



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION FUND

Prince Edward Island Wildlife Conservation Fund
2016 Annual Report

Prepared for the Province of PEI

By the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund Committee

The PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund Committee wishes to thank all Islanders who contributed to this year's project funds: hunters, anglers, trappers (through their annual licence conservation fees) and vehicle owners who purchased Conservation Plates.

1. Wildlife Conservation Fund Background

1.1 History and Revenues for the Fund

In 1998, the Province created the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund out of annual revenues generated from a conservation fee charged for hunting, trapping and angling licences. The original purpose for the fund was to support a hatchery that could restock native fishes into Island rivers that were impacted by fish kills. The fund was administered internally through the Forest, Fish and Wildlife Division for several years.

In the early 2000's there was a call from the public to have the fund made arms-length from government and open to an application-based awards process. Hence, in 2006, a committee of volunteers was struck to consider applications and award funding based on project merit. A fee-for-service contract was established to cover the administration of the fund through a third party. Along with the drafting of terms of reference for the committee, this has allowed the fund to function with a certain level of autonomy.

In September 2013, an additional source of revenue for the fund was acquired through the sale of motor vehicle Conservation Licence Plates (described as Conservation Plates in this document).

Currently, 100% of the following fees go to the Wildlife Conservation Fund on an annual basis:

Conservation fee for hunting, angling and trapping licences: \$20 for adults, \$13 for seniors and free for youth under 16

Conservation Plates: \$10 annually per vehicle plate

1.2 The WCF Committee and Administrator

The Wildlife Conservation Fund Committee is composed of volunteers who are nominated by the public and/or associations representing the individuals that contribute revenue for the fund. They sit for a three-year term and can remain for two 3-year terms. Nominations are considered as seats are vacated and replacements are voted in by the existing committee members. Each committee member represents a user and/or interest group as follows:

Community	#Seats	Community	#Seats
Hunting	3	Province	1
Angling	3	Non-consumptive	1
Trapping	1	Biodiversity	1
Watershed Groups	1		
		Total Seats: 11	

In 2016, the Committee was made up of the following individuals:

Community	Representative(s)	Community	Representative(s)
Hunting	Duncan Crawford, Ken Gillan, Dennis Rix	Province	Garry Gregory
Angling	John LeLacheur, Taylor Main, Scott Roloson	Non-consumptive	Beth Hoar
Trapping	Doug MacEwen	Biodiversity	Diane Griffin
Watershed Groups	Dale Cameron		

In 2016, the administrator of the fund was Island Nature Trust. The auditor of the fund was Fitzpatrick & Company. The committee elects an administrator and an auditor at the beginning of every fiscal year.

1.3 Terms of Reference for the WCF Committee

Since the arms-length committee was struck in 2006, the goals it must adhere to according to its terms of reference are:

- To ensure that monies are distributed to achieve long-term benefits to wildlife populations and associated habitats
- To encourage and/or promote sustainable use of wildlife resources on Prince Edward Island
- To ensure that the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund is accountable to those who contribute to it

To that end, the committee's mandate is:

- To develop criteria for the types of projects eligible for support from the fund and the level(s) of support that may be provided
- To identify and develop opportunities for non-consumptive users to make contributions to the fund
- To develop a standardized process whereby organizations may apply to the Wildlife Conservation Fund
- To establish funding priorities on an annual basis and develop a rating scheme whereby applications are ranked
- To receive and provide a fair review of applications to the fund in accordance with the established rating scheme
- To make funding decisions based on this review of applications
- To provide direction to the fund's administrator and oversee administrative activities
- To ensure fair and accurate accounting of revenues to and expenditures from the fund and report this to Government on an annual basis
- To encourage the protection and restoration of wildlife habitat
- To promote the sustainable use of wildlife resources in Prince Edward Island

2. WCF Awards for 2016

The committee considers applications twice each year, in the spring (February) and again in the fall (October). The projects must fall into one of the following categories:

- Habitat restoration or enhancement – must contribute to the improvement of wildlife habitat in river, upland or wetland ecosystems
- Natural areas – must contribute to the improvement or expansion of designated natural areas for wildlife in PEI
- Education – must contribute to a better understanding and/or appreciation of wildlife among a segment of the Island public
- Research and monitoring – must contribute to our knowledge of wildlife or wildlife habitat in PEI
- Other – must have value for wildlife or wildlife habitat in PEI

