

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Without habitat there is no wildlife...

It's that simple!





Credit: Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

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 2014 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Image, "Sun-Kissed Cinnamon-Cinnamon Teal" by Lori Boast.

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

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Credit: NL Wildlife Division

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: Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

Our objectives are to:

- Provide a funding mechanism for wildlife habitat conservation programs in Canada;
- Conserve, restore and enhance wildlife habitat in order to retain the diversity, distribution and abundance of wildlife;
- Foster coordination and leadership in the conservation community across Canada;
- Promote the conservation contributions of waterfowl hunters and encourage waterfowl hunting participation.



Message from the Chair

This year marked the thirtieth annual Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp. Lori Boast's winning stamp image, entitled "Sun Kissed Cinnamon—Cinnamon Teal" was a wonderful piece to continue the tradition of bridging art, conservation and the human condition.

The 2014-2015 Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program provided \$1,558,686 for grants to 43 projects. This funding leveraged more than \$15.7 million in additional partner revenue to help conserve more than 87,566 acres (35,436.7 hectares) of wildlife habitat right across Canada.

2014-2015 was a busy year with a number of changes for the organization. In June 2015, Cameron Mack joined Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) as Executive Director. Cam comes to WHC with extensive natural resource management experience. Over 14 years, Cam worked as a Director in four branches of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, with accountability for Ontario's fish and wildlife program, biodiversity conservation, Great Lakes management, and natural resources science and research. He will be actively involved of all aspects the organization, including maintaining active membership and representing WHC on the federal Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel (HAAP) and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (NAWCC) Canada.

Also in June 2015, previous Chairman, Kevin Harris, completed his term on the WHC Board of Directors. Completing 3 years as Chairman, Kevin worked hard to help WHC secure the current three year Contribution Agreement with Environment Canada. A big thank you to Kevin for his many years of service to WHC. We wish him all the best in his next endeavours.

In 2014-2015, the WHC Board of Directors welcomed two new members: David Harris, retired Regional Director, Eastern Region, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources; and Travis Ripley, Executive Director, Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch, Alberta Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

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.



Photo credit: Tracey Jazmin

Eric Boysen

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!



2014 Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print

The 2014 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print feature the image "Sun Kissed Cinnamon—Cinnamon Teal" by artist Lori Boast (Winnipeg, MB).

2014 Print and Stamp Image

W. Allan Hancock

2015 Canadian Wildlife Habitat
Conservation Stamp & Print Artist

"When I think of Doves in general, words like *soft*, *gentle* and *peaceful* come to mind. In this painting of Mourning Doves, I tried to convey these aspects through the coziness of the birds and the beauty of the setting. I also chose a setting that would reflect the fact that Mourning Doves are common in both rural and urban areas - the branch they are perched in could be from a tree in a country orchard or a city park."



By featuring two doves in different positions I was able to highlight the beauty of the entire bird, pointing out subtle differences between the male and female. And while I love the excitement of an alert bird, a relaxed bird just seems to blossom."



2015 Print and Stamp Image

2015 Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print

The 31st Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp image was created by wildlife artist W. Allan Hancock (Salt Spring Island, BC). Hancock's image, entitled "Blossoming – Mourning Dove," was released on April 1, 2015.

Did you know...? The Mourning Dove is the most frequently hunted migratory game bird species in North America.

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>.



2015 Lapel Pin Image

Supporting Hunters

Wildlife Habitat Canada supported conservation and hunting organizations during the 2014-2015 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.

2014 Mentor Lapel Pins

The Mentor Pin Program was very successful again this year. Wildlife Habitat Canada provided over 1,200 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.



2014 Mentor Lapel Pin



AHEIA's Youth Camps and Outdoor Youth Seminar.
Credits: Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association.

Conservation Edition Prints

In 2014-2015, 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.

- Association des Sauvaginiers de la grande région de Québec
- Ducks Unlimited Canada, Hampton Chapter
- Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ottawa chapter
- Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs: Lanaudière and Gaspésie-Iles de la Madeleine.
- Grenville Fish and Game Club
- New Brunswick Wildlife Federation
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Port Moody Ecological Society
- West Arm Outdoor Club
- London Environmental Education Centre, Durham Children's Water Festival
- Fisherman and Scientists Research Society
- Friendship through Fishing, Golf Tournament
- Long Point Waterfowl
- Canards Illimités – Grand Portneuf
- Foundation de la truite mouchetee

If your organization would like to learn more about this program, please email admin@whc.org.



Credit: NS Department of Natural Resources—Wildlife Division



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: Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

Highlights of Accomplishments for Grants in 2014-2015

The 2014-2015 Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program provided 43 grants totalling approximately \$1,558,686. This funding leveraged more than \$15.7 million in additional partner revenue to help conserve more than 87,566 acres (35,436.7 hectares) of wildlife habitat across Canada.

New Brunswick



Hen House Installations on Private Lands In Southern New Brunswick

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$4,750 to SNB Wood Co-operative Ltd.

Project accomplishments:

- The purpose of this project was to improve the quality and quantity of productive nesting sites for mallard hens on private lands in southern N.B.
- 50 mallard hen houses were built and installed on 22 different private woodlots and municipalities in southern N.B.
- Over 137 acres were enhanced to improve nesting areas for mallard hens.



Credits: SNB Wood Co-operative Ltd.



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

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$50,000 to the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Division.

Project accomplishments:

- 13 farms (2,495 acres) were assessed for the program, including 9239 acres of wetland habitat.
- Partnerships with DAL-SRES and CARP were formed to assist in various projects (i.e. BioLOG and ABC plans on agricultural land in the Annapolis River watershed).
- “Farm Habitat – How farmers promote biodiversity” educational awareness cartoon was distributed through a provincial newspaper.
- 12 field / workshop events were executing, with approximately 2,900 adults and youth participating.
- 7 sites were assessed with Ducks Unlimited Canada staff for potential wetland enhancement.



