

# WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT



*Claude Fournier*

**Without habitat there is no wildlife...**  
**It's that simple!**







Credit: J. Thompson

### TO CONTACT US

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All donations to Wildlife Habitat Canada are tax deductible and detailed financial statements are available upon request.

*The report cover features the 2013 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Image, "Break the Ice—Long-tailed Ducks" by Claude Thivierge.*

**Wildlife Habitat Canada's Charitable Registration Number: 11929 8131 RR0001**



# 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT | WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

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Credit: J. Thompson

## About Wildlife Habitat Canada

Wildlife Habitat Canada is a national, non-profit, charitable conservation organization, which was established in 1984.

We work through partnerships with communities, landowners, governments, non-government organizations and Industry to find effective solutions to address problems facing wildlife habitat.



Credit: J. Thompson

### Our objectives are to:

- Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat in order to retain the diversity, distribution and abundance of wildlife;
- Provide a funding mechanism for wildlife habitat conservation programs in Canada;
- Foster coordination and leadership in the conservation community across Canada.





## Message from the Chair

This year marked the twenty-ninth annual Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp. Claude Thivierge's award winning stamp image, entitled "Break the Ice — Long-tailed Ducks" was a wonderful piece to continue the tradition of bridging art, conservation and the human condition.

The 2013-2014 Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program provided \$1,516,908.80 for grants to 37 projects. This funding leveraged more than \$11.3 million in additional partner revenue to help conserve 96,223 acres (38,940 hectares) of wildlife habitat right across Canada.

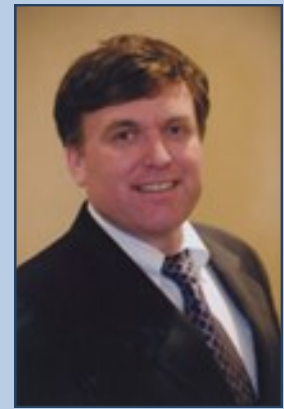
2013-2014 was a busy year for Wildlife Habitat Canada. We worked closely with Environment Canada to negotiate and sign a three year Contribution Agreement, effective April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2017. This huge accomplishment will allow grantees to continue their on-the-ground efforts towards habitat conservation.

We also participated in several meetings of the Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel, which were attended by Canada's Environment Minister, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, and Canada's Fisheries and Oceans Minister, the Honourable Gail Shea. Discussions revolved around a variety of topics of interest to the hunting, trapping and angling communities.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the launch of a National Conservation Plan (NCP) in May 2014. This \$252 million investment aims to conserve and restore Canada's natural environment for present and future generations. Wildlife Habitat Canada is pleased to have participated in discussions during the development of the NCP, appearing before the Standing Committee on Sustainable Resource and Development in April 2012.

The Wildlife Habitat Canada Board of Directors welcomed four new Board Members in 2013-2014: Alain Cossette, Executive Director, Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs; Carly Deacon, Program Manager, Manitoba Wildlife Federation; Michael Reader, retired Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; and Kelly Semple, Executive Director, Hunting for Tomorrow Foundation.

For the support they provided over the past year, Wildlife Habitat Canada would like to extend a genuine thank you to our financial supporters, our conservation partners and especially the hunting community.



Annemarie Grudén Photography

**Kevin Harris**

Chairman  
Wildlife Habitat Canada  
Board of Directors

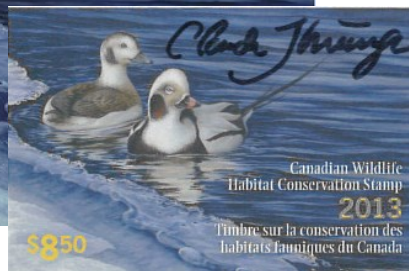


## Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamps and Limited Edition Prints

The image for the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print is produced each year by a selected Canadian wildlife artist. The conservation stamp is purchased primarily by waterfowl hunters to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit. It is also sold to collectors and individuals interested in contributing to the conservation of wildlife habitat.



The Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp was created as, and continues to be a visible reminder of the reason habitat conservation is important: to conserve Canadian wildlife!



### 2013 Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print

The 2013 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print feature the image “Break the Ice—Long-tailed Ducks” by wildlife artist Claude Thivierge (St. Zotique, QC).

2013 Print and Stamp Image



## Lori Boast

2014 Canadian Wildlife  
Conservation Stamp & Print Artist

“The Cinnamon Teal male with his Titian red plumage begs to be painted. I placed this breeding pair in an intimate shallow reedy setting, which they tend to prefer. I played warm against cool, light against dark and blues against oranges to enhance their natural beauty.”



Lori's goal is to paint wildlife with an eye to raising awareness of rapidly declining species and habitat.

“We aren't making more land, and we need to manage what we have with a balanced approach. Preserving habitat for wild creatures makes sense. If they can survive, so can we. If they are gone, we will follow.”



2014 Print and Stamp Image

## 2014 Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print

The 30th Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp image was created by wildlife artist Lori Boast (Winnipeg, MB). Boast's image, entitled “Sun-kissed Cinnamon – Cinnamon Teal ,” was released on April 1, 2014.

*For more information on how to purchase Wildlife Habitat Canada Stamp and Print products, please visit our website at:*

<http://whc.org/en/online-store>.



2014 Lapel Pin Image



## Supporting Hunters

Wildlife Habitat Canada supported conservation and hunting organizations during the 2013-2014 program year by donating Mentor Lapel Pins and Conservation Edition Prints to help raise money, as well as promote hunting and habitat conservation across Canada.

### 2013 Mentor Lapel Pins

The Mentor Pin Program was very successful again this year. Wildlife Habitat Canada provided over 1,300 Mentor Lapel Pins to organizations to distribute as gifts to thank volunteers and mentors. These pins were distributed across Canada for numerous events. Wildlife Habitat Canada is proud to support organizations that are encouraging a new generation of hunters.



2013 Mentor Lapel Pin



Youth Hunting and Conservation Course.

Credits: Long Point Waterfowl





## Conservation Edition Prints

In 2013-2014, Wildlife Habitat Canada was pleased to donate Conservation Edition Prints to the organizations listed below. These donations help organizations raise funds to further support education and conservation efforts.

Wildlife Habitat Canada receives donations requests from a multitude of organizations annually, for events such as banquets, auctions and silent auctions, golf tournaments, youth education events and raffles, to name a few.