Other criteria used to evaluate the projects include:

- Must demonstrate direct benefit to Island wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Should be a strong communication or education component reflective of the public investment in the Wildlife Conservation Fund
- Presence of matching funds in the budget, both cash and in-kind
- Achievable within the stated timeframe
- Track record of the applicant (defined based on tracking notes of previous WCF projects from the group, using criteria related to timeliness of reporting, adherence to approved project budgets, adherence to WCF award conditions and success rates in achieving project goals)
- Demonstrable need for the funds
- For research projects, applicants must additionally attach the hypothesis, methodology, and a description of any practical applications resulting from the research

2.1 Projects Awarded Funding in 2016

Project Category, Successful Applicant	Project Title	Funds Awarded
Habitat Restoration or Enhancement (Spring)		
Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation	Integrated Watershed Management for 2016 in the Watersheds Managed by the Souris & Area Wildlife Branch	\$13,980
PEI Trapper's Association	MacLean's Pond: Wetland Protection and Fish Passage Project	\$11,766
Morell River Management Co-op	St. Peter's Bay Watershed Enhancement Project	\$9,206
Kensington North Watersheds Association Ltd	2016 Fish Habitat Restoration, Tree Planting & Silt Management	\$8,350
Island Nature Trust	Improving Nesting Opportunities for Farmland Birds in PEI – Bobolink and Barn Swallow	\$7,623
Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation	Restoration and Enhancement of Brook Trout and Atlantic Salmon Habitat on Howell's Brook and West Branch of Clyde River	\$7,237
Abegweit Conservation Society	Abegweit Conservation Society Habitat Monitoring and Reclamation in the Midgell & Savage Harbour Watersheds	\$6,655
Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association	Watercourse Enhancement Within the Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed	\$6,600
Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association	Aquatic Habitat Restoration in the Wilmot and Dunk Rivers	\$6,420
South Shore Watershed Association Inc	2016 South Shore Watershed Association Improvement Project	\$5,530
Trout River Environmental Committee Inc.	Trout River Environmental Committee Silt Management and Habitat Restoration Project	\$5,394
Richmond Bay Watershed Association Inc	Healthy Watersheds, A Sustainable Balance	\$5,385
Southeast Environmental Association	Stream Enhancement in the Montague – Valleyfield Watershed	\$4,987

Project Category, Successful Applicant	Project Title	Funds Awarded
Wright's Creek Watershed Environmental Committee	Development of a Large, Easily Accessible and Healthy Natural Area Within the City of Charlottetown for Nature Appreciation, Exercise, Boating and Fishing	\$4,645
Cascumpec Bay Watershed Association	Marchbank Pond Project	\$4,206
Hillsborough River Association Inc.	Pisquid River Enhancement Project	\$4,185
Community of Wellington	Ellis River Watershed Improvement Project	\$3,838
West Point & Area Watersheds Inc	Watershed Activities	\$3,078
Hunter – Clyde Watershed Group Inc.	Hunter – Clyde Watershed Project	\$3,036
Wheatley River Improvement Group Inc.	WRIG Stream Restoration and Habitat Enhancement	\$2,700
Ellen's Creek Watershed Group Inc.	City of Charlottetown Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration	\$1,730
Cascumpec Bay Watershed Association	Wilkie's Pond Project	\$1,290
Sub-total (Habitat, Spring)		<i>\$127,841</i>
Habitat Restoration or Enhancement (Fall)		
Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation	Fins, Furs, Feathers and Outreach	\$6,700
Morell River Management Co-op	Improving Fish Passage and Migration in Morell River, Bristol Creek and Marie River	\$3,280
Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group	Building Better, Beautiful and Beneficial Backyards for Birds!	\$2,865
Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability	Atlantic Eelgrass Monitoring Consortium (Atl-EMC): Eelgrass Bed Re-establishment in Malpeque Bay	\$2,260
Hillsborough River Association	Perch Platform Construction for Birds of Prey in Four PEI Watersheds	\$900
Sub-total (Habitat, Fall)		<i>\$16,005</i>
Grand total (Habitat)		<i>\$143,846</i>

