

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU VOTE:

With the Province's election coming up you will likely be contacted by campaigning party members. Use this as your opportunity to pose thoughtful questions about how that party plans to address important issues regarding the protection of our public land and water!

Here are some examples you can use:

1. How will your party help advance the newly released Protected Areas Plan to the next phase?

2. How will your party help Canada meet its target of protecting 25% of its land and oceans by 2025?

3. How will your party protect community coastlines?

Even just by asking these questions you are drawing awareness to these topics- demonstrating to our potential elected officials that these issues are important to their constituents.

PUFFIN PATROL SUMMARY



- **Average Weight (g):** 266
- **Average Wingspan (mm):** 151
- **Total Banded:** 387
- **Busiest Night:**
 - August 16, 2020
(total 51 puffins)
 - second was a tie August 14 & 15, 2020
(total 34 puffins each night).

We worked with locals and over 1000 people from outside the immediate area who registered to patrol! Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's patrol a success!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2020 IS HINDSIGHT

Winter salutations everyone! I would like to welcome in a Happy New Year (it's never too late!) to CPAWS members and all nature and outdoor enthusiasts. I believe the general consensus of the world today is that 2020 may have been one of the worst years on recent record; however while we move forward into 2021 I think it is worth noting that CPAWS-NL was more than up to the challenge last year and our Chapter had an exciting year of accomplishments that I will reflect upon. While parts of Newfoundland had a late start to winter this year in stark contrast to the record breaking snowfall we were digging out of last winter, a new coronavirus outbreak in 2020 turned into a global pandemic which has continued through to 2021 like a runaway train. And while there is light at the end of the tunnel, it is a long tunnel, and our office has had to adapt to new public health protection measures and ride out the tricky (and tragic!) situation in a remote and online way with the rest of the world. Indeed we have had some staff changeover as well (a huge thanks to your contribution to CPAWS!), but what a better time to present that we have welcomed aboard our newest staff members who will lead the roles of Digital Communications Coordinator, Marine Conservation Coordinator, and Conservation Assistant. We have a strong team at CPAWS-NL, and our dedicated staff members have shown we are a versatile and capable organization.

Of particular celebratory note, many of you were pleased to learn in 2020 the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC) publicly released the



Dan Ficken-
President CPAWS-NL

Protected Areas Plan (titled “A Home For Nature”) for the Island of Newfoundland. As the establishment of such a plan is a key pillar of the CPAWS-NL mandate, this is a major milestone for us. CPAWS-NL has been working with the various stakeholders including community members and decision makers alike since our very beginning. Going forward as public consultations begin take place for all of the special areas proposed in the plan, CPAWS will continue the key work of promoting the plan and providing expert insight on the establishment of this crucial network of protected areas on the Island. This plan was long-awaited, in fact we are the only province previously without one, and now 25 years later we are finally able to move forward towards implementing this proactive network of protection of our important wild spaces. A big congrats to all who have been involved, past and present!

Continued→

Pictures from Dan's Hike!

Some of our other successes of 2020 were accomplished digitally, such as our Marine Workshops, which are continuing into this year; and the jointly conducted annual Oceans Day event, which was very well attended despite the virtual nature of the venue. CPAWS-NL has also continued active participation in the Puffin and Petrel Patrol Program. While the procedure was a little different this year due to the pandemic, CPAWS staff and volunteers expertly helped run the Puffin and Petrel Patrol and were once again successful in saving and documenting many stranded birds, which were gently guided to the ocean where they naturally would reside. Additionally CPAWS has continued the important work of leading a marine waste reduction program called Ship to Shore, whereby through consultations with municipalities and ocean users CPAWS has helped our marine communities become marine stewards through commitments to bringing back and properly disposing of all wastes produced at sea.

