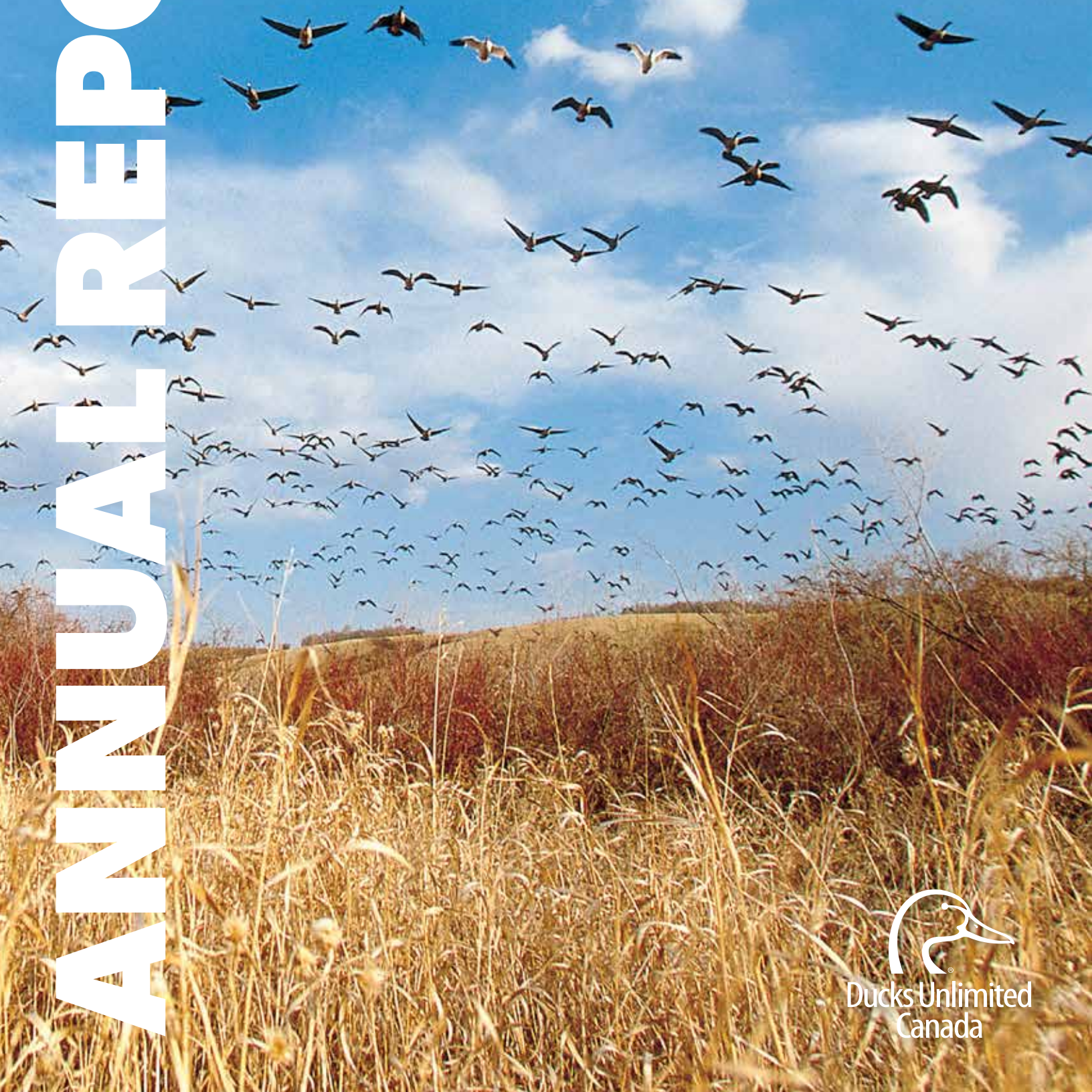


ANNUAL REPORT

2018

GREAT MIGRATIONS

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE





How do we get to
where we're going?



How do we know
which paths to take?

©DUC/Jeanne Wolfe



What will give
us energy?

What headwinds will
test our resolve?



Can we survive,
thrive and create a
healthier future?

These are questions of all great migrations. The answers are found in the wonders of the natural world—and in the hearts, minds and actions of people who are committed to protecting them.

For 80 years, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has channeled the power of nature's great migrations to navigate our own. Like the incredible journeys of waterfowl, the generosity of our supporters knows no boundaries. Our convictions marry hope with hard work. Our efforts are rooted in science and driven by an innate desire to grow, adapt and live in harmony with our environment.

DUC's great migrations have taken us from one end of the continent to the other. They've introduced us to people of all ages, backgrounds and lifestyles. They've shown us how land, water, wildlife and the well-being of our communities are interconnected. They've saved millions of acres of critical natural habitat.

Together, millions of migrating waterfowl and the thousands of people who proudly wear DUC's duck head on their sleeves are the country's greatest symbol of conservation.



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A journey 80 years in the making

What we can do for wetlands and wildlife has only just begun

Eighty years is a lifetime, if you're lucky. For DUC, it's only the beginning.

As DUC celebrates its 80th anniversary, we count ourselves extremely lucky to be part of such a pioneering and enduring organization. And while we wish we could say the same about ourselves, DUC isn't showing any signs of slowing down. This is a conservation machine that continues gaining speed, strength and support from Canada's growing community of conservationists.

Within this passionate community is where you'll find DUC's secret to longevity. By surrounding ourselves with motivated and generous people, we're changing landscapes and legislation. We're raising funds that will stem the tide of wetland loss and inspire a new wave of conservationists. We enjoy this success because people from all walks of life are rallying around one of the world's most important ecosystems: wetlands.

You'll see examples of DUC's people power throughout the pages of this annual report. This includes landowners and lobbyists, students and scientists, as well as countless volunteers, donors and partners. All are taking DUC's conservation journey to new places. They're en route to securing a healthier future for their families, communities and the natural areas that mean the most to them.

Looking ahead to the next 80 years, we know what DUC can do for wetlands, wildlife and the world of conservation has only just begun. Together, we'll navigate many more great migrations. We're proud and thankful to have you by our side.

Yours in conservation,

David Blom
President

James Couch
Chairman of the Board



Pushing farther, reaching higher



Unlimited. It's right in our name—the belief that when we work together to conserve wetlands and other natural spaces for waterfowl, wildlife and people, our potential is unlimited. DUC's *Rescue Our Wetlands* campaign is inspiring proof of exactly this. Volunteers, supporters and staff are pushing farther and reaching higher to achieve results that are off the charts.

In 2012, DUC joined forces with Ducks Unlimited organizations in the United States and Mexico to launch *Rescue Our Wetlands*. The seven-year comprehensive fundraising campaign set a goal of raising \$2 billion for wetland conservation by December 31, 2018. Our goal in Canada is \$500 million.

Rescue Our Wetlands is our most ambitious fundraising campaign to date, and the largest waterfowl and wetlands campaign in history. With the campaign now in its final phase, the challenge has shifted from achieving our goal to seeing how far we can exceed it.

As impressive as these achievements may be, they're far from surprising. That's because DUC's culture has never been about being "good enough." It's about being the best we can be. This was our founders' mindset 80 years ago as they battled crippling drought on the Canadian Prairies. It remains our motivation today as we strive to adapt to a changing environment wrought with its own challenges. The significance of what we're saving demands that we find the energy to push beyond our limits. It demands we do our very best—for water, wildlife and you.

We look forward to sharing the final results and celebrating the tremendous impact of the *Rescue Our Wetlands* campaign with you next year.



©DUC/Chris Benson

Our conservation success

Stewarding the land is in our nature. DUC's time-tested formula is simple and effective. We secure important at-risk wetlands, restore those that have been drained and damaged and manage the areas under our care. Our work delivers results you can wade in and walk on.

Results from
the 2018
fiscal year:

105,902 acres of habitat conserved¹
(42,857 hectares) *This includes 48,442 acres restored (19,604 hectares)*

5.2 MILLION acres of habitat positively influenced²
(2.1 MILLION hectares) *This includes 370,370 acres restored (149,883 hectares)*

Cumulative
results to date
– since 1938:

6.4 MILLION acres of habitat conserved¹
(2.6 MILLION hectares) *This includes 3.0 million acres restored (1.2 million hectares)*

157.1 MILLION acres of habitat positively influenced²
(63.6 MILLION hectares) *This includes 1.3 million acres restored (528,784 hectares)*

11,892 habitat projects

¹ Through land purchase, management agreements, conservation easements and leases.
² Through retention or restoration measures of less than 10 years or policy projects.

Our conservation community

126,000
people making a difference

A diverse mix of donors, landowners, students and teachers, fundraising event attendees and many other supporters are taking action to further DUC's conservation mission. Our conservation community is championed by 5,600 dedicated volunteers across the country.

Supporters of tomorrow

149,700
Canadians gaining greater awareness

Canadians are connecting with us through social media and political advocacy websites. They're also exploring the world of conservation for themselves by visiting our interpretive centres. All are gaining greater awareness and sharing our conservation messages with others within their spheres of influence.

Our financial commitment

In the 2018 fiscal year, DUC invested 93 per cent of available revenue in habitat conservation, research, public policy and education.

Uses of funds

*Does not include
\$12.1 million in
fundraising and
philanthropic
expenses*

\$79.4 MILLION
Conservation *(includes capitalized conservation land purchases)*

\$6.1 MILLION
Administration *(excludes \$1.2 million in financial system implementation costs)*

Sources of funds



* Includes gift-in-kind-donations



©DUC/Jeope Wolfe

A \$15.5-million investment through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects 29,180 acres (11,809 hectares) in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Boots-on-the-ground work has been DUC’s foundation for 80 years. Delivering effective wetland conservation, restoration and management is our top priority. We measure our success in healthy habitat and wildlife populations. Our work spans the country, and our results ripple throughout the continent.

