

2025 Nominating Committee Report

The Upton Trust Board has two positions reserved for appointments made by the Board of Directors. One of our appointees, **Marie-Ann Bowden**, has decided to step away from the Board after eight years of dedicated service.

Marie-Ann, I can't thank you enough for your invaluable contributions, wisdom, and guidance over these years. On behalf of the Board, thank you for your service—we wish you all the best and hope you stay involved as a member going forward.

As per our Bylaws:

Board-appointed members are individuals who:

- (i) have experience working with or in non-governmental or non-profit organizations; or
 - (ii) have professional, technical, or subject matter expertise related to the purposes of the Trust; and
- who, in the opinion of the Board, support the objectives and mission of the Trust.

Each year, I ask fellow board members to consider their networks and suggest individuals who might be a good fit for the Upton Trust. This year, thanks to **Beth Hoar**, we are thrilled to welcome **Melissa Cameron**, Executive Director of Island Nature Trust, to the Upton family.

Melissa brings with her a wealth of experience, energy, and a deep passion for both nature and Prince Edward Island. I'd like to share her biography as it appears on the Island Nature Trust website:

Melissa grew up in Toronto, Ontario and holds a bilingual B.A. (Hons.) from York University. She spent fifteen years working in high-rise residential real estate, where she developed strong skills in project management and land use planning. Her passion for conservation and fundraising led her to begin working with Island Nature Trust in 2022.

Since moving to Prince Edward Island, Melissa has deepened her commitment to land conservation and currently sits on advisory committees with the Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts, the Centre for Land Conservation, and Birds Canada, contributing to national conversations around land stewardship.

An Organic Master Gardener, Melissa lives in Orwell with her husband and four children. She enjoys hiking, sailing, and gardening, and brings a nature-focused, strategic approach to her role at Island Nature Trust.

We couldn't be more pleased to have Melissa joining our board. Melissa, I know you already have a full plate, but your experience and vision are such a strong match for Upton. I'm very much looking forward to working with you. So welcome and thank you.