

GRATITUDE REPORT

2020-21



WHAT MATTERS MOST

In 1987, a small group of like-minded people came together to establish an organization in hopes to protect some of the many ecologically significant natural spaces recognized throughout New Brunswick.

Little did they know, 34 years later, that the Nature Trust of New Brunswick would go on to conserve **10,000 acres of ecologically significant land** and establish **over 70 nature preserves** throughout the province. This group's initial determination and passion for conservation would spark a flame that has inspired countless others, like you, to become involved and do the same.

As our lives continue to shift and be shaped by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, you have continued to support conservation efforts and show your gratitude towards nature in New Brunswick. From your generous gifts, sponsorships, and partnerships, to your time spent volunteering on nature preserves, or interacting online through webinars or social media channels, your dedication has been unwavering.

Whether you are a first-time supporter of the Nature Trust or you have been on this journey with us since the very beginning, we thank you for ensuring that the New Brunswick you know and love is protected for future generations.

Our mission to **conserve** and **steward** ecologically significant lands across the province and to **engage** with the public about the importance of protecting these special places is only made possible thanks to your generosity. We dedicate this Gratitude Report to **you**.

WITH GRATITUDE,

THE NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK

MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT:



It has been a privilege to serve as the President of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick during the unprecedented changes and uncertainty of this past year. As an organization, we demonstrated resiliency when facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, achieved a major conservation milestone with 10,000 acres protected in perpetuity, bid farewell to former CEO Renata Woodward, and welcomed new CEO, Stephanie Merrill.

We adapted to new operational realities such as virtual meetings, working remotely, and lockdowns, while continuing to make important strides in land conservation in New Brunswick. The pandemic highlighted the importance of natural spaces more than ever, and we were pleased to welcome individuals new and old to enjoy and appreciate our nature preserves.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to sincerely thank the Nature Trust staff for their excellent efforts in furthering our conservation, stewardship, and engagement work over the last year. I also want to thank outgoing board members Cecilia Brooks, Sophie Jensen, and Grant Furlotte for their significant contributions and dedicated service.

We are grateful to Renata Woodward for her leadership of the Nature Trust over the last 12 years and wish her all the best in her future endeavours. We welcome new CEO, Stephanie Merrill, back to New Brunswick from her time in Saskatchewan, and look forward to her leadership of the Nature Trust in furthering land conservation in New Brunswick.

I want to acknowledge the excellent efforts of the Conserve Y(our) NB: Protect the Places You Love Cabinet Committee, who ensured that we are well on our way to reaching our goal of raising \$10 million and increasing the amount of land we protect to 15,000 acres by 2030. We express our gratitude and thanks to the hundreds of individual donors, the MapleCross Fund, foundations, and the federal and provincial governments who made it possible to protect the Keiko & Errol Nature Preserve on Ross Island and the forested wetland property in Maugerville.

As we experience yet another year of intense wildfires, heat waves, and drought in Canada, and look to the latest warnings in the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, it is evident that protecting our natural spaces is of the utmost importance in mitigating the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, flora and fauna, and the places where we live.

Therefore, we are continuing to advocate for land conservation and the environment more broadly in New Brunswick. We are asking the provincial government, alongside other environmental organizations, to address its failings in protecting endangered species under the *Species at Risk Act*.

Additionally, in the aftermath of the unfortunate draining of the Ferris Street Forest and Wetland Nature Preserve, we are actively highlighting the gaps in the protection of New Brunswick wetlands. As well, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with Indigenous organizations, all levels of government, and our environmental partners for the protection of New Brunswick's natural heritage.

In closing, I wish to sincerely thank all donors, funders, supporters, volunteers, and partners for your contributions. I look forward to seeing what we will accomplish together in the year to come.

YOURS IN CONSERVATION,

Stephanie Merrill

**MESSAGE FROM THE
FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:**



Thank you to Renata, and all the donors, partners, stewards, volunteers and staff for your dedicated work and commitment to the Nature Trust. I am excited to be part of a team that has achieved such amazing successes throughout its 34 years.

I look forward to learning all about the 70+ nature preserves we protect, hike through many of them, and meet the dedicated teams of stewards that care for these beautiful and critically important areas across the province. Join me in learning why two passionate stewards, Charly and Laura Bonga, dedicate their time and energy to caring for a network of our Saint John nature preserves on **page 15**.

