



WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



2022 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print image, "Nordic Light - White Fronted Goose" by Pierre Girard.

CONSERVE



ENHANCE



RESTORE



Photo Credit: Adrien Delforge

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



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Photo Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada



Photo Credit: Fondation de la faune du Québec

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Wildlife Habitat Canada is truly a remarkable organization, and it is an honour to serve as Chair. Our primary goal, as highlighted on our website, is to find effective solutions to address problems facing wildlife habitat. Our mandate is to provide financial support to conservation projects and initiatives related to waterfowl and migratory birds' management throughout Canada. And I can proudly tell all the readers here that this year, we have more than achieved that mandate.



The metrics behind our work speak for themselves. Through our Conservation Stamp Program, we invested more than \$1,000,000 in 28 large scale diverse projects – geographically diverse as well as across diverse organizations and outputs. That means we have actively enhanced habitat conservation, conservation networking, research and specific Newfoundland and Labrador murre programming throughout Canada.

Perhaps even more meaningful is the Community Conservation Action (CCAP) program. We recognize it is difficult for smaller organizations to access the funding they need, and our CCAP program has helped 10 local level organizations this past year to get more Canadians outdoors and interested in nature.

One of our real successes was to create a “Meet the Projects” Video Campaign where we partnered with 5 grantees. They gave us a close up look into their project, how WHC contributed, and what the Conservation Stamp program means to them.





Photo Credit: Deverell-Morton Property (credit to Toby Rowland)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONT'D

The success of all these programs has allowed WHC to branch out even further and serve as an effective grant administrator for other conservation groups in Canada. As one of our directors explained, WHC values diverse thinking and it is that which has allowed us to work collaboratively with land trusts in our Natural Heritage Conservation Program. In this year alone, we were able to help procure 3,489 hectares of habitat across the country.



This year saw the end of term for a few of our board members. Though we wave goodbye to Laura King and Jennifer Psyllakis, we have established an Honorary Ambassador's committee, enabling retired Board members to remain connected to WHC, provide ongoing support to the organization and contribute in creative ways to our conservation mission.

This year, Canada has been pummeled with droughts, floods, and fires. As I write this, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories are experiencing some of the worst out-of-control wildfires in history. Though we are not on the front line battling the fire, WHC will hold true to our commitment to continue to protect, restore and enhance vital wildlife and their habitats across the country.



Support WHC Today!

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

Visit our website at whc.org/stamp-investment

Yours in conservation,

Susan Gesner
Chair, Board of Directors



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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 whc.org/the-stamp



STAMP AND PRINT PROGRAM

2023 ARTIST: ISABELLE COLLIN

The winning artist of 2023 is Isabelle Collin, with her original piece “Boreal Mist - Ring-necked Ducks”, as shown on the right. The piece has been featured on the 2023 Conservation Stamp as part of WHC's Stamp and Print Program .

Having grown up in the Saguenay region, where nature is ever-present, Isabelle Collin has been fascinated by the living world from an early age. With a strong taste for scientific drawing and an excellent sense of observation, Isabelle is passionate about winged and aquatic fauna as well as flora. During her observations in the field, she tries to capture the movement and the light to transmit them in her paintings. Inspired by the life and art of Robert Bateman, naturalist painting has accompanied Isabelle continually in her in experience of nature.

"In my early twenties, I used to observe ring-necked ducks on small lakes in the boreal forest of the Saguenay. Since then, almost every summer, I have had the chance to revisit these magnificent places. Unfortunately, nowadays, the presence of ring-necked ducks is becoming increasingly rare on our lakes. I wanted an atmosphere of morning mist to cradle these sharp-patterned diving ducks I like to think that habitat protection programs like Wildlife Habitat Canada's can make a difference in the enhancement and protection of biodiversity and I am proud to be able to contribute." - Isabelle Collin



To learn more about the Stamp, please visit whc.org/the-stamp

KEEPING HUNTING HERITAGE ALIVE

To many people, whether they're hunters, conservationists, or 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: 2022 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Panel
© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada,
as represented by the Minister of Environment, 2022.*

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. We are excited to get back to in person events and 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.

