



Tuesday, January 4, 2011

Re: Habitat Conservation Fund, Final Installment, Report
Attn: Vida Mae Lantz

Full Name of Applicant Organization: Friends of Redtail Society (FRS)
Project Name: Sheltering Forests
Project Type: Land Acquisition

Project Objective: To purchase 313 acres of woodland in Pictou County Nova Scotia; to protect and conserve this forest for the purpose of education and the exploration and practice of a new land ethic which supports biodiversity and sustainable land use; and to promote community engagement in the health and wellbeing of its bio-region.

Project Goal: To achieve wildlife habitat improvement and protection of natural values as a model for the 85% of Nova Scotia woodland not covered by the Province's 15% land conservation goal. FRS will do so by managing an area of land as working woodlot and demonstrating the economic practicality of sustainable forest management.

Results: The Society successfully completed the purchase of the land in December 2010.

Assessment of Achievements & Lessons: Providing an avenue for positive action at a grassroots level is a powerful method for engaging people, sparking dialogue and inspiring change. Support continued to build throughout the entire campaign (and continues) and it was beneficial for individuals to be empowered to lend support in ways that were comfortable for them (from volunteering some time to spearheading fundraisers of their own or donating directly). We feel that the manner in which the campaign developed fulfilled our goal for community engagement and was a key to its success. This model of community involvement will remain central in moving forward.

Follow up steps: As guardians and students of the land, FRS will organize educational activities and will share the lessons learned. The FRS website will be the repository for this information and notice of planned events, activities, programs and studies.

Recognition: The Habitat Conservation Fund will be acknowledged on our website (<http://www.friendsofredtail.ca/donors.html>) and on an entrance stone to the forest (to be erected in 2011). A photograph will be forwarded upon completion.