

# **Habitat Conservation Plan for the Town of Elliston**



**February 2020**



**Town of Elliston**  
P.O. Box 115  
Elliston, NL, Canada  
A0C 1N0



**NL Eastern Habitat Joint Venture**  
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources - Wildlife Division  
192 Wheeler's Road, P.O. Box 2006  
Corner Brook, NL, Canada A2H 7S1



**Stewardship Association of Municipalities (SAM)**  
Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada  
samnl.org

**Preface**

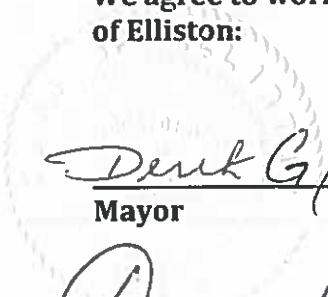
In the province of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) some of the wildlife and wildlife habitats that are in greatest danger of being negatively impacted are in municipalities. In this province, the focus of the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV) is to conserve valuable wildlife habitat through Stewardship Agreements. The Town of Elliston was identified as having ecologically valuable habitat located within its Municipal Planning Area and signed a Habitat Stewardship Agreement with the Government of NL in September 2019.

The parties committed to conserve and protect the designated Conservation Areas. In accordance with the agreement, the Town of Elliston will manage the three areas with technical advice provided by the provincial Wildlife Division, in part via this Habitat Conservation Plan. With the signing of this plan, both parties accept this Habitat Conservation Plan and will use it to minimize negative impacts to these three areas.

**Plan Objectives**

- (1) To present an assessment of the habitats and wildlife species designated for conservation.
- (2) To recommend protection, conservation, and enhancement strategies.
- (3) To describe potential initiatives to build support from residents of the Town of Elliston.

**We agree to work towards implementing this *Habitat Conservation Plan* in the Town of Elliston:**



Derik G. Martin  
Mayor

July 27, 2020  
Date

Donna Chaulk  
Witness

July 27/2020.  
Date

[Signature]  
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Aug 18/20  
Date

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## **Section 1: Habitat Conservation in Newfoundland and Labrador**

Human development has resulted in the destruction or alteration of many types of habitat all over the world. The number and diversity of North America's wildlife species has been declining over the latter half of the twentieth century. Natural habitats are regularly lost to urban, industrial, and agricultural expansion.

Recognizing that habitat conservation could help increase waterfowl populations, in 1986 Canada and the United States (later followed by Mexico) signed the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP, [nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca](http://nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca)). This committed us to a partnership to protect wetland habitats. 'Joint ventures' were established across North America to achieve the objectives of NAWMP. The province of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) committed to its participation in the **Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV)** in 1989.

Today, **EHJV ([ehjv.ca](http://ehjv.ca))** partners continue to conserve, enhance, and restore wildlife habitat for all birds found across the six eastern Canadian provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, and NL. Each province implements the partnership slightly differently, with each provincial program coordinated by a separate program manager and involving the cooperation of international partners, including government agencies and non-governmental conservation groups. In NL, the program is administered by the provincial Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (Wildlife Division). Other NL partners include SAM (Stewardship Association of Municipalities), Ducks Unlimited Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service (a branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada), and Nature Conservancy of Canada.

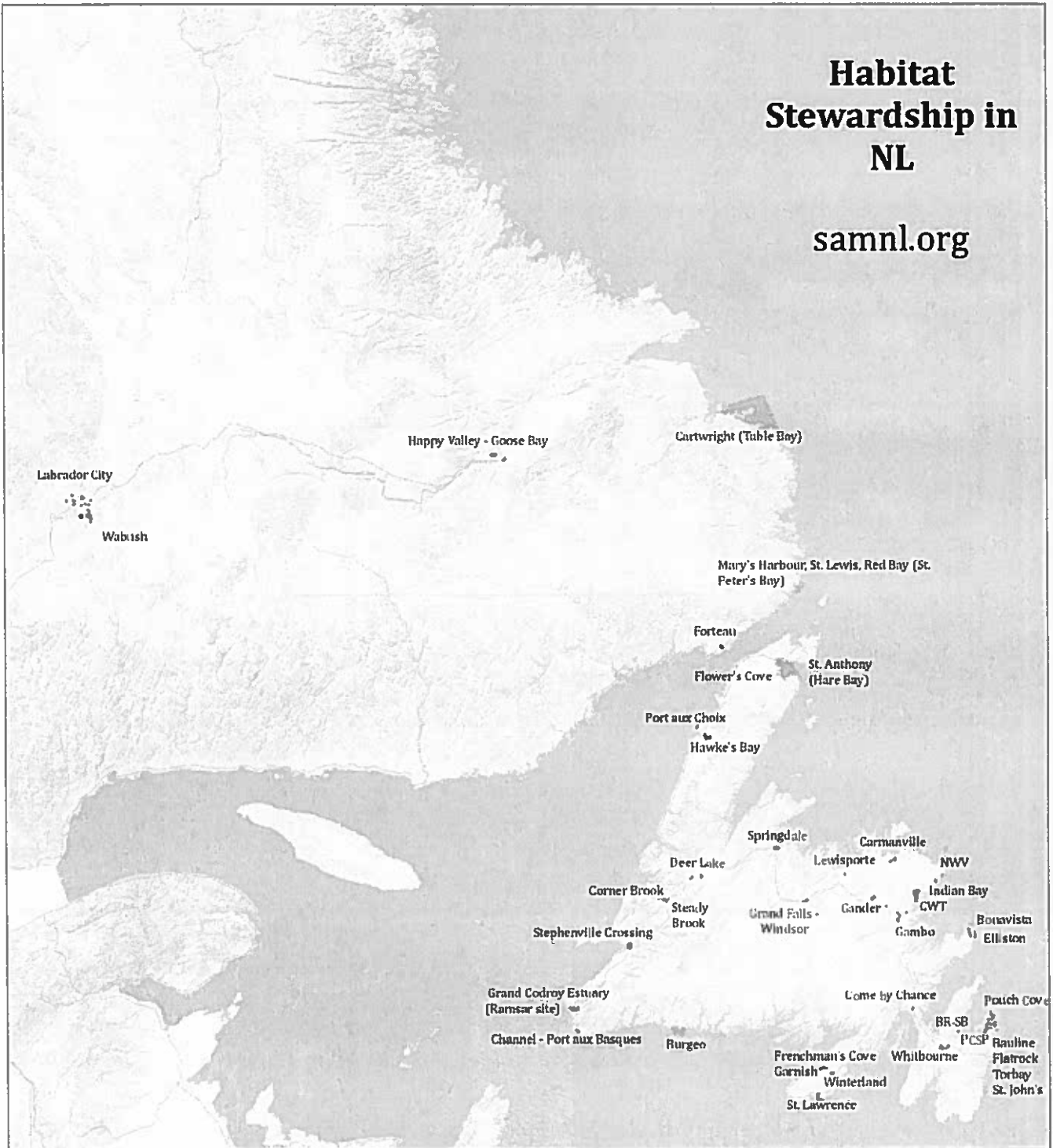
As its primary contribution to the EHJV in NL, the provincial Department of Fisheries and Land Resources created a habitat stewardship program to help municipalities conserve important wildlife habitat inside their planning boundaries. Stewardship Agreements are signed with municipalities so that when land use decisions are made, wildlife habitat will not be forgotten. This Habitat Stewardship Agreement is a public commitment by a municipality and the province to:

- a) Maintain and/or increase wildlife use in important conservation areas.
- b) Increase Council and public awareness of the importance of 'their' habitat for wildlife.
- c) Empower Council and residents to conserve these habitats through informed development decision-making.

