



# WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

## 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



2021 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print image, "On Golden Pond - Common Goldeneye" by Ric Sluiter.

**CONSERVE**



**ENHANCE**



**RESTORE**



Photo Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada

# ABOUT WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

Wildlife Habitat Canada, whose offices are located in Ottawa, are on the unceded territory of the Algonquins of Ontario and Anishinaabe Peoples. Wildlife Habitat Canada honours all First nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who now call this land home. We respect and honour their valuable past and present contributions to this land.

## VISION

Abundant and diverse wildlife populations and habitats in Canada

## MISSION

Conserve wildlife habitat in Canada through wise conservation investments

## OBJECTIVES

- Leverage funding available for Canadian wildlife habitat conservation
- 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 (for wildlife habitat)



## GET IN TOUCH



2039 Robertson Road  
Suite 247  
Ottawa, ON K2H 8R2



613-722-2090  
1-800-669-7919



[admin@whc.org](mailto:admin@whc.org)



[www.whc.org](http://www.whc.org)

Charitable Registration Number:  
11929 8131 RR0001

*All donations to WHC are tax deductible.*



# CONTENTS

- 3** MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
- 5** STAMP AND PRINT PROGRAM
- 7** KEEPING HUNTING HERITAGE ALIVE
- 8** HABITAT CONSERVATION STAMP INITIATIVE
- 9** CANADIAN HABITAT JOINT VENTURES
- 10** WHC PROJECTS
- 16** NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR MURRE CONSERVATION FUND
- 17** SUPPORTING NATIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM
- 18** CONSERVATION COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
- 19** COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN
- 21** NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION PROGRAM
- 22** LAND TRUSTS CONSERVATION FUND
- 25** FINANCIAL SUMMARY
- 29** WHC STAFF
- 30** WHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Photo Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada*



Photo Credit: Stewardship Association of Municipalities

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Fiscal 2021-2022 found the world still battling a pandemic. Closed offices and keeping touch with Zoom and Team meetings for both staff and the Board was the normal practice. Our 25 grant recipients from our Habitat Conservation Stamp Initiative Program again faced uncertainties as to how they could complete their projects while minding to stay in compliance of the many and varied health protocols in their areas of the country. I would like to congratulate our grant recipients for again rising to the challenges that this year brought and completing their projects in these trying times. I am hopeful next year will have fewer challenges as we begin to emerge from the worst restrictions.



We have approved 28 Stamp Program projects for fiscal 2022-2023 worth just over a million dollars. The small grants program had many more applications this year indicating grants of a smaller size with shorter applications are important for emerging conservation groups. Ten applications for the Community Conservation Action Program were approved for completion in 2022-2023 worth \$52,794.60.

The Natural Heritage Conservation Program we work on with community and regional land trusts to secure and conserve habitat in key conservation areas had another very successful year. Twenty-seven projects will procure over 2,500 hectares of habitat. These projects require at least a 1.5:1 match ratio for funding, so congratulations to these hard-working groups on their successes. Awardees faced similar challenges to our restoration projects and were still successful in more than matching our assistance.






Photo Credit: Stewardship Association of Municipalities

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONT'D



June 2022 marks the end of term for Jim Fisher, Ryan Reynolds and myself as members of the WHC BOD. I would like to thank Jim and Ryan for their dedication to Wildlife Habitat Canada and would like to say for myself what a pleasure it has been to serve on the Board.

Many of Canada's land areas have been downgraded by the heavy hand of humans. Restoration and the procurement of protected habitat for species at risk and waterfowl populations are two critical initiatives of Wildlife Habitat Canada. With continued and increased emphasis on these initiatives we can help leave Canada in a better place than we presently find it.



**Support WHC Today!**

You can donate to WHC by purchasing a symbolic or physical stamp!

Visit our website at  
<https://whc.org/stamp-investment/>

Yours in conservation,

*David Lee Harris*  
Chair, Board of Directors



# STAMP AND PRINT PROGRAM

2021 ARTIST: RIC SLUITER



The 2021 Canadian Conservation Stamp is centered around the Common Goldeneye duck species. The featured artist of 2021 is Ric Sluiter, with his original piece "On Golden Pond - Common Goldeneye", pictured above. The piece has been featured on the 2021 Conservation Stamp as part of WHC's Stamp and Print Program .



Born and raised in the Toronto area, Ric took an early interest in nature and art, spending much time studying the intricacies of wildlife. He studied at Sheridan College in Ontario, learning about Animation and graduating to work at Atkinson Film Arts in Ottawa. He moved to Florida in 1989 to work at Disney Feature Animation where he contributed to films such as: "Beauty and the Beast", "Aladdin", "Bolt", and was an Art Director on "Mulan", and "Lilo and Stitch"

Ric has since retired from the animation industry and he now spends his time living on Pigeon Lake in Ontario where he paints wildlife full time.

