

## QUEBEC-LABRADOR FOUNDATION

*With its roots in the Atlantic Region of North America, QLF engages environmental leaders worldwide to advance community-based and larger-scale conservation and stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Early in its 60+ year evolution, QLF the service organization expanded its focus to address the fate of the natural world, one community at a time. This new perspective was championed by Larry Morris, who arrived in 1975 and became QLF's second president in 1988. Central to Larry's vision of community-based planning was the identification and sharing of successful strategies for conservation and stewardship.

Today, that keen emphasis on cooperative planning and sharing remains a vital element of QLF's efforts worldwide. As evidence, we offer Phil Huffman's work creating a plan to facilitate landscape connectivity in the massive northeast North America region, Brent Mitchell's recent participation in a high-level

international forum planning and promoting implementation strategies for the critical global 30x30 campaign, and Kathleen Blanchard's report on a community engagement planning project in Newfoundland. Same DNA and core principles applied in vastly different scenarios.

In this issue of Compass, we also share two thoughtful alumni reflections on the QLF experience, an update about the popular Bob Bryan film archives, and news of an inspiring new book by a QLF family member.

Enjoy the gifts of the season,

Elizabeth Alling  
President

## QLF CO-HOSTS TRANSBORDER LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY SUMMIT

QLF was honored and thrilled to co-host the first-ever [Northeastern North America/Turtle Island Landscape Connectivity Summit](#) from June 11-13 in Montréal / Tiohtià:ke, Québec, the unceded territory of the Mohawk Nation / Kanien'kehá:ka.

This unique gathering brought together a diverse mix of participants across borders, cultures and sectors to build relationships and chart a path toward an ecologically and culturally connected landscape for all inhabitants of this globally significant region. Over 170 conservation leaders, practitioners, and supporters from Canada, the United States, and Indigenous nations both within and far beyond Northeastern North America participated.

QLF co-hosted the Summit with the [Center for Large Landscape Conservation](#) (CLLC) on behalf of the [Staying Connected Initiative](#) (SCI) partnership. The gathering was a resounding success, with great energy, important outcomes, and strong interest in a second Summit. We look forward with excitement and enthusiasm to working with SCI partners to build on this momentum in the months and years ahead.



Summit participants gathered for a group photo on the final day of the gathering, in Montréal / Tiohtià:ke, Québec.  
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AUDREY HUFFMAN



## BUILDING ON SUCCESS OF LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY SUMMIT

Following the Summit, we are excited to report that momentum is building quickly for enhancing transborder ecological connectivity for all inhabitants of our “home region”.

A major milestone was reached on September 10th in Boston, Massachusetts, when the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP) adopted [Resolution 45-2](#). This significant action reaffirms the support of the region’s current top political leaders for the NEG-ECP’s earlier [Resolution 40-3](#) adopted in 2016, in which the states and provinces committed to work together across borders and with partners to conserve and restore landscape connectivity.

Together, these two resolutions provide a robust, high-level mandate for advancing connectivity efforts in this region, and offer powerful models for other regions in North America and beyond. Getting renewed attention to connectivity from the Governors and Premiers was one of the primary goals of the Summit in Montreal, and we are thrilled they have taken this important leadership step so quickly.

Also, as a direct follow-on to the Summit, QLF, the Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC), and other partners in the [Staying Connected Initiative](#) (SCI) are spearheading the development of a regional “pathways” guide for enhancing connectivity conservation efforts across this globally significant region. The “pathways” guide will identify key needs, opportunities, and actions to accelerate connectivity conservation and restoration, and will provide a framework for cross-border collaboration among a diverse array of stakeholders, including federal, provincial, and state agencies, Indigenous groups, NGOs, academic institutions, funders, and others.

Ultimately, the “pathways” guide will help align connectivity conservation actions in the region with global priorities including those established in the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which recognize that biodiversity and human well-being depend in part on our collective efforts to maintain and restore ecological connectivity.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JONATHAN MAUER/ISTOCK



## QLF CONTRIBUTES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (COP16) IN COLOMBIA

QLF Senior Vice President Brent Mitchell recently participated in 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) held in Cali, Colombia during late October 2024.

With over 190 countries in attendance, the global gathering was an important opportunity to assess progress on many issues, including “Target 3.” Also called “30x30,” to conserve 30% of the surface of the Earth, best known of 23 targets articulated in the 2022 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), in which nations of the world agreed to ambitious action targets to slow the precipitous decline of the planet’s biodiversity, in all its forms, by 2030.