Since 1993, over forty municipalities have signed Habitat Stewardship Agreements in NL. Having now signed its own Stewardship Agreement (Appendix 1), the Town of Elliston protects an important link in a network of conservation areas in NL and indeed, across North America.

# Habitat Stewardship in NL

samnl.org



Map of Habitat Stewardship Agreements signed in NL

## **Roles of Stewardship Agreement Signatories**

**The Province:** The NL Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, through its Wildlife Division, are expected to:

- Produce a Habitat Conservation Plan (this plan)
- Work with the town to review and comment on any developments which are proposed within the Elliston Conservation Areas.
- Support Council and local groups in implementing the Stewardship Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plan (often with the partners of the NL Eastern Habitat Joint Venture). This includes assisting with wildlife and habitat conservation education, restoration, or enhancement projects such as those discussed in Section 4.

**The Town:** The Town of Elliston and its Mayor and Council are expected to:

- Incorporate the Stewardship Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plan into the Town's next Municipal Plan (see **Section 2a**)
- Protect the designated Conservation Areas from destruction or degradation. The town must contact the EHJV Program Manager at the Wildlife Division (contact info on Page 2) in a timely manner to allow up to a 30 day written review of proposed development activities (see **Section 2b, c**)
- Implement, over time, as capacity allows, the Habitat Conservation Plan in the community with the assistance of the NL EHJV partners (see **Section 2 b, c, d, e, and Section 4**)
- Seek opportunities to educate residents, staff and development planners about the agreement, the Habitat Conservation Plan and their respective responsibilities in relation to it (**Section 2 b, c, d, e and Section 4**)
- Participate, as capacity allows, in SAM (Stewardship Association of Municipalities - see **Section 2f**)

## **Section 2: Policies for Habitat Conservation**

### **a. Incorporate your Stewardship Agreement into your Municipal Plan**

During the preparation of any draft Municipal Plan, or during the process of a future Municipal Plan Review or development regulations, the Town Council will incorporate the Stewardship Agreement into any resulting Municipal Plan or related Master Plan. The Conservation Areas **shall be zoned Environmental Protection, Environmental Conservation, Open Space Conservation, Open Space Recreation**, or some similar consistent zoning designation within any future municipal planning documents as governed by the Urban and Rural Planning Act (2000).

### **b. Refer all possible developments to the Wildlife Division**

In approving permits, regulations, developments or by-laws which could affect the designated Conservation Areas, **Council will first consult with the EHJV program manager (709 637 2013)** at the Wildlife Division, Department of Fisheries and Land Resources. Activities will be permitted if they do not result in the loss of wildlife populations or wildlife habitat. Conservation will be at the forefront of management decisions.

### **c. Keep riparian buffer areas intact**

Riparian buffers are our living shorelines. They are strips of untouched land surrounding wetlands, lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. They are composed of trees, shrubs, grasses, cattails, and sedges and provide for a high level of wildlife use, as corridors for travel, for protection from predators, and against inclement weather. Healthy riparian areas filter and reduce surface water runoff from upland areas by trapping sediment and filtering out excess nutrients, pesticides and bacteria. Vegetation in riparian areas affects how readily water enters soil and has a positive effect on replenishing of local groundwater. They also serve to anchor soil with roots, helping to build stream banks and prevent erosion and help control flood levels.

Fish habitat quality is strongly influenced by the amount of riparian edge left along shorelines. Treed buffers provide shade and help keep water temperatures down, impact water quality, and provide spawning and rearing areas for fish and nesting areas for waterfowl. They provide food for wildlife when leaves, insects, and larvae drop into the water body off surrounding trees and shrubs.

Restoration projects can rebuild damaged riparian areas; Section 4 contains contact information for professionals with experience in environmental restoration and the SAM



guide to plants for restoration projects is at [samnl.org/resources](http://samnl.org/resources) (see the Restore Habitat section).

The province, via the provincial Lands Act – Section 7(1), requires a crown land reserve (sometimes called an easement or buffer) of 15 metres along all water bodies greater than 1 metre in width and the maintenance of permanent riparian areas next to all watercourses. The town should build awareness of and adherence to this crown land reserve designation by all residents and businesses, and there should not be cutting in this buffer. Lawns should not extend right down to the water, parking lots should not extend right up to the water, etc. The natural vegetation must be left in place to maintain habitat for wildlife and help prevent flooding. The riparian buffer is important around all waterbodies and marsh areas and is critical within the Conservation Areas.



Healthy riparian buffers surrounding an urban stream in the autumn. Staff photo.

#### **d. Form a committee**

We recommend that the Town of Elliston establish a committee of council that can help you carry out some of the initiatives described in this plan. This could be called a Wildlife Committee, Environment and Trails Committee, Advisory Committee on the Environment, or Habitat Committee but you are free to choose the name that suits you best. Usually these

committees are chaired by a member of council with volunteers from the local community making up the remainder of its membership. In many towns, a dedicated committee can raise the profile of the habitat conserved by your agreement and increase public support. Many of these types of groups have found benefits in reserving spots in the group for a younger person, a high school student, or both.

These committees can organize events, apply for grants, conduct cleanups and other projects, host hikes and walks, and many other activities including those described in Section 4.

### **e. Understand Fish and Wildlife Enforcement**

The designation of an area under your Stewardship Agreement does not affect hunting, trapping, or fishing rights. Where hunting, trapping, and/or fishing are safe and legal in a certain area, they will remain that way. However, many municipalities are (rightly) concerned about hunting and fishing activities that fall outside what is safe or legal no matter where they take place.

Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers can enforce regulations and can be contacted 24/7 at 1 877 820 0999. They can deal with a wide variety of other wildlife-related enforcement issues and are a good contact for poaching and hunting issues, or wildlife questions.

For enforcement officers to fully understand the problem and to be able to pursue a case, it is helpful to provide a complete picture of the problem, with specific details. Without these details, it can be difficult for enforcement officers to properly follow up. **Appendix 1** provides a form for reporting possible enforcement issues. It can be used by Council or by residents, provided in printed copies to residents at meetings and events, or kept at the Town Hall for easy access. Developed with provincial wildlife enforcement officers, this form may help your Council or your residents to record information about possible problems with wildlife or habitat.

