

Nova Scotia Nature Trust (Karen McKendry, Conservation Coordinator)

Best practices in celebrating and appreciating biodiversity and conservation

The Nature Trust and fellow conservation partners recently hosted “Passport to Protection in Pleasant River.” This event showcased the small, rural community of Pleasant River that has become a champion of learning about and protecting species at risk and natural areas. Partners included a research cooperative, Parks Canada, a university, a First Nation, and residents of Pleasant River. There was a Mik’maq opening ceremony at the community hall, and an announcement of two new conservation properties protected in the area. There was also free local food, music, games, and displays. Participants visited four “Stewardship Stations” – one about wetland ecology (including the species at risk), one about rare plants, one about local farming, and one about the history of the area – and received stamps on their “passport” as they learned about the area. A draw for prizes was held at the end of the day. Over 60 people attended!

This event celebrated the connections between local people, stewardship, conservation, and saving species at risk. Many people left this event with a thorough understanding that living with rare species is exciting... they are a part of local culture, and helping them and conserving nature in general can be fun and rewarding.