- Nature Canada
- DUC Hampton Chapter
- Long Point Waterfowl
- Manitoba Wildlife Federation
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Durham Children's Groundwater Festival
- Manotick Public School
- Department of Natural Resources, New Brunswick
- Bob Izumi's Fishing Forever Golf Tournament
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Environment Canada, Wildlife Enforcement Division
- DUC Rideau Grenville Chapter
- Port Moody Ecological Society
- Delta Waterfowl—South Nation Chapter
- Barrie District Hunters & Anglers Conservation Club
- Canards Illimités – Grand Portneuf
- Grenville Fish and Game Club
- Foundation de la truite mouchetee
- Association des Sauvaginiers de la grande région de Québec
- Ottawa Valley Hunt Club
- Oak Hammock Marsh Provincial Hunting Day
- Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters

If your organization would like to learn more about this program, please email [admin@whc.org](mailto:admin@whc.org).



Credit: J. Thompson



## Hunters' Contributions to Habitat Conservation

Wildlife Habitat Canada would like to acknowledge and thank the hunting community for their valuable contribution to wildlife habitat conservation. In addition to purchasing the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit, they pay other license fees which directly support wildlife management. Many attend conservation fundraising dinners and activities, as well as volunteer on committees and projects benefitting wildlife.

The general public should have an understanding that hunting today is just as much a wildlife management tool as it is a recreational activity. For example, recent studies have shown that in some places in North America where there is an over abundance of wildlife, such as white-tailed deer, they are viewed as a nuisance. What this means is eventually wildlife loses its intrinsic value and people separate themselves from nature.

We are seeing an extension of this with an entire generation of children who spend more time indoors watching television and playing computer games than they do playing outside. Some studies have demonstrated that these children are suffering from what has been coined as “nature deficit” disorder. These children have no connections to the natural world and lack an understanding of why maintaining healthy wildlife populations and the habitat are important.

Since children are the future and will eventually be responsible for our wildlife and other natural resources, it is vital they learn that we too are part of nature and our well-being is directly tied to how we manage the environment.

Many organizations and individuals conduct youth mentoring programs. It should be noted that these programs go well beyond the various aspects of hunting. They also teach youth about the importance of terrestrial and aquatic habitat conservation, species diversity, biodiversity, social and self-disciplinary skills, to name a few.

By educating young people about the need to maintain the quality of wildlife habitat, we will ensure that future generations, including non-hunters, will enjoy the abundance of wildlife species that we have today.



Credit: Manitoba Wildlife Federation.

# Highlights of Accomplishments for Grants in 2013-2014

The 2013-2014 Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program provided 37 grants totalling approximately \$1,516,908. This funding leveraged more than \$11.3 million in additional partner revenue to help conserve more than 96,224 acres (38,940 hectares) of wildlife habitat across Canada.

## Prince Edward Island



### *Restoring and Constructing Quality Wetlands for Waterfowl in Prince Edward Island*

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

#### Project accomplishments:

- 50 site assessments were completed to determine wetland restoration potential; 6 sites were identified for restoration.
- 6 wetland restoration/construction projects were completed. 15-year stewardship agreements were signed with all landowners to ensure long-term habitat protection.
- 5.5 acres of wetland habitat were restored and 5.2 acres of upland habitat were conserved.



White Pine Wetland

Credits: Ducks Unlimited Canada



By The River Farms Wetland



## ***Nova Scotia Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (NS-EHJV) Wetland Stewardship Program***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$50,000 to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

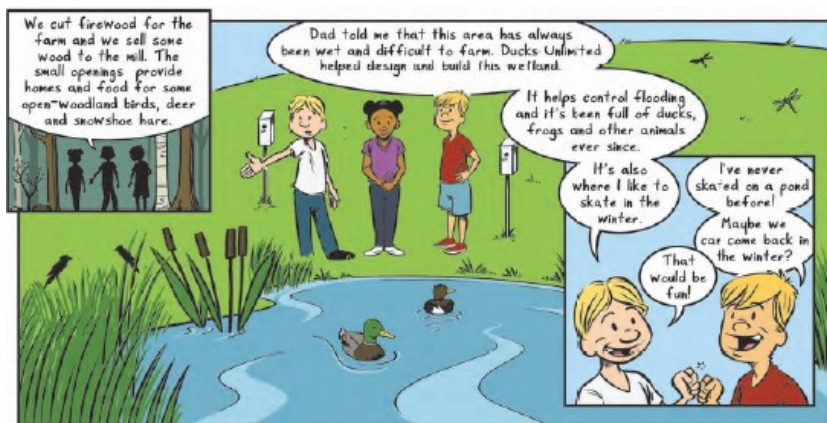
### **Project accomplishments:**

- 13 farms were assessed for Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) Plan delivery.  
\* *ABC Plans allow farmers to clearly identify the existing and potential Beneficial Management Practices (BMP's) that promote the maintenance or enhancement of biodiversity on their farms.*
- Habitat influenced: 212 wetland acres, 2515 upland acres, 27km riparian, 1079 woodland acres.
- An educational awareness comic depicting biodiversity on the farm was created and published in the provincial newspaper.

Excerpt from "Farm Habitats: How farmers promote biodiversity" comic, a special educational feature.

Comic illustration by Joel Duggan.

Credit: Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia.



***"The partnership between WHC, NSDNR and others in the delivery of the NS-EHJV Wetland Stewardship Program, continues to demonstrate how collaborative efforts can effectively support meaningful and winning joint habitat conservation programs."***

~ Glen Parsons, Natural Resources Planner – Provincial Biologist, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division

## ***Hemeon's Head Conservation Lands***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$27,000 to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- A conservation easement was signed between Acadia University and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust for Black Point Beach. A second property, Matthews Lake, was secured through purchase. Total protected habitat: 362.8 acres.
- Interim stewardship plans were developed for each property. Additional field surveys were conducted, which resulted in agreements to help develop a long term comprehensive management plan.



### ***Increasing conservation and collaboration: Tabusintac Lagoon and Estuary Ramsar site, New Brunswick***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$29,165 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

#### **Project accomplishments:**

- Title searches, survey work and baseline inventories were completed in the securing of 2 properties, which permanently conserve approximately 11.4 acres of wildlife habitat.
- More than 100 members of the public were engaged at a public presentation to enhance the management of 1,798 acres in the inner Tabusintac Estuary.
- A conservation plan for the Tabusintac estuary was developed, documenting the current condition of habitat and waterfowl at the site.

### ***Restoration of Wood Duck Habitat on Private Lands in Southern New Brunswick***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$6,500 to the SNB Wood Co-operative Ltd.

