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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. 2

July 2009

COASTAL LANDS CAMPAIGN ENTERS FINAL STAGE TRUST BEING STRETCHED TO RAISE LAST \$200,000

The Nature Trust's largest project ever, the *Campaign for Coastal Lands*, is in its final push for funds. The deadline to raise \$950,000 is December 31, 2009. So far the total of gifts and pledges made is \$740,000, almost 78% of our goal!

The date was established in 2007 and envisaged the Trust raising funds to secure strategic coastal lands including 3 km of undeveloped coastline in Charlotte County. 2007 was quiet, but things picked up in 2008 when Senator Michael and Mrs. Kelly Meighen became Honourary Campaign Co-chairs. A turning point was the commitment of the Nature Conservancy of Canada to the campaign in November 2008, which brought untold glee to the campaign committee, and on which we previously reported.

Recently, a \$100,000 commitment from the EJLB Foundation of Montreal brought us up past the "three-quarters there" stage. A subsequent surprise visit to the Trust offices by Robert Alain, Executive Director of the Foundation, was warmly welcomed.

In the meantime, planning was well underway for summer campaign events in St. Andrews. We have found out what a generous community St. Andrews really is. It is impossible to mention all the individuals, volunteers, artists and people who have given to this campaign in this space. Please accept a warm thank you along with the knowledge that you have helped shape your future community in a very tangible, positive way.

And if you know others who would like the satisfaction you have had in making a gift—please send them our way! MS



Taggarts Brook and marsh, north end Caughey Taylor Nature Preserve. Lands to be conserved are seen on the right.

NEW STEWARDS FOR STIRRETT PRESERVE, PERTH ANDOVER

Cecilia Brooks, Jamie Idol and Ramona Nicholas of the Wolustoqik First Nation have agreed to become stewards for the George M. Stirrett Nature Preserve, replacing Pat O'Brien. Along with Maureen Toner (DNRE), Rick Fournier (University of Moncton) and members of the Maliseet First Nation Conservation Council, the Trust participated in a Furbish's Lousewort outreach and education session recently. The session introduced the Furbish's Lousewort Recovery Plan and explained stewardship responsibilities. The new stewards later undertook a species-at-risk survey and cleared away garbage from the preserve. Furbish's Lousewort is found only in the upper reaches of the St. John River. RW



MEET CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR RENATA WOODWARD

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick is delighted to announce that Renata Woodward has joined the Trust 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. Because nature was always her passion, Renata pursued a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management (forestry major) at the University of Northern British Columbia. She has working experience with all sectors: private, government and non-governmental, and brings a wealth of expertise to this new position at the Trust. Recent contracts at the New Brunswick offices of Environment Canada and the NB Trails Council have eased her into working life in this beautiful province.

Renata chose Fredericton to live, along with husband Ben and her two children, Gavin and Nadia, because of its quality of life. "New Brunswick feels like home to us and we're happy to be here," she says.

Welcome Renata.

MS

Photo: R. Woodward

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

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*NOUS PUBLIONS DES ARTICLES
EN FRANÇAIS OU EN ANGLAIS,
MAIS NOUS N'AVONS PAS LA POS-
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EN DES CAS EXCEPTIONNELS.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is an exciting time for the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. The Coastal Campaign is going well and every dollar raised locally has attracted matching funds from various sources. We find ourselves getting close to our objective of \$950,000 at a time when we feared the slowing economy would derail our efforts. The generosity of the community of St. Andrews has been, and continues to be, much appreciated.

Renata Woodward, our new Conservation

Program Director, is busy with the Blueberry Hill property in Grand Bay/Westfield and we are looking forward to seeing the plans for this site on the Saint John/Grand Bay-Westfield boundary. I encourage members to attend the meeting Aug. 5 and witness the excitement this community has for this project.

These initiatives and others will provide benefits to the residents of the province for years and years to come and I encourage members to support your Nature Trust when and wherever possible.

Ken D. Hirtle

LONG ISLAND UPDATE

Long Island in the Kennebecasis River, site of the Minister's Face Nature Preserve, has been the site of much activity of late.

To make sure the Island was looking its best for summer, NTN and Rothesay Netherwood School (RNS) joined forces June 23rd for a cleanup of Rayworth Beach at the south end. Thirty students and staff removed garbage from the beach and forest. Our thanks to RNS for transport and garbage disposal.

On June 18th volunteers Peter Jolly, Walter Emrich, Allan Howse, Lacey McKenna and Crystal Colpits joined NTN preparing trails, adding markers, removing deadfall and generally getting the trail ready for visitors. Thanks to Guy Richards and the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club for boats.

