



# WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

## 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



2023 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print image, "Boreal Mist - Ring-necked Ducks" by Isabelle Collin

CONSERVE



ENHANCE



RESTORE



Photo Credit: Island Nature Trust

# 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

Diverse wildlife populations and habitats in Canada.

## MISSION

Conserve wildlife habitat in Canada through partnerships and wise conservation investments.

## OBJECTIVES

- Leverage funding to grow conservation.
- Conserve, restore and enhance habitat for wildlife.
- Lead and collaborate in the conservation community.



## GET IN TOUCH



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Charitable Registration Number:  
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*All donations to WHC are tax deductible.*



# CONTENTS

- 3 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**
- 5 STAMP AND PRINT PROGRAM**
- 7 KEEPING HUNTING HERITAGE ALIVE**
- 8 HABITAT CONSERVATION STAMP INITIATIVE**
- 9 CANADIAN HABITAT JOINT VENTURES**
- 10 WHC PROJECTS**
- 18 SUPPORTING NATIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM**
- 19 CONSERVATION COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**
- 20 COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ACTION PROGRAM**
- 21 DIANE GRIFFIN COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AWARD**
- 25 NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION PROGRAM**
- 27 DOING GREAT WORK FOR NATURE CONSERVATION!**
- 30 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**
- 34 WHC STAFF**
- 35 WHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Photo Credit: Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association



Photo Credit: Nova Scotia Land Trust

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

What do you think about when I say, “Wildlife Habitat Canada”?

You might think we are small, government run organization, with staff in small cubicles, pouring over computers to write things about “conservation”, and search for grants to support our activities.

We are none of those things. True, we have staff, we have computers, and we write things about conservation. But that is not what we do. And what we achieve, as a national habitat conservation organization, is nothing short of amazing.



As you will learn as you peruse this Annual Report, we are the people who provide the grants that support habitat restoration, protection and enhancement throughout Canada. Specifically, we provide financial assistance to organizations of all sizes that are involved in activities such as securing inland wetlands and riparian habitat, understanding stakeholder perspectives about wetland conservation, and developing education programs to better understand wetland habitat.

How do we do it? Our most popular, and perhaps the one with the greatest impact, is the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program. We invest the funds from the sale of the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, supporting organizations’ conservation projects across the country.

Our Natural Heritage Conservation Program - Land Trust Conservation Fund supports Canada’s investment in nature, aiming towards the target of conserving  $\frac{1}{4}$  of our land and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of our oceans by 2025, and conserving 30% by 2030. There is both a large and small grants program which support Canadian land trusts in securing private lands to meet these targets.

Our Community Conservation Action Program is a smaller scale effort that allows WHC to support organizations who are doing great work at the local or regional scale, by connecting Canadians with nature, engaging youth in conservation and providing educational conservation programming.

And, of course, the Art Competition where we invite wildlife artists across Canada to create a work of art that, if they win, becomes the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print Image.





Photo Credit: Nova Scotia Land Trust

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONT'D

Some of our successes this past year?

- Helping the B.C. Wildlife Federation successfully deliver 10 stewardship workshops and 13 outreach programs, engaging more than 1,000 people across B.C.!
- Helping the Fondation de la Faune du Quebec develop and restore almost 1,500 acres of land that will protect wetlands!
- Helping the Clean Annapolis River Project to create a Stewardship Agreement that includes 9 acres of wetland and 8 acres of upland habitat to be protected in perpetuity.

And so much more!



This was my final year on the Board of Directors, after serving since 2017. I wrote a “thank you” letter to the Board and staff, and in it, I included these thoughts:

“WHC gives money away to groups that do the on-the-ground work to increase habitat and actually make our country better. We look good, because the groups we work with raise us up. I’m not sure I’ve ever been so proud to be part of something.”

I will continue to be proud as I watch this great organization find more and more ways to grow and invest in habitat conservation in Canada.