"I am continuously amazed at nature's confounding wisdom; a Dragonfly can seemingly disappear and reappear 20 feet away in a blink of an eye; an Osprey can time and articulate a dive to catch a fish; or a 700 lb Grizzly can tear across the tundra at 56 kph. Nature provides unlimited inspiration!" - Ric Sluiter

To learn more about Ric - Visit our [YouTube Page!](#)

To see more of Ric's work, please visit his website: <https://www.ricsluiter.com>





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# STAMP AND PRINT PROGRAM

## 2022 ARTIST: PIERRE GIRARD

The 2022 Canadian Wildlife Conservation Stamp features the White-fronted Goose duck species. The winning artist of 2022 is Pierre Girard, with his original piece "Nordic Light - White-fronted Goose", as shown on the right. The piece has been featured on the 2022 Conservation Stamp as part of WHC's Stamp and Print Program .

Initiated at a young age by his father who introduced him to the surrounding nature of the Lac St Pierre archipelago in Quebec, Pierre Girard quickly became passionate about the beauty of wild spaces. He began very young to draw and, subsequently to paint, the flora and fauna that surround him.

For Pierre, painting is also a way of educating the viewer to protect and respect our fragile and precious nature.

Pierre has previously appeared twice on Wildlife Habitat Canada's "Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp". First in 2010 with his Green-winged Teal painting and then again in 2018 with his Wood Duck painting. This years stamp featuring the White-fronted Goose marks his third competition win.

"I represented here cheerful geese, serene, looking into the distance of the immensity of the great Nordic spaces. The atmosphere was very important to me in this painting. The light accentuates the white of their foreheads, a magnificent moment of calm, of peace... of nature." - Pierre Girard



To learn more about the Stamp, please visit <https://whc.org/the-stamp/>

# KEEPING HUNTING HERITAGE ALIVE

To many, hunters, conservationists and otherwise, the Canadian Conservation Stamp is much more than just a picture. While it is attached to the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit, it is also a symbol of conservation and a relic of memorable hunting seasons passed. We at WHC love to hear what the *#WHCStampMeans* to our supporters. Whether it's a stamp collection, an old permit or a conservation edition print, let us know what the stamp means to you using *#WHCStampMeans* on social media.



Image : Feuillet du Timbre sur la conservation des habitats fauniques du Canada 2021. © Sa Majesté la Reine, Chef du Canada, représentée par le ministre de l'Environnement, 2021

Each year, WHC donates a variety of prints featuring the stamp image and other artwork by Canadian wildlife artists to various causes and organizations across the country to support the fundraising efforts of our partners. Although the COVID-19 pandemic did impair many fundraising events in the past, we are always looking for new opportunities to lend our support to conservation. If your organization is interested in receiving a conservation edition print for a fundraising dinner or other fundraising event, please email us at [admin@whc.org](mailto:admin@whc.org).

Canadian migratory game bird hunters are among the most active conservationists in Canada. In addition to license fees to support wildlife management, many also participate in conservation fundraising dinners and activities, dedicating countless hours to volunteer work, committees and projects that benefit wildlife. Over the past few years, WHC has been continuously supporting the Youth Hunters Certification Auction, in which all proceeds go towards helping youth obtain their hunting license. This allows WHC to support hunters who support conservation by bringing the two together in partnership.



Photo Credit: Delta Waterfowl



Photo Credit: Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association



Photo Credit: Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association





Photo Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada

# HABITAT CONSERVATION STAMP INITIATIVE

Through a legislative arrangement with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), WHC 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. The funds are transferred to WHC through a contribution agreement, supporting ECCC's responsibility for the protection and conservation of habitat, particularly for the conservation of waterfowl pursuant to the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

In 2021...



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25

NUMBER OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE STAMP



25,044

ACRES OF HABITAT CONSERVED OR RESTORED



29,082

CANADIANS ENGAGED IN CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES



**\$1.02 million\* in grant funding provided**

\*Of which \$1,011,608 contributed directly to priorities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP).



**\$5.85 million in additional partner funds raised for conservation**

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada



Photo Credit: Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project

# CANADIAN HABITAT JOINT VENTURES



**Habitat Joint Ventures** integrate planning, science, governance, partnerships, and management to achieve NAWMP (North American Waterfowl Management Plan) goals in Canada through a programmatic approach.

**Joint Venture partners** actively research, monitor and evaluate waterfowl populations and deliver habitat conservation programs at a regional level.



**WHC projects funded under the Habitat Conservation Stamp Initiative** support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) conservation priorities outlined in Habitat Joint Venture implementation plans. The following pages highlight overall project achievements in each of the Habitat Joint Ventures.

**For detailed summaries of funded projects, please visit: [whc.org/grants](http://whc.org/grants) ("Current Projects")**



# WHC PROJECTS

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture

*WHC Project Funding: \$102,500*

Includes portions of British Columbia, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii. The British Columbia coastline is a complex of inlets, bays, islands, straits and fjords rising to a diversity of near-shore, inter-tidal and forested habitats. There are over 440 estuaries with tidal wetlands and adjacent floodplains habitats. Over 1 million waterfowl nest along B.C.'s coastline and another 400,000 in its estuaries. Agricultural areas in the region also provide significant habitat and food supply for migrating and wintering waterfowl.

