

# BUILDING THE NATURE NATION

*"Observe how all things are continually being born of change..."*

*Marcus Aurelius*



Annual Report 2004-05

## Honorary Patron

Her Excellency the Right Honourable  
Adrienne Clarkson CC, CMM, CD  
Governor General of Canada

## Board of Directors



**Chair**  
June 2004 – April 2005  
John Pratt  
Ottawa, ON



**Chair**  
May 2005 – June 2005  
**Vice Chair**  
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Edmonton, AB

## Honorary Solicitor

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## Nature Canada

85 Albert St., Suite 900 Ottawa, ON K1P 6A4  
Tel: (613) 562-3447 Toll-free: 1-800-267-4088 Fax: (613) 562-3371  
naturecanada.ca

Nature Canada is a registered charity: #11883-4704-RR0001

*Here's to your new name, and your 65th Birthday. I suppose I should say "our" name and "our" birthday, since we're all part of Nature Canada, with the same goals and hopes for nature. Thanks for being our national voice.*

**Dennis Baresco**  
Chief Interpreter,  
Medicine Hat  
Interpretive Program

*Meilleurs voeux de succès continus pour la nouvelle vie de cette belle organisation!*

**Jacques Gérin**  
Former Deputy Minister,  
Environment Canada



# Introduction: Our Journey Continues

## Nature Canada 2004-05 Annual Report

With the introduction of our five-year strategic plan in 2003, we began a journey that has opened up inspiring new vistas. Using the plan as our map, we are excited about where we are going.

On October 26, 2004, we rounded a great bend in the road when this organization changed its name from Canadian Nature Federation to Nature Canada. This decision was rooted in our desire to truly welcome everyone who cares for nature. It came from longstanding name confusion with other environmental organizations. It came from our commitment to forge strong relationships with provincial naturalist federations, including Nature Saskatchewan and Ontario Nature. It came from our belief that this increasingly popular Nature "brand" will sound a chord with Canadians and draw more people to the conservation movement.

With our many supporters and conservation colleagues cheering us around that bend in the road, Nature Canada has begun its new branding efforts, with our documents, gear and Web site now sporting the bright new logo that celebrates, as you do, the fresh blue sky and warm green ground behind all nature in Canada.

Through the Nature Canada lens, the world is full of vision, hope and promise as well as study, care and concern. But one thing is constant, unchanged since this movement began 65 years ago. Our supporters, volunteers, staff and leaders are still fully committed to the protection of Canada's abundant species and amazing landscapes. We are still committed to building a nature nation, where all Canadians embrace the natural world every day.

*I wish your  
organization well  
into the future.  
There's still a lot of  
work to do and we  
need to work  
together to  
achieve results...  
to create a new  
national park in  
the Manitoba  
Lowlands.*

**Dawn Bronson  
Superintendent,  
Manitoba Field Unit**



## Our Mission

Nature Canada's mission is the protection of nature, its diversity and the processes that sustain it.

## Our History

The seeds of our organization were sown in 1939, when Reginald Whittemore launched the magazine *Canadian Nature* as a tribute to his late wife Mabel Frances. Soon, we grew into the membership-based Canadian Audubon Society and shouldered the great task of celebrating, understanding and protecting birds.

By the 1960s we had become a national voice for conservation issues, particularly the need for more protected areas and protection of endangered species, and in 1971, we became the Canadian Nature Federation.

Now, as Nature Canada, we remain a trusted voice on the national stage for the Nature Network — 11 provincial affiliates, 112 member organizations and 360 local nature clubs — and we focus on cross-Canada efforts in the field of conservation, education and protection.

As we mark our 65th birthday, our conservation mandate is as determined and vital as ever, thanks to the tremendous contribution of our more than 40,000 loyal members and supporters. Our latest efforts are chronicled in *Nature Canada* magazine and our Web site at [naturecanada.ca](http://naturecanada.ca).

## Our Approach

Nature Canada supporters celebrate nature. They see its beauty, recognize its power, and are grateful for its diversity.

Nature Canada supporters educate others about nature. From the smallest insect to the most complicated ecosystem, they teach others about the needs of nature and how it supports our economy, our health and our souls.

Nature Canada supporters protect nature. They work together at the local, provincial and federal level to protect species, entire landscapes and whole ecosystems for the benefit of Canadians today and tomorrow.