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: St. Paul's River workshop Photo by Kathleen Blanchard



Photo Credit: Friends of Salmonier Nature Park



Photo Credit: Friends of Salmonier Nature Park



Photo Credit: Nashwaak Watershed Association

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 2022...



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28

NUMBER OF
PROJECTS FUNDED
BY THE STAMP



24,012

ACRES OF HABITAT
CONSERVED OR
RESTORED



288,896

CANADIANS ENGAGED IN
CONSERVATION AND
STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES



\$917.5K in grant funding provided

*Of which 100% of funds contributed directly to priorities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP).



\$5.32 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: Deverell-Morton property (credit to Aiesha Aggarwal and Brolin Devine)

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 ("Current Projects")



WHC PROJECTS

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture

WHC Project Funding: \$45,000

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 2022-2023:

2

**Funded
Projects**

4,030

Acres:

Conserved,
restored and/or
enhanced

12,033

People:

Engaged in
conservation



Establishing Winter Cover Crops on Agricultural Land in the Fraser River Estuary for Migratory Waterfowl



Youth Programs: Returning B.C.'s Next Generation of Conservationists to the Great Outdoors

WHC PROJECTS

Canadian Intermountain
Joint Venture

WHC Project Funding: \$50,000

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 2022-2023:

1

**Funded
Projects**

10

Acres:

Conserved,
restored and/or
enhanced

1,066

People:

Engaged in
conservation



Photo Credit: BC Wildlife Federation



Wetlands on Wheels:
Strengthening Conservation,
Stewardship, & Restoration
Capacity in BC



WHC PROJECTS

Prairie Habitat Joint Venture

WHC Project Funding: \$220,489

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 2022-2023:

6

Funded Projects

2,620

Acres:

Conserved, restored and/or enhanced

160,220

People:

Engaged in conservation



Conservation and Hunter Education Program Initiatives



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



Manitoba Pothole Waterfowl Production and Conservation Project



1st Shot & hunter engagement programs

In 2022-2023:



Understanding Agricultural Stakeholder Perspectives and Positions about Wetlands Conservation in Alberta



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



Photo Credit: Delta Waterfowl Association



Photo Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada



Photo Credit: Water Security Agency



Photo Credit: Alberta Hunters Education Instructors Association



WHC PROJECTS

Eastern Habitat Joint Venture

WHC Project Funding: \$457,080

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 2022-2023:

16 **Funded Projects**

12,667 **Acres:**
Conserved, restored and/or enhanced

4,248 **People:**
Engaged in conservation



Creating Migratory Bird Habitat in Middlesex County



Ontario-wide marshbird science and monitoring for all-bird conservation: Year 1



Wetland restoration and appreciation in the Town of Middleton



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



Conservation volontaire et restauration des milieux humides dans le sud du Québec 2022-2023



Plan de conservation des deux tourbières de Granby



Newfoundland & Labrador Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation Project 2022



Reducing Threats to Eider Ducks and Their Nesting Habitat



Wetland Restoration Program



Neil's Flats Wetland Restoration and Outreach Program



Expanding stewardship through landowner engagement surrounding nature preserves



Motts Mills Channels & Ponds Phase II



Wood Duck Habitat Enhancement and Nesting Structure Installations on Private lands in Southern New Brunswick



NL Municipal Leadership on Wetland and Coastal Habitat Conservation



Community-research partnership to assess migratory waterfowl use of habitats of eastern James Bay, Quebec.