Indeed Planet Earth itself received a little bit of relief from human activity last year due to decreased global industrial activity and fewer personal vehicles on the road and planes in the air. And while for now the air quality and waterways may be running a little cleaner, through 2021 CPAWS-NL will continue to adapt to the biological challenges our world is presenting us at the moment, and we will continue to skilfully run our various marine and terrestrial programs and work towards continued protection of our important wild ecosystems both on land and at sea.

One particularly positive thing we have embraced in 2020 is that many people have re-discovered an enthusiasm for getting outdoors and enjoying nature at its fullest;



I recently enjoyed a fine hike with my brother through the Hawke Hills Ecological Reserve and into the Avalon Wilderness Reserve to enjoy a few moments of the freshest air and pure wilderness in the last week of 2020, and it's looking like endless outdoor opportunities await us in 2021 as well. Thanks for your continued dedication to our amazing parks and protected areas, and I would like to thank our highly professional staff and board for continuing the ever growing successes of our organization. All the best to the year ahead, let's hope for an eventual end to the global pandemic and do our best to keep ourselves and everyone else as safe as can be!

-Dan Ficken
CPAWS-NL President

JANUARY'S NATURE FEATURE

Atlantic Right Whale

Eubalaena glacialis

We're lucky to have these gentle giants swim in our waters during the warmer months. Named by whalers because they were targeted as the "right" whale to hunt due to being typically slower swimmers, and their habit of staying closer to the coastline than other species.

This led to the Right Whale being driven almost to extinction.

They are one of the most endangered whales on the planet with only around 400 whales remaining in the global population as of two years ago. Scientists are able to recognize individual whales by looking at rough white patches of skin called callosities on their head, chin and sometimes on the edge of their lower lips. Each whale's callosities pattern is unique! One of the main threats to Right Whales is entanglement in abandoned fishing gear



Government of Canada

Ghost gear refers to any fishing equipment or fishing-related litter that has been abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded and is some of the most harmful and deadly debris found in oceans.

-Department of Fisheries and Oceans 2021

According to Fisheries and Oceans Canada ghost gear may make up as much as 70% of macro-plastics in the ocean. Thankfully there are many initiatives focusing on taking this harmful marine debris out of the water. In a recent CTV it was reported that crews working with a government initiative retrieved 63 tonnes of lost nets and traps.

Preventative measures are now being emphasized, proper gear-loss reporting prioritized, and education on the dangers of ghost gear recognized. We must continue to spread awareness of ghost gear; at-risk species like the Atlantic Right Whale depend on it.

GHOST GEAR IS HAUNTING THE OCEAN



Northwest Straits Foundation



HELP PROTECT NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR'S WILDSPACES!



Please consider donating and support our on-going efforts

YES, I support the NL Chapter of CPAWS

Please fill out the form below and mail to CPAWS-NL

Here is my donation of:

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

I have enclosed a check (payable to CPAWS)
(Please indicate in memo to support work in NL Region)

I prefer to pay by VISA / MC / AMEX

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

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\$5 Monthly \$10 Monthly \$20 Monthly

\$_____ Monthly

Please deduct this amount from my checking account at the first of each month. I am enclosing a VOID check.

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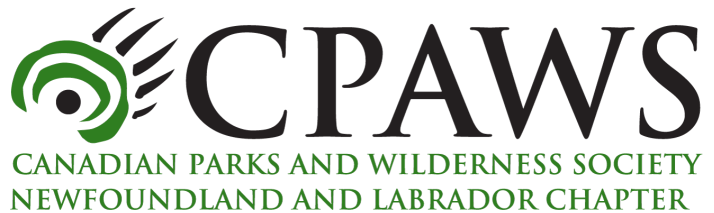
Your donation is fully tax-creditable. Receipts are issued for gifts of \$20 or more automatically, others on request.



DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS?

We are always looking for inspiring stories, photos and ideas to help us engage Canadians in nature conservation. Do you have any great stories about your experiences in nature? Pitch your ideas and content to us at

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See you next month!