

Safeguarding the
Bay of Fundy

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Postmaster: send Canadian address changes to Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Nova Scotia Chapter

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President's Message



Gloriously sunny weather so far this spring (excepting one spring snowstorm) has me feeling fresh, strong and rejuvenated. I see this in people I am interacting with. Spring brings us new energy and sun-filled horizons.

The environment and conservation movement has recently experienced a solstice of sorts. Environmental issues are now more important to Canadians en large, than they have ever been. Certainly in the midst of global economic crises, this important evolution is often obscured by news of government largesse, tumbling markets and job losses. But in the sphere of public opinion, a fundamental shift has occurred. A recent report by Harris Decima research entitled 'New Environmentalism' states "Environmentalism has changed from yesterday's passive concern into today's will to achieve tangible results".

At CPAWS-NS we're producing those tangible results. And we are succeeding. This issue documents recent successes and significant developments in our work to ensure adequate protection of Nova Scotia's incredible natural heritage. Ashley Sprague writes about advancing conservation in the Bay of Fundy, Chris Miller emphasizes the need for major public land purchases, and Jon Feldgajer discusses the impact of ecological degradation on youth in Nova Scotia. Also, you will meet Irwin Barrett, conservation photographer. Irwin has spent many a day in the wilds of Nova Scotia. His images are spectacular and often grace this newsletter, for which we thank him.

The year 2009 will see the departure of several directors from the CPAWS-NS board. Karen Potter has worked tirelessly on the board for several years, after serving formerly as a chapter employee. We also bid adieu to Aimee Pelletier and Brian Starzomski, two energetic young contributors who are heading west to start new careers. We thank them all for their significant contributions and commitment. Staff member Aimee Gromack has also left the chapter to continue working on inshore MPAs in her new capacity at DFO. We wish her well. On the arrivals side, we are pleased to welcome Jenn Spencer and Laura Simms, who will be working to help deliver our campaigns and also to engage more Nova Scotians in our important conservation work.

Spring is here, so I ask you – Are you a New Environmentalist? And what can you do to help translate your concern into tangible results?

Yours in conservation,
 Craig Smith

P.S. If you think you may be interested in filling one of these volunteer Board vacancies, please drop me a note at cksmith@eastlink.ca to learn more about the positions available.

About the cover

"A winter windstorm along Nova Scotia's lower Bay of Fundy shore brings enormous waves crashing into the basalt coast."
 Photo Credit: Scott Leslie. Scott Leslie is a photographer, naturalist, writer, and diver who photographs the beauty of Nova Scotia, both on land and underwater. Scott's photos and writing on the Bay can be found in the book *Bay of Fundy: A Natural Portrait*.



BY CHRIS MILLER

Photo Credit: Irwin Barrett

Almost 15% of Nova Scotia is owned by four forestry companies. And, most of that land is currently for sale.

As the forest industry sputters under the weight of global competition and as the demand for certain types of forest products declines, especially newsprint, forest companies have begun to divest their land holdings in order to raise money to keep their operations going. These trends, which have been underway in New England for over a decade now, are starting to creep northward into the Maritimes, threatening our wilderness with a devastating progression from forest to clearcut to development.

That's because lands owned by the forest companies are often snapped up by developers, or by land holding companies, rather than by other forestry operations. Then, the forests are subdivided into building lots and prepared for development, usually on prime real estate around the edges of lakes, or along waterways and the coastline.

In 2006, Neenah Paper Inc., the company that ran a mill near the Town of Pictou, sold almost half of its land base in Nova Scotia to a land holding company, totaling over 200,000 hectares, or about 4% of the total landmass of the province in one transaction. Wagner Forestry bought these lands and has subsequently divided the holdings into two streams; one destined for the real estate market and the other for continued forestry production to supply wood fibre to the mill in Pictou. Most of the land sold to Wagner occurs in the central portion of Nova Scotia, including large swaths of land along the Eastern Shore, parts of the Antigonish Highlands and the Cobequids, as well as along South Mountain in Kings and Annapolis Counties.

A group of residents on Aylesford Lake in Kings County is watching these events closely. They're concerned about a prime piece of land owned by Wagner that has recently gone on the market on Aylesford Lake, advertised as pristine cottage country. The residents are concerned that these ecologically-significant lands will be destroyed by future development.

Continued on page 4

Wilderness For Sale, continued.

For the past year they've been lobbying the provincial government to purchase and protect a 500 hectare tract of land on Aylesford Lake, but to no avail (so far). There is an added sense of urgency for this one. The Wagner property occurs beside the future location of Brigadoon; a proposed state-of-the-art wilderness camp facility for sick and terminally-ill children from across Atlantic Canada (www.brigadoonvillage.org).