Credits: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Division



Newfoundland and Labrador Wetlands Stewardship

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,000 to NL Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Conservation.



Credits: NL Wildlife Division

Project accomplishments:

- Reached agreements in principle with three municipalities, which will secure over 1,622 acres of wetland.
- Provided assistance to the municipal signatories of previous agreements.
- Currently, 33 municipalities are securing approximately 37,000 acres of wildlife habitat and influencing land use activities on over 600,000 acres.
- 3 corporate stewardship agreements and 37 private landowner agreements were signed. 25 parcels of wildlife habitat have been purchased (with non-Wildlife Habitat Canada funds).
- Produced and updated 5 habitat conservation plans for municipalities with signed stewardship agreements, namely Port aux Basques, Come by Chance, Flatrock, Portugal Cove-St Phillip's, and Bauline.





Building Support for Waterfowl and Wetland Conservation in the Codroy Valley of Newfoundland

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$25,000 to Intervale Associates Inc.

Project accomplishments:

- Conducted a variety of activities with the goal of building support for the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl in the Codroy Valley of southwest Newfoundland.
- Activities included a well-publicized workshop for residents; participation in a local festival; small group discussions; school presentations for elementary students; dialogue with landowners; and daily monitoring of waterfowl, shorebirds, and other water birds.
- Produced an attractive, portable banner promoting the Grand Codroy estuary as a Ramsar wetland and enlisted the local Credit Union for promotion.
- Produced 10,000 designed placemats that communicated the value of waterfowl and wetland conservation and what residents can do to help.



Credits: Intervale Associates Inc.

Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund



Through the Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund, Wildlife Habitat Canada provided \$26,750 in funding to one NL Murre Conservation project.

Investigating the Foraging Tactics of Parental Common Murres Breeding on Funk Island to Identify Key Foraging Areas

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$26,750 to the Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Project accomplishments:

- Purchased 10 Ecotone devices and a remote recorder.
- Ecotone GPS loggers were attached to 10 parental Common Murres to monitor foraging tracks.
- 93 parental prey loads were collected from Common Murres on Funk Island. Beach and vessel surveys for spawning capelin were completed during the summer months.
- Sexed 9 of 10 tracked murres [5 males, 4 females]; mapped tracks and analyzed foraging behaviour of males and females.
- 11 formal presentations were conducted to fishers, hunters, scientists and the general public.



Credit: Memorial University of Newfoundland



Wildlife Management of Marais-aux-Massettes

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

Project accomplishments:

- The goal of the project was to restore the Marais-aux-Massettes area, to ensure the productivity of habitat for waterfowl, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and aquatic and semi-aquatic mammals.
- The primary spillway was replaced and a secondary spillway was restored, which enabled the upgrading of the existing water level control structures. This resulted in the conservation of 210 acres of wetland habitat.



Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Credit: Regroupement des propriétaires du marais de Grondines (RPMG).



Restoration and rehabilitation of the Grondines Marsh ponds

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$16,500 to the Regroupement des propriétaires du marais de Grondines (RPMG).

Project accomplishments:

- The goal of the project was to significantly improve the value of wetlands on private, protected lands in the Grondines area.
- Worked with 3 landowners to establish almost 1,000m of access to the pond network and 15 culverts.
- The project restored 35 ponds and resulted in the planting of 2,000 trees.

Introduction to hunting waterfowl - 2014

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$15,000 to Wildlife Heritage (a conservation subsidiary of the Quebec Federation of Anglers and Hunters).

Project accomplishments:

- Seven introductory waterfowl hunting workshops were delivered, including workshops on birding, rifle fire, safety and hunting techniques.

Wildlife Management of Saint-Barthélemy—Improving segment 3

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$40,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Project accomplishments:

- The purpose of the project was to re-assess the development concept at the Saint-Barthélemy site to stop the discharge of sediment into the lake and restore habitat for waterfowl and fish.
- A site survey, biological concept and operation protocol were completed.
- Seeding for agricultural work and weed control to establish a healthy ground cover were initiated.



Credits: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Protection of forested wetlands on private land / Southern Quebec / EHJV 2014-2015

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$45,000 to the Fondation de la faune du Québec.

Project accomplishments:

- 100 landowner manuals were distributed, with the purpose of promoting best land management and conservation practices.
- 5 recognition events were held to reward landowners who conducted strong conservation actions and promote networking among these landowners.
- Renewed land stewardship agreements with 75 landowners.
- Identified, assessed and monitored wetlands for potential and ongoing restoration work.



Credits: Fondation de la faune du Québec.

Construction and installation of nesting structures in the Municipality of Baie-du-Febvre

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$19,000 to the Regroupement des sauvagins du Lac Saint-Pierre.

Project accomplishments:

- The purpose of the project was to build and install waterfowl nest boxes to improve reproduction and compensate for the degradation of habitat in recent years.
- 100 nest boxes were built and installed.



Credit: Regroupement des sauvagins du Lac Saint-Pierre.

Interpretive Panels on Waterfowl and American Woodcock

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$5,000 to Sécurité Nature.

Project accomplishments:

- Two interpretive panels / signs to educate the public about waterfowl and American Woodcock were designed and installed in the Boisé héritage faune area in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures, QC.

Credit: Sécurité Nature



Stewardship and Conservation of Wetlands in Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$40,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Project accomplishments:

- Ecological characterizations of 32 properties was completed.
- 2 conservation easements and 3 stewardship agreements were established.
- Surveyed and identified priority biodiversity targets for plant and animal species in the Gaspésie and Madeleine Islands area.
- A nature guide/interpreter led more than 20 activities at wetlands involved in the project, including those that promoted hunters' contributions to conservation.

