicks to survive to fledge! We invite any farmer or landowner who grows hay to consider delaying their hay cut to allow bobolink and other grass nesting birds to survive. To learn more about participating in our delayed hay program, or to share bobolink observations, we encourage you to reach out to our farmland birds program coordinator at landbirds@islandnaturetrust.ca

Passport to Nature

Program Review 2022

Thank you to the public who came out to our various Passport to Nature events this year! We hope you had fun and that everyone learnt something new about the incredible place we call home.

It has been an absolute pleasure meeting people from all walks of life through the series. Island Nature Trust was pleased to host a wide variety of events: paddling the Morell River, a medicine walk, a mushroom talk and so much more! We hope you will join us again next year. A special thank you goes out to those who shared their knowledge and contributed to this year's successful program: Helena Perry, Ken Sanderson, Rosemary Curley, Chantal Hayman and Megan Harris.

Stay tuned for Passport to Nature 2023!



1 & 2: Kayaking the Morell- May 2022
3 & 4: Iris Forest Walk, June 2022
5: Trivia Night at Copper Bottom-
November 2022





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- "A total immersion in what a forest ecosystem looks like and an inducement for us to protect this environment".- Anne Gale, Iris Forest Walk
- "It's hard to find the words to sum up my relationship with Island Nature Trust. It has been lovely sharing knowledge about Indigenous Plant Medicines with such an attentive and respectful group of people. I look forward to continuing topics of land stewardship, plant medicine and indigenous knowledge in the future.. - Helena Perry

Snap Shot

- 115 People Attended
- 13 hours SPENT OUTSIDE
- 5 LOCATIONS VISITED
- Winners of nature trivia 2022- Fauna Flora Points Ascora



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6 & 7: Mushroom Talk - October 2022
8 & 9: Medicine Walks with Helena Perry

- "It's a bliss to walk around the DeRoche Pond Natural Area and to learn about the plants lining the trails (such as the eye catching goldenrod and more humble-looking "white man's foot") and their many medicinal uses. Thanks to the Passport to Nature programme for introducing us to so many gifts from nature!" - Mabel Chu



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GRATITUDE

Dear Volunteers,

What an exceptional year it has been.

Joining the INT team in April 2022, I was excited to meet the strong community of volunteers who make the work we do possible. Since then, I have been blown away by the ongoing passion, dedication and kindness each of you has contributed to our collective goal of protecting natural areas and supporting wildlife habitats for future generations.

Thank you to all of our Beach and Conservation Guardians along with other volunteers who have come out to help on the beaches, in the forest and with cleanup efforts province wide!

Johanna



To learn more about Volunteer Opportunities please contact our Engagement and Outreach Coordinator — Johanna at jmerth@islandnaturetrust.ca



ISLAND NATURE TRUST

BECOME A VOLUNTEER



WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Contact jmerth@islandnaturetrust.ca
to learn more!

- Become a Beach Guardian: choose a beach to monitor during the summer.
- Become a Conservation Guardian: choose a Natural Area to visit at least once a year, submit a monitoring update to our land stewardship team.
- Bank Swallow Monitor: monitor a stretch of coastline for Bank Swallows and report back to us about what you notice during the summer months.
- Sign up to receive updates on upcoming volunteer events such as Beach Cleanups, Planting Efforts and Invasive Species Management.
- We are always looking for more landowners/farmers to delay their hay cut, this helps grassland nesting bird species, such as the Bobolink.

PARTNERSHIPS



INT has been overwhelmed with gratitude as many Island businesses have created incredible initiatives to benefit the Trust. From design forward posters to tasty beverages, beautiful jewelry and original art, these businesses have been so generous in donating their time and proceeds to contribute to the [Saving Our Island Campaign](#).



Lone Oak Brewing Co.

Lone Oak Brewing Co. quickly sold out of their Kolsch beer named 'Monarch', a light bodied easy drinking summer lagered ale. The sale of 'Monarch' was a huge success and a portion of the proceeds were donated to INT to support its species-at-risk stewardship programs.

