

Habitat Conservation Fund Projects 2004

By Shelley Shaw

Thirteen projects totaling \$114,645.00 have been approved for funding in 2004 under the Habitat Conservation Fund. Funding is generated from the collection of \$2, known as a Wildlife Habitat Stamp, from the sale of every hunting license purchased in the province. All funds collected are used for habitat conservation.

Successful projects may receive up to \$25,000 on a cost-shared basis. However, projects must fall into one of four categories:

- purchase of land for the benefit of wildlife
- habitat improvement
- education programs for wildlife habitat
- wildlife habitat research

Projects Approved for Funding in 2004:

Bird Studies Canada

Making Nova Scotia's Lakes Loon Friendly (Year 4 of 4) \$4,870.00

To educate lake users and school children about how their actions affect loon breeding and foraging habitat and to encourage positive behavioural changes through Bird Studies Canada's Canadian Lakes Loon Survey and Loon Friendly Lakes Program. Additionally, the development of a Nova Scotia Loon Ambassador Program.



University of New Brunswick / Joe Nocera *Benefits and Risks of Agro-ecosystem Management to Grassland Birds in Nova Scotia (Year 3 of 3) \$13,800.00*

Complete the evaluation of wildlife habitat provided in managed agro-ecosystems in Atlantic Canada to influence the delivery of successful habitat stewardship initiatives. Also, to refine and validate initial models of habitat selection derived from data collected in 2002 and 2003.

Ecology Action Center *Coastlines Natural History Column (Year 3 of 3) \$4,735.00*

To enhance knowledge and appreciation of the coastal ecology of Nova Scotia by creating and distributing a natural history column, "Coastlines," to weekly newspapers across the province.

Saint Mary's University / Hugh Broders *Distribution and Behaviour of Bats in Nova Scotia (Year 2 of 2) \$12,000.00*

To determine the summer and winter distributional range of the eastern pipistrelle, northern long-eared and little brown bats in mainland Nova Scotia through trapping and ultrasonic surveys. Additionally, to continue work in Kejimikujik National Park examining the foraging and roosting behavior of these species in forested landscapes, with a concentration on eastern pipistrelles.

Ducks Unlimited Canada *Small Marsh Restoration in the Agricultural/Urban Landscape \$7,000.00*

To restore, enhance or create wetlands in the agricultural/urban landscape where many have been destroyed or altered by human activity since European settlement.

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Adopt-a-Class Wetland Education Program **\$13,000.00**

To engage 80 Nova Scotia Grade 4 classes in the Adopt-a-Class Wetland Education Program during the 2003-04 school year. And where possible, provide these classes with a wetland field trip.

Friends of the Cornwallis River

King's County Riparian Fencing Project **\$8,000.00**

To establish riparian edges in the agricultural landscape of the east flowing watersheds of King's County.

Acadia University / Amanda Lavers

Microhabitat Selection of Northern and Southern Flying Squirrels in NS: Analysis of Diet **\$10,400.00**

To determine habitat selection for two species of flying squirrels in Nova Scotia by examining dietary

components in stomachs and feces collected from voluntary trappers and live-trapping.

Acadia University / Sara Good-Avila

Conservation of Critical Lakeshore Habitat in the Tusket River Watershed: Using Ecological Processes as Indicators of Habitat Health **\$12,840.00**

To understand how the habitat requirements and persistence of Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Species-at-Risk are affected by recent changes in land-use patterns.

Sarah Spencer *Mercury in River Otter (Lontra canadensis)* **\$8,000.00**

To test for the relationship between brain mercury levels in river otter and the habitats in which these animals are found. Secondly, to test for the relationship between brain tissue levels of mercury and female reproductive history.

Acadia University / Joseph Mudge

Seeing the Forest for the Trees: An Examination of the Ecological Effects of Porcupine Feeding on Acadian Forests **\$4,500.00**

To determine the overall effect of porcupines on a forest ecosystem, taking into account not only the negative impact that winter porcupine feeding has on trees, but also any positive results for other organisms that may arise from this activity.

Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Plants on the Edge: Securement and Stewardship of the Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora in Southwest Nova Scotia 2004 to 2006 **\$12,500.00**

To conserve in perpetuity critical lakeshore, wetland and riparian habitats in southwest Nova Scotia that support nationally significant Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora (ACPF), and to mitigate threats to ACPF through stewardship and education.

St. Mary's River Association

Conserving Critical Wood Turtle Habitats Through Community Stewardship **\$3,000.00**

To facilitate the conservation of wood turtles and their critical habitats through community based education and stewardship programs.

