

The Atlantic Habitat Partnership Initiative

A partnership to sustain Atlantic Canada's key wetlands

In its first year of delivery, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is making important progress to protect and conserve provincially-significant wetlands across Atlantic Canada, thanks to the Atlantic Habitat Partnership Initiative (AHPI). To date, DUC has invested over one million dollars in wetland conservation projects impacting nearly 49,000 hectares in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia,

P.E.I. and in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Launched in 2009, the AHPI is a partnership between the Government of Canada, the Atlantic provincial governments and DUC to establish a Wetland Sustainability Fund of \$9 million to protect, maintain and restore over 40,000 acres of key wetlands in all four Atlantic provinces.

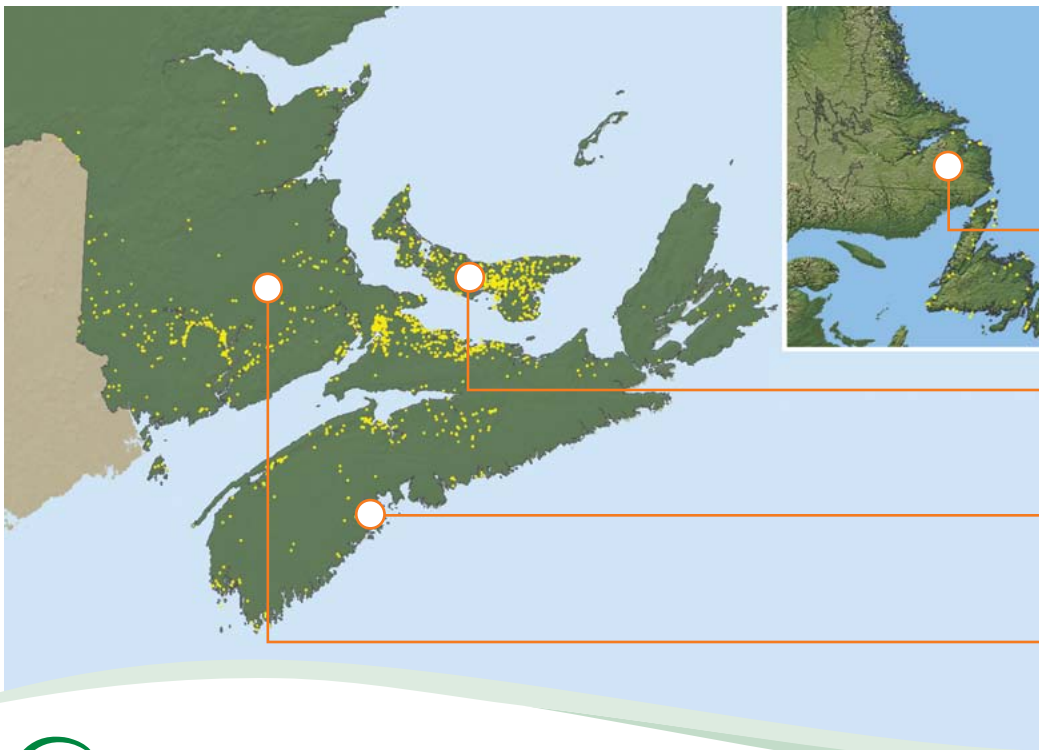
Wetlands are among the earth's most productive ecosystems. In addition, healthy

wetlands are critical for clean water, biodiversity, habitat for species at risk, greenhouse gas reduction and flood protection. However, wetlands are also one of our most threatened ecosystems. Estimates on wetland loss indicate that up to 70 per cent of wetlands have been lost or degraded in settled areas of Canada. The AHPI is a major step forward to restore and preserve these vital resources for the people of Atlantic Canada.



2009 AHPI Investments

 Established in 2009 by the Government of Canada, DUC and the four Atlantic provincial governments, the Wetland Sustainability Fund is being invested to maintain, protect and restore key wetlands (left, indicated by yellow dots) in the Atlantic Provinces.



 **Newfoundland and Labrador**
\$15,000 – 3,504 hectares

 **Prince Edward Island**
\$190,000 – 5,304 hectares

 **Nova Scotia**
\$522,500 – 18,144 hectares

 **New Brunswick**
\$487,000 – 20,741 hectares



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Putting the Funds to Work for Atlantic Canada

The **\$9.0 million Wetland Sustainability Fund** established through the AHPI is a significant investment and commitment to wetland conservation. In 2009, DUC invested over \$500,000 of the fund in major repairs which included rebuilding dykes and upgrading essential fish passageways. Another \$675,000 was invested in project inspections and minor repairs to maintain habitat conditions on more than 47,000 conserved hectares, of which 30,350 were wetland hectares. These infrastructure improvements, made possible through this initiative, will sustain our valuable natural resources for years to come.

Wetlands provide many environmental benefits to Canadians. Wetland protection is an investment in issues that Canadians care about: clean water, carbon sequestration and storage, air quality, erosion control and wildlife habitat. Wetlands also aid in times of weather fluctuations, helping to mitigate the effects of droughts, floods and climate change. In addition to the numerous direct benefits to the environment, wetlands provide beautiful natural areas for recreation year-round.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Germantown Marsh, N.B.

One conservation project that has already benefitted from the Atlantic Habitat Partnership Initiative is Germantown Marsh. This 525-hectare freshwater marsh lies within New Brunswick's Shepody National Wildlife Area and is a crucial area for staging and migrating waterfowl. Originally developed in 1977, this project needed a number of earth dykes rebuilt in order to maintain and enhance the area for waterfowl and other wildlife.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Sheffield Mills, N.S.

The Sheffield Mills wetland is in the Annapolis Valley near Kentville. This 9.3-hectare project is part of an important fish passageway and enables fish to pass through a fish ladder by swimming and leaping a series of relatively low "steps". In 2009, DUC replaced the water control structure and modified the ladder, increasing the number of "steps" from four to 11. Sheffield Mills is just one of more than 150 fishways DUC maintains on wetland conservation projects across Atlantic Canada.

2009 AHPI Investments

In its first year, the Atlantic Habitat Partnership Initiative has invested \$1,215,000 in major repairs, management and inspections to wetlands of provincial significance in all four Atlantic provinces.

Prince Edward Island

Project inspections and minor repair

5,282 hectares – \$115,000

Major repairs and management

Mount Mellick: 16.2 hectares – \$41,000

Hornes Creek #3: 1.2 hectares – \$24,000

Covehead: 4.9 hectares – \$10,000

Nova Scotia

Project inspections and minor repair

18,013 hectares – \$293,000

Major repairs and management

Sheffield Mills: 9.3 hectares – \$190,000

Mill Brook: 20.2 hectares – \$15,000

Meteghan: 102 hectares – \$24,500

New Brunswick

Project inspections and minor repair

20,619 hectares – \$232,000

Major repairs and management

Germantown: 50.6 hectares – \$150,000

Evandale: 16.2 hectares – \$25,000

Ravine Brook: 46.5 hectares – \$25,000

Larch Swale: 8.9 hectares – \$25,000

White Birch: 57.9 hectares – \$30,000

Newfoundland and Labrador

Project inspections and minor repair

3,361 hectares – \$10,000

Major repairs and management

Lethbridge Gully: 21.4 hectares – \$5,000



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For more information on the Atlantic Habitat Partnership Initiative, contact:

Geoff Harding, P.Eng – *Manager of Major Projects, Ducks Unlimited Canada*

752 Union Street, Fredericton NB E3A 3P2

T: (506) 458-8848 ext 230

E: g_harding@ducks.ca