I am thrilled to join in the celebration of the Nature Trust's biggest conservation project to date, the protection of 920 acres (372 hectares) on Ross Island. Our goal of raising \$1.4 million could not have been achieved without our donors and supporters. With a generous pledge of \$300,000 from the MapleCross Fund, their contribution put us even closer to the goal as we neared the finish line. Discover their reasons for supporting the project on **page 10**.

I am grateful to Renata, our Indigenous organizational partners, and the Nature Trust staff for taking steps towards reconciliation and forging a pathway for meaningful relationship building and collaborations together. You can read about the Nature Trust's conservation project partnership with the Peskotomuhkati Recognition Group on **page 8**.

I am excited and energized by the dedication and hard work of this amazing group of individuals. I look forward to growing with the organization and continuing to advocate for and work towards ecologically significant land protection in New Brunswick.

YOURS IN CONSERVATION,

Stephanie Merrill

Thank you to all the donors, partners, volunteers, board, and staff who have continued to support the Nature Trust's mission and vision over the years, whether monetary, in-kind, or through volunteering. As we reflect on the amazing achievements of the past year, please know that I am grateful for your continuous support of the Nature Trust.

This year, we continued our Conserve Y(our) NB: Protect the Places You Love (CYNB) campaign with some wonderful results. With your support, we protected over 1,500 additional acres of ecologically significant land. You can learn more about some of the new beautiful nature preserves on **page 7**.

The success of this campaign has allowed us to reach the significant conservation milestone of protecting 10,000 acres of ecologically significant land in New Brunswick. We invite you to join our celebration on **page 6**.

I am happy to welcome our incoming CEO, Stephanie Merrill, to the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. I am proud of where the Nature Trust stands, and I am excited to see how our significant and critically important efforts in land conservation, stewardship, and engagement grow.

While I look forward to new adventures after stepping down from the CEO role, I have been looking back fondly on my last 12 years at the Nature Trust and all that we have accomplished together. I wish you nothing but the best in the future.

YOURS IN CONSERVATION,

Renata Woodland

**MESSAGE FROM THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:**



YOURS IN CONSERVATION,

Stephanie Merrill

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR NEW BRUNSWICK STORY

We are celebrating **10,000 acres of protected land!**

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick was established in 1987 by dedicated volunteers who saw the need for conservation in our province becoming increasingly apparent. Thanks to the passion of those volunteers and countless other partners, funders, and supporters — including **you** — who have been part of our 34-year history, **10,000 acres of land are now protected forever.**

Together, we are working to protect our province's most treasured natural spaces, old-growth forests, and picturesque coastlines and shorelines **for future generations to enjoy and for endangered species to find refuge.** Thank you for being a part of conservation in New Brunswick and ensuring that the places you love are protected for future generations and wildlife alike.

We look forward to continuing to work together to conserve and steward even more of **the New Brunswick you love.**

1985: Dr. Harold (Hal) R. Hinds and Nature Trust founders plant a seed, changing the direction of conservation in New Brunswick, forever.



1988: The Nature Trust acquires its first preserve, the Shea Lake Nature Preserve, protecting 17 species of rare orchids through a voluntary stewardship agreement.



1987: The Nature Trust of New Brunswick is incorporated after the need for conservation in our province becomes increasingly apparent.

1997: Celebrating ten years as an organization, and the acquisition of ten nature preserves, we welcome our largest preserve to date, the Caughey-Taylor Nature Preserve.



TODAY: We celebrate the protection of 10,000 acres of land in over 70 nature preserves. In the past year, we have protected over 1,500 acres of ecologically significant land, including the forested wetland in Maugerville (name to be determined) and the Keiko & Errol Nature Preserve on Ross Island at Grand Manan.



2017: Thirty years of conservation in New Brunswick brings our 50th preserve. The Margaret (Coburn) Cameron Woods was established to conserve a significant piece of the endangered Appalachian Hardwood Forest.