DUC uses a diverse collection of conservation tools to benefit wetlands:

- Conservation easements
- Restoration and mitigation work
- Revolving land conservation programs
- Collaborations with landowners through winter wheat, forage and rangeland programs

Major investments in the Prairie Pothole Region

Migratory Bird Treaty Act Funding protects key waterfowl breeding habitat

Most people do their best to steer clear of potholes. Waterfowl, on the other hand, seek them out for survival. In this case, potholes are shallow wetlands that provide prime breeding habitat for millions of North America’s migratory birds. Thanks to significant funding accessed through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, DUC is keeping more of these productive potholes on landscapes throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Over the past three years, DUC accessed \$15.5 million through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that resulted from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Although the event took place in the Gulf of Mexico, sending legal settlement money north to the Prairies makes sense. That’s because affected species require support at every stage of their migration journey. Investing in Canadian habitat that’s key to nesting populations is one of the best ways to ensure the health and well-being of North America’s migratory birds.

DUC used the funds to protect 29,180 acres (11,809 hectares) of prime wetland and surrounding habitat. Of these protected areas, 3,830 acres (1,550 hectares) were restored. This brings important habitat back to the landscape where it provides a host of other environmental benefits. Clean water, flood and drought prevention as well as recreation opportunities all flow from these projects.

Partner spotlight

John Childs, Dave Grohne and Jim Kennedy

Results of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act funding will benefit waterfowl conservation for generations to come. But accessing the money wasn’t easy. Before our applications could be approved, DUC needed to match the grants dollar for dollar. Long-time DUC supporters and philanthropists John Childs, Dave Grohne and Jim Kennedy recognized the funds could radically advance wetland conservation in the Prairie Pothole Region. In an incredible show of generosity and support, these three donors stepped forward with donations of \$3 million each. This provided nearly all of the match needed for funds made available through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.



More than 130 bee species depend on areas surrounding southern Alberta wetlands.

Wading through waist-deep marsh water. Counting duck broods from high above in a helicopter seat. Navigating an airboat through cattail-lined wetlands. This is how DUC does our best work. These are the places where science is bringing conservation to life.

Led by the Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research, DUC's science guides our work by:

- Informing our conservation programs to achieve the best outcomes for waterfowl and people
- Giving us credibility and influence with governments, industries and landowners
- Equipping us with environmental data that is meaningful to all Canadians

Wetlands are the bee's knees for pollinators

Research shows wetlands are key to nesting and foraging

They're tiny, mighty and desperate for habitat. Pollinators and other beneficial insects need wetlands to keep busy...as bees.

Across Canada's agricultural landscapes, the natural habitat these insects rely on is disappearing. Without habitat, their ability to deliver important environmental benefits is greatly reduced. Insert wetland conservation and the story changes.

DUC scientists believe the uncultivated areas surrounding wetlands provide undisturbed nesting and foraging areas that support diverse communities of pollinators. This includes bumble bees, solitary bees and hover flies, as well as other agriculturally beneficial insects like ground beetles. But research that measures the role wetlands play in supporting these important communities is lacking—so our scientists headed into the field to find out.

DUC is leading this buzz-worthy investigation through a four-year study in southern Alberta croplands and grasslands. Initial findings indicate the areas surrounding wetlands are used by more than 130 bee species. They're also reservoirs of both nesting habitat and food resources for native bees in cropland fields.

In spring 2018, DUC expanded the research to study sites near Humboldt, Sask. in the Parkland ecoregion. Research in both provinces will continue through 2020. Results from these studies will play a significant role in developing sustainable agricultural practices and habitat conservation efforts throughout the Prairies. This research was made possible through a generous donation from Bob Puchniak.

Partner spotlight

Dr. Paul Galpern and Dr. Sean Prager

DUC is working alongside top researchers to learn more about the relationship between wetlands and pollinators. Dr. Paul Galpern, a landscape ecologist in the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary, is helping guide our studies in Alberta. Dr. Sean Prager, an entomologist in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan, is overseeing our efforts in Saskatchewan. Partnerships like these continually advance DUC's body of knowledge about the value of wetlands and waterfowl habitat and strengthen our relationship with the broader scientific community.



Dr. Prager (left) and Dr. Galpern hold a blue vane trap used to attract pollinating insects.



©Brendan Kelly

Investments in the 2018 federal budget represent a new approach to collaborative conservation.

We are advocates. We are changemakers. We are partners, advisors and delivery agents. DUC works with all levels of government to further policies that support wetlands.

DUC has a long history of influencing large-scale conservation through national public policy efforts. We participate in a variety of federal conservation programs, including:

- Natural Areas Conservation Program
- Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Budget boost for the birds

Government of Canada announces historic \$1.3-billion commitment to conservation

It’s a new approach to collaborative conservation. It delivers hope for future generations. For DUC, it’s the opportunity of a lifetime. The \$1.3-billion commitment made in the 2018 federal budget is a game changer for Canada’s wetlands and waterfowl.

Announced in late February, the budget includes important new measures that support species at risk, migratory bird sanctuaries, protected areas and opportunities for Indigenous-led conservation efforts. Wetlands are integral to advancing all these priorities, and DUC is focused on accessing as much of the funding as possible to accelerate wetland conservation across the country.

The most significant aspect of the investment is the new \$1-billion Canada Nature Fund. The Government is offering \$500 million in federal money, and looking to conservation organizations and partners to secure the other \$500 million in matching funds. The Canada Nature Fund can be used for conservation efforts on private lands, which are often at the greatest risk and represent significant gains for biodiversity. The boreal forest is also poised to benefit through the Government’s commitment to large, area-based conservation. DUC has a strong presence and a rich history of conservation in both areas. The Canada Nature Fund is a significant opportunity for us to deliver greater impact in places that matter most.

Budget 2018 is an historic investment in nature. But it will only be successful if people and organizations like DUC step forward to provide the matching funds required. Leveraging our public and private donations is key. Now it’s time to get to work.

Partner spotlight

Green Budget Coalition

DUC is part of the Green Budget Coalition, a network of 20 leading conservation organizations that presents recommendations to the Government of Canada about the most pressing environmental issues. The 2018 federal budget included many of the Coalition’s recommendations.



Two million people have visited the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre over the past 25 years.

All: ©DUC/Jeope Wolfe



Nature is a powerful teacher. Engaging with it breeds curiosity and confidence within young people. It imparts valuable life lessons about resiliency, diversity and adaptation. DUC’s education programs connect Canada’s youth to the wonders of wetlands in ways that inspire conservation action.

- DUC’s Wetland Centres of Excellence engage students with wetland conservation and help them develop leadership skills by sharing their experiences with others.
- Wetland Heroes is DUC’s recognition program that celebrates young people who are undertaking their own conservation-related activities.
- DUC-operated interpretive centres in Manitoba, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick support youth and public education through their award-winning facilities and programming.

Schooled in the outdoors

DUC’s flagship interpretive centre celebrates 25 years

Two million people have passed through the doors of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre in the past 25 years. They’ve canoed and critter-dipped. They’ve wandered the more than 30 kilometres of trails, spotted hundreds of bird species and witnessed a Prairie marsh’s changing seasons. These connections with Canada’s wetlands often stick with them for life.

Located 20 kilometres north of Winnipeg, Man., the facility is DUC’s flagship interpretive centre that delivers public education and hands-on programming to connect people with wetlands year-round. The building is shared with DUC’s national headquarters, where more than 100 employees are immersed in the natural habitat they’re working to protect. It’s a captivating place to visit—and a unique place to work.

Stop in during the peak of fall migration season and you’ll see why. More than 100,000 waterfowl use the marsh daily, a spectacle best viewed from the facility’s “green roof.” The surrounding Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area is a premier North American birding hotspot, registered as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International.

Whether it’s a class of inner-city school kids, a group of international visitors or a collection of corporate executives, the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is schooling people in the outdoors. Twenty-five years of education, recreation and inspiration continue fostering generations of conservationists.

Partner spotlight



Cargill is DUC’s national education sponsor. The international agri-food company is committing more than \$100,000 per year for the next three years to DUC’s education programs, which will inform and inspire youth across Canada regarding the importance of wetlands, waterfowl and wildlife.

Cargill employees building bird feeders at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.



Funding from state agencies helps deliver waterfowl conservation on a continental scale.

©DUC/Chris Benson

We take our cues from the birds. Migrating waterfowl don't recognize borders or political boundaries—all they see is habitat. Ensuring this habitat remains healthy and abundant is a responsibility we share with conservation colleagues in the United States and Mexico. Together we are a continental force for conservation.

DUC's efforts require support from partners in many jurisdictions. Our most significant conservation achievements are derived from powerful and long-standing international programs and legislation:

- The North American Waterfowl Management Plan is an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetlands and associated habitats critical to waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- The North American Wetlands Conservation Act is a U.S. federal cost-sharing program that provides funds to support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Gaining ground on a big goal

U.S. state agencies increase support for Canadian habitat conservation

More U.S. states are investing in Canadian waterfowl habitats than ever before. Last year, 41 state-run fish and wildlife agencies invested nearly \$4 million USD with DUC. This kind of international investment is a commitment to the big picture—one that delivers waterfowl conservation on a continental scale.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) has a goal for states to collectively contribute up to \$10 million per year to conservation projects in Canada. It's ambitious but critical to ensuring abundant waterfowl populations long term. DUC is seeing strong and steady growth toward the goal. This year's \$4-million total is the most funding received since states first began contributing to Canada 53 years ago. In addition, many states have met, or have committed to meeting, their individual AFWA goals. Funds are generated primarily through the sale of hunting licenses.

