

[2017 John B. Holdstock Scholarship Recipient \(2\)](#) [1]

Congratulations to Clayton Lamb, one of two successful recipients of the 2017 John B. Holdstock Scholarship!

Clayton was introduced to nature at a young age and flora and fauna have since been a source of inspiration and wonder for him. He was brought up to respect the land, to interact and learn from it. Clayton believes the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife go hand in hand; "My fervent passion for wildlife and natural places originated with my love for hunting, fishing and trapping," says Clayton. This passion has evolved into dedicating his career to the conservation and preservation of wildlife and their habitat.

"My personal interest in wildlife management, paired with my time on numerous provincial wildlife projects, has focused my career goals towards becoming a provincial wildlife researcher. I would like to further develop methods for estimating population size of wildlife species and to apply these methods to solve applied conservation



problems."

Wildlife managers currently lack accurate estimates for many species and are often forced to use non-empirically-derived expert opinions to create population estimates. Wildlife managers are responsible for management decisions that range from setting harvest allocations to assessing the effects of proposed developments. Consequently, accurate and timely inventories of wildlife are crucial, as is learning to understand the factors that limit wildlife population abundance. Further to these goals, Clayton has contributed to projects concerning carnivore conservation, dispersal ecology and population genetics in the face of climate change.

"As a provincial wildlife researcher, I hope to mesh politics and wildlife management by providing sound science that will bridge the gap between the two disciplines," says Clayton. He adds, "I believe that my fervent passion for the preservation of wildlife and wild places parallels that of John B. Holdstock. I intend for my PhD. project, and my subsequent career, to contribute to the advancement of wildlife sciences and the perpetuity of the populations and habitats that have always been my source of inspiration."

Clayton punctuates his position with a quote by Canadian Biologist, Writer, and Lecturer Shane Mahoney, "*Wildlife and wild places no longer exist by accident or without the intervention of those that truly and deeply care.*"

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