



COMPASS

QUEBEC-LABRADOR FOUNDATION

.....
Promoting global leadership – one person at a time – through conservation and stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage. Inspired in the Atlantic Region, shared worldwide.
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The old is new. It is my pleasure to introduce QLF's all-new *Compass* newsletter. Sharing the legacy name of the organization's marquee publication, *Compass* is being re-imagined as a mission-focused communication tool for the times.

Published on a regular basis, our goal is to strengthen ties with over 5,000 Alumni, partners and friends through stories that best convey what QLF is today and why it matters.

In each issue we will share updates on QLF programs and projects, staff-authored reports, announcements of various sorts – all to help you see QLF at work.

Thank you for your continued support of QLF. I invite you to share your thoughts and ideas regarding our all-new *Compass*.

Beth Alling
President



Beth Alling, QLF President, High Arctic Expedition,
Beechey Island, Nunavut, Canada's High Arctic QLF ARCHIVES

CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP EXPANDS ACROSS THE MARITIMES



(Left to right) Summer staff Madeleine Cumplido-Wilson, Rachel Godinho, and Jamie Depolla, alongside QLF Staff Alexa Schubak and Krista Grant PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KRISTA GRANT

As it has for decades, QLF’s flagship Conservation Internships and field assignments assist local and regional partners, undertaking important conservation activities while providing interns an exceptional experience. For a period of six weeks this summer QLF staff members Alexa Schubak and Krista Grant led a team of Interns undertaking field work in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

For a fifth year, QLF partnered with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick (NTNB) to conduct biodiversity surveys (water quality, invasive species, birds) essential to keeping track of ecosystem health and conservation efforts. As participants in the NTNB’s Ambassador Program workshops, the Interns helped to educate local volunteers in stewardship techniques such as local species identification and invasive plant species removal.

In Nova Scotia, the team completed significant work in two priority areas identified by partner organization, the Nova Scotia Nature Trust (NSNT): mapping and stewardship tasks. The former took the form of digitally mapping selected nature preserves, which helps the NSNT keep close tabs on nature preserve’s recovery and organize work parties as necessary.

At several nature preserves the team completed stewardship tasks, such as species surveys, posting of public signage, dismantling old hunting infrastructure, invasive species removal, and preserve-wide forest classifications. One of the most unique landscapes visited was a forest growing on karst terrain which, over time, caused the formation of large sink holes throughout the preserve.



Field team posting public signage in Nova Scotia. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KRISTA GRANT





QLF intern Rachel Godinho notes sea and shorebird species present in the East Lake region along the Northeast Coast of Prince Edward Island PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KRISTA GRANT

On Prince Edward Island, the conservation team partnered for the first time with the Island Nature Trust (INT) and conducted nesting habitat surveys of the threatened bank swallow and endangered piping plover, which share PEI's coastal cliffs.

Due to the significant decline of bank swallows in maritime Canada, the INT has developed a robust, annual monitoring program to track nesting habitat and the impacts of erosion, erosion control measures and local shoreline development.

The QLF interns also participated in the annual piping plover census. The Atlantic Canadian population of piping plovers is listed as endangered, with fewer than 25 breeding pairs observed on PEI in most years.

The team was fortunate to observe a breeding pair on its first survey day.

In addition, the team completed bio inventories at priority nature preserves, surveying for native and invasive plant species and bird species and mapping any areas of stewardship concern. They participated in a wet yet successful invasive species removal day with INT staff and volunteers targeting a regional invasive species, small-flowered jewel weed.

In all, QLF the conservation interns visited 31 different nature preserves, surveyed 11 beaches, and conducted 41 bird surveys, conducted 8 macro-invertebrate surveys at multiple sites per survey, and reached a total of 48 stewards and community members, many of whom joined the team multiple times.