**Support WHC Today!**

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

Visit our website at:  
[whc.org/stamp](http://whc.org/stamp)



Yours in conservation,

*Susan Gesner*  
Chair, Board of Directors



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# 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 left. 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 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 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](http://whc.org/the-stamp)





2024 Winning Painting By: DJ Cleland-Hura

# STAMP AND PRINT PROGRAM

## 2024 ARTIST: DJ CLELAND-HURA

The winning artist of 2024 is DJ Cleland-Hura, with his original piece "Proud Pair - Buffleheads", as shown above. The piece has been featured on the 2024 Conservation Stamp as part of WHC's Stamp and Print Program.

DJ Cleland-Hura has lived as an artist and teacher on the West Coast for the last 30 years. Here he has worked as an illustrator and portraitist, created political cartoons, and won numerous wildlife stamp competitions that raised funds for habitat conservation. Based out of Vancouver, BC, DJ and his wife Jericca have created a life in harmony with nature for their family.

DJ has taught numerous classes and workshops over the years and has been a featured instructor at Pixar Animation Studios, Vancouver Film School, and The Animation Workshop in Denmark. His concept work, as well as lighting and color design, has contributed to a number of film projects including "Finding Nemo", "Ballerina", and "Space Chimps".

"Buffleheads have always captured my attention and admiration. There are few wild creatures with more outright character and attitude than the bufflehead. Spending time in the wilderness studying the environment and the wildlife inspires me to capture the beauty and vitality of Nature. For me, my art is the best way to repay what nature has given me. It is my form of praise, of homage, and of thanks." - DJ Cleland-Hura

To learn more about the Stamp, please visit [whc.org/the-stamp](https://whc.org/the-stamp)



2020 Winning Painting By: DJ Cleland-Hura



DJ Cleland-Hura



# 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 WHC Stamp means 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 by using #WHCStamp on social media.



2023 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Pane  
© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada,  
as represented by the Minister of Environment, 2023.

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 be involved in in-person events once again 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](mailto:admin@whc.org).

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



Photo Credit: Manitoba Wildlife Federation



Photo Credit: Manitoba Wildlife Federation



Photo Credit: Manitoba Wildlife Federation





Photo Credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada

# HABITAT CONSERVATION STAMP INITIATIVE

Through a legislative arrangement with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), WHC receives the revenues from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, purchased primarily by waterfowl hunters to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits. The funds are transferred to WHC through a contribution agreement, supporting ECCC's responsibility for the protection and conservation of habitat, particularly for the conservation of waterfowl pursuant to the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

In 2023...



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31

PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE STAMP



49,042

ACRES OF HABITAT CONSERVED OR RESTORED



187,930

CANADIANS ENGAGED IN CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES



**\$965.3 thousand in grant funding provided**

\*Of which 97% of funds contributed directly to priorities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP).



**\$6.09 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: Georgian Bay Land Trust

# 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/what-we-do/grants](https://whc.org/what-we-do/grants)**





# WHC PROJECTS

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture

**WHC Project Funding: \$65,000**

Includes portions of British Columbia, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii. The British Columbia coastline is a complex system 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 floodplain 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 2023-2024:

**2**

Funded  
Projects

**4,409**

**Acres:**

Conserved, restored  
and/or enhanced

**14,312**

**People:**

Engaged in  
conservation



Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust: Winter Cover Crop Establishment for Migratory Waterfowl in the Fraser River Estuary



BC Wildlife Federation: Youth Programs: Advancing B.C.'s Next Generation of Conservationists in the Great Outdoors

# WHC PROJECTS

Canadian Intermountain  
Joint Venture

**WHC Project Funding: \$60,000**

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 estimated populations of 1.45 million birds. This represents 70% of B.C.'s and roughly 4% of Canada's breeding waterfowl population.



## In 2023-2024:

**2**

**Funded  
Projects**

**178**

**Acres:**

Conserved, restored  
and/or enhanced

**2,367**

**People:**

Engaged in  
conservation



Photo Credit: Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society



Okanagan Similkameen  
Stewardship Society:  
Community Engagement in  
Wetland Stewardship.