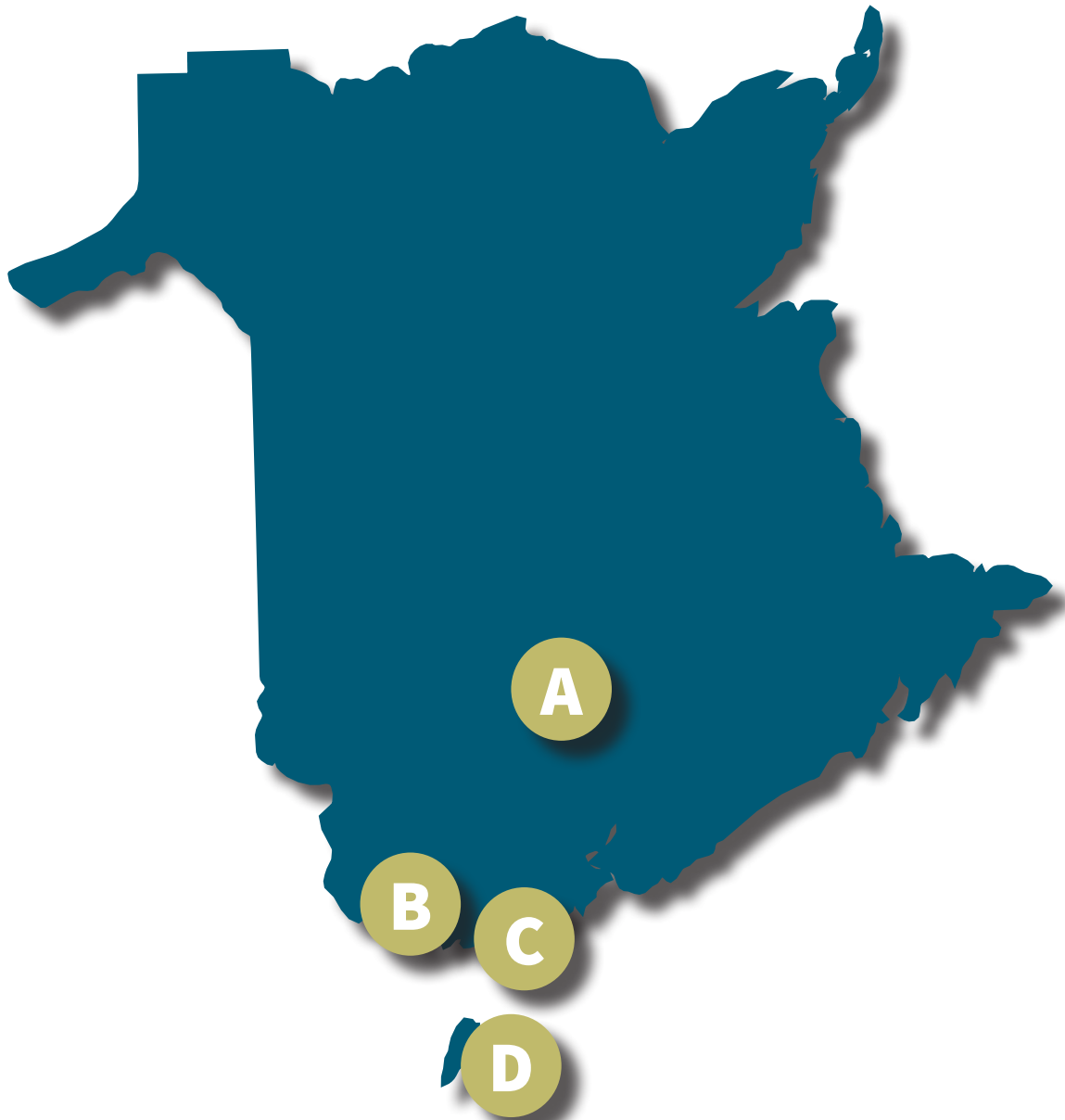
2020: We launch the Conserve Y(our) NB: Protect the Places You Love Campaign to raise \$10 million and increase the amount of land we protect to 15,000 acres by 2030.



2007: We champion the protection of ecologically significant Bay of Fundy coastlines through the launch of the Campaign for Coastal Lands.



A HIGHLIGHT OF PROPERTIES CONSERVED IN 2020-21



A - Forested Wetland in Maugerville

This preserve protects 170 hectares (420 acres) of wetland and forest habitat along the Wolastoq/Saint John River, providing refuge to an array of diverse wildlife.



C - Disher Conservation Easement

This conservation easement protects 13.6 hectares (33.6 acres) of important shoreline habitat that includes coastal wetlands, tidal flats, and rocky shores.



B - Bartlett Mills Nature Preserve

This preserve protects two parcels totaling 83 hectares (205 acres) in the St. Croix watershed and Valley Lowlands ecoregion.