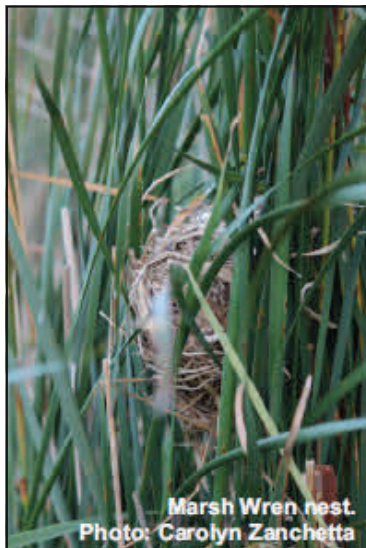


Enhancing the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program to meet OEHJV and NAWMP priorities – Year 1 of 2

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$23,000 to Bird Studies Canada.

Project accomplishments:

- The primary short term purpose of the project was to develop a new sampling framework for the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program (GLMMP) to better reflects Ontario Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (OEHJV) and North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) priorities. In the future, the framework will allow OEHJV partners to evaluate and improve conservation and management for wetland dependent species.
- Developed a randomized wetland sampling scheme.
- Enhanced population trend analyses for marsh birds and frogs based on existing GLMMP data.



Long Point Crown Marsh (LPCM) Restoration Project

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

Project accomplishments:

- 13 acres of open-water community were restored (resulting in a 17 acre wetland complex when combined with existing features on site).
- Two new open water cells were created with hydrologic connections that will continue to support fish spawning and nursery habitat.
- 6 acres of invasive Phragmites were controlled on dry land in the periphery of the new cells and around existing open water communities.

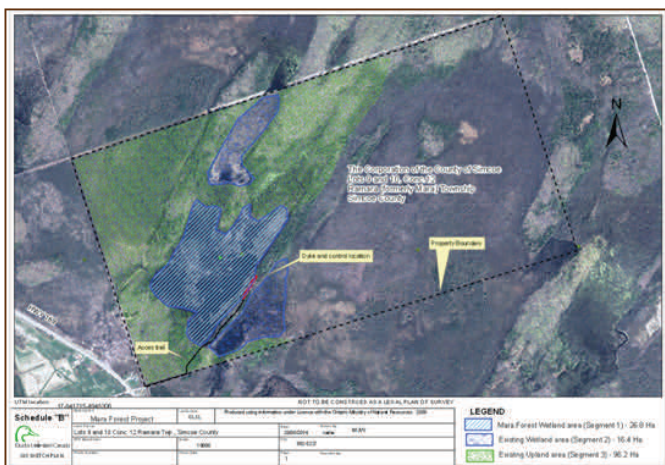


Ankney Pond + un-named pond

Credit: Long Point Waterfowlers Association



Credits: Ducks Unlimited Canada



Mara Forest (Existing project rebuild – sketch plan)

Wetland Values in Southern Ontario: Restoration and Conservation through Partnership

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$110,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Project accomplishments:

- The goal of the project was to protect and restore wetland habitat in priority habitat areas (PHA) across Ontario.
- Facilitated the implementation of 12 wetland conservation projects, representing over 101 acres of restored wetland habitat. Protected 288 acres of existing, productive wetland habitat and 779 acres of associated upland habitat.
- 3 larger wetland restoration projects restored functionality to degraded wetland habitats and provided permanent wetland habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.
- 4 projects involved the securement of existing productive wetlands using both nest boxes and agricultural Best Management Practices.
- Aging infrastructure that had reached the end of its design life was replaced.

Ontario



Leeds Community Pasture – East Pasture Wetlands Restoration

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$14,575 to the Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council.

Project accomplishments:

- 57.2 acres of wetland habitat was protected.
- 23.2 acres of woodland habitat was protected.
- Installation of cattle exclusion fencing around targeted wetlands was completed.
- 1 solar watering system was installed.



Credit: Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council

Celebrating Hunting Heritage and Conservation in the Land Between

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$74,500 to The Land Between.



Credit: The Land Between

Project accomplishments:

- A feature length film with dynamic media platform was designed to attract new audiences and allow them to explore hunting heritage and the role of hunters in conservation.
- The film delivers a new and deepened awareness and respect for the cultural practice of hunting and land stewardship.

Movement, habitat selection and survival of female Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and ducklings at Long Point, ON

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$35,000 to Long Point Waterfowl.

Project accomplishments:

- Research in this area aims to improve ecological understanding of Wood Duck breeding ecology at the northern range of the species, contribute to a broader understanding of the North American Wood Duck population, and help refine management practices for nest box programs and brood rearing habitats.
- 300 nest boxes were maintained within the study area.
- Recorded activity at over 70 nests within the study area, and observed highest nest success rate ever recorded.
- Collected eggshell membranes from successful nests for future research purposes.
- Marked 40 birds with transmitters and banded all adult females encountered.
- Successfully radio tracked female Wood Ducks and broods to 30 days post-hatch using a truck mounted null-peak antenna system.



Image: freshly hatched Wood Duck ducklings.



Image: transmitter implant day.

Credits: Long Point Waterfowl

Youth Hunting & Conservation Course

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

Project accomplishments:

- The Youth Hunting & Conservation Course was developed to provide today's youth with the opportunity to increase their awareness of - and participate in - our hunting heritage.
- 30 youth participated in a 6 day workshop of hands-on activities, which included training and mentorship in hunting, wildlife conservation and management.
- Participants completed their Canadian Firearms Certification, Ontario Hunter Safety class, Waterfowling Heritage instruction, the Importance of Hunting instruction, Waterfowl Identification, Waterfowl Conservation & Management instruction, Hunting Advocacy in Ontario instruction, and Ontario Turkey Hunter Safety course.