In his capacity as a Vice Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), Brent provided leadership in the planning and execution of a high-level “30x30 Action Day” during COP16. The day-long session featured roundtable discussions on the overall progress towards 30x30 (effectiveness, impacts, connectivity), integrating 30x30 into financial and economic sectors, recognition of traditional territories, and respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The margins of the conference also provided an opportunity to advance specific project to support implementation the global plan for biodiversity.



QLF Senior Vice President Brent Mitchell was a lead organizer of the 30x30 Action Day held at COP16 in Cali, Colombia.

## QLF ENGAGES COMMUNITY CONSERVATION LEADERS ALONG NEWFOUNDLAND'S GREAT NORTHERN PENINSULA

*QLF is pleased to share the following article, which first appeared in Long Range Biodiversity (Vol. 6 No. 4, November 2024), a newsletter produced by Intervale Associates. The article was written by Kathleen Blanchard, with research by Jackie Bauman and mapping by Rachel Godinho, QLF Alumnae. Dr. Blanchard is President and Founder of Intervale Associates, a former, long-term QLF staff member, and remains a frequent collaborator with the organization.*

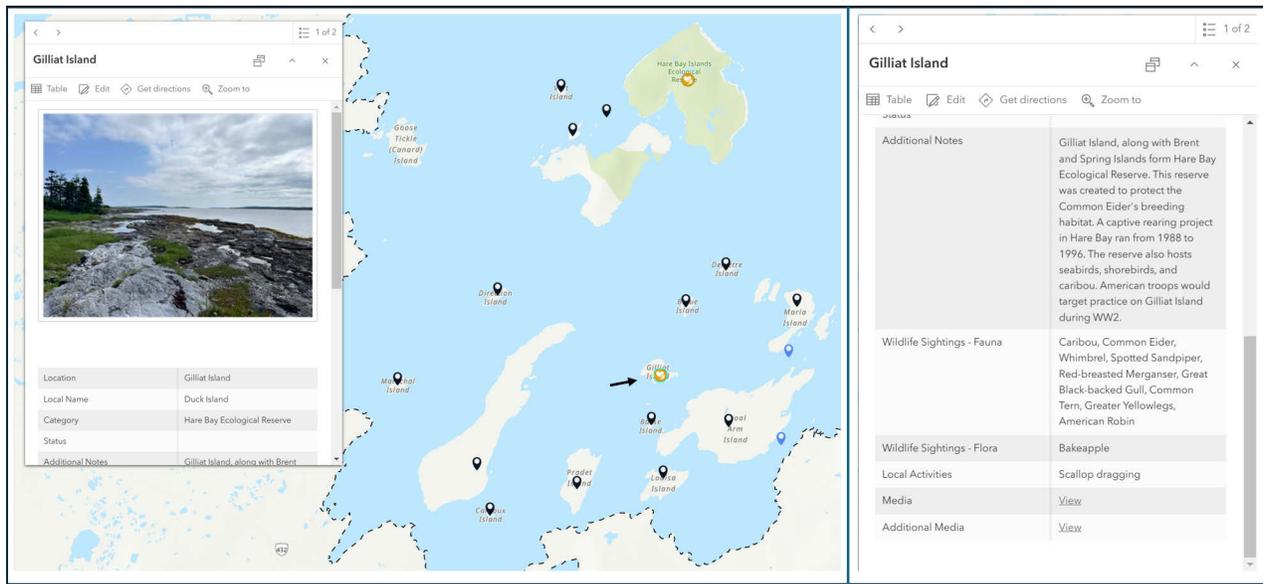
Members of the Town of Main Brook on the Great Northern Peninsula met in mid-October to begin planning an engagement process whereby residents could help shape future conservation decision-making when it comes to wildlife and marine resources of Hare Bay. The meeting was organized by Jackie Bauman, project coordinator and a consulting conservation planner with Intervale.

Hare Bay is home to the Hare Bay Islands Ecological Reserve and the Important Bird Area of the Fischot Islands. Residents, including hunters, fishers, outfitters, tour guides, and entrepreneurs are passionate about the wildlife of Hare Bay and wish to see their traditional activities part of a sustainable management plan for the many islands and mainland habitats of the bay.



Razorbills breed on Spring Island (pictured), part of the Hare Bay Islands Ecological Reserve, and on Little Cormorandier Island, just north of the Fischot Islands. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DR. KATHLEEN BLANCHARD

Residents have a long tradition of wildlife and habitat conservation in the bay. The eider duck restoration program of the 1980s was an innovative effort led by residents to restore local populations of Common Eider that had seriously declined. In recent years, adults and youth have begun helping Intervale, Quebec-Labrador Foundation, and the NL Wildlife Division with periodic monitoring of nesting bird colonies. Now, encouraged by Jackie Bauman’s efforts, they are documenting the traditional and cultural activities that are deeply important to them. The outcomes that are in progress include interactive mapping, a documentary video, and a podcast series called “Voices of Hare Bay.”