Red Island Cider

Island quince fruit co-fermented with apple juice and aged for 6 months to form a subtle but beguiling drink with delicate floral perfume that conceals a potent spirited finish. The team at Red Island Cider has concocted this incredible cider which is on sale now. With a limited run of 200 bottles, \$5 of each sale will be donated to Island Nature Trust.

Garnish Jewelry

In response to the impact of Hurricane Fiona on the coastal dune systems, Garnish Jewelry owner and designer Stacey Leunes created the stunning 'An Ode to the Sand Dunes' ring design. Proceeds from the sale of the rings were generously donated to Island Nature Trust.

John McCallum

What gets INT supporters excited on a Saturday afternoon? A live auction of a one-of-a-kind artwork to benefit the Trust. Local Charlottetown artist John McCallum auctioned off an original 26"x32" oil on canvas piece entitled "Christmas at Fanningbank". The live auction was fast-paced and fruitful. Congratulations to Gloria Bouchard for her winning bid. Gloria is an avid collector of John's work and this is her third acquisition. Thank you, John and Gloria, for your support!

Bennett Birding Classic

Undaunted by Hurricane Fiona, the Bennett Birding Classic was held late October much to the delight of birding enthusiasts across the province. With a large number of diverse birds sighted, the annual event was a success! Entrance fees for the event and donations were collected to benefit the Trust.



Rustico Surf Club:

Rustico Surf Club has taken the extraordinary step to commit to the 1% for the Planet Pledge. 1% for the Planet was founded to prevent greenwashing, certify reputable giving and provide accountability. The 1% for the Planet certification is given to businesses and individuals that meet our high-bar commitment—donate 1% of annual sales or salary to environmental causes. Rustico Surf Club has designated Island Nature Trust as the recipient of their 1% and has additionally supported the Trust through proceeds from a poster sale and by co-hosting a beach clean up.

Pownal Street Press

Pownal Street Press will be publishing a book on post-tropical storm Fiona. They are collecting eyewitness accounts, essays, photography, and visual art of PEI's most epic post-tropical storm. Fiona: Prince Edward Island Accounts of Canada's Biggest Storm will be published June 2023. All royalties donated to the Island Nature Trust.

Green Eye Designs

Created in response to Hurricane Fiona, Green Eye Designs will be donating \$20 from each of the sales of its Nature Love Gift Packages to Island Nature Trust. These packages are locally made in Charlottetown and are comprised of an infinity scarf, hair elastics, a post card and a rose quartz.

Pin Studios

Potter Heather Francis has created square bottom round top tree mugs in her studio that will be sold online and locally. These hand-thrown mugs feature a tree design to honor trees in the wake of Hurricane Fiona and \$10 from each mug sale will benefit Island Nature Trust.

Philips Agri Services

Philips Agri Services is hosting a wild bird food sale November 7-19 from which a portion of the proceeds will benefit Island Nature Trust. Philips is a long-time partner of the trust and generously donates from this sale on an annual basis.

OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Roger Roy

After obtaining a B.Sc. in forestry from UNB (wildlife management option), Roger started his career as a wildlife biologist with the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources (NBDNR). He then obtained an M.Sc. in forest ecology from UBC and worked for both the Canadian Forestry Service and NBDNR on ecological land classification. He also has a Ph.D. in forest management from UNB. For most of his career, he has been a professor of forest management at the Université de Moncton's forestry school in Edmundston, N.B. where he held various administrative positions, including department head and school director.

Roger has served on several wildlife and forestry-related advisory committees and working groups in both New Brunswick and Quebec and is a past president of the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Nature Trust (NTNB) and was Chair of the NTNB Land Acquisition Committee. He is currently a member of the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board which accredits university forestry programs throughout Canada to ensure that educational requirements are met for admission into the country's various professional forester associations.

Roger officially retired in 2019 and moved to PEI in 2021 with his wife Judy who grew up in Mount Stewart, so he now considers himself an "Islander by marriage". They have a property in Tracadie Cross which includes a woodlot where he enjoys spending his free time doing trail construction and maintenance, and tree planting, thinning, and pruning.