Later that month 24 people went on a nature walk to the Preserve, ferried over by Tony Ratliffe, Guy Richards and Peter Jolly. Samantha Perrin of the Irving Nature Park helped Shannon McNutt and Mike Montigny with interpretation of forest regeneration and watersheds. Thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to this ongoing project. SM

MAXWELL HOMES TOUR

A fundraiser for the *Campaign for Coastal Lands*, the Tour of Select Maxwell Homes held July 12th featured architect John Leroux as guide. The Maxwell brothers, Edward and William S., were noted Montreal architects at the turn of the 20th century. Many of their well-to-do clientele of Montreal commissioned country homes to be built in St. Andrews, where Edward had built his own home and designed large parts of Covenhoven, the van Horne estate on Minister's Island. Seventy people attended; we thank the volunteers especially Jessie Davies, Willi Wolfe and Judy Sapers whose High Tea at Tillietudlem was glorious, paralleling the afternoon sun which made an appearance at the same time. MS



Author and architect John Leroux (in red) highlights features on the Maxwell-designed Findlay home, Meadow Lodge, in St. Andrews.

Photo: M. Sheppard



Twenty-four hikers toured Long Island in June on a trip led by NTN's Shannon McNutt.

Photo: S. McNutt

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR THE NATURE TRUST?

The majority of land trusts work in areas of manageable size within which priority acquisitions are easily identified. The Nature Trust of New Brunswick, however, has one difficulty to overcome: it is a province-wide land trust. Planning for conservation over millions of hectares is an overwhelming task. Land trusts with large geographical service areas have chosen to define priority regions of interest within their larger service areas, allowing them to better focus limited financial and organizational resources.

Using the research and GIS talents of intern Caroline Belair during the latter part of 2008, the Trust undertook to study what focusing its efforts might entail.

The first item examined was the past history of engagement of the Trust in longer-term landowner outreach projects. These included the Upper St. John River Valley (rare plants); the Central St. John River Valley (Appalachian Hardwood Forest remnants); the Long Island Conservation Project; and the Charlotte County Coastal region. The study next looked at regional planning initiatives (encompassing New Brunswick) done by several groups including the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Wildlands Project, the Human Footprint Project, and the Future Human Footprint Project (by Two Countries, One Forest). ESAs (ecologically significant areas) of NB as identified by the Nature Trust were also examined.

Several alternative approaches to establishing focus areas were investigated, including a funding-oriented approach, a people-oriented approach, areas with well-established partners, areas that are underrepresented in the current protected areas network, areas outside those identified by Nature Conservancy of Canada, areas where the Trust has invested itself in the past and areas where the Trust is not currently active.

Caroline studied the pros and cons of the above alternatives and presented them to the board of trustees at its March meeting, along with a plausible scenario of focus regions. In short, these included:

- * the **Nicolas Denys ecodistrict**, for its lack of coverage by other groups, but presence of species at risk;
- * the **Moncton/Sackville region**, for its potential for outreach to the Francophone community, existing member-

SILENT AUCTION RAISES \$10,000

Antique maps, tree services, jet boat rides and etiquette lessons aren't usually in the same room but they were at the Nature Trust's June 21st Silent Auction and Musical Celebration. The event was held at the Algonquin Hotel Casino and featured music by Home Made Bread. Organizers included NTN members Margot Sackett, Vaughn McIntyre, Mary Kane and Ellen Gozna. Jessie Davies expertly oversaw the proceedings and made sure all had a good time. Music, food and the Casino were all donated, resulting in a remarkable \$10,000 being raised. Thanks to all who contributed items, bought items and helped run a successful event. MS

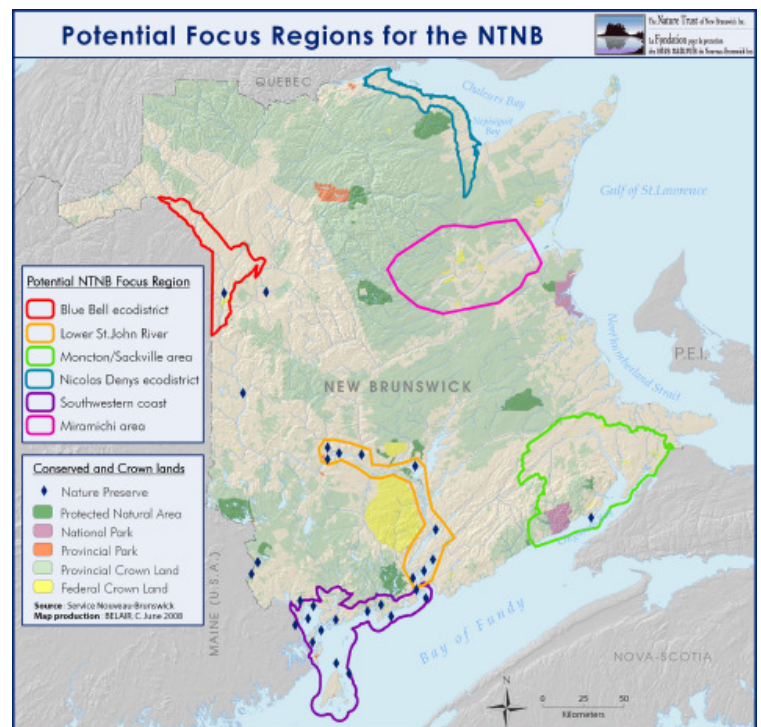
ship presence and potential properties in the region;

- * **the lower St. John River**, where seven existing preserves are located, and where NCC is not focused (as yet);
- * **the SW Coast/ Lower Bay of Fundy**, which is an historical area of concentration of Trust preserves and members;
- * **the Bluebell Ecodistrict**, the only ecodistrict which has both less than 1% protected lands and has Furbish's Lousewort, and is close to Edmundston and Grand Falls.

