

Refuge



Conserve. Steward. Educate.

Vol. 22, No. 4 | Spring 2014

Celebrating the life of Mary Majka



Mary Majka and NTNB President Lynn MacKinnon in November 2013. (Photo credit: Jessica Bradford)

NTNB is celebrating the life of Mary Majka, a dedicated naturalist and pioneer of New Brunswick's environmental movement, who passed away on February 12, 2014 at the age of 90 years old. Since arriving in the province in the 1960s, Mary was involved with many conservation, education, heritage, and environmental advocacy initiatives and projects, including the founding of NTNB and the establishment of several of the organization's nature preserves.

"Mary understood the importance of bringing people together and forming partnerships to accomplish great things," says Lynn MacKinnon, NTNB President. "She led many activities in defence of sensitive places and species that could not defend themselves."

In 1988, Mary was a part of the conservation of NTNB's first preserve—Shea Lake Nature Preserve near Plaster Rock. After being informed about the biological richness of the site by an amateur botanist, she helped convince landowners to protect the area. Following discussions, a five-year lease, with the option for renewal, was signed between the landowners and NTNB for an area of 88 hectares. This area continues to be conserved today and is home to over 17 different species of orchid.

Mary was also instrumental in lobbying for the establishment of Hyla Park Nature Preserve in Fredericton to protect an isolated population of the grey tree frog. This area was designated Canada's first amphibian sanctuary and sees many visitors in the spring and summer months for guided amphibian tours or 'Frog Walks.'

More recently, she helped to conserve Grindstone Island in the Upper Bay of Fundy, a known nesting

site for a variety of seabirds and birds of prey, which was protected as a nature preserve in 2010. She was also a major part of a stewardship coalition for the preserve called the 'Friends of Grindstone Island.' Mary was also a long-time steward of Cape Enrage Nature Preserve, along with David Christie (member of her extended family and fellow naturalist).

In 2012, she was awarded the inaugural Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Land Conservation in celebration of NTNB's 25-year anniversary

"There wasn't much of NTNB untouched by Mary," says Renata Woodward, NTNB Executive Director. "Her opinion and ideas were greatly valued by us and we would seek her advice on such things as strategic planning. She helped us again just recently by connecting us with contacts to discuss conservation on the Tobique River. She will be greatly missed and will forever hold a special place in the heart of our organization."

Mary's legacy will continue to live on through the mission and value of NTNB, as well as through the passion and work of the organization's volunteers, members, board, and staff.



Shorebirds on the Bay of Fundy. (Photo credit: David Christie)

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President's Message

As you read this article, I hope these longer days will have you thinking about spring! Coinciding with spring is the Nature Trust's second annual On The Rise fundraising event on March 22 (see page 4 for invitation). The evening's theme will be to recognize how much we value stewardship at the Nature Trust. Without the volunteer efforts of our many stewards, we would not be able to meet our responsibilities to the great degree we do. Because of their dedication, we are inviting all stewards to come to On The Rise so that we can show our appreciation.

Sadly, New Brunswick lost one of its great nature stewards in February, with the passing of Mary Majka. We are fortunate to have had her leadership and friendship for so many years. I'm sure that you agree that the conservation community will not be the same without her.

I encourage you to come out to On The Rise, bring your friends and be prepared to have an enjoyable evening! It will feature music, an auction and other activities to recognize stewardship in action. The funds raised will help the Nature Trust continue our work in stewardship and conservation in New Brunswick.

- Lynn MacKinnon, NTNB President

Seven Days Work Cliff Nature Preserve - officially conserved!



Seven Days Work Cliff from Eel Brook Beach

In December 2013, a landmark conservation gift permanently protected a significant coastal property known as Seven Days Work Cliff on the beautiful island of Grand Manan in the Bay of Fundy. NTNB and a US charity called American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (American Friends) formed a unique partnership that made this “cross-border” donation of land in the province possible. Cross-border conservation conserves ecologically important Canadian land that is owned by preservation-minded Americans. At 23.8 hectares, Seven Days Work Cliff is best known for its spectacular sea cliffs that are home to birds of prey and a popular trail that overlooks the Bay.

“Much of the island’s coastline is privately owned and is being rapidly developed,” says Renata Woodward, Executive Director of NTNB. “The conservation of Seven Days Work Cliff means another natural area has been put aside for nature, as well as for residents of Grand Manan and visitors to enjoy for years to come.”

Located on the northeastern section of the island between Whale Cove and Ashburton Head, Seven Days Work Cliff consists of a highly visible and spectacular 80 metre sea cliff, as well as wetland and other natural vegetation. It is also an ideal place to see the birds of prey that nest and hunt along the cliff. The beloved cliff-top “Red Trail”, managed by the Grand Manan Trails Association and used by residents and visitors, also traverses the land.

