An aerial photograph of a river meandering through a lush, green forest. The river is dark and flows from the top right towards the bottom left, forming a large loop. The surrounding forest is dense and vibrant green. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the image.

NOVA SCOTIA CROWN SHARE LAND LEGACY TRUST

A Nova Scotia Conservation Success Story

Scott Leslie

**Interim Report
March 31, 2008- March 31, 2018**

Message from the Chair

The Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust is a conservation success story that needs to be told.

Established on March 31st 2008, the Land Legacy Trust recently passed its 10th anniversary, the two-thirds mark of its 15-year mandate. At this milestone, it is timely to provide an overview of outcomes of the Trust's intended purpose of supporting the protection of high-conservation-priority private lands across our province.

On behalf of the Trustees of the Land Legacy Trust, I am therefore pleased to present this interim report as a record of progress to date, including demonstration of the high standard of effectiveness and efficiency achieved.

As highlighted in the executive summary and documented in the body of the report, as of March 31, 2018, the Land Legacy Trust has supported the protection of some 97 properties that total 7,782 hectares (over 19,200 acres). Funding committed to date, just over \$10 million, has leveraged the securement of lands valued at over \$25 million, with total securement costs of over \$32 million.

In short, for every one dollar distributed by the Land Legacy Trust almost three dollars of land securement effort has been achieved. This equates to an average leveraging factor of approximately 3:1.

Primary beneficiary organizations have credited the Land Legacy Trust as a 'game changer' in significantly advancing the scale and pace of private land conservation in Nova Scotia.

The Province's 2013 Parks and Protected Areas Plan provides direction for much-needed progress in the protection of Nova Scotia's public lands. Nevertheless, the plan also acknowledges that, even with full implementation, major gaps will remain in our protected areas system – particularly in regard to relatively rich and biologically diverse sites on private land. The provincial plan therefore emphasizes the importance of continuing to support private land conservation efforts as an essential priority toward meeting provincial, national and international biodiversity conservation commitments.

Mindful of these considerations, and with the Land Legacy Trust now in the final five years of its mandate, we are hopeful that the documentation provided in this report will be useful to the provincial government, and to beneficiary land trust organizations, as consideration is given to future needs and priorities for private land conservation in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Karen F. Beazley, Chair,
Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust



Executive Summary

On March 31, 2008, the Province of Nova Scotia established the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust (“Land Legacy Trust” or “Trust”) as a funding mechanism to encourage and enable the legal protection of high-conservation-priority sites on private land. The Trust was given a 15-year mandate and endowed with \$23.4 million, with administrative responsibility being assigned to three independent Trustees. As set out in the Trust Indenture, funds are provided according to a matching formula to qualifying land trust organizations – principally the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The establishment of the Land Legacy Trust recognized that the proportion of Nova Scotia’s land mass held privately (almost 60%) is higher than all other provinces and territories, except Prince Edward Island. Due to historic patterns of settlement and land use, these private lands tend to be not only relatively rich and diverse ecologically but also subject to greater pressure from development and resource extraction. The focus on private land conservation was intended to complement the nationally acclaimed achievement of the provincial government in protecting sites of conservation value on public land.

The accompanying table summarizes how contributions from the Land Legacy Trust have helped beneficiary organizations protect 97 high-conservation-value private properties across Nova Scotia over the first 10 years of operation.

Properties protected include rare species and important habitats stretching from the southwest to the central part of the province, along the eastern shore and onto Cape Breton Island – encompassing rugged and beautiful coastal headlands and islands, rich bays and estuaries, diverse river floodplains, unique calcareous ecosystems and pockets of old forest scattered throughout the province’s interior and the highland regions.

Highlights include:

- \$10,416,470 of Trust funds committed to date (March 31, 2018) have enabled the securement of 7,782 hectares (18,943 acres) of ecologically significant properties valued at \$25,439,064 – a leveraging effect of nearly 250% over the 10-year period;
- Trust funds committed to date have been matched by \$21,773,241 from other sources, leveraging total project value (i.e., cost or value of land, together with associated securement costs) to \$32,188,636 – or by more than 300% overall;
- average leveraging impact for value of land secured has exceeded 250% in six of nine years and has exceeded 300% in four of those years (minimum 173%; maximum 356%);
- average leveraging impact of total project value (land cost or value plus securement costs) has exceeded 250% in all but two years and has exceeded 350% in four of those years (minimum 226%; maximum 537%); and
- accelerated pace of land securement to protect important habitat for vulnerable rare and at-risk species that face further decline in the face of resource development and land use pressures.



In addition to funding land securement, funds in the amount of \$217,372 have been provided for field inventories to add to the knowledge base of significant ecological sites and species, and for related conservation planning studies. These efforts have led to the identification of previously undocumented species and, more generally, have expanded understanding of biodiversity across the province. The results are serving as an invaluable resource for setting provincial and even national conservation priorities.

Beyond the direct ecological benefits associated with the securement of priority conservation properties, important secondary benefits have also been realized. In particular, an elevated level of coordination and collaboration has occurred through the work of the Scientific Advisory Committee established to support the efforts of the Trustees. The involvement of this group has demonstrated the need and opportunity for a comprehensive and strategic approach to land conservation that will benefit Nova Scotians not only environmentally, but also socially, culturally and economically.

Finally, the effectiveness and efficiency of the Land Legacy Trust model should not be understated. High-conservation-priority lands are being protected through the leveraging of funding at a 3:1 ratio, with the full range of results and benefits achieved to date having been accomplished through administrative expenditures of \$130,546 – just over one percent of the total amount committed from the Trust fund and less than 0.5 % of the total leveraged funding.

“

The Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust has increased the pace and scale of land conservation in Nova Scotia significantly. The funding enabled the Nature Trust to achieve major initiatives like the globally significant 100 Wild Islands coastal wilderness, which could not have happened otherwise. In a province with approximately 60% of the land in private ownership, with private lands being disproportionately significant for conservation, and with limited opportunities for more conservation on Provincially owned lands, private land conservation is critical. Having these funds available on a matching basis has greatly encouraged private donations, and investment by foundations and other levels of government in protecting Nova Scotia's natural legacy through private land conservation.

- Bonnie Sutherland, Executive Director,
Nova Scotia Nature Trust

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The Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust has been a game-changer for advancing private land conservation in Nova Scotia. It has helped leverage significant federal investment in the work of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and significantly accelerate the work we are doing on the ground to advance biodiversity conservation.

- Craig Smith, Nova Scotia Program
Director, Nature Conservancy of Canada
(NCC)

Summary of funds contributed by the Nova Scotia Land Legacy Trust and partners for the securement of high-conservation-priority private lands from March 31, 2008 to March 31, 2018.

Fiscal Year	# of Properties	Hectares Protected	Contribution from Land Legacy Trust	Fair Market Value	Total Value of Projects	Funding Leveraged	Land Value Leveraged	Project Value Leveraged
2008-09	Following the creation of the Land Legacy Trust (March 31st), announcement of the settlement amount (July 13th), and transfer of funds on (October 8th), the fiscal balance in 2008 was devoted to establishing necessary operational policies and procedures to receive applications.							
2009-10	11	2,412	\$3,847,725	\$7,226,623	\$9,649,125	\$5,801,400	188%	251%
2010-11	4	418	\$345,014	\$877,756	\$1,013,448	\$668,434	254%	294%
2011-12	9	468	\$543,995	\$1,936,100	\$2,920,234	\$2,376,239	356%	537%
2012-13	4	127	\$326,001	\$751,260	\$804,705	\$481,704	230%	247%
2013-14	10	1,664	\$1,722,543	\$5,796,000	\$5,760,767	\$4,038,224	336%	334%
2014-15	12	614	\$1,896,875	\$3,284,755	\$4,278,013	\$2,381,138	173%	226%
2015-16	18	768	\$905,745	\$2,518,550	\$3,505,611	\$2,599,866	278%	387%
2016-17	14	380	\$396,434	\$1,212,720	\$1,495,246	\$1,099,886	307%	378%
2017-18	15	931	\$432,137	\$1,835,000	\$2,761,487	\$2,329,350	425%	639%
TOTAL	97	7,782	\$10,416,470	\$25,439,064	\$32,188,636	\$21,773,241	244%	309%

Note: This table is a replication of Table 4 in the body of the report, and is provided here for the benefit of readers of the Executive Summary. For further explanation, refer to footnotes associated with Table 4 within the report.

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Introduction

The Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust (“Land Legacy Trust”, or “Trust”) was established in recognition of the important role that private land must play in contributing to provincial objectives and commitments to the protection of biodiversity. Privately owned land in Nova Scotia amounts to almost 60% of the province’s land mass², and these lands not only are relatively rich and biodiverse but also can be particularly vulnerable to pressures from land development and resource extraction. The Land Legacy Trust therefore was conceived as an essential support to enhance the efforts of the province’s private land trust community in the securement and stewardship of private lands having high conservation value.

This report begins by reviewing the key contents and conditions set out in the Indenture that established the Land Legacy Trust and continues with an overview of properties³, highlighting their respective conservation values and locations, secured for protection with the benefit of funding from the Trust. Projects and expenditures not directly tied to land securement, including ecological field inventories and conservation planning studies to identify land securement priorities, and costs associated with the administration of the Trust, are also outlined. The report also provides a year-by-year tracking of the balance of the Trust funds and concludes with a summary of benefits realized as a result of the Trust’s establishment.



Scott Leslie

² Province of Nova Scotia. State of the Forest 2016. Department of Natural Resources. April 2017. ISBN: 978-1-55457-737-8.

³ For the purpose of this report, a property may consist of one or more parcels of land that are adjacent or in close proximity and were secured for protection from one owner with benefit of funding support from the Land Legacy Trust.

What is the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust?

The Land Legacy Trust was established as a matching funding resource and mechanism to encourage the legal protection of high-conservation-value private lands in Nova Scotia. On March 31, 2008, following negotiations with the federal government, the Province announced that up to 10 percent of the Crown Share Adjustment Payment⁴, to a maximum of \$25 million, would be committed to private land conservation as a legacy initiative. Effective on the same date, the Land Legacy Trust was established and three independent Trustees were appointed to administer the funds to be transferred once the precise amount of the adjustment payment had been determined.

