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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. 3

October 2009

## CANADIAN LAND TRUSTS IN HALIFAX PUTTING HEADS TOGETHER FOR CONSERVATION

Over one-hundred individuals representing small, medium and large land trusts, every level of government and individuals met September 24-26 at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel for the third Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA) Conference. The event was hosted by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, a province-wide organization in Halifax.

Of the forty-seven land trust members in the CLTA, which collectively represent some 300,000 donors and supporters, 18 were present, including the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, whose executive director Margo Sheppard is also CLTA Chair. In opening remarks, Margo welcomed delegates and praised their work.

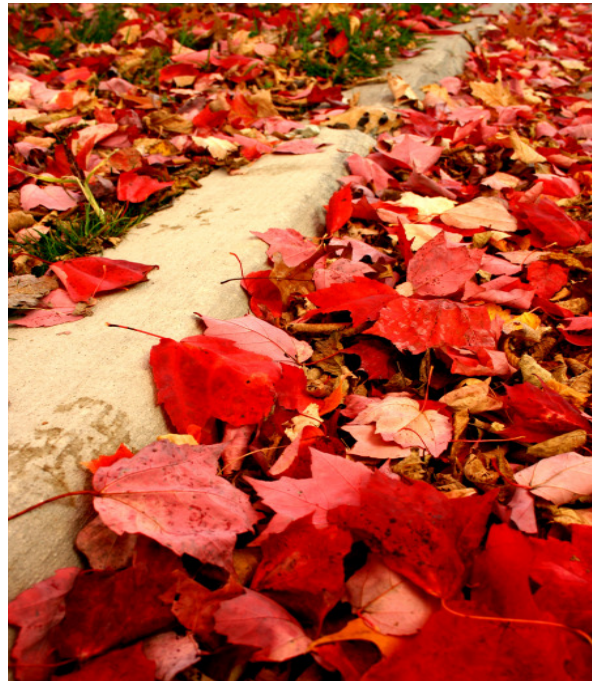
“The CLTA was formed to provide land trusts across Canada the opportunity to grow as a movement, to develop institutional strength as individual organizations and to generally improve the climate for land trusts in Canada. We are doing this by promoting policies and legislation that let us do our jobs well and in accordance with the highest ethical and legal standards” she said. The Nature Trust of New Brunswick is a founding member of the CLTA.

In the same address she announced that \$50,000 from Environment Canada will be available to members for costs associated with conservation land deals. This is up from \$15,000 distributed last year.

Nova Scotia Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources **Bill McDonnell** surprised the plenary assembly when he announced the Province is investing \$75 million in 2009 to purchase private lands, to protect ecological values and traditional uses. Some of this funding may be used to secure portions of 68,000 acres being sold by JD Irving in southwest Nova Scotia. The province’s Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act sets out to make 12% of the province’s land off-limits to development by 2015. Ninety-five percent of Nova Scotia’s coastline is privately-owned, says (continued on p. 3)

## ANNUAL MEETING COMING SOON

**T**he Nature Trust of New Brunswick Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2009 from 1:00-2:00 pm. The meeting is at River Valley Middle School, located at 33 Epworth Park Road in Grand Bay-Westfield (just off the River Valley Rd.) The meeting will be followed by a presentation on the Daniel K. Glenn consultant study prepared for the Blueberry Hill property, 50 acres of waterfront property offered to the Trust by WorkSafe NB. Please plan to attend!



Fallen leaves

Photo: Wendy Monk

### BYLAW CHANGES PROPOSED

**S**everal NTNB Bylaw amendments are being proposed and will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting October 17, 2009. Trustee Steven Christie of McInnis Cooper (Fredericton) has been instrumental in bringing this package together. A copy of the proposals, which reflect changes in technology, general practice and law, is included as a special insert with this edition of *Refuge*.

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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SIBILITE DE LES TRADUIRE, SAUF  
EN DES CAS EXCEPTIONNELS.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been nearly ten years since I joined the board of trustees of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. I knew Honourary Trustee Jessie Davies from the government's Round Table on Environment and Economy on which I also served, and apparently Jessie felt I would make a good trustee. At the time, the Trust had just done its second conservation easement, one that would see the scenic von Ziegesar farm on the St. John River conserved in perpetuity.

After joining, I served as vice-president then as president for the past two years. During this time the Trust initiated capacity building work aided by funding from the EJLB Foundation. We developed a planned giving program to solidify our financial foundation, a revenue diversification program to attract new and different funding and enable staff to focus more on land projects, and we joined the technological age by becoming fully equipped with a geographical information system (GIS).

The changes wrought by the latter have literally transformed the way the Trust does business. With these new skills we have analysed the places we are best-suited to focus on in the province; these are landscapes where there is a need and opportunity for successful land conservation, where the ecological value is high and the need great, and where we have a good chance of partnering with others.

During my presidency the Trust took on a novel project restoring destroyed nest habitat on Manawagonish Island just off Saints Rest Marsh in the Bay of Fundy. Partnering with JD Irving and other donors, the project has enticed

at least some errant Great Blue herons back to their ancestral roosts. We also created a new nature preserve on Grand Manan Island (at Whale Cove Pond—the Meredith Houseworth Memorial Seashore), enlarged the Minister's Face Nature Preserve on Long Island, acquired lands on Navy Island in St. Andrews, and launched the Trust full bore into the *Campaign for Coastal Lands*.