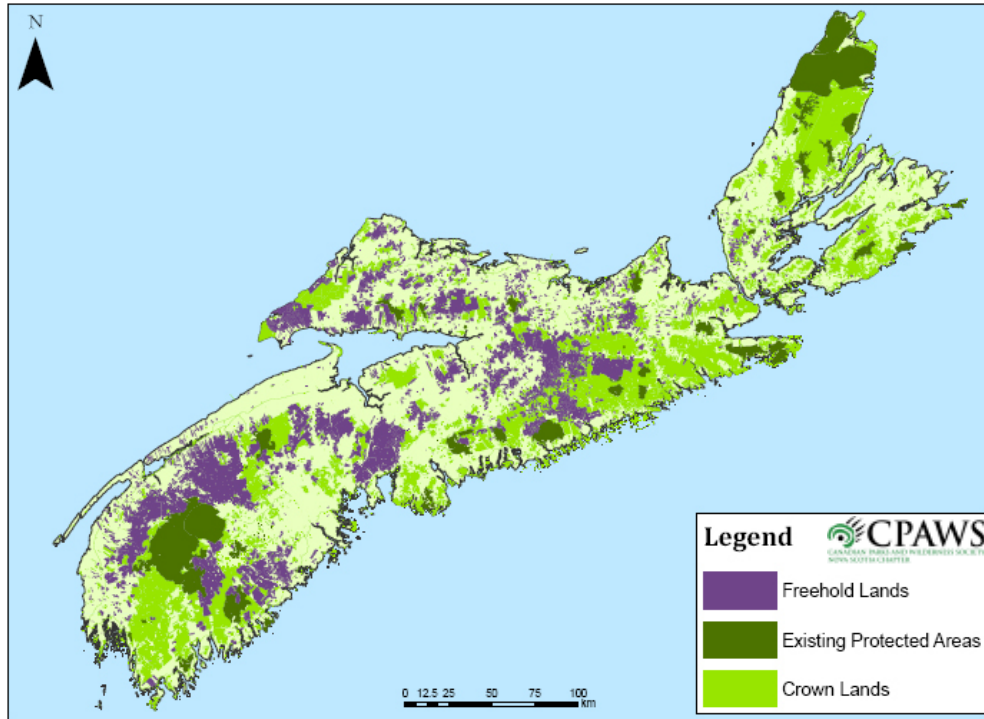
And, let's face it, a wilderness camp that's surrounded by development is just not the same as a wilderness camp surrounded by wilderness. The provincial government has looked into purchasing this property from Wagner, but the price is steep and so far the Province has not committed to following through on the purchase. The property remains for sale on the internet.

More recently, J.D. Irving Ltd. has placed huge swaths of wilderness in southwestern Nova Scotia on the market; almost 69,000 hectares in total, including approximately a third of Digby County. The lands are for sale by sealed bid and the closing date is set for May 2nd.

A grassroots effort is currently being mounted to save these lands and to convince the provincial government to purchase them before they are snapped up by developers and out-of-province interests. This coalition has a website (www.buybacknovascotia.ca) and includes a wide range of local groups with a diversity of

interests and views on the environment, coming together under this one cause to save these lands.

The efforts of the residents of Aylesford Lake and the BuyBackNova Scotia Coalition are to be applauded. With only about 30% of Nova Scotia in public ownership, acquiring these large tracts of land that are for sale is one of our province's best chances of ensuring wilderness remains in Nova Scotia over the long term.



Unfortunately, the government has no systematic plan in place to bring these lands back into public ownership as they come available on the market. To that end, CPAWS-NS and the Ecology Action Centre have joined forces and are working with the provincial

government to change this. Together, we have prioritized the conservation significance of these lands. We are also developing an action plan for the provincial government to bring some of these lands back into public ownership, with the most significant properties becoming designated as protected areas.

But, this won't be cheap. A substantial, one-time investment by the provincial government will be needed to ensure these lands will be returned to public ownership. An initial, \$100 million investment by the province would be a good place to start, but a larger sum will eventually be needed if we are to acquire all of the land that's for sale.

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The Bay of Fundy is home to several globally significant and unique coastal and marine ecosystems such as large intact salt marshes, kelp and rockweed forests, productive bays, and long stretches of cliffs and beaches. With 100 billion tonnes of seawater flowing in and out of the Bay each tide cycle, more than the combined flow of the world's freshwater rivers, the Bay's powerful tides and associated upwellings create an extremely dynamic and nutrient rich ecosystem which supports an incredible diversity of marine life, including marine mammals, sea birds, fish, plants, and invertebrates. Several of these species depend on the Bay during critical stages of their lifecycle.

At the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, marine mammals, including the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale, are attracted to the rich food supply the Bay provides. The strong currents and upwelling result in extremely productive waters full of zooplankton, which become crucial feeding grounds for species like North Atlantic right whales. Very few places on Earth provide the immense amount of

food needed for the 15 metre long right whales, who consume up to one tonne of zooplankton each day, to survive.

Only 350 North Atlantic right whales exist today and two thirds of this population spend the spring and summer months in Canadian waters. In an attempt to help the right whale population recover, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has designated two Right Whale Conservation Zones. These zones were established in 1994 in key summer congregation areas to reduce the likelihood of ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear. One zone is located in the Roseway Basin off the southwestern tip of Nova Scotia and the other in the Bay of Fundy near Grand Manan Island. Additionally, in 2003, the International Maritime Organization of the United Nations rerouted the main shipping lane in the Bay around the conservation zones. These conservation efforts are important first steps but, unfortunately, do not provide the type of protection needed to adequately conserve the habitat that the whales depend on for survival.

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BY ASHLEY SPRAGUE



Safeguarding the Bay of Fundy



Safeguarding continued

At the upper end of the Bay, each metre the tide recedes reveals an extensive mudflat landscape teeming with life. From microscopic zooplankton and algae to small mud shrimp called corophium that burrow into the mud and can reach concentrations as high as 30,000 shrimps per square metre. Each summer, this rich concentration of life attracts hundreds of thousands of migrating shorebirds en route to Central and South America where they over-winter. The mudflats provide critical stopover habitat where the birds replenish their fat reserves by feeding on the energy-rich invertebrates before continuing their journey.