#### **Project accomplishments:**

- 30 wood duck nest boxes were installed on 11 properties. Flight lanes into boxes were enhanced by removing any competing trees or limbs.
- 650 red, white and bur oak trees were planted in 7 locations.
- 250 tree tubes were installed at 4 locations.
- Competing woody vegetation was reduced to encourage growth of newly planted trees.



Credit: SNB Wood Co-operative



## Newfoundland & Labrador



### *Newfoundland and Labrador Coastal and Inland Freshwater Wetlands Stewardship and Conservation*

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$20,000 to the Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Conservation.

#### Project accomplishments:

- 14 meetings were held with municipal councils to explore interest in signing or expanding municipal stewardship agreements.
- Field assessments and mapping were completed in 4 municipalities to determine potential sites for conservation through stewardship agreements.
- 7 municipal stewardship agreements were signed, securing wetland, wetland-associated and coastal habitat.
- 8 municipal habitat conservation plans were produced and/or updated.
- Signage was produced for 8 municipalities.



Credits: C. Barney

# Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund



Through the Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund, Wildlife Habitat Canada provided \$30,000 in funding to two NL Murre Conservation projects.

## ***Strengthening Public Knowledge and Appreciation of the Murre Hunting Heritage***

Intervale Associates Inc. (\$15,000)

### Project accomplishments:

- 50 participants were engaged in one-on-one focus group discussions about Murre hunting.
- 100,000 placemats conveying messages of environmental stewardship were printed and distributed to the public.
- A large mounted poster was produced for the Strait of Belle Isle ferry to increase awareness of Murre hunting heritage among visitors to Newfoundland and Labrador.



Sample placemat. Credit: Intervale Associates Inc.

### ***Do Thick-billed Murres show local genetic adaptation?***

Queen's University, Ontario (\$15,000)

### Project accomplishments:

- Successfully collected data on several candidate genes and identified more loci from throughout the genome as candidates for selection and local adaptation.
- Data from geolocators implanted on birds from the Gannet Islands were retrieved and analyzed, and blood samples from Thick-billed Murres from Funk Island were collected for genetic analyses.







## ***Developing a Maritimes Marsh Monitoring Program – Year 2***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$60,000 to Bird Studies Canada.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- Freshwater wetland survey protocols were successfully adapted and used in coastal wetlands for the 2013 field season.
- A total of 567 point counts were completed on 35 routes: 25 were new routes established in 2013, and 10 were re-sampled from 2012 sites.
- Songmeters were deployed in 46 unique locations. The songmeters were programmed to record twice daily during dawn and dusk and for 15 minutes intervals overnight.
- The data collected will play a key role in evaluating the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Eastern Habitat Joint Ventures' progress towards achieving North American Waterfowl Management Plan population objectives by providing a scientifically sound basis method to evaluate current and proposed wetland conservation programs.



Songmeter deployed in coastal wetland habitats in Kougibouguac National Park.  
Credit: Margaret Campbell

## ***Aménagements fauniques du Domaine de l'Île-aux-Oies***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$60,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

### Project accomplishments:

- An agreement was negotiated with landowners, which will allow for the restoration of 1,775 acres of habitat.
- Land surveys were completed for evaluation.
- Technical plans were developed for the replacement and modification of water control structures in segments 3, 5 and 7.

## ***Baie Lavallière***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$129,281.76 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

### Project accomplishments:

- The development of Baie Lavallière represents Phase I of the overall restoration project and involved building a permanent marsh (St. Louis marsh), an area of approximately 117 acres, by installing a water level control structure, dikes and a pumping station.
- St. Louis Marsh provides the necessary conditions for the development and maintenance of the diverse aquatic vegetation that is essential to a variety of wildlife such as waterfowl, fish, aquatic birds, amphibians, reptiles and aquatic mammals.



Construction of the Main Dam



Excavation of the fish passage way



Construction of water level control structure

Credits: Ducks Unlimited Canada



## ***Protection des milieux humides forestiers sur terres privées / PCHE sud du Québec/ 2013-2014***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$50,000 to the Fondation de la faune du Québec.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- The main objective of the project was to maintain and increase the productivity of forest wildlife by protecting wetlands through voluntary stewardship and conservation.
- 91 forest wetlands were evaluated to determine the wildlife value of the sites and the potential for nesting waterfowl.
- 112 landowner information booklets were delivered.
- Follow up activities were completed for 41 wetlands that were protected 3 years ago.
- Several awareness tools were developed and distributed to local leaders who play a role in the protection of wetlands.



Landowner information booklets.



Credits: Fondation de la faune du Québec





## ***Aménagement faunique Marécage des Scots***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$23,300 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- Field surveys and negotiations with private landowners were conducted.
- Technical designs for a new water control structure were completed.

Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada



## ***Protection Rivière du Sud, propriété Delisle***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,800 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- A biological survey, land title search and evaluation was completed.
- Negotiations were conducted with private landowners, culminating in the signing of a purchase agreement. 24.5 hectares of wetland habitat was conserved.
- This habitat is of particular importance to waterfowl, as the site is used for migrating, staging and breeding.







## ***Protection et gestion de milieux humides dans la vallée de l'Outaouais***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$20,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- The main objective of the project was to continue the protection of wetland and riparian habitat through stewardship activities.
- Negotiations were conducted with 5 private landowners to conserve waterfowl habitat.
- 4 ecological characterization reports were completed for the establishment of conservation easements.
- 11 agreements were renewed with hunters for the areas of Bristol, Clarendon and Litchfield, involving a total of 47 hunters.
- 1 trapping agreement was renewed for the management of beaver colonies in Bristol.

***"I hope that the spirit of conservation that benefits the citizens of Pontiac County continues to guide your mission. It is through foundations like yours that we can hope to continue the work of sharing environmental information for the common good."***

*~Mathieu Ravignat, MP Pontiac*

## ***Intendance et protection des habitats côtiers de la Gaspésie***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$50,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- Preliminary negotiations were completed with targeted landowners with wetland and riparian habitat on their properties.
- 4 properties were acquired; stewardship plans and signage were completed for 2 of these sites.
- Monitoring and follow up activities took place on 21 properties.
- 3 meetings were held with hunters and representatives of Percé to develop a partnership for the management of these protected areas.



Surveillance and monitoring of ecological easement

Credit: Nature Conservancy of Canada



Matt Dyson, MSc student, radio tracked hens through August 2013 to determine habitat use and brood survival.