To protect one species, you must protect the whole, so we follow the ecosystem approach when assessing impacts and remediation strategies. We emphasize the importance of ecological monitoring and organize ways for all Canadians to participate in the great task of data collection. Our initiatives rely on sound, up-to-date scientific research.

*Keep up the good work. May there be more nature to celebrate the next time this anniversary comes around.*

**Stephen Huddart**  
Senior Program Officer,  
J.W. McConnell Family  
Foundation



# Conservation balance sheet

*Bright spots and dark corners in our conservation team's arena during fiscal year 2004-05.*

*Congratulations  
CNF on your  
65th birthday.  
Wishing you  
many more  
years of  
conservation  
success.*

Rosemary Curley  
Government of PEI

*Happy Birthday  
to Nature Canada  
our partner in  
conservation!*

Brian Gray  
Ducks Unlimited

## Bright spots

- Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve, Canada's 42nd national park, is established in northern Labrador.
- The Gully Marine Protected Area, off the coast of Nova Scotia, is established. It provides habitat to 14 species of marine mammals (including the endangered northern bottlenose whale) and 21 species of rare cold-water corals.
- Ontario places permanent ban on wolf and coyote hunting and trapping in the 39 townships surrounding Algonquin Provincial Park.
- Kyoto Protocol comes into force, offering hope that the international community can make greater progress combating climate change.
- Pukaskwa National Park and provincial officials agree on measures to control public access.
- Legislation is introduced in Parliament to help reduce the devastating effects of chronic oil pollution by holding shipping companies accountable if they illegally dump bilge oil in Canadian waters.
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador releases a new Natural Areas Plan.

## Dark corners

- A study by scientists from 95 countries finds that two-thirds of the ecosystem services that support life on Earth are being degraded or used unsustainably. BirdLife International scientists are among the authors that contributed to the report. Nature Canada is Canadian co-partner in BirdLife International, with Bird Studies Canada.
- Several oil and gas companies file an Environmental Impact Statement on the \$7 billion MacKenzie Gas Project. The statement lacks information about potential impacts on land birds, water birds, species at risk and six nationally or globally significant *Important Bird Areas* in the MacKenzie River valley.
- Cheviot Coal Mine project is revived, less than three kilometres from the boundary of Alberta's Jasper National Park.
- Canada fails to put two endangered sockeye salmon populations on the federal list of species at risk.
- At the end of 2004, 455 species are classified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as being at risk. They include 172 species classified as endangered, 120 classified as threatened, 141 classified as of special concern, and 22 classified as no longer found in Canada. At least 12 species that formerly occurred in Canada are known to have gone extinct.
- Canada's most endangered ecosystems are: antelope brush and bunchgrass systems in BC, Garry oak meadows system of BC, tall grass prairie systems of Manitoba, and Carolinian forest system of Ontario.
- Land and Water BC is considering approving an application for a heli-skiing operation that could risk the persistence of the single most viable remaining population of "mountain" caribou.

## Message from the Chair and President

# The wonder springing from a seed

True wonders can spring from a seed. Sixty-five years ago, Reginald Whittemore sowed the seed that has grown to become Nature Canada, and we have been celebrating Canada's abundance and diversity of nature ever since.

Today we are bound together by nature. From coast to coast to coast, Canadians from all walks of life are working together to celebrate nature's beauty and protect its endangered species and spaces. Nature Canada is proud to work right alongside all Canadians who care about Canadian nature.

For those who have worked toward the establishment of protected areas in Canada, this was a good year. We had the honour of being present at the emotional signing ceremony for the creation of our 42nd national park, the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve. We also celebrated the announcement of Gully Marine Protected Area.

As we mark our 65th anniversary this year, we have been profoundly touched and inspired by good tidings coming in from around the world, including birthday cards from Sierra Leone, Spain, Belize and the Cook Islands. You can read some of them in this annual report, and many more on our Nature Canada Web site. These greetings are an affirmation of the work of the naturalist community across Canada.

At Nature Canada, we promise to continue to protect Canada's nature for the benefit of the entire world. As one of our members said, "...without NATURE there is no CANADA!"



