

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



© W. Allan Hancock

Without habitat there is no wildlife...

It's that simple!





Credit: Salt Spring Island Conservancy

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 2015 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Image, "Blossoming—Mourning Doves" by W. Allan Hancock.

Charitable Registration Number: 11929 8131 RR0001

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT | WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

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Credit: Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council

About Wildlife Habitat Canada

MISSION

Conserve wildlife habitat by wisely
INVESTING CANADIAN DUCK STAMP FUNDS
contributed by waterfowl hunters.



WETLANDS waterfowl

Waterfowl Hunters **HABITAT**

Migratory Game Birds **WHC**

EST. 1984
Not-for-profit
Charity

NGO

conservation

NATIONAL



OUR OBJECTIVES

- **Fund** wildlife conservation programs in Canada.
- **Conserve & restore** habitat.
- Provide conservation **leadership**.
- Promote the **benefits & contributions** of **waterfowl hunting**.



Message from the Chair

This year marked the thirty first annual Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print. W. Allan Hancock's winning image, entitled "Blossoming—Mourning Doves" was a beautiful piece to continue the series. Allan is no stranger to the art competition for the Canadian Duck Stamp: his art has also been featured on the 2005 (Harlequin) and 2011 (American Wigeon) Stamps and Prints.

The 2015-2016 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program provided \$1,421,710 in grants to 39 projects. This funding leveraged more than \$5.37 million in additional partner revenue to help conserve more than 24,467.91 acres (9,901.81 hectares) of wildlife habitat and support hunter education and recruitment activities across Canada.

In August 2015, Environment Canada (now Environment and Climate Change Canada) launched an e-permitting system, which allows hunters to purchase their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits online and print them off at home. The implementation of this e-permitting system increases Permit availability to both Canadian and international waterfowl and migratory bird hunters. We are pleased to see that so many of you have purchased your Permits online this year, and we hope to see further uptake with the continuation of this service.

Supporting our objective to provide conservation leadership, Wildlife Habitat Canada continued to be an active member of the federal Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel, Green Budget Coalition, North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada), and North American Bird Conservation Initiative in 2015-2016.

In June 2015 the Wildlife Habitat Canada Board of Directors welcomed a new member: Brad Potter, Manager, Fish and Wildlife, Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Communities, Land and Environment (PEI).

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 & Limited Edition Prints

CANADIAN DUCK STAMP & PRINT

= investment in conservation



© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Environment Canada, 2015.

The image for the Canadian Duck Stamp and Print is produced each year by a 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 Duck Stamp was created as, and continues to be a visible reminder of the reason habitat conservation is important: to conserve Canadian wildlife!



2015 Print and Stamp Image

2015 Stamp and Print

The 2015 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print feature the image “Blossoming—Mourning Doves” by artist W. Allan Hancock (Salt Spring Island, BC).



2015 Artist, W. Allan Hancock
Credit: Taryn Hancock

Pierre Leduc

2016 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp & Print Artist

“Most of the time, we see scoters form large schools that seem to let themselves drift with currents. If they are not too far from the shore, one can easily distinguish the males' magnificent colourful beak.”



Credit: Pierre Leduc, www.animalia.ca

“Although I have often observed them in calm weather, I opted for a more hectic scene in which the seaward wind creates big waves. This really changed the composition of the image and made the painting much more dynamic.”



2016 Print and Stamp Image

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2016.

2016 Conservation Stamp and Limited Edition Print

The 32nd Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp image was created by wildlife artist Pierre Leduc (Stoneham, QC). Leduc's image, entitled “Offshore Wind-Surf Scoters,” was released on April 1, 2016.



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>.

Canada—U.S. Migratory Birds Convention

Celebrating a century of shared conservation

2016 =

**100th
ANNIVERSARY**

of the

**B
I
R
D
S** **MIGRATORY
convention**

In 1916, Canada and the United States of America entered into a treaty to conserve migratory birds. One hundred years later, the Migratory Birds Convention is still important.

The principles of the Convention are to manage migratory birds for sustainable uses, including harvest, to restore depleted populations, and to provide for and protect the necessary habitat. Canadian hunters and birdwatchers continue to play an important role in collecting population data and supporting conservation projects —

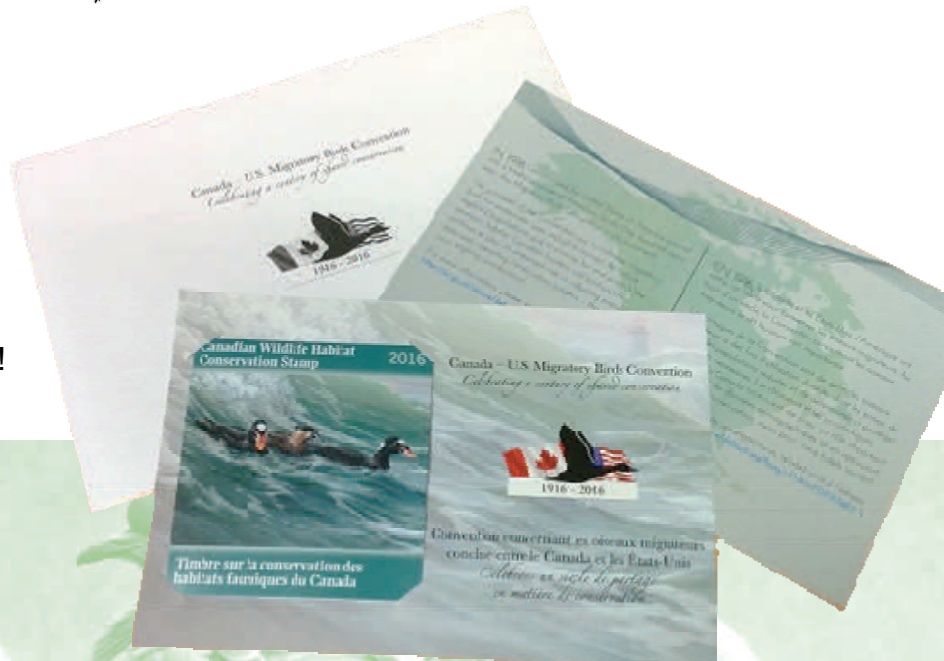
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

For more information, please visit: <https://ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=PDF836EF-1>



In celebration of the Centennial of the Canada-U.S. Migratory Birds Convention,

all 2016 Mint and Artist Signed Stamps come with a commemorative mounting card and envelope. Complete your collection today!



Supporting Hunters

Wildlife Habitat Canada supported conservation and hunting organizations during the 2015-2016 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.

2015 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.



