

Habitat Conservation Plan for the Municipality of George's Brook- Milton, NL



Prepared: July 2023



Plan Contacts:

Municipality of George's Brook- Milton
 149 Trinity Drive, Georges Brook- Milton
 NL, A5A 0L4



NL Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Program Manager
 Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture - Wildlife Division
 192 Wheeler's Road
 P.O Box 2006
 Corner Brook, NL, Canada, A2H 7S1



Stewardship Association of Municipalities (SAM) Inc
 36 Patrick's Path,
 Torbay, NL
 A1K 1J7
 samnl.org

Table of Contents

Preface.....	4
Section 1: Habitat Conservation in Newfoundland and Labrador	5
Section 2: Wildlife Habitat within George’s Brook- Milton	8
Section 3: General Policies for Habitat Conservation in George’s Brook- Milton	12
Section 4: Habitat Conservation and Education Strategies	14
Schedule A: Municipal Habitat Conservation Areas	

Preface

In the province of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) some of the wildlife and wildlife habitats that are in greatest danger of being negatively impacted are those found within municipalities. In this province, the primary focus of the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV) is to conserve such valuable wildlife habitat through Stewardship Agreements. The Municipality of George's Brook- Milton was identified as having ecologically valuable and unique habitat located within its municipal planning boundaries.

The Agreement (attached as Appendix A) and this Habitat Conservation Plan indicates the Municipality's support for the long-term conservation of wildlife habitat and provides guidance in relation to managing activities which could impact the designated Conservation Areas.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following partners for their support in the continued implementation and activities of the Habitat Stewardship Program: Environment Canada, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wildlife Habitat Canada.

Plan Objectives

- (1) To present an assessment of the habitats and wildlife species designated for conservation.
- (2) To recommend protection and enhancement strategies which will maintain and/or increase wildlife use in designated Conservation Areas.
- (3) To describe potential engagement initiatives designed to increase Council and public awareness of the value of 'their' habitat for conserving wildlife.
- (4) To empower Council and municipal residents to conserve these habitats through informed development decision-making with the support of residents.

Section 1: Habitat Conservation in Newfoundland and Labrador

Globally, human development has resulted in the destruction, degradation, or alteration of many types of wildlife habitat. Consequently, in North America the number and diversity of wildlife species has been declining over the latter half of the twentieth century as natural habitats are regularly lost to urban, industrial, and agricultural expansion.

Recognizing the importance of habitat conservation to waterfowl populations, in 1986 Canada and the United States (later followed by Mexico) agreed to sign the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). This joint venture agreement committed these countries to a long-term partnership to protect wetland habitats. Twenty-four 'joint ventures' have been subsequently established across North America to achieve the objectives of NAWMP. The province of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) formally committed to its participation in the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV) in 1989.



Figure 1- A calming mood over Smith Sound, along the coastline of Georges Brook-Milton

The EHJV (ehjv.ca) conserves, enhances, and restores wildlife habitat for birds found across the six eastern Canadian provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick (NB), Nova Scotia (NS), Prince Edwards Island (PE), and Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). Each province implements the EHJV partnership slightly differently, with each provincial program coordinated by a separate program manager and involving the cooperation of international partners, including government agencies and non-governmental conservation groups. In NL, the program is administered by the provincial Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (Wildlife Division). Other NL partners include the Stewardship Association of Municipalities Inc (SAM), Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS- a branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada), Intervale Associates Inc and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC).

As its primary contribution to the EHJV in NL, the provincial Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture created a “municipal habitat stewardship program” to help municipalities conserve important wildlife habitat found within planning boundaries. The program signs formal agreements with municipalities so that when future land use decisions are made, the value of that wildlife habitat will not be forgotten and that future activities will not have negative impacts on the lands ability to sustain wildlife.

Since 1993, over forty municipalities have signed Municipal Habitat Stewardship Agreements in NL, becoming important links in a chain of conservation throughout Newfoundland and Labrador and indeed, across North America (Figure 2). The municipality of George’s Brook- Milton has the potential to contribute to this important environmental process, demonstrate conservation leadership on the Bonavista Peninsula and protect important habitats for all future generations of humans and wildlife alike.