The Trust came into effect with the signing of an indenture by the provincial ministers of Environment and Natural Resources and the Trustees. On July 13, 2008, the governments of Nova Scotia and Canada, following advice from an independent panel, announced that the amount of the adjustment payment had been settled at \$234 million, resulting in a payment of \$23.4 million, referred to as the “Trust funds”, to the Land Legacy Trust on October 1, 2008. By early 2009, the Trustees had put the necessary operational structures, policies and procedures in place and had begun to receive and review applications for funding to support the securement of ecologically significant private properties.

The Trust Indenture will terminate on the earlier of full expenditure of the Trust funds or March 31, 2023. If funds remain unexpended on March 31, 2023, the Indenture directs that the balance be divided and paid in equal amounts to the primary beneficiaries, the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, to be expended in accordance with the purposes set out in the Trust Indenture.

Highlights of the Trust Indenture

The purpose of the Land Legacy Trust is to provide matching funding to beneficiary organizations for the securement and ongoing protection of high-conservation-priority private lands to Category I, II or III standards of protection as established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)⁵. Land protection is provided through the securement of a property by a land trust through purchase, acceptance of a donation, placement of a permanent conservation easement on the property, or by landowner consent to designation under provincial protected area legislation .

⁴The “Crown Share” was created through the establishment of the 1980 National Energy Program (NEP), which, in part, gave the federal government the right to acquire an ownership interest (a “Crown share”) in privately-owned oil and gas projects taking place on Canada’s lands, including those offshore from Nova Scotia. In a predecessor agreement (reached in 1982) to the 1986 Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord (1986 Accord), Nova Scotia acquired the right to obtain a portion of the federal Crown share. Although the Crown share was abolished with the dismantling of the NEP in the mid-1980s, Canada agreed, under the 1986 Accord, to compensate the Province for the loss of profits that Nova Scotia could have earned through the 1982 provision. While related conditions are set out in the 1986 Accord and its implementing legislation, the technical regulations necessary to determine the entitlement for, and the amount of, payments were not put in place until 2008 and were announced on July 13 of that year.

⁵IUCN protected area management categories classify protected areas according to their management objectives. The categories are recognized by international bodies such as the United Nations and by many national and provincial governments as the global standard for defining and recording protected areas and as such are increasingly being incorporated into government legislation. To learn more visit: <https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/about/protected-areas-categories>.

In all cases, the consent of the landowner is required. These provisions were put in place to enable the protection of some of the most ecologically significant, threatened, and irreplaceable private lands in Nova Scotia, and to contribute to the legislated goal of protecting at least 12 percent of the provincial land mass by 2015.⁷

Funding from the Trust is available on a matching basis, in response to successful applications from beneficiary organizations that include the Nova Scotia Nature Trust (NSNT), the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), and any other charitable, non-governmental, nature conservation land trusts that are designated as eligible bodies pursuant to the Conservation Easements Act, SNS, 2001, c.28.⁸

Potential payments from the Land Legacy Trust to beneficiaries for securement of eligible properties vary according to a sliding scale, as follows: up to 50% for an eligible property valued at less than \$250,000; up to 60% for an eligible property valued at \$250,000 or more, but less than \$1,000,000; and, up to 70% for an eligible property valued at \$1,000,000 or more.

Costs that are eligible to be paid from the Trust include all those associated with land securement, including the purchase amount, ecological assessment and other staff costs, surveys, appraisals, legal fees and any applicable taxes.

In addition, provision is made for payment from the Trust Fund of up to 3% of the original fund amount (i.e. 3% of \$23.4 million, or \$702,000) for costs that directly support the purpose of the Trust and for its ongoing management and administration. Eligible costs for supporting initiatives include ecological inventory and research leading to the identification or prioritization of significant natural areas, public outreach to encourage and support the participation of landowners in land protection programs, and preparation and implementation of stewardship and management plans. Eligible management and administrative costs encompass all reasonable and necessary expenses, costs and fees associated with the services of an administrator, insurance, annual audits, and a modest per-meeting stipend available to the Trustees.

⁶Special Places Protection Act or Wilderness Areas Protection Act

⁷The Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA) was established in 2007 (amended in 2012) with the goal of fully integrating environmental sustainability and economic prosperity in Nova Scotia.

⁸In 2018, organizations in Nova Scotia that are designated as eligible bodies under the Conservation Easement Act, SNS, c28 include: American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, Archaeological Land Trust of Nova Scotia Society, Ecology Action Centre, NSNT, NCC, Bras d'Or Preservation Foundation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy Association, Blomidon Naturalists Society, and Shubenacadie Canal Commission.

Donations and Split Receipts - Private landowners, who no longer wish to own their properties but want to ensure ecological features remain protected, can offer to donate or sell properties to a land trust. Donating the land (or selling it below market value with the balance considered a donation, called a “split receipt”) may provide the landowner with a charitable receipt that can be used for income tax purposes.

Conservation Easements - A conservation easement allows the landowner to formally protect their land, while maintaining ownership and some rights to use the property. It is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust established under the Conservation Easements Act. Land-use restrictions specified in the easement are registered with the property deed and bind future landowners. The organization that holds the easement monitors the property to ensure it is cared for according to the specifications of the easement. Lands under a conservation easement in Nova Scotia are usually exempt from property tax .

Nature Reserve and Wilderness Area Designations – Private landowners may consent to the protection of their lands under either a Nature Reserve or Wilderness Area designation. These designations are established under provincial legislation and can occur on private land with the consent of the owner. Land trusts may facilitate the obtaining of consent to designation (including by purchasing consent) and in so doing, make this securement approach eligible for Land Legacy Trust funding. As with conservation easements, the landowner retains ownership of the property, but allowed and prohibited uses become those specified under the relevant Act (Special Places Protection Act [for Nature Reserves] or Wilderness Areas Protection Act) and additionally, in the case of a Wilderness Area, under terms and conditions agreed to between the landowner and the provincial government. Nature Reserves and Wilderness Areas on private land are usually exempt from property tax.

Trustees

The Trustees, appointed to act independently of the provincial government in administering the Land Legacy Trust, are responsible for holding and investing the Trust funds until these are required for disbursement to recognized beneficiaries for purposes of securing and protecting eligible properties. In so doing, the Trustees follow operating policies and procedures to ensure consistency with the Indenture that established the Trust. Current trustees include Dr. Karen Beazley (Chair), Dale Smith, and Don McNeil. Dr. Bill Freedman was appointed as one of three initial trustees; however, Dr. Freedman retired effective September 30, 2015 due to illness.

Dr. Karen Beazley is a Professor and Past Director of the School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University, and has served as a trustee since the Land Legacy Trust was established in 2008. Dr. Beazley has more than 25 years of experience and expertise in conservation and protected area planning, including collaborative research and practice with government, non-government and community organizations.

Dale Smith is a retired director of Nova Scotia Environment's Protected Areas Branch, formerly a manager of planning for the Department of Natural Resources Provincial Parks Division and a past president of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. He has served as a trustee since the Land Legacy Trust was established in 2008.

Don McNeil was appointed as a trustee in 2015. He is a retired President and General Manager of Great Northern Paper Company. Prior to that he had a long career with Bowater Mersey Paper Company serving various positions including President and General Manager. Since 2001 he has served on the national and Atlantic region board of directors for the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the board of The Nature Conservancy in Maine.

Dr. Freedman was a Professor in the Department of Biology at Dalhousie University for 36 years. He volunteered with the Nature Conservancy of Canada for 25 years, and served as chair of the national board of directors in 2008-09. Dr. Freedman played a major role in establishing the operating policies and procedures that guide the administration of the Trust's activities. As a trustee he participated in the review and approval of nearly seventy applications from beneficiary organizations and the distribution of over \$9 million dollars in support of private land conservation. The Trustees are grateful for his contribution.

Scientific Advisory Committee

The Trustees established an advisory committee to provide science-based advice on the conservation value and priority of lands proposed for securement by the beneficiary organizations. The Scientific Advisory Committee is comprised of experts in ecology, botany and conservation biology, with membership also including representatives from two of the major beneficiary organizations, the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The Committee reviews all applications for funding, and provides corresponding comments and recommendations to the trustees. The chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee attends meetings of the Land Legacy Trust at the pleasure of the Trustees.

With the exception of representation from the two primary beneficiaries, committee membership is based on ability to contribute relevant scientific expertise rather than on serving as a representative of a particular agency or organization.

Current members of the Scientific Advisory Committee include:

- Sean Blaney, Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre
- Sherman Boates, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (retired) and Acadia University
- Kermit deGooyer, Nova Scotia Department of Environment
- Ross Firth, Nova Scotia Nature Trust
- John LeDuc, Nova Scotia Department of Environment (retired)
- David MacKinnon, Nova Scotia Department of Environment (Chair)
- Chris Miller, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Craig Smith, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Others who have served on the Committee include: Art Lynds (Department of Natural Resources, retired); Dennis Garratt, Peter Green and Katie Porter (all of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust); and, Philip Greyson (Nature Conservancy of Canada).



Thematic Summary of Properties Secured with Funding Contributed by the Land Legacy Trust

Properties secured with funding from the Land Legacy Trust reflect the geographic distribution of participating private landowners, as well as conservation priorities of beneficiary land trust organizations - principally the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and Nature Conservancy of Canada. Secured properties are distributed across Nova Scotia and are diverse in their biodiversity attributes. To date, most cluster within 21 geographic areas that have been prioritized and targeted because they host high-priority conservation themes (e.g. rare species, old forest, coastal and riparian habitats, calcareous habitats). Typically these properties are located in areas with limited protection opportunities on Crown (i.e. public) land.

Table 1 lists the thematic geographic areas and the number of properties that correspond to each that have been secured between January 2009 and the end of March 2018. Two properties (Little Annapolis Lake and Goat Lake) fall outside these theme areas and are listed separately within the table. In the sections that follow, the thematic geographic areas and corresponding conservation values are described, along with lists of the properties secured. The areas are further grouped and displayed on four regional maps: Southwestern Nova Scotia, Central Nova Scotia, Eastern Shore and Cape Breton inserted at the end of this report (Maps 1-4). For property-specific financial details, please see the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust website.

Breakdown by Types of Land Acquisition of the number of properties secured or protected by Land Legacy Trust from 2008-2018

Purchase	45
Donation	19
Combined Purchase/Donation	4
Combined Purchase/Split Receipt	1
Split Receipt	16
Conservation Easement	12



Table 1: Thematic geographic areas encompassing properties secured with support of Land Legacy Trust funding.