Photos :  
Long Point  
Waterfowl



## ***Habitat selection and survival of nesting Wood Duck Hens and Broods along Big Creek in the Long Point Region***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$20,000 to Long Point Waterfowl.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- 100 new nest boxes were installed and 117 existing nest boxes were revitalized.
- 36 hen Wood Ducks were captured and implanted with radio transmitters to determine habitat selection.
- Hens were tracked from time of release following transmitter implant to mid-August.



## Ontario



### ***Long Point Crown Marsh (LPCM) Restoration Project***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$20,000 to the Long Point Waterfowlers' Association.

#### **Project accomplishments:**

- This project involved the construction of 2 new open water areas, which restored over 24 acres of wetland habitat. Result: greater water depth variability to encourage broad eco-diversity at these sites and discourage Phragmites re-colonization.
- Previously dug ponds were connected by channels to Long Point Bay to ensure long-term functioning of new wetland areas.

***“Many thanks for WHC's support for our work in the Long Point Crown Marsh.”***

~Jim Malcolm, Executive Director

### ***Securement of the Clarence Smith property in Minesing Wetlands***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$18,925 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

#### **Project accomplishments:**

- The Minesing Wetlands is one of southern Ontario's largest and most significant wetland systems.
- Negotiations and agreement of sale were finalized for the Clarence Smith Nature Reserve, which will result in the protection of 180 acres of wetland habitat.



Daughters of Clarence Smith (property donors) at Oct 9, 2013 event (photo by Barrie Examiner)



## ***NCC Habitat Conservation and Stewardship in Ontario***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$39,545.68 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

### Project accomplishments:

- 40 acres of property were surveyed and mapping was completed.
- Site visits and presentations were made to landowners, resulting in the development of new Property Management Plans.
- Property appraisals were initiated and negotiations took place with a number of landowners.
- Signage was created for 8 properties.



Credits: J. McCarter



## ***Youth Hunting & Conservation Course***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$10,000 to Long Point Waterfowl.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- The Youth Hunting and Conservation Course was developed to provide today's youth with the opportunity to increase their awareness of—and participate in—our hunting heritage.
- 33 youth participated in the 6-day workshop, which included hands on activities such as retriever training, waterfowl decoy placement, calling and taxidermy, target shooting, etc, in addition to training and mentorship in hunting, wildlife conservation and management.
- Participants completed their Ontario Hunter Safety Certification, Canadian Firearms Safety Certification and Ontario Wild Turkey Training Course.

***“These will be the guys and girls who make the rules, conserve the land and contribute the funds to help what we have stay wild and accessible.”***

*~Ted Barney, Long Point Waterfowl biologist*



Credits: Long Point Waterfowl



## ***Wetland Restoration in the Upper Sydenham River Watershed***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$35,000 to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- This restoration project was part of the Healthy Sydenham Headwaters Initiative (HSHI) and contributed to the implementation of 8 wetland and riparian buffer projects on landowner property.
- A community riparian buffer planting day was held; 244 native trees and shrubs were planted.
- 19 local landowners and children attended Frogwatch and learned about frogs and wetlands. Landowners were encouraged to enhance wetland habitat on their property.
- An information postcard was distributed to 1,700 landowners with properties greater than 5 acres reminding them of the benefits of wetland best management practices and grants that might be available to them.



Bus Tour Participants In Middlesex  
Credit: St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

## ***Long Point Waterfowl's Lake St. Clair Initiative***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,000 to Long Point Waterfowl.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- Developed a document titled "Waterfowl and Wetlands of the Lake St. Clair Region: Present Conditions and Future Options for Research and Conservation."
- The purpose of the document is to provide insight into concerns (such as the long-term changes to the landscape resulting from wetland drainage, conversion to agricultural lands, recreation disturbance, etc.) and provide a resource that can be used to guide future research to fill information gaps, in addition to promoting and guiding wetland management.





## ***Community Stream Steward Program: Conserving Wetland Landscapes Initiative***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$42,000 to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Community Stream Steward Program.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- This project focused on reaching out to landowners interested in best management practices for wetland and pond habitat by providing resources, project planning, and financial support as needed.
- 22 educational site visits were completed with landowners, resulting in the evaluation of 862 acres of wetland and upland habitat.
- 7 wetland habitat enhancement projects were completed, including 4 corridors to link wetland with upland habitat.
- 2100 trees and shrubs were planted.



Photo and Image Credits: Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Community Stream Steward Program

## ***Manitoba Mentored Hunt Program; Communications Campaign***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$15,000 to the Manitoba Wildlife Federation.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- The Manitoba Mentored Hunt Partnership is a provincial initiative geared towards hunter recruitment and retention. The Partnership guides the development of programs intended to reverse the declining population of hunters in Manitoba and promote participation and interest in hunting and related events.
- 15 successful mentored hunts were delivered, involving 480 participants. Hunts were targeted to youth (ages 12-17 years) and women of all ages.



Credit: Manitoba Wildlife Federation.

## ***Hen Houses and Habitats***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$100,000 to the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

### **Project accomplishments:**

- Under this project, 1,256 acres of wetland and associated upland habitats were permanently protected, using conservation easements, within areas that support an average waterfowl breeding density of 30-40 pairs per square mile. In addition to long-term securement, MHHC also completed medium-term agreements (i.e. 10 years) that protected an additional 850 acres of wetland habitat.
- 450 Hen Houses were ordered and constructed by project partner, Delta Waterfowl. 429 Hen Houses were installed within North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) target landscapes.



## Waterfowl Habitat Conservation in NAWMP Target Landscapes

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$39,545.68 to the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

### Project accomplishments:

- The Prairie Pothole Region of North America has long been recognized as the most important breeding area for waterfowl in the continent. This project, implemented under the guidance of a regional waterfowl planning framework, sought to perpetually protect 640 acres of waterfowl habitat in Manitoba.
- Four parcels of habitat were purchased under this project, which support waterfowl breeding densities of up to 50 pairs per square mile.