2015 Mentor Lapel Pin



OFAH's Get Outdoors WATERFOWL Hunting Weekend.
Credits: Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.



Conservation Edition Prints

In 2015-2016, 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, Grand Portneuf chapter
- Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs Gaspésie/Îles de la Madeleine à Gaspé
- Foundation de la truite mouchetee
- Jaffa Environmental Education Centre—Thames Valely District School Board
- Long Point Waterfowl
- Nature Canada
- Newfoundland Envirothon
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Port Moody Ecological Society
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy

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



Fundraising dinner, Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs Gaspésie/Îles de la Madeleine à Gaspé.

Credit: Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs.

Hunters' Contributions to Habitat Conservation

Waterfowl hunters have a long and proud history of wildlife and habitat conservation in Canada and North America. In addition to purchasing the Canadian Duck 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.

Many conservation organizations rely on hunters heavily for support. For example, hunters are large supporters of conservation organizations such as Ducks Unlimited Canada, Delta Waterfowl, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and La Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs. All four groups, in addition to many others, receive grants from Wildlife Habitat Canada that actively support and assist with governmental and private conservation initiatives.

At Wildlife Habitat Canada, our success in contributing and advocating for wildlife habitat conservation is directly linked to waterfowl hunting. We need to improve efforts to promote and increase participation in waterfowl hunting: waterfowl hunting contributes about \$327 million annually to the economy, or about 18% of the \$1.8 billion figure for hunting and trapping. That economic contribution is not easily replaced by other nature-related activities. For example, the average waterfowl hunter spends nearly 7 times the daily expenditure of a birder. Most importantly for the future of conservation, hunters and trappers are **participating in nature conservation activities at over three times the national average** for Canadians over the age of 18 years (*Source: 2012 Canadian Nature Survey*).

The general public should have an understanding that hunting today is both a recreational activity and an important management tool that can be used by government agencies to manage wildlife populations. 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.

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



Credit: Manitoba Wildlife Federation

Highlight of Accomplishments: Grant Program

Since 1985, WHC has invested over
\$50 MILLION IN GRANTS
to more than
1,500 HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS
across Canada.

Credit: Long Point Waterfowl



Credit: Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council



Credit: Salt Spring Island Conservancy



In **2015-2016**, the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program provided 39 grants to 29 organizations, totalling approximately
\$1,421,710.



\$1,380,955 of which contributed to priorities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), leveraging additional partner funds at a rate of more than **5:1!**

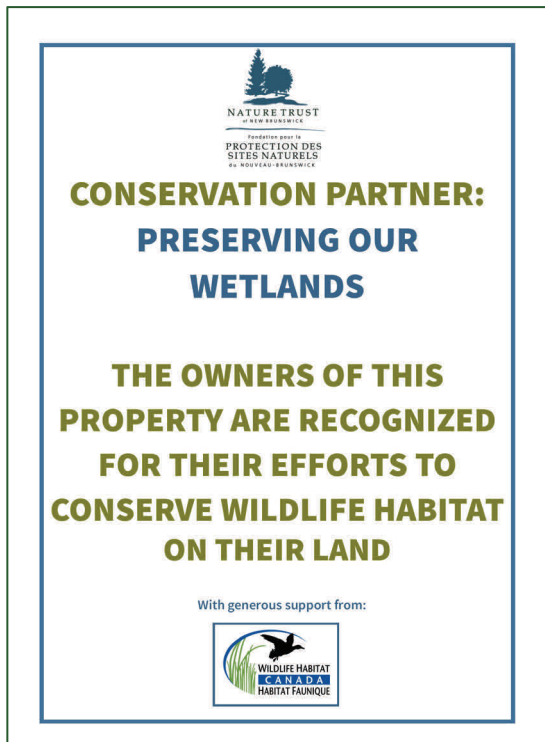
Total funding leveraged more than **\$5.37 million** in additional partner revenue to help conserve more than **24,467.91 acres** (9,901.81 hectares) of wildlife habitat and support hunter education and recruitment activities across Canada.



Application of the Lower Saint John River Habitat Conservation Strategy through Landowner Outreach Program

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$25,000 to the Nature Trust of New Brunswick.

This project strived to develop new conservation-based relationships with private landowners of wetland habitat and to increase habitat under stewardship management.



Credit: Nature Trust of New Brunswick

Project accomplishments:

- A permanent Landowner Stewardship Program with monitoring for private landowners was developed. 10 landowners were recognized for their habitat stewardship efforts through this program.
- Outreach, education and negotiation activities were completed with landowners of high Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV) priority habitat and neighbouring properties, to encourage voluntary stewardship and permanent land securement.
- 170 acres of floodplain and marsh habitat and 7 acres of Provincially Significant Wetland and buffer habitat are in the process of permanent protection.





The use of LiDAR to predict the occurrence of forested wetland and riparian habitats in New Brunswick

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$25,000 to the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources.

The purpose of this project was to evaluate the feasibility of using LiDAR data to model the distribution and quantity estimates of priority forested wetland and riparian habitats. Previously, habitat inventories were generated through photo interpretation and aerial photos, but it was recognized that forested wetlands were not consistently classified.

Project accomplishments:

- A predictive model and associated confidence intervals were developed for the occurrence of forested wetland habitats using existing LiDAR data and ground-based data for calibration and validation.
- Existing data for model calibration and validation, capturing the range of conditions under habitats in question, were identified.
- Structural definitions of forest inventory attributes that indicate habitats from habitat matrix were identified.
- Assessed if LiDAR-derived forest inventory attributes can be used to map forested wetland and riparian habitats using ground-based data.
- Results modelled into a final report summary.

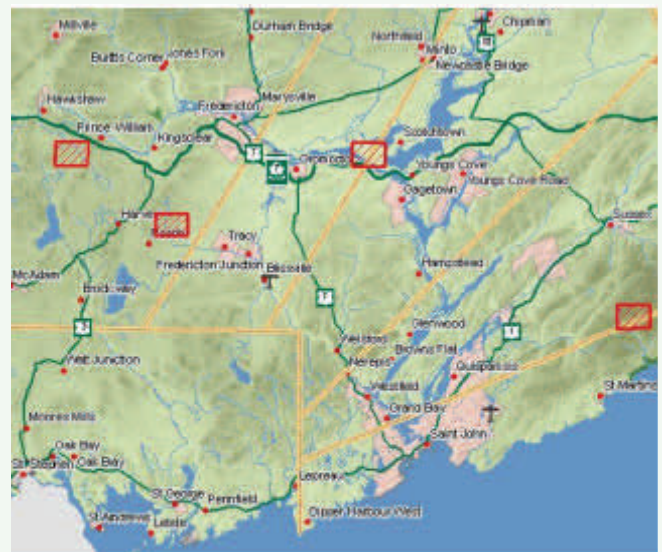


Figure 1. The project area consists 4 map tiles (4355, 4052, 5759 and 4952) located within the 2013-2014 NBDNR photoblocks in southern New Brunswick.