BC Wildlife Federation: Wetlands on  
Wheels 2023-24: Advancing  
Conservation, Stewardship, &  
Restoration Capacity in BC





# WHC PROJECTS

## Prairie Habitat Joint Venture

**WHC Project Funding: \$219,000**

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 2023-2024:

**5**

**Funded Projects**

**12,156**

**Acres:**

Conserved, restored and/or enhanced

**158,338**

**People:**

Engaged in conservation

**Manitoba Habitat Conservancy**



Manitoba Habitat Conservancy: Hen House installation and maintenance.



Nature Conservancy of Canada: Enhancement of Migratory Bird Habitat in Southern Manitoba.



Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association: Celebrating 59 years of Conservation Education Programs.



Manitoba Wildlife Federation: Hunter Education, Recruitment and Resource Enhancement for new Manitoba Waterfowl Hunters.

# In 2023-2024:



University of Alberta: Identifying and Characterizing Agricultural Stakeholder Preferences and Attitudes about Wetlands Conservation in Canada's Prairies.



Photo Credit: Manitoba Wildlife Federation



Photo Credit: Manitoba Habitat Conservancy



Photo Credit: Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA)



Photo Credit: Nature Conservancy of Canada





# WHC PROJECTS

Eastern Habitat Joint Venture

**WHC Project Funding: \$485,465**

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 2023-2024:

**18**

**Funded Projects**

**28,785**

**Acres:**

Conserved, restored and/or enhanced

**8,104**

**People:**

Engaged in conservation



Ducks Unlimited Canada: Cavity nest box stewardship program.



Nashwaak Watershed Association: Connecting new immigrants and landowners to nature through habitat restoration and outdoor education.



Stewardship Association of Municipalities (SAM): NL Municipal and Private Wetland and Coastal Habitat Conservation.



SNB Wood Cooperative: Wood Duck Habitat Enhancement and Nesting Structure Installations.



Nature Trust of New Brunswick: Strategic community outreach to enhance stewardship on nature preserves in New Brunswick.



Restoring Wetland Habitat within the Lake Erie & Huron Watersheds through Farmer-led Stewardship.



Department of Natural Resources and Renewables: Wetland Stewardship Program.



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority: Wetland Restoration Program.



Invasive Species Centre: European Water Chestnut Rapid Response Program.



Nature Conservancy of Canada: Multi-partner and community involvement for coastal habitat conservation in Eastern Quebec.



Fondation SÉTHY: Conservation plan for Granby's two peat bogs.



Fondation de la faune du Québec: Voluntary wetland conservation in southern Quebec.



Friends of Salmonier Nature Park: Newfoundland & Labrador Recruitment, Retention & Reactivation Project.



Intervale Associates: Waterfowl Workshops for Residents of the Strait of Belle Isle Region.





Sackville Rod and Gun Club:  
2023 SENB Youth Waterfowl Workshop and Mentored Hunt.



Birds Canada: Ontario-wide marshbird science and monitoring for all-bird conservation: Year 2.



Birds Canada: Mapping waterfowl distribution with the Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas.



Memorial University of Newfoundland: Avian influenza in murre: have subarctic populations been exposed to pathogenic strains?



