



www.naturetrust.nb.ca

REFUGE

THE NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK INC.

LA FONDATION POUR LA PROTECTION DES SITES NATURELS DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK, INC.

Newsletter/Bulletin

Vol. 18, No. 1

April 2009

NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK RETROSPECTIVE

By Michael J. Dillon

The seed that grew into today's Nature Trust of New Brunswick was planted in 1985 by Harold R. (Hal) Hinds, then Curator of the Connell Herbarium at the University of New Brunswick. It was planted in the minds of a number of citizens, mostly but not all senior, including, among others, Dr. C. Mary Young, Dr. Dorothy Farmer, Dr. Leo Dionne, Peter Pearce, Jane Tarn, Erica Gregg, Mary Pacey, Jim and Kay Bedell, Senator Muriel Ferguson, and Franklin Gilmour.

They gathered information and published *Critical Natural Areas of New Brunswick* in 1988. During the course of this work it became increasingly obvious that the protection of some of these sites was the next step. With the assistance of Beverley Smith of the UNB Law School, a constitution was prepared and the Nature Trust of New Brunswick Inc. - La Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick Inc. was incorporated in 1987. The purposes of the new organization were "to identify, classify, protect and preserve for posterity natural areas and landscapes in the Province deemed to be outstanding." Hal Hinds became the first Executive Director.

The first president was Dr. Owen Washburn and Dr. Ellen MacGillivray served as Secretary. The first board

included Dr. C. Mary Young, Beverley Smith, Hal Hinds, Dr. Leo Dionne, Dr. Dorothy Farmer, Peter Pearce, Jane Tarn and Erica Gregg. Senator Muriel Fergusson was named an Honourary Trustee. In the following year, John Henderson became President. In subsequent years Presidents have been Mary Young, Michael Dillon, Jessie Davies, Sheila Washburn, Bill Ayer, Julian Walker, Bob Dallison and currently,



L to R Dr. Owen Washburn, Dr. M. Dillon, Dr. C. Mary Young, John Henderson, Jessie Davies. Photo: M. Sheppard

Ken Hirtle. There was much discussion in the early years with the Nature Conservancy of Canada about the Trust being an NB affiliate, but it remained independent.

The first property, the Shea Lake Nature Preserve, near Plaster Rock, was acquired by lease from Fraser Inc. with the assistance of Irwin Landauer. It is 150 ha of old growth forest with 17 species of orchids. It was soon followed by the first of what were to become multiple donations by Robert K. Stewart. His initial (cont'd p. 4)

BLUEBERRY HILL STUDY PROCEEDS

The Nature Trust has received funding to work on an unusual project: designing a trails and open space management plan for "Blueberry Hill," 50 acres of woods, fields, wetland and waterfront owned by WorkSafe NB, the Crown agency based in Grand Bay-Westfield, NB. The Fundy Solid Waste Commission's Crane Mountain Enhancement Inc. has awarded the Trust \$10,000 to develop a plan for the site, which is found behind WorkSafe NB headquarters.

Once the implications of the study have been reviewed by the Nature Trust board, work will begin raising a stewardship fund in order to allow the Trust to take title to the land. So far only a memorandum of agreement has been signed with WorkSafe NB. The Trust estimates roughly \$30,000 is required in stewardship as this is an urban preserve that will require ongoing vigilance and maintenance. The Town of Grand Bay-Westfield has already committed \$5,000 towards this fund.

A public meeting held in February drew over 60 interested persons, several of whom volunteered to act as stewards. MS



Blueberry Hill has 1000 feet of waterfront on Grand Bay.