D - Keiko & Errol Nature Preserve on Ross Island

This preserve protects 372 hectares (920 acres) of ecologically significant rugged coastlines, woodlands, and wetlands on the beautiful and diverse Bay of Fundy island, near Grand Manan.

CONSERVE:

FORGING A SHARED PATH FOR CONSERVATION

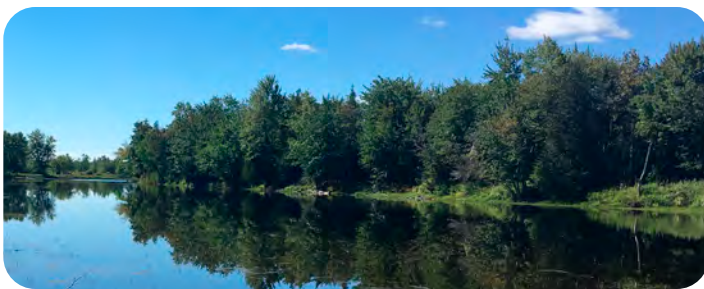
READ ABOUT HOW THE NATURE TRUST AND THE PESKOTOMUHKATI NATION AT SKUTIK HAVE EMBARKED ON A PATH OF SHARING AND LEARNING TO PROTECT AND HEAL THE **SKUTIK LANDS AND WATERS**



Canoose Stream is a dark and rocky stretch of water that twists and bumps a westward course to its mouth at the St. Croix River and the New Brunswick-Maine border. This is a land of dense forest with few roads and scattered camps along the river's edge. Naturalists know the place where these two rivers meet for all the unique and rare flora that can be found here. Cardinal flower, Joe Pye weed, silky dogwood; these and other plants help tell the story of this land and why conservationists want to protect it. On this part of the river, the St. Croix runs wild and undammed, and its unspoiled beauty is deserving of its Canadian Heritage River designation. Our scientific understanding of the St. Croix River is only part of the story, however.

For many people, this river has always been known as the Skutik, and these lands are at the centre of the traditional lands of the Passamaquoddy People, whose true name is Peskotomuhkati. The Peskotomuhkati have lived on and around the Skutik River since time immemorial. Today, this community is regaining its voice and telling the story of their place on the land. It is a story that will reveal new truths for many of us, like the importance of these plants as medicines, and the generations of families who cared for and gathered them year after year. And, that this treasured place where two rivers meet is also one of three First Nations reserves that were set up on this side of the border, but later taken again during European settlement, erasing the Peskotomuhkati Nation's remaining footprint in Canada.

Several of the Nature Trust's nature preserves are located on Peskotomuhkati traditional lands, including Clark's Point on the Skutik River and Western Isles in Passamaquoddy Bay. Some of these places hint at the history of the Peskotomuhkati People – ancient campsites, shell middens, and place names in their language. One preserve in particular, the MacNichol-Orser property, is part of an evolving story and is now once again known as Chiputneticook Lodge. The 2,300 acre property is protected by a working forest conservation easement donated to the Nature Trust in 2006 by the Orser family. The lands protected by the easement have been owned by the Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik since 2018.



These lands are being managed by the Nation as a way to help their community members reconnect with the river, become caretakers of the land once again, and practice their culture uninterrupted. When the Nation took over ownership of Chiputneticook Lodge, it was the beginning of a relationship and partnership that has helped teach the Nature Trust the differences between Indigenous-led and colonial land conservation. The relationship has also given the Nature Trust the privilege of learning from the Nation on how to bring these approaches together, and that identifying our shared conservation values are critical to our path towards peace and friendship.

The Nature Trust and the Peskotomuhkati Nation have embarked on a path of sharing and learning how to use the strengths of both Indigenous and Western knowledge in our work together. For instance, where Nature Trust field technicians see rare shoreline plants, Peskotomuhkati Elders see important medicines for their community. In our partnership, both kinds of wisdom are valued and are respected for their contribution to understanding the land. Our shared journey is founded on common values of protecting and healing the Skutik lands and waters from more than two hundred years of industrialization, development, and overuse.

Together we have put these shared values into action in small, incremental steps over several years. Our organizations have shared meals, spent time on the land together, listened to Elders, and learned about each other and the long history of this land. All of this leading towards building trust and commitment to each other. Our work together now lies in caring for the nature preserves on Peskotomuhkati traditional lands, in an effort we currently call "shared stewardship". Together, we will expand our ideas of what is possible for land stewardship.