Enforcing regulations such as these can be complicated, especially where federal/provincial jurisdiction overlaps, and different species are covered by different laws. SAM has produced a guide about conservation enforcement issues at [samnl.org/resources](http://samnl.org/resources) (see the Learn about Enforcement section).



**24 / 7 report line:  
1.877.820.0999**

## **f. Participate in SAM**

The Town of Elliston is a member of SAM (Stewardship Association of Municipalities, [samnl.org](http://samnl.org)) and can participate in a variety of activities. SAM is an incorporated, non-profit organization whose member municipalities together conserve, enhance, and restore important wildlife habitat. SAM represents its members on issues related to wildlife conservation. SAM maintains a public page about your agreement at [samnl.org/members](http://samnl.org/members) featuring maps, photos, facts, and information on local attractions. Please link to this page from your town's website; this will help increase residents' knowledge and understanding of the agreement and program.

SAM meets each spring (May or June) and fall (September or October) with host municipalities rotating among members and regions. We encourage you to send a representative of your town (mayor, councillor, staff, or involved resident) to least one of these meetings per year. This will connect Elliston to like-minded people and link you to resources and training. You may also be interested in hosting a SAM meeting in the Town of Elliston in the future; many municipalities enjoy this for the exposure it provides for their wildlife habitat and associated projects.

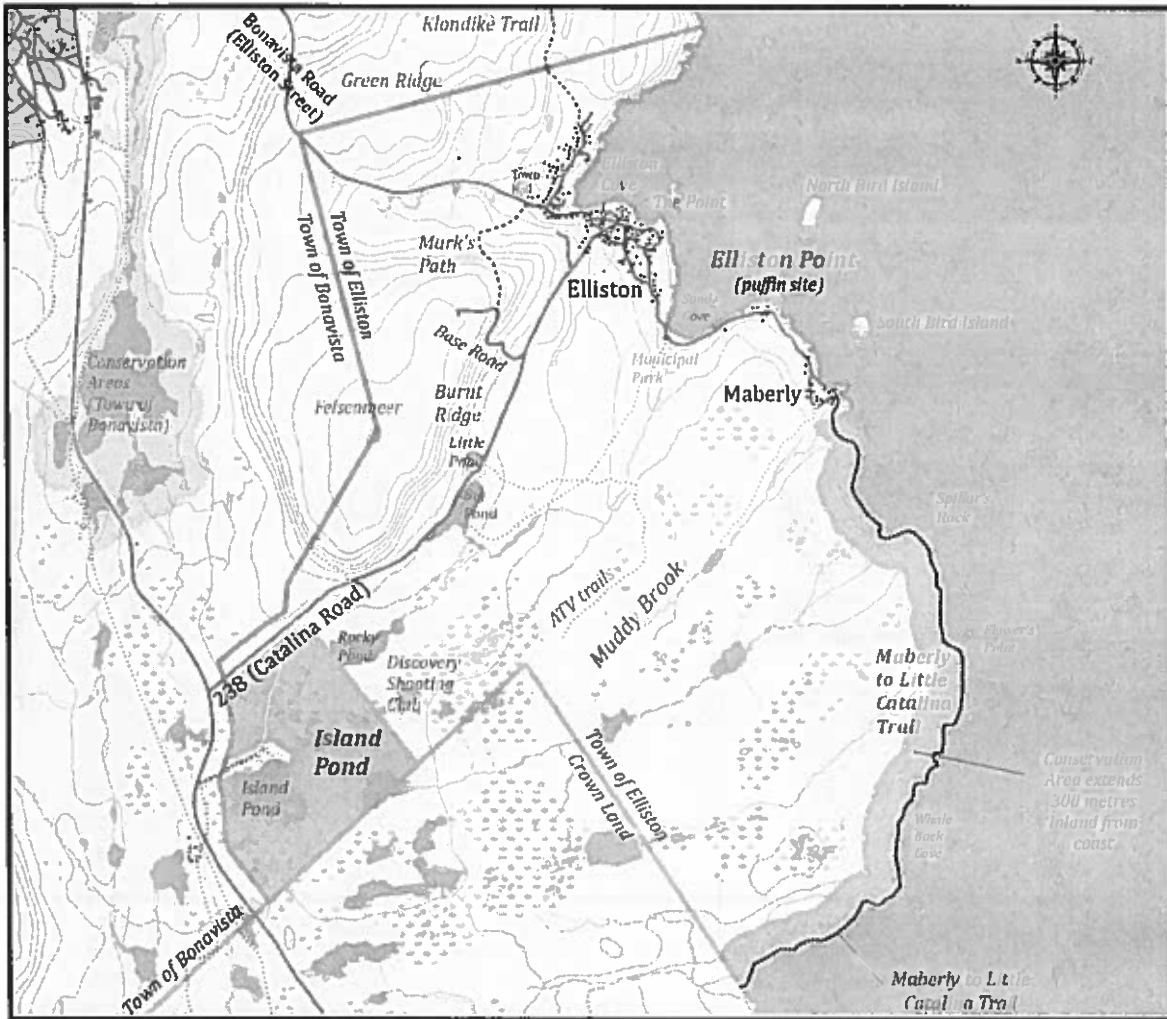


**Field trip at a recent SAM meeting in Grand Falls-Windsor. Staff photo**




# Section 3: Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat in Elliston

## Town of Elliston, Newfoundland and Labrador

### Habitat Stewardship Agreement



#### Legend

-  Elliston's Planning Area boundary
-  Conservation Areas Town of Elliston
-  Waterbodies



August 21st 2019

Elliston is a municipality of ~300 people, located on the eastern side of the tip of the Bonavista Peninsula (north of Trinity Bay) in Newfoundland. The first settlers arrived around 1806 to what was then known as Bird Island Cove; in 1902 the name was changed to Elliston. While much of Elliston's history is based around the fishery, today many residents are employed in Bonavista, the tourism sector, or related businesses.

In 2017, field surveys identified important wildlife habitat areas in the municipal planning area of the Town of Elliston. The Stewardship Agreement designated three of those as Conserved Areas (Island Pond Conservation Area, Maberly to Little Catalina Trail Conservation Area, and Elliston Point Conservation Area).

Island Pond Conservation Area encompasses the southwestern portion of Elliston's municipal planning area (including Island Pond and smaller surrounding ponds and wetlands). It follows the Town of Elliston's Municipal Planning Area along its southwest corner, with a small exclusion such that it does not include the properties on the road leading to Island Pond. On the northwest boundary of Island Pond conservation area, it parallels, but excludes, Highway 238 (Catalina Road) – see Section 3 for maps).

Maberly to Little Catalina Trail Conservation Area extends 300 metres inland from the coastline, and protects the trail, as well as coastline fossils, from development.

Elliston Point Conservation Area includes the puffin viewing site (Elliston Point) and the puffin island, extending inland to include most of the trail out to the puffin site.