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick, inc./La Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick, inc., is a charitable non-profit corporation dedicated to the protection of natural areas of special scientific, educational or aesthetic value. Office: 404 Queen St. 3rd floor Mailing: P.O. Box 603, Stn. A. Fredericton, NB, E3B 5A6, Tel: (506) 457-2398, Fax: (506) 450-2137, Email: ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca www.naturetrust.nb.ca

**Nature Trust Board
of Trustees
2009-2010**

Honourary Patron

The Honourable
Herménégilde Chiasson
Lieutenant Governor

**Honourary
Trustees**

Jessie Davies
Robert Stewart

Past President

Robert Dallison

President

Ken Hirtle

Vice-President

Don Dennison

Treasurer

John St. Pierre

Executive Director

Margo Sheppard

**Conservation Program
Director**

Renata Woodward

Trustees

Steven Christie
Andrée Charron
Dr. Brad Walters
Stuart Blair
Dr. Rick Cunjak
Dorothy Diamond
Cassie Stanley
Dr. Jamey Smith
William Anderson
Carmel Teasdale

Trustees Emeritus

Hayward Aiton
Bill Ayer
Susan Belfry
Lynn MacKinnon
Julian Walker
Bill Ayer
Dr. M.J. Dillon
Don Vail
Jane Tims

OUR LANGUAGE POLICY
WE PUBLISH ITEMS IN EITHER
FRENCH OR ENGLISH, BUT WE
CANNOT TRANSLATE, EXCEPT IN
EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

NOTRE
POLITIQUE
LINGUISTIQUE
NOUS PUBLIONS DES ARTICLES
EN FRANÇAIS OU EN ANGLAIS,
MAIS NOUS N'AVONS PAS LA POS-
SIBILITE DE LES TRADUIRE, SAUF
EN DES CAS EXCEPTIONNELS.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Land conservation is all about quality of life. This statement is heard in a video recently produced for the Nature Trust of New Brunswick's *Campaign for Coastal Lands*.

How does conserving the habitat of a globally rare plant such as the Furbish's lousewort affect my quality of life, you may ask. Let's think it through. All around us species are getting listed for rarity or endangerment. Next week I attend meetings of COSEWIC, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, the group that determines largely whether a species goes on a watch list, waiting its turn for a recovery plan to bring it back to pre-European populations. Which species will be "up-listed," which "down-listed?" Recent reports show that nearly one-third of the US (and by extension many Canadian) songbird populations are endangered, threatened or in significant decline due to habitat loss, invasive species and other threats. Polar bears are... well, you know the story. There will likely be more bad news next week.

Okay, but what about my quality of life?

Each individual responds uniquely, but when I hear the latter type of news, part of me shrivels inside. The feeling of powerlessness is at times overwhelming. Living life with as little impact

as possible seems a noble goal, but nonetheless at the end of the day we are all simply consumers. We all leave an indelible mark on the Earth, even if treading as lightly as we can.

Psychologists have coined the term "eco-anxiety" for the sense of helplessness one feels in the face of impending environmental doom. Fredericton writer Carla Gunn has written a book called *Amphibian* about a young boy suffering this plight. He sees and reads about nature being destroyed all around him – his mother wonders, is this an irrational fear or phobia, like being afraid of flying? Can it truly be termed "irrational"? Answer this question for yourself, but for me, this is where land and species conservation comes in.

Some species are returning to their natural abundance: witness the resurgence of Bald eagle populations in the Maritimes. Similarly, if the habitat of a Peregrine falcon, or a Furbish's lousewort is legally protected, this creature too can at least have a chance to live, to inhabit, to spread its genes around in future. The way many people in the land trust movement come to grips with eco-anxiety and the bad feelings it evokes is by working to protect and preserve special natural areas for the long term. And that improves our quality of life. It's that simple. MS

DIRECTOR PROFILE: DOROTHY DIAMOND

Dorothy Diamond immigrated to Canada as a child with her family from Argentina and England. After years of struggle and moving, she settled in NB with her own young family and after 30 years here, has decided it truly is the best place in the world to live. Where else can you live near forests, keep chickens, grow your own food, make maple syrup, camp near and canoe wild rivers, and enjoy both cities and nature?