Thematic Geographic Areas	Number of Properties
Map 1: Southwestern Nova Scotia	
Tusket River and Lakes	4
South Shore – Lobster Bay Islands	3
South Shore – Round Bay	4
South Shore – Shelburne Headlands and Islands	4
South Shore – Port Joli	9
South Shore – Hell Bay	2
South Shore – St. Margarets and Mahone Bay Islands	1
Medway River and Lakes	8
Other* – Little Annapolis Lake	1
Other* – Goat Lake	1
Map 2: Central Nova Scotia	
Inner Bay of Fundy Islands and Headlands	1
Chignecto Isthmus	10
Pugwash Estuary	7
Cobequid Mountains	1
Map 3: Eastern Shore	
Eastern Shore – Musquodoboit River	5
Eastern Shore – Musquodoboit Harbour Outer Estuary	6
Eastern Shore – Interior Wilderness	1
Eastern Shore – Islands and Headlands	11
St. Marys River	5
Map 4: Cape Breton	
Cape Breton – Mabou Highlands	2
Cape Breton – Gypsum and Limestone	4
Cape Breton – Central Watersheds	6
Cape Breton – Aspy Bay	1
Total:	97

*Other refers to properties that do not fall within a defined conservation-themed geographic area.

Tusket River and Lakes

Forests, lakefronts, river margins, bogs, fens and estuaries within Tusket River watershed host a high density of species at risk, including 13 federally- and provincially-listed Atlantic coastal plain flora, the Canadian distribution of which is limited mainly to southwest Nova Scotia. Riparian forests in this area provide habitat for endangered mainland moose and threatened snapping turtle, and host a variety of forest birds.



Plymouth Gentian, a rare Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora on the Tusket River. Photo: John Paterson, Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Former JD Irving Lands (Pearl Lake, Lac de l'Ecole, Third Lake, Quinns Meadow, Clyde River, Bennetts Lake)	1,590	Split receipt	2009	NCC
Springhaven	186	Purchase	2009	NSNT
Long Tusket Lake	1,043	Split receipt	2013	NCC
Stehelin	150	Split receipt	2013	NCC

South Shore - Lobster Bay Islands

Lobster Bay is a low-lying coastal estuary in southwestern Nova Scotia. The bay receives inputs of freshwater from Tusket River and surrounding coastal watersheds and significant inputs of marine nutrients and sediments. These processes contribute to the formation of some of the largest salt marsh complexes in Nova Scotia, providing habitat for marsh birds including Willet and Nelson's sparrow. Eastern Baccharis, a nationally rare and endangered Atlantic coastal plain flora species, grows here as well. Some of the islands within this region are important seabird colonies. Land securement in this area complements the 2015 provincial designation of Tusket Islands Wilderness Area.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Ahlgren	20	Split receipt	2015	NCC
Brett	25	Purchase	2016	NCC
Fiffe - LaValle	25	Purchase	2017	NCC

South Shore – Round Bay

The securement of properties at Round Bay is part of an ongoing land assemblage project by NCC targeting an uncommon opportunity to establish contiguous protection between coastal and inland ecosystems. Protection extends throughout rich, productive coastal zones linked to important freshwater wetland habitats, helping to ensure that this area can continue to support a variety of ecological processes important for breeding and migratory shorebirds, migratory forest song birds, nesting waterfowl, black bear, bobcat, coyote and endangered mainland moose. Purchases have been strategic in that they link the interior Bowers Meadows Wilderness Area with private lands closer to the coast, expanding the benefits of protection over a large, contiguous area.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Round Bay River East and West	145	Purchase	2009	NCC
Hagar 2	102	Donation	2011	NCC
Round Bay-2016-06	21	Purchase	2016	NCC
Round Bay-2016-07	35	Purchase	2016	NCC

South Shore – Shelburne Headlands and Islands

Many areas throughout the headlands and islands of southwestern Nova Scotia offer nationally and globally significant habitat for seabirds, shorebirds and migratory landbirds, including endangered piping plover. Bon Portage Island is an internationally renowned site for the study of breeding seabirds and migratory landbirds, with as many species recorded on this island as in all of Atlantic Canada. Protection of the



Hemeons Head, globally significant habitat for birds and a unique conservation partnership with Acadia University. Photo: Scott Leslie

Black Point Beach and Bon Portage Island properties represents a ground-breaking conservation partnership between the owner - Acadia University - and the NSNT. Upon designation, no other academic institution in Canada had partnered with a land trust to protect lands under a conservation easement. The partnership offers unique opportunities for education and research and increases resources available for continued stewardship.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Purgatory Point	45	Conservation easement	2011	NSNT
Bon Portage Conservation Lands	138	Conservation easement	2013	NSNT
Hemeons Head – Black Point Beach	61	Conservation easement	2014	NSNT
Hemeons Head – Matthews Lake	67	Purchase	2014	NSNT

South Shore – Port Joli

The Port Joli peninsula separates Port l’Hebert and Port Joli, two rich and productive coastal inlets on Nova Scotia’s South Shore. It is a region with an outstanding concentration and diversity of conservation values. The secured properties along this stretch of coast protect dune and beach systems, salt marshes and mudflats that are important feeding and nesting sites for shorebirds and waterfowl. They also contain slow-growing, mixed-wood Acadian forest with a thick understory shrub cover, typical of areas with thin soils and harsh climatic conditions. Treed swamps occur in some locations, creating moist microclimates suitable for rare and endangered species of cyanolichen, such as boreal felt lichen.



Coastal dunes, saltmarshes and mudflats provide important feeding and nesting sight for shorebirds at Port Joli

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
MacLean	111	Purchase	2009	NCC
Scher – Johnstons Pond	133	Purchase/ Split receipt	2009	NCC
Lewis	41	Purchase	2011	NCC
Sandy Bay	69	Split receipt	2011	NCC
Ragged Harbour – Johnstons Pond	25	Purchase	2015	NCC
van Loon	155	Split receipt	2015	NCC
Florian	13	Purchase	2016	NCC
East Sable River	32	Purchase	2017	NCC
Port Joli Coastal	7	Donation	2017	NSNT

South Shore – Hell Bay

This stretch of coast lies along the South Shore of Nova Scotia between Port Mouton and Cape LaHave. It has long been recognized as a priority site for protection by the provincial government and a number of conservation organizations. A diversity of coastal ecosystems dependent upon sediment availability, erosion and deposition are present here due to the geographic orientation of the shoreline, its gradual submergence, and its highly indented and diverse geomorphology. Development pressure in this area has grown in recent decades due to its proximity to urban centres and reputation as a popular summer recreational destination, and threatens the integrity of coastal ecosystems and wildlife habitat.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Selig Island	19	Split receipt	2009	NSNT
Great Island	121	Conservation easement	2009	NSNT

South Shore – St. Margarets and Mahone Bay Islands

Undeveloped islands and coastline stretching around Mahone Bay and St. Margarets Bay offer outstanding and diverse coastal habitat in landscapes that are underrepresented in Nova Scotia’s protected areas network. The coastal area is relatively developed, owing to its long settlement history and proximity to the fast-growing urban region of Halifax, and remaining natural areas are of high conservation value and priority. Troop Island is an ecologically significant island in St. Margarets Bay with undisturbed coastal, wetland and old forest habitats, and breeding ospreys. Prior to its securement, it had been planned for subdivision and marketed to potential international buyers.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Troop Island	9	Purchase	2011	NSNT

Medway River and Lakes

Conservation efforts in this region have been targeted to secure properties for the conservation and recovery of rare and at-risk species, as well as the preservation and restoration of healthy watersheds. Priority lands include those hosting critical habitat for Blanding’s turtle, eastern ribbonsnake, and Atlantic coastal plain flora. Private land



Blanding’s Turtle, an endangered species whose habitat is protected in the Medway River watershed. Photo: Brennan Caverhill

protection efforts to reduce pressures on species and ecosystems most threatened by habitat loss and shoreline alteration complement the provincial government's protection of some public lands as well as landowner education and stewardship programs offered by the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Cameron Lake	25	Purchase	2009	NSNT
Pleasant River	4	Purchase	2009	NSNT
McGowan Lake	27	Purchase	2013	NSNT
John Forbes Thompson Conservation Lands	34	Donation	2013	NSNT
Pleasant River	8	Donation	2015	NSNT
Barren Meadow	14	Purchase	2016	NSNT
Hog Lake	26	Donation	2016	NSNT
Barren Meadow 2	45	Donation	2017	NSNT

Inner Bay of Fundy Islands and Headlands

The Bay of Fundy is home to the world's highest tides, an abundance of marine biodiversity and rich coastal areas that support the highest concentration of shorebirds in the province. Millions of birds rely on Fundy's rich coastal marshes and tidal mudflats as a vital stopover area on their annual migration. Waterfowl congregate in wetlands around the Minas Basin from spring to fall and many overwinter further offshore. The cliffs and islands in the Bay provide important nesting habitat for a variety of bird species, including peregrine falcon, which is a provincially threatened species and federal species of special concern. Despite the area's recognized importance for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, the region benefits from relatively few protected coastal areas.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Partridge Island	21	Conservation easement	2016	NSNT

Chignecto Isthmus

The Chignecto Isthmus is a narrow 24-kilometre-wide strip of land that joins mainland Nova Scotia to New Brunswick and the rest of continental North America. Much of the Isthmus has been modified by drainage (e.g. dykes), and farming of formerly expansive salt marshes, establishment of managed freshwater wetlands and canals, construction of transportation and utility infrastructure, and forestry activities. The latter two



Habitat for the Endangered Mainland Moose is protected in the Chignecto Isthmus.

examples can limit opportunities essential for ecological connectivity. Remaining undisturbed wetlands and mixed conifer and hardwood forests within this linkage area are critically important to maintaining long-term population health for many of Nova Scotia's larger mammals. Maintaining connectivity with New Brunswick, where moose are far more abundant, is essential for a small resident herd of endangered mainland moose that occupy the Isthmus and for a larger subpopulation of moose found further south in the Cobequid Mountains. Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area affords protection to roughly 3,700 hectares of public land and lands owned by the Town of Amherst, while the Nature Conservancy of Canada has protected another 361 hectares on the Nova Scotia side of the provincial border and 809 hectares in New Brunswick. NCC's goal is to contribute to a core area of at least 10,000 hectares on the Chignecto Isthmus, combining Crown, municipal and private protected lands.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Collins	137	Purchase	2010	NCC
Bowser	28	Purchase	2012	NCC
Oulton	16	Purchase	2013	NCC
Cole	16	Split receipt	2014	NCC
Colpitts	45	Split receipt	2015	NCC
Landry	22	Purchase	2015	NCC
Wells	36	Purchase	2015	NCC
Beal & Davis	28	Purchase	2016	NCC
Spence	31	Split receipt	2016	NCC
Chignecto Isthmus-2017-3	12	Purchase	2017	NCC