“Grand Manan is a beautiful and environmentally fragile New Brunswick gem. Protecting its special landscapes is a high priority for NTNB, but land there is very expensive, especially if it has an ocean view,” says Woodward. “We are thrilled that the Americans who owned Seven Days Work Cliff wanted to conserve their property and were willing to donate it.”

NTNB formed the innovative partnership with American Friends to make this generous gift

legally and financially feasible. American Friends now owns the donated property and NTNB will manage it as part of their network of nature preserves.

“Seven Days Work Cliff is a perfect demonstration of why Canadian land trusts created American Friends,” says Sandra Tassel, Program Coordinator for the Seattle-based organization. “Americans own priority conservation lands in many of Canada’s most scenic and ecologically sensitive places. We find that these landowners truly cherish their properties and are willing to give the land for preservation purposes if tax and legal obstacles can be overcome. The partnership between the Nature Trust and American Friends to protect Seven Days Work Cliff is a great example of what can be achieved through cross-border donations. We hope this will be the first of many New Brunswick projects.”

The features of the property inspired all of the parties involved in the pioneering project. The cliffs are a geological wonder, containing layers of rock formed during the enormous volcanic event that filled the Bay of Fundy with basaltic lava 201 million years ago. Today, the boulder-strewn beach below the cliffs attracts rock hounds who come to collect fine specimens of volcanic zeolites, quartz, jasper, agate and other minerals that fall from the cliff as it slowly erodes.

Seven Days Work Cliff is the 37th nature preserve managed by NTNB in the province and the third on Grand Manan.

Many generous contributions have been made to the project, including the land donors (who wish to remain anonymous), American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, Davis Conservation Foundation, Grand Manan Trails Association, The William P Wharton Trust, EcoAction, and anonymous donors.

Project Updates

Lower St. John River Conservation Planning

NTNB has been working with a number of partners on developing a Habitat Conservation Strategy for the Lower St. John River region. This project aims to increase conservation action by building partnerships with communities and supporting voluntary land stewardship among private landowners. In late January, we held a successful community tour, where we met with people from across the region to discuss land management and conservation.

With the help of habitat and species experts from the NB Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environment, along with local watershed associations and community groups, open houses were held in Taymouth, Keswick Ridge, Gagetown, Hampton, Grand Bay-Westfield, and Sussex. We met with more than one hundred people throughout

the week and shared information about land conservation strategies and Species at Risk stewardship. In a follow up to the tour, the NTNB will be sending information to folks living in some of the areas identified as being high priority for conservation action. A series of Species at Risk factsheets have been developed for landowners about rare and endangered species, but we also want to tap into local knowledge about what makes the Lower St. John River region such a unique place.

Aaron Dowding, Conservation Planning Manager, is eager to meet with New Brunswickers who are interested in sharing information and exploring land stewardship options. If you would like to set up a meeting with Aaron or would like to receive more information on the project, please contact him at staff@ntnb.org or by calling (506) 457-2398.



Community tour participants checking out the Species at Risk fact sheets.

Project Updates

Conservation on Canvas: An Artist's Journey through Conserved Land in NB



Artist Michael McEwing's home studio, featuring paintings of Hyla Park Nature Preserve and Connor Bros. Nature Preserve at Pea Point

In September 2013, New Brunswick artist and art educator Michael McEwing approached NTNB with an idea to embark upon a journey to visit all of the nature preserves and complete at least one landscape painting for every one visited.

This project, entitled 'Conservation on canvas: an artist's journey through conserved land in New Brunswick', was officially launched when he revealed the first two nature preserve paintings at the opening reception of an exhibition at the Andrew and Laura McCain Art Gallery in January.

With 37 nature preserves scattered throughout the province, it is not an easy undertaking, but McEwing has demonstrated that he is up to the challenge and has already visited eight nature preserves and completed his first two oil paintings on canvas.

One of the paintings depicts a sunset's glow on the rocky shoreline of our Connor Bros. Nature Preserve at Pea Point in Blacks Harbour, while the other is of a Hyla Park Nature Preserve wetland. If you look closely at the Hyla Park painting, you may even catch a glimpse of a frog. His next painting, which will be of Ashburton Head on our Thomas B.

Memorial Shoreline Preserve on Grand Manan, is also well underway.

This project helps bring awareness to NTNB's efforts to conserve special and ecologically significant areas in the province. The announcement of the project launch saw articles in over five media publications in the province, including a cover story in *HERE Magazine*.

Aside from bringing awareness to conservation efforts in New Brunswick, McEwing has personal goals for the project and acknowledges that just visiting all of the nature preserves will be an achievement. He anticipates that the project could take three years in total and has created a blog (conservationcanvas.weebly.com) to share his experiences of visiting the nature preserves, as well as to track progress with his paintings.



The start of McEwing's next painting - Ashburton Head on Thomas B. Memorial Shoreline Preserve, Grand Manan.