While the St. Croix River Watershed was included originally, later discussions removed it from consideration due to the high level of conservation already achieved there by various partners including the St. Croix International Waterway Commission. In addition, at the board meeting, lands surrounding Miramichi were added, to reflect the lack of land conservation by other agencies, and the presence of industrial freehold land of interest. The Moncton/Sackville region was expanded to include Fundy National Park and lands to its west.

While not a conclusive exercise, this work has helped determine, when planning future outreach programs including inventory and landowner contact work, where the Trust should be concentrating. Incoming gifts of land will not be constrained by this study and all inquiries will be duly evaluated in accordance with existing Nature Trust policy.

We welcome any and all comments from our members and would be glad to share the report "*Conservation Planning at the Nature Trust of New Brunswick: A Discussion Framework*" with you. Contact the office (457-2398) for a copy.



Map of potential focus regions for the Nature Trust. Map: C. Belair

The Trust gratefully acknowledges the support of the EJLB Foundation, the NB Environmental Trust Fund and the ESRI Conservation Program for this work. MS

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

Hyla Park Walks

When: July 22, 10:00 am
July 29, 7:30 pm

Where: 150 Greenwood Dr. Fred.

Details: stewardship@ntnb.org

AUGUST

Blueberry Hill Public meeting

When: August 5, 6:30-8:30pm

Where: Rockwood Park, Lily Lake Pavilion

Details: naturetrust@ntnb.org
(see insert)

Charlotte Isles Clean-up

When: August 8, 10:00 am- 4 pm

Where: Barnes, Mowat and Simpson Is.

Details: Meet at L'Etete wharf, registration required
stewardship@ntnb.org

Woods Walk to Sam Orrs Pond

When: August 16, 10am - 1pm

Where: Caughey-Taylor Nature Preserve, Bocabec

Details: View lands to be conserved as part of the *Campaign for Coastal Lands*. Meet at trailhead on Hwy 127. See website for map www.naturetrust.nb.ca.

Hyla Park Clean-up

When: August 26, 5:30 -8pm

Where: Hyla Park, Fredericton

Details: stewardship@ntnb.org

SEPTEMBER

Canadian Land Trust Conference

When: September 24-26

Where: Halifax, Nova Scotia

Details: Register online at www.clta.ca. A great place to get information and network with like-minded conservation volunteers and professionals.

Charlotte Isles Cleanup Planned

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick will partner with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) on August 8th to clean islands of concern to both organizations. This year we will address NTN's Western Isles Nature Preserve (focusing on Barnes and Mowat Islands) as well as Simpson Island, owned by NCC, a stone's throw away. Cooke Aquaculture is providing transportation.

Island cleanups are a great way to see unique island ecology up close. There will be a barbecue afterwards at the summer home of Susan Lapidés and Peter Wilson, with all contributions welcomed.

Plan to join us and bring your friends, but please register as space is limited (see "Upcoming Events" above). Please contact Ashley at stewardship@ntnb.org or 457-2398.

FROG WALKS POPULAR AT FREDERICTON PRESERVE

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick kicked off the summer with a Frog Walk in Hyla Park on June 6. Fifteen participants joined Trust staff for a guided tour by Don Vail, Hyla Park's steward. Although the frog for which the Park was named (Grey tree-frog: *Hyla versicolor*) remained elusive, participants had the opportunity to see the Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), Green frog (*Rana clamitans melanota*) and Leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*). There was also evidence of beaver and muskrat activity in the park, as pointed out by an eager six year old naturalist.

Not only did this day mark the first Frog Walk of the year for the Nature Trust, it commemo-

rated International Trails Day. To celebrate the day, Sentier NB Trails donated wonderful prizes that were drawn at the end of the walk.

In preparation for the Frog Walk, Nature Trust staff devoted a day to cleaning trails, picking up garbage and painting the entrance kiosk. During the cleanup workers discovered large quantities of residential garbage at the northwest section of the park. The Nature Trust will organize a family clean-up day in the fall. Consider participating in one of the planned Frog Walks noted in "Upcoming Events" (above).

Contact Ashley by emailing stewardship@ntnb.org or by phoning 457-2398. AA

REFUGE CONTRIBUTORS:

Ken Hirtle, Margo Sheppard, Renata Woodward, Shannon McNutt, Ashley Adamczyk.

Please Join The Nature Trust!

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