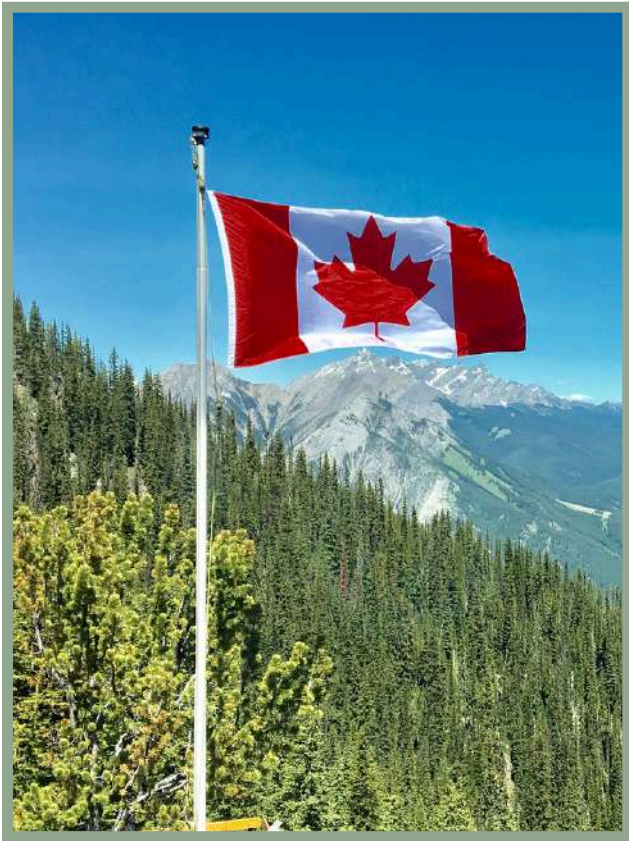
Photo Credit: Birds Canada



Support WHC Today!

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

Visit our website at [whc.org/stamp/donate](http://whc.org/stamp/donate)



# WHC PROJECTS

National and Regional

**WHC Project Funding: \$135,889**

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 2023-2024:

**4**

**Funded Projects**

**3,514**

**Acres:**

Conserved, restored and/or enhanced

**183**

**People:**

Engaged in conservation



Delta Waterfowl: Growth and management of the Hen House program in Canada 2023.



Ducks Unlimited Canada: Connecting new young adults to their urban wetlands.



Delta Waterfowl: Increasing Canadian Waterfowl Hunter Numbers and Conservation Efforts through Delta Waterfowls University Hunting and First Hunt Programs.



Canadian Wetlands Roundtable: Improving wetland evaluation, policy frameworks, and best management practices to conserve and steward Canada's wetlands.





Photo Credit: Nature Trust of British Columbia

# SUPPORTING NATIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Environment and Climate Change Canada also provided Wildlife Habitat Canada with additional funding for six projects, with \$122,500 in project operational costs relevant to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

	<b>Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority:</b> Wetland Restoration Program	Ontario	\$18,000.00
	<b>BC Wildlife Federation: Wetlands on Wheels 2023-2024:</b> Advancing Conservation, Stewardship & Restoration Capacity in BC	British Columbia	\$1,054.84
	<b>Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association:</b> AHEIA's Conservation Education Programs	Alberta	\$40,000.00
	<b>Manitoba Wildlife Federation:</b> Hunter Education, Recruitment and Resource Enhancement for new Manitoba Waterfowl Hunters	Manitoba	\$16,000.00
	<b>Delta Waterfowl:</b> Increasing Canadian Waterfowl Hunter Numbers and Conservation Efforts through Delta Waterfowl's University Hunting and First Hunt Programs	National	\$42,445.16
	<b>Birds Canada:</b> Ontario-wide marshbird science and monitoring for all-bird conservation: Year 2	Ontario	\$5,000.00

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: Manitoba Wildlife Federation

# 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.



## SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

- Action Chelsea Respect for the Environment (ACRE)
- Alberta Hunter Education Instructor's Association
- Algoma Highlands Conservancy
- ALUS Middlesex
- BC Wildlife Federation
- Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association
- Birds Canada
- Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association
- Canadian Wetlands Roundtable
- Capitale Nature
- Connexion Nature
- Corridor Appalachien
- Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust
- Delta Waterfowl
- Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Environmental Youth Alliance
- Escarpement Biosphere Conservancy
- Fondation de la faune du Québec
- Fondation SÉTHY
- Forests Ontario
- Friends of Salmonier Nature Park
- Gagliano Conservancy Association
- Georgian Bay Land Trust
- Habitat Acquisition Trust
- Intervale Associates Inc.
- Invasive Species Centre
- Kawartha Land Trust
- Long Point Bassin Land Trust
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
- Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust
- Manitoba Habitat Conservancy
- Manitoba Wildlife Federation
- Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Mind Your Plastic
- Miramichi Salmon Association
- Nashwaak Watershed Association
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Nature Trust Action Québec
- Nova Scotia Nature Trust
- Oak Ridge Moraine Land Trust
- Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society
- Regroupement pour la pérennité de l'île Verte
- Sackville Rod and Gun Club
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- SK PCAP
- SNB Wood Cooperative Ltd.
- Stewardship Association of Municipalities
- Thames Talbot Land Trust
- The Couchiching Conservancy
- The Nature Trust of New Brunswick
- Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
- University of Alberta: Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation
- Western Sky Land Trust
- WSÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society
- Youth4Future Foundation