Credit: New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources





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.

This project facilitated partnerships with farmers and agricultural support workers to improve the conservation, restoration and enhancement of wetland habitat and biodiversity through the delivery and promotion of Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation Plans (ABC Plans).

Project accomplishments:

- 12 farms were assessed for ABC Plan implementation.
- 53 farm visits were conducted and 4 sites were assessed for potential wetlands (with DUC personnel).
- Partnered with Dalhousie University (BioLOG website and animated biodiversity video development), CARP (delivery of riparian and wetland Best Management Practices to encourage uptake of ABC Plans).
- Participated in a number of events to promote the project (Woodlot Owner of the Year Award, Becoming an Outdoor Woman, Biodiversity field day, World Wetland Day).



Credits:
Nova Scotia
Department of Natural
Resources—Wildlife
Division



Municipal Wetland Stewardship in Newfoundland and Labrador: Strengthening Progress, Broadening Support

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$44,000 to Intervale Associates Inc.

The purpose of the project was to plan and implement a series of community engagement workshops to strengthen public support and guide local planning towards achieving NAWMP objectives for waterfowl, wetlands and related habitat.

Project accomplishments:

- 10 interviews were conducted with key stakeholders in advance to inform workshop development.
- 4 workshops were held, reviewing local resources, local accomplishments for conservation, strategic intent and action priorities.
- Waterbird monitoring was conducted in the Grand Codroy Estuary. Worked with local school, association and landowners to increase perceived value of the Estuary as habitat for wildlife.

Newfoundland and Labrador Wetlands Stewardship

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

The goal of this project was to sign new stewardship agreements with NL municipalities and landowners to secure wetlands, wetland associated uplands, and coastal habitat. A secondary project component was working with existing agreement signatories to provide assistance and educating the public to implement habitat enhancement activities.

Project accomplishments:

- Introductory meetings and presentations were held with municipal councils and landowners.
- Field assessments were conducted to identify and assess the status of significant wildlife habitat.
- 3 stewardship agreements were formally signed, securing over 1,285 acres of wetland and wetland associated habitat.
- Produced a new habitat conservation plan for the town of Torbay.



Credit: NL Wildlife Division

Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund



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

Population monitoring and tracking murrees at the Gannet Islands, NL

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$15,000 to Acadia University.

The goals of the project were to: 1) conduct banding and population monitoring; 2) collect data on diet, chick growth and reproductive success; and 3) track birds using GPS to determine their foraging range and overlap between species.

Project accomplishments:

- Identified and evaluated reproductive effort in established monitoring plots.
- Feeding rates and dietary items were monitored as measures of environmental conditions for Murre reproduction.
- Acquired tracking data on 3 puffins, 6 razorbills, 5 common murrees and 8 thick-billed murrees.



Credit: Dr. Mark Mallory

Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Census Murrees in Newfoundland and Nunavut

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$15,000 to McGill University.

The purpose of the project was to use unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to photograph and census Murrees, determining the optimal distance and altitude to minimize disturbance and maximize the accuracy of the counts.

Project accomplishments:

- 4 UAV flights were conducted at Gull Island and Coats Island.
- A count of birds at two sub-colonies was completed.
- Little disturbance to breeding murrees was noted from use of rotary UAVs; however, due to the high winds typical of murre colonies, the use of fixed wing UAVs flown at 25 m from the colony cliff face was found to be ideal.

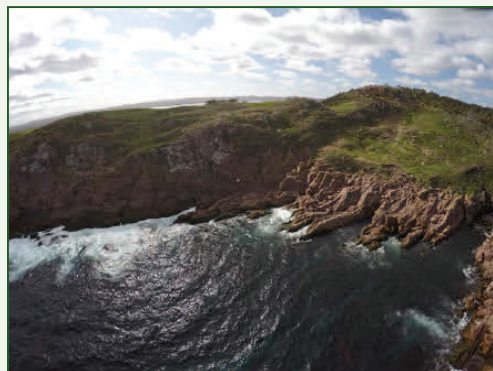


Image of murre cliffs taken from UAV.

Credit: Dr. Kyle Elliott



Protection of forested wetlands on private land / Southern Quebec / EHJV 2015-2016

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$60,000 to the Fondation de la faune du Québec.

The goal of the project was to maintain quality wetlands in southern Québec to enhance waterfowl resources and protect biodiversity-rich wildlife habitat.

Project accomplishments:

- More than 130 landowners were contacted to present the project and identify wetland habitat for protection. Approximately 140 wetlands were identified.
- Characterization and summary inventories were completed for 139 wetlands.
- 119 statements of intent were signed by landowners, protecting 2,639 acres of wetland habitat.
- Brochures, maps and newspapers were produced to raise awareness of voluntary stewardship.
- Monitoring activities were completed on 78 wetlands.
- 6 meetings were held with hunters, which resulted in 2 stewardship plan agreements being signed.
- Signage was reviewed and improved on 22 properties.



Credits: Fondation de la faune du Québec



Eelgrass (Zostera marina) ecology and its importance to migratory waterfowl.

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$44,500 to McGill University.

The project objectives were to: 1) assess eelgrass spatiotemporal variability along the eastern coast of James Bay; 2) examine eelgrass distribution in Tabusintac Bay; 3) investigate the effects of different eelgrass densities on fall-staging.

Project accomplishments:

- Sampled water parameters for 38 sampling sites and conducted preliminary analysis.
- Georeferenced eelgrass distribution map produced in 1996 and compiled all past surveys conducted in the region.
- Examined salinity, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH and percent eelgrass cover along the eastern James Bay coast.
- Preliminary assessment strongly suggests that coastal features restricting water flow effect eelgrass spatial patterns.
- Identified multiple Brant Goose feeding locations to be sampled in subsequent years.

Stewardship and conservation of wetlands and riparian areas in eastern Quebec

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$45,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The goals of the project were to: 1) protect wetlands and riparian areas through securement and stewardship activities; and, 2) improve wildlife habitat through education and public awareness.

Project accomplishments:

- Preliminary negotiations were conducted with landowners of targeted properties. 2 agreements of purchase and sale were signed, protecting 91 acres of habitat (*no WHC funds to acquisition*).
- Ecological assessments were performed on two properties with important migratory bird habitat.
- Ecological monitoring was completed on 22 properties and 2 easements; 19 stewardship activities that were identified in the Management Plan were completed.
- 25 awareness activities were carried out by an interpretive guide at Malbaie Barachois.