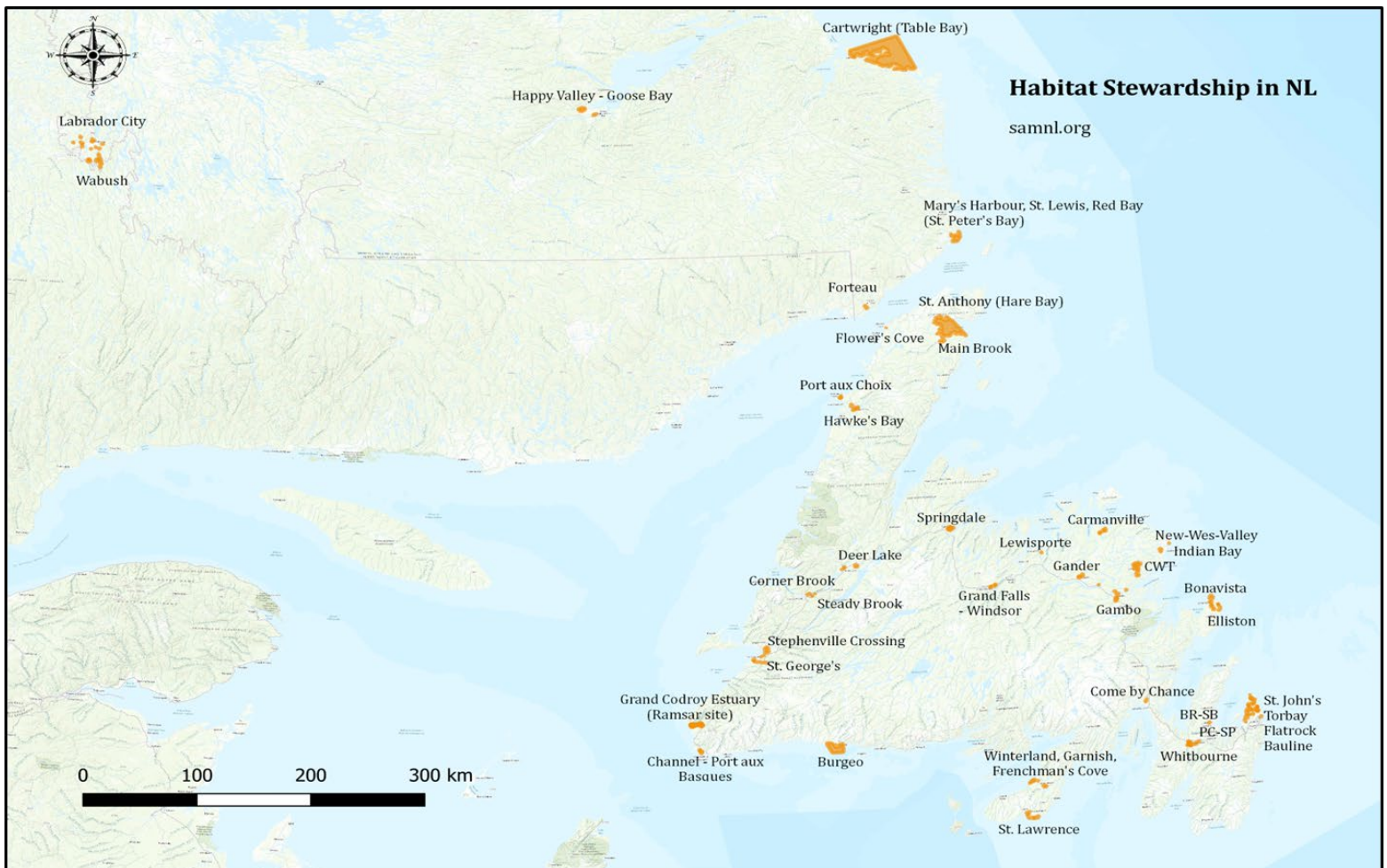


Figure 2- Habitat Stewardship Agreements Across Newfoundland and Labrador

Roles of Habitat Stewardship Agreement Signatories

When signing a Habitat Stewardship Agreement (Appendix A), each signatory (the province of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Municipality of George's Brook-Milton) committed to certain responsibilities:

The Province: The NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture, through its Wildlife Division, would be expected to:

- Develop a Habitat Conservation Plan in consultation with the municipality of George's Brook- Milton (this plan).
- Work with the municipality of George's Brook- Milton on the review of any developments which are proposed to take place within the designated Conservation Areas.
- Support Council and local groups in implementing the Habitat Conservation Plan; often with the partners of the NL Eastern Habitat Joint Venture. This can include assisting in carrying out, where appropriate, wildlife and habitat conservation education, restoration or enhancement projects.

The Municipality: The Municipality of George's Brook- Milton, its Mayor and Council would be expected to:

- Ensure that the designated wildlife habitat areas ("Conservation Areas") are protected from destruction or degradation; the municipality is to contact the EHJV Program Manager at the Wildlife Division (contact info on Page 2) in a timely manner to allow a 30-day written review of any proposed development activities that occur in the "Conservation Areas".
- Incorporate the Habitat Conservation Plan concepts into the next Municipal Plan update centrally through appropriate zoning and associated development regulations.
- Implement over time and as opportunities allow the Habitat Conservation Plan in the community with the assistance of the NL EHJV partners.
- Participate, as capacity allows, in the activities of the Stewardship Association of Municipalities (SAM) Inc.

Section 2: Wildlife Habitat within George's Brook- Milton

Located on the western side of Smith South, Trinity Bay with a population of under 1,000 people is the municipality of George's Brook- Milton (GBM). Two main rivers, George's Brook to the west, and the serpentine and meandering Ryder's Brook to the east drain into the mudflats of Flowers Cove, along the coastline of Georges Brook-Milton. Many shallow water ponds (Rocky, First, Second, Jessie's, George's, Island, Hideaway, and Hornet Ponds), bogs, wetland complexes and vast stretches of untouched woods, predominantly balsam fir/black spruce forest can be found in the watershed of GBM. Despite the influence of humans in the area, especially along the coast, George's Brook- Milton sustains intact wildlife habitat; the rivers, wetlands, rocky coastline and other important habitats contribute to the biodiversity and beauty of the area.

The municipality of George's Brook- Milton borders on both the *Maritimes Barrens* Ecoregion, and the *Central Newfoundland Forest* Ecoregion. Wetland ecosystems are dispersed throughout the area, comprised of hundreds of ponds, mixed with slope bogs, basin bogs, and fens. Forests in the area are dominated by species types like the typical Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), followed by Black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and some White birch (*Betula papyrifera*). In the riparian area, alders (*Alnus incana*) are common, while in peatland ecosystems, Sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), rhodora (*Rhododendron canadense*), Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) and Low-Bush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) are abundant (Figure 3).

An important salmon river also runs through the municipal boundary of George's Brook- Milton, which supports a strong angling and fishing tradition in the community. It is the intention of the habitat stewardship program to encourage the wise use of these rivers, which includes well-regulated fish harvest, so that they can be maintained for generations to come.



George's Brook- Milton contains significant wildlife populations, including several waterfowl, shorebird, songbird, mammals, and salmon rivers, among others. The areas described below are determined to capture some of the most significant wildlife habitat within the municipal boundaries of George's Brook- Milton.

Figure 3- Wild Lilly of the Valley (*Maianthemum canadense*) growing on a carpet of Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), typical boreal plants.

Conservation Areas:

1) George's Brook Conservation Area

This Conservation Area is in the northwestern region of the GBM Municipal Planning Area, begins slightly upstream from the outlet of George's Brook (Figure 4) into Flower's Cove (Ellis' Road intersection), and follows the Brook upstream until it meets First Pond, south of Highway 230. The CA also includes Stanley's Pond and the little tributary connecting to George's Brook. The riparian buffer extends 30m from the water's edge along both sides of George's Brook, except where it widens to include an important fen wetland area with higher aquatic biodiversity, approximately 2.5km upstream from the outlet of George's Brook into Smith Sound. There are several houses along Ellis' Road that limit the buffer to 15m. The CA is approximately 105 hectares in size and falls within the Protected Public Water Supply municipal zoning for GBM.