Leveraging these funds is a significant part of the success story. State funding is first matched by Ducks Unlimited in the United States, then leveraged with Canadian contributions and federal funding through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. This unique funding structure often matches state dollars up to four times, maximizing habitat conservation and waterfowl production in Canada for an impressive return on investment. Results deliver more birds to U.S. states and more dollars to their respective economies through increased outdoor recreation, tourism and hunting opportunities. State contributions are the all-important first step. Together, state agencies are gaining ground toward a critical continental conservation goal.

Partner spotlight

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

In a Texas-sized show of support, the state's Parks and Wildlife Department set a record for contributions to Canadian habitat by investing \$725,000 USD with DUC over the course of the last two years. Funding comes from the sale of Migratory Game Bird Stamps, which all migratory bird hunters in the state are required to purchase. The commitment brings the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's cumulative investment in Canadian habitat to more than \$3.8 million USD since it first began sending funds north in 1985.



PHILANTHROPIC GIVING

More than 45 per cent of DUC's planned gifts are made by staff and volunteers.

DUC donors are a passionate group. Their generosity inspires others, and their charity is transforming the future.

Philanthropic giving comes in all shapes and sizes, uniting a diverse collection of supporters who are making a difference.

- Individual donors make personal gifts that reflect their lifestyle and interests.
- Environmentally focused corporations give back to natural areas.
- Foundations support conservation and the benefits it provides to people and communities.
- Affinity partners provide unique business offerings to customers that support conservation.

Legacy gifts from the heart

DUC Feather Society members show how estate planning means something to everyone

DUC's growing number of Feather Society members are dispelling common myths about estate planning. You don't have to be wealthy to leave a legacy. You don't have to be in your golden years to begin making plans for the people and causes that mean the most to you. And the process of getting your affairs in order doesn't have to be complicated—or an uncomfortable conversation marked by hushed voices and shifting glances. Their legacy gifts are simple and powerful examples of giving from the heart.

DUC has more than 350 Feather Society members who are leaving gifts through their estates. They're wildlife enthusiasts, hunters, hikers, photographers and cottage goers. They're citizens concerned about our changing environment and long-time landowners who want to safeguard a special natural place. They're parents and grandparents looking to ensure the next generation has the same opportunities as they did to enjoy and learn from nature.

Planned gifts can take many forms—and many offer significant tax savings. Some popular choices include residuary bequests, where a percentage of the estate is donated to DUC once all bills and taxes are paid, as well as land donations and living legacies. A living legacy is a planned gift that donors provide during their lifetime. Here, individuals and families witness the impact of their gift and connect with DUC and the conservation mission they're supporting.

Making a planned gift is much more than a financial decision. It's about honouring special people, places and traditions. With the value of DUC's Feather Society gifts now exceeding \$35 million, these meaningful contributions will ensure DUC's success well into the future.

Partner spotlight

Chelsea Manz

"I grew up on a grain farm. Some of my fondest memories are of me and my friends rafting on sloughs or building forts in the bushes. I chose to use a life insurance plan to make a will bequest to DUC because I believe in our mission and I want our future generations to understand the importance of water conservation and nature preservation." - Chelsea Manz, DUC communications specialist, Saskatchewan
More than 45 per cent of DUC's planned gifts come from staff and volunteers like Chelsea. Her personal commitment is part of a rich culture of giving that runs throughout the organization.



GRASSROOTS FUNDRAISING

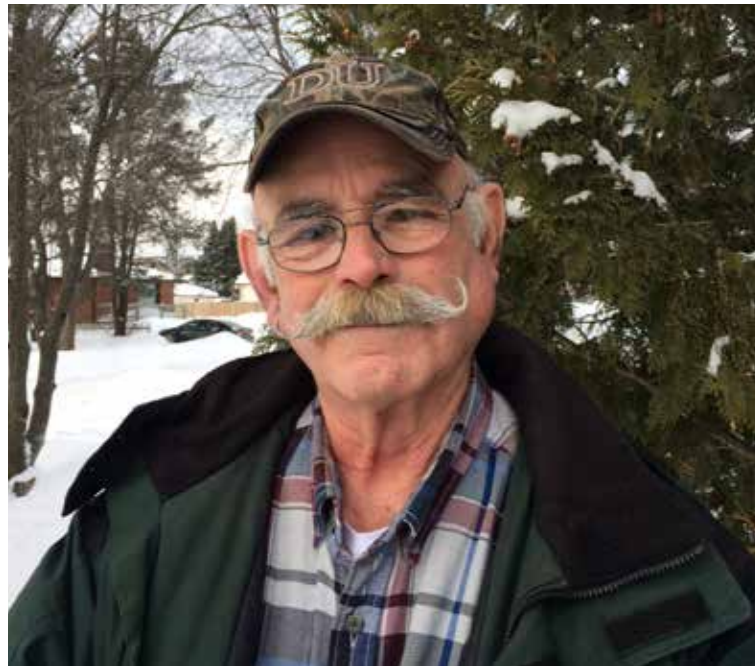


**DUC has more than
5,600 volunteers
across Canada.**

DUC is a story about people. It's about people who—with dedication, determination and innovation—put their passion for the environment into action.

Grassroots fundraising is equal parts creativity, effort and passion. DUC offers many rewarding ways to get involved:

- Volunteers band together to raise funds for wetland conservation in their communities.
- Friends and neighbours attend DUC fundraising events to enjoy a good time in support of a great cause.
- Nature lovers and art collectors bid on high-quality artwork available through DUC's sealed bid auction.
- Supporters take advantage of special offers and discounts with conservation-minded businesses partnering with DUC.



**“I believe in what I’m doing,
and that’s not work”**

John Stewart,
DUC National Volunteer of the Year

Celebrating eight decades of dedicated DUC volunteers

**Ontario’s John Stewart earns top honours in
milestone year**

Giving back is in their nature. Volunteers gave wings to DUC 80 years ago, and continue driving our conservation mission today.

In appreciation of the critical role volunteers play in our history and success, DUC proclaimed 2018 and our 80th anniversary as “The Year of the Volunteer.” We’re proud to recognize the more than 5,600 talented individuals who stand beside us in communities across Canada.

Every year, DUC names one outstanding volunteer as its “National Volunteer of the Year” from nominees across Canada. It’s a tough choice. The honour during this milestone year was awarded to John Stewart, a fundraiser extraordinaire, who’s been volunteering with DUC’s committee in Thunder Bay, Ont. for the past nine years.

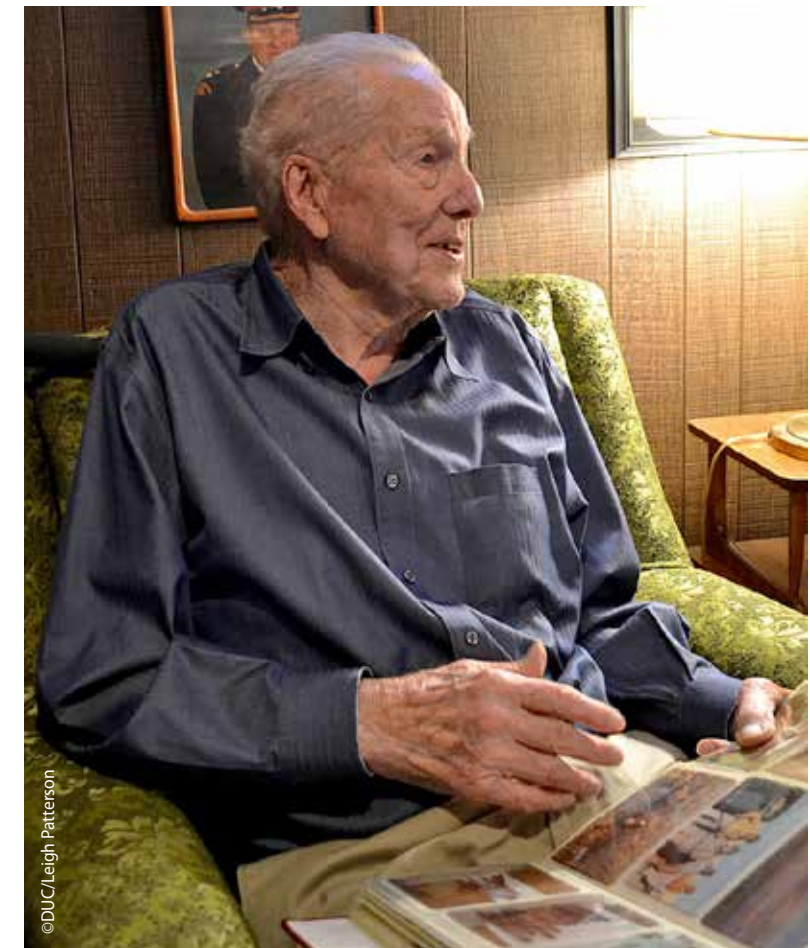
Every year Stewart challenges himself to raise \$10,000 in donations—and every year he’s exceeded it. On top of being a skilled fundraiser, he finds time to manage DUC’s sealed bid auctions. He also shares his talents by building hundreds of nest boxes as well as unique hand-crafted items like canoes and kayaks for DUC raffles. This kind of personal commitment from volunteers is invaluable.

