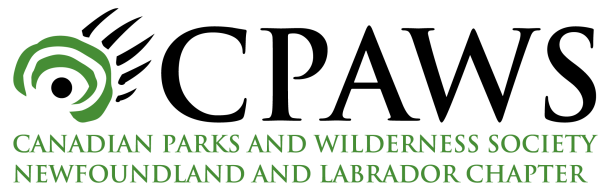




CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CHAPTER

August 2026 Newsletter





August is a busy time for conservation across Newfoundland and Labrador, and this month has brought plenty of reasons to celebrate, and plenty of reasons to keep speaking up for the places and species that need our help! From sending juvenile puffins off safely through the Puffin Patrol, to continuing our citizen science and local ecological knowledge initiatives, this summer has been a reminder of how closely our communities are connected to the natural world around us. Read on for updates from the field, celebrating the people who care deeply about the natural world, and highlighting some of the important work happening across the province.

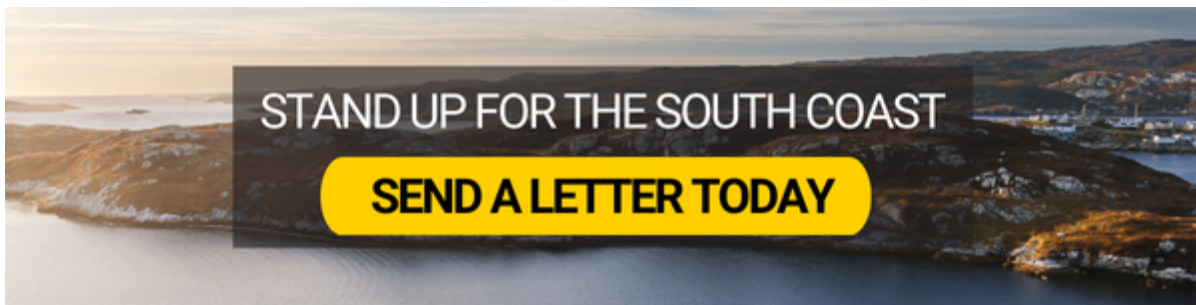
Connecting with the Honourable Nathalie Provost

Last week, Tanya and Suzanne had the pleasure of connecting with the Honourable Nathalie Provost, Secretary of State (Nature), during her visit to Newfoundland and Labrador.

Suzanne, our Conservation Director, started the day by welcoming Secretary of State Provost at the Puffin Patrol headquarters, where they were joined by MP Paul Connors, and Sabina Wilhelm of Environment and Climate Change Canada. It was a great opportunity to highlight local conservation efforts and talk about the importance of protecting our seabirds and marine ecosystems. A special part of the visit came later that morning, when Secretary of State Provost released one of the Puffin Patrol's rescued pufflings back to the ocean!

Later that day, Tanya, our Executive Director, and Suzanne sat down with Secretary of State Provost for a great conversation about the future of nature protection and stewardship in Newfoundland and Labrador. They discussed opportunities to advance marine conservation, Indigenous-led conservation and stewardship, and the important role that healthy ecosystems play in supporting strong and sustainable communities. We look forward to continuing to work together to advance nature protection and stewardship across the province.

Standing Up for the South Coast



Newfoundland's South Coast still needs our help, and we haven't given up hope. More than 1,100 people have now added their voices to our Save the South Coast letter-writing campaign, calling on the government to protect this globally significant region.

The waters and shorelines near Burgeo are home to an incredible diversity of marine and coastal life, including piping plovers, whales, seabirds, and countless other species that depend on healthy habitats and productive waters. This region is especially important for whales, including humpbacks and other migratory species that travel here each summer to feed on rich concentrations of capelin, krill, and other small fish. Protecting these productive marine ecosystems helps safeguard the entire food web that sustains wildlife, fisheries, and the coastal communities that have depended on these waters for generations. Along the shoreline, the South Coast

also provides important nesting habitat for piping plovers, a threatened shorebird that relies on wide, undisturbed sandy and gravel beaches, like those at Sandbanks Provincial Park, to raise their young. Even small disturbances from human activity can disrupt nesting attempts, making intact and undisturbed coastal areas vital for their survival. These beaches are also important stopover and feeding areas for other shorebirds and coastal species throughout the summer.