Credit: Nature Conservancy of Canada.





Introduction to waterfowl hunting - 2015

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$15,000 to Héritage faune, a subsidiary of the Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs.

The project supported the development of hunting activities for youth, women and new hunters.

Project accomplishments:

- Delivered 7 workshops engaging and educating new, young and novice waterfowl hunters in an Introduction to Hunting course.
- Participants received training in marshes to identify waterfowl and promote the importance of these habitats. Participants also received training in gun/shooting safety.

Wildlife Management of Nicolet

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

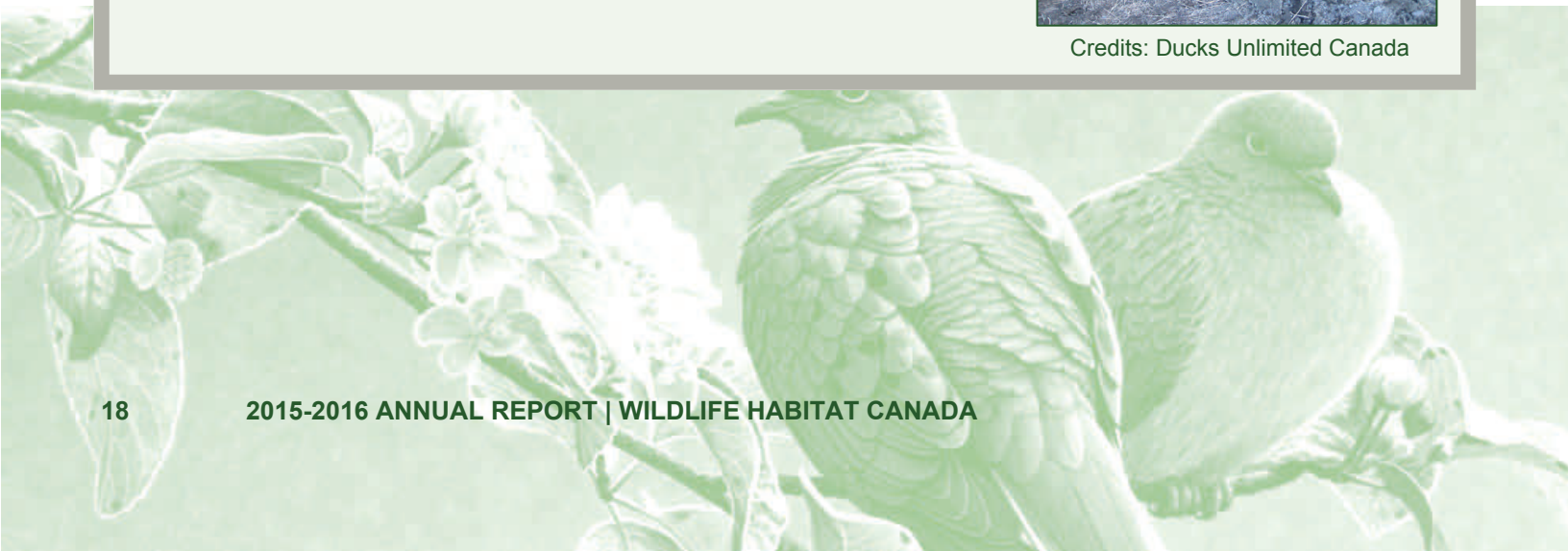
The purpose of the project was to dismantle and replace an old water control structure to restore critical wetland habitat on the south shore of Lake Saint-Pierre.

Project accomplishments:

- Project development activities were completed, including a field survey, photographic report, restoration sketch and wildlife management report.
- An inventory report for the Least Bittern and a Common Reed Control Report were completed.
- The degraded water control structure was dismantled and replaced with a new structure, restoring 345.9 acres of wetland habitat and 24.7 acres of upland habitat.



Credits: Ducks Unlimited Canada





Leeds Community Pasture - East Pasture Wetland Restoration

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$14,000 to the Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council.

The purpose of this project was to construct cattle exclusion fencing around 4 wetlands in the East Pasture, to improve water quality.

Project accomplishments:

- 2.6km of continuous cedar rail fencing was installed, excluding cattle from the natural springs and wetlands in the East Pasture.
- Encouraged the adoption of best management practices around wetlands on farms: 15 local farmers consigned their cattle to the pasture.



Credit: Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council.

OFAH Get Outdoors WATERFOWL Hunting Weekend

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$9,755 to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

The goal of this project was to develop the next generation of habitat conservationists by introducing waterfowl hunting to youth, aged 12-15.



Credit: Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

Project accomplishments:

- Delivered a two-day, hands-on waterfowl hunting and wetland education experience for new hunters.
- 19 youth waterfowl hunters attended; 21 adult mentors and 3 instructors were involved in the project.
- The event included conservation workshops and hunting breakout sessions covering decoy set up, dog handling, skeet shooting and water safety.

Big Creek National Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$80,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

The goal of this large scale wetland reconstruction project was to rebuild an earthen dyke and replace aging infrastructure to manage water levels in the marsh.

Project accomplishments:

- Recored and augmented portions of the 15,750 feet of earthen dyke.
- Sediment and debris were removed from the water supply channel to ensure adequate supply for wetland water level management.
- Replaced failing water conveyance culvert at the main access/parking lot and installed rip rapped side slopes to address historic erosion issues.
- This work protects the functionality and productivity of 217 acres of critical Great Lakes coastal wetland habitat.



Big Creek NWA reconstruction of cross dyke (Sept. 2015)



Aerial oblique of the Big Creek NWA and reconstruction work on the dykes (Sept. 2015).

Credits: Ducks Unlimited Canada



Long Point Waterfowl's Lake St. Clair Initiative: Habitat Selection and Survival of Mallards during Autumn-Winter

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$96,644 to Long Point Waterfowl.

This project aimed to: 1) estimate waterfowl use of different habitat types and how this use is influenced by land management practices; and, 2) categorize different foraging strategies exhibited by waterfowl to determine if these strategies influence their survival and how long they use the resources within the Lake St. Clair region.

Project accomplishments:

- Trapped and banded approximately 750 ducks.
- Deployed 39 GPS satellite transmitters on adult female Mallards during August and September 2015.
- Recorded over 30,000 GPS positions from units deployed during the 2015 trapping season; determined the fate of these individuals to begin to describe their probability of survival.
- Approximately 1,200 harvested Mallards were measured and weighed during the 2015-2016 hunting season (banding operations).