A new look for NTNB

Have you noticed something different about our look? This year, NTNB revealed a new logo for the organization. Seeing as the last logo update for the organization took place in 2004, it was felt that, after ten years later, a refresh was needed. The new logo design also includes various colour, language, and orientation options, giving the organization more design freedom.

In the new design, the connection to the land and water of the natural areas we conserve

is represented. Both the balsam fir (the provincial tree) and butternut tree (species at risk) are featured in the logo, representing a common New Brunswick tree, as well as the fragility of nature through a species that is at risk of extinction in the province. A small stream opens into a river, which eventually opens into a larger body of water like a lake or ocean, capturing the reality of the vast waterways found in the province.

Take a look back at the evolution of the NTNB logo:



Stewardship update

During the winter months, the Stewardship Committee has been busy getting ready for the field season by updating preserve management plans, getting new interpretive signage ready, and planning some exciting events and activities.

We are happy to announce the installation of the Blueberry Hill bridge, giving visitors full access to this beautiful preserve. Since its inception in December 2009, the Friends of Blueberry Hill have put a lot of work into restoring the preserve, so it could once again be a place of recreation for the surrounding



Volunteers working hard on the bridge. (Photo credit: Ray Riddell)

communities. Access to the east side of the preserve, across Henderson Brook, had to be curtailed while the gravel causeway and a pair of deteriorating culverts were removed, and the banks stabilized to prevent any further erosion into the wetland and stream. Several hundred loads of gravel roadway were removed to bring the approaches to the brook to a more natural level. Several tons of rock, over 400 newly planted native trees and shrubs, grass, and mulch will help prevent any more soil from eroding into the waterway. With the site prepared, a group of volunteers were able to construct the 60 ft steel and wood bridge in December 2013. We would like



Stewardship update continued

to thank the communities of West Saint John and Grand Bay-Westfield for their patience throughout this long and complicated project.

In more exciting news, a partnership has been formed between NTNB and Canoe-Kayak NB to deliver a series of paddling events throughout the summer. The first paddling outing will be to both Navy Island and Dick's Island Nature Preserves led by Maritime Day Tripping during PaddleFest in May. Fundy Paddling Club has also offered the help of its enthusiastic members in clean-up and stewardship activities on some of our harder to reach island nature preserves. Details on workdays and other events are to come!

Looking for:

- Steward for Saint Rest Marsh - F. Gordon Carvell Nature Preserve
- Volunteer Frog Walk or Nature Interpretation Guides
- Volunteers to help with trail maintenance, signage installation, GPS marking, wildlife surveys, and event planning

If interested, please contact Richelle at ntnbpreserves@ntnb.org or (506) 457-2398.

NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK PRESENTS:
ON THE RISE 2014
A Celebration of Stewardship

Featuring Thom Swift, auction, raffle, hors d'oeuvres, and more!

Where: Delta Fredericton, Grand Ballroom
 225 Woodstock Road, Fredericton, NB

When: Saturday, March 22, 2014 from 7 to 11 pm

Cost: \$50.00

For more information or to purchase a ticket, contact:
 (506) 457-2398 | communications@ntnb.org



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Vol. 23, No. 1 | Summer 2014



Ready for the field season



Early morning canoe ride at Mt. Carleton Provincial Park during the GetOutside! NB Natural Leaders training

With the warmer months upon us, NTNB board, staff, volunteers, and stewards are geared up for an action packed summer out in the field. Between our Frog Walks, work days, festivals, paddling excursions and other outdoor activities on or near our nature preserves, there is something for everyone to get involved in and enjoy.

So far, NTNB has already taken part in Paddlefest 2014 in St. Andrews this past May, visiting our Dick's Island Nature Preserve in the Passamaquoddy Bay by sea kayak with local outdoor adventure company Maritime DayTripping and 13 other participants. The group was also scheduled to take two big canoes to Navy Island for another excursion during the festival, but the trip had to be cancelled due to high winds and rough seas, which led to an impromptu trip to Pagan Point Nature Preserve for some of the group instead.

Two members of our summer stewardship staff—Amanda and Danielle—also had the opportunity to get lost in the Mt.

Carleton Provincial Park wilderness for a few days and learn from some of the best outdoor educators in the business at the GetOutsideNB! Natural Leaders training program, with other friend organizations like NB Parks, CPAWS-NB, and Nature NB.

The Oromocto High School Youth Stewards of the Environment, youth stewardship group for James C. Yerxa Nature Preserve in Keswick, also had their spring monitoring trip in May. The group observed how the season changed the floodplain, spotted two species of butterflies, many migrant birds, and a beaver, as well as cleaned-up three bags of garbage that accumulated since the fall.