I have recently been working with NTNB staff closely involved in negotiations on two urban wildlands in the City of Saint John which, we hope, will soon become the Trust's newest nature preserves.

I am optimistic about our ability to drive the conservation agenda of the province forward by various means: by putting forth candidate sites for new Crown Protected Natural Areas; by working with industry to identify and help permanently preserve ecological sites on their lands, and by attracting members from formerly under-represented urban areas. We will do this by acquiring a small number of city nature preserves and

demonstrating the importance of green space to not only the quality of residents' lives but to the region as a whole.

Vice-president Donald Dennison has agreed to succeed me as president at the Annual Meeting, to be held in Grand Bay-Westfield on October 17th, and I am confident that under his leadership the Trust will flourish. I have enjoyed my experiences with the Trust and look forward to serving you as past president. Have a spectacular autumn.

*Ken D. Hirtle*



### TRI-LAND TRUST PARTNERSHIP UNDERWAY

The Nature Trust has received funding from the **Habitat Stewardship Program** administered by **Environment Canada** again this year. The grant of \$138,550 will be used for permanent land protection through landowner contact, education and securement. The focus of this work is species whose New Brunswick populations are at risk due to habitat loss. This includes the Peregrine Falcon, Maritime Ringlet butterfly, Furbish's Lousewort and others.

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick together with the **Nova Scotia Nature Trust** and the **Island Nature Trust** (Prince Edward Island) received additional funding of \$233,491 through the same program. The Nature Trust of New Brunswick is proud to be the group responsible for distributing the funds and coordinating project deliverables.

### Nine-Month Position Available

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick seeks qualified candidates for a nine-month internship funded through the YWCA (and Government of Canada.) A university graduate with experience in biology, forestry, environmental management or science is sought for projects ranging from property maintenance, management planning, landowner contact and outreach. A full job description including eligibility requirements is on the NTNB website: [www.naturetrust.nb.ca](http://www.naturetrust.nb.ca).

## LAND TRUST CONFERENCE

(continued from p. 1) **Bonnie Sutherland** of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

Numerous workshops ran concurrently during the two full conference days. New Canada Revenue Agency rules for charitable returns and endowment funds were the subject of one session. Recruiting board members and writing a conservation easement to last for “perpetuity” were other topics.

The Mayor of Wolfville, NS, **Robert Stead**, proudly described the easement his municipality donated to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, restricting future uses on over 600 acres of ecologically important land owned by the Town. This is the first known municipal easement given to a land trust in Canada. In all, there were twenty-four workshops given by experts from as far away as Seattle, WA and Nanaimo, BC.

The networking, exchanges and conversations during the breaks were, by themselves, worth the price of admission. NTNB staff got lots of ideas for their own land conservation projects, and left the conference with renewed energy and enthusiasm. MS

## BUTTERFLY BOOKLET

Through the cooperation of **Brenda Kelly** (Bathurst Sustainable Development) and **Renata Woodward** of the Nature Trust, a booklet aimed at educating owners of Maritime Ringlet butterfly habitat has been produced. The booklet contains scientific information about the butterfly’s requirements, its limited range (only ten small marshes on the Baie des Chaleurs) and sensitivity to disturbance. Copies to be available on the NTNB website and through BSD soon. This is the type of work enabled by grants from the Habitat Stewardship Program and we are thrilled to have this support. MS



## CHARLOTTE ISLES CLEANUP 2009

The fabulous sunny weather provided a perfect setting for the Annual Charlotte Isles Cleanup on August 8, 2009 filled with smiles, teamwork, and the efforts of 25 volunteers from the Maritimes. **Cooke Aquaculture Inc.** provided transportation for volunteers and organizers to Barnes, Mowat and Simpson Islands to scour the beaches for refuse.

Previous island cleanups have cumulatively yielded tonnes of garbage, and this year was no exception. Volunteers gathered 1.11 metric tonnes, which was transported to port. A long day of hard work was completed with a celebratory barbeque at the summer home of **Peter Wilson** and **Susan Lapides** of Greens Point.

Everybody left the barbeque with positive remarks and a feeling

that these special pieces of Charlotte County’s coastline were looking better than ever.

Alan Howes, Nature Trust member commented: “I look forward to all Nature Trust’s events and I certainly enjoyed this day. With the few sunny days this season, it was a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful islands and feel another satisfying and productive day was completed.”

