Wildlife conservation starts with each one of us — it doesn’t have to be difficult.

Build a bat box
Bat populations in North America are in rapid decline because of the arrival of a fungal infection called white-nose syndrome. Building bat boxes helps support surviving bats by providing safe, seasonal habitat.

Don’t pour crap down your drains
This makes plants, solvents and any other household chemicals. They just end up in the water system. Instead, take chemical waste to your local dump, where it will be disposed of safely.

Clean your boat
Even it’s just a canoe, wash and dry your watercraft and equipment before you move it to a new body of water. Keeping your recreational vessel clean helps prevent the spread of non-native, invasive species.

Take up cross-country skiing
Or canoeing. These types of outdoor activities have a lower impact on the environment than pastimes such as downhill skiing, snowmobiling or motor-boating.

Be good to bees (and other pollinators)
The decline of honeybee populations is well documented. Experts are also concerned about falling populations of other pollinators around the world. Here are four ways you can fight the decline in your own garden:

1. Choose native plants that support pollinators in your region.
2. Choose plants that flower at different times so that local pollinators are supported throughout the season.
3. Grow your plants in clumps. This will help attract pollinators.
4. Use a variety of plants to attract and support different pollinator species.

Adopt a brownfield
Support habitat locally by teaming up with other members of your community to rehabilitate derelict plots of land in your area. Check out the 3p movement—depave.org—for ideas and inspiration.

Visit parks and conservation areas
The more you learn about ecosystems and the species they support, the more you’ll appreciate them—and want to protect them.

Love a weedy beach
Sandy beaches and manicured lawns at cottages and recreational properties make lousy habitat. Take steps to keep your shoreline wildlife friendly. Visit lownaturake.ca for more info.

Get involved
Join or support organizations that promote wildlife conservation. You have a plethora of groups to choose from—local, regional, national and international. Just do it.

Be a pole to migrating birds
Here are four ideas to get you started.

1. Grow native plants that provide fruit and berries to feed birds that fly through your region.
2. Put a birdbath in your yard so birds have clean water for drinking and bathing.
3. Build a birdhouse to help birds find safe, secure nesting habitat.
4. Visit or support organizations that promote wildlife conservation. You have a plethora of groups to choose from—local, regional, national and international.