Waterfowl productivity and habitat enhancement in impoundments of the Cumberland Marsh Region



Photo Credit: Nature Trust of New Brunswick



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: \$145,000

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 2022-2023:

3

**Funded
Projects**

3,962

Acres:

Conserved,
restored and/or
enhanced

11,867

People:

Engaged in
conservation



Increasing the number of Canadian duck hunters through R3 initiatives and policy efforts across the country



Growth and management of the Hen House program in Canada 2022



Supporting Youth Climbing the Wetland Engagement Ladder



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/>



Photo Credit: Nature Trust British Columbia

SUPPORTING NATIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Environment and Climate Change Canada also provided Wildlife Habitat Canada funding for four projects, with over \$123,500 in project operational costs relevant to the North American Waterfowl 1,674 acres to habitat conservation.



Water Security Agency: Conservation and enhancement of wetlands and analysis of human dimensions aspect of bird hunting in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan

\$46,715.44



Alberta Hunter Education Instructor's Association: AHEIA's Conservation Education Programs

Alberta

\$56,784.56



BC Wildlife Federation: 2022-2023 BCWF Youth Programs: Returning B.C.'s Next Generation of Conservationists to the Great Outdoors

British Columbia

\$20,000.00

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: Wildsight - EcoStewards

CONSERVATION COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

WHC maintains active membership and involvement on a variety of councils, boards, steering committees and teams that contribute to the development of policies, and legislation for habitat and wildlife. This supports WHC's objective to foster coordination and leadership in the conservation community across Canada.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan



North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada)



CANADIAN WETLANDS ROUNDTABLE



Invasive Species Centre



PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT JOINT VENTURE



Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture



prairie habitat joint venture

SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

- Action Chelsea Respect for the Environment (ACRE)
- Alberta Hunter Education Instructor's Association
- All Our Relations
- ALUS Middlesex
- B.C. Wildfire Federation
- Birds Canada
- Clean Annapolis River Project
- Comité régional pour la protection des falaises
- Conservation Lakefield
- Corporation Nibiischii
- Corridor Appalachien
- Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust
- Delta Waterfowl
- Department of Natural Resources and Renewables NS
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy
- Fondation de la Faune du Quebec
- Fondation SÉTHY
- Friends of Salmonier Nature Park
- Galiano Conservancy Association
- Habitat Acquisition Trust
- Héritage Plein Air du Nord
- Intervale Associates Inc.
- Island Nature Trust
- Kiyooka Land Trust Foundation
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corp.
- Manitoba Wildlife Federation
- Nashwaak Watershed Association
- Nature Trust British Columbia
- Nature-Action Quebec
- Northlake Woods Public School
- Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
- Ontario Farmland Trust
- Ottawa RiverKeeper
- Raincoast Conservation Foundation
- Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- SK PCAP
- SNB Wood Co-operative Ltd.
- Southern Alberta Land Trust Society
- Stewardship Association of Municipalities
- Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group
- Thames Talbot Land Trust
- The Nature Trust of New Brunswick
- Thunder Bay Field Naturalists Club
- University of Alberta – Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation
- University of British Columbia
- Water Security Agency
- Western Sky Land Trust
- Wildsight



Photo Credit: Ecole Jean-Gauthier

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ACTION PROGRAM

In 2020, the WHC Board of Directors approved a new 3-year pilot program called the Community Conservation Action Program (CCAP). A total of \$160K has been invested in projects across the country throughout 2021-2024. With the success of the pilot, WHC hopes to continue the program in the future. The goal of CCAP is to financially support small(er), community-based organizations with their grassroots conservation initiatives. CCAP is centered around the objectives of:

- Connecting Canadians with nature
- Engaging youth in conservation
- Providing educational conservation programming

In 2022-2023, CCAP funded 10 projects across 5 provinces, with an investment of \$55,794.60. These funds contributed to projects including habitat restoration work and the delivery of educational programming for youth - both digital and in-person. WHC would like to thank all the 2022-2023 grantees for their collaboration in conservation efforts throughout the last year. Congratulations to the 2022-2023 grant recipients!



In 2023-2024, CCAP received more than 45 applications, with a total ask of more than \$360K. This year, CCAP will be supporting 9 organizations with their conservation projects, investing \$52,440.00. WHC expects to continue to deliver successful conservation results by assisting community organizations in connecting people to nature.