Some shorebird species, such as the semipalmated sandpiper, consume so much prey that they actually double their weight during their two week stay in the upper bay. These fat stores are essential to fuel the 3,000-4,000 km non-stop flight over the Atlantic that each bird must make to reach their wintering grounds. Because of its sheer ecological significance, the upper Bay of Fundy has been designated as a site of critical importance by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network. Unfortunately, this designation also fails to provide the type of habitat protection needed to properly conserve the ecologically-rich areas of the upper Bay of Fundy, which are becoming increasingly threatened by human activities.

Semipalmated sandpipers. Photo Credit: Ashley Sprague

The health of the Bay of Fundy is imperative not only to the survival of wildlife, but also to the survival of the many coastal communities and traditional livelihoods that depend on the bay's natural resources. We have already seen a dramatic decrease in stocks of valuable commercial species in the Bay. The days of handlining for groundfish species are gone and the dwindling numbers of fishermen are now harvesting mostly invertebrate species such as lobster, scallops, clams, and algal species such as Irish moss. These changes have led to severe economic impacts and the people from these communities have exhibited strength and resilience in the face of this hardship.



Searaven. Photo Credit: Scott Leslie

Safeguarding continued

Pollution, overfishing, habitat destruction, industrial development, and construction of tidal barriers are just a few of the many factors that are jeopardizing the health of the Bay and we have not even begun to fully understand the cumulative impacts of these threats. What we do know is that any further degradation of the Bay could put the wildlife species and fishermen who depend on them in serious peril. The communities of Digby Neck and Islands fought together over the past few years to successfully prevent the proposed White's Point Mega-Quarry and Marine Terminal from happening, which would have had severe adverse environmental impacts. In this case, a potential environmental disaster was averted, but the outcome may not be the same when the next proposals for a mega-quarry along the shores of North Mountain come along. As a province, we urgently need more permanent solutions in place to protect the ecological riches of the Bay of Fundy.

The current overall lack of marine habitat protection in the Bay of Fundy is alarming to say the least. Without real protection, the rich ecosystems of the Bay of Fundy will not be able to sustain the incredible diversity of life in the face of growing industrial development and harmful fishing practices. CPAWS-NS, alongside several other community groups and ENGOs, is working to ensure that ecologically significant habitats around the Bay of Fundy are protected.

CPAWS-NS has two major conservation campaigns underway in the Bay of Fundy right now. We are campaigning for Parks Canada to fulfill its commitment to establish a National Marine Conservation Area in the Bay of Fundy. We have been actively promoting the Digby Neck and Islands area as a strong candidate site for an NMCA. This designation would provide the sort of legal protection needed to ensure habitats are protected from industrial activities, while also accommodating existing local fishing and tourism industries.

We are also working to better understand and protect the globally unique horse mussel reefs of the Bay of Fundy. These reefs are the largest known in existence anywhere on the planet, and are believed to perform a number of crucial ecological roles in the bay including providing important marine habitat and increasing biological productivity. They are also threatened by destructive fishing gear and bottom-trawling. CPAWS-NS wants to stop damage to these reefs, and work with fishermen and government to find ways to permanently protect these important and vulnerable marine features as part of a healthy Bay of Fundy ecosystem.

Achieving these two key conservation goals is critical to maintaining the ecological integrity of the Bay of Fundy, and the traditional livelihoods of local communities.

Fundy kelp bed. Photo Credit: Scott Leslie





Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area

BY CHRIS MILLER

Photo Credit: Ron Williams

Nova Scotia has a new protected wilderness area. The Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area was created by the provincial government just before the start of the New Year, on public lands owned by the Town of Amherst, near the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick border. This location is critical for conservation, since it occurs at the narrow 17-km wide pinch-point where Nova Scotia joins the rest of North America. This narrow land bridge has been identified by conservation scientists as a key landscape connection for the entire Northern Appalachian – Acadian Ecoregion; an area spanning the Maritimes, Gaspé Peninsula, and parts of New England.

The designation of the Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area comes at the request of the Town of Amherst, and adds another layer of protection to 900 hectares of the town's drinking water supply lands at the North Tyndal Well Field. It will also help the Province achieve its goal of protecting 12% of the provincial landmass by the year 2015. Currently, only 8.2% of Nova Scotia is legally-protected.

CPAWS-NS applauds the residents of Amherst for their environmental leadership. We now look to the provincial government to follow Amherst's lead and expand the boundaries of the Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area onto adjacent Crown lands, to create a much larger protected wilderness area on the isthmus, up to a couple thousand hectares in size.

We also look to other Municipalities across the province to step up as well, as the Town of Amherst has done, and protect their own ecologically-significant properties. There are a couple of key examples from across the province of the type of conservation leadership that's needed by Municipalities. In 2005, the Town of Antigonish had a protected wilderness area designation applied to lands owned by the Municipality in their water supply area, which enabled a large expansion to the existing Eigg Mountain – James River Wilderness Area. The Region of Queens Municipality also has an impressive track-record of conservation on Municipal lands. In 2005, they donated three parcels of land totaling approximately 300 hectares in size to the Nature Conservancy of Canada for per-