Mark Dorfman  
Chair



Julie Gelfand  
President



*The Executive and members of the Halifax Field Naturalists Society want to send you our warmest congratulations on your 65th anniversary and name change. We enjoy sharing common interests and goals with Nature Canada and wish you all the best for the future.*

Elliott Hayes  
President,  
The Halifax Field  
Naturalists Society

## We lead and act on issues of national importance

*Nature Canada strives to inform decision makers about the challenges facing our protected spaces and species at risk, and we work to find practical solutions that protect Canada's biodiversity. Our supporters make it possible for us to speak and act on issues that matter to them. Here is a round up of the conservation concerns we raised and the positions we took during 2004-05.*

### Protecting habitat and species

Canada's 42<sup>nd</sup> national park, the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve, in northern Labrador, was established in January 2005. This major new protected area will help conserve a globally unique population of tundra-dwelling black bears, as well as populations of polar bear and woodland caribou.

Nature Canada opposed the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project and the oil and gas industrialization of the Mackenzie watershed, and urged the Canadian government to protect the biodiversity and ecology of the Mackenzie Valley by ensuring cumulative environmental effects are assessed and mitigated.

Nature Canada led the Green Budget Coalition in proposing more than 15 measures to enhance Canada's environment while advancing economic competitiveness.

Nature Canada urged the government to undertake an environmental assessment of the reactivated Cheviot Mine project near Jasper National Park, and called on the Alberta government to protect the nearby Mountain Park/Cardinal Divide.

Nature Canada recommended that the federal government maintain its moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the British Columbia offshore, implement the Canadian Oceans Strategy and establish a network of marine protected areas along the coast.

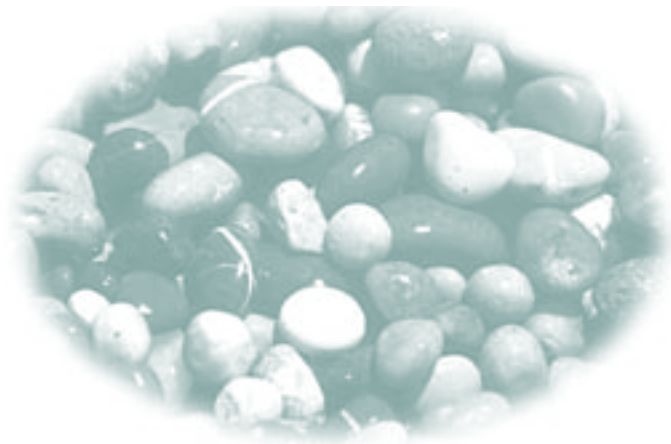
Nature Canada urged the government to extend the Species at Risk Act's protections to all of Canada's species at risk and to only use scientific and traditional knowledge when considering additions to the legal list.

*Good wishes to all – without NATURE there is no CANADA!!*

**Gene Lemieux**  
Loyal member &  
Guardian of Nature

*Félicitations à la Fédération canadienne de la nature pour ses 65 ans et bienvenue à Nature Canada! Meilleurs voeux pour un avenir fructueux de travail en partenariat.*

**Hélène Lévesque**  
Biologiste, Service  
Canadienne de la Faune,  
Environment Canada



***Congratulations  
Nature Canada  
on 65 years  
of protecting  
biological and  
ecological diversity.  
Here's to another  
65 years of fruitful  
collaboration,  
education and  
preservation!***

**Tim Draimin  
Tides Canada Foundation**

Nature Canada participated in the Species at Risk Advisory Committee and published an opinion piece about emergency listing decisions and listing delays.

Nature Canada produced the Canadian Nature Network 2004 Species at Risk Report Card, an assessment of how federal, provincial and territorial governments are protecting and recovering species at risk.

Nature Canada urged the federal government to expand the National Wildlife Area system by transferring 13 coastal properties that are significant for seabirds and other wildlife in Atlantic Canada from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to Environment Canada.

Nature Canada congratulated Manitoba and the federal government on reaching an understanding about intent to create Manitoba Lowlands National Park. We called upon them to do three things: make sure park boundaries protect significant natural features, work out measures that ensure ecological integrity and make sure no development gains a toehold before the park is formally established.

Nature Canada encourages the Government of Canada to designate Sable Island, 300 kilometres southeast of Halifax, a national wildlife area and to ensure the long-term management support such designation warrants.