NEW! DIANE GRIFFIN COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AWARD

With the success of the 3-year Community Conservation Action Program (CCAP) pilot, WHC has developed the Diane Griffin Community Conservation Award, to be presented annually to one CCAP project. The organization with the most innovative and impactful project per grant year will be the recipient of this award. In 2022, WHC announced the creation of the Diane Griffin Community Conservation Award. This award will be presented annually to the organization that most exceeds WHC's expectations through their Community Conservation Action Program project.

Basic Information

- Based within the Community Conservation Action Program at WHC.
- Granted one time per grant year to one organization.
- Decision is at the discretion of WHC Staff.

Eligibility

- An organization that has been approved for funding in the current fiscal year.
- All project results must have been executed and expectations of delivery and achievements are exceeded.
- Must not have been the recipient of the award the previous year.

Award Details

- Physical award plaque
- WHC Swag Bag
- Recognition of the project/organization in WHC's Annual Report and on Social Media



Qualifiers for this Award

- Project activities were very relevant to CCAP objectives: Connecting Canadians to Nature, Engaging Youth in Conservation and/or Providing Educational Conservation Programming
- Project was representative of WHC's Strategic Plan:
 - Provide/administer grants to fund wildlife habitat conservation.
 - Leverage delivery of WHC objectives by working with conservation partners.
 - Promote participation in nature conservation.
 - Enhance WHC's effectiveness and recognition as a national conservation leader.
- The project exceeded WHC's expectations in delivering an innovative conservation program
 - This could include new methods of connecting people to nature, innovative programs for youth, the use of new conservation technologies/strategies, etc.
 - New ways of engaging people that go beyond the typical conservation project.
- Project made a recognizable impact on the community surrounding them which will continue to be beneficial for years to come.

NAMING THE AWARD

Wildlife Habitat Canada is proud to name the Community Conservation Award after the Honourable Senator Diane Griffin. This award is integral in engaging Canadians in conservation and stewardship at the grass-roots level.

Senator Griffin is a lifelong and passionate Canadian conservationist from Prince Edward Island who was named to the Senate of Canada by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Griffin is a former provincial deputy minister of environmental resources and a recipient of the Governor General's Conservation Award, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and the P.E.I. Environment Award for her incredible dedication and work to protect nature. She also served as executive director of the Island Nature Trust and is a published author, writing the book *Atlantic Wildflowers*, which showcases 129 species of flowering plants found throughout Atlantic Canada.



Senator Diane Griffin

Along with her extensive work in conservation, Griffin proposed and passed Bill S-236, the Recognition of Charlottetown as the birthplace of Confederation Act. Senator Griffin has also focused on championing literacy and helped to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program to P.E.I. where it has greatly surpassed its goals.

Senator Griffin encourages Canadians of all ages to explore nature and take action in ways that make sense in our homes and hearts, acknowledging that "what we do in our individual homes and communities is going to be significant for the conservation of Canada's natural resources."

The Diane Griffin Community Conservation Award will recognize Canadian conservation projects that embody the same passion, enthusiasm, and dedication to conserving Canadian wildlife habitat as Diane has shown throughout her impressive career.

"We all need peace and quiet, beautiful natural places to be our touchstones and to replenish our souls. A walk in nature does that for me. Also, just knowing we have natural places and wildlife is satisfying".
– Senator Diane Griffin



Photo Credit: Wildsight

2022-2023 DIANE GRIFFIN COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER

WILDSIGHT

About Us:

Wildsight has been a leader in environmental education, sustainable community initiatives and large-scale conservation for more than three decades. Wildsight is a grassroots organization that harnesses power from the people whose lives affect and are affected by their work. They strive to inspire a conservation ethic in their children and communities so that future leaders will be equipped to deal with the challenges of sustainability.