Pugwash Estuary

Properties secured around the Pugwash Estuary by the NCC and the Province contribute to a longstanding and ongoing assemblage of protected lands in lowland watersheds draining to the Northumberland Strait. These properties host a variety of coastal ecosystems featuring salt marshes, eelgrass beds, saline ponds, tidal flats, and rich floodplains. They provide key wetland and coastal habitat for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The Bonnyman-Byers property contains stands of northern white cedar and black ash, two Acadian forest species that are at risk in Nova Scotia.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Jamieson	29	Purchase	2010	NCC
Robertson 4	11	Donation	2012	NCC
Canfield Creek	72	Purchase	2012	NCC
Pugwash River Estuary-2013-14	13	Split receipt	2013	NCC
Finley	26	Split receipt	2014	NCC
Bonnyman-Byers	167	Donation	2015	NCC
Currie	47	Donation	2017	NCC

Cobequid Mountains

Mixed-wood Acadian forests in the Cobequid Mountains support significant breeding bird populations and provide habitat for remaining wide-ranging mammals. The north slopes are dominated by sugar maple, American beech and yellow birch forest types, while lower elevations stretching northward to the Northumberland Strait are occupied by a more diverse mix including white pine, red spruce and eastern hemlock. Agriculture and forestry across this region have left a highly fragmented landscape, where opportunities for land protection are rare.



The mixed-wood Acadian forests of the Cobequid Mountains support significant populations of birds and provide habitat for wide-ranging mammals.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Cook	366	Donation	2017	NCC

Eastern Shore – Musquodoboit River

Musquodoboit River is regionally significant, having aquatic and riparian systems that are much richer and more compositionally varied than other river valleys on the Eastern Shore. The river’s productivity is fueled in large part by local geology, which includes erodible limestone and gypsum in its headwaters as well as the presence of fertile soils in its middle reaches. To date, NCC has protected 52 hectares in this area, and is working to secure more land. These properties complement the Province’s protection of the adjacent White Lake Wilderness Area, which protects granite uplands on the river valley’s eastern flank.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Musquodoboit River-2014-08	24	Split receipt	2014	NCC
Myers-MacKay	8	Purchase	2015	NCC
Gates	19	Purchase	2015	NCC
Crawford	20	Purchase	2016	NCC
Bayer	47	Purchase/Donation	2016	NCC

Eastern Shore – Musquodoboit Harbour Outer Estuary

The Musquodoboit Harbour Outer Estuary is a very rich and productive environment where sediment inputs from tidal action and the Musquodoboit River converge to contribute to the formation of extensive intertidal wetland complexes composed of mudflat and saltmarsh ecosystems. It is recognized as globally significant under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. NCC has worked in partnership with the Province to protect islands and the surrounding estuary, which together form key habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and marine life.



The Musquodoboit River converges with an extensive complex of intertidal wetlands compose of mudflats and saltmarshes which provide key habitats for shorebirds and marine life.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Bayers Island	32	Purchase	2009	NCC
Goose Point Island	55	Purchase	2010	NCC
Mikes Island	15	Donation	2011	NCC

Musquodoboit Harbour-2014-06	34	Split receipt	2014	NCC
Musquodoboit River-2015-18	16	Purchase	2015	NCC
Cribby	24	Purchase/Donation	2017	NCC

Eastern Shore – Interior Wilderness

This region contains outstanding natural features including large unfragmented Acadian forest, riparian habitat, large lakes, granite ridges, and fen and bog complexes. Forests here host the highest population on mainland Canada of the nationally endangered boreal felt lichen, along with several other rare lichens and bryophytes and the provincially endangered mainland moose. Recognized by the provincial government as having significant conservation value, the region supports a network of five Wilderness Areas (i.e., Clattenburgh Brook, Tangier Grand Lake, Waverly-Salmon River Long Lake, White Lake and Ship Harbour Long Lake). NCC’s conservation goal is to secure key private inholdings within and adjacent to these large-scale protected areas, to restore and maintain ecological connectivity between core conservation areas in order to maintain biodiversity through the interaction of species over time.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Prest	197	Purchase/Donation	2010	NCC

Eastern Shore – Islands and Headlands



Eastern Shore Islands Wilderness area, an archipelago of hundreds of ecologically significant offshore islands that protect habitat for boreal songbirds, shorebirds and seabirds. Photo: VisionAir

Many ecologically important coastal habitats and the wildlife they support are at risk and recognized as conservation priorities in Nova Scotia. A combination of provincial protected areas, most notably Eastern Shore Islands Wilderness Area, and formerly privately-owned islands and headlands secured through the NSNT’s 100 Wild Islands Campaign, represent a major land assemblage initiative in this region. This area of the Eastern Shore encompasses an archipelago of hundreds of offshore islands and ecologically significant mainland properties. Protecting these coastal landscapes will support threatened populations of boreal songbirds, vascular plants, waterfowl, shorebirds, and seabirds, while contributing to emerging, compatible eco-tourism opportunities.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Gerard Island 1	108	Purchase/Donation	2014	NSNT
Gerard Island 2	28	Purchase	2014	NSNT
Tuff Island	8	Conservation easement	2014	NSNT
Stoney Island	16	Conservation easement	2014	NSNT
Middle Island and Outer Island	10	Purchase	2014	NSNT
Borgles Island	216	Purchase	2014	NSNT
Tangier River	51	Purchase	2015	NSNT
Laybolt Island	56	Donation	2015	NSNT
Long Island	10	Purchase	2015	NSNT
Harbour Island	10	Purchase	2015	NSNT
Gerard Island 4	17	Purchase	2016	NSNT

St. Marys River

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust has been working since 2006 to acquire ecologically significant land along St. Marys River in Guysborough County. This project targets shoreline segments that host old forest stands and undeveloped riparian habitat that support species at risk including Atlantic salmon, wood turtle, Canada warbler and olive-sided flycatcher. Protected parcels include red maple floodplains, treed bogs, islands and small pockets of intact Acadian forest. As St. Marys River is one of the few



The St. Mary’s River is one of the few river systems that supports significant populations of Wood Turtles and conservation of its habitat helps contribute this this species recovery. Photo: Scott Leslie

river systems in Nova Scotia that supports a significant population of wood turtles, this conservation campaign makes a meaningful contribution to the recovery of this species in Nova Scotia. The St. Marys wood turtle population is internationally significant, as one of the world’s largest remaining populations.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Anderson	45	Split receipt	2009	NSNT
Hemlock Hill	50	Purchase	2015	NSNT
West River	6	Donation	2015	NSNT
Waternish	65	Donation	2015	NSNT
Mitchells Pool	12	Donation	2016	NSNT

Cape Breton – Mabou Highlands

The Cape Mabou area is among few places in Nova Scotia where the coastline is not encroached upon by paralleling highways or secondary roads. As a result, the coastal margins of these highlands remain dominated by some of the last intact mature and old-growth hardwood forests. The ecosystems present within these coastal cliffs and steep ravines are under-represented in the provincial protected areas network. Since much of this coastline is privately owned, private land conservation is key to achieve adequate representation.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Sight Point	41	Conservation easement	2011	NSNT
MacKinnons Brook Conservation Easement	87	Conservation easement	2013	NSNT

Cape Breton – Gypsum and Limestone

The most significant elements of biodiversity within central Cape Breton are gypsum, limestone and marble-derived ecosystems. These calcareous communities support rare and uncommon species occurrences and assemblages, as well as old-growth forests growing within gypsum sinkhole landscapes.



Gypsum, limestone and marble-derived ecosystems in Cape Breton support rare and uncommon species. They contain old-growth forests within the sinkhole landscapes.

Those that remain natural and intact are threatened in Nova Scotia and are very rare in northeastern North America.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Stevenson	43	Purchase	2017	NCC
Newton	162	Split receipt	2017	NCC
MacDonald	47	Purchase	2017	NCC
Black River Bog	7	Purchase	2017	NCC

Cape Breton – Central Watersheds

The Bras d’Or Lakes watershed in central Cape Breton is a rare and sensitive coastal ecosystem where ecological protection is needed due to ongoing and potential future development pressures. The Bras d’Or Lakes is a large body of brackish water. Its watershed consists of upland forests and wetlands, coastal bays, peninsulas, narrow passages, and many coves, inlets and islands. The Bras d’Or Lakes and watershed support diverse marine and terrestrial flora and fauna and has received international recognition through designation by UNESCO as Canada’s 16th biosphere reserve in 2011.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
McKinnons Point Nature Reserve	17	Donation	2012	Bras d’Or Preservation Nature Trust
MacKenzie Cove Conservation Lands	119	Donation	2013	NSNT
Leonard	69	Purchase	2016	NCC
MacRaes Island	40	Donation	2017	NSNT
Lime Hill	32	Donation	2017	NSNT
Marble Mountain	43	Purchase	2017	NCC

Cape Breton – Aspy Bay

Aspy Bay is a region near the northern tip of Cape Breton known for its relatively abundant and diverse flora and fauna due, in part, to its unique karst topography. Ravines, sinkholes, cliffs, coastal ponds, and coastal forests characteristic of the Aspy Valley Natural Landscape have high conservation value and inadequate representation in the provincial protected areas network.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
North Harbour	38	Conservation easement	2013	NSNT

Other

While most properties acquired to date fall within defined thematic geographic regions, two on the list do not and are described here separately. Properties at **Little Annapolis Lake** (Annapolis County) and **Goat Lake** (Lunenburg County) are protected under conservation easement with the NSNT. In both cases, mature forested shorelines of the lakes are protected. Conservation easements on these properties remove the potential threat of subdivision and development into small lakefront lots, which is common in southwestern Nova Scotia.