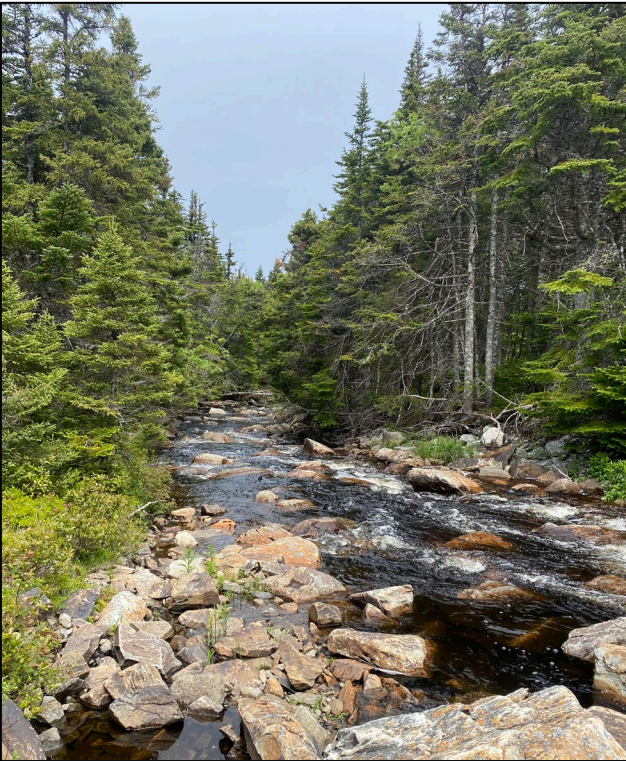


Figure 4- George's Brook with a healthy intact riparian habitat

Georges Brook is a significant waterbody that provides important nutrients downstream, to the eelgrass and saltwater mudflats of Flower's Cove. Many types of waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds, raptors, other avian groups, aquatic organisms utilize this brook as it is a healthy, intact freshwater source that provides great wildlife habitat. There is a nearby birding hotspot that has identified over 54 species including, Belted kingfisher, American black duck, Green-winged teal, Greater yellowlegs and Semipalmated plover. There is a little greenspace/natural area, near the outlet of George's Brook (intersection of Ellis' Road) that would be a great location to install some interpretive signage and speak to the important biodiversity found within GBM.

2) Ryder's Brook Conservation Area

Ryder's Brook is a beautiful meandering unscheduled salmon river in the eastern part of George's Brook-Milton, that opens near its outlet into Smith Sound to exposed mudflats and a coastal shoreline that supports excellent habitat for many species of wildlife (Figure 5). The brook has an intact riparian buffer with varied habitats within the brook, making it a great healthy freshwater aquatic environment. Downstream in the estuarine environment, the mudflats and coastline hold an abundance of biodiversity. There is an Atlantic Canada Shorebird Survey conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Service that has identified the endangered Red knot utilizing this area, the threatened Lesser yellowlegs, and other important shorebird species like semipalmated plovers, sanderlings, grey plovers, and Wilson's snipe. There are Provincially recognized threatened and vulnerable flora found within the mouth of Ryder's Brook, Sea-Wrack and Bristly Sarsaparilla.

The CA follows the river, starting at the eastern municipal boundary, approximately 3km southeast of the Clarenville Airport, and flows downstream underneath Highway 232 (Main Road) until it flows out into Smith Sound. It includes a small greenspace to the west of Ryder's Brook outlet (locally known as the Meade). There is a 30m riparian buffer applied from the wetted edge of both sides of the brook. Upstream from the HWY 232 bridge is the Lethbridge Agricultural Development Area, and SAM could work with agricultural landowners on sustainable use of land.

Maintaining an intact riparian buffer around an unscheduled salmon river helps sustain the health of the river. Salmon are cold water, pollution intolerant species that are sensitive to habitat degradation. Removal of vegetation, destruction of habitat and development within the riparian buffer means less suitable available habitat, which in turn could lead to population declines within the river and biodiversity loss downstream.



Figure 5- Ryder's Brook and the outlet into Smith Sound

3) George's Pond Watershed Conservation Area

There are many wetlands associated with the George's Pond Watershed (Protected Public Water Supply Zoning), including George's Pond, [Figure 6], Jessie's Pond, Hideaway Pond, Second Pond, First Pond, Rocky Pond, Island Pond, Hornet Pond, and they all have influence and hydrological connectivity downstream, within Flower's Cove of Smith Sound. Conservation of these ponds and wetlands ensures the health and integrity of the environment downstream remains intact, maintaining the integrity and biodiversity that utilizes both the freshwater and marine ecosystems. The Provincially recognized Newfoundland Marten has been sighted within the area, utilizing all the large woody debris within the intact upland habitat. Preserving the riparian buffer and limiting development within these areas to sustainable, low impact permitting that does not have a negative effect on wildlife keeps the George's Brook-Milton wildlife habitat intact. In the southwestern region of George's Pond, there is a 30-metre buffer applied to the Pond, from the tributary leading into the pond on the northwesternmost corner, to where the pond/buffer overlap with highway 230 along the south.



Figure 6- George's Pond in the beautiful fall foliage

Section 3: General Policies for Habitat Conservation in the Municipality of George's Brook- Milton

A) Incorporate your Habitat Stewardship Agreement into your Municipal Plan

During the preparation of any draft Municipal Plan, or during the process of a future Municipal Plan Review or development regulations, the George's Brook- Milton Council will incorporate the Habitat Conservation Agreement and Plan concepts and maps into any resulting Municipal Plan or related Master Plan. The "Conservation Areas" **shall be zoned Open Space Conservation, Environmental Conservation, Open Space Recreation**, or some similar consistent zoning designation within any future municipal planning documents as governed by the Urban and Rural Planning Act (2000). No municipal zoning changes are required for the "Stewardship Areas".

B) Refer all possible developments to the Wildlife Division

Activities within the Conservation Areas will be managed whereby permitted activities do not result in the loss of wildlife habitat or wildlife populations. As such, wildlife conservation will be at the forefront of management decisions. When council reviews/approves permits, regulations, developments or by-laws which could affect Conservation Areas, **Council will first consult with the NL EHJV Program Manager** at the Wildlife Division, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture providing a 30-day notice period. Development potentially impacting the Stewardship Areas may also be forwarded to the Wildlife Division for comment, but this remains at the sole discretion of council.

C) Reducing Marine Pollution

Perhaps one of the greatest ecological challenges facing coastal communities is reducing the amount of waste, plastic, garbage, and pollution that enters our waters. The negative effects of plastic pollution in our marine ecosystems is well documented, causing marine life to die and for the toxins found in plastics to move throughout the food web and wind up on our dinner tables. For those that rely on ocean resources for food security and our livelihoods, the impact of this ecological disaster will be felt even more acutely.

Marine pollution is a problem that can seem insurmountable at times, but small actions can have a large impact. Promoting, developing, and implementing the following practices is a great way to start:

- Keep shorelines and waterfronts clean. Keeping debris away from shorelines and out of the water reduces how much waste gets carried in by wind and rain.

- Properly maintain boating and fishing equipment in order to minimize accidental release of oil into the water.
- Organize beach and waterfront clean-ups.
- Promote the proper disposal of single use plastics which can otherwise accumulate in our oceans and on our shores.
- Encourage reduction and diversion of waste. The best way to reduce marine pollution is to cut it off at the source. Fewer plastics, diversion of organic waste to compost, and proper management of wastewater all result in less waste in our oceans.