Photo Credit: Environmental Youth Alliance

# 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 \$161K has been invested in projects across the country throughout 2021-2024. With the success of the pilot, WHC is happy to announce the continuation of the program with an investment of \$50K annually. 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 2023-2024, CCAP funded 9 projects across 6 provinces, with an investment of \$51,955.00. 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 2023-2024 grantees for their collaboration in conservation efforts throughout the last year. Congratulations to the 2023-2024 grant recipients!



In 2024-2025, CCAP received more than 42 applications, with a total ask of more than \$322K. This year, CCAP will be supporting 11 organizations with their conservation projects, investing \$50,272.00 WHC expects to continue to deliver successful conservation results by assisting community organizations in connecting people to nature.



# DIANE GRIFFIN COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AWARD

In 2022, WHC announced the creation of the Diane Griffin Community Conservation Award. This award will be presented annually to the organization with the most innovative and impactful project, one that most exceeds WHC's expectations through their Community Conservation Action Program project.

## Award 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 the 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: BBEMA

## 2022-2023 DIANE GRIFFIN COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER

# BEDEQUE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (BBEMA)

### About Us:

The Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association (BBEMA) is a registered charity, located in Emerald PEI. The organization was developed in 1992 and is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors representing the diverse community of the Bedeque Bay Watershed: composed of the Dunk, Wilmot, Bradshaw Rivers and surrounding communities.

BBEMA's goal is to engage stakeholders in the environmental well-being of the watershed, emphasizing the protection of natural habitats. Through its diverse suite of programs, BBEMA engages community members in educational and volunteer opportunities that focus on Species at Risk, Climate Change education, conservation of biodiversity, ecological monitoring and wildlife habitat enhancement.



Photo Credits: BBEMA

### RAIN Smart Youth Campaign Project Information:

BBEMA's RAIN Smart Youth Campaign successfully engages Island youth in immersive, nature-based education. This initiative focuses on educating youth about critical water resources, emphasizing watersheds, stormwater runoff issues, and rainwater conservation to protect aquatic habitats. Building youth stewardship through hands on scientific workshops that highlight awareness and action, providing youth with diverse educational experiences beyond the traditional classroom.





Photo Credit: BBEMA

## RAIN Smart Youth Campaign Project Information

Through this program, youth volunteers partnered with BBEMA to help protect local waterways. These young environmental stewards marked local storm drains with yellow fish symbols and distributed educational doorhangers on homes, helping to raise community awareness of stormwater pollution. Acting as wildlife biologists, students assessed the health of local streams by undertaking hands on monitoring of site biotics, physical measurements, habitat analysis, water chemistry and macroinvertebrate ID.



Photo Credit: BBEMA



Photo Credit: BBEMA

Partnering with landowners to help undertake stream side enhancement plans. Students waded into the world of marine biology, using beach seines to monitor estuaries for species richness and identify invasive species. Local youth adopted ponds and wetlands, learning how to enhance these important wildlife habitats through planting native trees and waste removal initiatives. By learning outdoors and applying their knowledge in a hands-on environment, these young people can develop a deeper connection with the natural world.

### Upcoming Plans:

Looking ahead, BBEMA's goal is to expand the program to encourage a larger engagement that encompasses Newcomers to Canada, alongside intergenerational and bilingual partnerships. Building a more holistic program, fostering community connections that will inspire a new generation of citizen scientists that are empowered to take action to conserve PEI's wetland ecosystems.



Photo Credit: BBEMA





Photo Credit: Nova Scotia Land Trust

# 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. In 2022, the Program was granted a \$90 million, three-year extension by the Federal Government to March 31, 2026.

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.

Since the launch of the program in 2019, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), and Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) with Canadian land trusts, have worked together under the NHCP to protect over 800,000 hectares of habitat for species at risk.

Under the 2023–2024 NHCP-LTCF program year, the WHC and the ACLT worked collaboratively to further improve program effectiveness for local and regional Canadian land trusts.