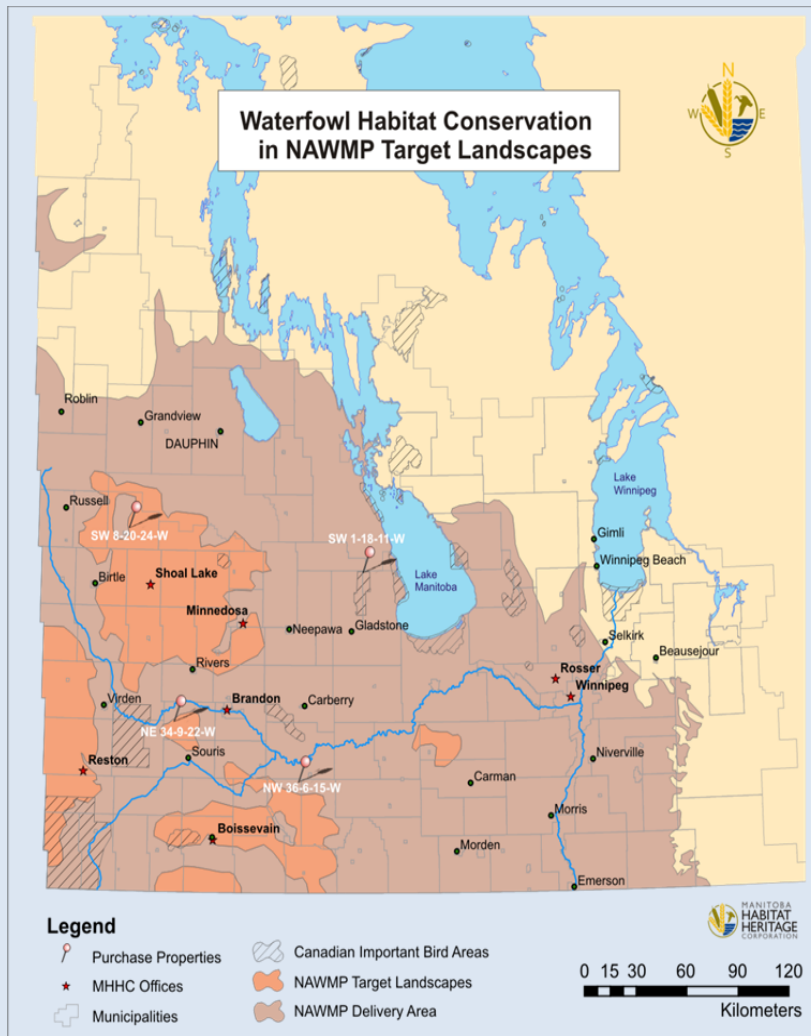


Image Credit: Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation



## *Habitat Stewardship in Saskatchewan 2013-2014*

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$100,000 to the Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan.

### Project accomplishments:

- The purpose of this project was to restore, conserve and enhance existing waterfowl habitat in order to aid the return of waterfowl breeding productivity to levels of the 1970s.
- 12 year conservation agreements were negotiated with local farmers and ranchers to convert cropland to pasture or hayland seed with native or non-invasive tame species.
- 21 agreements were signed to convert 3,691 acres of cropland to perennial forage.
- Partnered with Ducks Unlimited Canada on 14 projects to restore 143 wetland basins. (98 acres)
- Wetland and drainage inventory was completed on 232,279 acres.

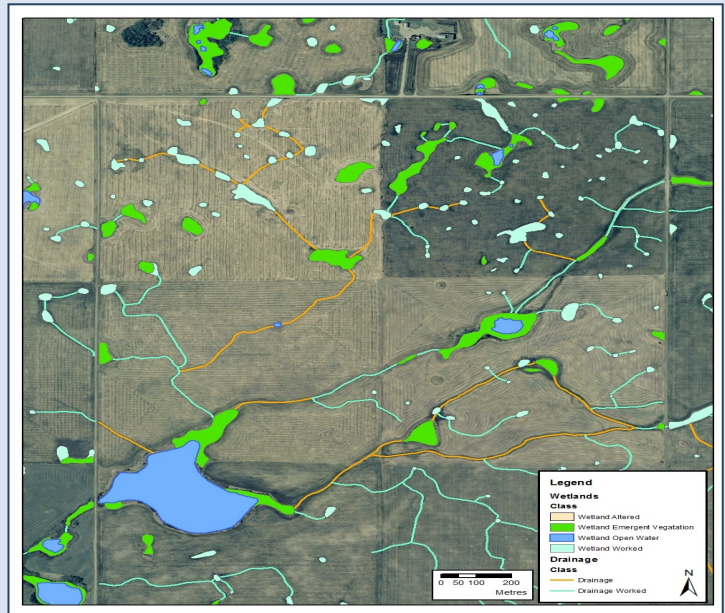


Image of wetland inventory product.  
Credit: Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan





## ***Schroeder Wetland Enhancement***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$1,300 to the Alberta Conservation Association.

Project accomplishments:

- 4 nesting tunnels were installed to increase the nesting opportunity and success for mallards.
- 400 Saskatoon Seedlings were planted on 4.5 acres of upland habitat.
- 12 acres of wetland habitat was managed for invasive vegetation.

## ***Expanding and promoting ALUS across Alberta***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$150,000 to the Delta Waterfowl Foundation.

Project accomplishments:

- The purpose of ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) is to work with and provide incentives to farmers and ranchers to environmentally enhance private lands.
- This project focused on establishing new habitat restoration, enhancement, and conservation projects on private land in Alberta by extending the existing ALUS Project in the County of Vermilion River, and by establishing the first on the ground projects of the recently launched Parkland County ALUS Project.
- Project activities further included outreach and communication efforts that were used extensively to engage landowners and community involvement at the local level, and used at the regional and provincial level to raise awareness amongst landowners and citizens, farm groups and policy-makers.
- 220 wetland habitat acres and 916 upland habitat acres were conserved, enhanced or restored through the project.

MLA Richard Starke poses in front of newly installed Hen House during MLA ALUS tour in County of Vermilion River (CVR), AB. Left to right are landowner, Trent Selte, CVR's CAO Rhonda King, Mr. Starke, and Alberta Environment's Angele Vickers.

Credit: Delta Waterfowl Foundation





***Integrated bird monitoring and avian community sampling; using new technologies to obtain information on cryptic and nocturnal bird species.***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$35,000 to Bird Studies Canada.

**Project accomplishments:**

- The purpose of this project was to explore further the use Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) to collect information on data deficient species in order to better understand species distribution and linkages to landscape characteristics.
- 657 daytime point count surveys were conducted at 144 stations and 236 nocturnal surveys were conducted at 118 survey stations.
- 2,785 1-min recording segments were processed.
- Produced materials that identify
  - 1) species that are best sampled for during nocturnal hours, and
  - 2) times of day and season to focus sampling efforts.

***“We very much appreciate Wildlife Habitat Canada's support of our work. Thank you.”***

~Kiel Drake, Biologist, Bird Studies Canada

***Enhancing mallard production using Hen Houses in Manitoba.***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$39,545.68 to the Delta Waterfowl Foundation.