D) Promote wise use of ATVs and snowmobiles

The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), four-wheelers, and snowmobiles, is common in NL. While the use of these vehicles is essential for a variety of activities, their irresponsible use in wetlands and other sensitive wildlife areas can have negative impacts on the habitats and wildlife that inhabit them. In addition to the wheels tearing up plants and leaving clear tracks in the soil, the weight of the vehicles can compress the delicate substrate, damaging the soil and plants and changing the hydrology patterns. Wetlands habitats can take years to rehabilitate and recover from this kind of damage, if they are able to recover at all.



Figure 10 - ATV damage in wetland habitat. These tracks can destroy vegetation, compress underlying soil, change hydrology patterns, and create scars on the landscape can take years to heal. SAM staff photos.

There are a number of existing regulations in place designed to protect ATV users and sensitive habitat. A summary of ATV Regulations and Safety Tips, as well as a link to the relevant legislation can be found at gov.nl.ca/ffa/public-education/forestry/recreation/atv/. Notably, the use of ATVs is restricted to approved areas, designated trails, or to persons holding a big game license in order to transport an animal from where it was killed. In the case of the latter, the number of trips is restricted to 5. Note that ATVs are only to be used in these areas **after** it is killed, not for the purposes of locating the animal.

Section 4: Habitat Conservation and Education Strategies

This section presents a few central ideas for community education, engagement, and habitat enhancement that could be implemented over time in the community as resources and opportunities may arise. Community engagement and partnerships are the true strengths of any stewardship agreement. Communities across the province who have also signed stewardship agreements have had great success becoming involved in exactly these types of projects and will also be resources for you to connect with, especially at SAM meetings. The ideas below, and many others like them, can be found at samnl.org/resources.

A) Explore grants and funding

Many activities and programs are free or can be funded through small community grants and via partnerships. Large grant applications may take several months to prepare if committees are involved. Allow enough time to apply for these grants and to obtain the letters of support that local partners such as SAM or the Wildlife Division may provide; keeping an eye on deadlines as they approach.

SAM provides a regularly updated list of many grants that will be relevant to you along with their deadlines at samnl.org/resources.

B) Apply to Hire a Green Team

Funding from the Conservation Corps Newfoundland and Labrador (ccnl.ca) can help you hire summer Green Teams and interns. Students or recent graduates can work with municipalities on environmental projects. Municipalities with Stewardship Agreements have often received Green Teams. Examples of potential projects could include nest boxes, bird monitoring, trail maintenance, community outreach, wildlife surveys, and developing field guides. Green Team members and interns could help train local high school students in monitoring and could develop educational material designed to raise awareness for conservation and stewardship initiatives. Sharing a CCNL Green Team with neighbouring towns might be explored, especially if other towns are beginning environmental projects as well.



C) Construct trails & put up interpretive signs

Many SAM municipalities have found that trails increase recreation and health for residents and improve tourism possibilities. When constructed carefully, trails can increase stewardship by allowing people to discover new areas. They can help residents and visitors connect to nature, especially where interpretive signage is used to help point out interesting landscape and wildlife. As part of the Stewardship Agreement, the Town of George's Brook-Milton has been provided with a large highway road sign plus a smaller interpretive sign.

Recreational and tourism opportunities can help raise awareness and educate visitors and residents about waterfowl and the importance of wetlands. Hiking, walking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and geocaching are popular activities in many Conservation Areas across the province. Other activities such as photography and paddling (canoeing and kayaking) could be further encouraged as low-impact, healthy recreation opportunities for both residents and visitors.

In developing recreational and tourism opportunities, wildlife must be carefully considered during the planning process. Otherwise, human activities can negatively impact the resource that provides the attraction.

D) Watch wildlife

Local groups and interested volunteers can watch and monitor birds, plants, and wildlife in all areas of the Town. This can provide information on changes in populations and can indicate problems or progress. By involving residents, they become more aware of these special places.

iNaturalist and **Seek** are free smartphone apps for those interested in learning to identify plants, butterflies and other insects, other invertebrates, birds, fungi, and mammals. They can be used to build plant and wildlife lists for any area, as a learning tool, for school students, family nature walks, and just for fun.



iNaturalist is great for adults as each nature observations turns into a real scientific data point. It also has a neat feature where other experts will identify your sightings for you - after taking a photo, it will often be identified within a few hours by another experienced user on the app. Turn your location services on so that your sighting can be found on the map and so others can help with your identifications. **Seek** is best for kids as it never saves location data and provides fun badges.

ebird.org is another free website and app to record bird sightings. It is already very popular across NL with more than 10 000 bird lists submitted each year.

Start contributing to eBird at secure.birds.cornell.edu/casso/account/create

When watching wildlife, be mindful of tides and wetland (damp, soft, slippery) habitat, making safety your priority. Aim to cause as little stress and disturbance as possible to wildlife.

E) Help George's Brook-Milton residents enjoy nature

It's not just kids that enjoy the outdoors – adults and seniors benefit from spending time in nature as well. Birdwatching workshops have been successful in SAM communities, and snowshoe hikes in the winter or hikes in the summer are often enjoyed by adults as well.



Themes such as winter tracking or edible plant hikes can increase interest. Hikes can be inexpensive ways for adults in George's Brook-Milton to discover the natural areas of the town, socialize, and learn something new. CCNL Green Teams are required to give interpretive presentations as a part of their work programs; SAM's **Guide to delivering interpretive hikes** and field guides at samnl.org/resources could help CCNL Green Teams or summer staff lead hikes for residents and/or visitors. These could be used to create a small brochure and 'bird checklist' or wildlife list of the area, or as the basis for field guides which could be developed by a Green Team, high school, or a relevant committee.

F) Explore outdoor education programs

Public education can help foster a greater sense of habitat stewardship among town residents.

There are excellent wetland education programs that can be adapted for activities in George's Brook-Milton. Programs span every season and age group including *Wetlands in Winter* (Tantramar Wetlands Centre, weted.com), *Marsh Bingo* and *Creatures of the Night* (Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, oakhammockmarsh.ca), *Junior Naturalists* (Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, wyemarsh.com), and *Wetland Field Trips* (Ducks Unlimited Canada, ducks.ca). Canadian Wildlife Federation's *Project Wild* can foster environmental ethics in youth and adults alike. Many evening programs also exist that would be great for guide and scout groups.