Property	Area (ha)	Securement Category	Year	Beneficiary Organization
Little Annapolis Lake	52	Conservation easement	2011	NSNT
Goat Lake	95	Conservation easement	2011	NSNT

Summary of Expenditures for Purposes Other Than Land Securement

The Trust Indenture allows up to 3% of the \$23.4 million allocated to the Land Legacy Trust, or \$702,000, to be paid for reasonable and necessary expenses. These include costs associated with administering the Trust, as well as activities that directly support its purpose. According to the Indenture, supporting activities may include: ecological inventory or research toward the identification or prioritization of significant natural areas for protection; public education and outreach activities to encourage and support the participation of landowners in land protection programs; and, the preparation and implementation of stewardship and management plans. To date almost \$348,000 or nearly 50% of the \$702,000 available has been allocated or committed to non-securement-related expenses (Figure 1).

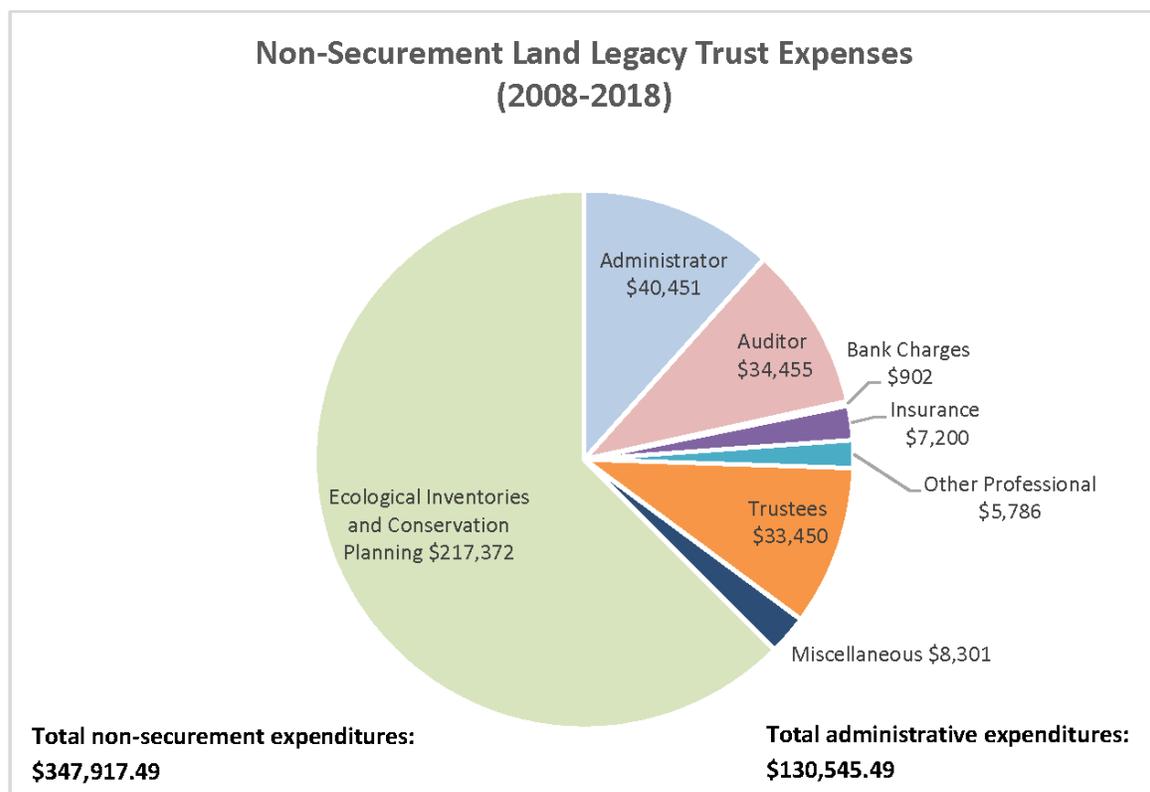


Figure 1: Non-securement expenditures from March 31, 2008 to March 31, 2018. To date, \$348,000 or nearly 50% of the \$702,000 available has been expended or committed, with the majority of these funds (almost 63%) supporting ecological inventories and conservation planning and the remainder (approximately 37%) supporting administration.

Total administrative expenditures have amounted to \$130,546. These include costs of a part-time administrator (for internal record keeping and accounting, reporting and correspondence, and website development and maintenance), annual audits, bank charges, insurance and a modest per-meeting stipend for Trustees. It is noteworthy that, for the reporting period (i.e. March 31, 2008 to March 31, 2018), administrative expenditures have amounted to only 1.3% of the total expenditures of the Land Legacy Trust and 0.4% of the total project funding leveraged. This level of efficiency is due in large measure to the value-added voluntary contributions of the Trustees (which significantly surpass the nominal value of the honorarium) and of the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (whose inputs are wholly voluntary).

Total expenditures for other activities directly supportive of the purposes of the Land Legacy Trust have amounted to \$217,342. These activities have included surveys and inventories of rare and at-risk species, regional conservation planning, and computer-based geographic information system (GIS) analyses for habitat and property prioritization (Table 2). These inventory and planning projects provide invaluable references for setting conservation priorities for land securement, specifically in areas where relevant information is sparse or dated.

Table 2: Ecological inventories and conservation planning funded from 2008-2017.

Year	Organization	Project	Funds Granted
2009	Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (ACCDC)	Botanical fieldwork in Southwest Cape Breton Island	\$10,720
2010	ACCDC	Botanical fieldwork in Colchester, Hants and Cumberland Counties	\$10,520
2011	ACCDC	Botanical fieldwork in the Shingle Lake Barrens along Barren Ground Brook in Queens County, Upper West River, St. Marys, and previously unsurveyed lakes in the region of Tusket River	\$20,440
2012	ACCDC	An inventory of select peatlands in southeastern Cape Breton	\$28,280
	Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI)	Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Atlas project: land prioritization and conservation planning	\$13,975
	MTRI	Research and fieldwork on older climax Acadian forest types in the Medway and Rossignol Districts in Annapolis and Queens Counties, Nova Scotia	\$15,336
2014	ACCDC	Evaluation of the ecological significance of gypsum and other calcareous exposures in Nova Scotia	\$36,925
	NSNT	Ecological characterization of Eastern Shore Islands – a conservation strategy for 100 Wild Islands	\$23,326
2015	ACCDC	Evaluation of the ecological significance of gypsum and other calcareous exposures in Nova Scotia	\$31,440
	NSNT	GIS-based prioritization of parcels with lakeshore Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora (ACPF), and field work for bog/fen	\$4,500
2016	NSNT	GIS-based prioritization of parcels for Blanding's Turtle and Eastern Ribbon snake habitat conservation	\$2,000
2017	NCC	Natural area conservation plan for Central Cape Breton Island	\$19,910
Total Funded Projects:			\$217,372

Land Legacy Trust Fund Status Over Time

When the Land Legacy Trust was created in 2008, the Trustees were directed by the Trust Indenture to invest the assets of the Trust until required for disbursement in response to approved applications from beneficiary organizations, or for other appropriate purposes as set out in the Indenture. Accordingly, a low-risk investment strategy with primary emphasis on preservation of capital was adopted with guidance provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Finance.

Table 3 demonstrates the status of the Trust funds at the end of each successive fiscal year of the Land Legacy Trust, through to January 31, 2018, reflecting withdrawals to support activities consistent with the purposes of the Trust and interest earned annually.

Table 3: Year-end balance of Land Legacy Trust Fund (2008-09 to 2017-18).

Fiscal Year (Feb 1st - Jan 31st)	Starting Balance	Withdrawals	Interest Earned	Year-end Balance
2008-09	\$23,400,000	\$10,000	\$121,065	\$23,551,065
2009-10	\$23,551,065	\$3,511,450	\$319,126	\$20,358,741
2010-11	\$20,358,741	\$451,700	\$101,325	\$20,008,366
2011-12	\$20,008,366	\$610,000	\$216,343	\$19,614,709
2012-13	\$19,614,709	\$739,500	\$65,921	\$18,941,130
2013-14	\$18,941,130	\$1,690,800	\$64,086	\$17,314,416
2014-15	\$17,314,416	\$1,824,355	\$131,776	\$15,621,837
2015-16	\$15,621,837	\$1,070,425	\$214,458	\$14,765,870
2016-17	\$14,765,870	\$445,000	\$318,990	\$14,639,860
2017-18	\$14,639,860	\$470,011	\$282,222	\$14,452,071 ¹⁰

¹⁰ Invested face value of promissory notes. Accrued interest to January 31, 2018 = \$414,660.



Outcomes and Benefits of the Land Legacy Trust

Currently two-thirds of the way through its 15-year mandate, the Land Legacy Trust has demonstrated a wide variety of positive outcomes and benefits in support of private land conservation in Nova Scotia.

Direct Contribution to the Protection of High-Value Conservation Lands: As outlined previously and summarized in Table 4, the Land Legacy Trust has supported the protection of 97 ecologically significant properties by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada – the Trust’s two primary beneficiaries and the two most prominent land trusts active in the province. These protected spaces total 7666 hectares (over 19,200 acres) and equate to fair-market land value in excess of \$25 million. They represent total project value (i.e., including land cost or value and associated securement-related costs) of over \$32 million. The enabling contribution by the Land Legacy Trust was approximately \$10.4 million.

Leveraged Contributions from Multiple Partners: Land Legacy Trust funds must be matched by contributions from other sources. Land Legacy Trust funds therefore effectively serve as ‘seed money’ that supports the efforts of private land trusts in raising funding from a wide variety of sources, which leverages the Land Legacy Trust’s contribution by several orders of magnitude. Averaged over the 10 years of the Trust’s existence, the leveraging effect for the market value of land protected approaches 250%, and exceeds 300% for the total value of land plus related securement costs (i.e., total project value). On an annual basis, average leveraging impact for value of land secured has exceeded 250% in six of nine years and has exceeded 300% in four of those years (minimum 173%; maximum 356%; Table 4). Average leveraging impact of total project value (land cost or value plus securement costs) has exceeded 250% in all but two years and has exceeded 350% in four of those years (minimum 226%; maximum 537%; Table 4).