There were several events, including a trail maintenance day and Frog Walks, scheduled at Hyla Park Nature Preserve in early June, but they had to be postponed until late June due to heavy spring flooding of the preserve's trail system. Hopefully the flood waters will have retreated and the trails are open again by the time this issue



Ferns emerging on Pagan Point Nature Preserve, St. Andrews, May 2014

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President's Message

By now, I hope that memories of our cold NB winter have retreated to the backs of your minds. NTNB has a lot of events lined up this summer to help you get out and enjoy nature! In addition to the many work days and other outings, we will be celebrating the opening of Blueberry Hill on June 14. I hope to meet you at one of the many events being organized on our preserves!

In March, the Province of New Brunswick introduced a new forestry strategy. Many NTNB members and stakeholders have expressed their concerns, a key one being the reduction in conservation forest. The NTNB board is preparing a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources, sharing some of the points raised and asking for more public consultation. As well, given our mandate in conservation, stewardship and education, we are offering to help play a proactive role in further enhancing conservation in NB.

During the summer, the planning for our AGM will be underway. If you are interested in serving on the NTNB board or a committee, are able to commit time and energy, and share your skills to further enhance the board's strengths, please contact Don Dennison, chair of the Nominating Committee, through the NTNB office.

In June, one of our staff, Christine Rheaume, will be moving away. Christine, who has been with us for the past year and a half, has been a huge asset to the organization and we wish her all the best in her new province.

Since our last Refuge, staff and committees have been working on a number of exciting projects, one of which was On the Rise. Thank you very much for your support of this event! In celebrating stewardship, it helped us raise our profile and funds for stewardship and other activities.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

- Lynn MacKinnon, NTNB President

Ready for the field season (continued)

reaches your mailbox. Other events that will have already taken place include a paddling expedition from James C. Yerxa Nature Preserve to Sugar Island Nature Preserve down the St. John River with Tumblehome Paddlers for National Paddling Week, a trail day at Connor Bros. Nature Preserve at Pea Point, and the grand opening of the Blueberry Hill Nature Preserve with the Friends of Blueberry Hill.

There are still plenty of events to participate in this summer such as: the building of the Hyla Park Bird & Butterfly Garden (see page 3), the postponed Hyla Park Trail Day, July and August Frog Walks, The Bore Music Festival (see bottom page 2), a Canoe/Kayak NB paddling trip to New River Island Nature Preserve, our Annual Charlotte Isles Clean-Up, which will be taking place on Meredith Houseworth Memorial Seashore, Grand Manan, and the grand opening of Green Island Nature Preserve.

For an updated events schedule, please visit us online at www.naturetrust.nb.ca, find our

'Upcoming Events' section, and join up with us this summer! You can also feel free to give our office a call (506) 457-2398 to learn more.



Mustard white butterfly spotted by the OHS Youth Stewards of the Environment, James C. Yerxa Nature Preserve

Another year with The Bore Music Festival



For the second year, NTN is teaming up with The Bore Music Festival to raise funds and awareness for the organization and to enjoy a weekend of music. Lovingly named after the tidal bore, the festival takes place Friday, July 11 to Saturday, July 12 in the village of Hillsborough.

"This year, we are extending the festival a second day to fit in more great music," says Kelly-Sue O'Connor, festival founder and NTN volunteer. "We will also be welcoming acclaimed children's songwriter/performer and festival favourite Fred Penner as our headliner."

Other performers include CBC charts favourite, Lindy Vopnfjord and a handful of homegrown talent, including Corey Isenor, Klarka Weinwurm, Banded Stilts, Tomato Tomato, Masons Tender, Don Brownrigg, Carly Maicher of Summersend Festival fame, Jane Ehrhardt, Willie Stratton, and Morgan MacDonald.

On Friday, there will be performances taking place indoors at the historical St. Mary's Anglican Church, while Saturday's main event will take place outside in the Kiwanis field. As a family friendly event, there will be face painting, bouncy castles, and food trucks.

"Spreading our conservation message through music and local events near our nature preserves allows us to reach even more New Brunswickers," says Renata Woodward, NTN executive director. "We're thrilled to be part of this music festival for a second time, with the beautiful Village of Hillsborough and tidal Pettitcodiac River as scenic backdrops."

As a non-profit festival, proceeds from The Bore Music Festival will help raise funds for upcoming projects on Grindstone Island Nature Preserve in Shepody Bay, Albert County.

Grindstone Island is the only island in the upper Bay of Fundy and provides breeding habitat for many seabirds, waterfowl, and birds of prey, some of which are species at risk. Projects for the nature preserve include the development of a local stewardship group, the Friends of Grindstone Island, as well as a monitoring trip to take place in the late summer.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.theboremusicfestival.com or www.facebook.com/theboremusicfestival.

Summer Events

The following is a list of tentative events for the summer field season. Some dates have not been confirmed yet, so if you are interested in joining up with a certain event(s), please contact our Stewardship Coordinator at ntnbpreserves@ntnb.org for more information and get on the contact list for your event of choice.

You can also view a list of updated events, by visiting our website or checking our monthly e-Newsletter. If you are not on our e-Newsletter mailing list, please contact communications@ntnb.org.

