



# ANNUAL REPORT

THE NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK INC.

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

www.naturetrust.nb.ca

Annual Report

November 2006

## REPORT ON THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING, FREDERICTON

President Bob Dallison welcomed guests to the 19th Annual Meeting of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick on Saturday, September 30, in the President's Tartan Room at the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton) campus. There were twenty-nine people including trustees, members, guests and staff in attendance.

Once the formalities of minutes and business arising were addressed, Bob highlighted the Nature Trust's land conservation milestones of the previous year with a slide presentation. These included:

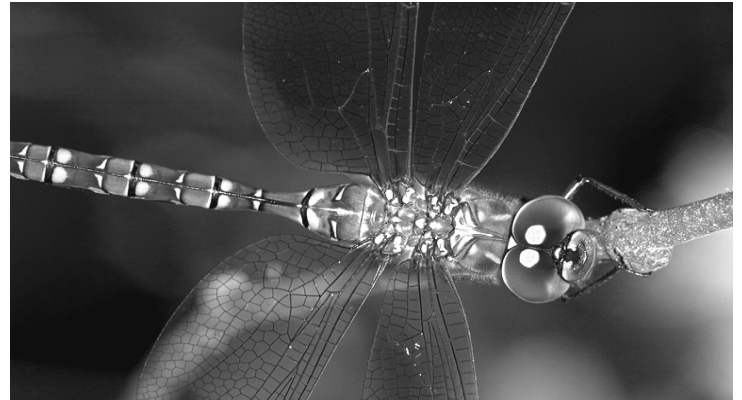
- Completion of the 12 ha (30 acre) Pagan Point, St. Andrews, Welstead/Meighen land donation in September 2005;
- Completion of the 44 ha (109 acre) Hebb property donation and purchase at Long Island (Kennebecasis River) also in September, 2005;
- Purchase of the 4 ha (10 acre) Charles Wilson property on Long Island, and
- Continuing work on conservation easements on the St. Croix River, Grand Manan Island and proposed land donations in the Kingston Peninsula and Grand Falls.

Images were shown of the many dedicated volunteers whose energy was spent creating, maintaining and signing Nature Trust lands over the year. Work parties convened at Hyla Park, Pagan Point (which also had its official opening in



Ann and Robert Hebb (r) accept a plaque from President Bob Dallison commemorating their gift of land to the Long Island Project.

Photos: Don Vail



Canada darner dragonfly

Photo: Don Vail

August) and the Letang Islands Nature Preserve, where thirty volunteers cleaned up garbage from beaches.

Interpretive walks included an archaeology walk at Sam Orr's Pond (Caughey-Taylor Nature Preserve) and six well-subscribed "Frog Walks" at Hyla Park in Fredericton. Outings by kayak to coastal nature preserves proved popular this year, as did a GPS (Global Positioning System) and Geocaching



This gray treefrog did not attend the AGM (too dry).

workshop put on by volunteers and the Trust. Bob thanked the property stewards for their vigilant stewardship of the preserves and for submitting their yearly reports to the office.

Bob touched on stewardship responsibilities of the Trust including the peregrine falcon landowner outreach project, funded by the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. This project aims to secure this threatened species' habitat (there are only ten existing peregrine nest sites) throughout New Brunswick and around the Bay of Fundy, and has already had success in the form of one

land acquisition.

As our land holdings grow, so does the need for ensuring the Trust has the resources and ability to care for these lands in the long term. Bob noted a new initiative to build our capacity and become a stronger land trust through a series of strategic actions: staffing augmentation, revenue stream development, conservation planning and stewardship. Proposals are being

**Nature Trust Board  
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2006-2007**

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*WE PUBLISH ITEMS  
IN EITHER FRENCH  
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CANNOT TRANSLATE,  
EXCEPT IN EXCEPTIONAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES.*

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*NOUS PUBLIONS DES  
ARTICLES EN FRANÇAIS  
OU EN ANGLAIS, MAIS  
NOUS N'AVONS PAS LA  
POSSIBILITÉ DE LES  
TRADUIRE, SAUF EN DES  
CAS EXCEPTIONNELS.*

developed for submission to foundations to assist with these areas over a period of three years. This was noted as being important as we celebrate our twentieth anniversary next year!



