

THE TRUE VALUE OF BARACHOIS PONDS

DID YOU KNOW?

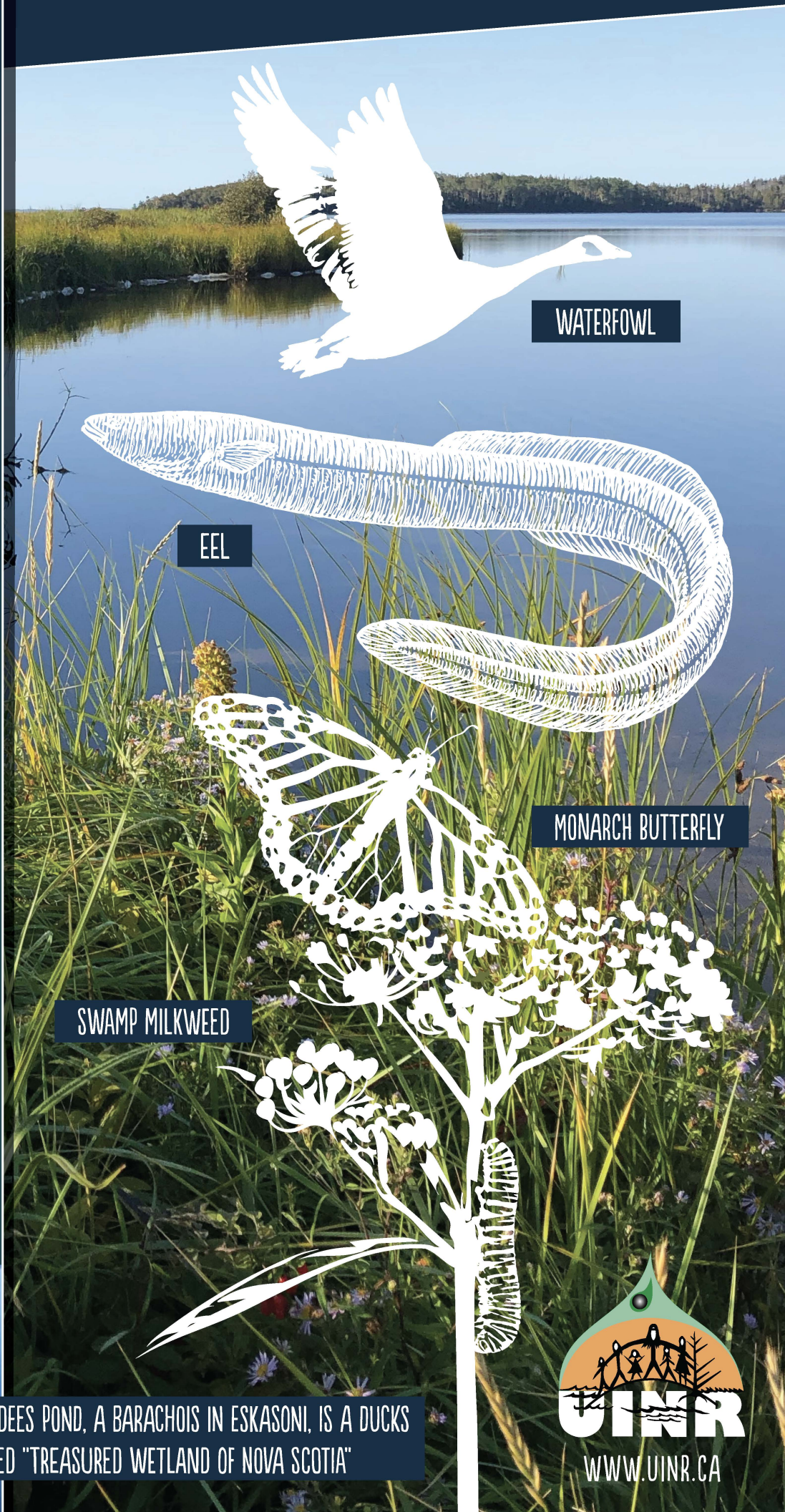
Barachois ponds are small saline to brackish bodies of water behind a barrier beach, which is formed by wave action. They receive saline water by storm surge, spray or by periodic opening to the main Bras d'Or Lakes, and they may receive freshwater input from streams.

IMPORTANT BECAUSE...

- **They are used by Mi'kmaq** for hunting, trapping, fishing, harvesting shellfish and gathering medicinal plants.
- **They are favourite year-round recreational spots** for activities like pond hockey, canoeing, and boating.
- **They are important over-wintering areas** for eels, a source of food, skins and medicine for Mi'kmaq.
- **They tend to be the first areas to freeze and last to thaw** making them important ice fishing areas during the winter.
- **They are important nursery areas** for freshwater and marine fishes, and are spawning areas for gaspereau in the Bras d'Or, which support Mi'kmaw commercial and sustenance fisheries.
- **They support biodiversity**, including unique communities of salt tolerant and intolerant wetland plant species and several rare and notable species of migratory waterfowl, reptiles, amphibians and plants.



AMAGADEES POND, A BARACHOIS IN ESKASONI, IS A DUCKS UNLIMITED "TREASURED WETLAND OF NOVA SCOTIA"



WATERFOWL

EEL

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

SWAMP MILKWEED