PHOTOS: Darran O'Leary, Peskotomuhkati First Nation

I feel fortunate to have a friend and mentor to do this work with. Darran O'Leary is from the Peskotomuhkati First Nation and together we have developed a friendship through our work over the past three years. He has been generous with his knowledge and he has helped me learn to be mindful of the fact that what I have come to know may only be part of the story. Much like our two organizations who have built trust through working together, we too have come to trust each other by sharing, listening, and teaching. As partners in conservation, we look forward to sharing updates with you on how our organizations are practicing shared stewardship and how this is changing the way we do the important work of conservation in the Skutik region.

WRITTEN BY: Aaron Dowding, Conservation Planning Manager

**DONOR
PROFILE:**

INVESTING IN NATURE

WE SPOKE WITH DR. ISOBEL RALSTON AND DR. JAN OUDENES, FOUNDERS OF THE MAPLECROSS FUND, ABOUT THEIR EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE CANADA'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

THIS YEAR, MAPLECROSS CONTRIBUTED A PIVOTAL GIFT TO SECURE THE KEIKO & ERROL NATURE PRESERVE ON ROSS ISLAND, FOREVER.



Dr. Isobel Ralston and Dr. Jan Oudenes are ambitious naturalists. Together, they established the **MapleCross Fund** which has a mission "to protect and restore Canada's natural environment by supporting organizations engaged in land conservation." They supported the Nature Trust's campaign to protect **372 hectares (920 acres)** on Ross Island this year. Thanks to a generous pledge from the MapleCross Fund, the **Keiko & Errol Nature Preserve on Ross Island** was created, bringing the Nature Trust to **over 10,000 acres of conserved land in New Brunswick**, a milestone achievement in our 34-year history.

Isobel and her family immigrated to Ontario from the United Kingdom when she was about three years old. She recounts her love for nature being passed down from her parents, who took their family camping across the country. It is through this exploration of Canada's picturesque landscapes, she says, that she became aware of the marvels of nature, and of the beauty and the uniqueness of various areas.

Originally from the Netherlands, Jan jokes that he came to Canada for three things: to study a bit of chemistry, to see the mountains in Alberta, and to learn how to speak English, which is still an ongoing project in his own words. Science and the Rocky Mountains inspired his passion for nature and conservation. Jan recounts that it was upon reading the Club of Rome's report, "The Limits to Growth," during his post-secondary studies that he first vividly recognized the importance of protecting nature. "There was nature and it was in danger of being diminished." He adds that coming to Canada, the mountains of Alberta were awe-inspiring.

The pair met while completing their PhDs in chemistry at the University of Alberta. Together, they have travelled the world and explored some of the most beautiful natural sights, from hiking in the Rocky Mountains and canoeing in Ontario and the Northwest Territories, to cycling in Europe.

Isobel and Jan retired from their respective professional careers in 2017, after exiting their successful pharmaceutical businesses. Looking to give back, they saw a need for funding in conservation efforts across the country, thus establishing the MapleCross Fund.

"[We] saw the shrinking of the natural spaces in Canada, particularly those areas where there's significant biodiversity. So, we set out to give back to society, namely to nature," said Jan.

Since then, Isobel and Jan have been, as they refer to it, investing in nature.

Their first investment in nature was with the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust in Ontario. Their objective, however, was more ambitious than giving locally. "We wanted to extend ourselves across the country and not just in our little backyard of Aurora, Ontario," said Isobel.

At present, they have generously donated to a multitude of land conservation organizations in eight of the ten Canadian provinces. The **Conserve Y(our) NB: Protect Ross Island campaign** was their first partnership in New Brunswick.

This new endeavour has been an exciting one for Jan and Isobel. "We're having a lot of fun with it, for we get to meet a great number of bright people who have an interest in doing this work. So, we feel part of the larger community now. It's also important for us that the land conservation community grows... We have a wonderful opportunity, and we feel blessed that we can do this," said Jan.

Their decision to make the pivotal gift in the campaign to protect Ross Island was both scientific and emotional. Their consultant, Ian Buchanan, raved about the island and the surrounding area for its beauty and ecological significance. Isobel had fond memories of camping along the Bay of Fundy as a child. She recalled seeing the mist rolling in off the ocean and the eeriness about it being so incredible.

Ultimately, Jan and Isobel said they relied on the enthusiasm of the Nature Trust team and Mr. Buchanan's expertise to make their first investment in New Brunswick's nature legacy. Their generous gift led to the protection of the critical **Keiko & Errol Nature Preserve on Ross Island**. With their help, the Nature Trust also surpassed an exciting milestone in its 34-year history: the conservation of over 10,000 acres of land in New Brunswick.