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: Nova Scotia Land Trust

# NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION PROGRAM - LAND TRUSTS CONSERVATION FUND

The Natural Heritage Conservation Program - Land Trusts Conservation Fund (NHCP-LTCF) is a vital public-private partnership dedicated to safeguarding Canada's natural landscapes. By collaborating with local and regional land trusts, this initiative secures ecologically sensitive private lands across the country. It plays a crucial role in Canada's broader strategy to protect, manage, and restore natural areas, particularly in southern regions where biodiversity is under significant threat and intact land is both scarce and costly.



Photo Credit: Nature Trust of British Columbia



Photo Credit: Connexion Nature



Photo Credit: Nova Scotia Nature Trust

***For individual project highlights, please visit: [whc.org/lpcf](http://whc.org/lpcf)***



Photo Credit: Kawartha Land Trust

# DOING GREAT WORK FOR NATURE CONSERVATION!

The 2023–2024 year marks WHC’s 5th successful year administering the Land Trusts Conservation Fund component of the Natural Heritage Conservation Program. Over the course of the 2023–2024 year WHC worked with the Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts (ACLT) to best ensure program effectiveness and successful engagement across the Canadian land trust community. The LTCF provides approximately \$5.08M per fiscal year (to 2026) to support the great work of Canadian local and regional land trusts. This funding aids the protection of private lands for long-term protection.

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

In 2023, the fifth year of the program, the NHCP-LTCF:

- Supported 20 individual land trusts.
- Funded 31 projects across Canada that are expected to benefit more than 80 species at risk.
- Helped protect more than 5,700 hectares of Canadian landscape.
- Raised more than \$30.8M in non-federal matching funds.

“This program is instrumental in advancing Canada’s national and international commitments, and its positive impact is evident through numerous successful land conservation projects led by local and regional trusts. This program plays an important role in supporting the work of Canadian land trusts. There is excitement across the land trust community for the future of the NHCP-LTCF and what it might mean for the protection of Canada’s natural spaces. Thanks to the NHCP-LTCF, these invaluable properties are protected for future generations and will be managed by dedicated local communities.”

– Renata Woodward, Executive Director, ACLT







Photo Credit: Kawartha Land Trust

# LAND TRUSTS CONSERVATION FUND

Following a very successful run of the NHCP-LTCF program from 2019 to 2023, the government of Canada extended the NHCP program to 2026. The 2023-2024 year marks the first completed year of this extension and again boasts the achievement of all program targets including the protection of over 5,000 hectares.

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



Over **19K hectares** of habitat protected



benefitting more than **284 species** at risk



with the help of more than **1,200 volunteers**

OVER **\$27 million** IN LTCF FUNDS



HAS BEEN MATCHED WITH MORE THAN

**\$125 million**

IN OTHER NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS



... that's more than a **\$152 million** investment in protecting private land!

**67**

land trusts

**180**

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'appui financier de :



Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

This project was undertaken with the support of:



Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts  
Alliance canadienne des organismes de conservation



Photo Credit: Nova Scotia Nature Trust

# LAND TRUSTS CONSERVATION FUND

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

## PROJECTS

- Algoma Highlands Conservancy
- Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association
- Capitale Nature
- Connexion Nature
- Conservation Lakefield
- Couchiching Conservancy
- Georgian Bay Land Trust
- Island Nature Trust
- Kawartha Land Trust
- Long Point Basin Land Trust
- Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust
- Nature Trust of British Columbia
- Nature Trust New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia Nature Trust
- Ontario Farmland Trust
- Ontario Nature
- Regroupement pour la pérennité de l'île Verte
- Southern Alberta Land Trust Society
- Thunder Bay Field Naturalists Club
- W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society

The Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts, 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: DUC

# 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, 2024, 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, 2024. We issued a qualified audit opinion on these financial statements in our report dated June 17, 2024.

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Wildlife Habitat Canada for the year ended March 31, 2024, are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with the 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, 2024.

### 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.

We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 17, 2024. 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 \$845,063 as at March 31, 2024. Accordingly, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to this investment were necessary as at March 31, 2024.