As DUC celebrates 80 years of conservation excellence, we congratulate and thank volunteers like John Stewart who go the extra mile. All are passionate, driven and generous. All represent volunteerism at its finest.

Partner spotlight

Glen Michelson: An original DUC volunteer

Meet Glen Michelson—historian, conservationist and ardent DUC supporter. Beginning in 1939, Glen served as one of DUC’s original “Keeman” volunteers. He’d survey the land and wildlife around his home near Stirling, Alta. and send his reports back to DUC. These Keeman reports were vital to DUC’s early days, as the organization worked to put water back on the parched prairie landscape. As DUC celebrates its 80th anniversary, we’re honoured to share Glen’s story. His passion for wetlands, waterfowl and the people with whom he loved to share them is still as strong as ever.



©DUC/Leigh Patterson

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The wetland around Babine Lake is a safe-haven for waterfowl, waterbirds, salmon and other wildlife.

SUPPORTERS
10,768

VOLUNTEERS
846

LANDOWNER PARTNERS
978

HABITAT PROJECTS
614

ACRES SECURED IN FY18
5,325
(2,155 HECTARES)

ACRES SECURED
SINCE 1938
449,097
(181,743 HECTARES)

ACRES INFLUENCED
SINCE 1938
8,065,407
(3,263,954 HECTARES)

Safeguarding a rare gem

DUC acquires unspoiled natural wetland along Babine Lake

Babine Lake is a rare gem. The province’s largest freshwater lake boasts an incredible unspoiled wetland along its southeastern shore. Accessible only by plane or boat, it’s a living picture of what pristine wetland habitat should be: a tranquil safe-haven for waterfowl, waterbirds, salmon and a host of other mammals, amphibians and insects. When DUC acquired a piece of this habitat, it was a true gift.

The gift came from the Andersen family. Twenty years ago, they purchased property around Babine Lake knowing that few places like it exist. Most wetlands in the province have, over time, been altered in some shape or form. The Andersen family approached DUC to ensure this special place remains just as nature intended.

Thanks to the Andersen’s generous donation of land, along with funding from Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, North

American Wetlands Conservation Act, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, DUC and the Province of British Columbia conserved 320 acres (129 hectares) of untouched wetland habitat.

The wetland is a birder’s paradise. It supports migrating waterfowl and other birds including the trumpeter swan, wood duck, American wigeon, mallard, blue-winged teal, cinnamon teal, and northern shoveler. The area encompassing this wetland, known as the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District, also provides habitat for at-risk species like the grizzly bear, American bittern and painted turtle.

Support from generous partners is ensuring this rare gem is safeguarded for generations to come.

Partner spotlight

The Andersen family

Shawn Andersen and his father Sivert have owned property around Babine Lake for almost 20 years. They bought the land because they saw its natural value. By partnering with DUC, they are ensuring it remains a pristine sanctuary for waterfowl and other wildlife. “My dad taught me—and he was taught by his father—that you take care of land. Part of that is having wildlife running around on it.” – Shawn Andersen



The Fork Horn wetland restoration project was supported by the Government of Alberta’s Watershed Resiliency & Restoration Program.

SUPPORTERS 15,680
VOLUNTEERS 1,216
LANDOWNER PARTNERS 4,399
HABITAT PROJECTS 2,271
ACRES SECURED IN FY18 34,826 (14,094 HECTARES)
ACRES SECURED SINCE 1938 2,344,551 (948,806 HECTARES)
ACRES INFLUENCED SINCE 1938 13,815,840 (5,591,072 HECTARES)

Wetland restoration wins at the farm gate

Fork Horn project delivers fresh water and forage

Ducks aside, cattle need wetlands. Ranchers Bob and Judy McKnight, who operate near Duchess, Alta., will tell you that wetlands are essential to quality grass and fresh water for their herd. Wetlands are essential to both.

For 37 years, grassland that surrounded a drained wetland on the McKnight’s property provided little value to their operation. Previous owners had drained the wetland to collect irrigation spill water. But without consistent water, the land became unproductive. Foxtail barley, an undesirable species, was taking over native grasses. Quality forage for their livestock was limited.

This changed when DUC came to their farm gate.

The McKnights worked with DUC to restore the habitat and the ecosystem around it. This improved the cattle’s access to fresh water

and forage. Using historical photos, DUC determined the layout of the wetland in its natural state and designed an earthen structure with rock spillways to restore the wetland to its natural water level. The upland area surrounding the wetland was re-seeded using a tame forage mix that the cattle could graze on.

Upon completion, 258 acres (104 hectares) of drained wetlands were restored and 1,436 acres (581 hectares) of high quality grass-land were retained for nesting waterfowl and cattle grazing.

Known as the Fork Horn project, this restoration work was completed by DUC as part of the Government of Alberta’s Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program.

Partner spotlight

Bob and Judy McKnight

Landowners Bob and Judy McKnight participated in DUC’s Wetland Lease Restoration program. They retain ownership and management of their land and are compensated for every acre of wetland restored.

“The DUC project has enhanced our property and our water situation immensely. My cattle now have access to fresh drinking water and grass to graze on.” – Bob McKnight





The Young conservation easement spans 3,100 acres (1,255 hectares).

©Dean Davenport

SUPPORTERS
12,740
VOLUNTEERS
692
LANDOWNER PARTNERS
4,432
HABITAT PROJECTS
3,047
ACRES SECURED IN FY18
45,737
(18,509 HECTARES)
ACRES SECURED SINCE 1938
1,719,957
(696,042 HECTARES)
ACRES INFLUENCED SINCE 1938
7,966,219
(3,223,814 HECTARES)

Forever Young

Historic conservation easement keeps family’s land and legacy intact

A little more than nine kilometres southeast of Viscount, Sask. is a special piece of land. Native prairie grass stretches toward the horizon and hundreds of sandhill cranes wade in adjacent shallow wetlands. Few places like it exist. That’s why those who know and love it are ensuring it remains intact forever.

Jason Young, alongside his father Greg and their families, signed an historic conservation easement with DUC that protects 3,100 acres (1,255 hectares) of this rare natural habitat in perpetuity. It’s one of the largest conservation easements DUC has ever completed. Wetlands on the Young property provide critical habitat for cranes, including the endangered whooping crane, as well as large numbers of other waterfowl.

Jason is the fourth generation of Young farmers to ranch here. The land is their family’s refuge, and conserving it is a 100-year-old tradition they hold close to their hearts. By working in partnership with DUC, the Youngs are guaranteeing that the land will never be broken up—transforming their family’s tradition into a lasting conservation legacy.

Partner spotlight

Hazard Campbell

Wetlands on the Young family’s property held a special place in another person’s heart: Hazard Campbell. Campbell was a long-time DUC director and president of Ducks Unlimited in the United States from 1986-87. He was a conservation icon who loved nothing more than to hunt on the Young property every fall. At the time of his last visit, Hazard was 86 years old. DUC is dedicating the Young conservation easement in Hazard’s memory. It is the first project in the Hazard K. Campbell Conservation Legacy, which aims to conserve important habitat within the Prairie Pothole Region of the U.S. and Canada.



The Fouillard Johnston project strategically links other conservation projects to create a vast area of protected land. Within 72 square miles, 108 out of 288 quarter sections contain protected habitat.



Scott Henowitch, DUC conservation programs specialist, worked closely with landowners on the Fouillard Johnston conservation easement.

A fundamental piece of the puzzle

Conservation easement links mosaic of native prairie

Just south of Shoal Lake, Man. is a conservation project rich with large blocks of native prairie and parkland. It connects with other projects to form an expansive haven for waterfowl and other wild-life in the province's southwest. It's an example of what happens when outdoor enthusiasts, agriculture and conservation groups work together.

In the middle of these unbroken lands is DUC's Fouillard Johnston conservation project. Littered with pothole wetlands, it connects dozens of other habitat projects managed by fellow conservation partners.

When DUC reached out to landowners Omer, Rene, and Armand Fouillard and Clint Johnston shortly after they purchased the property, the outdoorsmen were excited to hear about conservation opportunities. Within a year, they signed a conservation agreement

that protects 214 wetlands that cover 426 acres (172 hectares), plus 602 upland acres (244 hectares).

The property is rich with wildlife. Ten waterfowl species were counted during one visit alone, and another 19 different bird species are commonly observed. Jackrabbits, foxes, muskrats, beavers, deer and moose also frequent the area. The land also benefits people and supports livelihoods. The Fouillards hunt on the property and rent part to the previous owner who continues to farm. Cattle graze the grassland, while crops grow in arable lands. The agreement also allows for seeding of small wetlands that are naturally dry part of the year.

Flexible agreements. Strong partnerships. Supportive landowners. These are the ingredients for conservation success on Manitoba's prairie.

Partner spotlight

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

DUC and the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) jointly manage 87 habitat project quarters—nearly 73 square kilometres—within an eight-kilometer radius of the Fouillard Johnston conservation easement. MHHC is a non-profit Crown corporation that shares DUC's commitment to working with landowners to maintain and enhance natural habitat. The work of DUC and MHHC complements each other. We are close partners in wetland restoration.



SUPPORTERS
13,143

VOLUNTEERS
761

LANDOWNER PARTNERS
3,203

HABITAT PROJECTS
1,503

ACRES SECURED IN FY18
10,573
(4,279 HECTARES)

ACRES SECURED
SINCE 1938
681,038
(275,606 HECTARES)

ACRES INFLUENCED
SINCE 1938
2,022,574
(818,507 HECTARES)



©Steven Klemadis

Fighting green with green

Lake Erie’s long-threatened water quality gets fresh hope

Lake Erie is turning more and more people green. Policy makers and community leaders are seeking environmental solutions that use the power of nature to improve water quality in the southernmost Great Lake. It’s called green infrastructure—and wetland projects led by DUC are delivering fresh hope.