Credits: Long Point Waterfowl



Credits: St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

North Sydenham River Habitat Creation and Enhancement Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$22,000 to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

Project accomplishments:

- 24 acres of wetland, riparian and upland habitat was created as part of this project.
- 10 acres of new wetland habitat was created on three properties in the McKeough Rental Parcels, and 14 acres of riparian area were prepared. Planting was conducted on properties abutting the river.
- 12 property management plans were completed, with recommendations for future work.

Hutton Creek Wetland and Motts Mills Dam Restoration and Management Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$96,000 to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

Project accomplishments:

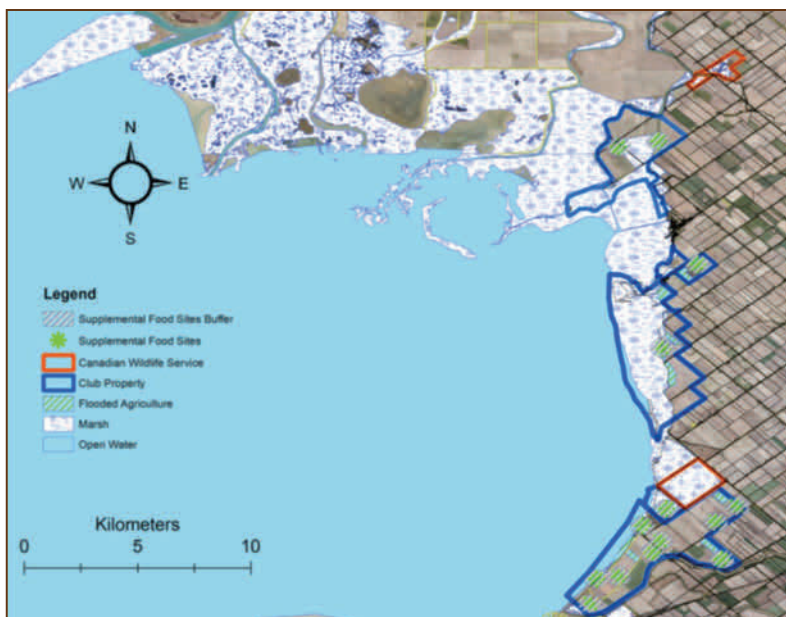
- Assessment and design work for replacing water control infrastructure with new water control works was completed for the provincially significant Hutton Creek Wetland. This will allow emergent vegetation to diversify and the cattails monoculture to be managed, which will increase the quality of waterfowl breeding habitat.

Habitat selection and survival of American Black Ducks and Mallards during Autumn-Winter

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$40,000 to Long Point Waterfowl .

Project accomplishments:

- This research will provide critical information to assess habitat use and energetic carrying capacity of American Black Ducks and Mallards during the non-breeding season.
- Contacted 12 properties consisting of 15 area managers to assess available habitat.
- Trapped and banded 821 waterfowl.
- Deployed 20 GPS satellite transmitters on adult female Mallards.
- Determined the movements, survival, and foraging ecology of migrating American Black Ducks and compared these metrics to those of Mallards on both publicly and privately owned wetland complexes.



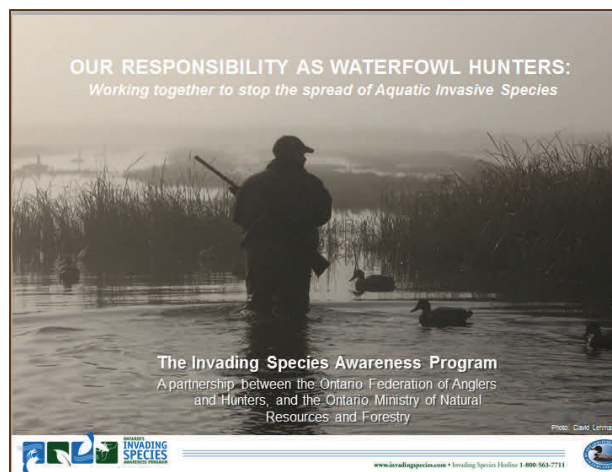
Credit: Long Point Waterfowl.

Invasive Phragmites Education for Waterfowl Hunters

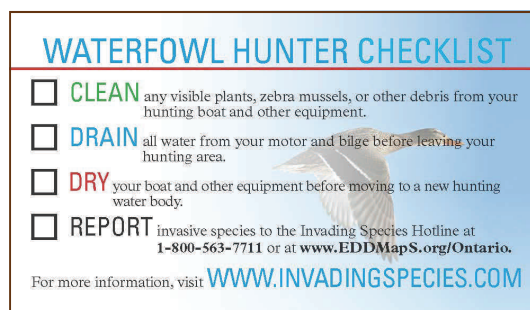
Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$16,500 to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Community Stream Steward Program.

Project accomplishments:

- The overall goal of the project was to increase knowledge among waterfowl hunters in Ontario about how their actions may facilitate the spread or introduction of invasive species.
- A new brochure entitled “Our Responsibility as Waterfowl Hunters” was developed (30,000 copies distributed).
- Partnered with over 30 hunting retail outlets across Ontario to distribute educational materials.
- Produced a self-directed online and DVD format workshop.
- Partnered with Long Point Waterfowl to deliver invasive species seminars during the Toronto Sportsmen’s Show (4 seminars).
- A thirty second radio PSA was produced and a video PSA is in development.



Credits: Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters



Reverse Actions - Keeping water on the land with Reverse Auctions

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$70,000 to the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

Project accomplishments:

- 640 km² of wetlands were mapped to provide a baseline dataset of wetland restoration options.
- Three conservation easements were completed, totalling 861 acres.
- Three projects restored 15 acres of wetland habitat. 45 acres of upland habitat was enhanced through tree planting.
- 218 acres of grasslands were enhanced through the implementation of a grazing system, off-site watering and fencing.
- Completed a report profiling conservation delivery using reverse auction and traditional approaches.