The Pagan Point Nature Preserve Opening, August 2006. L to R, Jessie Davies, Bob Dallison, Senator Michael Meighen (donor), Max Meighen, Mayor John Craig, Margo Sheppard, Hugh Akagi, Rev. John Matheson Jr. and John Mattheson Sr. (St. Andrews Parish, Anglican Church). Photo: B. Rayner

Other items featured included the Czech land trust study tour attended by Executive Director Margo Sheppard, the installation of a Thom Washburn memorial plaque, and official incorporation of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance, of which our trust is a founding member. Bob also mentioned that the board had approved a policy on the acceptance of gifts of land, a new board position entitled 'Trustee Emeritus' and a Coastal Lands Committee. Our project sponsors, including the Habitat Stewardship Program of Environment Canada, the Environmental Trust Fund, the Fredericton Community Foundation, the TD Friends of the Environment, the Lothar von Ziegesar Foundation, the Shell Environmental Fund, the Sir James Dunn and EJLB Foundations, were all thanked for their support.

A conundrum, whereby would-be presidential candidates are presently unable to stay on the board due to a two-term maximum limit, was described. The proposed solution: an amendment to the Trust by-laws enabling longer terms for presidential candidates, to be put to the NTNB membership at a special meeting this fall.

Following this, the president presented plaques of appreciation to Mrs. Ann and Mr. Robert Hebb for their generous land donation of the Rayworth Beach property, Long Island. Executive Director Margo Sheppard presented a plaque to Mrs.

Marie Hargrove, president of the Chipman Garden Club. The club has consistently directed memorial gifts to the Trust over the past ten years, for which we are very grateful.

Treasurer Lynn MacKinnon presented unaudited financial statements noting a year-end deficit of \$27,111. To maximize efficiency and enable a higher rate of return the Trust transferred \$100,000 of its Endowment Fund to the Fredericton Community Foundation for management, following year-end. The financial statements, were approved and the firm of Shannon & Buffet reappointed for next year. Lynn, our outstanding Treasurer, completes her second and final term this year, and Bob expressed our thanks for her commitment and diligence.

Past-president Julian Walker presented the report of the Nominating Committee. He listed the slate of officers for the board of the Trust for 2006/07, highlighting newcomers Elizabeth Hayward, Don Dennison, and John St. Pierre (who has agreed to serve as treasurer). With this succession Julian bid thanks and farewell

to members Gerry Hill, Beth McMahon, Alison Hughes and Chris Antle. Trustee Brad Walters is back following a year's sabbatical.