Almost the entirety of the Town of Elliston is within the Eastern Hyper-Oceanic Barrens ecoregion. Very few other municipalities (only ten) have land within this ecoregion, and it is one of the smallest ecoregions in the whole province. It therefore represents a special conservation opportunity in Elliston. The western portion of the Town of Elliston's planning area is in the Maritime Barrens ecoregion (Northeastern Barrens subregion), including the Island Pond Conservation Area. The other two Conservation Areas are in the Eastern Hyper-Oceanic Barrens ecoregion.

The Elliston area provides habitat for 100+ species of birds, especially waterfowl (ducks and geese) such as Common Eider, shorebirds (such as Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling), seabirds (especially Common Murre, Razorbill, Black Guillemot, Atlantic Puffin, Black-legged Kittiwake, and various species of gulls), and songbirds (American Pipit, various species of sparrows, Yellow Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and others).

Continuously updating lists of bird species (thanks to local and visiting birders) showing all the bird species observed in the Elliston area can be found at

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2037414> (Elliston town site)

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L951890> (Puffin Island)

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3266293> (Maberly)

## Existing land uses & potential impacts

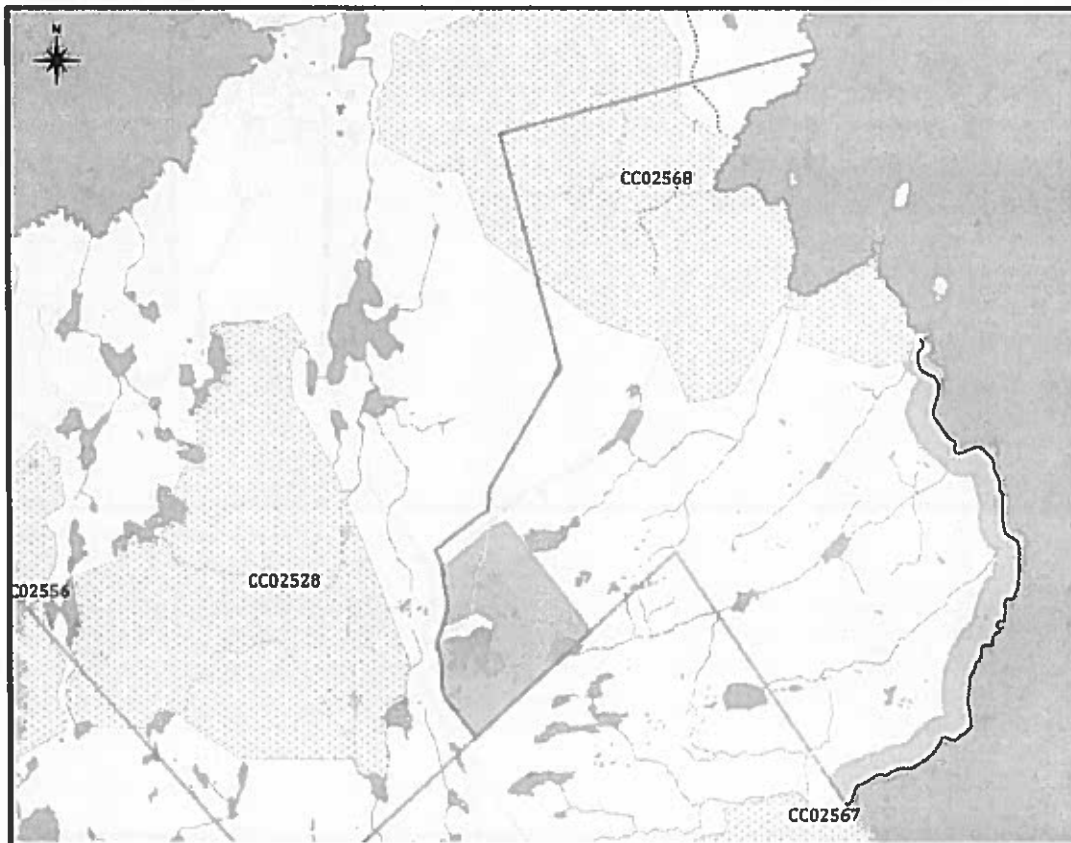
### Land use screening

There do not appear to be any other environmental designations in this area and these Conservation Areas are not currently used as public water supply areas.

There does not appear to be any current overlap with known mineral occurrences, staked claims, historical claims, notices gazetted, mineral tenure, nor any types of quarries such as new applications, permits, leases, or expired permits (NL Geoscience Atlas, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2018).

There is no overlap between the Conservation Areas and the two Blueberry Management Areas designated by the provincial forestry and agrifoods agency (May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018).

There almost no overlap with Domestic Cutting Area CC02568 (Figure 4). The only exception is one very small area of overlap at the puffin viewing site (C) north of Maberly Road where almost no trees occur, so harvesting is unlikely.



### Map of Domestic Cutting Area CC02568 in Elliston

The domestic wood cutting areas are shown in brown-dotted beige; the three Conservation Areas are shown in green.

One parcel of private land has been identified in Elliston Point Conservation Area (the puffin viewing site). This parcel of issued Crown Land (Title number 92025, Volume Number 193, Folio Number 110, Document Number 10052539, Original Title Owner: Wesley O. Goodland) may be the same parcel gifted to Tourism Elliston. Currently the southern quarter of the parcel is zoned Residential, and the remainder of the parcel is currently zoned Rural. As the edge of this parcel of land is only 330 metres away from the puffin colony and closer still to where the puffins roost (rest and socialize), caution would be advised if building were to be proposed in this area.

## **Tourism**

Waterfowl and seabirds are easily disturbed during the nesting and brood rearing period (May to mid-June). During the nesting period, adult breeding birds will often abandon their nest if disturbed, or temporarily leave the site. Young birds are very susceptible to predation when left unattended.

Community residents, Council, and local organizations and businesses can work together to ensure that disturbance levels are minimized so that sustainable tourism can continue. It is uncertain how much disturbance these puffins can tolerate, but in another Newfoundland location where the colony was disturbed, those puffins had 38% fewer chicks on average (Rodway et al. 1996). Though the disturbance at Elliston Point is not the same in the study, managing the site using the precautionary principle is recommended as impacts are uncertain due to a lack of studies in similar situations. For more on recommended best practices for managing the puffin site, please see Section 4.

## **Section 4: Habitat Conservation and Education Strategies**

This section presents ideas for community education, engagement, and habitat enhancement that could be implemented over time in the community. Community engagement and partnerships are the true strengths of any stewardship agreement.

One benefit that people receive from stewardship is the opportunity to increase their knowledge of nature. These projects are great for local groups, allowing hands-on involvement in conservation efforts. Communities across the province who have signed stewardship agreements have had great success becoming involved in exactly these types of projects and will also be resources for you to connect with, especially at SAM meetings. The ideas below, and many others, can be found at [samnl.org/resources](http://samnl.org/resources).

### **Elliston Point puffin site: Best Management Practices**

Elliston's puffin site receives thousands of visitors each year.