Nature Canada asked the BC government to publicly support creation of the Scott Islands Marine Wildlife Area.

Nature Canada commended the route selected for the Trans-Labrador Highway and asked the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador to develop a strategy for protecting habitat along the new highway. We commissioned a scientific report outlining preferred boundaries for the proposed Mealy Mountains National Park.



## Bird and biodiversity conservation here and in the Americas

Nature Canada supported 16 community-based bird conservation programs across Canada through the Communities in Action Program.

Nature Canada advocated strongly for the passage of Bill C-15, legislation that would reduce the devastating effects of chronic oil pollution by holding shipping companies accountable if they illegally dump bilge oil in Canadian waters. Nature Canada's efforts were successful; Bill C-15 became law in May 2005.

Japan's Princess Takamado, honorary president of BirdLife International, paid a formal visit to Nature Canada's office. Princess Takamado is a life-long birdwatcher who is dedicated to saving bird species from extinction.

Nature Canada remained steadfast co-partners in Birdlife International by organizing workshops and leading stewardship projects in Mexico, Panama and Paraguay.

Nature Canada profiled the Kendall Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary, collecting scientific studies of the effects of seismic lines and drill pads on shorebirds and passerines.

*Congratulations on Nature Canada's 65th birthday. You have served the world so well all of these years. I remember volunteers from the CNF coming to our camp just outside Ottawa and doing some interesting things with campers – in 1966!*

**Dr. Michael Miles**  
School of Management,  
University of Ottawa



*You are a wonderful organization that serves well your partners throughout the Americas. Your respect for cultural differences and dedication to doing what needs to get done, make you the ideal partner.*

Barbara MacKinnon  
de Montes  
Amigos de Sian Ka'an  
Mexico

*Greetings from Belize! Wishing all the best for your birthday and warm blessings from Belize.*

Mrs. Anna D. Hoare  
Executive Director  
Belize Audubon Society

## Building support for nature protection

Nature Canada and the Parks Canada Agency launched the Parks and People Program, aimed at promoting the concept of environmental citizenship and the importance of protecting Canada's natural heritage. More than 14,000 children experienced nature in the first year of the program.

Nature Canada published four issues of its award-winning magazine *Nature Canada*, and redesigned its Web site with fresh content and new features, including a new online Nature Shop offering hundreds of items for naturalists.

Nature Canada continued to support the Living by Water Program at the national level. Through education and outreach initiatives, we worked towards healthier human and wildlife habitat along the shorelines of Canada.

Nature Canada continued NatureWatch, its suite of national volunteer monitoring programs that encourage participants to learn about the environment while gathering the information scientists need to monitor and protect it.



## Volunteers Make a Difference

Nature Canada's supporters—working outdoors or inside—express their passion for nature in many ways. It might mean fixing a feeding station, picking up a pen to write a letter to an MP, or counting frog songs, lady beetles or the days between freeze up and thaw. We are grateful to all the volunteers who make the Canadian Nature Network strong.

### 2004 Douglas Pimlott Award Winner



Nature Canada's most prestigious award went posthumously to Halifax's Colin Stewart (at left), who died on March 15, 2004 at the age of 50. A well-known and respected environmental biologist, Colin Stewart was a tireless defender and promoter of nature. Best known for his service as Nova Scotia coordinator for World Wildlife Fund's Endangered Spaces Campaign, he played a lead role in the formation of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the

Atlantic chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. During his lifetime, he was instrumental in securing 31 protected wilderness areas encompassing more than 287,000 hectares and representing many Nova Scotian ecosystems. He sought solutions based on science and truth, not confrontation.



### Volunteer Awards

Gart Bishop (at left) and Martin Willison won the 2004 Volunteer Award. For more than 10 years Gart Bishop has given his time to the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, as a member of the board and various committees, and as editor and coordinator of their magazine. A volunteer for Mary's Point Shorebird Reserve Committee, he is a volunteer botanist and organizer for field trips and presentations throughout the province and

an active member of the Kennebecasis Naturalist Society. Martin Willison of Halifax helped found the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, McIntosh Run Watershed Association, and the reorganized Nova Scotia chapter of CPAWS. He is a past president of the Federation of NS Naturalists.