In Lake Erie’s case, wetlands on the surrounding landscape help filter excess algae-causing nutrients in much the same way a water treatment plant would. That’s because wetlands collect water and trap nutrients, stopping them from flowing downstream into the lake. This is green infrastructure. It’s about building with nature instead of concrete.

DUC is part of the newly established Lake Erie Watershed Wetlands Initiative, and is working with the federal and Ontario governments, private landowners and conservation organizations to put the power of wetlands to work. Over the past year, DUC constructed 75 new wetlands and restored 17 existing wetlands in the Lake Erie watershed. Most of the new projects are small wetlands on private lands that capture runoff from the surrounding landscape.

Fighting green with green in Lake Erie’s watershed is yielding positive results—and the future of the iconic water body is getting cleaner and healthier.



©DUC

DUC constructed 75 new wetlands and restored 17 existing wetlands in the Lake Erie watershed.

SUPPORTERS
18,119
VOLUNTEERS
1,073
LANDOWNER PARTNERS
3,180
HABITAT PROJECTS
1,656
ACRES SECURED IN FY18
5,919
(2,395 HECTARES)
ACRES SECURED SINCE 1938
976,979
(395,369 HECTARES)
ACRES INFLUENCED SINCE 1938
1,022,723
(413,881 HECTARES)

Partner spotlight

Government and grassroots support

DUC received \$1.3 million for wetland restoration in support of nutrient reduction in the Lake Erie Watershed. This included \$650,000 in federal infrastructure funding through the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund and \$650,000 in matching funds from Ontario’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. DUC also benefited from collaborations with local conservation authorities as well as eight First Nations communities who shared their knowledge and experiences related to water quality issues in Lake Erie.





New legislation will improve wetland management across Quebec.

SUPPORTERS	3,766
VOLUNTEERS	212
LANDOWNER PARTNERS	332
HABITAT PROJECTS	258
ACRES SECURED IN FY18	1,866 (755 HECTARES)
ACRES SECURED SINCE 1938	72,672 (29,409 HECTARES)
ACRES INFLUENCED SINCE 1938	42,377,193 (17,149,442 HECTARES)

Why conserve wetlands? Because it’s the law.

Government of Quebec makes history by passing groundbreaking Act

In a show of political leadership and courage, the Government of Quebec became the first province in Canada to enact a law that protects wetlands. It’s a turning point in the history of wildlife and wetland habitat conservation—and a move DUC hopes will challenge other provinces to follow suit.

Bill 132, an Act respecting the conservation of wetlands and bodies of water, was passed unanimously by the Quebec National Assembly. It provides statutory protection for all provincial wetlands and waterways, and enshrines an all-important “no net loss” principle within the legislation. This principle requires that any wetlands lost due to economic development will be reclaimed through mitigation and restoration. Results ensure that the amount of wetland habitat in the province remains constant, or increases.

The Act could not have come at a better time, as historical wetland losses have reached 80 per cent in the St. Lawrence Valley. Recent floods in some regions of Quebec are added proof that we can’t ignore our changing environment or the health of our wetlands and water. Undivided political support for these major legislative changes demonstrates that more and more people understand the fundamental roles wetlands play in protecting the environment. This includes safeguarding water resources, maintaining biological diversity, as well as fighting and adapting to climate change.

The Act is a big step in the right direction. Implementation will be the ultimate test, but DUC remains optimistic. Quebec has changed the conversation in this country. Conserving wetlands is important. That’s why it’s the law.

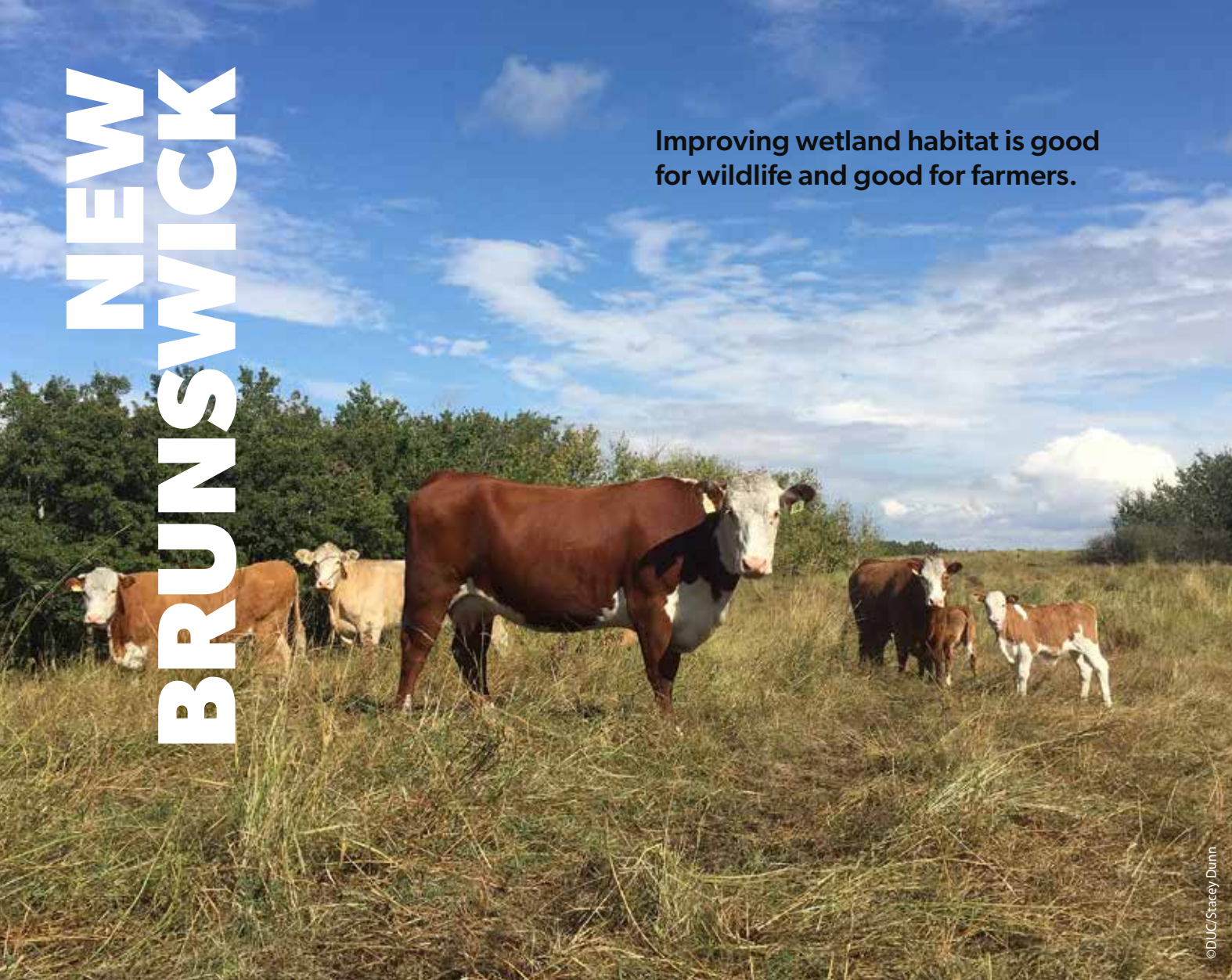
Partner spotlight

Wetlands working group

Prior to the enactment of Bill 132, DUC was part of a working group made up of leading NGOs from across the province. The group developed a shared vision for key elements of the law—particularly related to mitigation—and lobbied for their inclusion. Participating organizations included: Centre québécois du droit de l’environnement; Nature Québec; Regroupement national des Conseils régionaux de l’environnement du Québec; Regroupement des Organismes de bassins versants du Québec; and Réseau des milieux naturels protégés.



Improving wetland habitat is good
for wildlife and good for farmers.



©DUC/Stacey Dunn

Trading spaces

Exchanging agricultural and environmental benefits at Tantramar Community Pasture

The 100-acre (40.5-hectare) bog in the middle of the Tantramar Community Pasture is easy to spot even from the far edges of the field. Miniature larch trees stand on a mound that rises ever-so-slightly out of the prairie-flat grassland. For farmers, the wetland is wasted space: cattle grazing in the area avoid the bog or sink deep in the wet soil.

When Adam Campbell, DUC's head of conservation delivery in Atlantic Canada, approached the Community Pasture Association about restoring and fencing off the bog, the decision to partner was easy. In exchange for the bog, DUC would help the Association improve productive agricultural land, create small wetlands to give grazing cattle access to fresh drinking water, as well as build a corral and kilometres of new fencing.

Seven farmers graze their cattle on the 1,000-acre (404.7-hectare) pasture, which is located just outside of Sackville, N.B. Available land in the area is limited, which makes the community pasture extremely valuable.

The unique partnership between the Association and DUC will ensure that important natural habitat is conserved for wildlife, and that high-quality grassland stays productive for farmers and their cattle.



SUPPORTERS
2,510

VOLUNTEERS
261

LANDOWNER PARTNERS
612

HABITAT PROJECTS
443

ACRES SECURED IN FY18
712
(288 HECTARES)

ACRES SECURED
SINCE 1938
53,941
(21,829 HECTARES)

ACRES INFLUENCED
SINCE 1938
940,255
(380,508 HECTARES)

Partner spotlight

Tantramar Community Pasture Association

This unique wetland restoration project wouldn't have been possible without the equally unique partnership between DUC and Tantramar Community Pasture Association. The Association's dedication to environmental stewardship is helping DUC achieve its mission by turning mostly idle farmland into productive wetlands. It's a win-win for farmers and the landscape. Overall, DUC's partnership with the Association has resulted in 600 acres (243 hectares) of restored or influenced habitat.