While Atlantic Puffins are the primary attraction for most visitors, the islands in this area are home to a wide variety of seabirds, including Leach's Storm Petrel, Black Guillemot, Black-legged Kittiwake, Great Black-backed Gull, cormorants, Razorbill, and more. Exact population numbers for the puffin site are not available due to Environment and Climate Change Canada being unable to survey that site, but as a comparison, 2019 surveys indicated 9391 pairs of Atlantic Puffin nesting on North Bird Island alone.

As these seabirds are the primary attraction and a valuable natural resource for the Town of Elliston, tourism should be carefully planned to ensure that the Atlantic Puffin population is given adequate space to roost, feed, and raise their young.

Following are some recommendations (prepared in consultation with seabird biologists from Memorial University and Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service) that we think may be useful as this well-known site hosts more and more visitors.

- a) Consider limiting visitor numbers who access the site at any one time: There are many visitors on the point. This could have consequences for the wildlife populations, but additionally can impact the visitor experience
- b) Hire professional interpreters. The use of professionals skilled in interpretation and seabird biology will help communicate the ecological importance of the site (and the need to protect it) and help improve the visitor experience. These interpreters should be clearly visible and marked as staff (eg through the use of a jacket with logos or "Interpreter" on the back, etc)



- c) Consider setting recommended minimum distances for puffin viewing (farther back from the cliff). This could be managed with signs, rocks, other lines, and interpreters.
- d) Have one interpreter at the road (in the chalet), and the other interpreter down at the actual site, at all times
- e) Purchase high quality scopes and binoculars for the interpreters (could likely be funded through a grant) so they can see the puffins and other species, and interpret them for visitors
- f) Have interpreters keep good records of:
  - Date when the first puffins arrive
  - Date when the puffins are first seen carrying fish (this is approximately the chick hatching time)
  - Number of tourists each day and week
  - Counts of birds (seabirds and gulls)
  - Counts of predators (foxes, domestic bats, etc)
  - Counts of puffins that land on the mainland

#### *Safety at the puffin site*

A full understanding of the risks and issues of the puffin site is beyond the scope of this plan and requires additional expertise (such as that which may be obtained by Tourism Elliston). However, we urge the Town of Elliston, Tourism Elliston, and any other organizations that may be involved to plan carefully at this site to avoid problems and would offer our support in any efforts to undertake this planning. We urge you to consult with experts and take into consideration logistical and physical changes to make the site as safe as possible.



## **Artificial light**

Light pollution is in many areas a threat to seabirds, including in Elliston. Young seabirds such as puffins typically follow moonlight after they fledge (begin to fly) so they can end up in the open ocean, where they will spend the next few years of their lives. In places like Witless Bay and Elliston, where there are colonies of Atlantic Puffins, the young puffins can accidentally fly into town because they are attracted to artificial lights (which they mistake for the moon).

Many of these young puffins will not survive, as they will be killed or maimed by predators, including domestic cats. Juvenile puffins are easy prey on land and not accustomed to having to defend themselves. For this reason, residents should be encouraged to keep all cats indoors, especially at night. Many young puffins are also killed in traffic. In some cases, the young birds are drawn towards car headlights, making it even more likely that they will not survive the night. More information about the effects of light on wildlife is at [darksky.org/light-pollution/wildlife](https://darksky.org/light-pollution/wildlife)

There are many solutions to this problem, but the most effective is to reduce the lighting that is visible outside houses, businesses, and other buildings.

Some guidelines from the International Dark Sky Association ([darksky.org](https://darksky.org)) are that lighting should:

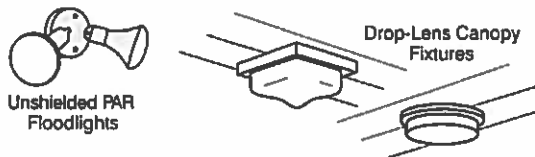
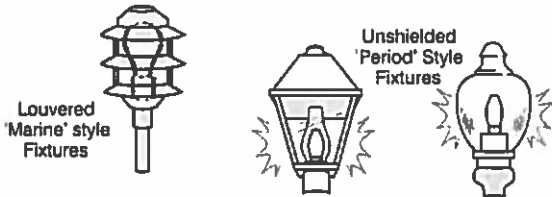
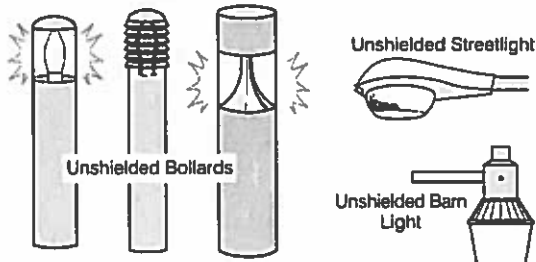
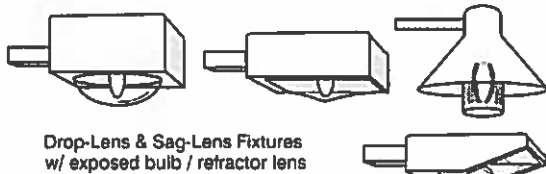
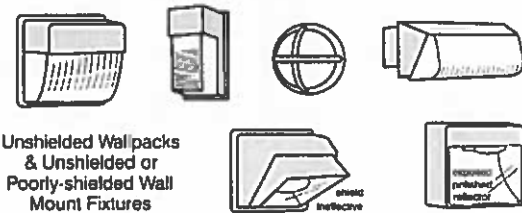
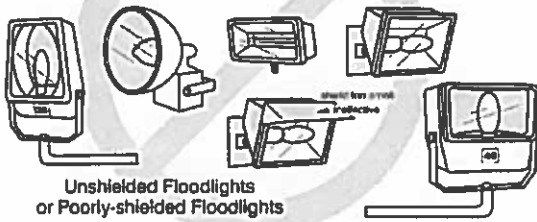
- Only be on when needed
- Only light the area that needs it
- Be no brighter than necessary
- Minimize blue light emissions
- Be fully shielded (pointing downward)

The following picture shows the best light fixtures that can be used in a place like Elliston where many seabirds are at risk of dying due to this excess artificial light. Sharing this guide with your residents and local businesses will help keep Elliston's puffins and petrels safer.

