

# Habitat Conservation Fund Projects 2005

By Vida Mae Lantz

Fourteen projects totaling \$103,280.00 have been approved for funding in 2005 under the Habitat Conservation Fund. Funding is generated from the sale of the Wildlife Habitat Stamp which is required for any purchase of wildlife licenses in the province. All funds collected are used for habitat conservation.

The fee for the Wildlife Habitat Stamp increased from \$2 to \$3 to provide additional funding for projects sponsored by the Habitat Conservation Fund. This increase was supported by the Nova Scotia Federation of Hunters and Anglers.

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 2005:

### **Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation**—*Mahone Bay Roseate Tern Habitat Recovery Project* **\$3,000.00**

A single site in Mahone Bay once supported a third of the Endangered Canadian Roseate Tern population. This colony was abandoned in the mid-1990s, and Roseate Terns have attempted unsuccessfully to nest at several sites since. This project will provide a secure nesting site for Roseate Terns, through habitat enhancement (placement of nesting shelters), predator deterrence (pyrotechnics, human presence), and public awareness (signage, public consultation, outreach).



### **Acadia University / Sean LeMoine**—*Wildlife and Forage-quality Benefits of a Late-maturing Hay Cultivar* **\$15,840.00**

To determine the effects of a late maturing cultivar of hay on biodiversity and forage quality in comparison to conventional hay crops. Secondly, to assess the cultivar's potential as an alternative land management tool capable of providing for the needs of both wildlife and farmers in an agro-ecosystem.

### **Ducks Unlimited Canada**—*Small Marsh Restoration in the Annapolis Valley* **\$5,280.00**

To restore habitat conditions for aquatic wildlife and to improve the ability of this wetland to benefit people.

**nature's  
resources**

Volume 8 • Number 2  
Winter 2006

Editor-in-Chief, Emily Gratton  
Illustrator, Margot Greek  
Design, Semaphor Design  
Company  
Produced by Communications  
Nova Scotia Publishing Division

*Nature's Resources* is dedicated to the understanding and wise use of Nova Scotia's natural resources. It is published twice a year by the Publications and Communication Section of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

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**Ecology Action Center—**  
*Coastlines Natural History Column*  
**\$4,710.00**

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

**Saint Mary's University / Hugh Broders—***The Utility of Eastern Pipistrelles as Indicators of Landscape Level Change at Large Spatial and Temporal Scales*  
**\$7,000.00**

To collect more information on the status of eastern pipistrelles population in Nova Scotia, and to assess the utility of the study of eastern pipistrelles as an indicator of changes in habitat and landscape.

**Woodcock Conservation Society—***Woodcock Habitat Enhancement Project*  
**\$2,500.00**

To improve woodcock feeding habitat by periodic rejuvenation of over mature alder covers; to provide temporary signing grounds and also serve as good brood and nesting habitat; to begin a spring singing survey on project site.



**Ducks Unlimited Canada—***Adopt-a-Class Wetland Education Program*  
**\$10,000.00**

To engage 110 Nova Scotia grade 4 classes in the Adopt-A-Class wetland education program during the 2004–05 school year and, provide those classes within reasonable

travel distances of designated educational marshes with hands-on wetland field-trip experience to compliment the “in-class” program.

**Friends of the Cornwallis River Society—***Kings County Riparian Fencing Project*  
**\$7,000.00**

To establish riparian edges in the agricultural landscape of the east flowing watersheds of Kings County and to identify and document sensitive habitat utilized by aquatic and riparian fauna.



**Acadia University / Dr. Sara Good-Avila—***Conservation of Critical Lakeshore Habitat in the Tusket River Watershed*  
**\$4,750.00**

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.

**Dalhousie University / Dr. Cindy Staicer—***The Role of Riparian Buffers in Forest Bird Conservation*  
**\$14,700.00**

To understand the influence of buffer width on the value of riparian forest to birds of conservation concern.

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

To test for the relationship between tissue mercury levels in river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) and the habitats

in which these animals are detected. Secondly, to test for a relationship between tissue mercury levels and female reproductive condition.

**Clean Annapolis River Project Society—***Habitat Friendly Farming*  
**\$3,000.00**

This project will seek to increase the area and quality of riparian habitats in the Annapolis Watershed.

**Nova Scotia Nature Trust—***Plants on the Edge: Securement and Stewardship of the Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora in Southwest Nova Scotia 2005 to 2006*  
**\$8,500.00**

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

**Cape Sable Important Bird Area Committee—***Community Education through Awareness*  
**\$9,000.00**

To increase conservation awareness and promote the conservation of Cape Sable Island habitats and the fauna and flora they support.

More information about the 2005 and previous projects is available on the DNR website.

Submission guidelines and application forms can be obtained from any Department of Natural Resources office or on the website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/habfund>

*Vida Mae Lantz is with DNR's Wildlife Division in Kentville and is the Fund's secretary.*