

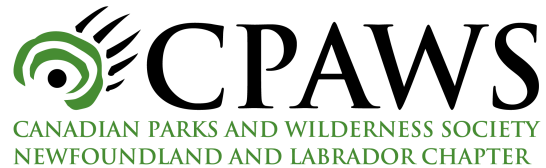


CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CHAPTER

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**May 2026 Newsletter**





We have a very special newsletter this month! David Rendell, our long-time board member, retired in May after more than 15 years of service to CPAWS-NL. This edition is fondly dedicated to him, in honour of all that he has contributed to our organization and beyond. We wish him all the best in his new chapter!

## Celebrating David Rendell



*David and his wife Joan enjoying the rugged coastline that inspired so much of his lifelong appreciation for nature and conservation.*

David Rendell has been a long-time CPAWS and CPAWS-NL volunteer and a familiar face in Newfoundland and Labrador's

conservation community for decades. A retired Memorial University physics professor and former Head of the Physics Department, David has dedicated much of his career and volunteer service not only to science and education, but also to environmental stewardship and public service.

After completing his studies at King's College, Dalhousie University, and the University of British Columbia, David returned home to Newfoundland to join Memorial University's Physics Department at a time when the university was working to build a new generation of local faculty. Throughout his career, he contributed not only to teaching and research, but also to the growth of the university and the broader community with his signature caring and diplomatic approach.

David served on the national board of trustees for CPAWS from 1985–1992 and joined the CPAWS-NL board in 2009.



He helped guide our chapter from its early days into the organization it is today. Since the chapter's beginning, he has been a steady and thoughtful presence on the Board of Directors, serving in a variety of roles over the years, most recently as Vice Chair, and for much of his tenure as Treasurer.

Known for his generosity, leadership, and deep institutional knowledge, David has helped shape CPAWS-NL through its formative years and beyond. Many board members fondly remember the times when David hosted meetings in his home, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere that reflected his thoughtful and community-minded approach to conservation work.

Throughout his life, David has embodied a commitment to service. As his family recalls, he rarely seeks leadership roles for himself, but when asked to help, he consistently steps forward and dedicates himself to the work that needs to be

done. That spirit of service has become a defining feature of his many contributions to education, conservation, and community organizations.

David's commitment to the environment extends far beyond CPAWS. Over the years, he served with organizations including the Newfoundland Natural History Society (now Nature NL), environmental education initiatives, and science fair organizations at both the provincial and national level. David was also deeply committed to science education, volunteering for many years with provincial and national science fair organizations and mentoring young scientists across Canada. He also contributed to conservation education and awareness through his writing, including an [article in Park News](#) describing a winter survey through the Avalon Wilderness Reserve and reflecting on the importance of wilderness protection in Newfoundland and Labrador.



*David Rendell (right) presenting the 1985 Harkin Award to Mike Nolan in recognition of Nolan's work supporting the recovery of the Avalon caribou herd.*

Whether serving on conservation boards, supporting science education, contributing to his community, or helping build institutions at Memorial University, David has brought the same thoughtful, humble, and dependable approach to every role he's undertaken.

An avid outdoorsman and wildlife photographer, David has always had a deep appreciation for the natural world. These days, David continues to enjoy photography, spending time outdoors, and exploring the landscapes of Newfoundland and Labrador that have inspired him throughout his life. We are pleased to celebrate David's many contributions while thanking him for the years of dedication he has given to CPAWS-NL.

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*"David's steady guidance, kindness, and thoughtful perspective helped shape CPAWS-NL into what it is today,"* says Executive Director Tanya Edwards. *"His dedication to conservation and thoughtful leadership have helped shape our organization over the years."*

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As David concludes his service on the CPAWS-NL Board after more than fifteen years, we are grateful for his continued friendship, support, and contributions to conservation in Newfoundland and beyond. While we will greatly miss his presence at the board table, we know his passion for conservation remains strong, and we look forward to continuing to see him at CPAWS-NL events and throughout Newfoundland and Labrador's conservation community for years to come.



*David enjoying time outdoors with family during a birthday picnic near the Ferryland Lighthouse — a fitting setting for someone who has spent a lifetime appreciating Newfoundland and Labrador's natural landscapes.*

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As always, feel free to reach out with any questions that you may have. For information on how to [volunteer](#) or make a [donation](#), visit our website at [cpawsnl.org](http://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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