Credit: Long Point Waterfowl

Youth Hunting & Conservation Course

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

The project provided youth with the opportunity to increase their awareness of, and participate in, our hunting heritage.

Project accomplishments:

- The 2015 Youth Hunting & Conservation Course (YHCC) was successfully delivered. Thirty youth from across Ontario participated in the 6 day program.
- Participating youth graduated with their Canadian Firearms certification, Ontario Hunter Safety certification, Ontario Wild Turkey Hunter Safety certification; instructed with mentors learning the importance of hunting as a tool of wildlife conservation & management; instructed with mentors learning the importance of hunting in Ontario and an introduction to hunting advocacy.



Credit: Long Point Waterfowl

Enhancing the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program to meet OEHJV and NAWMP priorities

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$25,000 to Bird Studies Canada.

This project aimed to implement a new sampling framework for the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program (GLMMP) that better reflects Ontario Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (OEHJV) and NAWMP priorities.

Project accomplishments:

- 332 wetland sampling points across 60 survey routes were established and finalized in the field.
- Bird and vegetation field surveys were conducted and a full data path from field form to permanent electronic database was tested.
- An online bird and frog identification testing module was created.
- Population trends and annual abundance indices were produced for 18 bird and 8 frog species.

The Water Management and Wetland Restoration Training Course

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$10,000 to the Raisin Region Conservation Authority.

This 4 day course was designed to introduce the basic principles of water conservation and wetland restoration through case studies, field exercises and group work (both in the classroom and in the field).

Project accomplishments:

- From September 14-17, 2015, a wetland education program was provided to resource practitioners on the principles and methods of wetland restoration and their application in the field.
- Participants learned to identify potential wetland restoration sites and explored wetland complexes and several watersheds in Eastern Ontario.
- Successes and failures in wetland restoration were viewed and discussed with landowners, stakeholders and site managers.



Class of 2015

Credit: Raisin Region Conservation Authority



Long Point Crown Marsh Restoration Project

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

This project was part of ongoing work that commenced in 2004 to restore open water wetland communities in the Long Point Crown Marsh (LPCM).

Project accomplishments:

- 20 wetland acres were restored by enhancing existing hydrologic connections to ensure functionality of existing natural and restored ponds and connecting channels.
- 30 wetland acres were restored (open water wetland communities) by controlling Phragmites using Best Management Practices prepared by the OMNRF.
- 500m of existing open water communities were maintained and treated to prevent invasion of Phragmites.

Long Point Crown Marsh Rehabilitation Projects Update

by Jim Malcolm

Regular readers of The Biosphere Beacon will know the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation has partnered with the Long Point Waterfowlers' Association in the Long Point Crown Marsh Rehabilitation projects. Funding for a portion of this important work is directly attributable to this partnership.

The first 2014-15 project priority was to complete an open-water community on the west side of the Old Cut Cottagers Channel during the summer construction season. This project involved adding two stand-alone cells adjacent to an existing pond. In total, an additional 13 acres of open-water community has been restored. When combined with existing open water features this new wetland complex totals a mosaic of over 17 acres of high quality habitat. Both new ponds will be recharged via precipitation and groundwater as well as seasonal and storm high water events as the projects are connected to the adjacent boating channel. Wildlife Habitat Canada's ongoing support for the marsh restoration projects made this possible.

There has also been a busy winter restoration effort with several additional open water communities being created. In an effort to provide a high quality, diverse suite of habitats in the Crown Marsh some smaller scale shallow ponds with multiple cells were

trilled well inland from the edge of the bay. It is hoped these will support resident waterfowl breeding and nesting requirements. These smaller, shallower features will also support amphibian and reptile populations and were constructed using design expertise from OMNRF's species experts.

In terms of acreage, the most ambitious project was the continued rehabilitation of the east end of the Crown Marsh. Heavy equipment worked in the Crown Marsh more than 30 days despite the very difficult conditions presented by record low temperatures. More than 8 acres of new wetland community were created. The project was possible because of the generous support of the Canada-Ontario Agreement grant administered by OMNRF, the Province's Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund and the National Wetland Conservation Fund.

All of these habitat improvement projects occur in dense stands of phragmites. In addition to the physical removal of this noxious invasive, a limited licensed chemical treatment of some areas was tried in 2014 with more to follow this summer. Thanks to the National Wetland Conservation Fund grant and a partnership with Long Point Waterfowlers, the equipment needed to continue this work should be ready for the summer, 2015 field season. Stayed tuned for more good works to follow.



Crown Marsh west of Old Cut



Crown Marsh east pond construction

Credit: Long Point Waterfowlers' Association

Enhancing Ontario's Important Bird Areas Program and Volunteer Network

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$32,226 to Bird Studies Canada.

The goals of the project were to increase the understanding, awareness, and conservation of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Ontario and beyond through outreach and capacity-building activities.

Project accomplishments:

- 10 new IBA marker signs were distributed to local caretakers.
- Bird survey blitzes and workshops were planned and held at several IBAs.
- An IBA protocol for eBird was field tested and refined.
- 60+ volunteers were recruited and trained as IBA caretakers at four key IBAs in Ontario.

Waterbird Surveys at Ontario IBAs

by Mike Burrell



Long-tailed Ducks Photo: Mike Burrell

It was a busy fall for waterbird surveys at Ontario Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. Many IBA caretakers participated in or organized survey blitzes in their local IBAs, and the results were spectacular.

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory organized a great team of volunteers to cover the entire Prince Edward County South Shore IBA.

A team from the Kingston Field Naturalists surveyed the Wolfe Island IBA and recorded an impressive 2.5% of the estimated global population of Redheads.

Twenty hardy volunteers, many attending the Ontario Field Ornithologists' gull weekend, tallied about 3% of the world's Bonaparte's Gulls on their survey of the Niagara River Corridor IBA.

And finally, volunteers have started doing biweekly surveys in the West End of Lake Ontario IBA to monitor the several duck species wintering there in globally significant numbers.



Prince Edward Pt. group Photo: Mike Burrell

IBA survey blitzes make use of the IBA Canada eBird Protocol, which involves teams of people splitting up to cover most or all of an IBA, and counting all the birds they encounter.

Bird Studies Canada's Ontario IBA Program is generously supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Special thanks to Ivor Williams, who developed an eBird checklist aggregator tool for the IBA Program that makes compiling results a breeze!

To learn more or get involved, visit the IBA Canada website or contact Mike Burrell (mburrell@birdscanada.org). On a mobile device? Access the mobile IBA web directory!