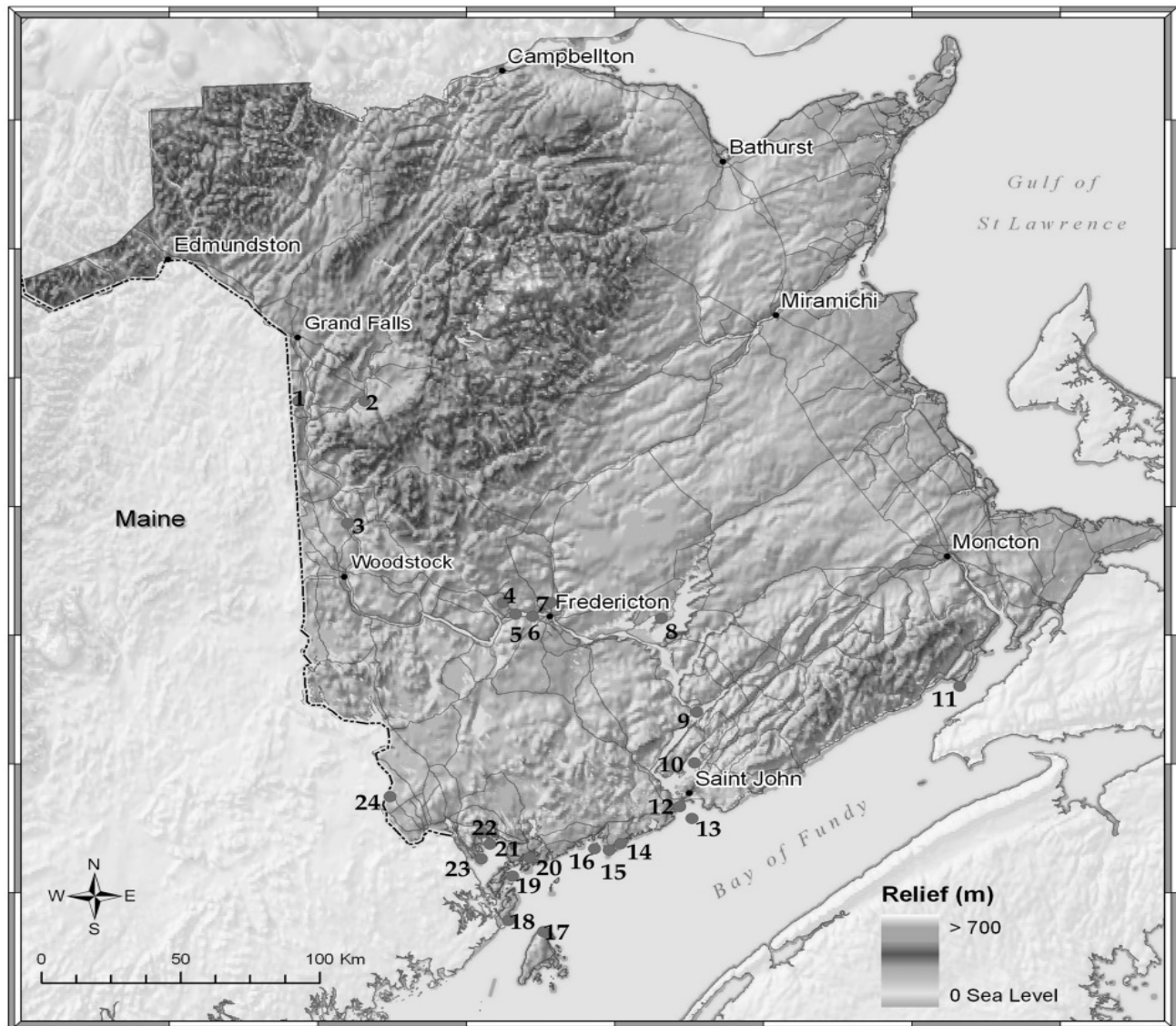
The group then enjoyed presentations from Don Vail (Meadowhawks and Jewelwings) which featured images of dragonflies and damselflies gathered over a period of two years. Don takes slide presentations such as this to schools around the province. Trustee Debby Peck gave an illustrated talk on her trip to the Galapagos Islands. Strict measures are in place to protect the myriad species of indigenous wildlife from the hundreds of thousands of visitors arriving each year. This cluster of fragile islands is in the Pacific Ocean west of Quito, Ecuador.



Participants on the Letang Islands Kayak Trip, August 2006. Photo: M. Sheppard

**NATURE PRESERVES of the NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

**RÉSERVES NATURELLES de la FONDATION POUR LA PROTECTION  
DES SITES NATURELS DU NOUVEAU BRUNSWICK**



- 1 George M. Stirrett
- 2 Shea Lake/ Lac Shea
- 3 Arthur Kyle (Becaguimec Island/  
Île Becaguimec)
- 4 James C. Yerxa
- 5 Sugar Island/ Île Sucre
- 6 Burpee Bar
- 7 Hyla Park/ Parc Hyla
- 8 Pickerel Pond/ Étang Pickerel
- 9 Von Ziegesar (Conservation Easement;  
Servitude de conservation)
- 10 Minister's Face (Long Island/Île Longue)
- 11 Cape Enrage Marsh/ Marais du cap Enragé
- 12 Saints Rest Marsh/ Marais Saints Rest
- 13 Manawagonish Island/ Île Manawagonish
- 14 Belding's Reef/ Récif de Belding