After 24 years working as a nurse, she pursued undergraduate and graduate degrees in biology, going to UNB at the same time as her daughter, and became an ornithologist. She studied botany under Hal Hinds, a founder of NTN, and learned about

his passion for plants and conservation while volunteering in the UNB herbarium. She has taught writing, biology and forestry-related courses, works her consulting business "BirdSong Consulting," and promotes the value of our land to our wellbeing and sustenance. With researcher husband Tony she has travelled to countries where environmental degradation is far worse than here, and she is a firm believer in local people's right to determine the sustainable use of the land they live on, once they truly understand their local environment. She asks: "Do you know what animals, birds, insects, and plants share the land with you? Have you taught these to your children and grandchildren so they know it matters?"

Her work with the Nature Trust is an extension of these passions. MS



Dorothy Diamond with Hyacinth Macaw.

WHAT'S NEXT IN FOREST LAND DIVESTITURES?

This winter, J.D. Irving Ltd. announced it was divesting itself of a 69,000-hectare property in Nova Scotia. This was not entirely unexpected; forestry industries have been increasingly divesting themselves of land holdings across North America.

Not only are they selling land amongst themselves as they have for decades, they are now selling those lands outside the industry altogether.

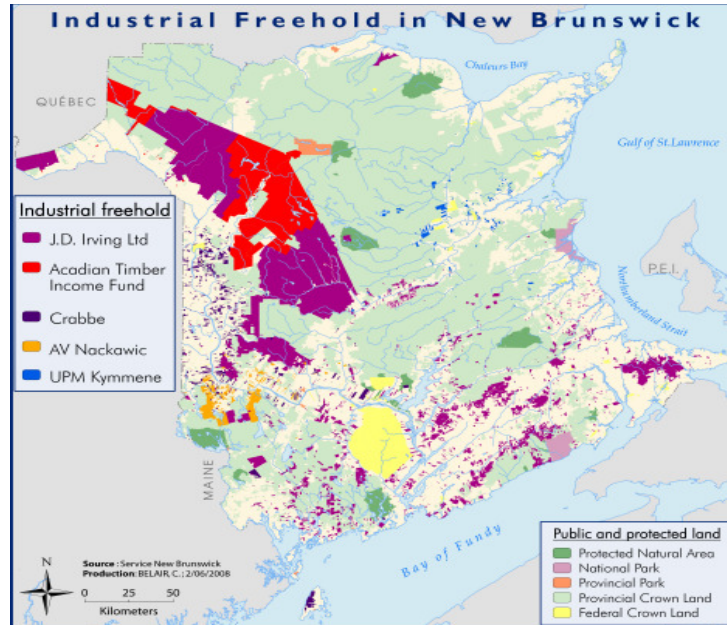
One of the great concerns for the conservation community with respect to landowner change is the breakup of large single-owner parcels, raising the threat of conversion from timberland use to other land uses, such as real estate development. Land trusts across North America have been playing an increasingly important role in securing large tracts of timberland from forest industries, protecting it from fragmentation and preserving traditional public access.

In Maine, for example, the **Downeast Lakes Land Trust** protected 339,000 acres through easement and purchase in 2005; the **Forest Society of Maine**, in partnership with the State, secured 329,000 acres in 2004, and **The Nature Conservancy** (Maine chapter) acquired 185,000 acres in 1998. These multi-million dollar deals were made possible through donations from private individuals and foundations, grants from government programs such as Land for Maine's Future program and the US Forest Legacy Program, and profits the conservation partners themselves have reaped from sustainable timber harvest on conserved land.

But how would a land divestiture of the magnitude of these be greeted by the conservation community in New Brunswick? Almost 50% of our province is Crown land. Is there an appetite among conservation groups for embarking on what could be a risky

and complex series of undertakings, and what overall purpose(s) would be served? Clean water and air, yes, diversity of wildlife and habitats, yes, public access-- many of these already exist under current forestry tenure arrangements. But what is the longevity of these benefits when pulpwood and lumber prices are down but demand for real estate, especially

owners are Crabbe with 55,000 hectares, AV Nackawic with 38,000 hectares, and UPM (now UMOE Solar) with 17,000. The analysis showed that industrial freehold in New Brunswick holds conservation value at both a landscape level and finer scale. A set of maps highlighting priority conservation areas was generated from this work.



