

# COMMON LOON NESTING PROJECT PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

- This is a final report for year one of this project and we will address
  - 1 Project Goals and Objectives
  - 2 Outline of work completed
  - 3 Results
  - 4 Assessment of achievements
  - 5 Recommendations for follow-up



# COMMON LOON NESTING PROJECT PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

## Project Goals and Objectives

- Build a nesting platform that requires little maintenance and is durable.
- Build a couple of different designs to see what works best.
- Identify areas where these platforms are likely to be inhabited.
- Seek out volunteers with the resources to help members install and monitor platforms from a distance via game cameras/binoculars.

# COMMON LOON NESTING PROJECT

## PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

### Project Goals and Objectives

- Provide our clubhouse to store material and to facilitate the building of these nesting platforms.
- Educate the public the rationale behind this project
- Inform the public the importance of not disturbing wildlife in any way, shape or form. Even a single, seemingly quiet visit can disturb and disrupt the nesting practice and further create stress on nesting fowl of any species. If you see nesting Loons assume you are doing harm and leave immediately.
- Record results for the Habitat Fund, DFO, DOE and the public.

# COMMON LOON NESTING PROJECT PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

## Outline of Work Completed

Source building material

Research Loon Nesting Platform Design

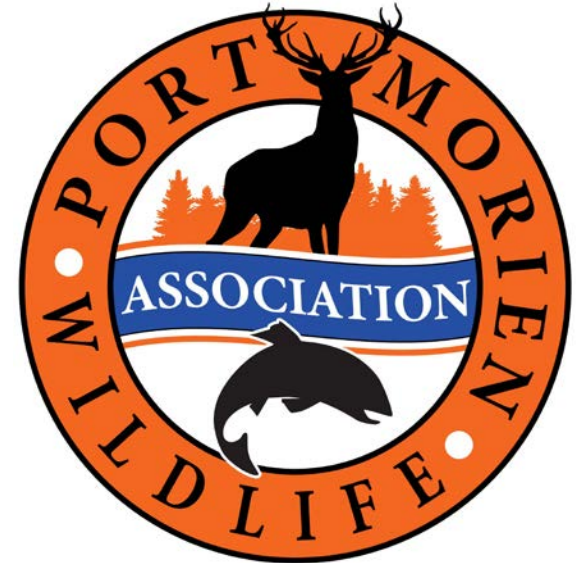
Build some multiple designs

Search out sites

Engage Public on sightings

Install/Launch Loon Nesting Platforms

Obtain signed consent from those involved with project of safety or health concerns.



# COMMON LOON NESTING PROJECT PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

## Results to Date

- Twelve Nesting Platforms assembled to date
- Data collected on visual sightings and recorded
- Cameras being monitored
- Public participation

# COMMON LOON NESTING PROJECT PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

## Assessment of Achievements, Lessons Learned, Measured Against Project Goals and Objectives.

Our goal of providing nesting platforms for the Common Loon was hampered because we were late getting funding. We did accomplish assembling platforms and having some in place that the birds showed some interest in. We had lots of public engagement with sightings but few reported seeing chicks. Those who did report sightings and our observations of sightings revealed that there were actual chicks being born but being lost very quickly to aerial predators. We plan to add some sort of canopy protection to the platform next year. Our goal is to have these platforms in the water next year as soon as the ice is off the water.

# COMMON LOON NESTING PROJECT PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

## Recommendations for Follow-up Steps

Our recommendation if we had any control over it would be to have the funding available much sooner than is the present norm. It seems that bureaucracy plays a big role in this funding being distributed. Most projects being funded are time sensitive and access to this funding should be made available ASAP after the BOD meeting in February.

Most all of this funding comes from Hunters and Trappers with the Government being the administrators of the fund. We waited over 8 weeks from the time we were notified that we were approved for funding until we actually saw funding. Loons had already nested before we had our funding. Hopefully we will see better results in year two of our project.