G) Nature and Art

Some stewardship municipalities such as Grand Falls-Windsor and Whitbourne use natural locations to bring together nature and art. Local art classes and drama groups can use an outdoor theatre for educational exercises. This could involve field trips whereby students could interpret natural beauty through various mediums (chalk, paint, etc.) or a day of sketching to the sound of nature or music. Companies like crayola.com offer resource grants to educators.



Interpretive "Winter wetland walk" at Gambo Bog. Staff photo

Similarly, drama classes could develop a play or series of dramatic readings based on nature. Several amphitheater's in Eastern Canada use the open-air concept to show nature-related programs outdoors in the evenings. Content can be tailored to various ages and could include nature-related craft projects as a follow up. Good starting points for nature projects for children include **hookedonnature.org**, **planetpals.com**, and **hctfeducation.ca/resource-room**

H) Engage residents of George's Brook-Milton in wildlife habitat conservation with support of the Stewardship Association of Municipalities Inc.

When the Municipality of George's Brook-Milton signed a Habitat Stewardship Agreement with the province in 2023, it was provided an opportunity to become a participating member of SAM (Stewardship Association of Municipalities, **samnl.org**). SAM is an incorporated, non-profit organization whose member municipalities together to secure, enhance, and restore important wildlife habitat and as a network of communities, contribute to provincial conservation of biodiversity. SAM also represents its municipal members on provincial issues related to wildlife and habitat conservation.

SAM maintains a public webpage about the Habitat Stewardship Agreement featuring maps, photos, facts, and information on local attractions. This link can be included on your Municipality's website; this will help increase residents' knowledge and understanding of the agreement and program. To view examples of these pages, please refer to **samnl.org/membership**.

SAM meets each spring (May or June) and fall (September or October) with host municipalities rotating among members and regions. Identify a representative of your municipality (mayor, councilor, staff, or involved resident) to attend at least one of these meetings per year. This will connect George's Brook-Milton to like-minded municipalities and link you to resources and training. You may also be interested in co-hosting another SAM meeting in the municipality of George's Brook-Milton; many municipalities enjoy this for the exposure it provides for their wildlife habitat and associated projects.

In addition to contributing to SAM membership, participating municipalities can avail of abundant environmental conservation resources on the SAM website: **www.samnl.org/resources**. It is the Stewardship Association's mandate to help support the conservation efforts of its membership. On an ongoing basis, SAM and its partners, in particular the Wildlife Division, actively support municipalities in engaging community residents in conservation awareness, and habitat enhancement and restoration projects.

With community engagement and the delivery of conservation programming, being a contributing member of SAM can increase environmental awareness and a build a

more environmentally conscious community of stewards. We are excited to support your efforts as we broaden our existing partnership. It has been our experience that **community engagement and partnerships are the true strengths of any stewardship agreement.**



SAM representatives gather at a SAM meeting in Gander. Staff photo.

APPENDIX A:

Habitat Stewardship Agreement for the Municipality of George's Brook- Milton

THIS AGREEMENT made in the Municipality of George's Brook- Milton, in the province of Newfoundland, this 29th day of June, 2023.

BETWEEN: **HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**, as represented by the Honourable the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (herein called the "Minister")

- of the one part -

AND: **THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF GEORGE'S BROOK- MILTON**, municipal corporation pursuant to Section 15 of the *Municipalities Act, 1999* (herein called the "The Municipality")

-of the other part-

WHEREAS the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has entered into an Agreement with others for the implementation of the of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan through the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture;

AND WHEREAS the parties hereto recognize that the proper protection and management of coastal, wetland and upland habitats are fundamental tools in maintaining and enhancing the wildlife populations in the province;

AND WHEREAS the Minister proposed that certain important wildlife habitats within the Municipality be protected and enhanced through and with the cooperation of the Municipality in accordance with this Agreement and a Habitat Conservation Plan developed hereafter;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality has agreed to enter into this Agreement for the purpose of protecting and enhancing those areas of important wildlife habitat within the limits of its jurisdiction;

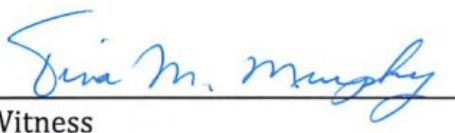
NOW THEREFORE IT IS AGREED BY THE PARTIES AS FOLLOWS:

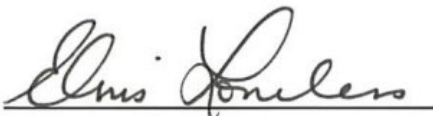
1. The lands herein delineated and designated as Conservation Areas (being the lands outlined on a certain Schedule annexed hereto and marked "A") shall be managed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement including any Habitat Conservation Plan developed hereunder for better protection of wildlife.
2. Within the limits of its jurisdiction, the Municipality shall permit only those activities within the Conservation Areas that have no negative or adverse impact upon the land, or on the wildlife which utilize those areas.
3. The parties may establish other Conservation Areas as may be desirable from time to time. Conservation Areas shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Habitat Conservation Plan developed to enhance and protect the land, and the wildlife which utilize those habitats.
4. The Habitat Conservation Plan shall be developed in cooperation with the Municipality and the Minister agrees to provide such advice and expertise necessary or advisable for the development of the Habitat Conservation Plan.
5. The Municipality agrees that in the preparation of a Municipal Plan or any amendments to any existing Municipal Plan, the areas designated as Conservation Areas shall be recommended by the Municipality to be appropriately declared protected areas as it prescribed under subsection 13(3)(f) of the Urban and Rural Planning Act (2000) (or such other legislation in amendment or substitution therefore as may be brought into effect from time to time). The Municipality in passing regulations or by-laws related to the protected areas so designated under the Municipal Plan or amendments thereto and which may affect the Conservation Area(s) shall do so in consultation with the Minister and in keeping with the principals of this Agreement.
6. The parties to this Agreement, their consultants, servants or agents, shall have and exercise reasonable rights of access to the Conservation Areas for all purposes necessary or incidental to this Agreement and, in particular, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, for the purpose of developing and carrying out the Habitat Conservation Plan.
7. If at any time during the term of this Stewardship Agreement the Parties mutually deem it necessary or desirable to make alterations or additions to it, they may do so by means of a written agreement between them which shall be supplemental to and form part of this agreement.
8. Each of the parties hereto agree that they will exercise their best efforts to further develop management measures for more effectively carrying out of their mutual intentions as expressed in this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have caused these presents to be executed in accordance with their respective rules and regulations the day and year first before written.