EcoSteward Project Information:

EcoStewards is a unique and powerful offering to schools throughout the Columbia Basin. It provides teachers with the support and mentorship needed to lead their students in an action orientated, stewardship focused, hands-on project. While the benefits of a one-day field trip are numerous, being able to connect kids to their wild backyards over several days helps them to build empathy for the natural world and leaves them with a hopeful path forward. The model for an EcoStewards program is to first learn about a current conservation topic, research how to make a difference, and carry out a tangible project that creates a solution to many of the conservation problems we are currently facing. This model helps students to become empowered to be advocates for, and stewards of, the wild places they live in. EcoSteward programs are delivered in over a dozen different communities throughout the Columbia Basin. From Revelstoke to Nelson, kids are connecting to community and creating meaningful connections to the natural world.



Photo Credits: Wildsight

Upcoming Plans:

Each school year Wildsight continues to create a hopeful path forward in the fight against climate change as they connect the youth in their region to meaningful and inspirational stewardship opportunities. It is their hope that by offering programs such as EcoStewards they are preparing the next generation of leaders to be ecologically literate and to have a deep passion for protecting and defending the wild places in which we live.



Photo Credit: Wildsight



wildsight

Here are some examples of EcoStewards projects that were made possible thanks to the support of Wildlife Habitat Canada:

Turtle basking log installation: Creston

Twenty-five Grade 6 and 7 students from Adam Robertson Elementary School wanted to do something for the Western Painted Turtle population, which is a blue-listed species (meaning their habitats are at risk). Wildsight educator Melissa Flint first spent time with the students exploring local flora and fauna, and studying the interconnectedness of ecosystems before visiting the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area to help install nesting logs for their EcoStewards project. The students had the opportunity to revisit their project site and celebrated after witnessing the turtles sunbathing on their new basking logs.



Photo Credit: Wildsight



Photo Credit: Wildsight

The teaching of trees: Cranbrook

Grade 4 and 5 students from Kootenay Orchard school in Cranbrook wanted to learn more about the importance, value and services of the trees, forests and plants in their region and the reciprocal relationships that exist between forests and humans. The students visited Nupqu Native Plant Nursery to learn about the native plants and trees in the area, learn about the Ktunaxa plant uses on a guided hike and learned about which plants the students will add to their school forested area to help support the trees and biodiversity of their school's wild space.

Supporting Caribou Recovery Efforts: Trail

Grade 7 students at Trail's Glenmerry Elementary School participated in two in-class sessions with Wildsight educator Jess Williams, where they learned all about mountain caribou. They heard about challenges caribou are facing, played games and activities, and even got to examine a mountain caribou hide and antlers! After the in-class learning, the students traveled to Strawberry Pass where they picked lichen for the caribou alongside biologist and forester Erin McLeod from the Arrow Lakes Caribou Society. The lichen was brought back to a maternity pen in Nakusp to help support captive caribou involved in a protected breeding program.



Photo Credit: Wildsight



Photo Credit: Nottawasaga EBC

NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION PROGRAM



In April 2019, the Government of Canada announced an investment of \$100 million over four years in the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP), as part of Budget 2018's Nature Legacy initiative.

The NHCP is a public-private partnership which aims to assist and support the securement of key conservation areas across Canada, protect habitat for species at risk, enhance connections and corridors and stem the loss of biodiversity.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada and a variety of regional and local land trusts represented by the Canadian Land Trusts Working Group worked together under the NHCP to protect over 200,000 hectares (494,210 acres) of habitat for species at risk that contributes to the goals of Pathway to Canada Target 1.

The Government of Canada is investing a further \$90 million to their initial \$100 million investment, over the next 3 years in the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026).



Photo Credit: WSLT Will Farms

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: Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve

LAND TRUSTS CONSERVATION FUND

Under the NHCP, WHC is providing grant administration services for the Land Trusts Conservation Fund (LTCF), which is providing up to \$4.5 million annually over four years to support Canadian community and regional land trusts in securing private lands and private interests in lands.

The work of Canada's land trusts on private land coincides directly with those landscapes at greatest risk of further development and fragmentation and significantly contributes to the protection of habitat and species at risk.