Bird nesting area, a focus of nesting habitat surveys of threatened and endangered species, Prince Edward Island PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KRISTA GRANT

LEADERSHIP IN CONSERVATION



Field team conduct seabird survey,
Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CASSIA FOLEY

With the help of local and regional partners, the team in Newfoundland and Labrador, made up of staff member Cassia Foley, consultant Jackie Bauman, and Interns Paxton Fetterman and Rachel Godinho, implemented a successful environmental education and leadership program for youth in Newfoundland and Labrador and the Quebec lower northshore in June and July 2022 as it has been done in past years.

The program was delivered in partnership with Intervale Associates, a non-profit environmental organization directed by Dr. Kathleen Blanchard, a recognized leader in conservation and environmental education in the region.

Presentations were given to youth aged five-13 on marine species at risk (including whales, sea turtles, and wolffish), marine debris, river ecology and Atlantic Salmon, bats and birds of Newfoundland and Labrador, compost and gardening, and climate change, integrating the specular seasonal migrations of many species in the area as teaching tools within each topic.

Other community members including youth leaders and teachers were present and benefited from the presentations given to youth.

Several workshops were also held that incorporated engaging activities on the topics presented, such as bat colonies and salmon migration games, a bird scavenger hunt, whale and bird watching, plant identification, species counts, repurposing waste for crafts, planting and compost demonstrations, carbon footprint scoring, and more. At the Point Amour workshop in Labrador, youth in the oldest age group mentored youth in younger age groups as part of youth leadership training.

During the program, the QLF team also took part in several shoreline cleanups, auditing the items collected during each cleanup. Cleanups took place in Main Brook, Anchor Point, Squid Cove, and Flower's Cove. Many of the cleanups involved members of the community, who got the chance to take part in this rewarding experience. The QLF team also created an art piece made entirely out of the marine debris collected during the shoreline cleanups. The art piece was installed at the Adult Education Center in Blanc Sablon, Quebec.

"Conservation is about working with people and having an impact on the community level. We're driven by our passion and love of nature, but equally so about connecting with people. It's deeply personal."

*Gregor Beck,
Senior Strategist, Birds Canada*

The team also distributed pamphlets, placemats, and posters to various restaurants, museums, and other public places as a form of public outreach and spoke about biodiversity in the area and conservation on the CFBS radio station in Blanc Sablon.

The team's experience in Newfoundland and Labrador this summer was frequently documented on the Newfoundland Aquatic Species at Risk Facebook page.

RECOVERY OF AQUATIC SPECIES PROGRAM EXTENDS ANOTHER FOUR YEARS

A four-year project contributing to the recovery of endangered and threatened marine species in waters of Newfoundland and Labrador will be extended thanks to multi-year funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada under the Canada Nature Fund.

The Aquatic Species at Risk project is directed by Kathleen Blanchard, longtime QLF consultant and President of Intervale Associates, who is widely recognized for implementing a community-based approach to biodiversity conservation. QLF serves as lead organization and grant administrator for the project and its many partner organizations.

The project goal is to reduce threats caused by fishing interactions such as entanglement with gear, ingestion of plastics, and, in the case of wolffish, by-catch mortality. The North Atlantic Right Whale, Leatherback Sea Turtle and wolffish are among the species that benefit from the project's conservation strategies. The extended project will also focus on wild Atlantic salmon. Salmon are threatened by poaching, habitat disturbance, other factors both in-stream and nearshore, and interaction with commercial farm-raised salmon.

During extensive year-round field work, project staff, consultants, and interns conduct dockside dialogue with more than 300 fish harvesters and community leaders. They produce video clips on the commercial and recreational fisheries, create and distribute thousands of informational posters and placemats, and engage in extensive outreach using social media. Each year, team members inspire hundreds of youth in the region with lively, informative presentations about how to protect marine species and maintain healthy ocean ecosystems.



Dr. Kathleen Blanchard, Hare Bay, Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF QLF ARCHIVES

The project builds on QLF's successful pilot work diverting plastic bait box liners and other fishery-related waste from inshore waters. Bait used in the lobster and crab fisheries is sold in boxes lined in plastic.

"QLF has, I think, more relevance today than it ever has, with community-based conservation and the work that Kath Blanchard has done with species at risk. That's all very relevant to the people on the coast."