PROJECT MADE POSSIBLE BY CONTRIBUTIONS  
FROM HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS OF NOVA SCOTIA

**PMWA**



**NS HCF**

NOVA SCOTIA  
HABITAT  
CONSERVATION  
FUND  
Contributions from Hunters and Trappers



# COMMON LOON NESTING PROJECT PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

<http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/mobile/floating-nesting-platforms-in-cape-breton-lake-aim-to-save-the-common-loon-1.3458811>

This is a link to a CTV News story by Ryan MacDonald. Unfortunately he edited the part where we stated that this project could not have been accomplished without the financial support we received from NS HCF.

# COMMON LOON NESTING PROJECT PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017







# COMMON LOON NESTING PROJECT PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017



# DR VAN DONINCK LEAD AMMO/TACKLE PRESENTATION AT SCHOOLS AS PART OF PMWA LOON NESTING PLATFORM PROJECT





# PMWA WINS FIRST PRIZE FOR THEIR FLOAT IN THE PORT MORIEN FALL FAIR PARADE



# NS Habitat Conservation Fund, NS Federation of Anglers & Hunters and PMWA Recognition





# PMWA HANDOUT INFORMATION

This is a copy of the Handout Information sheet we distribute at public functions we attend explaining the projects that we are doing with funds that have been provided by the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund.

## PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION



## NOVA SCOTIA HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Contributions from Hunters and Trappers

P.O. BOX 9  
568 SANDLAKE ROAD,  
TOWER ROAD, NS  
B1b1J6

### BROWN BAT HOUSE PROJECT

The Port Morien Wildlife Association has with financial support from the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund engaged in two projects in the Industrial Cape Breton area. The funds for these grants come from contributions by **Hunters and Trappers** in Nova Scotia.

Brown Bats in North America are dying by the Millions as a result of what's called the White Nose Syndrome, a fungus that causes the Bats to wake early from hibernation and end up starving to death as a result of food shortage. We have built Bat Houses that have been erected and we have engaged the public in an attempt to locate and study bats in this area to see if this disease is prevalent in this area. This disease has been recorded in 5 Provinces and 29 States since first being discovered in 2009 with over 5 million bats dying as a result of this.

Anyone with knowledge of bat sightings are asked to contact any member of our organization. If you happen to find a dead bat or bats, you should notify the NS Department of Natural Resources. Bats are known to be associated with the Rabbits disease and there is a Public Health Notice on the web addressing procedures to follow if you find a dead bat. Bats are known to eat four to five times their body weight in insects each night. They play a very important role in our ecosystem.

### LOON PLATFORM NESTING PROJECT

The other project we took on this year was a Floating Loon Nesting Project. Loon reproduction it seems is down and some contributing factors have been identified as rising/fluctuating water level, land development encroachment, lead and mercury poisoning and the ever present predator attacks. We were late getting started this year and the loons were after already nesting so we concentrated on finding locations and building platforms for installation next year. We had lots of engagement from the public with regards to Loon sightings but very few reported seeing new chicks. We are hoping these platforms will get them away from shore predators and the fluctuating water woes they face. We have a very good relationship with the CBRM Water Utility who has given us permission to study this situation in watershed areas. We have many other projects we are involved with throughout CBRM.

Anyone with an interest in the great outdoors are welcome to join our organization. Membership dues are \$10.00 per year and we meet the second Wednesday of each month.

EXECUTIVE PMWA



# SALT CODFISH SUPPER FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 2017

OVER 200 SUPPERS SERVED - HANDOUTS AND POSTERS SHOWING  
SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM NS HCF



# SALT CODFISH SUPPER FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 2017

OVER 200 SUPPERS SERVED - HANDOUTS AND POSTERS SHOWING  
SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM NS HCF



# COMMON LOON PLATFORM NESTING PROJECT PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

THIS CONCLUDES THE FINAL REPORT FOR  
THE PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATIONS  
COMMON LOON NESTING PLATFORM PROJECT  
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND # 1903712350