The Nature Trust gratefully acknowledges the aid of many volunteers from all over the Maritimes, the **Nature Conservancy of Canada**, **Maine Island Trail Association**, **Cooke Aquaculture Inc.**, **Fundy Shore Transport Ltd.**, **Save Easy**, and the **Atlantic Superstore** in helping make the event a success. RW



Volunteers head for dry land with garbage removed from three Passamaquoddy Bay islands. NTNB partnered with NCC to deliver the cleanup event this year. Photo: NCC

## A SUMMER OF ACTIVITY AND DISCOVERY

After a rainy start, the summer of 2009 yielded to fair weather and lots of activity. Careful field work leading to the development of management plans enables the Nature Trust to maintain its preserves according to donors’ intentions and respecting the ecological integrity of the sites. During the summer of 2009, the following was accomplished through the combined efforts of staff, volunteers and consultants:

- ▶ Baseline report for an easement on Navy Island;
- ▶ Management plan for Meredith

Houseworth Memorial Seashore (Grand Manan);

▶ Botanical survey by B & B Botanical (Gart Bishop and Bruce Bagnell) on various lands in Charlotte and Kings Counties;

▶ Botanical survey of the George Stirrett Preserve (Perth Andover) with Maureen Toner (DNR), members of the Maliseet First Nation and Rick Fourier (Université de Moncton);

▶ Lichen survey of the Caughey Taylor Preserve by Stephen Clayden of the NB Museum;

(continued on p. 4)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

#### Nature Trust of NB Annual Meeting

**When:** Saturday, October 17, 1pm  
**Where:** River Valley Middle School, Grand Bay Westfield (33 Epworth Park Rd., where it intersects River Valley Road)  
**Details:** ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca or 457-2398

#### Blueberry Hill Public Meeting

**When:** Immediately following the AGM, October 17, 2:00 pm  
**Where:** see above  
**Details:** naturetrust@ntnb.org or 457-2398 (Renata)

### NOVEMBER

#### Trails Day at Sam Orrs Pond

**When:** November 7, 10am - 1pm  
**Where:** Caughey-Taylor Nature Preserve, Bocabec  
**Details:** Clear overgrown trails and view lands to be conserved as part of the *Campaign for Coastal Lands*. Meet at trailhead on Hwy 127 at 10 am. Bring your own lunch and water bottle. No ants!

#### Protect Your Land Forever

**When:** November 17, 7-9pm  
**Where:** Climate Change Action Ctre. 237 Main St., Bathurst, NB

**Details:** Conservation Programs Director Renata Woodward will speak on conservation options for New Brunswick landowners. naturetrust@ntnb.org

### DECEMBER

#### Species at Risk Workshop

**When:** December 3-5  
**Where:** Wolfville, NS  
**Details:** This is a workshop for those working at, or interested in, protecting the habitats of species at risk. NTNBN will present on its work. Contact Nicolle at (902)624-9888. Presented by the Bluenose Coastal Action Program.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Nature Trust welcomes the following individuals who have become members of the Trust since April, 2009:  
 Leah Bartlett, Ottawa, ON  
 Caroline Bélair, Montreal, QC  
 Ann Chudleigh, Grand Manan  
 K. Coombs and A. Hanke, Chamcook  
 Joseph and Martha Harrison, St. Andrews  
 Mrs. Miriam Lewis, Toronto ON  
 Harris and Lois Lord, St. Andrews  
 Sandy Morgan & Glen Carter, St. Andrews  
 Brigitte Noel, Cambridge Narrows  
 Jane and John Pacinga, Rothesay  
 Christopher Queen, St. Andrews  
 Richard Saunders, St. Andrews  
 Ted Tedford, St. Andrews  
 Lisa Wanklyn, St. Andrews  
 Laura and Brad Zitske, Portland ME  
**Let us know if you want Refuge via email!**

### ACTIVITY AND DISCOVERY *(continued from p.3)*

- ▶ Work days (including sign erection and trails maintenance/construction) on the Minister's Face, Clark Gregory, Western Isles, Caughey Taylor, Meredith Houseworth and Hyla Park Nature Preserves;
  - ▶ Completion of an Open Space and Trails Study on Blueberry Hill, and
  - ▶ Completion of a trail building manual for Trust properties and a database of preserve infrastructure (signs, trails, structures etc.)
- Staff also conducted field inspections of properties in the following locations: Little Southwest Miramichi; Tabusintac; St. Andrews; Fredericton Junction; South Branch, and West Saint John. Staff attended the following functions/gatherings:
- ▶ 2C1F (Two Countries One

Forest) workshop in Edmundston;  
 ▶ NatureNB Annual Meeting, Moncton;

▶ Environment Canada Bird Conservation Planning Meeting  
 ▶ NB Environment Network Annual General Assembly, Fredericton;

▶ Risk and Trails Workshop, Moncton;  
 ▶ Canadian Land Trust Conference, Halifax, NS;  
 ▶ NB Union of Municipalities Conference, Fredericton;  
 ▶ Woody Wheaton Land Trust Annual Meeting, Forest City, ME.

The Nature Trust gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the **NB Environmental Trust Fund** (*Your Environmental Trust Fund at Work*) and **Environment Canada** for enabling this high level of activity. MS

### REFUGE CONTRIBUTORS:

Ken Hirtle, Linda Hirtle, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Margo Sheppard, 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	Benefactor / Bienfaiteur - \$500
Sponsoring / Parrain - \$150	Donor / Don - \$250	
Corporate / Entreprise - \$1,000+	Life / Membre à vie - \$5,000	

Name / Nom: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone / Téléphone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Cheque or money order enclosed?      Visa# \_\_\_\_\_      Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

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