



THE MOST VALUABLE ISLANDS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

THE 100 WILD ISLANDS LEGACY CAMPAIGN

The Nature Trust has seized a one-time opportunity to protect one of Nova Scotia's least known, yet greatest natural treasures—a coastal archipelago stretching over 30 kilometers along the coast, nestled between Clam Harbour and Taylor Head Provincial Park, and encompassing a coastal wilderness of over 100 wild and beautiful islands.

The islands provide one of the last and best opportunities to protect an ecologically rich, diverse and unspoiled coastal island wilderness of its size in North America, right in our own backyard.

ISLANDS SAVED:

In October 2013, we announced the protection of the vast and spectacular 500 acre Borgles Island, the archipelago's flagship island, adding to our existing conservation lands at Shelter Cove, and Ship Rock. In 2014, we added 280 acres (7 properties) on Gerard Island, as well as Middle, Outer, Stoney and Tuff Islands to our conservation successes. The response from other landowners has been incredibly positive, with commitments made to protect over 80% of the islands, and we've only just begun.

FUNDS RAISED:

At our 20th anniversary celebration in October, we honoured Paul Gauthier for his transformative \$3.5 million gift and for inspiring the 100 Wild Islands initiative (see full story at www.100wildislands/news/). With funds raised to date, including Paul's generous commitment to match remaining gifts, we have just \$885,000 to raise to complete our \$7 million campaign. Clearly, the campaign is resonating widely with Nova Scotians and beyond.

The islands are truly globally significant, and are also an irreplaceable part of Nova Scotia's coastal legacy. Nova Scotians from all walks of life – sailors, salmon conservationists and wilderness paddlers, as well proud grandparents thinking of the future and down-to-earth bluenosers – are all stepping up to help protect this vast island wilderness, while we still can.

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

Through four seasons of ecological field work, we have made exciting ecological discoveries about these little-known islands. Most recently, joint seabird research with government and academic partners revealed many previously unknown nesting colonies of herons, terns and Eider ducks. The islands are also important to Harlequin Ducks, one of Canada's endangered species. Both findings are great news for bird conservation. Now researchers are assessing the potential of the islands for habitat restoration and the recovery of dwindling bird populations. The mapping of sensitive habitats this summer is also an important first step in management planning for the islands.

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH AND EVENTS

The campaign was officially launched with a wonderful celebratory event in Halifax in June, and a local community event in July. The friends, supporters, local residents and community leaders who joined us in unveiling Nova Scotia's largest ever coastal conservation campaign were delighted and inspired! The spring and summer were also filled with engaging community open houses, memorable boat tours, sea kayak adventures and guided hikes.

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE

Virtually visit the islands through beautiful videos, photo galleries, and incredible aerial video footage, and watch for the latest news and updates. Visit 100wildislands.ca.

SHARE YOUR REASONS

If you haven't already joined in the fun, share YOUR reason to protect 100 Wild Islands. Pick up a "My Reason" poster at our office (or make your own), write down your reason, take a photo and mail or email it to us 100wildislands@nsnt.ca and tweet us @nsnaturetrust (including #100wildislands in your tweet). Share it widely to help spread the word! Enjoy our "My Reasons" photo gallery on our website or Facebook page (you don't have to be a Facebook user to enjoy everything on our page! Just visit www.facebook.com/novascotianaturetrust).

STAYING IN TOUCH: To keep up on all the news and happenings, please sign up for our e-list if you haven't already, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. For more info: 100wildislands@nsnt.ca (902) 425-5263.

