



REFUGE

THE NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK INC.

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

www.naturetrust.nb.ca

Newsletter/Bulletin

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September 2008

COASTAL LANDS CAMPAIGN GAINS MOMENTUM

MEMBERS SHOW SUPPORT FOR 11-PARCEL LAND ASSEMBLY

In the past few months we have made substantial progress in our campaign to protect two wonderful New Brunswick coastal areas (see box) thanks largely to the support of our members, board, and conservation partners.

It is with great pride and thanks we report that 66 NTNB members and board have donated over \$21,000 to the Campaign for Coastal Lands--in the space of two months! This has enabled us to pay for essential campaign expenses including land purchase.

At close to \$1 million, this campaign is truly testing the Trust's abilities and capacity to pursue the protection of key natural areas that are so important to our province. You, our supporters, rose to the fundraising challenge made to you in June, and we thank you most sincerely.

Campaign update:

This summer, two students hired under the Young Canada Works program, **Lawren Sullivan** and **Sam Almeda**, manned a display table at the farmers' market, conducted interviews and despite the rain, did field work at the campaign sites. A trip to Navy Island for interested members of the public and trustees took

place in early June; twenty-one people hiked the forest and beach on a glorious, sunny afternoon.

In August, an elegant fundraising dinner at the Rossmount Inn raised \$2,000, showed everyone a good time and brought rave reviews to the hosts and organizers. Later in the month forty volunteers carried debris off the beaches of Navy Island. Joining our own volunteers was the **Maine Island Trail Association** along with a few of its staff, two boats, volunteers and energy galore. Shards of

house at Berry Point to ten would-be paddlers. NTNB member **Dr. Leigh Smith** gave a fascinating geology talk, pointing out that the area's 'mountains' are the remnants of a volcano and that Sam Orr's Pond is the result of the erosion of the centre of a lava dome. And who knew that the south end of Navy Island was a drumlin? We thank Dr. Smith for his thought-provoking remarks.

As a season finale, Honourary Chairs **Senator Michael and Mrs. Kelly Meighen** hosted a boat tour around Navy

The Campaign for Coastal Lands aims to conserve major portions of Navy Island and to complete the protection of Sam Orr's Pond and its watershed. It will secure significant acreages and access to undeveloped coastal lands in the Passamaquoddy region, very little of which is currently in the public domain.

Our Goals:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Acres conserved: | 275 |
| Shoreline conserved: | 3km |
| Dollars raised: | \$950,000 |
| Campaign Deadline: | Dec. 31, '09 |

Credit: M. Sheppard



Campaign for Coastal Lands Honourary Chairs Michael and Kelly Meighen aboard the Jolly Breeze, August 2008.

Island for prospective donors, generating much interest and goodwill towards the project. It is clear the Meighen family's endorsement and active participation will be critical to the success of this campaign.

Last but not least, we retired our mortgage on 24 acres on Navy Island by means of a large no-interest loan from the **Norcross Wildlife Foundation** of Massachusetts.

Recently some very encouraging news has come from the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). (cont'd p. 3)



Volunteer Andrea Davidson on Navy Island.

pearlware china, a remnant of European settlement, and a primitive flint tool were found side-by-side on the beach, along with tons of rope, styrofoam and other items. **The Town of St. Andrews** and **Cooke Aquaculture Ltd.** were vital to the effort's success.

A kayak trip into Sam Orr's Pond, intended to show people the proposed conservation lands was cancelled due to heavy rain. Fortunately **Ken and Linda Hirtle** salvaged the day by opening their

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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*WE PUBLISH ITEMS IN EITHER
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SIBILITE DE LES TRADUIRE, SAUF
EN DES CAS EXCEPTIONNELS.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a fun and interesting summer, filled with activity. The rain abated long enough for a few hikes, tree plantings, a beach cleanup, fundraising dinner and boat tour, many organized to support the Trust's *Campaign for Coastal Lands*.

On the land acquisition front, we discharged a mortgage on 24 acres of land on Navy Island in St. Andrews, the first in what we hope will be several conservation gains there. Otherwise stewardship figured large in our calendars, with volunteers and staff building trails on Deer Island and monitoring orchids at Shea Lake. There were also frog walks and birdwatching outings at Hyla Park and Grand Manan early on;

all the rain made for bountiful sightings of Grey treefrogs at Hyla Park. Some birdwatching enthusiasts were excited by glimpses of Warbling Vireos, Bobolinks and Baltimore Orioles.

As the fall advances, we hope to have some exciting announcements to make about new natural areas being acquired by the Trust. In the meantime, I invite you to attend the gala **New Brunswick Tastes**, a celebration of the best of New Brunswick-made food and drink, being held on October 4th, at the Delta Hotel in Fredericton. \$5 from every ticket sold benefits the Trust and its work. So for now, thanks for your support and I encourage your involvement in all the upcoming events.