Accelerated Pace of Private Land Conservation: The positive impact of a dedicated and predictable funding source for private land conservation in Nova Scotia, as provided by the Land Legacy Trust, is illustrated in Figure 2. Although other funding sources have contributed significantly, it is clear that over the 10-year period following the Trust’s establishment in 2008, over 8000 hectares were protected on private land as compared to approximately 6000 hectares protected over the preceding period of almost 40 years extending back to 1971 – the year the first property was protected in Nova Scotia by a private land trust (i.e. NCC). Put another way, between 1971 and 2008, private lands were protected at an average rate of approximately 162 hectares (or 400 acres) per year. Between 2008 and 2018 the average annual rate of private land protection had increased to 850 hectares (or 2100 acres). While it is important to acknowledge that this increase is not entirely due to the Land Legacy Trust, the availability of funding through the Trust has been undeniably important.

Cost-effectiveness: Benefits of the leveraging effect are also apparent when considered in relation to the per-hectare (or per-acre) value of lands protected relative to the contribution from the Land Legacy Trust – 7,782 hectares (or 19,200 acres) at a cost to the Trust of \$10,416,470, equating to \$1339 per hectare (or \$543 per acre). These numbers compare very favourably to corresponding fair market values of \$3318 per hectare (\$1343 per acre).

Administrative Efficiency: Cost of administration of the Land Legacy Trust has totalled \$130,546 to date, which amounts to 1.2% of the of the total endowment for the Trust. If this level of expenditure were to be projected over the full 15-year mandate of the Trust, the total amount would be less than 2% of the overall endowment. It is notable that this amount is well below the acceptable overhead expenditures considered appropriate for not-for-profit organizations.

Complementary Efforts that Guide and Support Private Land Securement: The Trust Indenture allows for limited expenditure (up to 3%, including administration) on inventory and planning efforts that inform and support decisions regarding securement opportunities and priorities. This work has helped update biodiversity inventories and has led to discoveries of species previously unknown to exist in Nova Scotia. This helps focus private-land conservation efforts toward areas and sites of greatest need and opportunity (see sidebar).

Strengthened Capacity within Nova Scotia's Land Trust Community: Support from the Land Legacy Trust has provided beneficiaries with a predictable and reliable source of funding for private land securement. Access to this funding strengthens the position of land trusts in their efforts to seek out matching private donations and contributions by foundations and governments.

Cooperation and Coordination: Efforts funded by the Land Legacy Trust to expand and update species inventory records benefit all organizations and agencies having a role in land conservation in the province. These efforts, led by the Scientific Advisory Committee, contribute to the establishment of priorities for ongoing private-land conservation efforts and promote interest in more coordinated and systematic approaches to future conservation planning.

A Focused, Relevant and Effective Approach for Nova Scotia: The Land Legacy Trust represents a made-in-Nova Scotia approach designed to address the province's needs and priorities for private-land conservation. It is responsive to our unique situation and circumstances. The geographic reach of the Trust's mandate is province-wide. The appointed Trustees and Scientific Advisory Committee are rooted and experienced in the Nova Scotia setting. Applications are received and reviewed as expeditiously as possible, recognizing the ecological significance and sensitivity of properties proposed for protection and the challenges faced by the land trusts in advancing respective applications.

"We just completed our fieldwork for COSEWIC reports on Plymouth Gentian and Pink Coreopsis over the past two days, visiting four lakes in close proximity to known locations. We didn't find any new locations for those two species, but we found some other things that were even more interesting.

*On Springhaven Duck Lake, David Mazerolle and I found the third Canadian population of Water Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata* – Threatened), where an extensive population was present. On the adjacent Long Lake, we found an extensive population of Spotted Pondweed (*Potamogeton pulcher* – under evaluation provincially), a small population of Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis* – provincially Endangered) and a species, Maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*), that represents a whole new genus for Canada. This one would easily qualify for Endangered status in Canada if it is evaluated, and I will be suggesting it as a high priority candidate species for COSEWIC evaluation next year.*

The discovery of Maleberry is a good illustration of both the value of looking in previously unsurveyed places, and of the fact that the rarest and potentially most-threatened species on the landscape may often be the ones we haven't found at all yet."

- Sean Blaney, Botanist, ACCDC, September 22, 2011



Table 4: Summary of funds contributed by the Land Legacy Trust and partners for the securement of high-conservation-priority private lands from March 31, 2008 to March 31, 2018¹¹.

Fiscal Year ^a	# of Properties ^b	Hectares Protected	Contribution from Land Legacy Trust ^c	Fair Market Value ^d	Total Value of Projects ^e	Funding Leveraged ^f	Land Value Leveraged ^g	Project Value Leveraged ^h
2008-09	Following the creation of the Land Legacy Trust (March 31 st), announcement of the settlement amount (July 13 th), and transfer of funds on (October 8 th), the fiscal balance in 2008 was devoted to establishing necessary operational policies and procedures to receive applications.							
2009-10	11	2,412	\$3,847,725	\$7,226,623	\$9,649,125	\$5,801,400	188%	251%
2010-11	4	418	\$345,014	\$877,756	\$1,013,448	\$668,434	254%	294%
2011-12	9	468	\$543,995	\$1,936,100	\$2,920,234	\$2,376,239	356%	537%
2012-13	4	127	\$326,001	\$751,260	\$804,705	\$481,704	230%	247%
2013-14	10	1,664	\$1,722,543	\$5,796,000	\$5,760,767	\$4,038,224	336%	334%
2014-15	12	614	\$1,896,875	\$3,284,755	\$4,278,013	\$2,381,138	173%	226%
2015-16	18	768	\$905,745	\$2,518,550	\$3,505,611	\$2,599,866	278%	387%
2016-17	14	380	\$396,434	\$1,212,720	\$1,495,246	\$1,099,886	307%	378%
2017-18 ⁱ	15	931	\$432,137	\$1,835,000	\$2,761,487	\$2,329,350	425%	639%
TOTAL	97	7,782	\$10,416,470	\$25,439,064	\$32,188,636	\$21,773,241	244%	309%

^aFiscal year: Land Legacy Trust (LLT) fiscal year, February 1st – January 31st

^bFor the purpose of this report a property may consist of more than one parcel of land.

^cContribution from LLT: amount paid to beneficiaries for land securement projects

^dFair Market Value: probable price at which a willing buyer will buy from a willing seller, neither of whom is under any obligation to buy or sell, as established through at least one professional appraisal (two for properties valued at more than \$1 million)

^eTotal Value of Project: includes purchase price and/or donated value of land secured as well as land transaction and staff costs

^fFunding Leveraged: difference between Total Value of Projects and Contribution from LLT

^gLand Value Leveraged: fair market value of land secured relative to LLT contribution

^hProject Value Leveraged: project value relative to LLT contribution

ⁱ2017-2018 includes data for February and March 2018 to correspond with LLT 10-year anniversary data

¹¹ For property-specific financial details, please see the [Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust website](#).

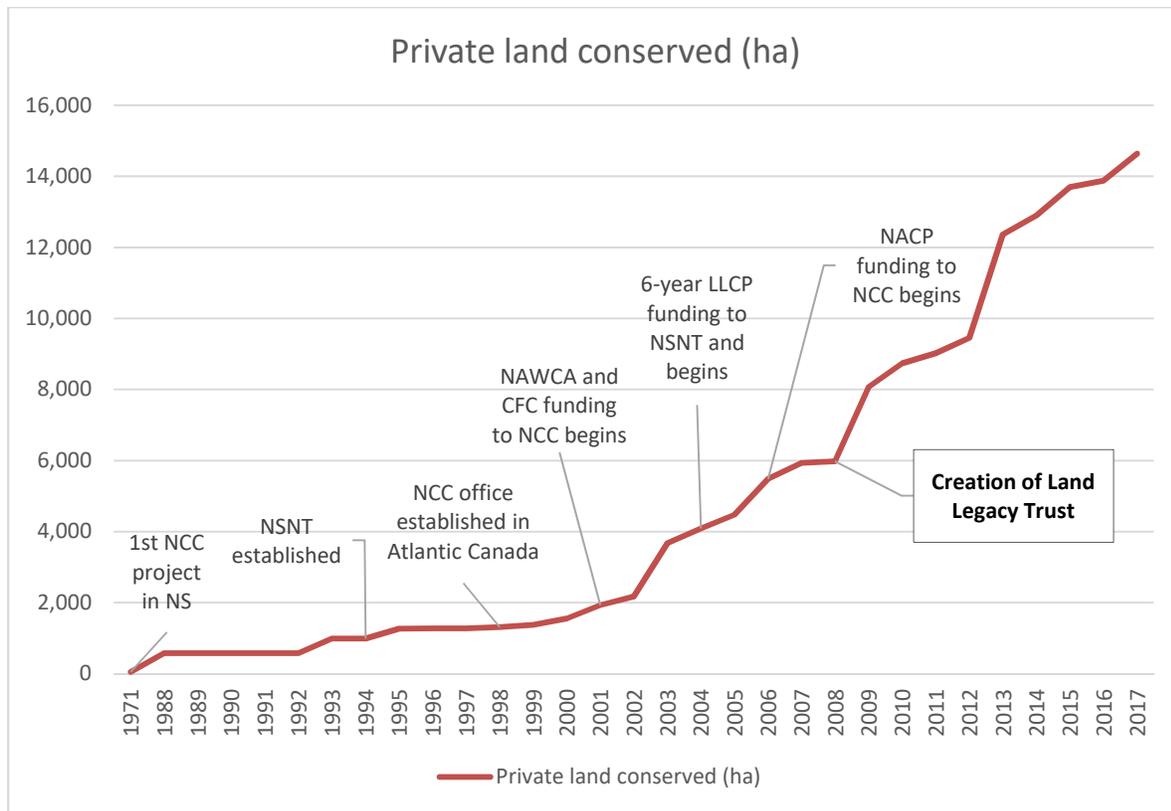


Figure 2: The cumulative area of private land protected in Nova Scotia (ha)¹² from 1971-2018. Progress is highlighted through reference to milestones relating to activities of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust (NSNT) and to the creation of the Land Legacy Trust (2008) and initiation of government programs funding private land conservation, including provincial funding under NCC’s *Campaign for Conservation*¹³ and to the NSNT as part of the *Lands and Legacies Conservation Partnership*¹⁴. Federal funding was also provided to NCC under the Natural Areas Conservation Program (NACP)¹⁵. NCC has also

¹² Source is provincial protected areas layer (Nova Scotia Environment, 2017). Protected areas were queried for private lands only, and total hectares summarized by year acquired or protected. Actual totals will vary slightly as graph does not include properties that were transferred to the Province after being acquired by land trusts with funding from the Province (see footnotes 9 and 10).

