



**Cliff of Fundy Column:
Bank Swallows of the Cliffs
of Fundy Geopark**

The monthly, "Cliffs Geopark Column" continues with this issue. The three collaborating authors: Tim Fedak, David Piper, and Caleb Grant are the, "Geoscientists of the Geopark who can be reached at: geoscience@fundygeopark.ca This months guest author is: Heather Polowyk, Aerial Insectivore Conservation Biologist (Atlantic region)

The coastal cliffs exposed in the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark are famous for extraordinary landforms carved by the highest tides in the world. While these landforms are valuable in their own right, their value is increased when you consider the smallest swallow in Canada, the Bank Swallow.

Bank Swallows can be identified by their brown upper parts, white underparts, and a bold brown band across their chest. Bank Swallows are part of a group of birds called aerial insectivores, or birds that eat insects while flying. This group includes swifts, swallows, nightjars and flycatchers. Aerial insectivores have declined by 43% across Canada since 1970.

Bank Swallows are listed as Threatened across Canada under the federal Species at Risk Act. This status is due to our Canadian population dropping by 95% since 1970. The causes of this decline include climate change, a global loss of insects, and habitat loss. Habitat loss is occurring across Nova Scotia due to heightened erosion, more intense storms, and shoreline hardening

(building walls or placing boulders along the coast to slow erosion). This makes every bit of available nesting habitat even more important for Bank Swallow conservation.

While Bank Swallows use diverse habitats for nesting, they all have a common theme: near-vertical slopes of diggable soils or sands. This is so they can dig their 60-90 cm long burrows, where they build a nest at the end for their eggs. Their nesting habitat can be found along coastal cliffs, sand dunes, streams, rivers, lakes, and even aggregate pits and quarries. In the Geopark, extensive deposits of glacially eroded mud, sand and gravel, called glacial till, create excellent potential nesting sites.

Bank Swallows in Canada are important for us to protect. These birds are known to eat upwards of 1,000 insects a day. They are long distance migrants, flying from southern South America to Canada each summer for breeding. The population that breeds in Canada is the northernmost within their North American breeding range. Individuals in northern populations are adapted differently than those in the southern parts of the range, making them vital to conserve in the face of changing climates.

Birds Canada, partners, and volunteers across Nova Scotia are monitoring Bank Swallow breeding populations. This is no easy task, and we can't do it alone! If you see Bank Swallows nesting, email the location to hpology@birdscanada.org or use eBird to document what you see. Learn more about how you can be a good steward for Bank Swallows and take action to help conserve them. Conservation efforts work best when we stick together!

**Notes from our Provincial Capital
Houston's Statement on Winning Submarine Bid**

Today is a big day for Canada's security and defence. It's also a big day for Nova Scotia. The federal government has announced the winning bid for the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project, an investment that will shape our country's defence capabilities for decades. Twelve new submarines will replace Canada's aging fleet, with the first delivered in the mid-2030s.

Canada has chosen to partner with Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and Nova Scotia is already at the partnership table. We have been meeting with the company for months to build the best understanding of how to maximize this opportunity for Nova Scotians. This is about more than submarines; this is an economic game-changer. And Nova Scotia is ready.

We are aligning our workforce, infrastructure, supply chains and innovation ecosystem so we can deliver alongside Canada's new defence partner from Day 1.

Today I is today.

Our province will play a central role, alongside British Columbia, to support these submarines over their full lifespan. Six submarines will be maintained and serviced in Halifax. This will drive billions of dollars of investment into our region, create new career paths for Nova Scotians looking for steady work, and drive strong demand for domestic supply chains.

We're talking about thousands of good jobs in the skilled trades, engineering, manufacturing, and digital and defence in-

**Notes from our Provincial Capital
A bright future for Nova Scotians**

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I would like to talk a little bit about the future. We are certainly living in challenging times. The tariff threats are making it very difficult for many business and industries in Nova Scotia. The uncertainty makes it difficult to invest and grow business. Conflicts around the world and in particular in Iran are driving the cost of fuel which in turn is impacting the cost of living.

I know this is not news to anyone, and in reality, many of these challenges are mostly out of our control. With that being said I am optimistic about our future! Canada and Nova Scotia are not alone in this, and as a result other countries are looking for new more stable trading partners and many Nova Scotia exporters are taking advantage of this. Some in Colchester North already have!

I see a bright future for Nova Scotians. In particular, and this is where I have been heading in this article, I personally believe that our youth have more opportunity today than at any other time in my life. It is interesting for me to reflect back on the 50 years since I graduated high school and entered the workforce got married and raised a family. Over those years, we faced challenges, certainly different than those faced today but we over came them and moved on. Our youth that are starting out today will do the same.

In my view the difference is that those opportunities will be here in Nova Scotia. In the near future our children will not need to leave Nova Scotia to prosper. Nova Scotia is poised to be the defence industry capitol of Canada. We are poised to be leaders in green energy, driven by both onshore and offshore wind energy. Onshore is leading the way right now with literally hundreds of commercial wind turbines currently approved and under construction.