Industrial forest lands account for about 16% of all land in New Brunswick.
Map: Caroline Bélair

waterfront, continues to grow?

Last fall, the Trust conducted a study on the potential for land trust involvement in industrial freehold (land) divestitures in the province. Industrial freehold includes land owned by large forestry companies that own or operate a wood processing facility and accounts for approximately one-fifth of the productive forest land in New Brunswick.

The study identified and mapped industrial freehold land in New Brunswick. It also evaluated its conservation value by assessing the presence or absence of identified ecologically sensitive features.

Two companies, **J.D. Irving Ltd.** and **Acadian Timber Income Fund**, own about 90% of all industrial freehold in New Brunswick (approximately 745,000 and 291,000 hectares, respectively). The three other major industrial freehold

With this information, the Nature Trust board has formed a committee to explore what role the Nature Trust might play in future large forestland divestitures in the province. This might include any number of options including negotiating working forest conservation easements, acquiring certain key tracts or providing mapping or other expertise to a range of partner organizations. The committee will approach select forest industry leaders in the near future to discuss the potential for conserving ecologically sensitive parts of their land or other collaborative efforts. While the outcome is unclear, advances will have been made in opening lines of communication between the two groups for future cooperation.

In the meantime, we await with interest the ultimate disposition of the J.D. Irving Ltd. lands in southwest Nova Scotia.

If you would like to learn more about this project, a report entitled *The Potential for Land Trust Involvement in Large Timberland Divestitures in New Brunswick* will be posted on the NTNB website shortly (under "Publications").

This work was made possible with grants from the **EJLB Foundation** and the **NB Environmental Trust Fund**. Mapping and GIS analyses were produced on ArcGIS 9.2, which was kindly provided by the **ESRI Conservation Program**.

CB

TRANSITIONS AT THE NATURE TRUST OFFICE

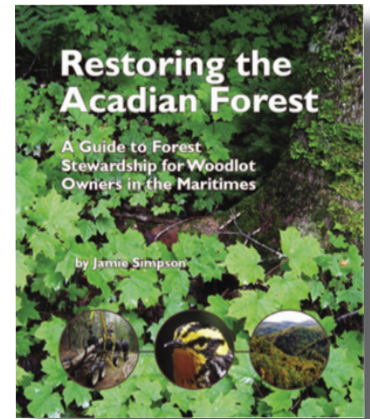
Acting Executive Director **Laura Minich** finished her work with the Trust in December and has moved on to work with the Maine Audubon Society in Portland, ME. Laura was a joy to work with and we wish her all the best in her new job. **Margo Sheppard** resumes as Executive Director along with coordinating the *Campaign for Coastal Lands*.

In April we welcomed **Renata Woodward** as Conservation Program Director. Renata was born in the Czech Republic, where she practised as a paediatric nurse and completed a diploma in international business and tourism. In Canada, she completed a Bachelor of Science in natural resources management with a major in forestry at the University of Northern BC. Renata has worked with the NB Trails Council and Environment Canada. She assumes responsibility for a diverse portfolio of projects and we look forward to working with her.

GIS and Conservation Fellow **Caroline Bélair** completed her Master's degree in environmental studies at the University of Paris in October 2008. Caroline is currently completing work on forest land divestitures (see story p.3) and conserva-