### Pomquet Coastal Guardians provide invaluable protection



Winnie Wake

The Pomquet Coastal Guardians are dedicated volunteer naturalists who walk the beach in high season, cautioning visitors that they are in the presence of an endangered species and to keep away from Piping Plover nests with incubating eggs. The Guardians are the brain child of Colin Stewart, winner of this year's Pimlott Award, who began the Coastal Guardian movement while with the Halifax

Naturalists. Nature Canada supports the group through its Communities in Action Program. Congratulations to Anna McCarron of Wellington, NS, who recruits and trains new Guardians each summer and contributes greatly to the team's success.

*I am not one for words... so will keep it sweet and simple: Many congrats on the new name and happy birthday! Well done on reaching this milestone.*

Ana Tiraa  
Cook Islands

*Feliz aniversario Nature Canada! We're sure you will continue your great work of conservation of birds and its habitat for many many years, and all nature in your wonderful country will be better conserved for future generations.*

Alejandro y Pepa  
SEO/BirdLife Spain

## Summarized Financial Statements of Nature Canada

Year ended March 31, 2005

### AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

The accompanying summarized statements of financial position and operations and changes in fund balances are derived from the complete financial statements of Nature Canada (formerly Canadian Nature Federation) as at March 31, 2005 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated May 13, 2005. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on Nature Canada's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Chartered Accountants



Ottawa, Canada  
May 12, 2004

*Greetings from East  
Africa. This is to  
congratulate your  
organisation for  
the 65th birthday...*  
**CONGRATULATIONS.**

**Paul Nnyiti, CEO  
Wildlife Conservation  
Society of Tanzania**

**NATURE CANADA****Summarized Statement of Financial Position**

Year ended March 31, 2005, with comparative figures for 2004

	2005	2004
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 277,668	\$ 285,610
Short-term investments	19,000	34,306
Amounts receivable	118,777	193,883
Inventory	574	5,753
Prepaid expenses	21,007	67,057
Due from Restricted Fund	224,571	6,963
	<hr/> 661,597	<hr/> 593,572
Capital assets	366,177	410,789
Long-term investments	1,467,215	1,395,457
Investment in life insurance	14,186	11,993
	<hr/> \$ 2,509,175	<hr/> \$ 2,411,811
<b>Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Fund Balances</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 159,855	\$ 79,130
Due to Operating Fund	224,571	6,963
	<hr/> 384,426	<hr/> 86,093
Deferred contributions	684,619	824,983
Deferred revenue – life insurance	14,186	11,993
Fund balances:		
Invested in capital assets	366,177	410,789
Restricted by board	1,067,450	1,254,918
Net asset deficiency	(7,683)	(176,965)
	<hr/> 1,425,944	<hr/> 1,488,742
	<hr/> \$ 2,509,175	<hr/> \$ 2,411,811

**NATURE CANADA****Summarized Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances**

Year ended March 31, 2005, with comparative figures for 2004

	2005	2004
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Donations and bequests	\$ 1,698,265	\$ 1,799,771
Corporation and foundation funding	829,333	1,684,788
Advertising	33,847	34,213
Other	29,410	66,212
Interest and dividends	49,815	44,785
Gain on disposal of investments	41,738	2,473
	<hr/> 2,682,408	<hr/> 3,632,242
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Conservation programs	1,371,472	1,361,139
Conservation education and communications	465,646	1,217,180
Fundraising Development	722,628	847,939
Corporate Services	185,460	139,486
	<hr/> 2,745,206	<hr/> 3,565,744
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(62,798)	66,498
Fund balances, beginning of year	1,488,742	1,422,244
Fund balances, end of year	<hr/> \$ 1,425,944	<hr/> \$ 1,488,742