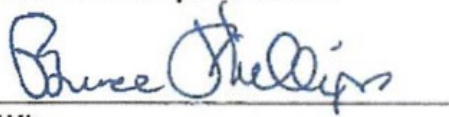
SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

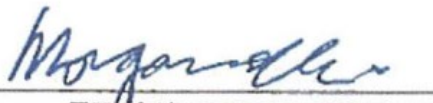
by the Honourable the Minister of Fisheries
Forestry and Agriculture in the presence of:


Witness


**HONOURABLE ELVIS LOVELESS
MINISTER OF FISHERIES,
FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE**

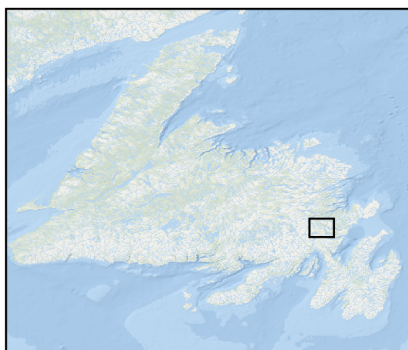
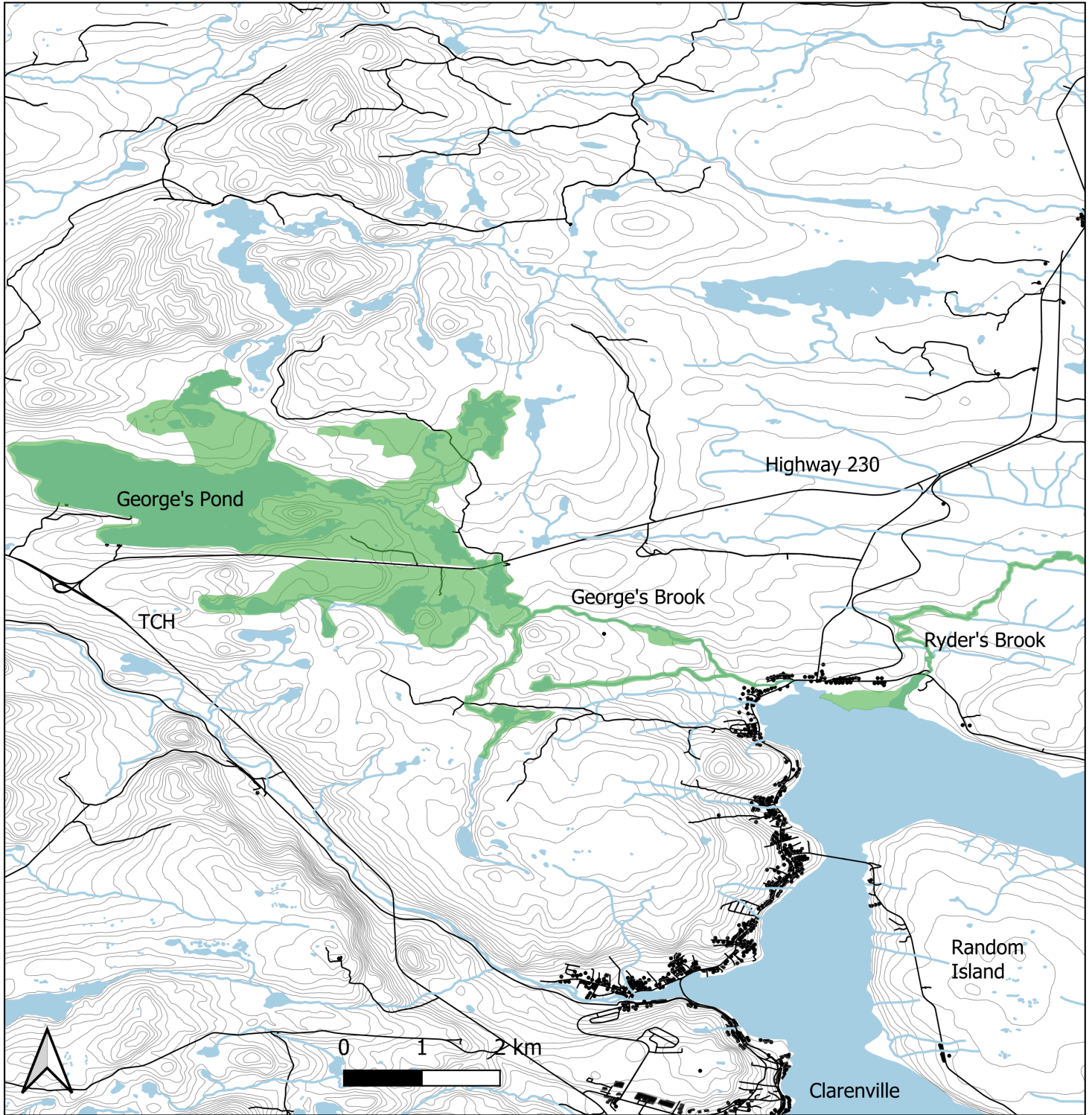
THE SEAL OF the Municipality of George's Brook- Milton, hereunto
affixed in the presence of:







Witness


**THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF
GEORGE'S BROOK- MILTON**

Schedule A: Municipal Habitat Conservation Areas

Municipal Habitat Stewardship Agreement
Municipality of George's Brook-Milton, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada



Legend	
	Conservation Area
	Road
	Water
	Contour Line
	Building

EHJV
Eastern Habitat
Joint Venture

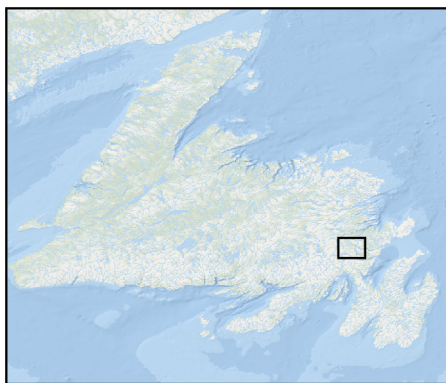
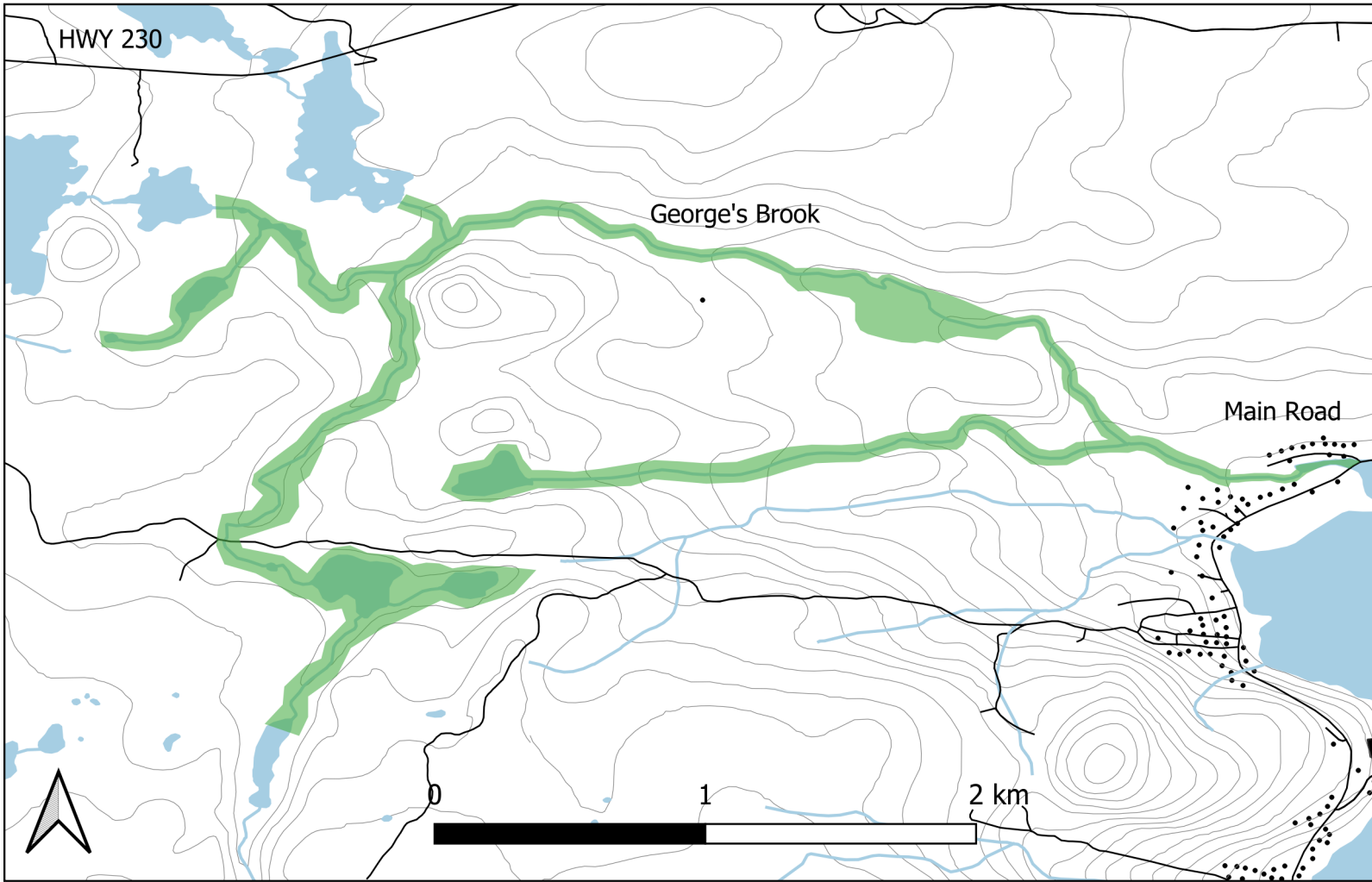


PCHE
Le plan conjoint
des habitats de l'est



November 2022
Projection: WGS 84

George's Brook Conservation Area
 Municipal Habitat Stewardship Agreement
 Municipality of George's Brook-Milton, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada



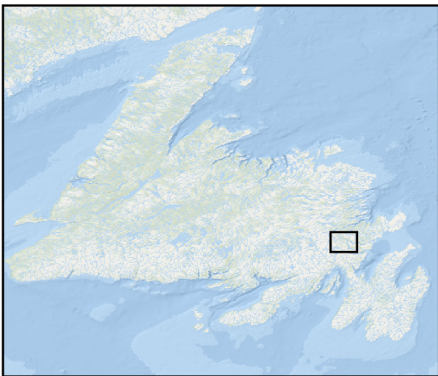
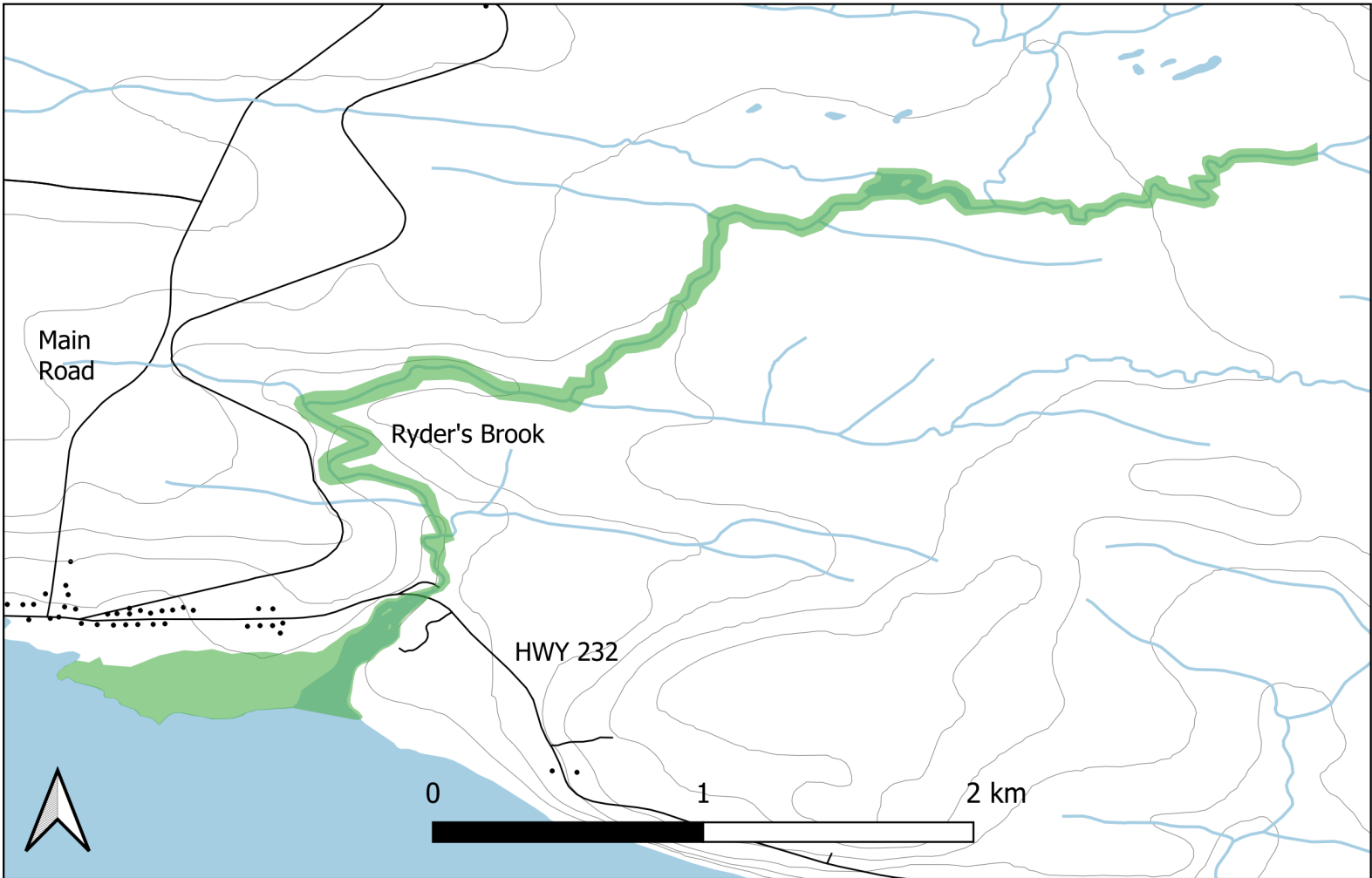
Legend