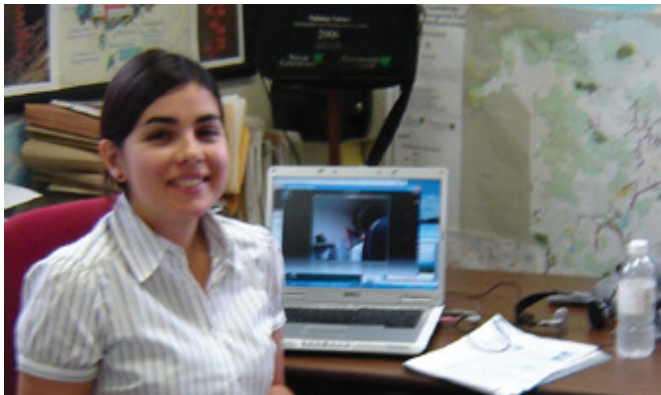
tion planning and doing a contract with the Canadian Land Trust Alliance. The Nature Trust has benefited from Caroline's expertise in a number of areas and we hope she stays put for as long as possible!

Former Conservation Stewardship Coordinator **Jamie Simpson** has written his first book entitled **Restoring the Acadian Forest: A Guide to Forest Stewardship for Woodlot Owners in the Maritimes**. The



book is a helpful resource for anyone interested in understanding, characterizing and caring for this unique forest type. Contact bocabec@gmail.com or www.restelluris.ca for copies of the book, which are \$20, plus \$5 shipping. Jamie is now working at the **Ecology Action Centre** in Halifax.

Last but not least, **Amie Palmer**, Planned Giving and Administrative Coordinator with the Trust for three years, and her volunteer NTNB web-master husband Mike welcomed baby **Isabelle Marie Palmer** into the world in February. At 9 lbs 6 oz, Isabelle is nearly ready for volunteer work and we hope to see her on the trails soon! MS



Caroline Bélair defends her thesis in the NTNB office. University of Paris thesis reviewers connected using Evo, an internet conference tool. Photo: M. Sheppard



Amie and Isabelle Palmer.

NATURE TRUST HISTORY (CONT'D FROM P.1)

In January 1991 publication of the newsletter *Refuge* began with support from the Themadel Foundation of St. Andrews. Their support continued for a number of years. Initially all Nature Trust work was done in private homes and offices but in 1992, Hal Hinds was able to obtain use of an office in the old Muskeg Building on the UNB Campus in Fredericton. This served as the office for two years until it was torn down. Office space on Queen Street was obtained in 1994. By 2001 the Trust had outgrown its single room and moved down the hall to the present offices.

The Nature Trust has operated a number of projects in the province. It began with funding from the Province to do inventories of rare and endangered species of plants and their habitats in

various parts of the province including the Bathurst area, the Acadian Peninsula, the Charlotte County Coastal area and the middle and upper St. John River Valley. It also carried out a major Appalachian Hardwood Forest Project in Carleton County and a Long Island Conservation Project.

The Nature Trust has continued to receive generous donations from its many members but it could not have grown as it has without donations from outside sources. The major contributors have included the Province through the Environmental Trust Fund, the Habitat Stewardship Program, the EJLB Foundation, the Shell Environment Fund, the T.R. Meighen Foundation, the von Ziegesar family and many others too numerous to mention.

Over the years the Trust has sponsored a number of events to raise funds and awareness. These were, among others, the Sacred Earth Show in 1991, the New Brunswick Land Conservation Conference in 2003, workshops on rare plants, reptiles, amphibians, forests and geology and fundraisers including a Peregrine Falcon Climb-a-thon. There have been a number of receptions held at annual meetings around the province and at Old Government House, hosted by the Honourary Patron, the Lieutenant Governor to honour donors to the Nature Trust. There have been numerous hikes, cleanups and work visits to many nature preserves.

In addition to *Refuge* the Nature Trust has published (cont'd p. 5)

COASTAL LANDS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Campaign for Coastal Lands co-Chairs Ken Hirtle and Jessie Davies report that significant progress has been made towards the \$950,000 required by year-end to achieve the Nature Trust's goals: to conserve major portions of Navy Island, St. Andrews, and to protect the watershed of Sam Orr's Pond at the Caughey Taylor Nature Preserve in Bocabec, NB.