**Project accomplishments:**

- As identified in NAWMP implementation plans for the Canadian Prairies, there is a need to increase duck production in order to attain population goals. Hen Houses are the most cost effective tool we have available to achieve these goals.
- 200 Hen Houses were constructed and installed. An additional 434 Hen Houses were maintained.
- 50 Hen Houses were monitored for evaluating comparisons to winter use.
- Created online videos with extensive information on Hen Houses.



Mike Kowal maintains Hen Houses using a snowmobile to get around and haul nesting materials to ensure adequate nesting materials are available for nesting mallards each spring.  
Credit: Delta Waterfowl Foundation.



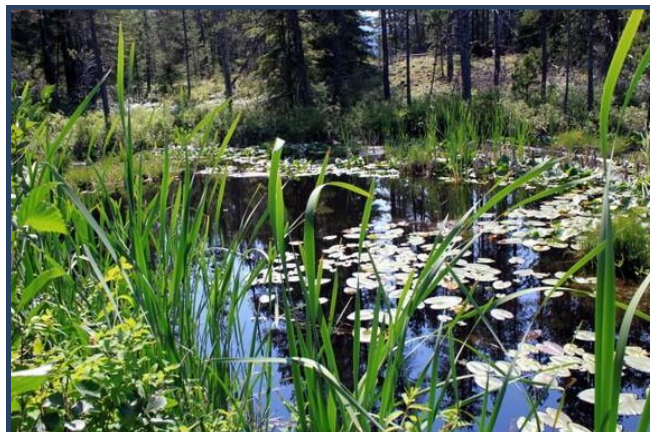


### ***Stewardship and Conservation of Priority Wildlife and Wetland/Upland Habitat on Salt Spring Island 2013-2014***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$100,000 to the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

#### **Project accomplishments:**

- 7 stewardship agreements were signed to protect 29.45 acres (11.7 hectares) of upland forest, wetland and marine shoreline habitat.
- A 32.6 acre (13.2 hectare) property surrounding half of Blackburn Lake was acquired.
- 3 Management and Restoration Plans completed for 3 SSIC Nature reserves.
- Invasive species removal was completed at 7 SSIC reserves.
- Over 2,000 grass and wildflower seedlings were transplanted into the reserve, improving upland habitat for migratory game birds and other wildlife within the rare Garry Oak ecosystems.
- 7 articles were published and 2 presentations were given in effort to raise awareness of importance of wetland and upland habitat for waterfowl and migratory game bird species.



Credits: Salt Spring Island Conservancy





### ***Wetlands on Wheels 2013-14: On the Road for capacity building in British Columbia***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$25,000 to the British Columbia Wildlife Federation.

#### **Project accomplishments:**

- The 2013-14 Wetlands on Wheels Project provided hands-on training to empower communities to conduct wetland evaluation, monitoring, restoration, construction, and other stewardship projects.
- 5 workshops were delivered in the West Kootenays area resulting in the restoration of 2 wetlands and the creation of a schoolyard wetland.
- A workshop for 17 Municipal Planners was hosted in Vancouver.
- Reached out to over 1,100 children and youth, enhancing the profile of wetlands through interactive educational programs.
- Created a Fact Sheet on Invasive Wetland Plants which was then integrated into wetland programming and made publically available.

***“The funds from WHC are so critical to our success in the last two years, we’re grateful for the support. Thanks again!”***

*~ N. Fletcher, Wetlands Education Program Coordinator*



Credits: British Columbia Wildlife Federation





### ***Farmers, Winter Cover Crops & Waterfowl***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,000 to the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust.

#### **Project accomplishments:**

- This project established winter cover crops to provide feeding habitat for waterfowl, mitigate waterfowl damage to hay and pasture crops, and contribute to long-term soil fertility.
- Farmers seeded a total of 319.5 acres of clover, which was 119.5 acres more than the targeted acreage.
- 24 Stewardship Agreements were signed and approximately 2,796.5 acres were enrolled in the Winter Cover Crop Program.
- Over 3,500 students attended the “Day at the Farm” agricultural awareness event.



Thick stand of Red Clover Cover Crops, 2013  
Credit: Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust.

### ***Crown Land Securement Partnership Program***

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

#### **Project accomplishments:**

- The project secured over 875 acres of wetland habitat and 22,450 acres of surrounding upland habitat for waterfowl, wetland associated species and migratory game birds.
- 6 new Wildlife Management Areas were established, including: Parksville Qualicum, Quatse, Dewdrop Rosseau, Derenzy/McTaggart Cowan, Starratt/Cranberry and South Okanagan Addition.
- 1 Wildlife Reserve was established in Doig.



Parksville Qualicum Wildlife Management Area  
Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada

## National

### *Canadian Wetland Leadership Conference*

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$20,000 to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

#### Project accomplishments:

- In 2003, the *Conference on Canadian Wetlands Stewardship* was convened in Ottawa under the leadership of the late Ken Cox and the Canadian Wetlands Secretariat. The vision stemming from this event was for an overall increase in wetlands by 2013, as well as maintenance or enhancement of ecological functions. In 2013, the reality is that progress on the strategies has been limited, and wetlands continue to be lost across the country.
- Through this project, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, alongside other partners, aimed to reinvigorate the dialogue on wetland conservation in Canada, to set a new course for the next decade (2014-2024) and form a Canadian Wetland Conservation Leadership Council.
- The project will bring together willing government, industry and ENGO partners and create opportunities for interested parties to discuss, recommend and commit to a contemporary, progressive model for wetland conservation leadership.
- A Steering Committee of 12 representatives of major interests in wetland conservation was created.
- A face-to-face forum of invited delegates was scheduled for April 2014 (Phase II of the project) in Ottawa.
- A virtual (web-based) forum was designed to allow a broader group of stakeholders to participate.





# Grant Program Performance Indicators

As required by Environment Canada (EC), Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) has developed a comprehensive set of performance indicators for its competitive grant program.

## What is a performance indicator?

“Performance indicators are measurable results that demonstrate how a project’s objectives are met.”

– Environment Canada, “Performance Indicators” (2013-07-02): <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/default.asp?lang=En&n=93C81A93-1>

The Performance Measurement Framework (PMF) was implemented in late 2012. 2013-2014 grantees reported against WHC’s ten performance indicators in their Final Project Reports, with the following results:

*Habitat grants provided to eligible recipients (NAWMP, other important migratory game birds):*

- **Funding allocation**, \$1,416,909 (an increase of 15.2% compared to the previous year).

*Networking grants provided to eligible recipients (Wetland Education, Hunter Education):*

- **Funding allocation**, \$70,000 (an increase of 74.1% over the previous year).