Credits: Mike Burrell / Bird Studies Canada

The Manitoba Wetland Enhancement and Duck Production Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$99,725 to the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

This project aimed to improve wetland habitat and waterfowl production in Manitoba's Prairie Pothole Region through the permanent protection of high-value waterfowl breeding habitat, the restoration of wetland and upland habitat and the installation of Hen Houses.

Project accomplishments:

- Topographic surveys were completed to determine the restoration potential of sites.
- 57.9 acres of wetland were restored.
- 2 plugs/earthen dams were constructed and seeded.
- 27.7 acres of wet-uplands were seeded.
- 400 Hen Houses were installed and 2,122 Hen Houses were maintained.
- An estimated 600 acres were protected under a 10 year term contract (non-WHC funds for acquisition).
- 481.37 acres of wetland and associated upland habitat was secured in perpetuity (non-WHC funds for acquisition).



Credits: Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.





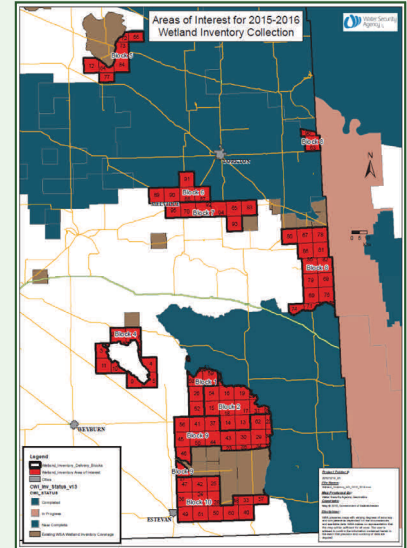
Conservation and enhancement of wetlands in Saskatchewan

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$43,110 to the Water Security Agency.

The purpose of the project was to develop voluntary partnerships with ranchers to convert cultivated cropland to forage.

Project accomplishments:

- Two watershed stewardship groups engaged landowners in selecting eligible cropland conversion projects.
- Voluntary agreements were established with 7 landowners, to reimburse a portion of the seeding cost to convert cropland to pasture.
- 979 acres of cropland conversion project were selected, conserving an estimated 162 acres of existing wetland.
- Aerial mapping of wetland and drainage inventory covering 7,660 square kilometers of priority watersheds and NAWMP target landscapes was completed.



Wetland and drainage inventory.
Credit: Water Security Agency.

Waterfowl Habitat Creation and Restoration Through ALUS Saskatchewan

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$25,000 to the Delta Waterfowl Foundation.

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Saskatchewan encourages community-delivered habitat protection, enhancement and conservation by working directly with landowners.

Project accomplishments:

- An ALUS workshop was hosted in conjunction with the Agri-Environmental Group Plan and the Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watershed.
- The program was expanded from original four Rural Municipalities (RM) to the entire Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watershed, now offering ALUS to 35 RM's. ALUS Saskatchewan is also in the Assiniboine Watershed which covers 30 RM's.
- Established ALUS within 2 watershed associations and established 4 new projects totalling 319 acres of habitat.
- 30 Hen Houses were constructed and installed on private lands.



Mobile Smartphone Waterfowl App

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$10,000 to the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association.

This project developed a smartphone app for waterfowl identification and field techniques/field dressing.

Project accomplishments:

- Platform, storyboard and command live tools for the app were developed.
- Attended/created 13 event opportunities, transporting the Mobile Shotgun Safety Trailer for demonstrations of proper handling of harvested waterfowl.
- Appropriate film footage obtained for instruction within the context of the app.

The Mentored Hunt Program Materials Project

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$1,000 to the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association.

This project developed 2 booklets to provide novice participants and mentors of novice hunters with pertinent hunting information.

Project accomplishments:

- Booklet 1: "Your First Hunting Experience: Guide for Participants of a Mentored Hunt" developed to provide knowledge to novice waterfowl hunters in Alberta.
- Booklet 2: "Conducting a Successful Mentored Hunt: Guide for Mentors" developed to provide knowledge to novice waterfowl hunters in Alberta.
- 100 landowners and 100 educators were involved in the project.

Provincial Hunting Day Initiatives

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$7,500 to the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association.

This 8th annual event promotes hunting as an important wildlife management tool and outdoor activity and also promotes good management practices for preserving wetland habitat.

Project accomplishments:

- Hunting and conservation focused activities were offered at the Calgary Firearms Conservation Education Centre for Excellence on Provincial Hunting Day; 90 people attended.
- Offered Mentored Hunts for Albertans who had not had the opportunity to learn about and try hunting.
- Linked novice hunters with trained volunteers who mentored them in the activity of hunting, with specific reference to waterfowl.



Credit: Alberta Hunting Education Instructors' Association.



Parkland County Alternative Land Use Services Project (ALUS)

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,000 to Parkland County.

The purpose of the project was to work with farmers and ranchers in Parkland County to conserve, enhance and restore wetland and upland habitat and support voluntary actions on private land.

Project accomplishments:

- ALUS Conservation Agreements were signed for a term of 5 years.
- 11,160m of livestock exclusion fencing was constructed.
- An informal protocol to approach landowners was developed, including a strategy for targeting producers.
- 19 producers were engaged in discussions on the potential for ALUS projects within their owned and managed land.



Credit: Parkland County.

The County of Vermilion River Wetland Conservation on Farms through ALUS

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$30,000 to the County of Vermilion River.

The purpose of the project was to work with farmers and ranchers in the County of Vermilion River to conserve, enhance and restore wetland and upland habitat and support voluntary actions on private land.

Project accomplishments:

- Met with 12 landowners regarding the restoration of wetlands on their property.
- Completed wetland inventory on 5 of 70 townships.
- Permanent signage is being developed for the Headon and McNabb project sites.
- Monitored 19 of 21 ALUS project sites.
- The Headon project was implemented; site was mowed in November 2015 to accommodate earthworks.
- The McNabb project was completed by farmers/ranchers with established cost-sharing.



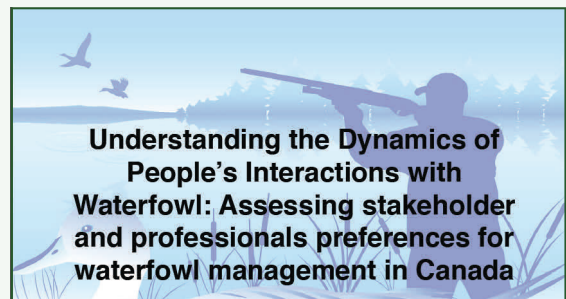
Understanding the dynamics of people's interactions with waterfowl: Assessing hunter's preferences for waterfowl management in Canada

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$26,875 to the University of Alberta.