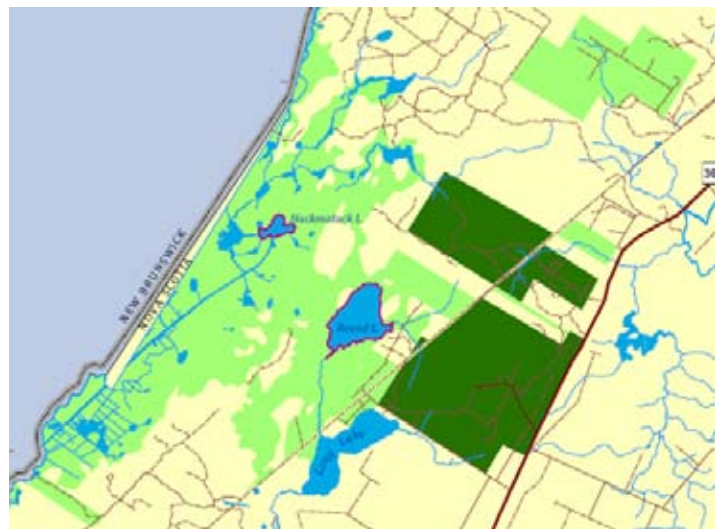
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Isthmus continued

manent protection. And, more recently, the Town of Wolfville has worked with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to establish the Wolfville Watershed Nature Preserve using a conservation easement placed on 245 hectares of Municipal land, to protect the natural features that occur on that property.

These are a few success stories, but clearly, more can be done. The Halifax Regional Municipality, in particular, owns a number of important properties that could contribute to a provincial system of protected areas, some located adjacent to existing or proposed wilderness areas. And, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg owns some of the most ecologically-significant properties on the South Shore, including a couple of islands that make up the LaHave Islands. These properties contain exceptional tidal salt marshes, undeveloped beach and dune systems, and coastal forests.

In the coming months and years ahead, we'll all need to pitch-in and work together to protect biodiversity in Nova Scotia. That includes all levels of government and every citizen from across this great province. There's much work to be done.



Map of Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area (dark green) and adjacent crown lands. Map credit: CPAWS-NS

Wilderness areas update

A socio-economic analysis has been completed examining three wilderness area commitments made last year by the province: (1) Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, (2) Ship Harbour Long Lake, and (3) Shelburne River. Under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*, a socio-economic study is required before any parcel of Crown land can be designated as a protected wilderness area. Completing the analysis means that Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes and Shelburne River can proceed to designation, and the final boundary for the Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area can be released. When protected, these three areas will conserve approximately 20,000 hectares of Nova Scotia's woodlands.

Bowater pursues FSC certification in Nova Scotia

Bowater-Mersey Paper Co. Ltd. is pursuing Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for their forestry operations in Nova Scotia. FSC certification requires a higher degree of environmental stewardship than other certification systems. The company, which operates on thousands of hectares of land in southwestern Nova Scotia, will be undergoing an environmental audit in the near future. Last year, approximately 600,000 hectares of Crown land in Cape Breton and eastern mainland Nova Scotia under lease to NewPage Port Hawkesbury Ltd. became FSC-certified. CPAWS-NS is calling on the provincial government to require FSC-certification for all forestry operations on Crown lands in Nova Scotia, through the review of the Natural Resources Strategy, underway right now.

Scaterie Island Wilderness Area opened to commercial seal harvest

The provincial government has used a loophole in the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act* to allow the commercial harvest of 2000 seal pups from Hay Island, inside the boundaries of Scaterie Island Wilderness Area off the eastern coast of Cape Breton. The commercial harvest was approved under the guise of scientific research, using a clause in the Act that allows for ecological restoration activities.

Whose ocean playground?

BY JON FELDGAJER

When you hear that only 5% of Nova Scotia's coastline is in public ownership, and only a fraction of that is formally protected, do you ever wonder how this happened? How things ended up like this? How has the public been cut-off from the coast? How have our coastal ecosystems, including our iconic beaches, coves, and salt marshes been degraded so much?

Nova Scotia's communities are also becoming increasingly cut off from the sea. Ask any teenager in one of our coastal communities if they'll be living and working in their hometown in 5-10 years, and you probably won't hear too much in support of that. No opportunities, no jobs, no future is more likely what you'll hear. You'll also probably hear from some that they wished they could stay in their hometowns and make a living there and enjoy being close to nature. Nova Scotians have lived in harmony with the coast for hundreds of years. Generations have seen that the land and water always provided enough to keep families and communities thriving. So, what's changed? What's happened?

Lots actually, but it didn't happen overnight. Our coast has seen a remarkable transformation toward increasing development. Many of these changes have been incremental, so maybe not always noticeable. Other times, they have happened so quickly and so egregiously, that they're hard to ignore. Every wetland filled, subdivision approved, and habitat degraded has finally added up to a catastrophic environmental state that was inconceivable only a generation ago. Even more dangerous is that without ever having witnessed the productivity of what our coastal environment was once like, Nova Scotia's youth might think this degraded state is the way it's always been, or even worse, the way it should be.

"*Shifting Baselines*", a concept discussed by Daniel Pauly at UBC's Fisheries Centre, describes a syndrome where fisheries scientists record inappropriate baseline data for populations that have already undergone change. Setting a baseline at an already degraded level can lead to sub-optimal planning and management, and impede future recovery. If you apply this notion to the environment that youth on our coast are experiencing, then today's landscape of private cottages, industrial mega-projects, and no more fish left in the ocean might be viewed as nothing out of the ordinary, nothing amiss. That couldn't be further from the truth.

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Youth from Digby Neck visit the site of the defeated Whites Point Quarry proposal, Photo Credit: CPAWS-NS

Ocean playground continued

There's some good news though. After years of grassroots campaigning by people all over Nova Scotia, the government has finally agreed to develop a Coastal Management Framework by 2010. CPAWS-NS is firm in its commitment to ensure this framework includes an effective land use plan, better zoning and protection of coastal wetlands and beaches, more marine protected areas, and an expanded conservation funding package to purchase high-priority ecological sites for protection. In short, the Coastal Management Framework will only be helpful if it's a good plan with strong environmental policies and widespread community support.