*Murre Conservation grants provided to eligible recipients:*

- **Funding allocation**, \$30,000 (remained at the same level as the previous year).

*Increased number of NAWMP conservation activities:*

- **Proportion of funded projects addressing priority activities under NAWMP as identified by the Habitat Joint Ventures and Joint Venture Technical Committee**, 84% or 31/37 projects (compared to 76% or 26/34 projects in the previous year).

*Increased number and types of habitat protected, conserved and restored:*

- **Land area conserved, enhanced or restored through funded projects**, 96,224 acres (a decrease compared to the previous year; however, the higher number of acres influenced in 2012-2013 was the result of several very large habitat conservation projects that were undertaken by WHC's larger partners).

*Increased participation in on-the-ground wetland education programs and hunter education programs:*

- **Number of participants (9,549) and total participant person-days (36,386) in on-the-ground wetland education and hunter education programs supported by WHC grants.**

*Increased participation in Murre conservation activities and management:*

- **Funding allocation**, \$30,000 (remained at the same level as the previous year).
- **Number of participants** (100) **and total participant person-days** (4,000) **in on-the ground programs specific to Murre conservation activities and management**

*Grantees are able to leverage WHC funding and secure total project funding:*

- **Funds leveraged by WHC funded projects**, \$11,378,046 (an increase compared to \$9,573,067 in the previous year).

*Increased use of voluntary preventative measures to protect, restore and enhance habitats:*

- **Voluntary preventative measures employed in funded projects (cumulative for past 2 fiscal years):**

Total land area (acres) put under stewardship by funded projects—1,105,411 acres.

Number of private landowners involved in funded projects—2,653.

Total in-kind contributions to funded projects—\$12,387,840.

*Increased number of public and private partners involved in wildlife habitat conservation:*

- **Number of partners involved in wildlife habitat conservation:**

Average number of partners involved in funded projects—6.26

*Increased application of innovative habitat conservation tools:*

- **Innovative habitat conservation tools in funded projects**, 59.1% (figure represents the past 2 fiscal years)

*Increased scientific understanding of habitat conservation and migratory game bird management:*

- **Funded projects showing ‘evidence of acquisition’ of expected knowledge and/or skills by the target group (cumulative for past 2 fiscal years):**

Total approved funding for Research projects that are supported by a Joint Venture—\$250,288.

*Conservation and protection of valuable wetland and associated upland habitats that sustain abundant populations of waterfowl and other migratory game birds:*

- **Status of habitat and migratory bird populations**, requires reporting at the end of every fifth fiscal year. Results to be reported March 2017.



# Financial Summary 2013-2014

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of Wildlife Habitat Canada

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2014, the summary statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of Wildlife Habitat Canada for the year ended March 31, 2014. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 19, 2014. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations applied in the preparation of the audited financial statements of Wildlife Habitat Canada. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Wildlife Habitat Canada.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with criteria described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Wildlife Habitat Canada for the year ended March 31, 2014 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with criteria described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

### *Other matter*

The financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2013 are unaudited and were compiled by management.



Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario  
June 30, 2014

# WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

## Summarized Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013 (unaudited)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Accounts receivable	\$ 564,874	\$ 678,995
Prepaid expenses	21,433	24,635
	586,307	703,630
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	126,652	300,394
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	34,221	53,416
	160,873	353,810
	<b>\$ 747,180</b>	<b>\$ 1,057,440</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Bank indebtedness	\$ 270,134	\$ 91,254
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	187,944	703,985
	458,078	795,239
<b>FUNDS HELD IN TRUST</b>	152,159	176,004
	610,237	971,243
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in capital assets	34,221	53,416
Unrestricted	102,722	32,781
	136,943	86,197
	<b>\$ 747,180</b>	<b>\$ 1,057,440</b>



# WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

## Summarized Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013 (unaudited)
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Conservation Stamp Program	\$ 1,896,977	\$ 1,736,631
Philatelic stamps	32,202	16,656
Stamp and prints	23,918	25,030
Rental	22,330	20,468
Youth stamps	2,662	7,311
Other	24,863	27,432
	<b>2,002,952</b>	<b>1,833,528</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Funds Habitat Conservation	1,516,909	1,300,550
Salaries and benefits	233,501	338,860
Rent	86,358	88,021
General and administration	63,308	88,063
Hospitality, travel and board	23,880	26,606
Professional fees	9,055	43,567
Amortization of capital assets	19,195	31,204
	<b>1,952,206</b>	<b>1,916,871</b>
	<b>50,746</b>	<b>(83,343)</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE (EXPENSES)</b>		
Proceeds from sale of Hare Island	-	250,000
Inventory write-down	-	(42,625)
	<b>-</b>	<b>207,375</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>50,746</b>	<b>124,032</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>86,197</b>	<b>(37,835)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 136,943</b>	<b>\$ 86,197</b>



### 1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The summary financial statements are derived from the complete audited financial statements, prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organization, as at and for the year ended March 31, 2014.

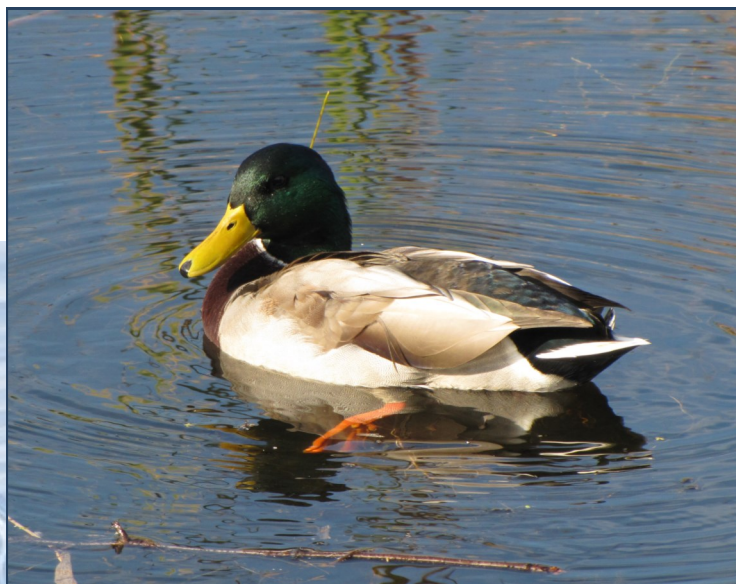
The preparation of these summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in the summary financial statements so that they are consistent, in all material respects, with or represent a fair summary of the audited financial statements.