With so much at stake, advocating for conservation along the South Coast is about protecting healthy ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, tourism opportunities, and the communities that depend on them. More than 1,100 people have already spoken up for the South Coast. We have too, and we're not giving up.

With the newly shuffled Provincial Cabinet, now is an important time to make sure our government hears that the South Coast is still a priority. We are urging people to continue sending letters to the government through our Save the South Coast campaign. Your voices matter. If you've already sent a letter, thank you. If you haven't, now is the time.

Help us keep the momentum going. Send a letter today and stand with us for the South Coast.

[Add your voice to our letter campaign](#)

Garnish & Frenchman's Cove Shoreline Surveys

Our Coastal Ecosystem Baseline Project is continuing in Garnish and Frenchman's Cove, where CPAWS-NL staff were in the area last week conducting shoreline and nearshore surveys. Using a combination of on-the-ground observations, drone imagery, and ROV surveys, we're collecting valuable

information about local habitats, species, human impacts, and other features of the coastal environment. This work builds on more than 40 community interviews conducted during earlier phases of the project, helping us combine local knowledge with field-based data to better understand these important coastal ecosystems.

Do you live in or visit the area? We want to hear from you! Take our online survey and share your observations and experiences along the coast. Once 25 people have completed the survey, participants will be entered to win a \$50 gas card!

[Complete the survey](#)



Citizen Science: Freshwater Photo Stations

You may have noticed some new signs popping up along your favourite local trails! These stations are part of our monitoring project to help track changes in freshwater ecosystems over

time. By taking photos from the same location regularly, we can build a visual record of how streams, rivers, wetlands, and their surrounding habitats change from season to season and year to year. Contribute to this citizen science initiative by adding your own photos to the dataset!



Photo stations can be found at the following locations:

- Cobb's Pond (Gander)
- Appleton Marina (Gander)
- Hodge's Brook (Gander Lake)
- Rotary Trail (Clareville)
- Manuels River (CBS)
- The Fluvarium: Nagle's Brook (St. John's)
- MUN Botanical Garden (St. John's)

We're excited to see what these photo stations can teach us about the health and changing conditions of our freshwater ecosystems over time! You can check out the photos that have been submitted so far [here](#). Thank you to the **Canadian Water Agency** for their support in undertaking this project.

Remembering Juergen Schau

This summer, we are honouring the life and legacy of Juergen Schau. Out of respect for Elfie, Juergen's family, and those closest to him, we chose to wait until now to publicly honour his passing, allowing those who loved him the time and space to grieve.