©DUC

Over the past year, DUC rebuilt more than a kilometre of dike and protected more than 90 acres (37 hectares) of freshwater marsh at Wallace Bay.

SUPPORTERS
3,315

VOLUNTEERS
210

LANDOWNER PARTNERS
714

HABITAT PROJECTS
1,677

ACRES SECURED IN FY18
308
(125 HECTARES)

ACRES SECURED
SINCE 1938
40,390
(16,345 HECTARES)

ACRES INFLUENCED
SINCE 1938
964,945
(390,499 HECTARES)

Protecting Wallace Bay Marsh piece by piece

Rebuild efforts continue in National Wildlife Area

Nestled into the crook of Wallace Bay, in a National Wildlife Area on Nova Scotia’s Northumberland Shore, are more than 445 acres (180 hectares) of sprawling green marshland. But it didn’t always look this way. The area was previously drained and diked for agriculture, and it wasn’t until the 1970s when DUC partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Service that its freshwater wetlands were restored. Today, DUC’s efforts to maintain Wallace Bay Marsh continue.

When the marsh’s original dikes started to erode a few years ago, DUC developed a plan to rebuild them piece by piece, ensuring the expanse of wetland would be conserved for years to come. Over the past year, DUC rebuilt more than a kilometre of dike and protected more than 90 acres (37 hectares) of freshwater marsh.

Wallace Bay Marsh is a haven for the community—and for wildlife. Naturalists scan the landscape. Birders keep their binoculars close at hand while on the lookout for their favourite species. Hikers regularly walk the dike-top trail. Habitat here also provides an important refuge for migrant and nesting waterfowl, including black ducks and green-wing teal. DUC is proud to play a role in protecting this national, natural treasure.

Partner spotlight

Canadian Wildlife Service

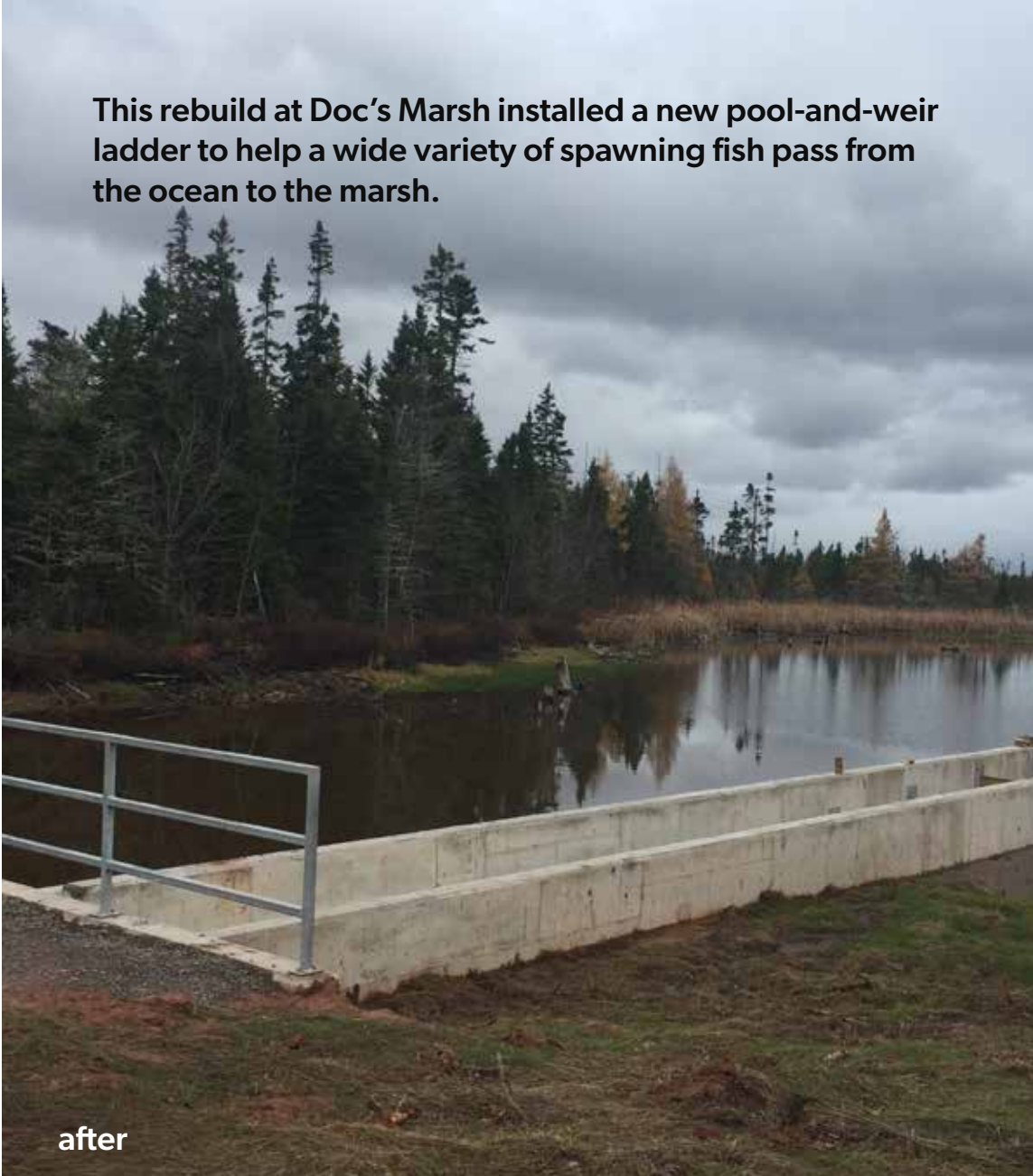
The federal Canadian Wildlife Service is one of DUC’s strongest partners, committed to conserving important lands for waterfowl and wildlife across the country. In Nova Scotia, DUC has nine wetland restoration projects on three National Wildlife Areas managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service. This includes Wallace Bay as well as Chignecto and Sand Pond. Nationally, DUC has partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Service to manage projects on 16 National Wildlife Areas across the country. Together, we’re restoring and protecting critical wetland ecosystems for generations to come.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



before



after

This rebuild at Doc’s Marsh installed a new pool-and-weir ladder to help a wide variety of spawning fish pass from the ocean to the marsh.

SUPPORTERS
1,134

VOLUNTEERS
57

LANDOWNER PARTNERS
587

HABITAT PROJECTS
375

ACRES SECURED IN FY18
606
(245 HECTARES)

ACRES SECURED
SINCE 1938
13,919
(5,633 HECTARES)

ACRES INFLUENCED
SINCE 1938
81,306
(32,903 HECTARES)

Giving fish a fin up

New infrastructure at Doc’s Marsh helps species migrate upstream

Swimming upstream is as tough as it sounds. Fish migrating from the ocean and into Doc’s Marsh now have a fin up thanks to new infrastructure that supports a variety of species on their journey to spawn.

With funding from the National Wetland Conservation Fund, DUC replaced the original water-control structure and fish-ladder at Doc’s Marsh, which was failing to pass weaker-swimming fish like alewife and small trout. A new pool-and-weir ladder has been installed that helps a wider variety of fish migrate from the ocean’s salt water to the marsh’s freshwater more effectively.

In addition to fulfilling their lifecycle, fish that enter the marsh are contributing to the ecosystem’s overall health. When they enter a

freshwater area like Doc’s Marsh, they release what scientists refer to as “marine derived nutrients” that enrich the soil and vegetation. This release occurs when fish defecate, spawn and in some cases, die. It’s all part of an incredible natural cycle that DUC’s conservation efforts are supporting.

Doc’s Marsh was one of the first wetland projects restored by DUC in the Atlantic provinces. At more than 400 acres (160 hectares), it’s still the largest restored wetland on the Island. Nestled into a forested landscape on the eastern end of the province, Doc’s Marsh is a hotspot for wood ducks, green-wing teal, black ducks, eagles and various species of owls. It’s also a popular site for anglers, horseback riders, hikers, bird-watchers and waterfowl hunters looking to enjoy some of the province’s best natural habitat.

Partner spotlight

Prince Edward Island Fish and Wildlife Division

PEI’s fish and wildlife division, part of the Department of Land, Communities, and Environment, is dedicated to conserving the province’s wetlands and natural areas. It has been partnering with DUC on wetland projects since 1971. DUC now manages 22 restored wetland projects on 13 Wildlife Management Areas across the province.