In 2022, the fourth year of the program, the :

- Supported 20 individual land trusts.
- Funded 26 projects across Canada that are expected to benefit more than 40 species at risk.
- Helped protect more than 3,489 hectares of habitat in key conservation areas.
- Was matched with more than \$32,732,593 in other non-federal funds.



Photo Credit: KELA_EKE Kingfisher Forest - photo
Alex Harris



Photo Credit: Forêt Jolicoeur-McMartin_ACRE -
photo - Grégoire Crévier



Photo Credit: Cimetière_NAQ

For individual project highlights, please visit: whc.org/ltcf ("Awardees")



Photo Credit: Meteor Lake Wetlands

LAND TRUSTS CONSERVATION FUND

The program has exceeded its target, securing 13,000 hectares of important habitat by the end of 2023, above its goal of securing 10,000 hectares. After a highly successful initial run (2019-2023), the Land Trusts Conservation Fund has been extended for three additional years (2023-2026)

Accomplishments of Canada's community and regional land trusts in the first four years of the Land Trusts Conservation Fund:



Over **13K hectares** of habitat protected



benefitting more than **91 species** at risk



with the help of more than **1000 volunteers**

OVER **\$17 million** IN LTCF FUNDS



HAS BEEN MATCHED WITH MORE THAN **\$84 million** IN OTHER NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS



... that's more than a **\$100 million** investment in protecting private land!

40

land trusts

118

projects

7

provinces

The Land Trusts Conservation Fund is a component of the **Natural Heritage Conservation Program**, which is a \$100 million investment by the Government of Canada as part of Budget 2018's Nature Legacy initiative.

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



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

This project was undertaken with the support of:





Photo Credit: MeteorLakeWetland_NTBC

LAND TRUSTS CONSERVATION FUND

Congratulations to members of Canada's land trust community who received funding in the fourth year of the Land Trusts Conservation Fund program:

PROJECTS

- Acquisition Cimetière
- Acquisition Terrain Varescon
- Afton Road Natural Area
- Bay's End Reserve
- Bazett-Jones Properties
- Bourguiba Spring – Osoyoos
- Creekside Rainforest
- Five Points Forest – Charlton Nature Reserve
- Forêt Jolicoeur – McMartin
- Frenette
- KELA-EKE Kingfisher Forest
- Meteor Lake Wetland
- Milieu Humide Lakefield
- Nottawasaga 2
- Peacewood Natural Area
- Purple Sanicle Covenant
- Radvanyi Nature Reserve
- Robson Valley Riparian Wetlands
- Saturna Island Bluffs
- Scott Nature Reserve
- Terrain Gagnon Zwicky
- Vielle Forêt Lakefield
- Will Farms Ltd.

The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia, the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Réseau de milieux naturels protégés worked collectively under the Land Trusts Conservation Fund to provide capacity building support to land trusts in adhering to the Canadian Land Trusts Standards and Practices (2019), and technical support for conservation planning, Pathway to Target 1, and land management.





Photo Credit: Saturna_NTBC

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of Wildlife Habitat Canada

Opinion

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, the summary statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and the related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of Wildlife Habitat Canada for the year ended March 31, 2023. We issued a qualified audit opinion on these financial statements in our report dated June 23, 2023.

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Wildlife Habitat Canada for the year ended March 31, 2023 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with criteria described in Note 1 to the financial statements. However, the summary financial statements contain a misstatement equivalent to that presented in Wildlife Habitat Canada's audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2023.

Summary 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 and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Wildlife Habitat Canada and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 23, 2023. Our qualified opinion was based on the fact that we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the carrying amount of the investment in a joint venture accounted for using the equity method in the amount of \$800,522 as at March 31, 2023. Accordingly, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to this investment were necessary as at March 31, 2023.

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."