From Cape Sable to Cape Breton, CPAWS-NS has seen that youth are leading, not sitting back and letting things happen. They're calling for solutions themselves and are eager to talk about it. CPAWS-NS was on hand this fall when Barrington Municipal High School students met local MLA Sterling Belliveau to talk about conserving the beaches in their backyards. We also heard from youth in Bear River working to restore their freshwater connection to the Bay of Fundy. The students of Islands Consolidated School in Digby County are surveying community members and preparing recommendations to present to the Nova Scotia government when community consultations begin later this year. The youth are making things happen.

As Nova Scotia embarks on the process of drafting a Coastal Management Framework, it is critical that we recognize the current degraded state of our coastline and coastal ecosystems, and set a goal or baseline for a healthy coastal environment we want to see return once more. Hearing from tomorrow's stewards of our coastal resources will help ensure we make the right choices and draft the right policies today.

Gearing up for Nature Calls 2009

With support from Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection, and in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halifax Region, a whole new season of nature experiences are being planned for urban youth across the city. CPAWS-NS will be leading guided outings that will include nature and interpretation walks, birdwatching, and geocaching. Weekend excursions and an overnight trip to Kejimikujik National Park are on the agenda for this summer so be sure to visit www.cpawsns.org/naturecalls for more information.



Photo Credit: Laura Simms

Plans for new ESSIM MPA underway

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be announcing a shortlist of areas of interest for a new Marine Protected Area within the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) area very soon. The announcement of the candidate sites will be followed by public consultation to seek stakeholder and public input on which site will move forward to become Nova Scotia's second MPA designated under the *Oceans Act*. CPAWS-NS will work to ensure that the best sites are selected and that the designation moves forward in a timely manner.

Wilderness for sale continued

This is a lot of money, no doubt about it, but placed in context, it amounts to only a fraction of an annual budget for roads and highways in Nova Scotia, or only about 0.3% of the province's gross domestic product. It's also a safe investment for the province, since land values in Nova Scotia are rising over time and some portion of this land-base could be kept in a working forest condition, continuing to support the forest industry in the province and providing good paying jobs to rural parts of the province.

So, right now, as a large portion of Nova Scotia is up for sale, the provincial government has two options. They can choose to step up to the plate on this one and bring these lands back into public ownership for the benefit of us all, or they can choose to sit on the sidelines and let this opportunity pass us by. Let's hope they choose wisely.



**Concerned about wilderness
for sale in Nova Scotia?**

Tell the premier

premier@gov.ns.ca

Photo Credit: Irwin Barrett

Horse mussel reef campaign moving forward

The CPAWS-NS campaign to conserve the globally rare horse mussel reefs of the Bay of Fundy is beginning to produce results. Natural Resources Canada has recently conducted an extensive GIS mapping project of the Fundy seafloor to better understand reef distribution. CPAWS-NS will also be contributing directly to the growing pool of scientific knowledge on the horse mussel reefs. We will be conducting research dives this summer to photograph the reefs and collect samples of the mussels for bivalve aging and contaminant testing. This new information will be used to inform management decisions that will hopefully lead to long-term protection of these incredibly significant and unique marine features.

Port Joli Community Visits

The CPAWS-NS marine team has shared pots of tea and fishing yarns with fishermen and community leaders from Port Joli, along Nova Scotia's South Shore. Port Joli Harbour is a significant marine ecosystem with extensive eelgrass and kelp beds, and important lobster nursery grounds. Visits to the community have helped us better understand the ecological significance of the Port Joli area and the potential threats to this marine ecosystem. We've also appreciated the opportunity to meet so many fantastic people.



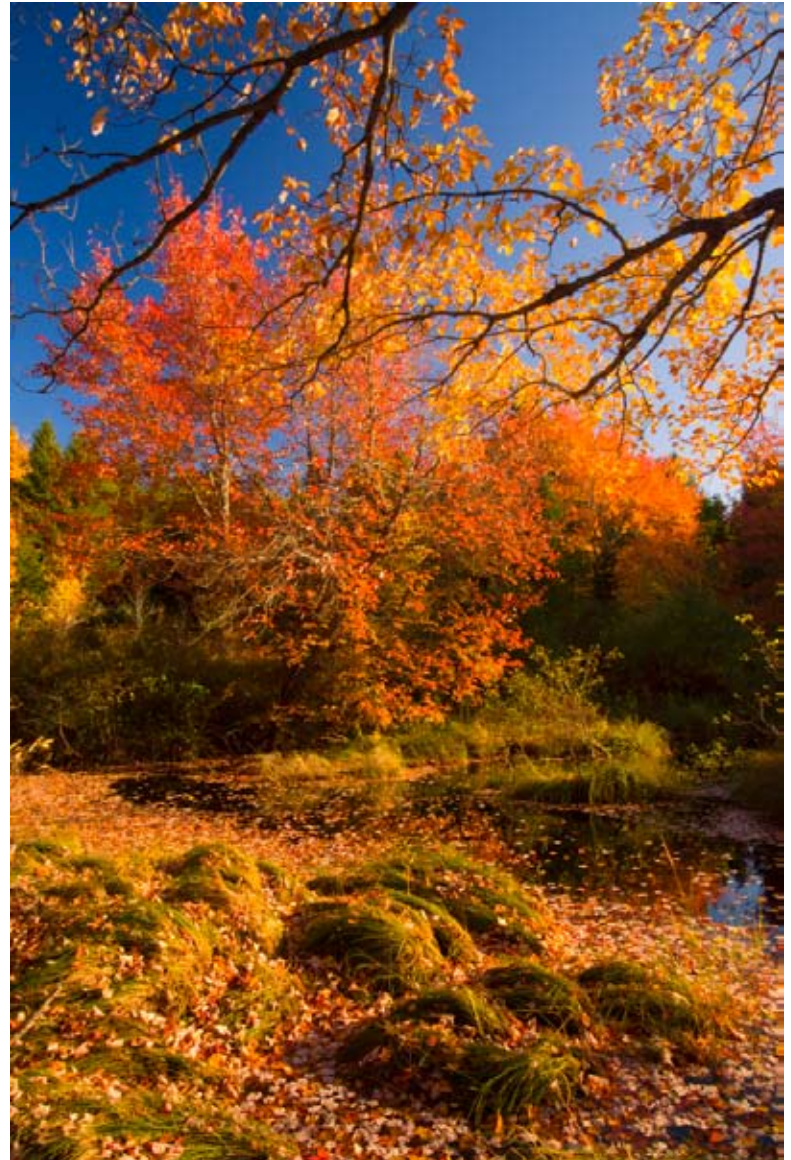
Port Joli. Photo Credit: Hamish Longbottom