- 15 Thompson Marsh/ Marais Thompson
- 16 New River Island/ Île New River
- 17 Thomas B. Munro Memorial Shoreline/  
Zone littorale à la mémoire de  
Thomas B. Munro
- 18 Clark Gregory Preserve at Chocolate Cove/  
Réserve Clark Gregory à Chocolate Cove
- 19 Robert K. Stewart
- 20 L'Etang Islands/ Îles de L'Étang
- 21 Dick's Island/ Île Dick
- 22 Caughey-Taylor (Sam Orr's Pond/  
Étang Sam Orr)
- 23 Pagan Point
- 24 Clark's Point

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Nature Trust of New Brunswick Inc. Balance Sheet - April 30, 2006 (Unaudited)

## Nature Trust of New Brunswick Inc. Statement of Revenue and Expenses For the Year Ended April 30, 2006 (Unaudited)

<b>Assets:</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Revenue:</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Cash	\$ 51,859	\$ 34,170	Donations and grants	\$ 217,230	\$ 210,608
Term Deposits and investments	66,998	106,087	Donations in kind (land)	635,000	314,200
Term deposit - stewardship	17,092	16,706	Workshops and misc.	3,287	5,125
Accounts receivable	8,118	12,188	Investment income	4,094	3,076
Prepaid expenses	1,125	1,750	Sales of promotional items	94	823
	-----	-----		-----	-----
	145,192	170,901		\$ 859,705	\$ 533,832
	-----	-----			
Restricted Term deposits	73,383	73,383	<b>Expenses:</b>		
	-----	-----	Amortization	1,017	1,041
Capital Assets	4,375	4,776	Board meetings	577	821
	-----	-----	Conferences, workshops and travel	9,440	7,832
	\$222,950	\$249,060	Contract labour	3,084	23,735
	=====	=====	Donations	150	-
			Excursions	868	-
<b>Liabilities:</b>			Insurance	1,670	1,573
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,713	\$ 2,712	Interest and bank charges	1,199	632
	-----	-----	Office and computer expenses	13,578	7,422
			Postage	2,323	1,966
<b>Net Assets:</b>			Printing	6,875	8,505
Invested in capital assets	4,375	4,776	Professional fees	12,923	13,861
Endowment fund			Projects, sites and preserves	742,509	345,894
Externally restricted	73,383	73,383	Property taxes	46	6,618
Internally restricted, op.res.	-	14,325	Rent	8,260	6,285
Internally restricted, other	72,274	92,000	Telephone and utilities	2,226	2,994
Unrestricted	69,205	61,864	Wages and benefits	80,071	97,611
	-----	-----		-----	-----
	219,237	246,348	Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year	\$(27,111)	\$ 7,042
	-----	-----		=====	=====
	\$ 222,950	\$249,060			
	=====	=====			

Shannon and Buffett, LLP  
Chartered Accountants

# STEWARDS' REPORTS

Each nature preserve owned, leased or under easement to the Nature Trust has one or more volunteers looking after it. The following is a compilation of individual steward's monitoring reports.

**Jamie Kelly** wishes to step down as steward of the **Arthur Kyle Nature Preserve** in Hartland. Thanks Jamie for all your work with this preserve. Anyone interested in filling this position please contact us!

Eagles, as well as rabbits, seals, and other wildlife, are frequently sighted at the **Beldings Reef Nature Preserve**, as reported by steward **David Norman**. Visitors walk the paths on occasion.

**Cape Enrage Marsh Nature Preserve** has received thousands of visitors over the year. **David Christie** and **Mary Majka** report that most of these visitors walk on the stony beach as opposed to the marsh or wooded area, leaving minimal impact. Litter is hardly a problem, and the **Cape Enrage Adventures** people help to clean up the area.