Credit: Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

Conserving Big Grass Marsh

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$27,750 to the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

Project accomplishments:

- 2 conservation easements were signed and registered on the land title.
- 33,175 acres of wetland and upland habitat have been protected in perpetuity.
- As a result of project activities, 52% of Important Bird Area MB033 is now protected (18,862 acres).

Becoming an Outdoors Woman (B.O.W.), Beyond B.O.W. Mentored Hunts and Manitoba Provincial Hunting Day

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

Project accomplishments:

- Delivered one Mentored Women's Waterfowl Hunt to participants interested in advancing their skills learned at BOW.
- Delivered one Mentored Woman's Whitetail Deer hunt to past BOW participants interested in advancing their skills.
- Delivered Provincial Hunting Day at Oak Hammock Marsh (350 hunters and non-hunters attended).



Credit:
Manitoba Wildlife
Federation

Ponass Lake (Heritage Marsh) Rebuild

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$75,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Project accomplishments:

- The Ponass Lake Heritage Marsh is a 6,932 acre marsh complex consisting of six basins ranging from 242 to 4,029 acres in size. It is an important habitat for staging, molting and breeding waterfowl.
- The existing water control structures and culverts were replaced in crossings which had reached their anticipated life expectancy to ensure the ongoing protection of Saskatchewan's first Heritage Marsh.
- The new control structure and the HDPE pipes have an anticipated life expectancy of 50+ years.



Credits: Ducks Unlimited Canada.

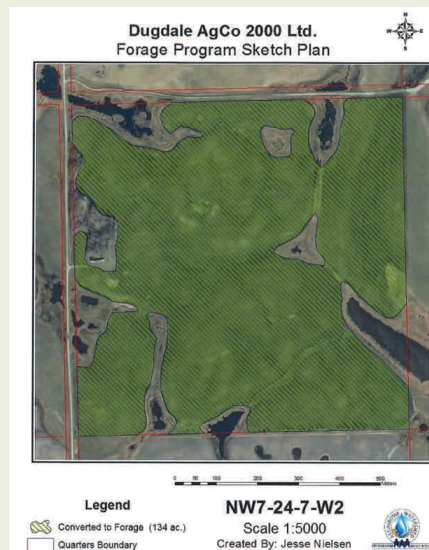


Conservation and enhancement of wetlands in Saskatchewan

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$36,890 to the Water Security Agency.

Project accomplishments:

- Voluntary agreements were signed with 5 farmers to convert 1,010 acres of cropland to pasture or hayland seed with native or non-invasive tame species, and maintain the converted lands for a minimum of 12 years.
- The above resulted in the conservation of an additional 138 acres of wetland habitat in the Upper Assiniboine and Pheasant Hills NAWMP Target Landscape.
- This project aims to contribute to returning waterfowl breeding productivity to the average levels of the 1950's.



Example of upland breeding habitat restoration area.

Credit: Water Security Agency.

AHEIA's Youth Camps and Outdoor Youth Seminar

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$43,000 to the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association.

Project accomplishments:

- The purpose of the project was to increase youth awareness of outdoor recreational opportunities.
- 4 Youth Camps took place during the month of July 2014 (with 326 youth participants and 100 staff/volunteers).
- Participants learned about: building a lean-to, fire starting, building a signal fire, first aid, hypothermia prevention and treatment, wildlife identification and habitat.

Mentored Hunt Program Materials Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$4,000 to the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association.

Project accomplishments:

- Developed an education booklet, entitled, "Conducting a Successful Mentored Hunt: Guide for Mentors."
- Developed an educational booklet, entitled, "Your First Hunting Experience: Guide for Participants of a Mentored Hunt."

AHEIA's Outdoor Women's Program

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$28,160 to the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association.

Project accomplishments:

- The 21st annual Outdoor Women's Program hosted 170 women for 5 days of learning, camaraderie, fun and an opportunity to begin to master the outdoors.
- On-going follow up programs were planned for the Fall of 2014, to further involve women in the outdoors, leveraging popular and effective events such as Mentored Hunts, and Provincial Hunting Day.



Credits: Alberta Hunting Education Instructors' Association.



Waterfowl habitat delivery through ALUS in Alberta and Saskatchewan

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$107,951.80 to the Delta Waterfowl Foundation.

Project accomplishments:

- Goal 1: work with communities to embrace Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) and have a direct role in its delivery.
- Goal 2: expand ALUS locally, provincially and nationally.
- Negotiated and signed 9 landowner agreements (conserving 275 acres of wetland and upland habitat; installed 50 Hen Houses).
- Created an e-newsletter, published frequent updates on the alus.ca website and conducted presentations on ALUS at numerous meetings.
- Won municipal and watershed awards in Alberta.
- Expanded ALUS to four new communities in western Canada.



ALUS coordinator, Paige Englot, leads a tour of a wetland project in the RM of Francis, just southeast of Regina, SK.



Shovelers, Ruddy ducks, Redheads and Blue-winged Teal on an enhanced wetland in Red Deer County, AB.

Credits: Delta Waterfowl Foundation.



Conservation, Enhancement and Stewardship of Priority Wetland and Upland Habitat on Salt Spring Island 2014-2015

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$140,000 to the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

Project accomplishments:

- Supported the enhancement of upland habitat in 5 key locations, including invasive species removal, native seed collections, propagation and transplanting, caging and fencing of native trees and shrubs, and native planting plan for the north end of the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve to restore biodiversity.
- Restored lakeshore habitat on 3 properties, with near eradication of Purple Loosestrife in the Cusheon Lake watershed.
- Two Management and Restoration Plans were completed for Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve and the covenanted Mt. Tuam Protected Area.
- Public awareness of the importance of wetlands, stewardship and/or wetland-associated species was increased via video and media promotion, and signage.