A major gift from the Nature Conservancy of Canada via the Government of Canada's Natural Areas Conservation Program and the Province of New Brunswick has enabled us to confirm that we are two-thirds of the way to our end goal. Please contact the Nature Trust office to make your gift or pledge today! (506) 457-2398 ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca

MAXWELL DESIGNS CELEBRATED

At the turn of the nineteenth century, brothers Edward and William S. Maxwell were successful architects based in Montreal. Their accomplishments could be seen from coast to coast in Canada and include Canadian Pacific Railway hotels that stand to this day. Lured to St. Andrews by well-to-do Montrealers, the Maxwells designed and oversaw construction of many summer homes. Their columns and pediments, roofs, verandahs and artful window designs still grace St. Andrews streets.

Noted architect and author of the book *Building New Brunswick* **John Leroux** will lead a tour of St. Andrews homes on **July 12th** this summer. Proceeds will go toward the Campaign for Coastal Lands. Contact ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca for tickets. MS



Hillcrest, St. Andrews, a Maxwell design.

Image: McGill Archives

NOVA SCOTIA GETS PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Last November brought good news for land conservationists in Nova Scotia with the passing of the *Conservation Property Tax Exemption Act*. The Act creates a new category of property tax assessments called "conservation lands." The Act allows landowners who protect their land through a conservation easement to avoid paying property tax on the conservation portion of their lands. Land owned by land trusts will also be exempt from property taxes. To address the resulting reduction in municipal income, Nova Scotia Environment will compensate municipalities through a grant-in-lieu.

In New Brunswick, conserved properties such as NTNBN Nature Preserves are exempt from property taxes on a case by case basis, requiring application to Service NB with each new acquisition. There is currently no mechanism to compensate municipalities.

CB

NATURE TRUST HISTORY (CONT'D FROM P.4)

numerous reports on its many landowner outreach projects, booklets, guidelines, an operational policy manual, brochures and other materials. In 1998 the Trust joined the electronic age with the establishment of an internet website that has grown and improved over the years.

The Trust participated in the first conference on land trusts in Canada in 1992 and in the formation of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA). In addition to being active in the Canadian land trust scene Executive Director Margo Sheppard chairs the CLTA and travels frequently in this capacity. She has also visited the Czech Republic and land trust operations there.

The number of properties under the Trust's auspices has increased to 28 held wholly by the Trust, leased or under conservation easement. In addition there are a number of voluntary stewardship agreements to conserve Appalachian Hardwood Forest Properties in Carleton and Charlotte Counties.

Let us continue to conserve these, and many more significant natural sites for posterity.

MJD

Dr. Michael J. Dillon is a Trustee Emeritus living in Fredericton.

COASTAL CAMPAIGN DVD

Thanks to a corporate in-kind donation from **Outreach Productions** and a grant from the **NB Environmental Trust Fund**, we have produced a video on the *Campaign for Coastal Lands*. If you know of anyone who might like to see this production and make a gift to the campaign please contact the office. A shortened version will soon be available on YouTube.



Danny Crain of Outreach Productions films the outlet of Sam Orr's Pond, fall 2008. Photo: M. Sheppard

SILENT AUCTION JUNE 10TH, 2009
Please consider donating a piece of artwork, transferable points, an antique, a skill or talent or whatever you have to the Campaign for Coastal Lands Silent Auction, June 10th, 2009 from 5-7 pm, Algonquin Hotel, St. Andrews. There will be music, hors d'oeuvres and a panoramic view of Navy Island to enjoy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

Bell Forest Spring Wildflower Walk
When: May 17th
Where: Woodstock area
Details: meduxnekeag@nb.aibn.com

Hike up Chickahominy Mountain
When: May 9, 10:30 - 2pm
Where: Meet on Rte 127 at Caughey Taylor Nature Preserve
Details: staff@ntnb.org

Coastal Lands Campaign Garage Sale
When: Saturday, May 9th 8-12
Where: 4 O'Neill Farm Road, St. Andrews, NB
Details: jdavies@unb.ca, 529-8378 (contributions welcomed!)

