



WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



DJ Cleland-Hura

2020 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print image, "Come Spring- Northern Pintails" by DJ Cleland-Hura.

CONSERVE



ENHANCE



RESTORE



"A Winding Wetland Habitat in Québec." Photo Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada - QC

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)



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All donations to WHC are tax deductible.



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*"New Blooms in Southern Québec."
Photo Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada - QC*



"A Colourful Fall - Wetland in Southern Québec." | Photo Credit: Fondation de la faune du Québec - QC

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Fiscal 2020-2021 was a strange and demanding year for all of us. We entered the pandemic with confidence that it would be quickly brought under control, only to have it flare up and subside across our land, still keeping a hold as I write. Board meetings have been virtual, through Zoom meetings, and staff quickly moved to remote working arrangements. Pivot became the by-word of all organizations and the staff of WHC handled it admirably.



Our 29 grant recipients from our **Habitat Conservation Stamp Initiative Program** faced uncertainties as to how they could complete their projects while minding to stay in compliance of the many and varied health protocols in their areas of the country. I would like to congratulate our grant recipients for rising to the challenges that this year brought and completing their projects in these trying times. I am sure next year will have similar challenges but I have every confidence they will again find ways to meet their commitments. This year is the first year we have approved projects under our new small grants program, **The Community Conservation Action Program**. The projects approved were varied and I am looking forward to their completion.



The Natural Heritage Conservation Program we work on with community and regional land trusts across the country to secure and conserve habitat in key conservation areas had a very successful year. Nineteen land trusts were our partners this year completing thirty-four projects. These projects are expected to benefit more than 45 species at risk. They faced similar challenges to our restoration projects and had even better ability to more than match our assistance.





"A Colourful Fall - Wetland in Southern Québec." | Photo Credit: Fondation de la faune du Québec - QC


MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONT'D



In January 2021, Dean Smith joined our Board. Dean is an ardent conservationist and advocate for engaging people in natural resource management decisions. As the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Director and Wildlife Liaison for Canada at the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) in Washington, DC and President of WoodWater Consulting Inc. (Regina, SK), his advice to the Board will be helpful as we move forward.

The cost of the Conservation Stamp to people who purchase it has remained at \$8.50 since 1991. There has been broad support in the conservation community for an increase in that fee. Without an increase, our ability to support habitat conservation projects across Canada is diminished. For much of Canada's landscape, restoration is essential. I find it puzzling that Government hasn't moved to increase the Conservation Stamp fee with the track record WHC and our partners have had over our more than 35 year history. It is time to take the plunge. Work with us to increase our ability to restore wildlife habitat on landscapes across Canada.

Yours in conservation,

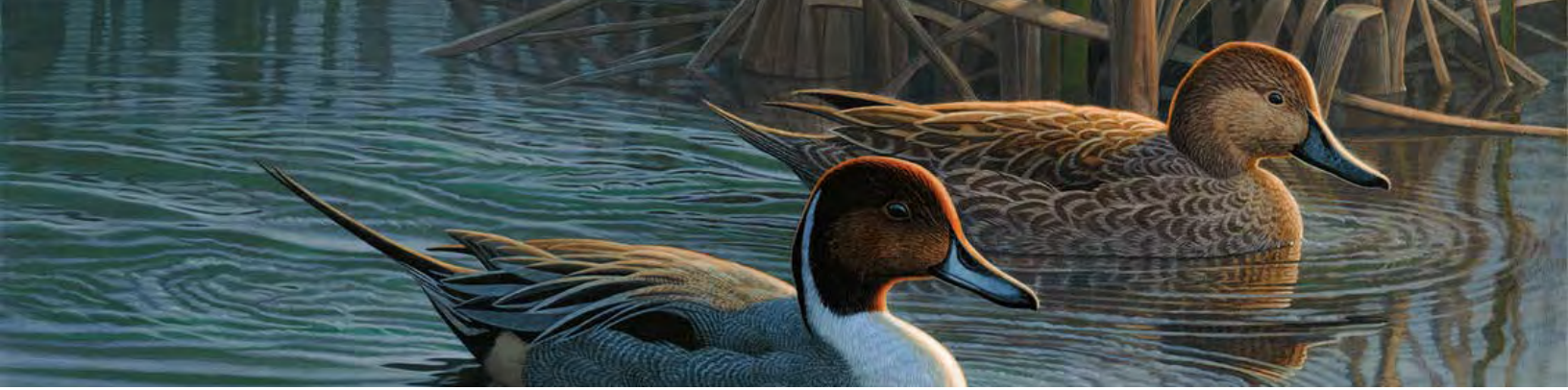


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You can donate to WHC by purchasing a symbolic or physical stamp!

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

David Lee Harris
Chair, Board of Directors



STAMP AND PRINT PROGRAM

2020 ARTIST: DJ CLELAND-HURA



The 36th Canadian Conservation Stamp features the stunning Northern Pintail duck, which last graced our Stamp in 1988. The original art piece "Come Spring - Northern Pintail" by DJ Cleland-Hura was the selected art piece for the 2020 Conservation Stamp image.

DJ is an accomplished artist and teacher. He's worked on different projects, including work with Pixar as well as designing artwork for the card game "Magic the Gathering". He's an illustrator, having created political cartoons and won numerous wildlife competitions that have raised funds for habitat conservation.



For DJ, it was easy to paint the Pintail, as the species is his favourite duck. In our recent interviews and collaborations for our Meet the Artist video series, available on our YouTube channel, he told us: "*To me, Pintails are the most elegant ducks, to me they always feel like they are dressed up, they feel like they are in evening wear.*"

Influenced at an early age by Robert Bateman, DJ has been immersed in wildlife art for nearly his entire life. Combining his love of Pintails and his early influences in wildlife art, made this painting a stunningly beautiful accomplishment.