Farm Level Stewardship in the lower Fraser River delta: Cover Crops & Waterfowl

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

Project accomplishments:

- 18 Stewardship Agreements were signed by Farmer Co-operators and 3,184.3 acres were enrolled in the Winter Cover Crop Program.
- Farmers planted 179 acres of legumes, 162 of which were cover crop mixes, in order to cover the fields before winter. This provided high-quality feeding habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds, and also benefited farmland soil.



Snow Geese foraging in cereal cover crop, Delta BC.

Credit: Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust.



Chilcotin Marsh Enhancement

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$21,750 to the Nature Trust of British Columbia.

Project accomplishments:

- More than 6 km of cattle exclusion fencing was installed on the south and east perimeters of the conservation property, contributing to the protection of over 2,449 acres of wetland and associated upland habitat.
- Site visits (5) were conducted over the course of the project, ensuring that activities were completed in a safe, timely, and economical manner.
- Neighbouring land managers and tenure holders (6) were made aware of the project and associated conservation land values.



Credit: The Nature Trust of British Columbia

Crown Land Securement Partnership Program

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Project accomplishments:

- The Green Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) addition was completed.
- Consultations were completed for the pending Harrison-Chehalis (3,750 acres) and Somenos (153 acres) Wildlife Management Areas.
- The Beatton-Milligan S. 17 Wildlife Reserve was established.
- Applications were submitted for S. 16 wildlife reserves over the Salmon River Estuary (300 acres), Baynes Sound (5,000 acres) and for German Lake wetlands in the Peace Boreal (4,223 acres).
- Held a WMA designation ceremony for the Quatse WMA in Port Hardy.



Credit: The Nature Conservancy of Canada

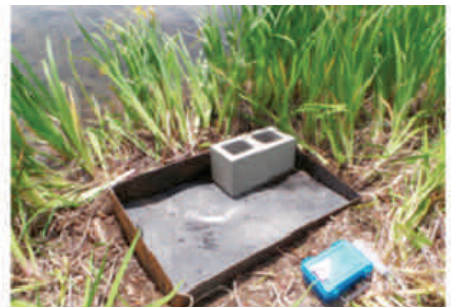


Researching low-cost benthic barriers as an effective yellow flag iris control mechanism in high priority waterfowl habitat areas

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$25,000 to Thompson Rivers University.

Project accomplishments:

- This research project aimed to learn more about the unique flora and fauna in the Okanagan, specifically the invasive yellow flag iris, which endangers the quality and quantity of bird habitat.
- Investigated and tested various solutions to remove yellow flag iris in the region using different scientific methods.
- The efficacy of a benthic barrier, a non-porous rubber material approximately 3 mm thick, was tested at 2 locations across 9 sites.
- Results were presented at the Regional Society for the Rangeland Management (2014) meeting, OASSIS Annual General Meeting (2014), Alberta Invasive Species Meeting (2015).



Installation of the benthic barrier.

Credits: Thompson Rivers University





Habitat Stewardship in the Okanagan Basin

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$25,000 to the Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society.

Project accomplishments:

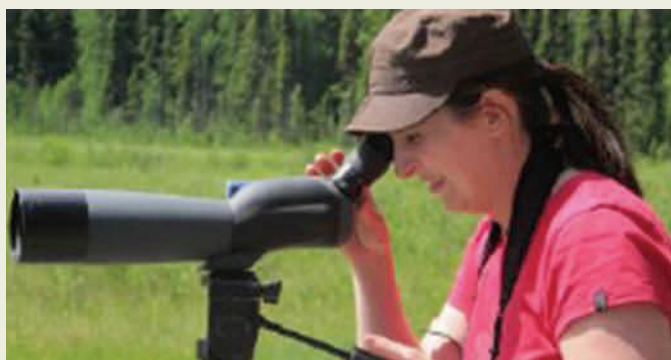
- Supported 13 existing stewards and engaged a further 37 landowners in written management agreements to total 50 Wildlife Habitat Stewards (increasing actively stewarded wildlife habitat from approximately 700 acres to 1,700 acres).
- 2,826 acres, including 1,693 acres of sensitive habitat, were effectively conserved via written management agreements with the Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society.
- 5,165kg of garbage was removed from stewarded wetlands.
- 15 truckloads of invasive plants were removed from stewarded areas.

Wetland on Wheels 2014-2015: Empowering and encouraging stewards in BC

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,000 to the British Columbia Wildlife Federation.

Project accomplishments:

- BCWF delivered a Wetlandkeepers Workshop, as well as a Restoration Design Workshop, that resulted in the restoration of 5 wetlands in Meadow Creek.
- A Working Group Workshop was also held in Grand Forks, which led to support for a new mapping initiative.
- The Wetlands Institute Workshop was held across Courtenay, Nanaimo, and Duncan. In Courtenay, participants provided support to the Lazo Marsh restoration project, and in Duncan they repaired 4 wetlands and restored 2 additional wetlands.



Credits: British Columbia Wildlife Federation

National

Canadian Wetland Leadership Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$10,000 to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Project accomplishments:

- The project aims to reinvigorate dialogue on wetland conservation in Canada with the goal of setting a new course for the next decade.
- 12 member steering committee was established. Over 50 individuals from a diverse cross-section of wetland stakeholders attended the forum.
- A review paper for publication is underway.