Seismic testing conducted in Chignecto Game Sanctuary

In November 2008, an exploration company was granted approval by the provincial government to conduct seismic testing inside the boundaries of the Chignecto Game Sanctuary. Kilometres of charges were laid along roads and through forest during the height of rutting season in one of the last areas occupied by Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose.

CPAWS-NS was critical of the government decision to approve the seismic testing and we continue to work with local group Cumberland Wilderness and other organizations to have a wilderness area designation established for the game sanctuary and surrounding crown lands. CPAWS-NS will be spending the summer conducting sites visits within Chignecto to document its ecological significance, so stay tuned.

*Fall colours along Atkinson Brook.
Photo Credit: Irwin Barrett*



Terrasonga performing. Photo Credit: CPAWS-NS

Chignecto takes centre stage

The campaign to designate the public lands in and around the Chignecto Game Sanctuary as a protected wilderness area has been building momentum, with young new campaigners joining the ranks in Amherst. This year, Terrasonga Earth Music Programs of Amherst is dedicating their annual performance to saving the last, best wilderness in Cumberland County. With songs like “*You have to have a habitat*”, we’re enthusiastic to meet the conservation campaigners of the future. Terrasonga’s production will be shown May 8th and 9th, in Amherst.

Please contact Christine MacLeod for more details
(cmacleod@christinemacleod.net).

More news in brief

Support from students is making a difference!

Students have been working to support the conservation efforts of CPAWS-NS and are helping to raise much-needed funding. In November, Dalhousie Nature Conservation students organized a Big Wild fundraiser movie screening of the film *Borealis* which drew a substantial crowd. Dalhousie *School for Resource and Environmental Studies* students contributed a portion of their silent auction proceeds to our chapter as well. Also at Dalhousie, Net Impact is co-organizing with the St Mary's University Environmental Society (SMUES) the annual Dump and Run. This year's event is scheduled for May 3rd, and CPAWS-NS will receive a portion of proceeds. Earlier this year SMUES also organized a terrific pledge per kilometre hike and movie night called WildernessAid, taking us out in the wild in the middle of winter. Finally, CPAWS-NS was pleased to accept a generous donation from the organizing committee of the Northeastern Biological Graduate Student Conference, held at Saint Mary's University this year. Organizers donated a proportion of the conference registration fees and the proceeds of t-shirt sales to support the conservation work of CPAWS-NS.

Thank you students for your hard work We are truly grateful for this support!



Photo Credit: CPAWS-NS

David Myles donates his 1% to CPAWS-NS



Halifax musician David Myles supports CPAWS-NS through 1% For The Planet, an organization encouraging businesses to contribute 1% of their sales to environmental causes.

Myles chose CPAWS-NS as his cause because "I spent a bunch of time working at a backcountry lodge in Yoho National Park and that had a profound impact on me," says Myles. "It was by spending time in a place like that that made me really understand why living sustainably was so important. Protected areas serve not only the inherent function of protecting wildlife and plant life, but they serve a huge educational function as well. They remind us how everything in nature is connected." Thanks David, for your support.

Check out David's myspace page for some great tunes for a good cause; <http://www.myspace.com/davidmyles>

Students at Park West speak up for the environment

In February, over 500 students at Park West School in Halifax gathered in the school gym to learn about global warming and other environmental issues. CPAWS-NS was pleased to join the event, organized by the Grade 5 students, to talk about the importance of protecting the Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area near their school.



Profiles in conservation

Irwin Barrett

By Chris Miller

Sand River saltmarsh. Photo Credit: CPAWS-NS

Irwin Barrett is a down-to-earth, modest kinda guy. Sitting in his kitchen for this interview, I ask him why he does what he does. His reply...well, he likes being outside and photographing wild landscapes and nature. And, he likes conservation so he wants to combine the two and help out. Therein lies the modesty.

And helping out is something Irwin has been doing for many years. Irwin has generously donated his breath-taking images to groups like CPAWS-NS, the Ecology Action Centre, and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust for many years. He believes in pitching in and helping out, offering his talents to the pursuit of nature conservation. It's an absolutely critical component of any campaign to convince decision-makers to protect our natural environment.

In one photo, Irwin captures not only the key ecological reasons why a place needs to be protected, but his images also shows the vulnerability of nature to human disturbance and instill in the viewer a sense of urgency to look after the planet.