- Conservation Area
- Road
- Water
- Contour Line
- Building



November 2022
 Projection: WGS 84

Ryder's Brook Conservation Area
 Municipal Habitat Stewardship Agreement
 Municipality of George's Brook-Milton, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada



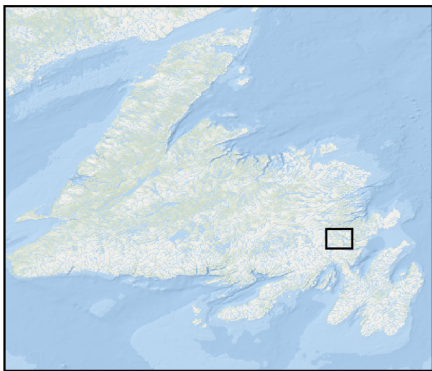
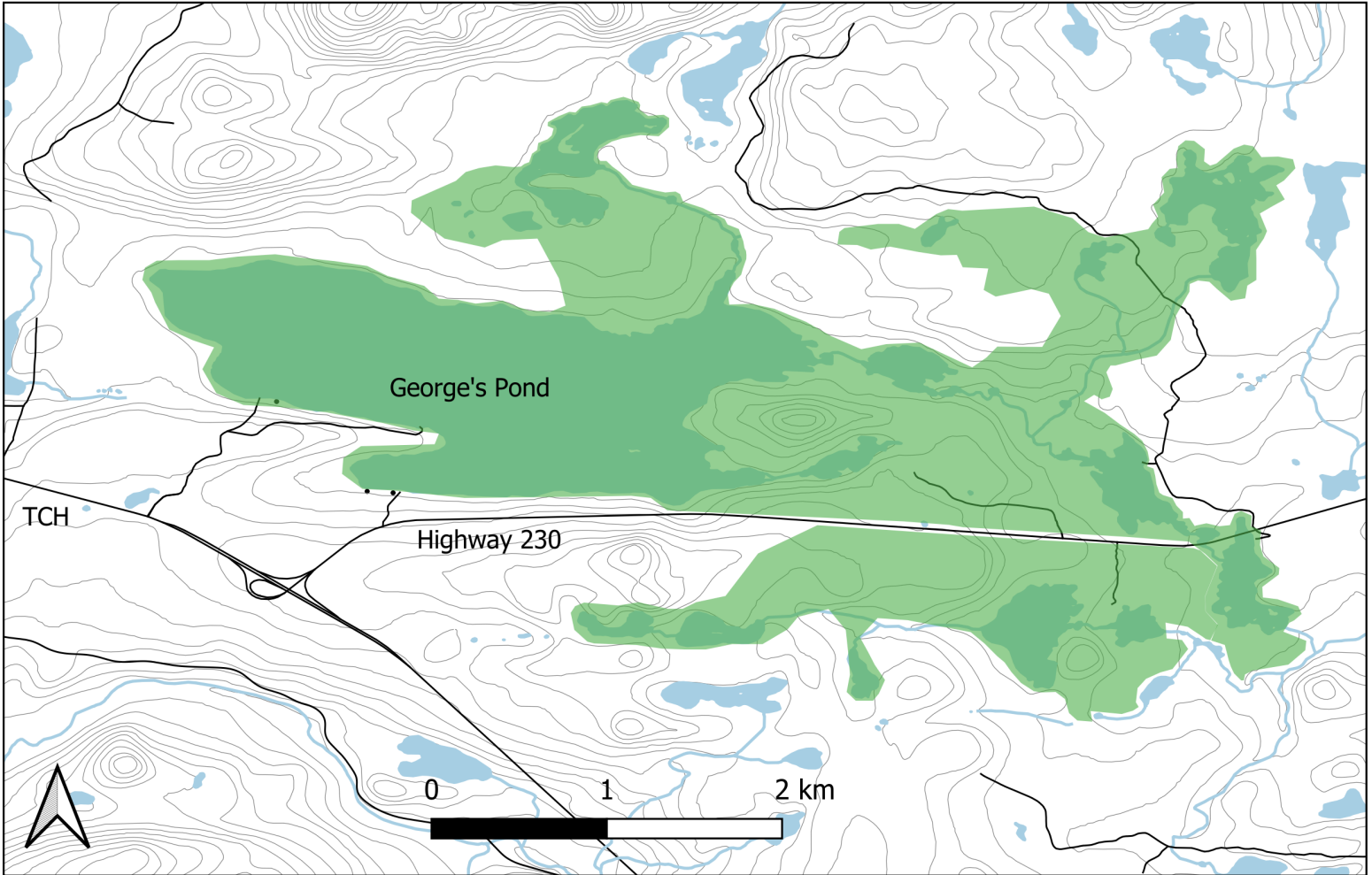
Legend

- Conservation Area
- Road
- Water
- Contour Line
- Building



November 2022
 Projection: WGS 84

George's Pond Watershed Conservation Area
 Municipal Habitat Stewardship Agreement
 Municipality of George's Brook-Milton, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada



Legend

- Conservation Area
- Road
- Water
- Contour Line
- Building



November 2022
 Projection: WGS 84