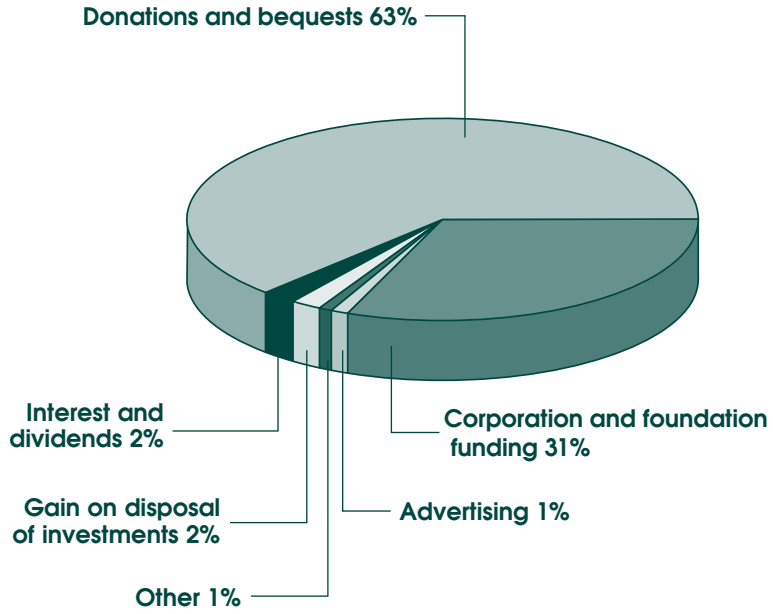
*Happy 65th to  
the organisation  
building the  
Nature Nation.*

Alistair Gammell  
Royal Society for the  
Protection of Birds,  
United Kingdom

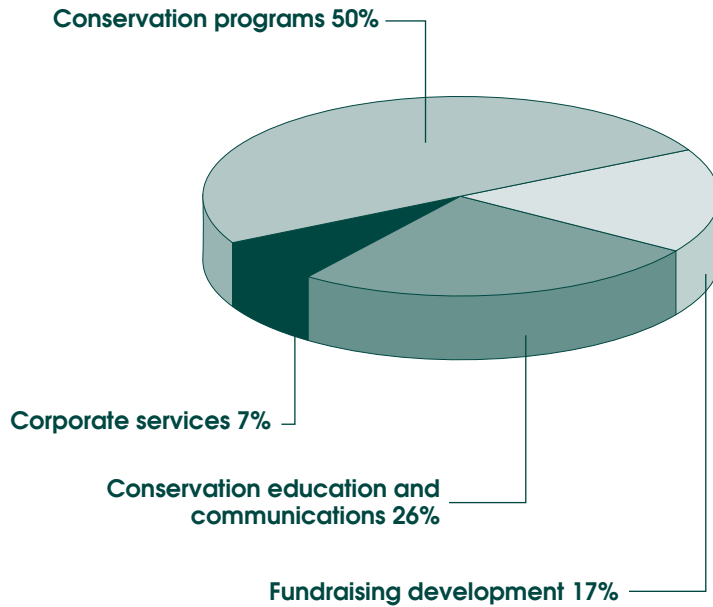
*Best wishes for  
the future – I am  
sure we will see an  
increase in public  
recognition of the  
strong voice the  
organization has  
always provided for  
nature in Canada.*

Lois Bateman  
Former Board Member  
and current  
Guardian of Nature,  
Canadian Nature  
Federation

## Revenues



## Expenses



*Wishing you  
and everyone at  
Nature Canada  
a hearty  
congratulations.*

Thea Silver  
Nature Conservancy  
of Canada

## CANADIAN NATURE NETWORK

Nature Canada  
[www.naturecanada.ca](http://www.naturecanada.ca)

Ecology North  
[www.ecologynorth.ca](http://www.ecologynorth.ca)

Federation of Alberta Naturalists  
[www.fanweb.ca](http://www.fanweb.ca)

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists  
[www.naturalists.bc.ca](http://www.naturalists.bc.ca)

Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists  
[www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/  
FNSN/menu.html](http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/menu.html)

Manitoba Naturalists Society  
[www.manitobanature.ca](http://www.manitobanature.ca)

Natural History Society of  
Newfoundland and Labrador Inc.  
[www.nhs.nf.ca](http://www.nhs.nf.ca)

Natural History Society of  
Prince Edward Island Ltd.  
[www.isn.net/~nhspei/nhsAbout.htm](http://www.isn.net/~nhspei/nhsAbout.htm)

Nature Saskatchewan  
[www.naturesask.com](http://www.naturesask.com)

New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists-  
Fédération des naturalistes  
du Nouveau-Brunswick  
[www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)

Ontario Nature  
[www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org)

Union québécoise pour la conservation  
de la nature  
[www.uqcn.qc.ca](http://www.uqcn.qc.ca)



[naturecanada.ca](http://naturecanada.ca)