

# Specialty License Plate Helps Protect Species At Risk

A few months ago Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources launched the Conservation—Species at Risk specialty license plate. Motorists interested in helping protect species at risk can purchase the plate at Access Nova Scotia and Registry of Motor Vehicle offices across the province. There is a one-time cost of \$70 for the plate, of which \$50 will go directly to the Species at Risk Conservation Fund. The remaining \$20 is an administration fee, which covers the cost of making the plate and keeping the program going.

The Species at Risk Conservation Fund was created under the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act. Money raised from the sale of the specialty plate will be used to finance life-saving projects that will help species at risk such as the piping plover, American marten, Atlantic whitefish or pink coreopsis.

Groups and individuals with projects designed to benefit species at risk can request funding assistance. The Species at Risk Working Group, administered by scientists who are experts on endangered species, decide which projects are eligible for support. Each year they will report on the projects that are funded by the program.

To find out more about the Conservation license plate, call Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, 1-800-898-7668 or visit: [www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr](http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr)

For more information about species at risk, or the Species at Risk Conservation Fund, call the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, (902) 679-6091 or visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife>



## Looking for a Rustic Retreat for a Group Outing?

The Chaswood Educational Woodlot, located on Highway 224 near Middle Musquodoboit, can be rented by groups that are interested in conducting educational or recreational programs in a wilderness environment. Operated by DNR's Natural Resources Education Centre, the facility is located just an hour's drive northeast of Halifax and includes a 12 m x 25 m (40 ft x 80 ft) lodge and approximately 160 hectares (400 acres) of forested land with a network of hiking trails.

The amenities are rustic: gravel driveway, footpaths, fire pit, wood stove, picnic tables, no running water and outdoor toilets. However, if seclusion from the hustle and bustle is what you are looking for, then this is the place. Firewood is

provided and most groups find that they can easily bring in sufficient water.

The facility is available for rent year-round and the fee is \$20 per night. Longer stays may be negotiated in advance.

The facility has proven popular with youth groups such as Ventures, or those interested in orienteering, hiking or just practicing outdoor skills in a new venue.

To book a stay at Chaswood, or for more information, call the Natural Resources Education Centre at (902) 384-3420, or visit the website <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/extension/centre/chaswood.html>