These summarized financial statements have been prepared by management using the following criteria:

- (a) whether information in the summarized financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the complete audited financial statements; and
- (b) whether, in all material respects, the summarized financial statements contain the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the related complete audited financial statements, including the note thereto.

Management has determined that the statement of cash flows does not provide useful additional information and, as such, has not included it as part of the summary financial statements.

The complete audited financial statements of Wildlife Habitat Canada are available upon request by contacting the Organization.



Credit: J. Thompson



## Our Supporters and Partners



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

Through the legislative arrangement with Environment Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada receives the revenues from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, purchased primarily by waterfowl hunters to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits. Each year, Wildlife Habitat Canada receives this financial support through a contribution agreement with Environment Canada. This endeavour supports Environment Canada's responsibility for the protection and conservation of habitat, particularly for the conservation of waterfowl pursuant to the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Wildlife Habitat Canada would like to thank the following organizations for their support and partnership of our programs and activities in 2013-2014:

- Alberta Conservation Association
- Bass Pro Shop
- Bird Studies Canada
- Canada Post
- Canadian Museum of Nature
- Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada
- Delta Waterfowl Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Fondation de la faune du Québec
- Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association
- Land Stewardship Centre of Canada (Alberta)
- Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council
- Long Point Waterfowl
- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
- Manitoba Wildlife Federation
- McAra Printing
- National Watershed Stewardship Coalition
- Nature Canada
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources
- Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation
- Northern Park Apparel
- Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
- Nova Scotia Nature Trust
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Parks Canada
- Canadian Wildlife Federation Get to Know Contest
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- Stewardship Network of Ontario
- The Lowe-Martin Group
- Trout Unlimited
- Water Security Agency, Saskatchewan



## Board of Directors

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Real Estate Specialist, Irving Oil Limited

### Vice-Chair

Eric Boysen  
Director, Biodiversity Branch/Renewable Energy  
Program, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

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Carly Deacon  
Program Manager, Manitoba Wildlife Federation

Henry Murkin  
Retired National Director of Conservation, Ducks  
Unlimited Canada

Michael Phippen  
Senior Vice-President and Managing Director  
BMO Nesbitt Burns

Michael Reader  
Retired Executive Director, Ontario Federation of  
Anglers and Hunters

Kelly Semple  
Executive Director, Hunting for Tomorrow

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L.G. "Len" Ugarenko

**Grants Administrator-Executive Assistant**  
Julia Thompson

**Director of Finance and Administration**  
Pierre Vary

**Director of Stamp and Print Program**  
Amanda Burchert

**Accounting Administrator**  
Hao Wu

## With special thanks to the following volunteers:

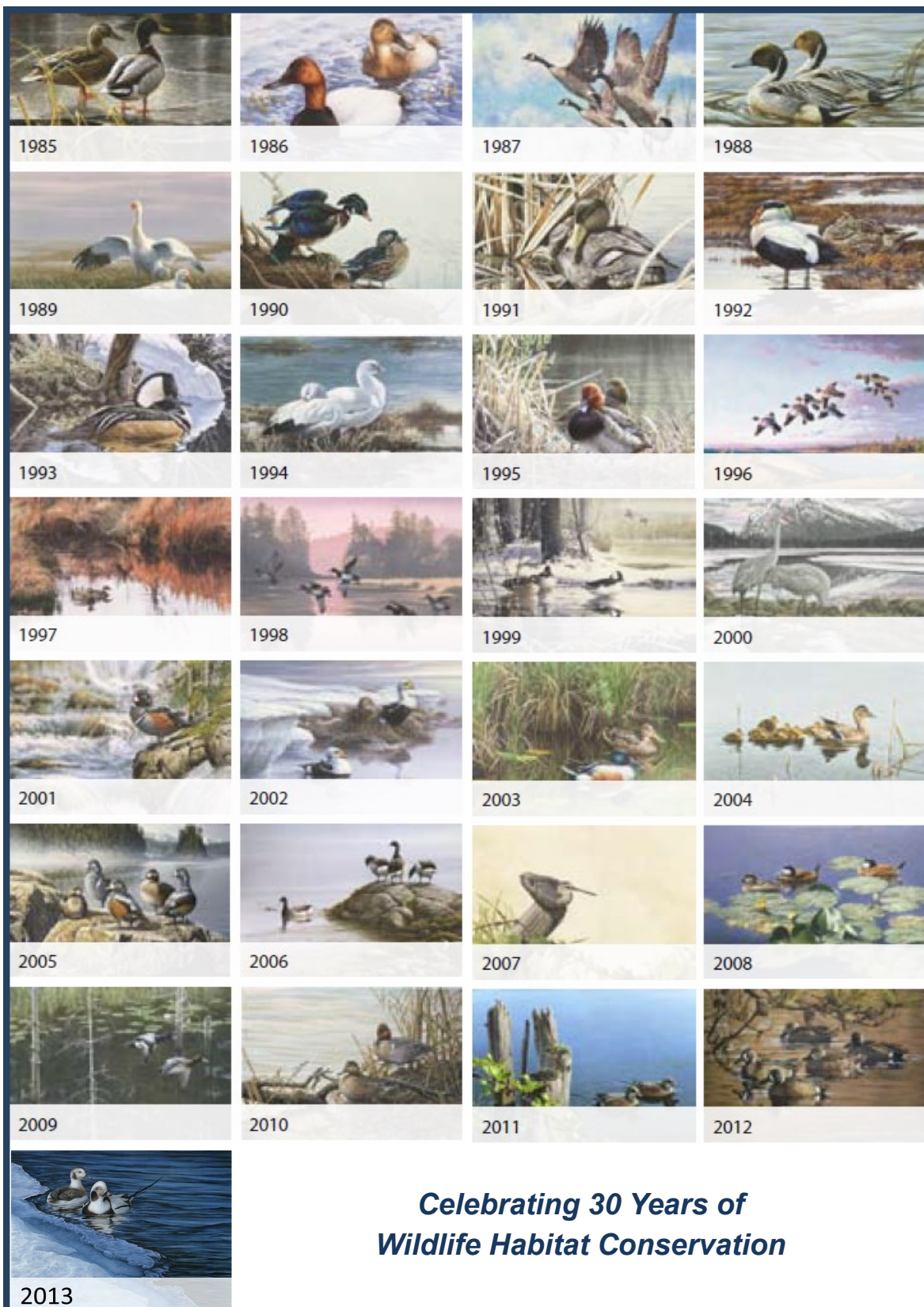
Monica Reyes

Rebecca Rooke

Credit: J. Thompson







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