

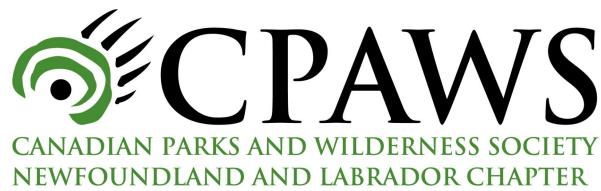


CPAWS

CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CHAPTER

January 2024 Newsletter





We hope that you have had a great start to 2024!

This year has already been a busy one for us. Keep scrolling to read a special message from the CPAWS NL President of the Board of Directors, and discover exciting ways you can get involved!

Message from the President!

Happy 2024 to CPAWS supporters and to all of you outdoorsy, and indoorsy, folks that are driven, influenced, and inspired by nature. While the new year (and winter) is well underway, I noticed a flock of robins out my window earlier today feasting on berries in the trees out back. Are they early harbingers of spring? Probably not...these ones just like it here, and my back yard has provided them a nutritious store of goods to prepare them for the upcoming winter storm. However, while I ponder the fortune telling intentions of the robins, this may be a better time to reflect on the activities and hard work our Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter has achieved in the past year, 2023.

I would like to start by acknowledging our staff team members. We have a very professional and dedicated crew working diligently away at our marine and terrestrial programs, many of whom spend time travelling throughout the province to meet people with first hand community and traditional knowledge, and to collect data to propel the campaign of conservation forward. Your work enhances our chapter and strengthens our

conservation goals. You are playing a role in moving our province forward in an environmentally conscientious manner. I also would like to show my appreciation for our volunteers in communities both on the Island and in Labrador for contributing to this momentum as well, including work on the ground in Nunatsiavut in developing a sustainable future project, and in other conservation projects. It is noticed!

And what have we been up to? Well, for starters we have a new drone, and a new underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV), which is like a drone but does its work in the ocean instead of the sky. Trained staff expertly navigate these devices through the air and water to make observations and to collect footage and images to aid in understanding our terrestrial and marine spaces. Of interest, the ROV can document underwater habitats, identify species, and even aid in collecting information about marine debris which helps CPAWS to identify areas in need of cleanups. The information collected by these devices is a great tool for public outreach as well as for collecting data in ways that we could not before.

And speaking of public outreach, CPAWS staff have been busy building interest and conducting workshops and harbour surveys in coastal areas to aid in developing our conservation standards. In addition, the team that coordinated the [Puffin and Petrel Patrol](#) last season have done another great service to our seafaring feathered friends who need some extra help when the lights are too bright at night or when the winds are too high. I even witnessed a skilled worker at an industrial site carefully package up a stranded Leach's storm petrel to be collected by CPAWS for release to the ocean. It was encouraging to see that they take conservation seriously and that they knew what to do. CPAWS NL has also participated in World Oceans Day events both in Fogo and Twillingate as well as at the Marine Institute in St. John's. These events included a public introduction to the [Special Marine Areas Data Hub](#) which compliments our Guide, an augmented reality installation, and games for youth focusing on our poster species at risk, the Wolffish. Getting youth engaged is a really

important part of looking to the future when it comes to environmental protection, they will lead the way when the time comes.

In big news, I want to congratulate our Chapter on the [announcement of an MOU](#) last June to complete a feasibility study for the South Coast Fjords National Marine Conservation Area. This significant agreement was signed by the government of Canada and province of Newfoundland and Labrador, along with Miawpukek First Nation, Qalipu First Nation and the town of Burgeo, and it marks the movement towards the protection of this amazing area of such ecological importance and natural wonder in our province. A lot of work over many years has gone into this initiative, and it is very exciting to see this conservation effort move to the next level. I was also very happy to hear last spring that the Province has proposed 10 protected areas to advance the development of the [Protected Areas Plan \(Titled: A Home For Nature\)](#) and have begun respectful public consultation on their possible development.

I could go on, but to wrap up, in all it's been another fantastic and exciting year for nature. For those of you reading this, I want to thank you for your support, and without like minded people like you our province and indeed the wider world would be in worse shape environmentally. Our natural terrestrial and marine ecosystems and our vast wild spaces are headed for a better future with conservation in mind. All the best to you in 2024, lets look forward to another great year ahead.

Dan Ficken

CPAWS-NL President

Participate in our compensated interviews on marine species and habitats in Fortune Bay and Bay d'Espoir!



Marine Data Collection Interviews with Compensation!

First 5 completed Interviews ----- \$200

Interviews 6-10----- \$150

Interviews 11-15----- \$100

All other Interviews----- \$75

Deadline to register is **February 10th**, and last interview date is **February 23rd**

Learn more or sign up for an interview by emailing csimmons@cpaws.org



All interview participants will be compensated for their time and expertise!

Our first 5 completed interviews: \$200

Interviews 6-10: \$150

Interviews 11-15: \$100

All others: \$75

Deadline to register: February 16th

Last interview date: February 23rd

**Register now by emailing Caitlyn at
csimmons@cpaws.org!**

Participants, please note:

- You may only participate in one interview.
- Interviews will be 30-60 minutes long.
- Compensation will be in the form of physical cards, so a mailing address must be provided upon completion of the interview.

Participants must either be from, have worked in, lived in, or have local knowledge of the marine ecology of Fortune Bay and/or Bay d'Espoir.



Marine Debris Cleanups!

On January 15th, our team partnered with [Sparkes Subsea](#) on the west coast to clean up a few harbours. Together, we removed **2100 lbs** of marine debris from harbours in Frenchman's Cove and Humber Arm South!

Amongst the debris collected were 13 active lobster pots that all had sea life trapped for who knows how long! It's important we remember to properly report lost or abandoned fishing gear, so we can remove the debris before it gets a chance to cause lasting damage.

You can report your lost gear at <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/reports-rapports/lost-gear-perte-engin/index-eng.html>.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions that you many have. For information on how to [volunteer](#) or make a [donation](#) visit our website at cpawsnl.org! Also, if you're interested in keeping up to date on what's new and exciting at CPAWS-NL follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for regular updates.



Tanya Edwards
Executive Director
CPAWS NL



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