¹³ Under the “Campaign for Conservation” (CFC) agreement the NCC received an investment from the Province of \$4,125,000 between 2001 and 2014 and returned an equal value of land to the Province for protection while also conserving an additional \$4.1 million worth under private ownership. The lands transferred to the Province are not represented on this graph.

¹⁴ [Lands and Legacies Conservation Partnership](#) (LLCP) between the province and the NSNT saw the provincial government invest \$900,000 and the NSNT match this amount in charitable donations and community support, for a total investment of \$1.8 million between 2004 and 2010 in private land conservation. \$900K worth of land was transferred to the Province for protection, and an additional \$900K worth of land was conserved privately by the NSNT. The lands transferred to the Province are not represented on this graph.

¹⁵ [Natural Areas Conservation Program](#) (NACP) is a partnership between NCC and Environment and Climate Change Canada that contributed \$7,680,056 to NCC since 2007, including 64 projects that protected 7,347 ha of private land in NS. NCC administers the program on a national basis, securing ecologically significant lands with the participation of Ducks Unlimited Canada and other land trusts.

benefitted from grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)¹⁶.



¹⁶North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) program provides matching grants to wetland conservation projects across North America. NCC in NS has benefited from this program since 2001 with \$1.156 million invested.



Summary and Conclusions

The Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust was established in direct response to the unique situation in Nova Scotia, where the majority of the land base is owned privately (approximately 60%) and where these lands offer significant, although challenging, opportunities to contribute to provincial, national and international commitments regarding the protection of biodiversity.

Nova Scotia has made nationally recognized progress toward the establishment of protected areas on publicly owned land. Full implementation of the Province's 2013 Parks and Protected Areas Plan¹⁷ would lead to 13.9 percent of the provincial land mass being protected. As of December, 2017, 12.42 percent of Nova Scotia had been legally protected, up from 2.9% in the early 1990s when the Province first committed to the establishment of a comprehensive system of parks and protected areas and from 8.3% in 1998 when the Wilderness Areas Protection Act was passed and the first 31 wilderness areas were designated.

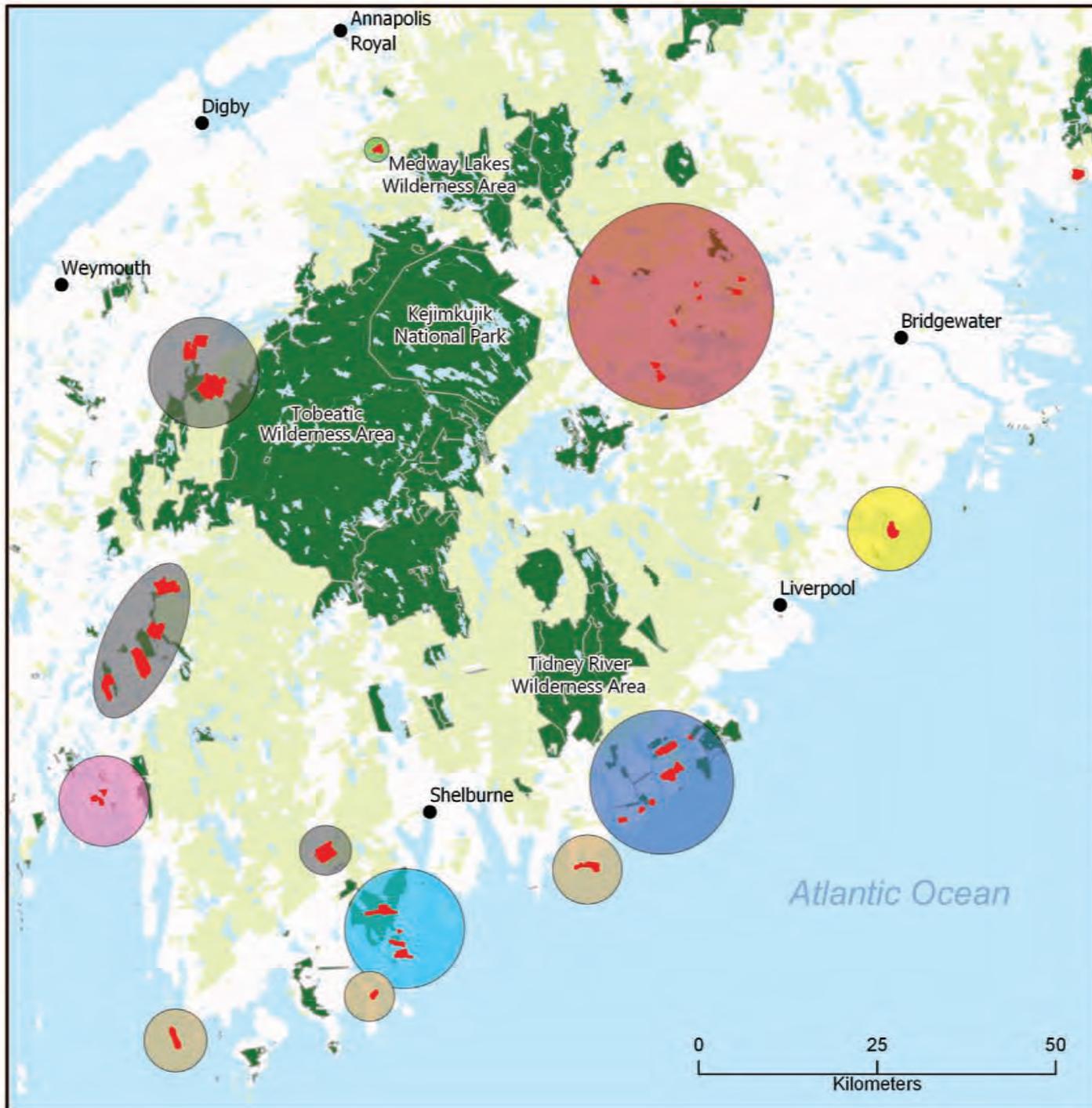
This significant record of progress notwithstanding, the Parks and Protected Areas Plan recognizes that more needs to be done – not only on public land but also, and particularly, on private land. Over half of Nova Scotia is privately owned, and these lands host many of the province's most biologically rich and diverse natural areas. Protection of private lands with high conservation value is therefore crucial in order to achieve meaningful representation of biodiversity on a provincial scale.

The basic model established by the Trust Indenture has proven highly effective. The Land Legacy Trust has significantly increased the scale and pace of private land protection, through the provision of a stable and predictable source of funding for land securement. The matching funding approach imbedded in the Indenture encourages participation by multiple partners to leverage and stretch securement funding and maximize conservation outcomes. The Trust model has brought to light the benefits of cooperation and coordination within Nova Scotia's conservation community, and positive outcomes enabled by the Trust have been accomplished with limited overhead expenditure.

With the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust having entered the final five years of its mandate and having demonstrated an impressive record of success to date, it is timely to consider how best to transition toward a future that extends beyond the end of the current mandate. Whether options considered will include the extension of the Trust Indenture or alternative approaches, the experience gained and benefits demonstrated by the Land Legacy Trust model will prove invaluable in guiding future private land conservation efforts in Nova Scotia. Regardless of decisions taken, it is clear that continued emphasis on protection of ecologically significant and sensitive sites on private land will be essential if the Province's goals, objectives, targets and commitments regarding the protection of biodiversity are to be realized.

¹⁷ Our Parks and Protected Areas: A Plan for Nova Scotia (Province of Nova Scotia, 2013)

Map 1: Southwest Nova Scotia



**Properties secured
with funding from N.S.
Crown Share Land
Legacy Trust**

Southwest Nova Scotia

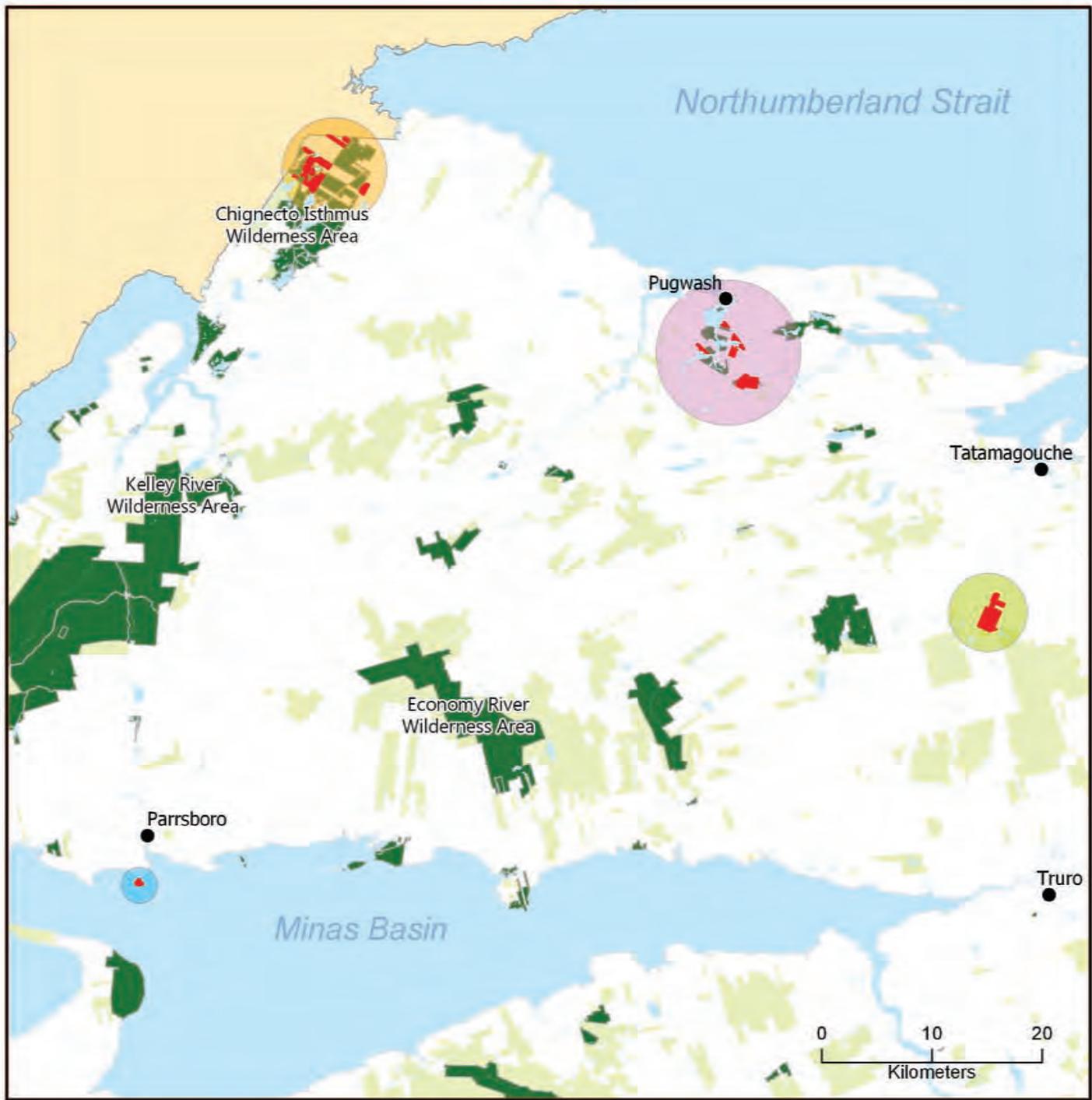
Legend

- Properties Secured*
 - Other Conservation Lands
 - Crown Land
- Thematic Areas**
- Goat Lake
 - Little Annapolis Lake
 - Medway River and Lakes
 - Hell Bay
 - Lobster Bay Islands
 - Port Joli
 - Round Bay
 - Shelburne Headlands and Islands
 - Tuskent River and Lakes