This study integrates several fields of research, including outdoor recreation, environmental sociology, and wildlife management. The purpose of this project was to develop, deliver, analyze, and report on a survey of adult Canadian waterfowl hunters to establish baseline data and document waterfowl hunters' characteristics to permit long-term monitoring of hunters' attitudes and conservation priorities.

Project accomplishments:

- Data collection method for accessing hunter records from the past year was determined.
- 5 hunter workshops were facilitated across Canada, with 49 participants identifying 106 total attributes and 15 attribute themes.
- 5 birder workshops were facilitated across Canada, with 36 participants identifying 105 total attributes and 12 attribute themes.
- A review of the questionnaire (designed to assess waterfowl hunters' knowledge, levels of use, and support for waterfowl and wetlands conservation) was completed by members/staff of NAWMP, Joint Ventures, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Flyway representatives.
- Due to delays in designing and administering a questionnaire for use across jurisdictions, all data has not yet been captured but is expected in Summer 2016
(activities outside of FY 2015-2016 are supported by other partner funds).
- Preliminary survey results are anticipated in Winter 2017.



Credit: Dr. Howie Harshaw





Quantifying recolonization of vegetation and changes in invertebrate community following yellow flag iris control in high priority waterfowl habitat

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$16,875 to Thompson Rivers University.

This project monitored vegetation and macroinvertebrate recolonization one-year post benthic barrier treatment on yellow flag iris.

Project accomplishments:

- Sites were inventoried in July and October to document percent cover by species and treatment.
- 11 soil samples were processed to assess changes in macroinvertebrate community following control methods and within infested versus native plant communities.
- Yellow flag iris was found to be changing wildlife values within the study area (Vaseux Lake): 1) severe reductions in invertebrate abundance; 2) at severe infestation, the iris obscures shoreline with an organic terrestrial mat that provides no macroinvertebrate food value for water birds; 3) yellow flag iris displaces critical native vegetation including sedges and rushes.



Vegetation regrowth within the benthic barrier treatment 1 year after the barrier was removed.

Credit: Dr. Catherine Tarasoff.

Assessing the ecological influences on the efficacy of benthic barriers to control yellow flag iris in high priority waterfowl habitats across British Columbia

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$39,500 to Thompson Rivers University.

The purpose of this project was to determine the time required to reach cellular death (yellow flag iris), given different environmental parameters, using rubber benthic barriers.

Project accomplishments:

- Installed research treatments at 4-5 sites per location (6 locations) and assessed cellular health at all 6 sites up to 150 days after treatments.
- Collected 5 infested versus uninfested invertebrate samples during the research treatment installation.
- The benthic barriers were found to kill rhizomes within 55 to 86 days regardless of environmental conditions. Yellow flag iris was not found to greatly affect macroinvertebrate communities unless an iris population had converted an aquatic environment to a terrestrial environment (severe infestation).



Conservation and Restoration of Priority Wetland and Upland Habitat on Salt Spring Island 2015-2016

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

This project worked with landowners towards the legal protection of priority habitats and engaged landowners and volunteers in a variety of stewardship activities.

Project accomplishments:

- An additional 7.2 acres of important wetland riparian habitat along Blackburn Lake were secured in perpetuity (*non-WHC funds*).
- 7 new stewardship agreements signed.
- 4 wetlands were constructed and 1 wetland was restored.
- Over 3,300 native plants and 50 live-stakes were planted.
- Seeds from 10 native sedge and rush species were collected, seeded and mulched to reduce erosion and weeds in the initial phase of re-vegetation
- Invasive species were removed (Broom Holly, Tansy Ragwort, Hawthorn, Thistles).
- A tree survival assessment was completed for the Alvin Indridson Nature Reserve.
- Continued to monitor the deactivated and restored road to stop motorized use in the nature reserve.
- Completed extensive mapping and data collection on 87 targeted lands of conservation priority on Salt Spring Island and within the Cusheon Lake Watershed.
- Waterfowl and Species at Risk surveys were conducted.
- Fencing was installed in 2 targeted areas of upland habitat restoration to protect native plants from heavy deer browse.



Photo credit: Salt Spring Island Conservancy



Credit: Salt Spring Island Conservancy



Habitat Stewardship in the Okanagan Basin

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

This project supported key landowners in voluntary stewardship agreements and activities, while also working with communities to address conservation issues on a larger geographic scale.

Project accomplishments:

- 58 landowners were engaged in medium term stewardship agreements.
- Support was provided to existing stewards of securement projects.
- 7 new habitat management agreements were negotiated.
- Assisted 7 communities with habitat enhancement activities: invasive plant management, nest box installation, maintenance/ watering of existing planting projects, supplemental plantings/ native seed application (involving over 200 local area residents).
- 1 wetland was constructed (0.5 acres); 1 pool was converted into a pond; plans for constructing a 7 acre wetland complex were developed.
- Hosted three conservation interest workshops in 2 communities.



Credit: Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society.

Conservation of Crown Wildlife Habitat in BC

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

This project established Crown wildlife habitat reserves and garnered support to designate Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

Project accomplishments:

- Consultations completed for the Somenos (153 acres) and Harrison-Chehalis (3,750 acres) WMAs.
- GIS and mapping completed for (5) Crown wildlife reserve applications and amendments.
- Assisted joint venture partners in the investigation of private and adjacent Crown land sites as part of wetland compensation and habitat mitigation projects.
- Initiated development of a work plan and strategy to rationalize province-wide Crown land securement efforts.



Chilanko Marsh Enhancement – Phase 1

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$22,000 to the Nature Trust of British Columbia.

The purpose of the project was to replace derelict boundary fencing surrounding the Chilanko Marsh property, an important wetland in the Chilcotin Plateau.

Project accomplishments:

- 2.3km of wildlife-friendly livestock exclusion fencing was installed.
- Over 6km of conservation property perimeter was walked and assessed for fencing requirements and access routes.
- Conservation values of the land and exclusion fencing were communicated to neighbouring stakeholders/resource managers.



Derelict perimeter fencing to be replaced, as seen during September 2015 site visit.

Credit: The Nature Trust of British Columbia.

Wetland on Wheels 2015-2016: Enhancing Stewardship in BC

Wildlife Habitat Canada provided a grant of \$44,000 to the British Columbia Wildlife Federation.

This project offered a range of workshops and outreach events to enhance wetland stewardship across British Columbia.