Conservation Networking Hunter and Wetland Education Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$10,000 to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Project accomplishments:

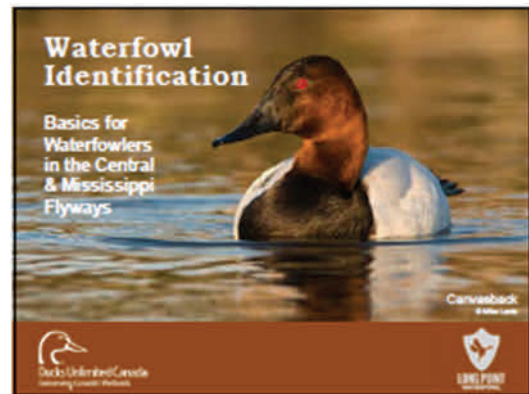
- Over 20 stakeholders were consulted in the development of the Terms of Reference (case statement for participation in a Canadian Wetlands Leadership Council).
- Preliminary web-based network and leadership council were reviewed.

Strengthening & Evaluating a National Waterfowling Program

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$10,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Project accomplishments:

- Drafted a flyer with the purpose of increasing the number of waterfowl hunters through an expanded reach.
- Drafted a list for potential distribution and partnerships (ie. hunter safety instructor groups, fish & game clubs).
- Regionally adapted a training tool for novice hunters. English drafts were produced for: 1) Waterfowl Identification, and 2) Shoot or Don't Shoot.



Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada

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. 2014-2015 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**, \$1,237,277 (a decrease of 12.68% compared to the previous year).

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

- **Funding allocation**, \$294,660 (an increase of 320.94% over the previous year).

Murre Conservation grants provided to eligible recipients:

- **Funding allocation**, \$26,750 (a decrease of 10.83% over 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**, 81% or 35/43 projects (compared to 84% or 31/37 projects in the previous year).

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

- **Land area conserved, enhanced or restored through funded projects**, 87,566.2 acres (a small decrease compared to the previous year; this is largely the result of a higher than usual number of networking projects taking place, which typically do not contribute to acreage).

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

- **Number of participants** (3,511) and **total participant person-days** (7,922) in on-the-ground wetland education and hunter education programs supported by WHC grants.

Increased participation in Murre conservation activities and management:

- **Funding allocation**, \$26,750 (slightly lower than the previous year due to only one project being funded in the 2014-2015 fiscal year).
- **Number of participants (0) and total participant person-days (0) in on-the ground programs specific to Murre conservation activities and management** (Note: this was a research project).

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

- **Funds leveraged by WHC funded projects**, \$15,702,145 (an increase of 38% compared to the previous year. Government of Canada funding is not counted in calculating leveraged funds).

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—to be reported in March 2017.

Number of private landowners involved in funded projects—to be reported in March 2017.

Total in-kind contributions to funded projects—to be reported in March 2017.

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—to be reported in March 2017.

Increased application of innovative habitat conservation tools:

- **Innovative habitat conservation tools in funded projects**, to be reported in March 2017.

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—to be reported in March 2017.

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 2014-2015

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of Wildlife Habitat Canada

To the Members of
Wildlife Habitat Canada

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015, 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, 2015. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated May 29, 2015. 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, 2015 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with criteria described in Note 1 to the financial statements.



Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario
May 29, 2015

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 299,492	\$ -
Accounts receivable	244,646	564,874
Prepaid expenses	22,869	21,433
Current portion of investments	128,307	-
	695,314	586,307
INVESTMENTS	-	126,652
CAPITAL ASSETS	18,495	34,221
	18,495	160,873
	\$ 713,809	\$ 747,180
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Bank indebtedness	\$ -	\$ 270,134
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	405,771	187,944
	405,771	458,078
FUNDS HELD IN TRUST	163,068	152,159
	568,839	610,237
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	18,495	34,221
Unrestricted	126,475	102,722
	144,970	136,943
	\$ 713,809	\$ 747,180



WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

Summarized Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014

	2015	2014
REVENUE		
Conservation Stamp Program	\$ 1,951,067	\$ 1,896,977
Other	29,369	24,863
Rental	19,132	22,330
Philatelic stamps	18,696	32,202
Stamp and prints	14,191	23,918
Youth stamps	32	2,662
	2,032,487	2,002,952
EXPENSES		
Funds Habitat Conservation	1,558,687	1,516,909
Salaries and benefits	239,207	233,501
General and administration	89,838	63,308
Rent	67,081	86,358
Hospitality, travel and board	41,695	23,880
Professional fees	12,226	9,055
Amortization of capital assets	15,726	19,195
	2,024,460	1,952,206
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	8,027	50,746
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	136,943	86,197
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 144,970	\$ 136,943



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, 2015.

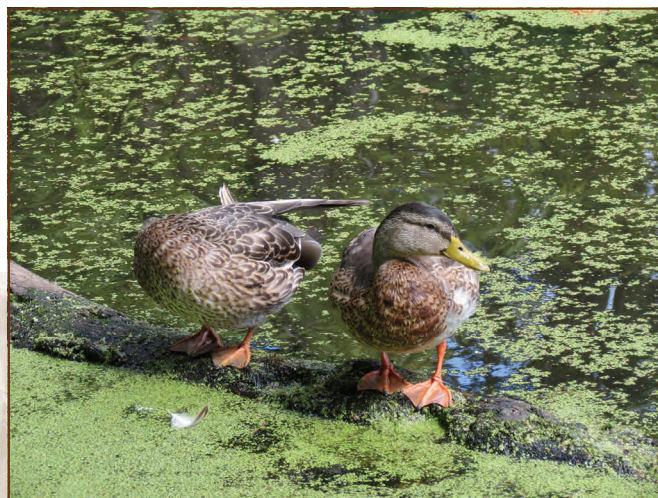
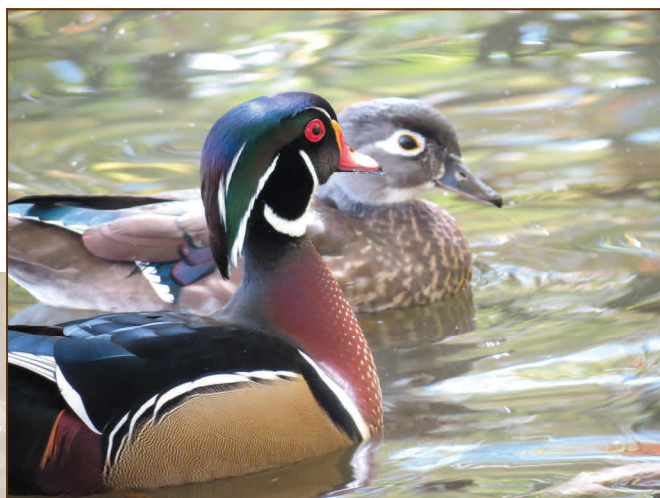
The preparation of these summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in the summary financial statements so that they are consistent, in all material respects, with or represent a fair summary of the audited financial statements.