JUNE

June 21 from 10 am to 2 pm - Community Planting Day, Hyla Park, Fredericton (see page 3 for more details)

June 29 from 1 pm to 4 pm - Hyla Park Trail Day, Fredericton

JULY

July 11 & 12 - The Bore Music Festival, Hillsborough

July 19, rain date July 20 - Canoe Kayak NB Paddling Trip to New River Island Nature Preserve

Rob Lemmon from Maritime DayTripping along with a NTN staff member will be leading the paddle and is providing a big canoe for participants to enjoy. Space is limited! To register, please contact Rob Lemmon at rob.lemmon@daytrippingnb.com.

AUGUST

Date TBD - Annual Charlotte Isles Shoreline Clean-up on Meredith Houseworth Memorial Seashore, Grand Manan

Date TBD - Grand Opening of Green Island Nature Preserve, Florenceville-Bristol



Bird & Butterfly Learning Garden coming to Hyla Park Nature Preserve!



Installation of a bird and butterfly garden last year. (Photo courtesy of Nature NB)

This June, NTNB will literally be breaking new grounds and establishing a bird and butterfly learning garden, using native plant species, just outside of the entrance to Hyla Park Nature Preserve. This is the first project of its kind undertaken by NTNB and it will be accomplished in partnership with another local environmental non-profit, Nature NB, who has created similar pollinator gardens like this before.

“Nature NB is excited to be partnering with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick to create a new wildlife space in Hyla Park as part of our Conservation Spaces program,” says Vanessa Roy-McDougall, Nature NB Executive Director. “We created the Conservation Spaces program in 2012 to connect communities and schools with nature by creating butterfly and bird gardens in urban areas. Since its creation, we’ve established seven new spaces around the province.”

Bye for now, Christine

At the end of the month, we are saddened to have to say goodbye to NTNB employee Christine Rheame.

Christine has been with the Nature Trust since 2012. She started out as an intern, helping with finance and was then hired on full-time as the Administrative Coordinator. In her words, Nature Trust was her “first real job”. As far as firsts go, she did an excellent job. Her great smile, personality, attention to detail, willingness, flexibility, along with great memory and work ethic will greatly be missed.

Christine, along with her partner, will be making the long trip to Alberta, where they will be starting new careers. We wish them all the best. Thank you, Christine! We’ll miss you!

First and foremost, the purpose of the gardens is to create an urban conservation space, providing suitable food/habitat for pollinator species, some of which are in drastic decline. However, the project aims to also become a youth/community engagement and learning tool for the future, adding to the learning and skill development opportunities already offered by Hyla Park Nature Preserve. There is great potential to create outdoor education programs for the gardens throughout the summer and fall, with the ultimate goal of establishing a



Interpretive signage for bird and butterfly gardens. (Photo courtesy of Nature NB)



Christine Rheame

youth stewardship group to help care for the gardens over the long-term.

“This initiative allows youth and families to participate first hand in the creation of the spaces by planting the plants and also provides long-term learning opportunities for learning about pollination, wildlife habitat and birds and butterflies,” says Roy-McDougall.

“This project is a continuation of NTNB’s Power of Nature Program and demonstration of how NTNB can accomplish all three pillars of our mission to conserve, steward, and educate in an area and benefit the local community,” says Renata Woodward, NTNB Executive Director. “The garden will be situated right next to a portion of the Gibson Trail, so it will also be very visible to people who use the trail system and help beautify the area.”

Preparation for the garden begins mid-June and a Community Planting Day is to be held with Nature NB on Saturday, June 21 from 10 am to 2 pm, which also includes nature games, a craft station, and a free BBQ. All are welcome to attend and help create the new pollinator garden.

Generous contributions to this project have been made by the Fredericton Community Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, our partners at Nature NB, and supported by the Greenwood Drive Baptist Church.

Welcome summer staff

This summer, we are welcoming many seasonal staff members who are crucial for the support of our summer events and field work. We have Amanda Fortune - Stewardship Coordinator until August when Richelle Martin will return, Danielle Andrus - Communications and Stewardship Assistant, Olivier Marchal - Stewardship Assistant from France, Christina Plass - Communications Intern, Jessica Seward - Conservation Planning Intern, and Karyn MacPherson - Stewardship and Education Assistant. One other student will be joining us from the SEED program later this month. Thank you for your hard work this summer!

Thank you for supporting On the Rise

A huge THANK YOU goes out to our board members, volunteers, stewards, donors, sponsors, and guests for helping to make our second annual fundraising event - On the Rise - such a success! Despite less than spring-like conditions outside, we saw 250 people join us at the Delta Fredericton on Saturday, March 22 for an evening of education and entertainment.