I've heard people saying things like "we must protect this area" and "it's the right thing to do" after seeing Irwin's pictures.

As a campaigner, I can easily say things like, this area needs to be protected because it has old-growth forests, or because these salt marshes are very productive ecosystems. But, Irwin's photos go right to the very core of what conservation is all about; that we have a responsibility to look after nature and take care of it for future generations.

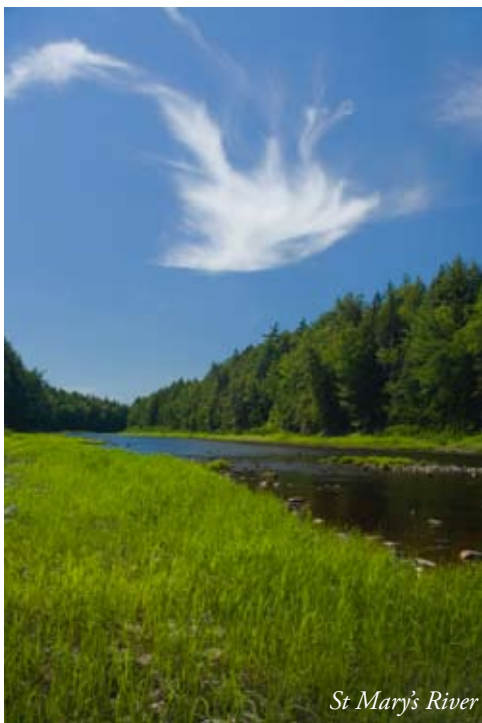
Born in Charlottetown, Irwin moved to Nova Scotia at a very young age and has lived in Bedford and Sackville ever since. His works have graced the covers of many magazines, including Photo Life Magazine, Saltscapes, and Camera Canada. He's also published a collection of his photographs in his book "*Wilderness Nova Scotia: A Photographer's Journal*".

CPAWS-NS is very grateful for the generosity Irwin has shown to our organization, and to all the organizations he's helped out over the years. Thanks Irwin.

A collection of photographs by Irwin Barrett



Chignecto Game Sanctuary



St Mary's River



Guysborough County



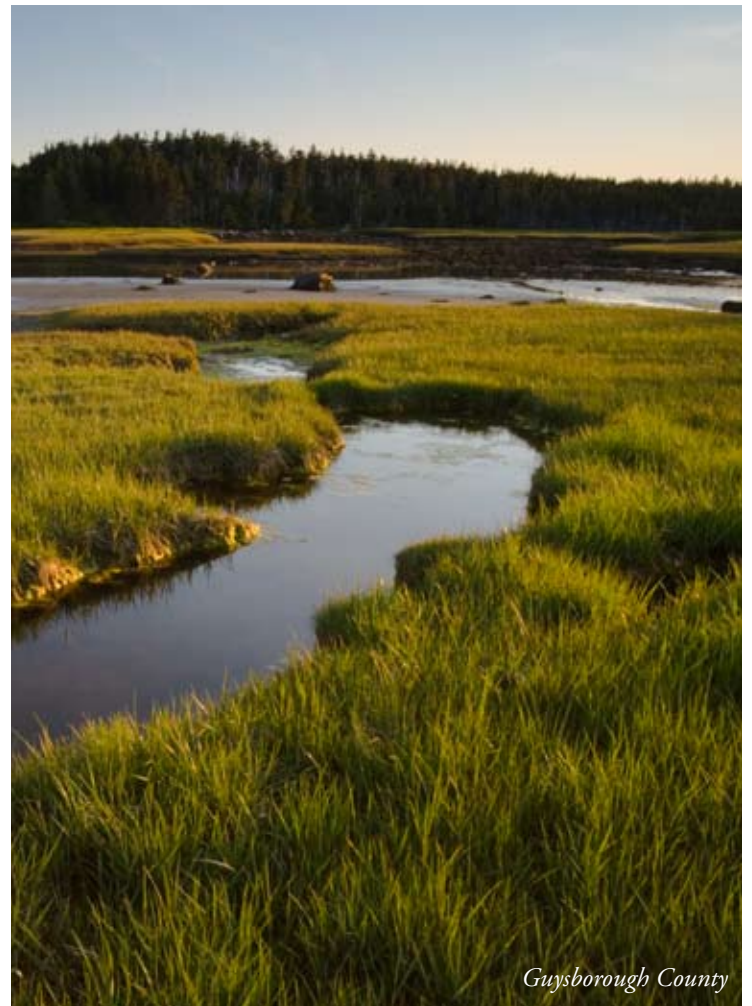
Guysborough County



Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes



Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes



Guysborough County



BioBlitz 2009

Dozens of scientists to descend on Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area

The Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area, just outside Halifax, has been selected as the location for this year's BioBlitz, organized by Saint Mary's University (<http://www.smu.ca/bioblitz>).

A BioBlitz is a one-day event where scientists from many different disciplines of biology descend on an area to record all of the different species they observe, including birds, mammals, amphibians, fish, plants, lichens, fungi, insects, and invertebrates. It's also a fun event for the whole family, to get outside, learn about nature, and go for a hike.

CPAWS-NS is helping to organize the BioBlitz event for 2009. We've set a target of 1000 species we hope will be identified in the Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area within the 24-hour period. This information will help us understand the ecological significance of wilderness close to the city, and will provide us with a baseline of information for assessing how biodiversity in this near-urban wilderness holds-up in the coming years as the city expands and more people start using the area.