# Examples of Acceptable / Unacceptable Lighting Fixtures

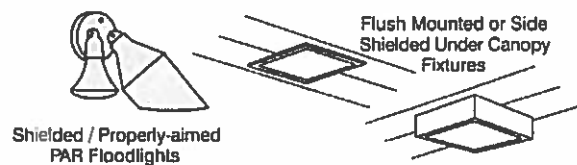
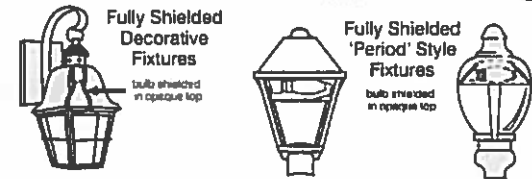
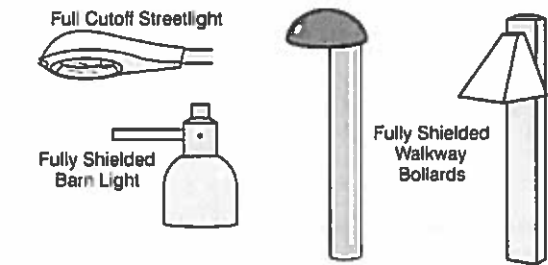
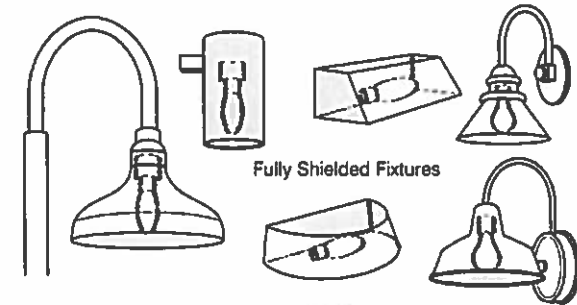
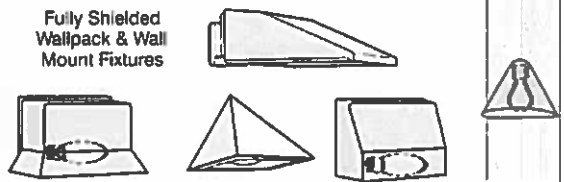
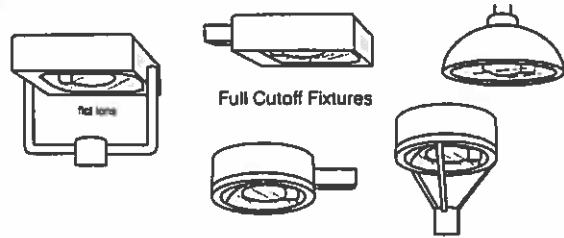
## Unacceptable / Discouraged

Fixtures that produce glare and light trespass



## Acceptable

Fixtures that shield the light source to minimize glare and light trespass and to facilitate better vision at night



Illustrations by Bob Crelin © 2005. Rendered for the Town of Southampton, NY. Used with permission.

The other solution to this problem is important, but it is short-term and does not tackle the real cause of the problem. It involves safely capturing the juvenile puffins and/or petrels when they happen to be found in town. SAM has already helped start this program in Elliston by connecting the town clerk and residents with CPAWS NL, who run a puffin and petrel rescue program in this province. Although residents had informally helped with this effort for many years before, the first puffin was officially rescued under this program in August 2019. Suzanne Dooley is the coordinator for this project; she can be reached at [sdooley@cpaws.org](mailto:sdooley@cpaws.org).

## Explore grants and funding

Many of these activities and programs are free or can be funded through small community grants and via partnerships. SAM provides a regularly updated listing of many relevant grants at [samnl.org/resources](http://samnl.org/resources).

Large grant applications may take several months to prepare if committees are involved. Allow enough time to apply for these grants and to obtain the letters of support that local partners such as SAM or the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (Wildlife Division) may provide; keep an eye on deadlines as they approach.

## Hire a Green Team

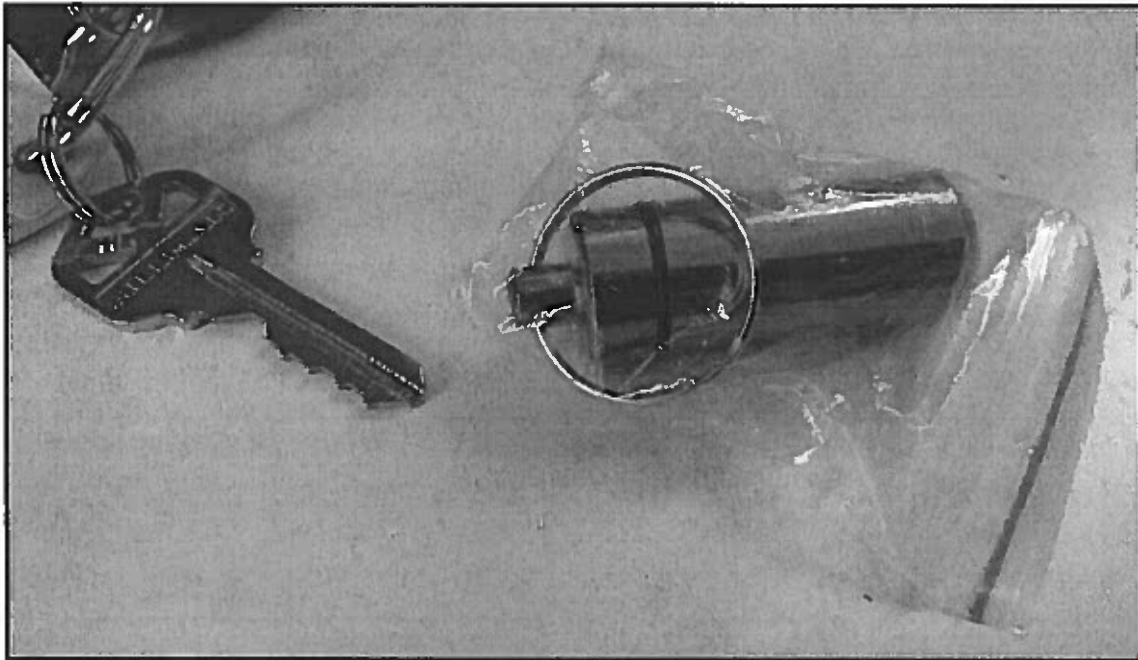
Conservation Corps Newfoundland and Labrador ([ccnl.ca](http://ccnl.ca)) can help you hire summer Green Teams and interns, some of which can be funded by corporations at no cost to your organization. Students or recent graduates can work with municipalities on environmental projects. Municipalities with Stewardship Agreements have often received Green Teams. Examples of potential projects could include nest boxes, bird monitoring, trail maintenance, community outreach, wildlife surveys, and developing field guides. Green Team members and interns could help train local high school students in monitoring and could develop educational material designed to raise awareness for conservation and stewardship initiatives. Sharing a CCNL Green Team with neighbouring towns might be explored, especially if other towns are beginning environmental projects as well.



## Find and place geocaches

Geocaches (small containers found via GPS; [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) and various mobile apps such as **c:geo**) can be added alongside trails as well to provide a fun and inexpensive activity for walkers, hikers, and groups. It is a great idea to place geocaches near or at where you want people to go – to help them discover a new trail, a beautiful lookout, or an interpretive spot, for example.

The Town of Elliston is already home to more than 10 geocaches, and hopefully in the future we will include one on your Habitat Stewardship road sign too. SAM and the EHJV partnership (username EHJV\_Stewardship) currently maintain 30+ geocaches in SAM municipalities across the province. After creating a geocaching account (or logging in first), the full list can be found at [geocaching.com/seek/nearest.aspx?u=EHJV\\_Stewardship](http://geocaching.com/seek/nearest.aspx?u=EHJV_Stewardship).