Wind West, just a couple of years ago was really just a vision is now moving towards reality. Nova Scotia has some of the greatest offshore wind potential in the world. That offshore wind is not new,

novation. This is the kind of work people can build a future on, right here at home.

Projects like this reinforce Nova Scotia's position as a centre of excellence in naval shipbuilding and sustainment, ocean technology, defence innovation, and will drive business across our province and beyond, forging new partnerships and creating economic benefits for years to come.

I'd like to congratulate Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems on being selected for this important project. TKMS brings proven expertise and a strong reputation in submarine design and quality. Your focus on connection with NATO allies and strengthening collective defence is important in today's world and aligns well with Nova Scotia's strengths. We look forward to working with you and building a strong partnership that lasts long into the future.

I also want to thank the federal government for recognizing what Nova Scotia brings to the table. We have the people, the infrastructure and the experience. This isn't an emerging sector for us - it's a proven one.

We're home to Canada's largest naval base and a strong shipbuilding sector. In fact, billions of federal dollars are already

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Tim Houston

it is proven technology and now we have the opportunity. The forecasted demand for electricity in central Canada and along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States is staggering. Importers in the European countries are now demanding that products they import have documentation as to the amount of carbon that was produced in the manufacture of these products.

This abundance of green energy will attract new investment. We have not even mentioned green hydrogen which is currently in the early stages of Development in Port Hawkesbury. Additionally, there is significant investment and exploration in naturally occurring White Hydrogen taking place in Cumberland and Colchester. Now to my favourite subject. Responsible Resource Development! Over the past year at least 7 new mines have received Environmental approval. The approval comes with stringent environmental regulations and safe guards. Two of these mines are expected to be open and operating by the end of 2027 creating hundreds of high paying direct and indirect jobs. Our young people will no longer have to go to Alberta and will stay in N S and they will be driving our economy from here. Nova Scotia has proven onshore and offshore natural gas and oil waiting to be responsibly developed.

So yes, we have lots of challenges from the current state of the world. We have lots of challenges right here at home with the costs of a modern health care system, with affordability and Education and a critical infrastructure deficit. Lots of challenges. And lots of opportunities, I have great hope for the future and it will be led by our young people, by vision and a willingness of Government to work responsibly and ensure that Nova Scotia and Nova Scotians prosper.

Tom Taggart, MLA Colchester North, (D) - 902-641-2335; tom.taggartmla@gmail.com



Tom Taggart

Applications Open for Antlerless Deer Draw

Starting Monday, July 6, hunters can enter the draw for one of 6,025 antlerless deer hunting stamps for the 2026 season. The antlerless deer draw helps achieve healthy and balanced deer populations by allowing licensed hunters to harvest female antlerless in areas where numbers are higher.

Stamps are available for five of the 10 deer management zones (zones 103, 104, 106, 108 and 110) in mainland Nova Scotia and both zones (111 and 112) in Cape Breton. Antlerless deer stamps are not required in the other mainland zones (101, 102, 105, 107 and 109), where hunters may harvest deer of either sex.

The minimum age for

deer hunting has been lowered to 12 from 16. Youth hunters aged 12 to 15 are eligible to apply for the antlerless deer draw as long as they meet all licensing requirements when applying.

To be eligible to apply for an antlerless deer stamp, hunters must: Be a resident of Nova Scotia; have a valid Nova Scotia Wildlife Resources Card and be eligible to purchase a deer hunting licence, including having a valid hunting certification(s) on their HuntNS profile before applying, such as Hunter Trained (HT), Bow Trained (B).

People can apply online through their HuntNS profile at huntns.ca/, by phone (toll-free: 1-833-302-0750) or by

mail: Antlerless Deer Draw Application, Citizen Services Division, Business Registration Unit, Box 1529, 6N-1505 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S., B3J 2Y4.

The fee is \$8.04 plus tax for electronic and phone applications and \$11.70 plus tax for paper applications. Applications close July 31, and results will be posted online August 18. More information is available at: <https://novascotia.ca/natr/hunt/pdf/hunting-and-furharvesting-summary-of-regulations.pdf>

Quick Facts:

- an antlerless deer hunting stamp permits a hunter to harvest an antlerless deer in a specific deer management zone

- an antlerless stamp does not increase the bag limit for the applicable season; the bag limit is one deer
- an antlerless deer stamp must be accompanied by a general deer stamp or archery/muzzleloader stamp, which is available for purchase
- both the general or archery/muzzleloader deer stamp and antlerless deer stamp become valid when applied to a hunting licence with a wildlife habitat stamp

Additional Resources:

Deer management zones map: <https://data.novascotia.ca/Lands-Forests-and-Wildlife/Deer-Management-Zones-Map/3vgv-umnr>
Hunt NS - online services for hunters and furharvesters: <https://huntns.ca/>

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