MAP COURTESY OF RACHEL GODINHO

Francis Aylward, raised on the Fischot Islands and resettled to Goose Cove, “didn’t know what money was until age 25.” He said, “When I was growing up, we enjoyed it, living on the Fischot islands. Money didn’t matter. We had our freedom. We got what we needed for food, hunting turrs, rabbit catching, fishing, and growing vegetables.”

The podcast series includes conversations with resident youth. “First time I ever went on boat, I was just over a year old,” said Casey Boyd, age 12.

The youth of this area seem to have a deep appreciation for the outdoors and for the tight-knit community that supports them. “I’ve always had clean fresh air here, it’s always so nice to just go outside for a walk, and it’s always been safe here,” said Breanna Clarke, age 16, resident of Main Brook.

Jackie Bauman hopes that storytelling and mapping of activities in Hare Bay will become an important component to an engagement process that will lead to a more sustainable future and will ensure lasting benefits to both people and biodiversity.



## BOB BRYAN FILMS DOCUMENT QLF IN THE 1960's AND 1970's

Since January 2024, QLF President *Emeritus* Larry Morris and QLF media archivist Kevin Porter have posted on YouTube, seven short movies digitized from 16mm film footage shot by Bob Bryan between the early 1960's and late 1970's. The films, which document early QLF Volunteers and rural life in coastal communities along the Quebec North Shore, Labrador, and Newfoundland, have been well received by QLF Alumnae and residents of eastern Canada served by QLF programs. Collectively, the seven films have generated over 3000 views as of this writing.

With the release of this film footage and the help of former volunteers, we have been able to identify many early QLF volunteers and local residents not mentioned in Bob's notes that accompanied the films. The films touched many of the volunteers and local residents who responded to our request for their help. Among these, resident Howard Stymiest who responded: "Larry, I was one of the fortunate kids who got to attend the Summer Camp ... in Tabusintac, ..." From Georgette Love: "It's heartwarming to know that Bob Bryans' films are still chronicling his work ... My experiences in Chevery (1967) certainly enriched my life. Bob gave us a precious gift and QLF is keeping [his] legacy alive."

You will find all the films on QLF's YouTube channel: [@qlforg](https://www.youtube.com/@qlforg)



Bob Bryan greeting residents of Chevery on Quebec's Lower North Shore  
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE QLF ARCHIVES

## QLF ALUMNA GIVES BACK TO HOST COMMUNITY

Many QLF alumni count their summer spent volunteering in a distant coastal Atlantic community as a highly valued life experience.

This is certainly the case for QLF volunteer Rosita Moore, who spent the summer of 1978 helping to conduct a children’s recreation program in Eastport in downeast Maine. As an artist, Rosita’s eye was drawn to the juxtaposition of the region’s coastal setting and the tumble-down vestiges of the town’s past as a bustling sardine processing center.

In September, almost 50 years after her first encounter, Rosita returned to the area for a special occasion: to donate a painting to the Tides Institute Museum in Eastport.

Created in 1978, Rosita's painting captures a moment of time when the town was in decline – a town forgotten. Gone were the 17 sardine factories, movie theater and waterfront shops. Many stores and houses were empty. In Rosita's painting one senses the isolation and melancholy of the elderly couple sitting on their stoop in their quiet town on a summer afternoon.



PAINTING BY ROSITA MOORE



Carol Bryan, Rosita Moore, and Kerry Bryan Brokaw at the Tides Institute & Museum of Art, Eastport, Maine

Rosita was accompanied on her recent journey by Kerry Bryan Brokaw, who also served as a 1978 volunteer in Eastport. They were thrilled to see many of the old buildings rehabilitated, including the beautifully restored Tides Institute Museum. Carol Bryan of Maine helped to facilitate the painting’s donation. A good friend of QLF, Carol hosted dozens of QLF staff and volunteers over the years.

Today, Rosita Moore is an artist, musician and organic gardener living in southern Maine.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE QLF EXPERIENCE

### NINA MCKEE, ALUMNA

During the spring of my first year at Wellesley College (in 2012), I was formulating my summer plans. I'd decided to stay in the Boston area in order to take a summer course, and I'd also lined up a job scooping ice cream at Ben & Jerry's. I really wanted to find a paid internship—emphasis on paid!—with some kind of non-profit organization. By chance I talked with a friend from high school who mentioned that his uncle Larry [Morris] might have a summer opportunity for me. As a first year in college, meeting the president of an organization was an intimidating experience, but Uncle Larry turned out to be nothing but warm, friendly, and down-to-earth.