David Hooley

David Hooley, KC, is Senior Counsel in Cox & Palmer's office located in Charlottetown, PEI. A graduate of the University of Prince Edward Island and Dalhousie, David was admitted to the PEI and NS Bar's in 1975, and has developed a robust practice in civil litigation and public law. Additionally, he is a convert to interest based dispute resolution and is a Certified Mediator. David also has a personal and professional interest in estate and succession planning for individuals and for family businesses.

David has acted for many of the Island's largest businesses and institutions over the last 47 years and has also served in a variety of volunteer industry and not-for-profit roles that have provided him great insight and connection to local business and the community at large. These include several Canadian Bar Association roles, as well as executive roles with the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and the Confederation Centre of the Arts, to name a few.

David and his family reside in Charlottetown and Brackley Beach. He especially enjoys his time at Brackley Beach gardening and raising poultry, pigs and lambs over the summer months. David has a longstanding interest in nature and in the nurture, protection and preservation of the Island's land, flora and fauna.

Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum*

Did you know..?

Sugar Maples have the **highest** sugar content in their sap. Which makes tasty maple syrup!



Sugar Maples can live up to **200** years old but are known to live longer. The oldest Sugar Maple in Canada lives in Ontario, who is around **500** years old!

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S S C A I L G H T G
V Q M F F E F S K E
O X N L R A A U G R
X E O X P V L G Y H
S Y R U P E L A N R
K M R Z I S N R Y V


Sugar
Maple
Tree
Orange


Syrup
Fall
Leaves

Colour in the Sugar Maple
with fall colour leaves!

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Help us repair this patchwork landscape so it can continue protecting you!



Match a Patch

Donate cash so we can acquire natural areas that protect and provide for us all. Your donation will be tripled!



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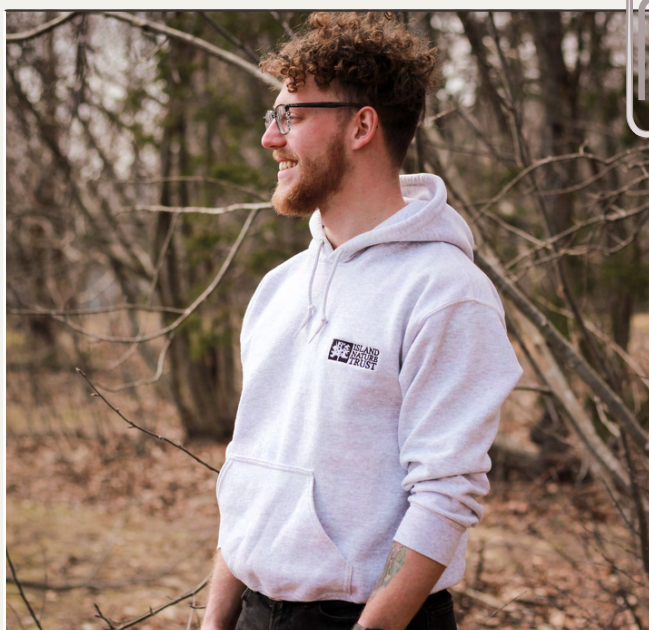
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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You can also renew and pay easily online at: www.islandnaturetrust.ca Thank you for your support!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

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Membership Category:

Student (\$10) ☐ Single (\$20) ☐ Family (\$25) ☐ Life (\$500) ☐ Donation \$: _____

(Tax receipts will be issued for all donations)

Payment Method: Cheque ☐ Money Order ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐

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WHO ARE WE...?

Island Nature Trust is a non-profit, membership-driven, private registered charity dedicated to permanent protection of natural areas in Prince Edward Island. We acquire lands through purchase and donation for protection and help private landowners protect their own properties through legislation and promotion of good land management practices. We also protect species-at-risk, restore lands and undertake public nature education.

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Find Us Online: www.islandnaturetrust.ca



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive: *President – Gordon MacKay, Vice President – Kim Horrelt, Treasurer – George Mason, Member-at-large - Marie-Ann Bowden, Secretary – Patricia Caporaso, Past President – June Jenkins Sanderson*

Group Representatives: *Keila Miller - PEI Wildlife Federation, Jeanne Maki - Nature PEI*

General Directors: *Andrea McManus, Roger Coffin, Roger Roy, David Hooley*



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