In 2021-2022:

**3**

**Funded  
Projects**

**3,944**

**Acres:**

Conserved,  
restored and/or  
enhanced

**9,514**

**People:**

Engaged in  
conservation



Wetland Habitat Creation,  
Restoration, and  
Enhancement on BC's  
Sunshine Coast



2021 – 2022 BCWF Youth  
Programs: Inspiring B.C.'s  
Future Conservationists



Enhancement of Waterfowl  
Foraging and Resting  
Habitat in the Fraser River  
Estuary

# WHC PROJECTS

Canadian Intermountain  
Joint Venture

*WHC Project Funding: \$52,500*

An area of 123.5 million acres (50 million hectares) in the central/southern interior of British Columbia and the eastern Rocky Mountains in Alberta. The CIJV encompasses a diverse landscape of valleys and mountains with grasslands, dry and moist coniferous forests, riparian areas and wetlands, alpine tundra, and pocket desert. Twenty-four waterfowl species breed in the CIJV with an estimated populations of 1.45 million birds. This represents 70% of B.C.'s and roughly 4% of Canada's breeding waterfowl population.



In 2021-2022:

1

**Funded  
Project**

44

**Acres:**

Conserved,  
restored and/or  
enhanced

1,730

**People:**

Engaged in  
conservation



*Photo Credit: BC Wildlife Federation*



Wetlands on Wheels 2021-2022: Enhancing Stewardship, Conservation & Restoration Capacity in BC



# WHC PROJECTS

Prairie Habitat Joint Venture

*WHC Project Funding: \$179,000*

Encompasses 158.4 million acres (64.1 million hectares) in the prairie and aspen parklands of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Peace-Parkland Region of British Columbia. The Western Boreal Forest program also falls under the PHJV including parts of British Columbia, the Prairie Provinces, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The PHJV covers one of the most productive areas for waterfowl in the world. Over half of North America's mid-continent ducks breed within this region.

In 2021-2022:

**5** Funded Projects

**2,895**

**Acres:**  
Conserved, restored and/or enhanced

**13,431** People:  
Engaged in conservation



Conservation and Hunter Education Program Initiatives



Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas: A Public-Private Partnership for Conservation



#InvasiveWeeds Campaign and Webinars (Native Prairie Speaker Series and Prairie's Got the Goods Week)



The Manitoba Waterfowl Breeding and Habitat Conservation Project



Conservation and enhancement of wetlands and analysis of human dimensions aspect of bird hunting in Saskatchewan



# WHC PROJECTS

Eastern Habitat Joint Venture

*WHC Project Funding: \$440,143*

Contains 780 million acres (315 million hectares) in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. The EHJV supports 30% of Canada's wetlands, including coastal bays and salt marshes, lakeshore marshes, floodplain wetlands and boreal forest wetlands. The EHJV supports a significant portion of the continental populations of American Black Duck, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Common Golden-eye, Common Eider (3 subspecies), Green-winged Teal, and Canada Goose (5 populations).

In 2021-2022:

**12**

**Funded Projects**

**12,445**

**Acres:**  
Conserved,  
restored and/or  
enhanced

**3,409**

**People:**  
Engaged in  
conservation



Advancing Ontario Eastern Habitat Joint Venture All-bird Conservation



Partners for the Protection of Natural Environments in Eastern Quebec



St. Clair/Erie/Sydenham River Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Initiative Phase 2



Developing a Model of Shared Stewardship for Ecologically Significant Land In New Brunswick



NL Municipal Wetland Retention and Invasive Species Impact Assessment



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



The Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas: Building a Community of Conservationists to Put Newfoundland's Birds on the Map



Using waterfowl nest box and natural cavity information to conduct PVA's for three waterfowl species along the lower St. John River, NB



Becoming an Outdoors Woman/Youth Hunter Skills events 2021



Wildlife Day Camps/ Mentored Waterfowl Hunts Program



Detailed mapping of wetlands in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean Territory - Phase 2



Protection and Restoration of Wetlands in Southern Quebec 2021-2022



Support WHC Today!

You can support more projects like these by purchasing a symbolic or physical stamp!

Visit our website at <https://whc.org/stamp-investment/>



# WHC PROJECTS

National and Regional  
*WHC Project Funding: \$253,565*

Every year, WHC funds projects that are national and/or regional in scope, that are not necessarily associated with any one Habitat Joint Venture. These projects often include activities or programs in multiple locations throughout Canada on a national level (more than 3 provinces/territories) or at a regional level (2-3 provinces or territories).

In 2021-2022:

**3**

**Funded  
Projects**

**5,716**

**Acres:**  
Conserved,  
restored and/or  
enhanced

**996**

**People:**  
Engaged in  
conservation



Continued growth and management of the nest structure program in Canada to maximize duck production



Hunter R3 programs and expanded hunter opportunities throughout Canada



Understanding Canadians' involvement in pro-environmental behaviours and nature-based recreation



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