Philip Nadeau, Former Chairman, Board of Directors, QLF - Canada

Many thousands of liners are needlessly discarded each fishing season in inshore waters, where they are carried in water currents and become a lethal threat to sea turtles and deep diving whales.

The newly funded, four-year continuation project (2022-2026) focuses on recovery actions in waters of the South Coast of Newfoundland and the coastal communities between Port aux Basques and Harbour Breton. Some of the smaller outports of this region are isolated, accessible only by boat and periodic coastal ferry service.

Kathleen Blanchard and her team will engage partner organizations, including local Indigenous groups, harbour authorities, fish harvesters, towns, schools, and youth groups. Strategies will be developed and based upon lessons learned from the previously funded project, with particular emphasis on diverting plastic waste from the ocean and encouraging best practices in the recreational salmon fishery.

ALUMNI INSPIRE VOICES OF QLF WEBINARS

Now in its third season, each *Voices of QLF* episode showcases QLF Alumni, staff, and friends from around the world who share their inspiring stories of conservation and stewardship. This season, webinars have featured young professionals sharing their hopes for the future of conservation, focused on marine protected areas in locations as diverse as the Galapagos Islands, Egypt, and U.S. and examined an innovative bi-national partnership linking forested landscapes in northeastern North America.

Through the words and stories of QLF luminaries we are creating a dynamic record of the organization's evolutionary lineage and programmatic prowess. Upcoming episodes will only strengthen and affirm the links between the past and today's real-world perspectives on the state of conservation. If we're attentive, we will learn about the challenges facing today's environmental leaders world-wide. If we're perceptive, we'll see opportunities for QLF to continue its legacy of redefining the relationship between people and nature.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



QLF AWARDED CHARITY NAVIGATOR'S HIGHEST RATING AGAIN!

For the second year in a row, QLF is thrilled to have been awarded the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the world's most utilized independent nonprofit evaluator.

It's highest rating was received following a review of QLF's finances, accountability and transparency, governance and best practices. Quoting Charity Navigator, the 4-star rating indicates that QLF "... adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially responsible way. Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that the Quebec-Labrador Foundation exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work."

COMPASS



STAFF NOTES

BRENT MITCHELL ATTENDS COP 15 BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT



QLF Senior Vice President Brent Mitchell participated in COP 15 (Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity) in Montréal, Quebec. During the summit (Dec. 7 to 19) governments from around the world came together to work on a new set of goals to guide global action through 2030 to halt and reverse nature loss.

In addition to being the eyes, ears and voice of QLF, Brent served in his role as a recently appointed Vice Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the world's premier network of protected and conserved areas expertise. In this capacity, he worked to ensure that the WCPA was well-represented in the program of COP 15 "side events." Key among Brent's activities was facilitating a high-level session on the "30x30" global initiative that was co-hosted with the CBD Secretariat.

PHIL HUFFMAN GOES FULL CIRCLE WITH QLF

QLF is pleased to have Phil Huffman on board this year as its new Senior Vice President of Regional and Global Programs. Phil describes QLF as "a river running through my life and career." It began with a transformational experience as a 15-year-old participant in the Living Rivers Program in New Brunswick, Canada; continued as a longtime QLF consultant, participant in multiple international exchanges, and member of the QLF Council; and now has come full circle as a senior staff member.

As a conservation leader in northeastern United States for more than three decades, Phil brings experience in landscape-scale and community-based conservation, cross-border partnerships, and place-based initiatives integrating natural and cultural heritage and recreation. Since 2009, he has played a leadership role in the Staying Connected Initiative, an innovative bi-national partnership of nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the U.S. and Canada working to sustain and enhance landscape connectivity in the Northern Appalachian-Acadian region. Phil

received a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Middlebury College, and Master's degrees from Yale University in both Environmental Studies and Public and Private Management. He considers himself truly lucky to live with his wife, two sons, and the family dog in the heart of Vermont's Green Mountains.



PHIL HUFFMAN

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