Project accomplishments:

- Delivered Map our Marshes workshops in Duncan, Fernie, Creston and Squamish.
- Hosted a Wetlandkeepers workshop in Quesnel, BC.
- Delivered Wetlandkeepers workshops in Smithers, Prince Rupert, Windermere, and Vernon/Kelowna.
- Hosted a Wetlands Institute in Vernon and Kelowna.
- Participated in a River Day Event and the Squamish River Estuary Program.
- Developed two 45 minute wetland education modules for schools.
- 4 wetlands were restored in Meadow Creek, BC.
- Planted 1,100 shrubs and plugs at Curly Frog Farm and 600 shrubs and sedges on the Radies property.



Credit: British Columbia Wildlife Federation



Strengthening & Evaluating a National Waterfowling Program

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

This project aimed to expand the reach of mentored hunt partnerships, support novice hunters, identify challenges, opportunities and best practices, and increase awareness of hunters' role in conservation.

Project accomplishments:

- 2,000 promotional brochures were distributed to the public and partners.
- Recruited partners and mentors for mentored hunt events and provided support to waterfowling-related events across Canada. Supported 66 mentored hunts and waterfowling education events (1,163 participants and 371 mentors/organizers).
- 6 large waterfowling/hunting-related events were executed, reaching over 2,525 people (Provincial Hunting Day, Waterfowling Heritage Days, Duck Days, etc).
- Youth-focused Wetland Heroes program information was promoted through the mail-out of Mentored Hunt certificates.
- Surveys were distributed to novice hunters to identify needs and networking opportunities to support their continued involvement in hunting.



Mentors and youth hunters at Manitoba clay shoot. Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Hunter and Wetland Education Project

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

The project continued work on developing a vision, case statement for engagement and a National Wetlands Conservation Strategy for Canada.

Project accomplishments:

- 11 organizations (representing industry, NGOs and government) actively participated in the Canadian Wetlands Roundtable (CWR) and stakeholder outreach has been ongoing.
- The CWR met monthly and 2 working groups were established (one to plan a wetland policy workshop and the other to plan an inventory/monitoring workshop).
- Experts from outside the CWR were engaged to participate.
- A Terms of Reference and strategic plan were adopted. Future activities will continue to be coordinated with NAWCC (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. 2015-2016 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**, \$1,153,229.

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

- **Funding allocation**, \$283,481.

NL Murre Conservation grants provided to eligible recipients:

- **Funding allocation**, \$30,000.

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**, 90% or 35/39 projects (compared to 81% or 35/43 projects in the previous year).
- **WHC invested \$1,380,955** in NAWMP projects, which leveraged an additional \$5,261,713 in additional partner funding (*Government of Canada funding is not counted in the calculation of leveraged funds*).

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

- **Land area conserved, enhanced or restored through funded projects**, 24,467.9 acres.

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

- **Number of participants (13,037) and total participant person-days (17,167) in on-the-ground wetland education and hunter education programs supported by WHC grants.**

Increased participation in Murre conservation activities and management:

- **Funding allocation, \$30,000.**
- **Number of participants (7) and total participant person-days (163) in on-the ground programs specific to Murre conservation activities and management.**

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

- **Total funds leveraged by WHC funded projects, \$5,371,492** (Government of Canada funding is not counted in the calculation of 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, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016):**

Total land area (acres) put under stewardship by funded projects— **112,034.1 acres.**

Number of private landowners involved in funded projects— **3,060.**

Total in-kind contributions to funded projects— **\$17,264,548.**

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— **3.5.**

Increased application of innovative habitat conservation tools:

- **Innovative habitat conservation tools in funded projects, 61.36%** (50/82 projects).

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, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016):**

Total approved funding for Research projects that are supported by a Joint Venture— **\$397,694.**

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 2015-2016

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, 2016, 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, 2016. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated May 30, 2016. 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, 2016 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with criteria described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Maïcel Lavallée

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario
May 30, 2016

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2016, with comparative figures for 2015

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 259,494	\$ 299,492
Accounts receivable	134,565	244,646
Prepaid expenses	7,137	22,869
Current portion of investments	-	128,307
	401,196	695,314
INVESTMENTS	130,131	-
CAPITAL ASSETS	6,210	18,495
	136,341	18,495
	\$ 537,537	\$ 713,809
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 245,609	\$ 402,314
Government remittances	5,598	3,457
	251,207	405,771
FUNDS HELD IN TRUST	158,039	163,068
	409,246	568,839
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	6,210	18,495
Unrestricted	122,081	126,475
	128,291	144,970
	\$ 537,537	\$ 713,809

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

Summarized Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2016, with comparative figures for 2015

	2016	2015
REVENUE		
Conservation Stamp Program	\$ 1,776,334	\$ 1,951,067
Other	35,653	29,369
Philatelic stamps	12,903	18,696
Stamp and prints	10,791	14,191
Rental	7,116	19,132
Youth stamps	-	32
	1,842,797	2,032,487
EXPENSES		
Funds Habitat Conservation	1,421,710	1,558,687
Salaries and benefits	249,966	239,207
General and administration	80,035	89,838
Rent	55,205	67,081
Hospitality, travel and board	27,468	41,695
Professional fees	12,807	12,226
Amortization of capital assets <i>(depreciation)</i>	12,285	15,726
	1,859,476	2,024,460
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER		
EXPENSES <i>[includes depreciation]</i>	(16,679)	8,027
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	144,970	136,943
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 128,291	\$ 144,970



WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

Notes to Summary Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2016

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: Salt Spring Island Conservancy

Our Supporters and Partners



Environment and Climate Change Canada

Through a legislative arrangement with Environment and Climate Change 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 and Climate Change Canada. This endeavour supports Environment and Climate Change 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 2015-2016:

- Acadia University
- Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
- B.C. Wildlife Federation
- Bird Studies Canada
- Canada Post
- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Canadian Museum of Nature
- Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada
- County of Vermilion River
- Delta Waterfowl Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Fondation de la faune du Québec

- Intervale Associates Inc.
- Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council
- Long Point Waterfowl
- Long Point Waterfowlers' Association
- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
- McAra Printing
- McGill University
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources
- Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation
- Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
- Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Parkland County
- Québec Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Raisin Region Conservation Authority
- Rousseau Collections
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- The Lowe-Martin Group
- The Nature Trust of British Columbia
- The Nature Trust of New Brunswick
- Thompson Rivers University
- University of Alberta
- Water Security Agency, Saskatchewan

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Cameron Mack

Grants Administrator-Executive Assistant

Julia Thompson
Tejal Mistry (*maternity leave coverage*)

Director of Finance and Administration

Pierre Vary

Accounting Administrator

Hao Wu

With special thanks to the following volunteers:

Danyan Chen

Jade Pon



Credit: Wildlife Habitat Canada



***Celebrating over
30 years of
wildlife habitat
conservation***



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