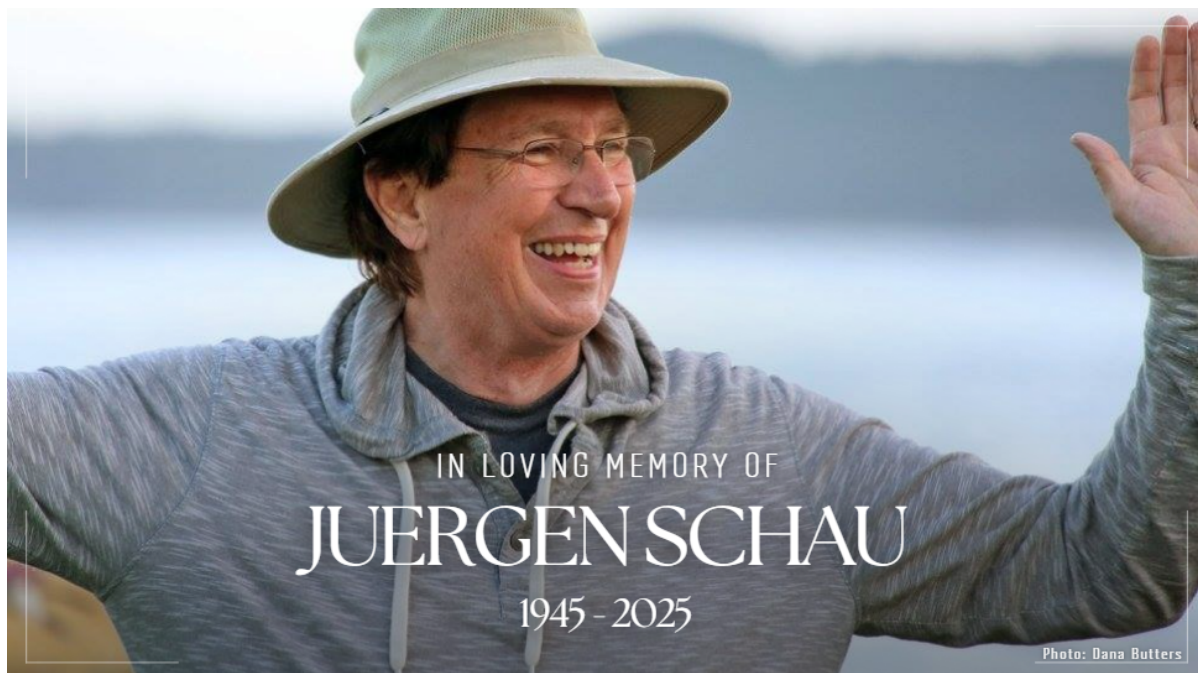
Sometimes in life, you encounter an individual whose spirit stays with you forever. For many, that person was Juergen Schau. You may have known him for his wild shirts, his well-worn hat, his contagious giggle, or the sparkle in his eyes when he saw others sharing his excitement and passion for protecting puffins. Juergen and his beloved wife, Elfie, first came to Witless Bay seeking a holiday home, but instead they embraced the community, and the community embraced them. Together, they created a legacy that lives on today.

To many, he was simply known as the "Puffin Man." The man with the butterfly net, the rubber boots, and the vehicle with the "No Puffin" sign. He was the neighbour and friend who would stop to tell you why every puffin mattered.

What began in Witless Bay with Juergen, Elfie, and a few neighbours rescuing stranded puffins ended up becoming something much bigger. Juergen's passion inspired all of us to help it grow throughout the neighbouring communities surrounding the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve. Juergen would laugh and say, "It's gotten big. It's gotten bigger. We can do more." And that is exactly what we tried to do.

Since 2011, CPAWS-NL has helped grow the Puffin Patrol and carry Juergen's vision forward, expanding the program into neighbouring communities and bringing in volunteers from around the world. This work also broadened our understanding of how artificial light affects other vulnerable seabirds, including Leach's storm-petrels: work that Juergen continued to follow, share, and enthusiastically support. Through it all, he kept a watchful eye, shared his stories, offered encouragement, and helped whenever he could. Juergen inspired thousands of volunteers and welcomed researchers and visitors from around the world.

This summer, and every summer after, when you rescue a puffin, take a moment to think of Juergen. Remember his laughter, his kindness, and the incredible legacy he left. And if you find yourself in Newfoundland and Labrador, or anywhere along a coastline where puffins nest, honour his memory by doing something simple that can make a world of difference: turn off your lights. Save a puffin. As Juergen always said: "The puffin will love you."



Watch our tribute to Juergen's legacy [here](#).

Thank You to Our Summer Staff

The summer months feel like they've flown by so quickly! It's already time for us to say farewell to our Green Team: Emily, Raina, Abby, and our Conservation Projects Assistant, Max! They've been working hard over the past few months and we're so impressed with everything they've accomplished! Between leading debris cleanups in freshwater ecosystems, running public workshops, coordinating field research on the Burin Peninsula, and being the friendly faces at Puffin Patrol HQ, there's never been a dull moment. We're so happy they could be a part of our team, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours!



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! 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.



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