

Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund Final Report-2004



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1. Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of the project was to restore, enhance or create wetlands in the agricultural and urban regions of Nova Scotia. More specific objectives were to improve habitat conditions or wetland value for aquatic wildlife and to improve the ability of the restored wetlands to benefit people.

2. Outline of work completed

In 2004, DUC staff received 55 requests from landowners to assess their properties for possible wetland conservation. Of the 55, 30 were deemed acceptable or required further investigation. Of the 30 acceptable sites, 10 were completed in 2004, during the time frame of this funding grant. The remaining 20 are either scheduled for work in 2005 or will be looked at in more detail before a final decision is made.

3. Results

For the 10, wetland restoration projects completed in Nova Scotia in 2004, Ducks Unlimited Canada staff evaluated each site and created detailed plans. Where possible a riparian zone was identified and became a part of the individual project. The landowners were asked to sign conservation agreements, which protect the wetland well into the future. In cases where permits were required, these were applied for and obtained from the Department of Environment and Labour.

In total, 27.4 acres of wetlands and riparian buffer were protected, restored or improved as wildlife habitat. While all of the projects are good quality habitat for fresh water aquatic wildlife, they will also provide benefits to society by filtering and purifying surface water that travels through them. Most will add aesthetic value to the properties and provide recreational nature watching opportunities for people.

The distribution of the restored wetlands is shown on figure 1. All are in agricultural and or urban settings such as the Annapolis Valley and the Northumberland Strait region of Northern N.S., where high nutrient levels will create biologically productive wetlands.

4. Assessing the achievements

The sites selected and restored were the “best of the best” from a larger list and each is excellent quality. All 27.4 acres of this improved or restored habitat will be available for wildlife for many years, requiring little or no management. All landowners signed agreements ensuring the future of the habitat and seemed pleased with the results.

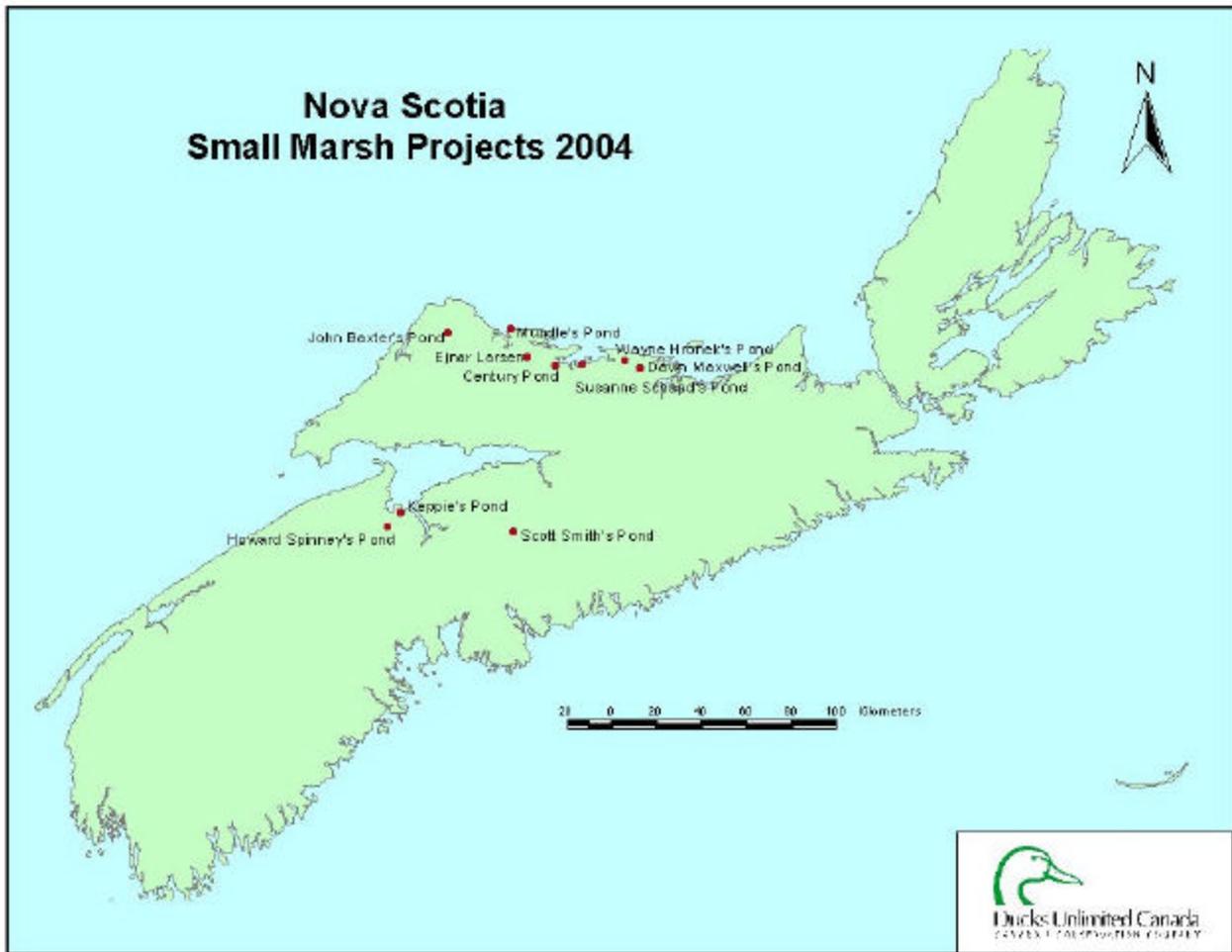


Figure 1 – 2004 project locations

5. Financial Statement

In Ducks Unlimited Canada's original proposal to the HCF, we requested \$15,000 that would become a part of a larger program. The HCF's actual contribution was \$7,000. These funds, combined with DUC's and landowner contribution resulted in \$43,945 direct dollars available for the program in 2004. In addition, the cost for Ducks Unlimited Canada's staff to do the site evaluations, design, land negotiations, permits applications and construction supervision was \$27,576. The direct and indirect costs then total \$71,521. Itemized expenditures, paid in full, for the direct costs only (contractors' charges, materials etc.) for each wetland restoration project completed in 2004 are attached as appendix 1.

6. Communications

Credit was / will be given to the Habitat Conservation Fund for their financial contribution at all public presentations made by DUC throughout the year or to the network of DUC volunteers throughout the province.

7. Images



Typically Annapolis Valley Small Marsh
Restored in 2002.



Cumberland County Farm Pond



Duncan Fraser Keppie's Property
Before



Duncan Fraser Keppie's Property
After



Windsor, Agricultural land