Wetland conservation where you least expect it

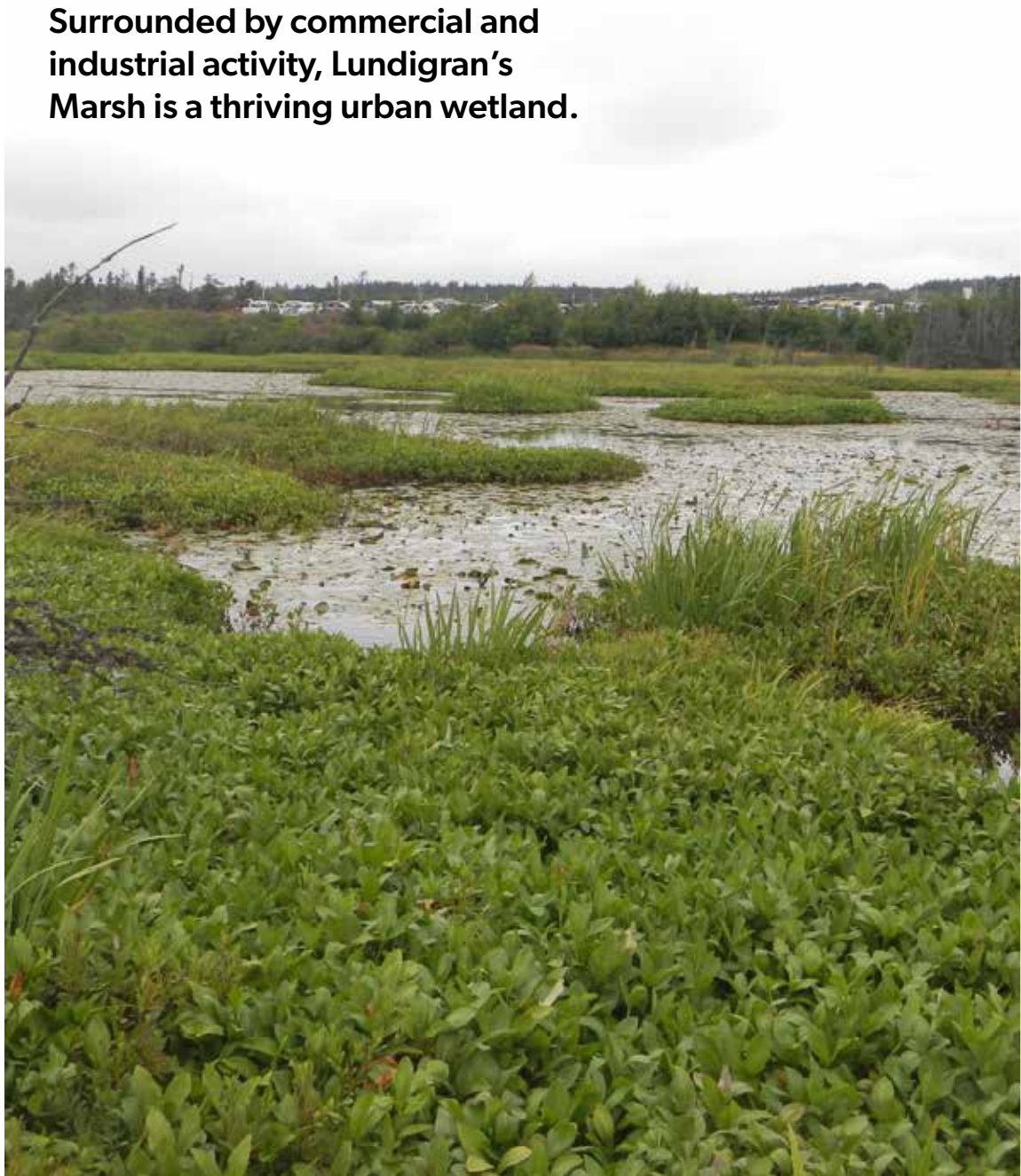
Connecting St. John’s residents to Lundigran’s Marsh

Smack dab in the middle of a St. John’s industrial park, Lundigran’s Marsh sits tucked away from the rest of the city. Many residents don’t realize the lush wetland is even there, never mind the fact it’s one of the Avalon region’s birding hotspots. DUC is working with a group of devoted staff and volunteers with Northeast Avalon Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) to change that.

The watershed group received a grant through the National Wetland Conservation Fund to complete restoration and monitoring work at the local wetland. They’re also engaging business owners, whose offices and buildings border the marsh, to assist with clean ups and the planting of native species to better connect them to this important habitat.

Although Lundigran’s Marsh is surrounded by commercial and industrial activity, it is thriving. It’s a beautiful pocket of nature in an urban area that’s providing residents with essential environmental services. Many waterfowl and marsh bird species use the wetland habitat for feeding, shelter and breeding. It’s also a catchment area for water that flows into the Virginia River system, and plays a critical role in storm-water retention.

Lundigran’s Marsh is part of the City of St. John’s Municipal Habitat Stewardship Agreement with the Stewardship of Municipalities conservation program.



Surrounded by commercial and industrial activity, Lundigran’s Marsh is a thriving urban wetland.

Partner spotlight

Northeast Avalon ACAP

Northeast Avalon ACAP has been collaborating with DUC, the Stewardship of Municipalities conservation program and the City of St. John’s to conduct bird and water-quality monitoring, as well as detailed wetland habitat assessments. It also plants native species along the edges of the marsh to soften the boundary between the wetland and the businesses. Together, we’re conserving a critical piece of St. John’s natural history for future generations to enjoy.



SUPPORTERS 2,068
VOLUNTEERS 266
LANDOWNER PARTNERS 26
HABITAT PROJECTS 46
ACRES SECURED IN FY18 30 (12 HECTARES)
ACRES SECURED SINCE 1938 9,655 (3,907 HECTARES)
ACRES INFLUENCED SINCE 1938 14,332,489 (5,800,153 HECTARES)

BOREAL REGION

DUC and the Akaitcho Treaty 8 Tribal Council are mapping 77 million acres (31 million hectares) of boreal wetlands.

ACRES INFLUENCED
IN FY18
3,627,482
(1,467,990 HECTARES)

ACRES INFLUENCED
SINCE 1938
139,227,482
(56,343,363 HECTARES)

**Statistics include acres from all provinces and territories within the boreal region*

Mapping for the future

Supporting Indigenous land-use planning in the North

It's one of the largest, most innovative projects of its kind. Together, DUC and the Akaitcho Treaty 8 Tribal Council are mapping 77 million acres (31 million hectares) of boreal wetlands in Akaitcho Néné, NWT. Blending science with traditional knowledge, the mapping project will help define the future for northern communities—and conservation.

Located on the eastern half of Great Slave Lake and extending beyond the Nunavut border, Akaitcho Néné is home to four Dene First Nations communities. They share this landscape with waterfowl and wildlife, like the threatened woodland caribou. The area is rich in wetlands, but there's still much to learn about the diversity, density and types of habitat found here. That's where the mapping project comes in.

Maps of the sprawling northern landscape are being created using satellite-generated images, reconnaissance flights, traditional knowledge of the landscape and cutting-edge mapping software. Once completed, they will inform DUC's conservation efforts and help Akaitcho First Nations make decisions around how to manage their territory for protected areas initiatives, recreation, and sustainable land use for industry.

The collaborative mapping project is an impressive effort that's poised to shape the future of Canada's North—for waterfowl, wildlife and people.

Partner spotlight

Akaitcho Treaty 8 Tribal Council

The partnership between DUC and the Akaitcho Treaty 8 Tribal Council was brokered by Steven Nitah, a former Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation chief and current lead negotiator for his people. "Ducks Unlimited and its mandate are consistent with the Dene relationship with land. There's commonalities there." - Steven Nitah



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As of March 31, 2018

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O. Leigh Spencer †
Calgary, AB – 1940–42

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S.S. Holden †
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William G. Ross †
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Hancock, O.B.E. †
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Regina, SK – 1965

W. Kenneth Martin, D.D.S. †
Regina, SK – 1966

Festus S. Sharpe †
Winnipeg, MB – 1967

W. Kenneth Martin, D.D.S. †
Regina, SK – 1968

Lorne M. Cameron †
Victoria, BC – 1969–70

Robert A. White †
Vancouver, BC – 1971–72

Roderick O.A. Hunter †
Winnipeg, MB – 1973–74

Duncan M. Jessiman
Winnipeg, MB – 1975–76

Hugh H. Mackay †
Rothsay, NB – 1977–78

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Claude H. Wilson †
Winnipeg, MB – 1992–93

William G. Turnbull
Calgary, AB – 1994–95

George C. Reifel
Vancouver, BC – 1996–98

G. Tod Wright
Burlington, ON – 1999–2000

Mel F. Belich, Q.C.
Calgary, AB – 2001–02

John R. Messer
Tisdale, SK – 2003–04

Peter D. Carton
Regina, SK – 2005–07

C. Neil Downey
Red Deer, AB – 2007–09

Jack H. Hole
Gunn, AB – 2009–11

Tom Worden
Courtice, ON – 2011–13

Mac Dunfield
Riverview, NB – 2013–15

James E. Couch
*R.M. of Corman Park, SK –
2015–17*

Role of the Board

- Approve the values, mission and vision, as well as the broad long-term objectives, ethical considerations and governing policies of DUC.
- Hire, establish objectives and monitor the performance of the CEO and provide for succession planning.
- Provide support to staff, where appropriate, to achieve the objectives of DUC—particularly in fundraising and policy.
- Approve the budget and the risk management approach of DUC.
- Monitor the performance of DUC, as well as its management, committees and task forces in achieving our vision, mission and broad long-term objectives.
- Recruit, orient, develop and motivate directors, officers and senior provincial directors who are willing and capable of helping DUC achieve its objectives.
- Facilitate the operations of the board through appropriate governance processes.
- Monitor management’s compliance with legislative and fiduciary requirements.

