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# Island Nature Trust Update

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## More Projects and Staff Than we've had for Years

Hello members and friends of Island Nature Trust. The summer heat and humidity has finally arrived and I have vowed to never complain about any weather this summer after the winter we had! We have the remnants of Arthur on its way as I write and worry how much damage to Island waterways will be done. Our natural areas are scattered across the province and only form about 3.5% of the Island, while nearly half the Island is in "forest" of various health, type and age. What can we all do to improve the health of the environment in PEI?

Plant trees? Okay, we put a lot of trees in the ground over the years on our own and other properties and this year we have and will put thousands more in thanks to Gary Schneider and the fine folks at Macphail Woods Ecological Project. "Windswept", a 6.5 acre property in Fernwood had a great planting day on May 10 and two properties in Bangor donated by Jim and Barbara Munves is next—to be planted on October 4.

Protect species at risk and improve their breeding success? Okay, we have our annual Piping Plover program up and running trying to protect nesting sites from human disturbance and habitat damage. We also have the Farmland bird project working to improve

nesting opportunities for Bobolink and Barn Swallow.

Document species of plants and birds in order to better protect forests and wetlands? Yup, got that happening at 12 properties in the Bonshaw and New Haven area.

Add properties to the protected sites list? Yes! We have many properties in line for protection as designated Natural Areas and hope to add well over 200 acres to that list this calendar year.

Expose staff and the public to conservation education and experiences? Yes! We have 9 people working in a wide variety of staff positions and dozens of volunteers working to improve the natural environment in PEI!

Develop projects that make a real difference to nature and the people that want to help? You bet! Shore bird surveys, installing nesting structures, protecting land, discovering new natural areas and the species that use them and providing important and significant educational programs that bring people into nature. This is what we do at the Nature Trust!

Are you a member? If not, be sure to join us as we work to improve natural areas throughout PEI!

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### We Are...

*Island Nature Trust is a non governmental, registered charity dedicated to permanent protection of natural areas on Prince Edward Island. We acquire lands through purchase and donation and help private owners protect their own properties. We also protect species-at-risk, ecological restoration and public education. Donations are always welcome.*