A nanocache style geocache before installation (with house key for scale). Staff photo

## Construct trails & put up interpretive signs

Many SAM municipalities have found that trails increase recreation and health for residents and improve tourism possibilities. When constructed carefully, trails can increase stewardship by allowing people to discover new areas. They can help residents and visitors connect to nature, especially where interpretive signage is used to help point out interesting landscape and wildlife.

Recreational and tourism opportunities can help raise awareness and educate visitors and residents about waterfowl and the importance of wetlands. Hiking, walking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and geocaching are popular activities in many Conservation Areas across the province. Other activities such as photography and paddling (canoeing and kayaking) could be further encouraged as low-impact, healthy recreation opportunities for both residents and visitors.

In developing recreational and tourism opportunities, wildlife must be carefully considered during the planning process. Otherwise, human activities can negatively impact the resource that provides the attraction.

As part of the Stewardship Agreement, the Town of Elliston has been provided with a large road sign. A smaller (2 foot x 3 foot) interpretive sign could be provided as a "Trail Entrance" sign if desired. Additional interpretive signage could possibly be funded through grants to the Town of Elliston; for example, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation often funds trail and park projects (see funding opportunities link above for other possibilities)

## Watch wildlife

Local groups and interested volunteers can watch and monitor birds, plants, and wildlife in all areas of the Town but, particularly, in Elliston Coastline. This can provide information on changes in populations and can indicate problems or progress. By involving residents, they become more aware of these special places.

**iNaturalist** and **Seek** are free smartphone apps for those interested in learning to identify plants, butterflies and other insects, other invertebrates, birds, fungi, and mammals. They can be used to build plant and wildlife lists for any area, as a learning tool, for school students, family nature walks, and just for fun.

**iNaturalist** is great for adults as each nature observations turns into a real scientific data point. It also has a neat feature where other experts will identify your sightings for you - after taking a photo, it will often be identified within a few hours by another experienced user on the app. Turn your location services on so that your sighting can be found on the map and so others can help with your identifications. **Seek** is best for kids as it never saves location data and provides fun badges.



eBird

**ebird.org** is another free website and app to record birds you see. It is very popular across NL with more than 10 000 bird lists submitted each year.

Explore all the birds seen in Newfoundland and Labrador (click map to zoom to your area) at [ebird.org/ebird/canada/subnational1/CA-NL?yr=all](http://ebird.org/ebird/canada/subnational1/CA-NL?yr=all)

Start contributing to eBird at [secure.birds.cornell.edu/casso/account/create](http://secure.birds.cornell.edu/casso/account/create)

When watching wildlife, be mindful of tides and wetland (damp, soft, slippery) habitat, making safety your priority. Aim to cause as little stress and disturbance as possible to wildlife.

## **Help Elliston residents enjoy nature**

It's not just kids that enjoy the outdoors – adults and seniors benefit from spending time in nature as well. Birdwatching workshops have been successful in SAM communities (such as Spaniard's Bay), and snowshoe hikes in the winter or hikes in the summer are often enjoyed by adults as well.

Themes such as winter tracking or edible plant hikes can increase interest. Hikes can be inexpensive ways for adults in Elliston to discover the natural areas of the town, socialize, and learn something new. SAM's **Guide to delivering interpretive hikes** and field guides at [samnl.org/resources](http://samnl.org/resources) could help CCNL Green Teams or summer staff lead hikes for residents and/or visitors. These could be used to create a small brochure and 'bird checklist' or wildlife list of the area, or as the basis for field guides which could be developed by a Green Team, high school, or a relevant committee.



**Interpretive "Winter wetland walk" at Gambo Bog. Staff photo**

## Explore outdoor education programs

Public education can help foster a greater sense of habitat stewardship among town residents. Festivals (such as Elliston's Bird Island Festival or Roots, Rants, & Roars) are great opportunities to add in nature activities. SAM staff can help - either by attending, training some of your residents, or by providing resources that you can use.

There are excellent programs that can be adapted for Elliston such as *Wetlands in Winter* (Tantramar Wetlands Centre, [weted.com](http://weted.com)), *Marsh Bingo* and *Creatures of the Night* (Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, [oakhammockmarsh.ca](http://oakhammockmarsh.ca)), *Junior Naturalists* (Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, [wyemarsh.com](http://wyemarsh.com)), and *Wetland Field Trips* (Ducks Unlimited Canada, [ducks.ca](http://ducks.ca)). Other good starting points for nature projects for children include [hookedonnature.org](http://hookedonnature.org), [planetpals.com](http://planetpals.com), and [hctfeducation.ca/resource-room](http://hctfeducation.ca/resource-room)

## Conclusion

We hope these ideas have you thinking. Keep an eye on [samnl.org](http://samnl.org), our newsletter, and our social media, where additional resources are added regularly – and we hope to see you at SAM meetings. Remember, community involvement is the true strength of a Stewardship Agreement!



## **Municipal Stewardship Agreement for the Town of Elliston**

**THIS AGREEMENT** made at Elliston, in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, this 26th day of September, 2019.

**BETWEEN: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**, as represented by the Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources (herein called "the Minister")

- of the one part -

**AND: THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ELLISTON**, a municipal corporation pursuant to Section 15 of the *Municipalities Act, 1999* (herein called the "The Town")

-of the other part-

**WHEREAS** the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has entered into an Agreement with others for the implementation of the of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan through the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture;

**AND WHEREAS** the parties hereto recognize that the proper protection and management of coastal, wetland and upland habitats are fundamental tools in maintaining and enhancing the wildlife populations, particularly birds, in the province;

**AND WHEREAS** the Minister proposed that certain important wetlands and associated wildlife habitats within the Town be protected and enhanced through and with the cooperation of the Town in accordance with this Agreement and a Habitat Conservation Plan developed hereafter;

**AND WHEREAS** the Town has agreed to enter into this Agreement for the purpose of protecting and enhancing those areas of important habitat within its jurisdiction.

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS AGREED BY THE PARTIES AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The lands herein delineated and designated as a Conservation Area (being the lands outlined on a certain Schedule A annexed hereto) shall be managed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement including any Habitat Conservation Plan developed hereunder for better protection of the wetlands for waterfowl and other wildlife.
2. Within the limits of its jurisdiction, the Town shall permit only those activities within the Conservation Areas that have no negative or adverse impact upon the wetland habitat or the waterfowl or other wildlife which utilize those habitats.
3. The parties may establish other Conservation Areas as may be desirable from time to time. The Conservation Areas shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Habitat Conservation Plan developed to enhance and protect the wetland habitats, the waterfowl and other wildlife which utilize those habitats.
4. The Habitat Conservation Plan shall be developed in cooperation with the Town and the Minister agrees to provide such advice and expertise necessary or advisable for the development of the Habitat Conservation Plan.
5. The Town agrees that in the preparation of a Municipal Plan for the Town or any amendments to any existing Municipal Plan, the areas designated as Conservation Areas shall be recommended by the Town to be appropriately declared protected areas under subsection 13(3)(f) of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act (2000)* (or such other legislation in amendment or substitution therefore as may be brought into effect from time to time). The Town in passing regulations or by-laws related to the protected areas so designated under the Municipal Plan or amendments thereto and which may affect the Conservation Area(s) shall do so in consultation with the Minister and in keeping with the principles of this Agreement.
6. The parties to this Agreement, their consultants, servants or agents, shall have and exercise reasonable rights of access to the Conservation Area(s) for all purposes necessary or incidental to this Agreement and in particular, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, for the purpose of developing and carrying out the Habitat Conservation Plan.
7. If at any time during the term of this Stewardship Agreement the Parties deem it necessary or desirable to make any alterations or additions to it, they may do so by means of a written amendment between them which shall be supplemental to and form part of this agreement.