The night's activities included a silent auction of over 65 items such as beautiful nature-inspired artwork and amazing New Brunswick experiences, and the raffling off a stunning watch from Spicer Cole Fine Jewellers. We enjoyed sampling local blueberry wine from Granite Town Farms and smoked salmon from Miramichi Smoked Salmon, learning about corporate stewardship in action from Remsoft, and hearing a special acoustic set of blues and soul music from Thom Swift. We also had event photographers from Bang-On Photography capture the evening.

Overall, we raised over \$15,000 to help the organization grow and continue to conserve and steward land in the province.

Thank you to all of our event supporters: TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, McCain Foods, Government of New Brunswick - Department of Natural Resources, Stewart McKelvey, Altus Group, Grant Thornton, Picaroons Traditional Ales, and UP 93.1.



What you can do today to protect tomorrow...

Think back to the places where you learned to love the natural world.

Established in 1987, the Nature Trust of New Brunswick has conserved over 5500 acres in 37 nature preserves.

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Vol. 23, No. 2 | Fall 2014

Reaching out to landowners - Lower St. John River Conservation Update



Landowners and NTNB staff surveying Arthur Greene homestead in Taymouth (Photo credit: Connie Campbell)

From identifying biodiversity hotspots along the Lower St. John River through mapping initiatives for the past three years to landowner outreach, the Lower St. John River Conservation Planning project is progressing.

This past winter, the Nature Trust held a series of open house events in communities within the Lower St. John River watershed to meet with people to discuss land stewardship and conservation. After the community tour, a number of private landowners in the region, living within areas identified as being high priority for conservation action, were sent letters and information packets, including factsheets about species at risk that may be found on their land. The letters also had a call to action to get in touch with the Nature Trust to set-up a meeting to learn more about stewardship and conservation strategies for their property. NTNB conservation planning staff then followed-up with phone calls to arrange visits with interested landowners to walkabout their potentially ecologically significant property.

NTNB's conservation planning team has received positive feedback from landowners who were contacted. This summer, Conservation Planning Manager Aaron Dowding and the rest of the team have met with over 30 landowners to survey their properties for critical habitat and rare and/or endangered species that may be present such as Wood Turtle, Bobolink, Butternut tree, Barn Swallow, and more.

The team discusses voluntary stewardship agreements and other conservation options with landowners, as well as provides advice for helping to maintain the species on their land such as haying fields with nesting migratory birds such as the Bobolink late in the season or raising the cutter bars on mowers near shorelines to protect Wood Turtles and their habitat. While this project has been a great opportunity to educate landowners about conservation, it has also given NTNB an opportunity to learn from landowners' in-depth knowledge about their and and changes they have observed overtime.



Barn swallows spotted by staff during a landowner visit for the LSJR Conservation Planning project (Photo credit: Jessica Seward)

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President's Message

Hello/Bonjour!

The summer has produced some lovely days and I hope that you had a chance to get out and enjoy some of our beautiful preserves! Late summer and fall are also wonderful times to pack a snack and drink and head out on the trails. It should be easier now with the launch of our new ExploreEcoNB app!

It was a proud moment when we stood with our many partners in late July and officially introduced this new asset for citizens and visitors alike. A special thank you to the leadership of staff, especially Jessica Bradford, who saw this complex project through amid tight budget and timelines.

Some other great memories for me include the opening of Blueberry Hill and visits to a number of our preserves. Thanks to Evan Young and Nancy Clifford, we were able to guide a special Ontario visitor, Pegi, along the James C. Yerxa, Sugar Island and Burpee Bar preserves on the St. John River. Pegi was amazed that we have such a pristine environment so close to Fredericton and she enjoyed seeing the eagles and osprey. Other days were spent on the Clark Gregory preserve on Deer Island, Connors Bros. Pea Point and the Caughey-Taylor preserves.

As I've mentioned before, if you are interested in serving on the Nature Trust board or committees, able to commit time and energy and share your skills to further enhance the board's strengths, please contact Don Dennison, chair of the Nominating Committee, through the Nature Trust office.

Please mark Saturday, Oct. 4 on your calendars and join us at the Royal Canadian Legion building in the Village of Gagetown for our AGM. We would love to see you there!

À la prochaine!
Lynn

Lower St. John River Conservation Update (continued)

An article called “Appealing to landowners’ good nature” by journalist Mike Landry appeared in the Telegraph-Journal in August about the project, highlighting landowners Evelyn and David Cassidy who were visited by NTNB staff and proud to show off their 400 acres of biologically diverse land, which is home several species at risk. Many other landowners are interested in learning more about the voluntary stewardship agreements and are setting up the next visits to their property.

More visits of this sort will take place up until the spring to further build relationships within the region and then the focus will be on further developing a voluntary stewardship program for engaged landowners. It is a different approach to conservation and stewardship, as the land acquisition process is long and expensive and it is not always enough to conserve islands of land. This project aims to build a network of educated and conservation-minded landowners to strengthen conservation efforts in the province.



Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) - one of the focus species for LSJR conservation planning (Photo credit: Jessica Bradford)



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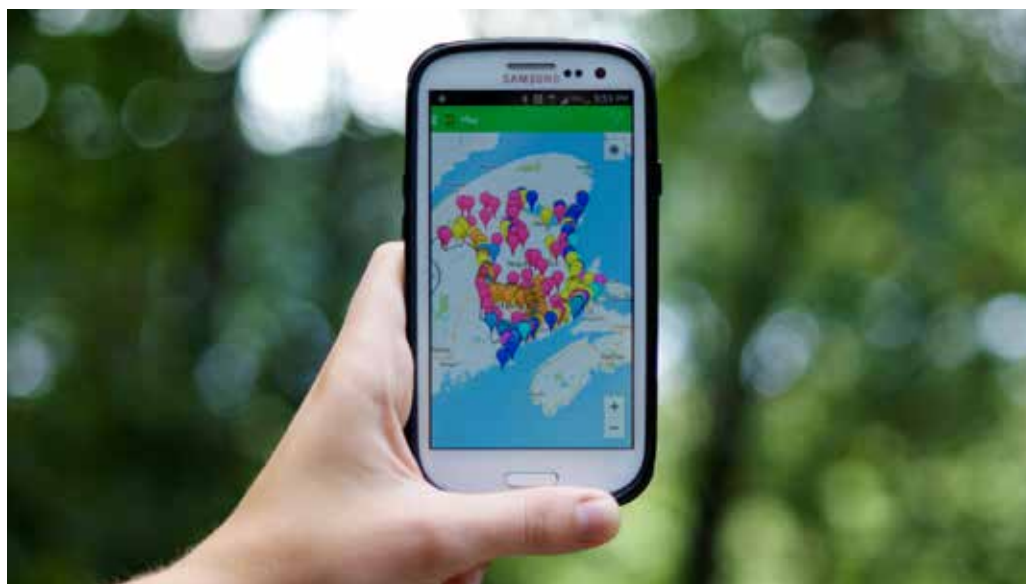
ExploreEcoNB – A new mobile app to help you explore New Brunswick!

Whether you’re looking for a quiet place to watch wildlife, a breathtaking view, or the adventure of a lifetime, there’s a new mobile app for that in New Brunswick! On Thursday, July 31, 2014, the Nature Trust, along with nine other partner organizations and agencies, launched ExploreEcoNB – a mobile mapping application for smartphones and tablets that connects people with nature, encouraging outdoor physical activity, exploration, and appreciation of natural places in New Brunswick. The app is available for free download on iOS, Android, and Windows mobile platforms.

“This project started after the creation of DeepMapEco – an app that aimed to build awareness for our nature preserves in the province,” says Renata Woodward, Executive Director of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. “We decided to pursue this next version and open it up to more provincial partners because of its great potential to connect people with even more natural places in the province that they may not have known existed before. This app is not only great innovation project but also fantastic example of collaboration in the environmental community”

The partnership responsible for the development of the app include the Conservation Council of New Brunswick (CCNB), Department of Natural Resources, Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Nature NB, New Brunswick Provincial Parks, Parks Canada, Sentiers NB Trails, Meduxnekeag River Association and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), with project management from the Nature Trust. The groups have collaborated for the past several months to create the new app.

“The Nature Conservancy of Canada in New



Brunswick is pleased to be partners in the development of this app and join like-minded agencies who are doing very important work in the province,” says Paula Noel, Program Manager of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. “Our collective goal is to share information and get people out in nature. People sometimes overlook the obvious and don’t always take advantage of the natural beauty that is in their own backyards.”

All of the partners involved in this project have something unique to contribute including, nature preserves/reserves, national and provincial parks, trails, Protected Natural Areas, Important Bird Areas, and public entry points for the St. John River. Users can explore these natural areas with the primary mapping feature of the app, which also offers the ability to choose their destination of choice based on

activities, proximity, or one of the province’s tourism regions. There are now over 300 points on the map, which represent various natural spaces, for users to choose from.

ExploreEcoNB was made possible by funding from Mountain Equipment Co-Op’s Community Contribution program, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund, Wildlife Trust Fund, as well as funding and in-kind contributions from all participating partner organizations.

For more information and to download, visit ExploreEcoNB.com or find the app in the Apple Store, Android Play Store, or Windows Store. Help us spread the message by using the #ExploreEcoNB hashtag when talking about the app online!

Stewardship update



Group visiting the Saints Rest Marsh-F. Gordon Carvell Nature Preserve for CBC Info Morning segment (Photo credit: Jane Barry)

As usual, the summer season is the busiest of all at NTNB and this summer has been no exception. We have had a jam-packed schedule filled with stewardship activities, including public events held on 12 different nature preserves, which together have brought out more than 350 people.