### 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."

*Marcil Lavallée*

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants  
Ottawa, Ontario  
June 17, 2024



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Chartered Professional Accountants





Photo Credit: DUC

**WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA**  
**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024**

**2**

	2024	2023
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Canadian Government Funding		
- Land Trust Conservation Fund	\$ 6,000,000	\$ -
- Conservation Stamp Program	1,385,354	1,377,569
- Support National Habitat Conservation	125,000	125,000
Stamp and prints	14,388	13,483
Philatelic stamps	12,719	12,808
Service Contract - Nature Conservancy Canada	-	500,000
Other	58,207	21,356
	<b>7,595,668</b>	<b>2,010,216</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Natural Heritage Conservation Program	5,116,760	-
Funds Habitat Conservation	1,087,854	1,041,069
Salaries and Benefits	734,252	582,385
Natural Heritage Conservation Program - Contractors	200,000	-
General and administration	196,326	72,908
Community Conservation Action Program	52,440	52,795
Rent	50,300	58,777
Hospitality, travel and board	37,830	48,961
Professional and contractual fees	127,681	114,015
	<b>7,604,443</b>	<b>1,970,910</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>(8,775)</b>	<b>39,306</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)</b>		
Gain (loss) on investment in a joint venture	44,541	(23,933)
Unrealized loss on investments	16,341	(9,801)
	<b>60,882</b>	<b>(33,794)</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>52,107</b>	<b>5,512</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>1,548,862</b>	<b>1,543,350</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 1,600,969</b>	<b>\$ 1,548,862</b>





Photo Credit: DUC

**WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA**  
**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**MARCH 31, 2024**

**3**

	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 1,403,038	\$ 494,724
Accounts receivable	332,574	338,109
Prepaid expenses	20,448	10,415
	<b>1,756,060</b>	843,248
<b>RESTRICTED CASH</b>	<b>133,114</b>	129,238
<b>INVESTMENTS</b> , in mutual funds	<b>294,091</b>	277,751
<b>INVESTMENT IN A JOINT VENTURE</b>	<b>845,063</b>	800,522
	<b>1,272,268</b>	1,207,511
	<b>\$ 3,028,328</b>	\$ 2,050,759
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,269,355	\$ 348,729
Deferred contributions	24,890	23,930
	<b>1,294,245</b>	372,659
<b>DUE TO EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>133,114</b>	129,238
	<b>1,427,359</b>	501,897
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Internal Restrictions		
Joint Venture Fund	845,063	800,522
Contingency Dissolution Fund	150,000	150,000
Memorial Fund	75,000	75,000
Community Conservation Action Program Fund	-	51,780
Maternity and Paternity Leave Fund	20,000	20,000
Unrestricted	510,906	451,560
	<b>1,600,969</b>	1,548,862
	<b>\$ 3,028,328</b>	\$ 2,050,759



Photo Credit: DUC

**WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA  
NOTE TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
MARCH 31, 2024**

**4**

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**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, 2024.

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 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.



# WHC STAFF

Photo Credit: Fondation de la Faune



**Cameron Mack**  
Executive Director



**Jessica Burns**  
Program Director



**Pierre Vary**  
Financial Consultant



**Yolaine Charette**  
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:

Wendy Firth

THANK  
you!