The event officially starts at 3pm on Friday, June 5th, 2009, when the scientists will venture off into the wilderness to begin their assessment. The main public events will start at 10am on Saturday, June 6th, 2009, and there will be plenty of opportunities to come out and learn about nature and interact with the scientific teams. Hope to see you there.



SEE YOU June 6th!

Want to volunteer with CPAWS-NS?

There's plenty of ways for someone passionate about conservation to get involved with us including:

- Joining the Atlantic Ocean Committee
- Planning a Nature Calls activity
- Personing a CPAWS-NS display booth at any number of events
- Organizing a fundraiser
- Graphic/Web/Newsletter Design

For more ideas, information and ways to get involved visit

www.cpawsns.org/volunteer



CPAWS-NS volunteers at WildernessAid, March 2009
Photo Credit: SMUES

Stay informed! Sign up for e-delivery of newsletters and campaign updates by emailing cpawsns@cpawsns.org

Are you a member? Since 1963, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society has helped to conserve over 400,000 square kilometres of Canada's most treasured wild places in parks and other protected areas.

By making an annual donation to CPAWS you'll receive our biannual newsletter, chapter updates and invitations to special events. But most importantly, you'll help to protect and preserve Canada's wilderness and wildlife.

With your help, we'll save another 400,000km² of Canada's wilderness in the next decade, before it's too late.

I want to protect Canada's wilderness. Here is my CPAWS membership contribution of:

- \$35 \$50 \$100 \$200 Other _____

We provide tax receipts for all donations of \$20 or more

Please find my: cheque enclosed; or charge my: Visa Mastercard American Express

Card #	Expiry Date		
Signature	Name (please print)		
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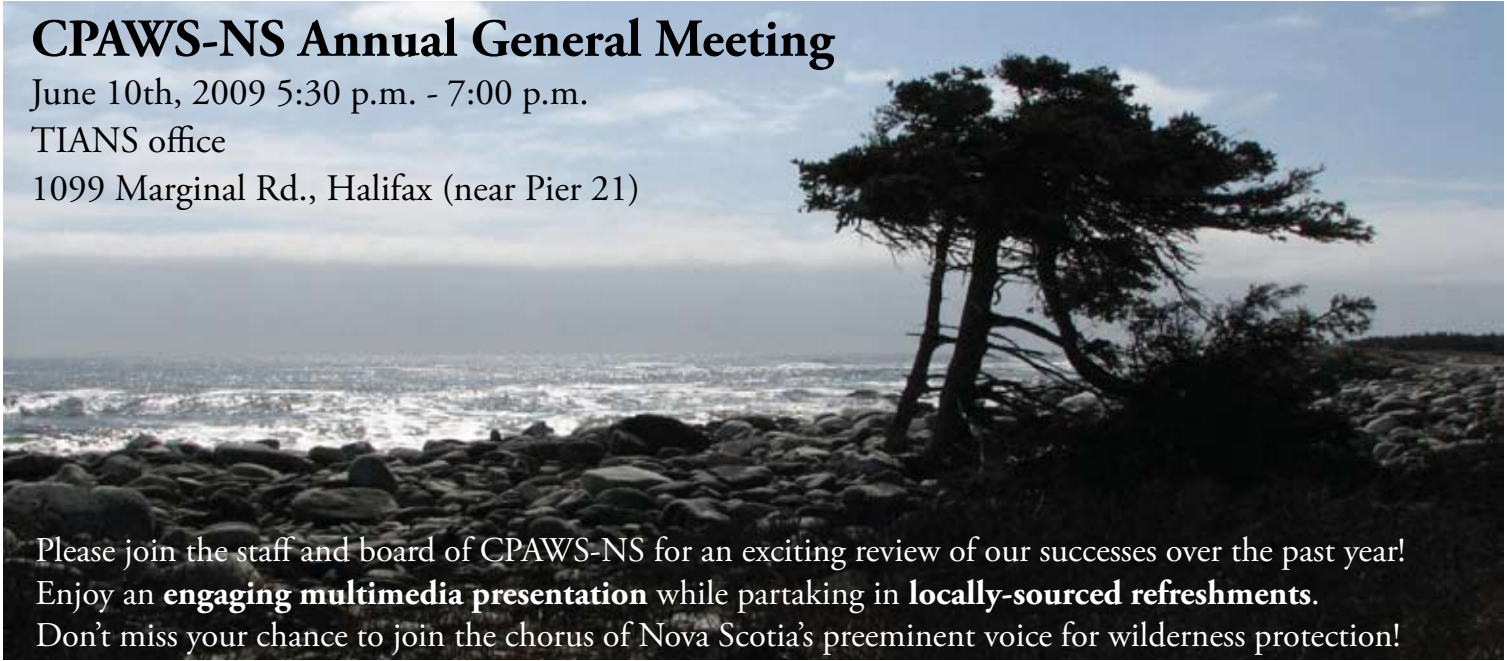
Cut along line and mail to: CPAWS-NS, 1099 Marginal Road, Suite 201, Halifax, NS, B3H 4P7

CPAWS-NS Annual General Meeting

June 10th, 2009 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

TIANS office

1099 Marginal Rd., Halifax (near Pier 21)



Please join the staff and board of CPAWS-NS for an exciting review of our successes over the past year! Enjoy an **engaging multimedia presentation** while partaking in **locally-sourced refreshments**. Don't miss your chance to join the chorus of Nova Scotia's preeminent voice for wilderness protection!

CPAWS-NS would like to gratefully acknowledge our many individual supporters and thank the following funding organizations for their generous contributions to our success last year.



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