Board Committees

- Executive Committee
- Conservation Programs Committee
- Membership & Revenue Committee
- Development Committee
- Finance & Risk Committee
- Governance Committee
- Personnel Policy Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Audit Committee

Message from the Chief Financial Officer

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) achieved excellent results in the 2018 fiscal year, with a continued focus on financial strength and sustainability. Key accomplishments include:

- Fundraising achievements and grant awards thanks to the support of generous donors and partners;
- Habitat gains that are dedicating more acres to conservation;
- The launch of the second phase of a business system transformation project;
- \$101 million in revenue (2017 - 107.9 million);
- 5.3 million acres (2.1 million hectares) secured and influenced across the country (2017 – 9.3 million acres or 3.8 million hectares);
- More than 126,000 people who are taking action as part of our conservation community;
- Pushing to exceed our \$500-million fundraising goal as part of the ongoing, continent-wide *Rescue Our Wetlands* campaign;
- Continued support from Ducks Unlimited, Inc. that is critical to the securement of North American Wetland Conservation Act funds;
- \$14.3 million invested in revolving and conservation lands (2017 - \$16.6 million);
- Conservation easements placed on 5,617 acres (2,273 hectares) as part of the Revolving Land Conservation Program, leveraged by \$8.1 million draws on loans provided by the Alberta Treasury Branch and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce;
- Substantially delivering on the grant awarded by the Government of Alberta in 2016 for the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program in support of flood mitigation measures;
- Continued support from federal government programs including the Natural Areas Conservation Program, the National Wetland Conservation Fund, and the newly established Nature Fund; and
- Continued support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state grants and Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

For years, DUC has invested in science, engineering, adaptive management and geographic information systems (wetland mapping) to guide and deliver conservation efforts. This, combined with our investment in landowner and partner relationships as well as our Revolving Land Conservation Program, gives DUC a strategic advantage in providing wetland restoration expertise and services.

At March 31, 2018, DUC has internally restricted \$130.3 million for its long-term commitment to habitat asset management and \$23.8 million for future conservation opportunities.

DUC is committed to outreach and education, communicating the importance of wetlands for water, wildlife and the environment to all Canadians. This includes important industry and government partners. Internally restricted funding for conservation opportunities provides the flexibility to act quickly when opportunities arise. DUC is also committed to and has made great strides in maintaining the foundation and efficiency of its governance structure.

Investments in DUC’s business systems transformation project in 2018 were \$1.2 million. Our partners Microsoft and Sierra Systems Inc. are assisting us in completing the second phase of our transformation. The board has approved the third phase (Constituent Relationship Management, sales and inventory) of the business systems transformation project, to further update DUC’s technological tools and streamline its processes.

With our research pedigree, strong partnerships, educational outreach and a conservation community that stands more than 126,000 strong, DUC is transforming the way conservation is both delivered and perceived. Our governance and commitment to transparency continue to make us the premier conservation organization the nation looks to for leadership.

Thank you for the important role you’ve played in our accomplishments this past year, and we look forward to your continued support.



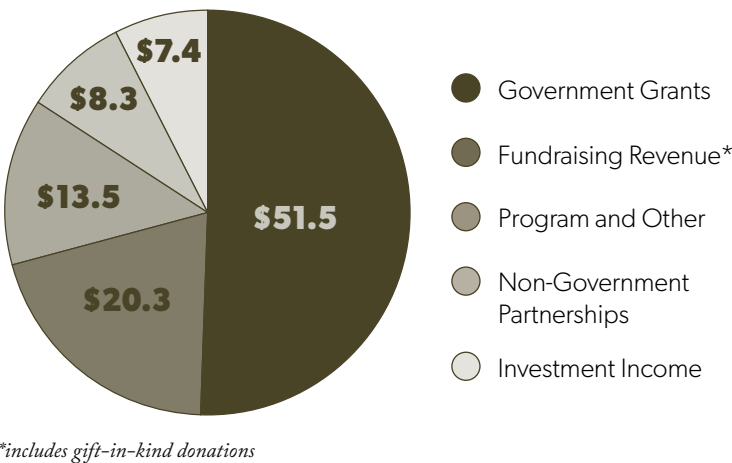
Marcy Sullivan,
Chief Financial Officer

Overview

Sources of Revenue (\$Millions)

DUC generates revenue from four primary sources:

- Grants from a variety of government sources including federal (both Canada and U.S.), provincial, state and municipal, and from other non-government organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Inc. in the United States;
- Fundraising income, which includes philanthropic giving and grass-roots fundraising;
- Program and other income, which includes fee-for-service revenue and ancillary revenues from the management of owned conservation lands; and
- Investment income from short and long-term investments.

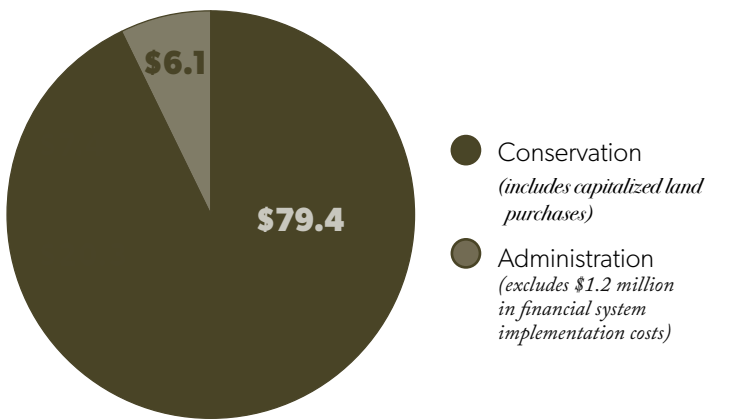


Uses of Funds (\$Millions)**

DUC benefits from:

- Diverse revenue sources;
- Efficient use of funds;
- Leveraging dollars raised; and
- Financial strength.

** does not include \$12.1 million in fundraising and philanthropic expenses

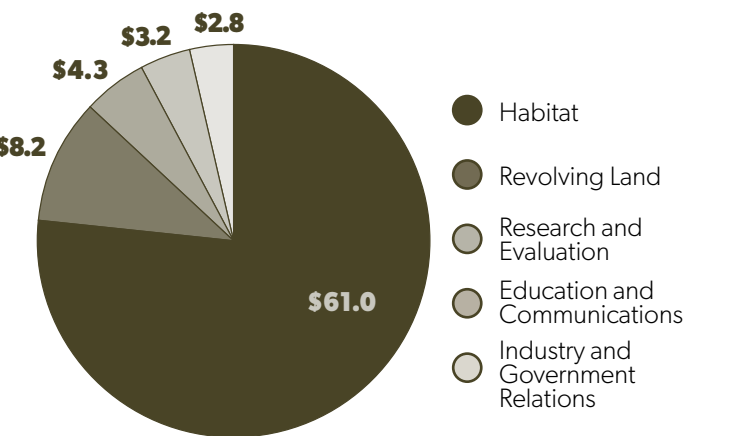


Efficiency Ratios

DUC strives to maintain a more than 90 per cent investment in Conservation expenditures of its total Conservation and Administration expenditures. DUC achieved a 93 per cent investment in Conservation expenditures in 2018 (2017 – 94 per cent). DUC strives to maintain a more than 80 per cent investment in Conservation expenditures of its total expenditures, including Fundraising. DUC achieved an 81 per cent investment in Conservation expenditures in 2018 (2017 – 82 per cent).

Due to the timing and size of some philanthropic gifts, as well as the experience of 326 community fundraising events across Canada, the overall fundraising efficiency ratio can vary year over year. Merchandise is utilized through a variety of on-site raffles and auctions, and is included in the fundraising expenditures. The fundraising efficiency ratio has improved year over year (expenses/revenue) and was 46 per cent in 2018 (2017 – 42 per cent).

Conservation mission priorities (\$Millions)



Ducks Unlimited Canada condensed statements of financial position

(in thousands of dollars) | For the years ended March 31

	2018	2017
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 25,031	\$ 28,936
Short-term investments	9,229	9,195
Other current assets	27,558	32,447
	61,818	70,578
Investments	173,584	143,086
Land held for resale	22,106	22,390
Property, plant and equipment, net	7,309	7,883
Conservation lands	174,343	167,354
	\$ 439,160	\$ 411,291
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and current portion of borrowings	\$ 29,559	\$ 29,193
Current portion of deferred contributions and unearned revenue	37,403	30,830
Accrued pension and other post-employment benefits	18,619	16,858
Non-current deferred contributions and unearned revenue	21,801	16,423
	107,382	93,304
Net assets to support conservation activities:		
Internally restricted	140,201	131,775
Invested in land held for resale, property, plant and equipment and conservation lands	178,012	173,231
Unrestricted	13,565	12,981
	331,778	317,987
	\$ 439,160	\$ 411,291

These condensed financial statements do not contain all of the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the Company's financial position, results of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows, reference should be made to the complete financial statements of Ducks Unlimited Canada as at and for the years ended March 31, 2018 and March 31, 2017, on which Ernst and Young expressed an opinion without reservation in their report dated July 24, 2018. Visit ducks.ca/annualreport.

Ducks Unlimited Canada condensed statements of revenue and expenses and changes in unrestricted net assets

(in thousands of dollars) | For the years ended March 31

	2018	2017
Revenue		
Philanthropic fundraising	\$ 9,788	\$ 10,286
Grassroots fundraising	9,682	9,814
Non-government partnerships	8,330	6,026
Government grants	51,508	49,566
Program and other	13,478	15,701
Investment income	7,382	15,986
	100,168	107,379
Expenses		
Conservation program	\$ 64,161	\$ 62,772
Fundraising	12,119	12,405
Administration	7,313	7,457
	83,593	82,634
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	16,575	24,745
Transfers from unrestricted net assets	(15,991)	(24,314)
Change in unrestricted net assets	584	431
Opening balance unrestricted net assets	12,981	12,550
Closing balance unrestricted net assets	\$ 13,565	\$ 12,981



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DUC's 80-year history is coloured with many great migrations—and the journey continues. With every passing season, our flock grows in strength and unity. Together, we are taking wetland conservation to new people, new places and new heights.



***Thank you for
your support.***

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