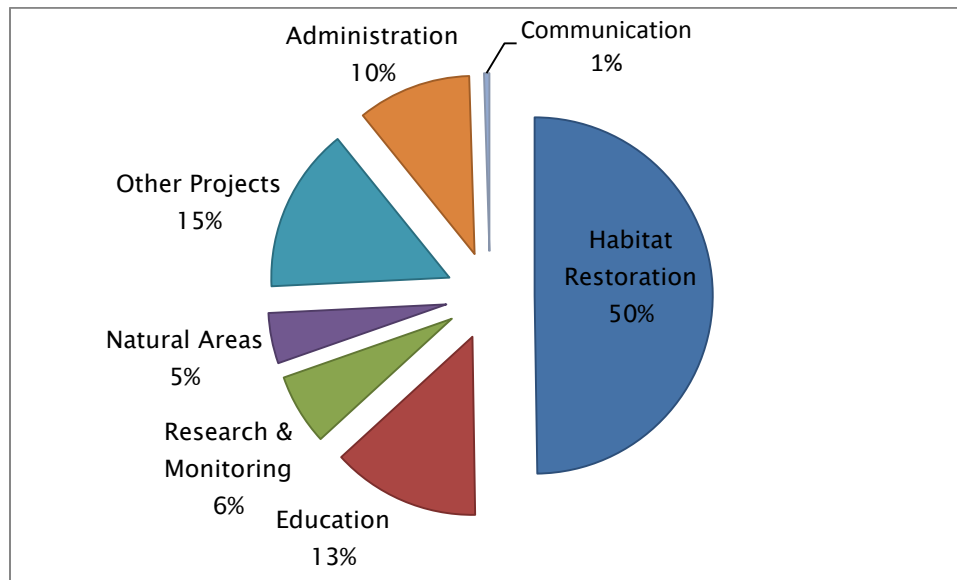
Project Category, Successful Applicant	Project Title	Funds Awarded
Education (Spring)		
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Wetland Education – Prince Edward Island 2016	\$10,364
PEI Chapter Delta Waterfowl	PEI Youth Waterfowl Workshop	\$7,805
Central Queens Wildlife Federation	Programs to Engage and Educate Youth on Environmental Importance, Value and Responsibility	\$4,168
Charlottetown Trap & Skeet Club	Introduction to Skeet Shooting & Basic Firearm Safety	\$2,412
PEI Trapper's Association	Taxidermy Display Animals for School / Community Visits, Interpretive	\$2,038
Atlantic Veterinary College – Wildlife Service	Building Raptor Perches and Separating Curtain to Enhance Flight Cage Facility	\$283
Sub-total (Education, Spring)		<i>\$27,070</i>
Education (Fall)		
Island Nature Trust	Engaging PEI School Green Clubs in Winter Forest Ecology	\$5,100
Island Nature Trust	Dune and Beach Ecosystems – Educate to Protect	\$3,780
Hunter–Clyde Watershed Group	Winter Woodlot Tour 2017	\$3,558
Abegweit Conservation Society	Abegweit Palmu Nitap – Abegweit Salmon Friends Project	\$1,750
Sierra Club Foundation PEI Chapter	Wild Child PEI Nature Immersion Program	\$1,460
Sub-total (Education, Fall)		<i>\$15,648</i>
Grand Total (Education)		<i>\$42,718</i>

Project Category, Successful Applicant	Project Title	Funds Awarded
Research & Monitoring (Spring)		
Canadian Rivers Institute, UPEI	Swimming Performance and Movement Patterns of Migratory Fishes Through PEI Fishways	\$6,777
Bird Studies Canada	Getting Our Feet Wet: Surveying Freshwater, Coastal and Forested Wetlands on Prince Edward Island	\$3,586
UPEI (Dr. Carolyn Peach Brown)	Voluntary Stewardship & Can. Species at Risk Act: Exploring Landowners Willingness to Protect Species at Risk in PEI	\$2,586
Natural History Society of PEI / Nature PEI	General Status of Species – Citizen Science Fills the Gaps	\$2,183
Marine Animal Response Society	PEI Marine Animal Response Training and Public Outreach	\$1,077
Sub-total (Research & Monitoring, Spring)		\$16,209
Research & Monitoring (Fall)		
Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association	Assessing Ecosystem Health and Fish Spawning Locations in Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed	\$2,170
Sub-total (Research & Monitoring, Fall)		\$2,170
Grand Total (Research & Monitoring)		\$18,379
Natural Areas (Spring)		
Island Nature Trust	Supporting Local Stewardship of Natural Areas Across PEI	\$6,112
Trout Unlimited Canada – Prince County Chapter, Inc.	Wildlife Habitat Enhancement & Demonstration Site, Portage, PEI	\$5,160
Nature Conservancy of Canada (PEI) Inc.	Acadian Forest Conservation in Howe Bay	\$1,695
Grand Total (Natural Areas)		\$12,967