A brand-new and exciting partnership has been formed between the NTNB and Canoe Kayak NB this year which has facilitated public access to six of our different island preserves, while introducing many people to the vast opportunities for paddling in the province. Among these events was a paddle to Dick's Island Nature Preserve in the Passamaquoddy Bay during Paddlefest and a big canoe trip to New River Island Nature Preserve during the New River Beach Sand Sculpture Competition in July, attracting about 100 beach goers to view the island. These events were also supported by Maritime DayTripping Inc. Other past events

include the Grand Opening of Blueberry Hill Nature Preserve in June to celebrate the opening of the new bridge, a community trail day at Connor's Bros. Nature Preserve at Pea Point in June, a boat trip to Grindstone Island, which filled up with over 50 community members and members of the Friends of Grindstone Island stewardship group, and most recently the Grand Opening of Green Island Nature Preserve in Florenceville-Bristol.

One of our nature preserves gained some fame this season after CBC Information Morning Saint John's Deborah Irvine Anderson featured the Saints Rest Marsh-F. Gordon Carvell Nature Preserve on her segment "Deborah Discovers". Deborah visited the nature preserve with past and present stewards Dr. Stephen Clayden and Lee Swanson and board members Jane Barry and Walter Emrich who interpreted the area for her, describing to radio listeners the beauty and importance of the area. Efforts

to secure good public access and signage for this beautiful woodland and salt marsh property are also underway.

If you missed out on our past events or are looking for more, there are still plenty of activities to come. Hurricane Arthur hit many of our nature preserves pretty hard, making for more trail maintenance than usual and what a better time to do some trail work than our beautiful fall season. We are planning for trail cleanups of our Boar's Head, Pea Point and Pagan Point Nature Preserves. Stay tuned for more details on these events. Along with trail cleanups, we will be busy with brand new signage installation on a number of our publicly accessible nature preserves. This year, our annual Charlotte Isles Cleanup will be taking place on the beautiful Meredith Houseworth Memorial Seashore on Grand Manan on Saturday, Sept. 20.

If interested in getting involved in the trail days, cleanup on Grand Manan, signage installation on various preserves or any other volunteer opportunities, please contact Stewardship Coordinator Richelle at ntnbpreserves@ntnb.org.

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Find the CanadaHelps button on our website naturetrust.nb.ca or search for us at canadahelps.org.



Grindstone Island lighthouse as seen from the August boat trip (Photo credit: Richelle Martin)

Thank you to dedicated staff and volunteers

In the summer, the number of NTNB staff grows exponentially, as we bring on many student interns to help with our conservation and stewardship efforts! Thank you to our summer staff members, including Amanda Fortune (stewardship coordinator), Danielle Andrus (communications and stewardship assistant), Bibo Pohlus from Germany (stewardship assistant), Jessica Seward (conservation planning assistant), Karyn MacPherson (stewardship and education assistant), Krista Pond (digital data coordinator) and Olivier Marchal from France (stewardship assistant).

At the start of August, we said goodbye to our temporary administrative coordinator Jennifer Haines and thank her for all of her hard work in the time she was with us. We wish all the best to her in her new position! We also want to thank Wanda Melvin who came to us in February to support planning

and outreach for our Lower St. John River Conservation project. She worked tirelessly to prepare the conservation planning staff for their landowner contact initiatives that have been taking place with great success this summer. Wanda even got involved with other aspects of the organization, volunteering her time for On the Rise, as well as for the Hyla Park gardens.

Thank you as well to Nadia Charcas Rosales who came to us from Mexico, starting as a volunteer and was then brought on as a part-time staff member to support administration work in the office.

As always, thank you to our volunteers, members, and supporters. Your passion for and dedication to conservation and the environment is constantly inspiring and motivating for us to keep giving a voice to natural spaces in the province!

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick's Annual General Meeting & Reception

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



As a member of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, you have a say in what we do and a right to participate in and vote at the Nature Trust's Annual General Meeting. The Board of Directors of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick invites all members to our Annual General Meeting and reception for the opportunity to exercise this right, as well as learn more about our current conservation efforts and other projects.

Appetizers and refreshments will be provided during the reception.

When: Saturday, October 4, 2014

1:00 - Welcome

1:15-2:00 - Presentation – The Beauty of Lower St. John and what is being done to conserve this precious watershed

2:00 – 2:45 - Annual General Meeting (agenda below)

- Approval of Agenda
- Minutes of 2013 Annual General Meeting
 - Business arising from Minutes
 - President's Report
- Treasurer's Report and selection of auditor for 2014
 - Executive Director's Report
 - Committee Reports
- Nominations and Election of New Trustees
 - Other Business
 - Adjournment

2:45- 4:00 - Reception

Where: The Alfred Ashburn Memorial Legion Branch #71, 81Tilley Road, Gagetown, New Brunswick, E5M 1B6

RSVP: To Jessica Bradford by email communications@ntnb.org or calling (506)-457-2398

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