I spent my summer working under then-Vice President Beth Alling's purview in the capacity of the Middle East Exchange Program Coordinator. My position and title felt generous for someone so early in her "career." But as I quickly learned, QLF's leadership deeply values the people who come into their community: No matter how early in your career you are, no matter how connected you are to the core conservation work, there's a place for you.

It was empowering to feel as though I was a colleague and capable contributor. Beth listened to my perspective and even took me out to lunch sometimes. Needless to say, I had a great summer.

Fast forward a couple of years, to mid-October 2016. I received an email about the QLF Alumni Congress (scheduled for November 2016 in Barcelona) which included a call for "young professionals" to assist in conference preparations. I wrote an email reminding Beth of who I was and inquiring as to if they still needed consultants. She offered me the job, and several days later I was back in the charming Ipswich office, reading and editing bios of Congress participants.

I imagine that many of us stayed up late watching the 2016 election. I hadn't expected it, but in the post-election devastation, the Congress was the best place to be. The energy was electrifying, and the internationalism of the participants—especially the contexts within which many pursue their conservation work—gave me a healthy and humbling perspective on humility. In fact, the world was not coming to an end; there were more challenging contexts in which to be living and working, and we'd all get through it. Again, as a consultant, despite my youth, I felt like a valuable member of a team and a community. It was an invigorating experience and a wonderful way to better understand QLF's network and global mission.



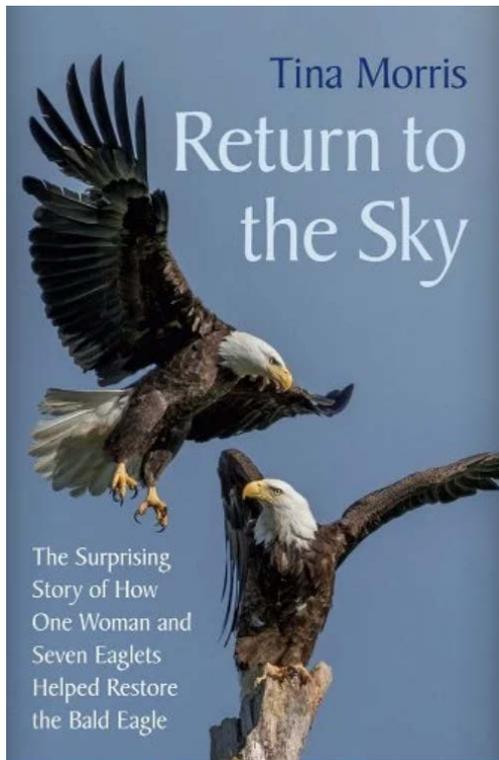
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NINA MCKEE



As you can see, my time at both Wellesley and QLF—and within their extensive, incredible networks—have long been loosely intertwined. In December 2022, upon returning to Wellesley College to take on the position (from which I stepped down about one month ago) as Program Director of the Madeleine Korbel Albright Institute for Global Affairs, one of the first thoughts that I had was that I needed to find a way to bridge these two wonderful worlds.

One of the Albright Institute’s proudest programs is its fellowship program, which invites Wellesley juniors and seniors to take part in a rigorous three-week training on-campus in January each year. The summer afterward, fellows are expected to complete an internship with a globally-oriented organization. My first year as program director (in 2023) there wasn’t quite the right fellow to connect with QLF, but this past spring, as I got to know Elli [Gurguliatos] and her interests, I knew that she would be the perfect person to make this connection. She is committed to locally-driven solutions to environmental conservation issues, and she is also a warm community-builder.

I am so delighted that Elli completed her internship with QLF this summer. Within her first weeks, Kath [Blanchard] sent photos of Elli on-site giving classes and beaming. Both Kath and Beth repeatedly sent updates indicating how much they valued Elli as a person and as a contributor to Intervale and QLF’s work. Again, I was reminded of, and felt myself, the warmth, understanding, decency, and sense of community that QLF maintains and offers to everyone who joins it. Once you become connected to the QLF community, you “belong.”



## QLF FAMILY MEMBER'S NEW BOOK TAKES WING

Long known to the QLF “family,” Tina Morris shares her unique story of reintroducing the Bald Eagle into New York state, effectively bringing the nation’s emblem back from near extinction. In the recently published *Return to the Sky*, Tina inspires the reader as she recounts the many challenges she overcame working on the project during the mid-1970s.

Tina’s book is available now from [Chelsea Green Publishing](https://www.chelseagreenpublishing.com/) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org/). Please note that Bookshop.org gives a percentage of their sales to independent bookstores.

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