Although visitors such as school groups and guided walks are steady at the **Caughey-Taylor Nature Preserve** (Bocabec), there are no apparent threats or signs of over-use, as reported by steward and former Conservation Outreach Coordinator, **Jamie Simpson**. Jamie and other volunteers have done a lot of trail work in the past year to improve the condition of the path around the preserve. Jamie also reports that the beaver pond on the north end of the preserve reached the highest that he has ever observed.

**The Clark Gregory Preserve at Chocolate Cove** (Deer Island) has seen a number of large spruce trees fall (likely naturally). Evidence of a potential insect pest has been spotted on one spruce on the property, as reported by stewards **Eileen Heaney** and **Jay Hullett**, while steward **Journey Barteau** reports insect damage on most birch and serviceberries.

ATV traffic into the **Clark's Point Nature Preserve** (St. Croix R. north of St. Stephen) is lower this year, potentially due to higher-than-usual water levels, as reported by steward **Morton Linton**. Cutover areas are regenerating well and vegetation is growing in thickly.

This is the first year that no Eider ducks have been spotted by **Alison Hughes** (steward and Trustee) on or near **Dick's Island**, which may be due to predation or the active aquaculture site operating very close to the island. The Black-backed and Herring gulls, Cormorants, and Guillemots also appear to be in smaller numbers this year.

Steward **Pat O'Brien** reports that the Furbish's lousewort count at the **George M. Stirrett Preserve** (Perth Andover) has increased slightly from 32 last year to 40, although 56 and 89 were counted in 2004 and 2003 respectively signifying a decline in recent years. A snowmobile dumped along the roadside has been removed by the Department of the Environment, and Pat and friends erected "No Dumping" signs at several spots this summer.

**Hyla Park** has seen a steady stream of visitors from children's groups to guided walks for the public led by NTNB's **Caroline Lee** and steward **Don Vail**. Thirty tonnes of chippings were placed on the trail last fall and spring, and native trees and shrubs were planted. New signs were erected this summer (during installation a hidden Gray treefrog jumped from the kiosk onto Don Vail's chest!). There have been more Green frogs this year, while dumping and campfires continue on the back property adjacent to the preserve.



Caroline Lee (hip waders) leads a frog walk in Hyla Park. Photo: D. Vail

**The L'Etang Islands Nature Preserve** was the site of the annual beach cleanup in August, where the crew including steward **Ralph Eldridge** picked up half a tonne of waste. Rockweed harvesting in the intertidal zone and illegal lobster fishing have been taking place, posing threats themselves to the ecosystem and also giving way to the potential for other types of harvesting to take place. (Sidenote: Ralph's photographs of the Letang Islands cleanup may be viewed at [www.pbase.com/lightrae](http://www.pbase.com/lightrae))

We welcome **Andrea Garland** as steward of **Minister's Face** and other Trust properties on **Long Island**. Numerous campers and day-trippers visit the island, particularly the south beach, and there has been a problem with littering. A group of Outward Bound campers from **Rothsay Netherwood School** (RNS) helped to clean up the site in August. A partnership is developing with RNS that could see the students and teachers more involved in stewardship projects on the Island.

**Manawagonish Island Nature Preserve** near Saint John does not currently have a steward but was visited this fall by a group including Nature Trust staff person **Laura Minich**, former steward **Don McAlpine**, and **Saints Rest Marsh** steward **Stephen Clayden**. The Island does not appear to host many visitors, although the seabirds breeding on the Island (Gulls, Cormorants, Eiders, Herons) continue to stress the vegetation, producing a landscape of standing dead trees. A spring visit to monitor the birds had to be cancelled due to transportation difficulties. Anyone wishing to act as steward of this preserve, or ferry Trust personnel to and from the Island occasionally from Saints Rest Beach, is asked to contact us.

We thank **Jim Garey** for his work as preserve steward and

welcome our new stewards of **New River Island**, **Susan** and **Winston Mott** of Saint John. We look forward to working with Winston and Sue and hearing their monitoring news in next year's Annual Report.