8. Each of the parties hereto agree that they will exercise their best efforts to further develop management measures for more effectively carrying out of their mutual intentions as expressed in this Agreement.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the parties have caused these presents to be executed in accordance with their respective rules and regulations the day and year first before written.

**SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED** by the Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources in the presence of:

*Ingru S tags*

Witness

*Elvis Tomules*

**THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF  
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

**THE SEAL OF** the Town Council of the Town of Elliston hereunto affixed in the presence of:

*Betty Goodland*

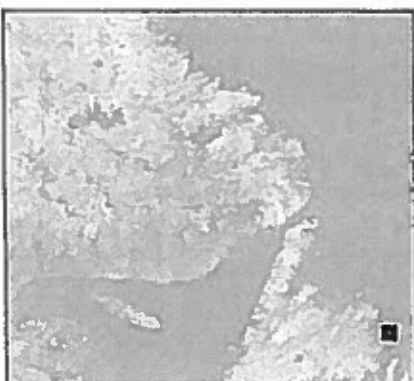
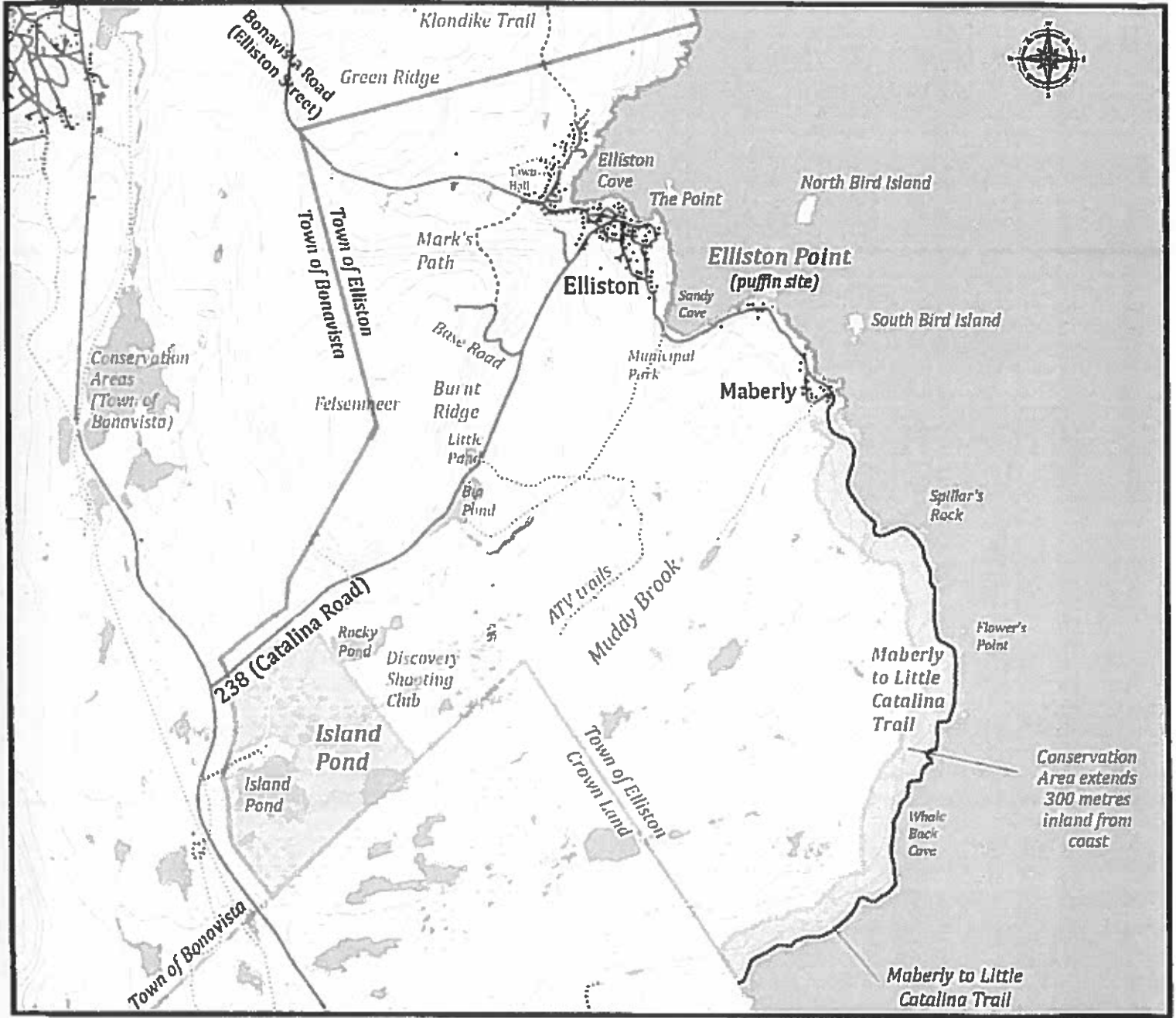
Witness

*Geraldine Baker*




**THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF  
ELLISTON**

# Town of Elliston, Newfoundland and Labrador

## Habitat Stewardship Agreement



### Legend

-  Elliston's Planning Area boundary
-  Conservation Areas Town of Elliston
-  Waterbodies



PCHE  
Le plan conjoint  
des habitats de l'est



## Appendix 2: Conservation enforcement form

### Complaint / information related to conservation, hunting, or wildlife enforcement issues

You can also report any issues online 24/7 by calling 1.877.820.0999 or at [stoppoaching.ca](http://stoppoaching.ca)  
 You can stay anonymous, whether it's by phone, online, or on this form

Please fill in as much of the following information as you can. Even partial info can be helpful

<b>Date</b> When did it happen? Or is it an ongoing issue?	
<b>Time</b> Is there a specific time of day when it happens?	
<b>Suspects</b> Do you have an idea of who it might be?	
<b>Location</b> Where is it happening? Being as specific as possible will help	
<b>Vehicles</b> Description of vehicles (ATVs, cars, trucks, boats, etc.) being used and/or licence plates	

Please fill in any other details

Do you wish to remain anonymous (Circle one)

Yes

No

If you choose to provide your name or number, you may be contacted for follow up. If you provide this info it will be kept confidential by enforcement, or you may remain completely anonymous by leaving both these spaces blank. Thank you – you're playing an important role in protecting your natural resources.

**Name**  
**(optional)**

**Phone**  
**(optional)**