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.



Credits: N. Lambrechts

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 2014-2015:

- Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
- Bass Pro Shop
- B.C. Wildlife Federation
- Bird Studies Canada
- Canada Post
- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Canadian Museum of Nature
- Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada
- Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust
- Delta Waterfowl Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Fondation de la faune du Québec
- Intervale Associates

- Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council
- Long Point Waterfowl
- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
- Manitoba Wildlife Federation
- Memorial University
- McAra Printing
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation
- Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
- Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Québec Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Regroupement des propriétaires du marais de Grondines (RPMG)
- Regroupement des sauvagins du Lac Saint-Pierre
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Rousseau Collections
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- SNB Wood Co-operative Ltd.
- St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
- The Land Between
- The Lowe-Martin Group
- The Nature Trust of British Columbia
- Thompson Rivers University
- Water Security Agency, Saskatchewan

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Energy Program, Ontario Ministry of Natural
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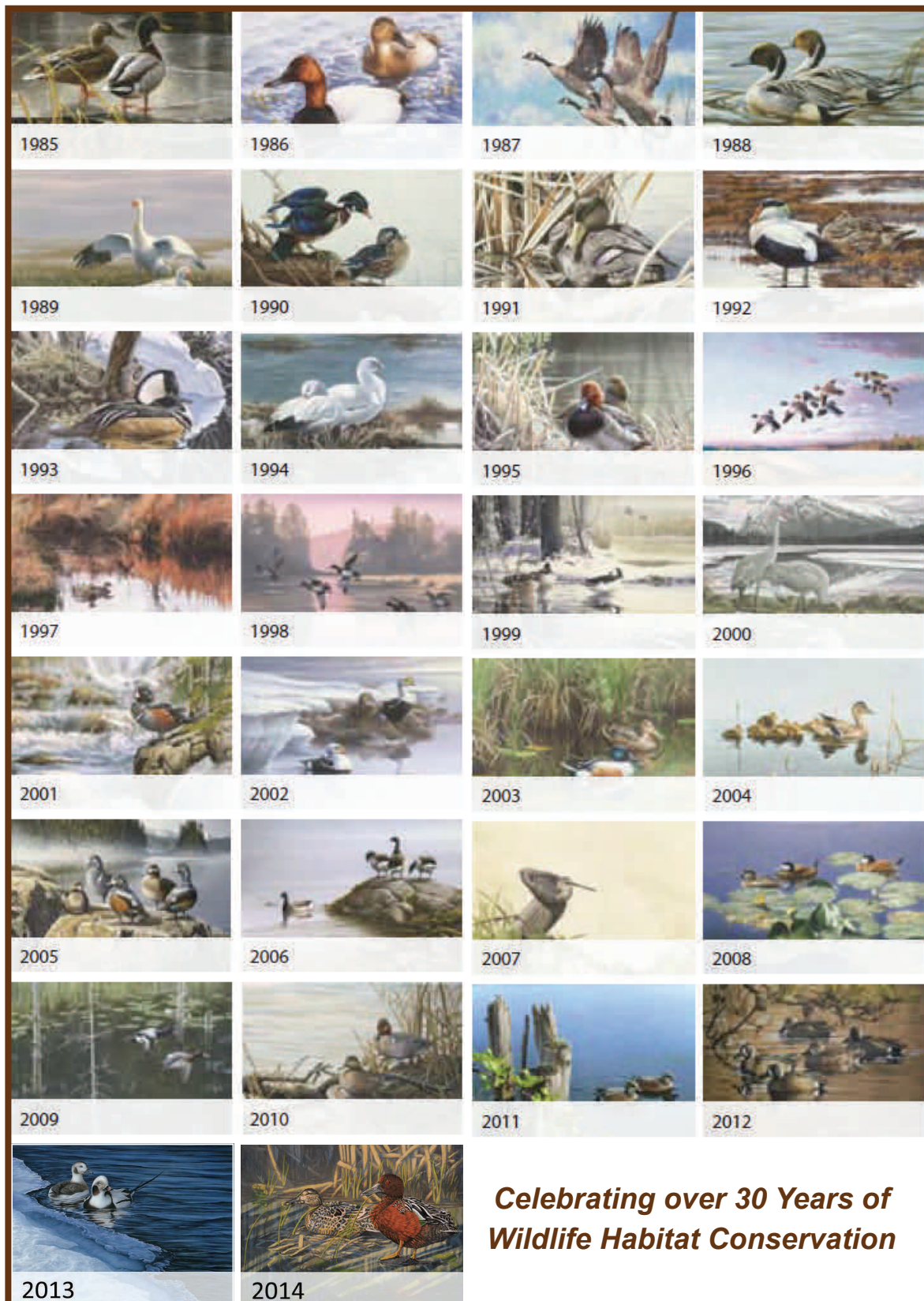
With special thanks to the following volunteers:

Monica Reyes

Bianca Moïse Roy



Credit: Wildlife Habitat Canada



***Celebrating over 30 Years of
Wildlife Habitat Conservation***



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