Ken D. Hirtle

SHEA LAKE WALK

A group of ten Nature Trust members and naturalists ventured into the Shea Lake Nature Preserve near Plaster Rock this June, partaking in a wet but rewarding hike. **Jim Goltz**, botanist and preserve steward, led the group through the preserve's forest and bogs, identifying orchids and other plants along the way. Small Round-leaved Orchids, Showy Lady's-slippers and Lapland Buttercups were some of the walk's highlights.

The Shea Lake Preserve was established in 1988 as the Nature Trust's first preserve. Fraser Inc. identified this botanical gem on its land and decided to lease the property to the Trust. The lease, which prohibits logging, was last renewed after Fraser lands were sold to Acadian Timber Income Fund in 2006. CB



Credit: C. Belair

Dr. Jim Goltz and hikers at the Shea Lake Nature Preserve, June 2008. No other Trust property has the species richness and diversity of this flagship preserve.

NEW TRAILS AT THE CLARK GREGORY NATURE PRESERVE

Those familiar with Deer Island will know that there are few public places available for hiking. This summer, Nature Trust staff and volunteers built close to 2 kms of trails at the Clark Gregory Nature Preserve at Chocolate Cove.

The preserve is located on the southeastern side of the Island and includes trailheads on both sides of the Cove (see map).

The northern promontory now features several trails offering glimpses of the Bay of Fundy through the trees; in fact harbour porpoises were observed during trail clearing. Highlights of the southern property include views of Chocolate Cove's scenic but tumbledown fishing wharf.

For those visiting Deer Island, keep in mind this natural retreat; it is an ideal place to spend a morning or afternoon. Maps and a new brochure are available on our website at: <http://www.nature-trust.nb.ca/en/preserve-chocolate-cove>. CB



\$123,000 RECEIVED FOR SPECIES-AT-RISK

PROJECT HELPS PEREGRINE FALCON, MARITIME RINGLET AND FURBISH'S LOUSEWORT

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick has received one of its largest grants in its 21 years from Environment Canada's **Habitat Stewardship Program** for species-at-risk. The money received will directly benefit three endangered and threatened species in New Brunswick: the Maritime Ringlet butterfly, Furbish's Lousewort, and Peregrine Falcon.

The Maritime Ringlet and Furbish's Lousewort (a snapdragon relative) are both endemic to this area with very restricted ranges. Peregrine Falcons (*anatum subspecies*) are found throughout Canada; after a near brush with extinction largely from the use of pesticides, they

are still listed as 'threatened.' Peregrines have specific nesting requirements with only eleven nests found in the Province of New Brunswick.

The Nature Trust has received funding to preserve species-at-risk habitat in the past. Still, this is a tremendous grant that will have far-reaching effects. Most of the funding will go directly to the permanent protection of Peregrine Falcon and Maritime Ringlet habitat through easement or acquisition. The money will also be used to help assess new locations suitable for introducing cultivated Furbish's Lousewort, which is currently only found at a few sites along the upper St. John River. LM



Credit: A. Bond

Peregrine Falcon.



Credit: D. Vail

Furbish's Lousewort.

NATURE TRUST CULTIVATES GIS CAPACITY

Over the last year, the Nature Trust has acquired in-house use of a powerful technology: GIS. What is GIS exactly? GIS (geographic information systems) is a computer tool used to make maps and to store and analyze spatially-referenced data.

In May 2008, the **ESRI Canada Conservation Program** donated a license of ArcGIS, the most commonly used GIS program, to the Nature Trust. This has allowed the Trust to produce tailored maps, some of which you've seen in recent editions of *Refuge* (see Clark Gregory article). In addition to its cartographic usage, GIS can be used in conservation planning. Various organizations across the province have identified priority sites for conservation.

The results of those initiatives are GIS-based and the Nature Trust is now able to integrate these in its decision-making.

Currently, the Trust is conducting a study on its potential involvement in industrial freehold (land) divestitures. Using GIS, the parcels belonging to forestry groups have been mapped and key sites of interest identified. A report is being written on this study by GIS Fellow, **Caroline Belair**.

If you'd like to learn more about GIS, the Nature Trust will be hosting a GIS open house and reception at our offices, 404 Queen St. Fredericton, on December 5th, from 3-5pm. This work has been made possible with grants from the **EJLB Foundation** and the **NB Environmental Trust Fund**. CB

CAMPAIGN FOR COASTAL LANDS

(CONT'D FROM P.1)

NCC has committed to supporting the *Campaign for Coastal Lands* financially. Although the details are still being worked out, we are hoping that gifts of funds and interests in land will prompt matching contributions from NCC and its partners. This is welcome news indeed and will hopefully attract additional donations, both large institutional and smaller individual ones, to push us over the top by campaign close.