*Feature size exaggerated
for display purposes



Map 2: Central Nova Scotia



Properties secured with funding from N. S. Crown Share Land Legacy Trust

Central Nova Scotia

Legend

- Properties Secured*
- Other Conservation Lands
- Crown Land

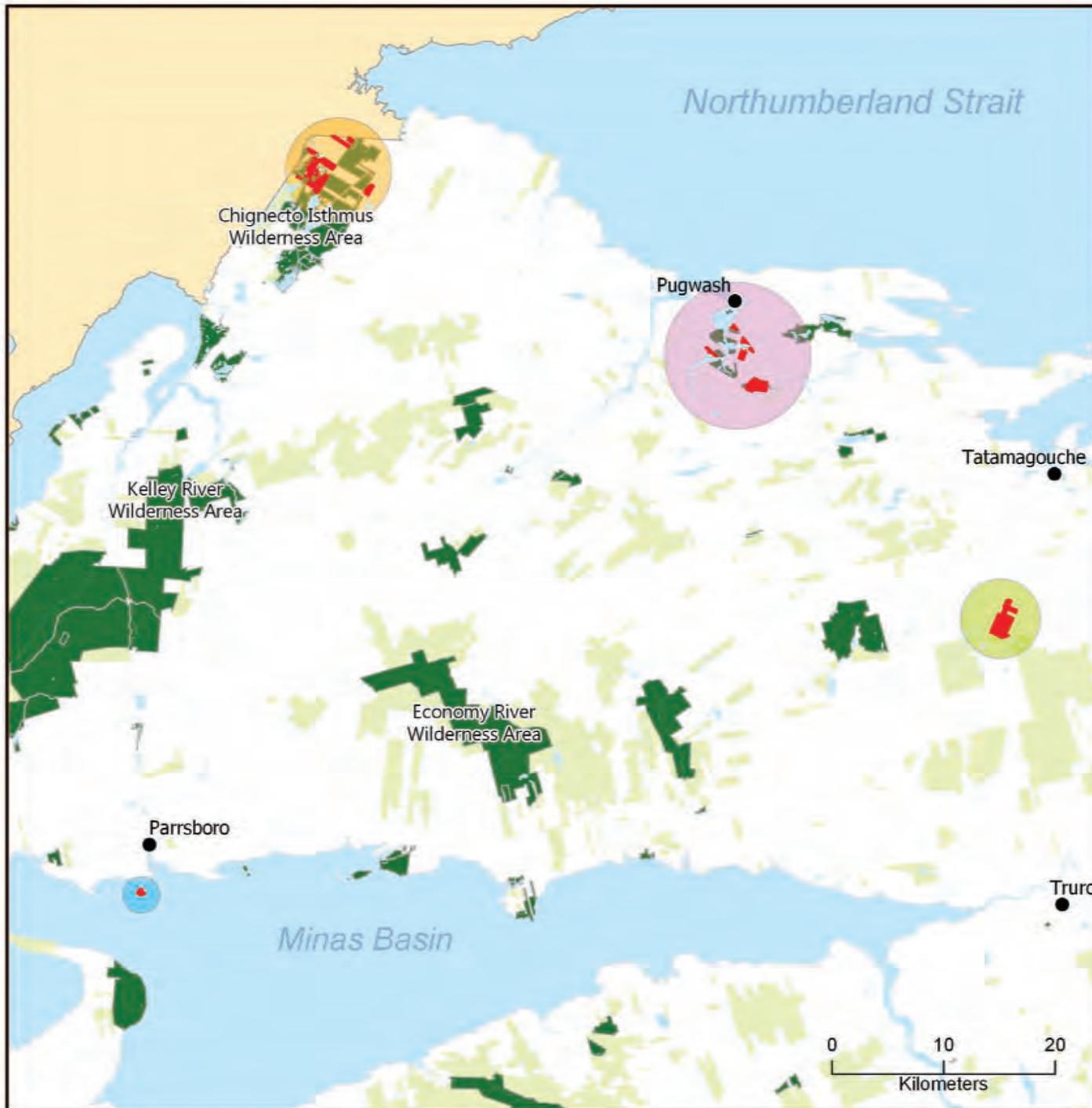
Thematic Areas

- Chignecto Isthmus
- Pugwash Estuary
- Cobequid Mountains
- Inner Bay of Fundy
- Islands and Headlands

*Feature size exaggerated for display purposes



Map 1: Southwest Nova Scotia



Properties secured with funding from N. S. Crown Share Land Legacy Trust

Central Nova Scotia

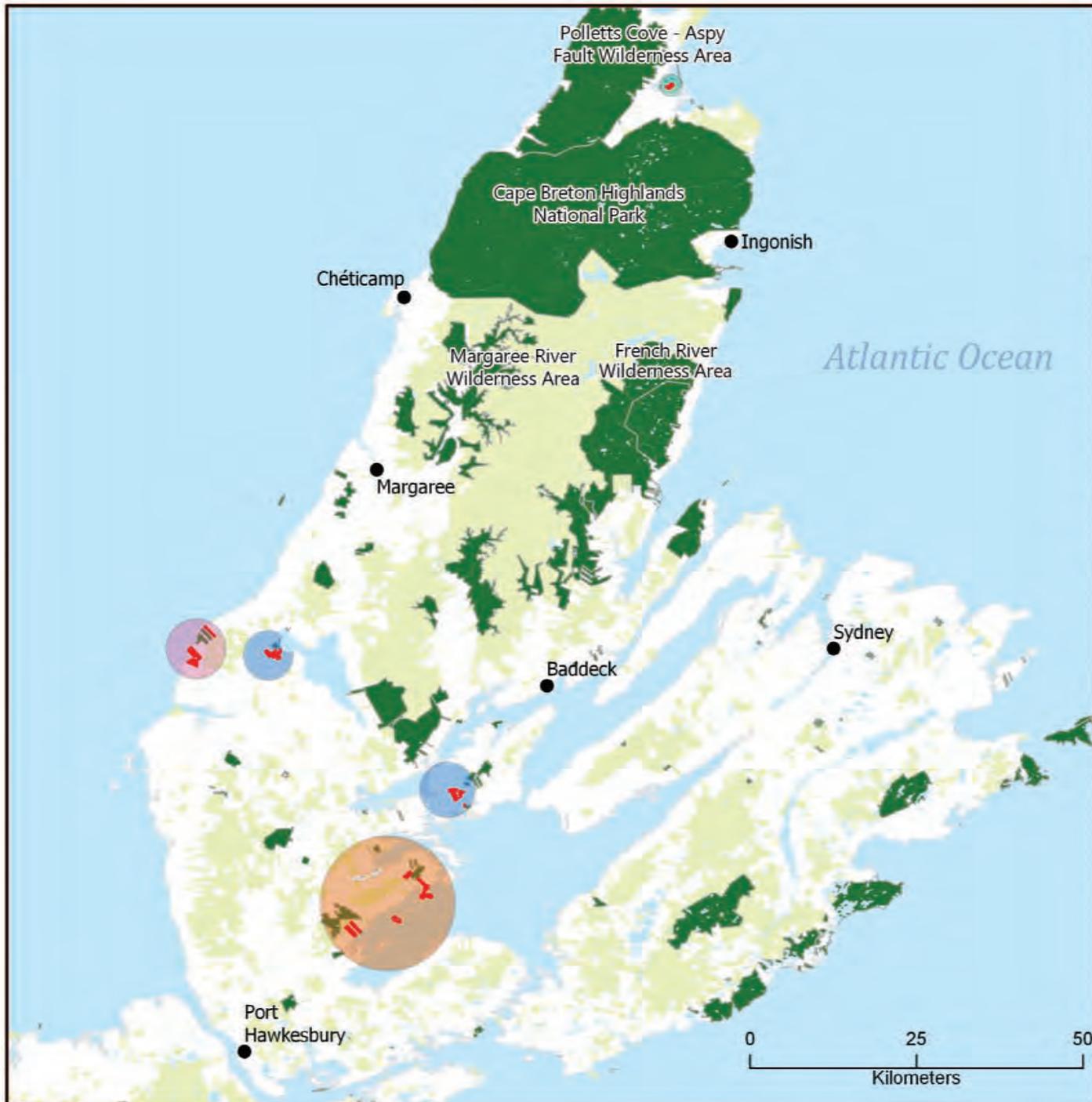
Legend

- Properties Secured*
 - Other Conservation Lands
 - Crown Land
- Thematic Areas**
- Chignecto Isthmus
 - Pugwash Estuary
 - Cobequid Mountains
 - Inner Bay of Fundy
 - Islands and Headlands

*Feature size exaggerated for display purposes



Map 2: Cape Breton



Properties secured with funding from N.S. Crown Share Land Legacy Trust

Cape Breton

Legend

- Properties Secured*
- Other Conservation Lands
- Crown Land
- Thematic Areas**
- Aspy Bay
- Central Watersheds
- Gypsum and Limestone
- Mabou Highlands

*Feature size exaggerated for display purposes

