



MWF Habitat Trust Foundation
70 Stevenson Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W7
Phone: (204) 633-5967
Fax: (204) 632-5200
Email: mwfhf@mts.net

Mackelson Property

Many people drive out to Grand Beach on Lake Winnipeg in the summer months. What they don't realize is that they have driven through one of the MWF Habitat Foundation lands.

Those that are familiar to the area know that they drive through an area of marsh on both sides of Highway #12 at the bends just before the Grand Marias town site. This is an area of about 120 acres which was a donation to the MWF Habitat Foundation Inc. in September of 1994 from the **Mackelson Family**. The family's wish was to leave the area as marsh lands that complement the area of wildlife reserve to the north of this property.



The land is all marsh with the Marias Creek flowing through it to the lagoon at Grand Beach with the head waters from marshes east of Highway #59. The flow can be quite swift in the spring of the year or after heavy rains.

There is a hydro pole that was left on the property by Manitoba Hydro. A platform was built on top to encourage Osprey to nest, although no activity has been seen on the structure yet.

This is one of the pieces of land that people who enjoy the out-of-doors appreciate for its value to the wildlife, such as birds, fish, and reptiles that live there. This maybe a small parcel of land but it is an important piece to be left in the state that it was and is today for the wild creatures that occupy it.

We are, on a not-so-regular basis, approached to purchase lands for habitat. Landowners wish to sell the lands on which they lived and earned a living from, but want to see it turned back to wildlife habitat. Some of these parcels are exactly what the Foundation is interested in acquiring, however these parcels are not available without a cost. Landowners, understandably, want fair market value for their land, as this property is their retirement nest egg.



There are maintenance and other costs associated with the properties that the MWF Habitat Foundation already possesses. As we are committed to keep the lands which we already have, we can only look at a purchase ever couple of years at our current level of funding. We hope that there will be



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increased financial commitment from the back bone of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation-- the Affiliates, through fund raising efforts or other means.

Remember these lands are for our children, and their children, so they too will be able to appreciate the wildlife of Manitoba just as we do.

For more information on how you can help protect wildlife habitat, contact the MWF Habitat Foundation at (204)633-5967 or mwfhf@mts.net .