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

To see more of DJ's work, please visit his website:
www.griffonworks.com





STAMP AND PRINT PROGRAM

2021 ARTIST: RIC SLUITER

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

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

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

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

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

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



#WHCSTAMPMEANS

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



Image: 2020 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Pane
© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada,
as represented by the Minister of Environment, 2020.

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

KEEPING HUNTING HERITAGE ALIVE



"A Great Shot!"
Photo Credit: Delta Waterfowl

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 "Paying it Forward", a charity that raises money to help pay for underprivileged youth to take their hunter education course. This allows WHC to support hunters who support conservation by bringing the two together in partnership.



"New Growth - A Tree-planting Excursion." | Photo Credit: Nashwaak Watershed Association - NB

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 2020...



© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, 2020.

29

NUMBER OF
PROJECTS FUNDED
BY THE STAMP



23,467

ACRES OF HABITAT
CONSERVED OR
RESTORED



26,012+

CANADIANS ENGAGED IN
CONSERVATION AND
STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES



\$1.13 million* in grant funding provided

*Of which \$1,116,581 contributed directly to priorities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP).



\$4.76 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



"Overhead View of a Vast Quebec Wetland." | Photo Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada - QC

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: \$160,000

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 2020-2021 :

4

Funded Projects

3,619

Acres:

Conserved, restored and/or enhanced

7,020

People:

Engaged in conservation



Upland Restoration of Farmland for Waterfowl on the Fraser River Delta



2020-2021 BCWF Youth Program: Cultivating BC's Next Generation of Conservationists



Wetlands on Wheels 2020-2021: Expanding Conservation & Restoration Capacity in BC



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

WHC PROJECTS

Canadian Intermountain
Joint Venture

WHC Project Funding: \$28,000

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 2020-2021 :

1

**Funded
Project**

0.2

Acres:

Conserved,
restored and/or
enhanced

102

People:

Engaged in
conservation



*Canadian
Intermountain
Joint Venture*



Enabling Wetland Stewardship
and Habitat Conservation
through Technology Transfer
Workshops

*"Invasive Alien Species - Prior to Treatment."
Photo Credit: Agrowest Consulting Scientists*



WHC PROJECTS

Prairie Habitat Joint Venture

WHC Project Funding: \$210,000

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

In 2020-2021 :

7 Funded Projects

1,949

Acres:
Conserved, restored and/or enhanced

14,079

People:
Engaged in conservation



The Manitoba Waterfowl Population Enhancement Project



Taking Action for Prairie



Webinar Presentations for Native Prairie Speaker Series and Prairie's Got the Goods Week



Hunter Education and Hunting Recruitment Program Development



"As Far As The Eye Can See - A Lively Prairie Landscape." | Photo Credit: Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation - MB



Elevating awareness of the UNESCO Beaver Hills Biosphere through digital story-telling



Conservation Education Programs for Youth and Women



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



"Breeding Bird Atlas - Searching for a Lifer!"
Photo Credit: Birds Canada



WHC PROJECTS

Eastern Habitat Joint Venture

WHC Project Funding: \$472,000

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 2020-2021 :

13

Funded Projects

12,112

Acres:
Conserved,
restored and/or
enhanced

2,629

People:
Engaged in
conservation



NL Municipal Wetland Retention and Invasive Species Impact Assessment



Detailed mapping of wetlands in the Lac-St-Jean plain - Phase 2



Conservation and restoration of wetlands and coastal areas in Eastern Quebec



Restoration of Wood Duck Habitat and Hen House Installation on Private Lands in Southern New Brunswick



Wetland Restoration Program



Advancing Ontario Eastern Habitat Joint Venture All-bird Conservation



Protection and restoration of wetlands in southern Quebec (2020-2021)



Watershed Restoration and Landowner Outreach in New Brunswick



Oliphant and the Fishing Islands Invasive Phragmites Project 2020



Waterfowl nest box stewardship program and cavity availability evaluation along the lower St. John River, NB



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



Initiation to the 2020 waterfowl hunt



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

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WHC PROJECTS

National and Regional
WHC Project Funding: \$242,410

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 2020-2021 :

3

**Funded
Projects**

5,787

Acres:
Conserved,
restored and/or
enhanced

2,180

People:
Engaged in
conservation



Supporting Excellence in
Action-Oriented Wetland
Education



Maximizing the efficiency of
active nest structures in key
breeding areas of Canada



Creating and maintaining waterfowl
hunter conservationists through tested
recruitment efforts and enhancing
opportunities across Canada



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physical stamp!

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"Island Monitoring - Common Eider Nests." | Photo Credit: Intervale Associates - NL

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR MURRE CONSERVATION FUND

WHC Project Funding: \$17,250

Murre hunting is a traditional activity and a part of the cultural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. The regulations permit only hunters from Newfoundland and Labrador to harvest Murre in Canada and only within the provincial boundaries. Since 2001, Murre hunters have been required to purchase a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit, which includes the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp. It was agreed that an associated portion of Stamp funds from Murre hunters be directed to support Murre conservation activities.

The priorities of the NL Murre Conservation Fund are to fund projects that support the conservation and management of Murre populations and their habitat, and to provide funding for projects that involve the people of Newfoundland and Labrador in the conservation, management, and the sustainable harvest of Murre.

In 2020-2021 :

1

Funded Project

6

People:
Engaged in Murre conservation activities



To measure fine-scale locations of murre year-round using combined GPS and geolocator deployments



"Common Murre Colony."

Photo Credit: Doug Noblet - McGill University - NL