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario
June 23, 2023





Photo Credit: Purple Sanicle Covenant - Keith Erickson

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

2

	2023	2022
REVENUES		
Canadian Government Funding - Conservation Stamp Program	\$ 1,337,569	\$ 1,449,386
Service Contract - Nature Conservancy Canada	500,000	500,000
Canadian Government Funding - Support National Habitat Conservation	125,000	65,000-
Philatelic stamps	13,483	13,175
Stamp and prints	12,808	15,213
Other	21,356	12,889
	2,010,216	2,055,663
EXPENSES		
Funds Habitat Conservation	1,041,069	1,090,208
Salaries and benefits	582,385	540,318
General and administration	72,908	88,027
Rent	58,777	57,986
Community Conservation Action Program	52,795	55,425
Hospitality, travel and board	48,961	540
Professional and contractual fees	114,015	114,516
Amortization of capital assets	-	
	1,970,910	1,947,020
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)	39,306	1,947,020
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)		
Gain on investment in a joint venture	(23,993)	103,216
Write-off of capital assets	-	(6,210)
Unrealized loss on investments	(9,801)	(12,448)
	(33,794)	84,558
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	5,512	193,201
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,543,350	1,350,149
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	1,548,862	1,543,350



Photo Credit: Vieille forêt

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

MARCH 31, 2023

3

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	494,724	598,372
Accounts receivable	168,161	168,161
Prepaid expenses	10,415	20,957
	843,248	787,490
RESTRICTED CASH	129,238	142,249
INVESTMENTS , in mutual funds	277,751	287,552
INVESTMENT IN A JOINT VENTURE	800,522	824,515
CAPITAL ASSETS	-	-
	1,207,511	1,254,316
	2,050,759	2,041,806
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	384,729	333,277
Deferred contributions	23,930	22,930
	372,659	356,207
DUE TO EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS	129,238	142,249
	501,897	498,456
NET ASSETS		
Internal Restrictions		
Joint Venture Fund	800,522	824,515
Contingency Dissolution Fund	150,000	150,000
Memorial Fund	75,000	75,000
Community Conservation Action Program Fund	51,780	104,575
Maternity and Paternity Leave Fund	20,000	-
Invested in Capital Assets	451,560	389,260
Unrestricted	451,560	1,543,350
	2,050,759	2,041,806



Photo Credit: hunder Bay Field Naturalists Club

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

NOTE TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2023

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, 2023.

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 determine that the statement of cash flows and notes to complete financial statements do 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.



Photo Credit: Delta Waterfowl



Cameron Mack
Executive Director



Jessica Burns
Program Director



Pierre Vary
Director of Finance
& Administration



Kylie Graham
Project Manager -
Stamp & CCAP Program



Sonia Blanchard
Project Manager -
LTCF



Marylouisse Feliciano
Program Assistant -
LTCF



Jennifer Collard
Grant Administrator -
Stamp & CCAP Program



Kim Cranfield
Marketing &
Communications

.....

**Special thanks to Our
Other Staff and
Service Providers:**

Michele Dionne
Wendy Firth

THANK
you!

**Special thanks to Our
French Translation
Service:**

Johanne Lemieux
Anne-Marie Couture
Marie-Pier Laplante

WHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Photo Credit: Sunshine Coast Wildlife



Susan Gesner
Board Chair



Dr. Michael Anderson
Board Vice-Chair



Dean Smith
**Chair, Nominating
Committee**



Christie-Lee Hazzard
**Vice-Chair,
Nominating
Committee**



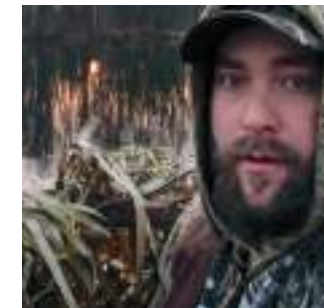
Laura King
**Chair, Finance
& Audit Committee**



Ian Barnett
**Vice-Chair, Finance
& Audit
Committee**



Dr. Blair Adams
Director



Blake Schmirler
Director



Crystal Robertson
Director



Jennifer Psyllakis
Director



Marc Cattet
Director



Putting our Stamp on Canadian conservation since 1985



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