## Special Thanks to Our French Translation Service:

Johanne Lemieux  
Marie-Pier Laplante



# WHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Photo Credit: The Couchiching Conservancy & Toby Rowland



**Susan Gesner**  
Board Chair



**Dr. Michael Anderson**  
Board Vice-Chair



**Dean Smith**  
Chair, Nominating  
Committee



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



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



**Lyle Saigeon**  
Vice-Chair, Finance  
& Audit Committee



**Dr. Blair Adams**  
Director



**Blake Schmirler**  
Director



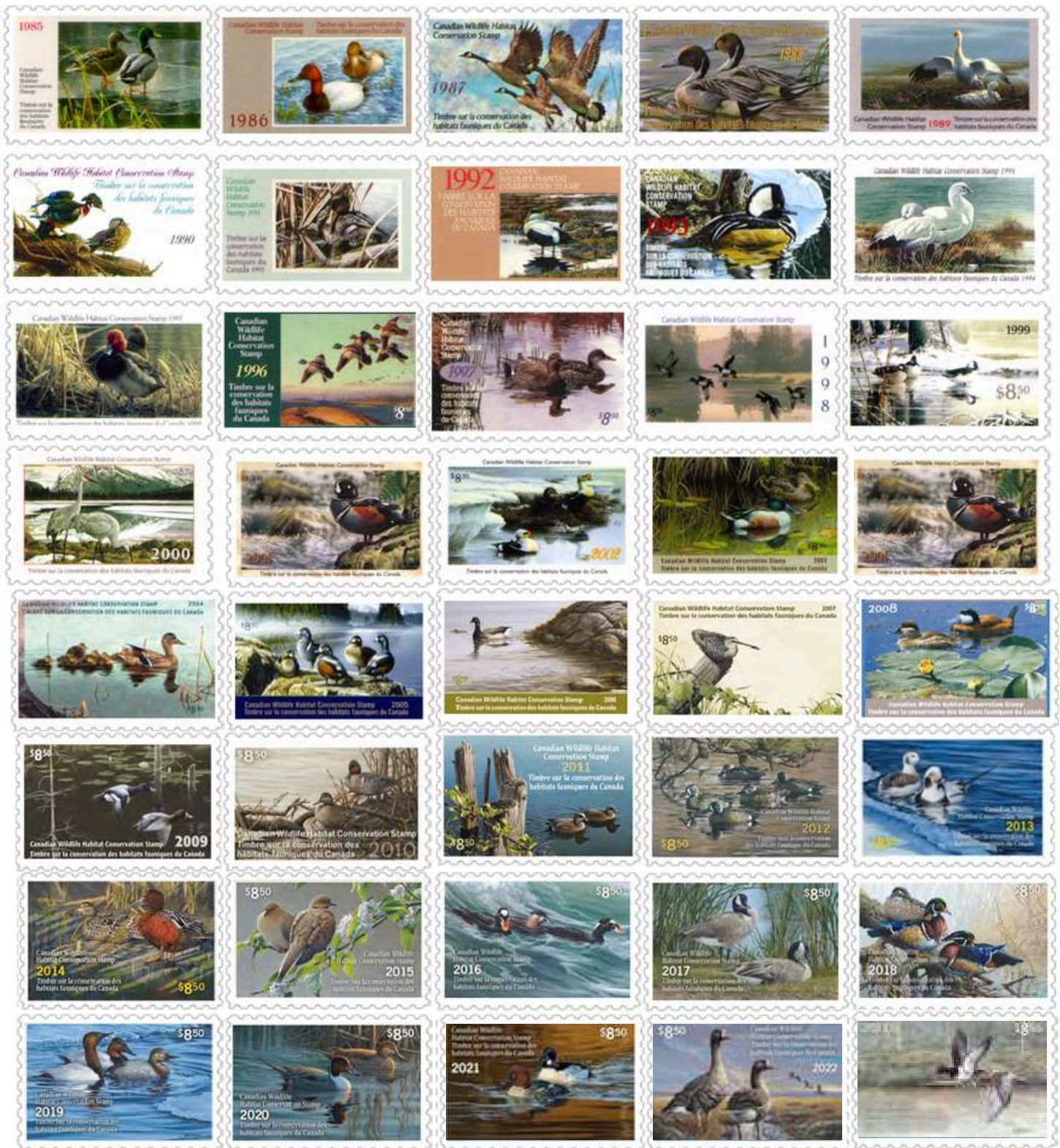
**Crystal Robertson**  
Director



**Marc Cattet**  
Director



# Putting Our Stamp on Canadian Conservation Since 1985



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Birds Canada



Birds Canada. Paul Drajem



Fondation de la faune du Québec



Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association



Acadia Campus Club



Intervale Association



BC Wildlife Federation





Intervale Associates



The Couchiching Conservancy



Forests Ontario



Birds Canada



Thompson Okanagan Tourism Assoc.



Bedegue Bay Environmental Management Association



Island Nature Trust