Project Category, Successful Applicant	Project Title	Funds Awarded
Other Projects (Spring)		
Abegweit First Nation	Abegweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery, Year 3	\$30,000
Roseville Miminegash Watershed Incorporated	Replacement of Roseville Pond Access Bridge	\$4,021
Lot 11 and Area Watershed Management Group Inc.	Replacement of Foxley River Temporary Crossing with Permanent Crossing	\$3,408
Sub-total (Other, Spring)		<i>\$37,429</i>
Other Projects (Fall)		
Abegweit Conservation Society	Abegweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery Stocking Program	\$8,350
Kensington North Watersheds Association	Enhancing Ring-necked Pheasant Population on PEI	\$2,060
Sub-total (Other, Fall)		<i>\$10,410</i>
Grand Total (Other Projects)		<i>\$47,839</i>
GRAND TOTAL - ALL PROJECTS		\$265,749

3. Financial Summary for WCF in 2016

The PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund undergoes an independent audit of its accounts every year. The fund's fiscal year runs from January 1 to December 31. Because there is a fall round of funding and the reporting deadline for those projects is March of the following year (with a 20% holdback on each project provided only upon receipt of the final report), there are some differences in expenditures between the project funds awarded each year and the audited statements. The following values reflect those of the 2016 project awards, administrative and communications costs. Communications includes a portion of the costs associated with the development of a new, stand-alone website for the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund and advertising costs.



Pie graph showing the proportion of available WCF funds spent on projects (by category), administration and communications

3.1 Funds Spent by Organizations for Project Delivery in 2016

In some instances, funds awarded were not all spent during the fiscal year. In those instances, funds must be returned and they can be made available for the next funding round. The following table summarizes the actual funds expended by category for projects awarded WCF funds in 2016.

Project Category	Spring Projects	Fall Projects	Category Totals
Habitat Restoration / Enhancement	\$125,851	\$14,975	\$140,826
Education	\$22,386	\$15,617	\$38,003
Research & Monitoring	\$16,103	\$2,170	\$18,273
Natural Areas	\$12,967	\$0	\$12,967
Other	\$34,021	\$8,350	\$42,371
	\$211,328	\$41,112	\$252,440

3.2 Revenues and Expenditures in 2016 (Bank Balance Values)

Revenues	
Bank balance January 1, 2016	\$37,957
Deposits from angler, hunter, trapper licence conservation fees	\$151,825
Deposits from conservation vehicle plates*	\$132,870
Returned project funds	\$8,557
<i>In memorium</i> contributions	\$2,680
Total revenues for 2016	\$333,889

*Note that this value represents the full amount for 2015 plate sales

Expenditures	
Project awards (including some holdbacks from 2015)	\$264,985
Administration (administrator's fee, meeting expenses, audit)	\$29,205
Communications (website construction, advertising)	\$1,371
Total expenditures for 2016	\$295,561

3.3 Assets of the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund in 2016

At the beginning of each year, the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund Committee estimates what funds it expects will be available during the year to award during the spring and fall application rounds. Every attempt is made to award as much of the available monies as possible, allowing for administration costs and the investment of some monies in deposit receipts.

The investment into deposit receipts began in 2009 and has occurred periodically since that time. The money invested represents funds that were awarded and returned at the end of some years (if the award recipients were unable to complete projects as proposed for a variety of reasons). The committee resolved to eventually build up the investment to a point at which roughly half of the average dollars awarded for projects in a given year were held as a contingency. In the event the income to the fund (hunting, angling, trapper licence conservation fees and vehicle conservation plate fees) was ever discontinued, this would allow the committee to award projects at a reduced capacity for one more year. The hope is that scenario never eventuates; nonetheless, it is prudent to have some funds in reserve.

The following table outlines the assets of the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund as of December 31, 2016.

Assets, 31 December 2016	
Cash (revenues less expenditures)	\$46,946
Value of deposit receipts / investments	\$99,975
Total assets	\$146,921