If you have yet to make a gift, or would like to make another, your opportunity is not lost. The campaign lasts until December 2009. But don't wait too long; we need your donation to take advantage of matching gifts as soon as possible. MS

400 TREES PLANTED TO RESTORE HERON HABITAT

Last February's *Refuge* described an experimental project whereby volunteers installed custom-made nest platforms on the **Manawagonish Island Nature Preserve** to provide nesting surfaces for Great Blue Herons. The effort has been declared a success; as many as three Heron pairs used the platforms in the first year.

In August volunteers planted over 400 trees donated by **J.D. Irving Ltd.** on the Island. It is hoped that in time, these trees will provide the next generation of herons with a place to rear their young. **Evergreen Foundation**, the **Astle Family** and the **Shell Environmental Fund** funded this work. LM



Credit: M. Sheppard

Seedlings and potted trees being prepared for transport onto Manawagonish Island, August 2008. L to R: Alan Howse, Dave Smith, Geoff Britt (in blue shirt).

LAND FOR SALE:

A 80'x120' lot is for sale in Inverness, Florida. Proceeds will go to the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. Please contact the Trust if interested at 506-457-2398 or email naturetrust@ntnb.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Trail Workday at Chickahominy Mtn
When: Sept. 20th, 10am-4pm
Where: Caughey-Taylor Preserve.
 Route 127 (north side)
 Bocabec
Details: Caroline, 457-2398 or
 staff@ntnb.org

OCTOBER

New Brunswick Tastes
When: Oct. 4th, 7-10 pm
Where: Delta Hotel, Fredericton
Details: info@ntnb.org

Nature Trust of NB Annual Meeting
When: October 18th, 1:30 pm
Where: Grand Bay-Westfield
Details: see enclosed flyer

DECEMBER

NTNB GIS Open House & Reception
When: December 5th, 3-5 pm
Where: NTN Office
 404 Queen St. Fredericton
Details: Caroline, staff@ntnb.org, 457-2398

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Nature Trust welcomes the following new members who have recently joined: Ms. Michelle McAloon, Moncton M.A. Stevens, Inc., Fredericton Mr. John & Ms. Tessa Castell, St. Andrews Mr. Jeffery Callaghan, Fredericton

JOB POSTING

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick seeks a part-time (1 day/wk) administrative assistant for the end of November. If you are computer-savvy, organized, reliable and enjoy learning and taking on new tasks, please send a cover letter and resumé by email (ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca) or mail to P.O. Box 603 Stn. A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5A6.

REFUGE CONTRIBUTORS:

Ken Hirtle, Laura Minich, Margo Sheppard, Amie Palmer, Caroline Bélair

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS

Thanks to **Alan Howes, Journey Barteau, Susan Lambert, Reg Harrington, Michele Grant, Janet Hunt,** and **Brad Zitske** for their work clearing trails at the Clark Gregory preserve and to **M&T Deli** and **Derek Gallant** for providing sandwiches. Thank you to **Dave Smith, Alan & Ann Howes, Joey Pratt, Mark Pokorski, Alison Hughes, David Drolet, Brad Zitske,** the **New Brunswick Museum, J.D. Irving** and **Kelly Honeyman** for their help with tree planting on Manawagonish Island. Thanks to all Navy Island **clean-up volunteers**, especially **MITA, Cooke Aquaculture** and to **Victory Meat Market, Aura Whole Foods** and **Save Easy St. Andrews** for donating food. Thank you to **Jim Goltz** for leading the orchid walk this June and to **Hayward Aiton** for assistance on many fronts. Thank you to **Dr. Leigh Smith** for sharing his knowledge with us. Thanks to **Computers for Schools** for the contribution of 3 computers.

For the *Coastal Lands Campaign*, we would like to thank, in no particular order: the **Town of St. Andrews, BB Chamberlain, Roger McNabb** and **Tim**

Henderson, Wolfhead Smokers Ltd., Simone & Markus Ritter of **Europa Inn & Restaurant** and **Spice Box Comestibles** for their wonderful hors d'oeuvres, **Joanne Carney** and staff of the **Jolly Breeze**, Co-Chairs **Jessie Davies & Ken Hirtle, Jay Remer, Chris & Ross Lister, Chris & Graziella Aerni, David Sullivan, St. Andrews Civic Trust, Willi Wolfe, Marilyn & Dwight Brady, Eva Gavaris, Gary Guisinger, Maria Recchia** and **Save Passamaquoddy Bay** for office space; the **Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation** and **Vincent Prager** for their generous gift to the campaign and **Bob Dallison** for a talk on St. Andrews and the Fenians. Thanks to **Don Vail** for continuing technical support and photos. And finally thanks to **Betsy Duncan**, for her unending enthusiasm and generosity.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS:



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
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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.