Hyla Park Clean-up & Trails Day
When: Late May (TBD)
Where: 150 Greenwood Dr. Fred.
Details: naturetrust@ntnb.org

JUNE

Hyla Park Clean-up
When: June 6, 10am -12:00 noon
Where: Hyla Park, Fredericton
Details: naturetrust@ntnb.org

Silent Auction for Campaign for Coastal Lands
When: June 10th, 5-7pm
Where: Algonquin Hotel
Details: ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca

Bird Walk to Blueberry Hill
When: June 24th, 6:30 pm - 8pm
Where: Grand Bay-Westfield
Details: Meet at WorkSafe NB parking lot, Grand Bay Westfield, info@ntnb.org

Long Island Nature Walk
When: June 27, 2009 10am - 4pm
Where: Meet at Rothesay Wharf
Details: naturetrust@ntnb.org

International Trails Day in Hyla Park
When: June 6, 10 am - 12 noon
Where: 150 Greenwood Dr. Fred.
Details: naturetrust@ntnb.org

JULY

Maxwell Tour of Homes, St. Andrews
Led by Architect John Leroux
When: July 12, 1-3pm
 Raindate: July 19, 1-3pm
Where: St. Andrews, NB
Details: ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca, 457-2398

See story, p. 5. We will access homes with permission; others will be viewed from the street or yard. Learn about the Maxwell brothers who made St. Andrews the architectural treasure it is. Afternoon tea at Tillietudlem, originally the summer home of Edward Maxwell on the Bar Road, now owned by Judy and Carl Sapers, will conclude this elegant affair. **Tickets \$30.** All proceeds go towards purchase of coastal lands in the St. Andrews area.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Nature Trust welcomes the following new members who have recently joined:

Ms. Andrée Mallet
 Renforth Boat Club
 Mr. and Mrs. W. Gentleman
 Outdoor Enthusiasts of Fredericton

PLANNED GIVING REMINDER

The Nature Trust has a number of planned giving options available to donors who share its vision of land conservation. A planned gift is a contribution you make after carefully weighing your options in order to maximize the benefits to you as well as our charity. Planned gifts include bequests and gifts of publicly listed securities, life insurance policies or registered retirement contracts. To learn more about these creative ways to give, visit our website at <http://naturetrust.nb.ca/plannedgiving/en>

LAND FOR SALE: 80'x120' lot for sale in Inverness, Florida. Proceeds will go to the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. Contact us! (506) 457-2398

“What is such a resource worth? Anything it costs. If we never hike it or step into its shade, if we only drive by occasionally and see the textures of green mountainside change under wind and sun, or the fog move soft feathers down the gulches, or the last sunset on the continent redden the sky beyond the ridge, we have our money’s worth.... Every green natural place we save saves a fragment of our sanity and gives us a little more hope that we have a future.”

Wallace Stegner, 1991

REFUGE CONTRIBUTORS:

Dorothy Diamond, Michael Dillon, Margo Sheppard, Caroline Bélair, Renata Woodward

Please Join The Nature Trust!

I wish to support the Nature Trust of New Brunswick/Je désire devenir membre de la Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick. Please circle one: Student / Étudiant(e) - \$10 Individual / Individu - \$25
 Family or Group / Famille ou Groupe - \$35 Supporting / Soutien - \$75 S
 Sponsoring / Parrain - \$150 Donor / Don - \$250 Benefactor / Bienfaiteur - \$500
 Corporate / Entreprise - \$1,000+ Life / Membre à vie - \$5,000

Name / Nom: _____ Telephone / Téléphone: _____

Address / Adresse: _____

Email: _____

Cheque or money order enclosed? Visa# _____ Exp: _____

Mail to / Veuillez adresser à:

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick/La Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick. 404 Queen St. P.O. Box 603 Stn. A Fredericton, NB E3B 5A6.

Official income tax receipts will be issued/Nous vous ferons parvenir un reçu aux fins de deduction d'impôts.