The newly-opened **Pagan Point Nature Preserve** in St. Andrews, houses 30 acres of salt marsh, representative coastal habitat and wildlife. Stewards **Jessie** (Honourary Trustee) and **Huw Davies**, report that the preserve is visited frequently, all year-round by both local residents and tourists. Illegal campfires and shelter buildings have been troublesome for the property and have kept the stewards busy. It is hoped that working with the RCMP and improved signage will alleviate the problem. Considerable trail work, as well as a management plan and survey, were done by QLF intern **Michele Abbene**.



Charlotte Isles cleanup 2006

Photo: R. Eldridge

Steward **Parker Gray** of the **Pickrel Pond Nature Preserve** saw overnight campers for the first time at the preserve this year. There have been fewer ATV tracks this year, perhaps due to higher water levels. One lot adjacent to the preserve has eight trailers on it, and other lots adjacent are now up for sale. The greatest problem remains the road traffic on a Nature Trust road on the preserve, to get to the water.

Eagles were spotted on the south-east side of **Barnes Island (Robert K. Stewart Preserve)**, where a nest is present, as reported by stewards **Jim** and **Heidi Richardson**. There is fish and lobster harvesting taking place off-shore, but overall the area remains relatively clean. Old aquaculture cages have been left on Mowat Island; the new owner of these cages will be contacted to, yet again, request their removal as the Department of Environment is unable to.

There have been no signs of visitors at **Saints Rest Marsh**, as reported by steward **Stephen Clayden**. A number of studies have been conducted at the preserve, under Dr. Gail Chmura and her students from the McGill Department of Geography. A new interpretive sign designed by the Nature Trust was erected at the marsh this spring in cooperation with J.D. Irving staff person **Kelly Honeyman**.

ANNUAL REPORT

A monitoring report for the **Shea Lake Nature Preserve** was not submitted this year, as steward **Jim Goltz** did not make it up to the 150 ha site. Following an extended period of negotiation, a new five-year lease has been signed with the new owners of the preserve, the **Acadian Timber Income Fund**. This entity succeeds Fraser Papers, whose land and mill holdings were split up in the fall of 2005.

Steward **Peter Cronk** reports that eagles and falcons patrol the shoreline at the **Thomas B. Munro Memorial Shoreline (Grand Manan)**, which hosts regular summer hikers via the Grand Manan trails system. Winter storms, frost, rain, and other elements have produced some blow-downs and some changes in the rock slides.

**David Thompson** has stepped down as steward of **Thompson Marsh Nature Preserve**, near Chance Harbour. Thank you, David for your work. Anyone interested in filling this role, please contact us.

Steward **George Peabody** reports that the **Town of Woodstock Appalachian Hardwood Forest site** (under agreement to the Trust) has had little disturbance since his last visit. The Maidenhair fern and Goldie's fern populations are still intact, and the trees are generating well and appear healthy. He did not locate the Canada violet and yellow ladyslipper sites, but will re-visit the area earlier next year.



Laura Minich monitors peregrines on Long Island.

Photo: C.Lee

The **von Ziegesar Easement** was visited by Nature Trust staff this summer, hosted by **Franz and Liz**, and son **Peter Von Ziegesar**. The hardwood forests on the periphery of the intervale (which extends out of the property slightly to the east) are becoming more overgrown. Ospreys have been spotted less frequently, perhaps due to the increased sighting and presence of eagles in the area. Bald eagle juveniles were spotted during the visit.

**Tom Beckley**, steward of the **James C. Yerxa Preserve**, along with son and daughter, **Sam** and **Lena**, report that annual flooding completely submerged the preserve during the spring, and that some trees are toppled over into the river as a result of bank erosion. Sam was excited to find many deer and raccoon tracks in the area.

# LIST OF DONORS 2005/06

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick wishes to express its appreciation to the following donors for fiscal year 2005-2006, *ending April 30, 2006*:

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Mr. Don and Ms. Roty Welstead  
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Image: Magaguadavic Lake: M. Sheppard

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