"As far as wildlife is concerned, the 10,000 acres that you're protecting is providing an area and, at least a chance, for a lot of threatened and endangered species or species at risk, to regroup, to breathe, to breed, to get back on track ... So I'm hoping that bit by bit, hectare by hectare, that we'll begin to be able to provide space for restoration of both flora and fauna," said Isobel.

For this reason, Isobel and Jan say they partner with organizations like the Nature Trust; to ensure that the biodiversity they help protect is conserved, restored, and may thrive again.

"We feel very privileged to be in partnership with you and other New Brunswickers as well," said Isobel. "We thank you for all that you're doing to preserve Ross Island, those 10,000 acres, and any other parts you're going to get involved in the near future. So good luck to you. We appreciate your work."

Thank you to Isobel and Jan, and MapleCross, for investing in nature in New Brunswick. Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who gave generously and raised awareness. With your help, the Keiko & Errol Nature Preserve on Ross Island is now protected, forever.

WRITTEN BY: Eugénie Gaujacq, Communications Officer



PHOTO: Dr. Jan Oudenes and Dr. Isobel Ralston, MapleCross Fund

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY FOR NATURE IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Investing in nature is the best way to ensure future generations can enjoy the natural places in New Brunswick that you cherish. Since 1987, the **Nature Trust of New Brunswick** has partnered with land donors and individual donors to establish a shared vision for conservation in our province. Let us help you **turn your gift into a lasting legacy.**

Contact Nature Trust Chief Executive Officer, **Stephanie Merrill**, by email at **stephanie.merrill@ntnb.org** or call **(506) 457-2398** to discuss how you can be a part of creating a lasting legacy for nature in New Brunswick.





HELP PROTECT THE NEW BRUNSWICK
YOU **KNOW** AND **LOVE**

At the Nature Trust, we envision a New Brunswick where future generations can explore and enjoy the natural spaces you know and love, **forever.**

In July 2020, we launched the **Conserve Y(our) NB: Protect the Places You Love** campaign to double the amount of land which the Nature Trust protects by 2030. To achieve this goal, we pledged to raise **\$10 million** to increase the amount of land the Nature Trust protects to **15,000 acres by 2030.**

Thanks to the help of generous supporters, like **you**, we celebrated our **10,000 acres milestone** this summer – a major accomplishment in our organization’s 34-year history.

By supporting the Nature Trust, **you are protecting** old growth forests, picturesque coastlines, and wetlands that provide sanctuary to the flora and fauna that call our province home.

To ensure a future for nature in New Brunswick, **we need your help.**

- If you make a donation, you will automatically be considered a member of the Nature Trust. Please check here if you **do not** want to become a member.
- Please check here if you would like to receive your printed membership materials **electronically.**

MAKE A DONATION:

- YES**, I will make an **ANNUAL** donation to help conserve and steward New Brunswick’s spaces
- \$50** **\$100** **\$150** **\$200** **\$500** **OTHER:** _____
- YES**, I will make my donation a **MONTHLY** donation*
- YES**, I am interested in making in-kind donations of land, life estates, and/or stocks and shares*

**Name: _____

**Street Address: _____

**City/Town: _____ **Province/State: _____

**Country: _____ **Postal Code/Zip Code: _____

A cheque to the Nature Trust is enclosed

Visa No.: _____

I will pay by credit (Only accepting Visa at this time)

Expiry Date: _____/_____/_____

Charitable receipt required?
(Donations of \$20 or more are eligible)

**Email address: _____

**Telephone: _____

Mail to:
The Nature Trust of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 603, Stn A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5A6

*Monthly donations and other donation options are available to make online via CanadaHelps or by contacting the Nature Trust at (506) 457-2398
**Required information

OFFICE USE

STEWARDS

GIVING BACK TO THE PLACES WE LOVE

A DISCUSSION WITH STEWARDS CHARLY AND LAURA BONGA ABOUT THEIR LOVE OF NEW BRUNSWICK'S NATURAL SPACES AND WHAT INSPIRED THEM TO CREATE A TRAIL SYSTEM THROUGH THE NOREMAC NATURE PRESERVE IN SAINT JOHN.

Protecting our cherished natural spaces is part of a family legacy for Charly and Laura Bonga, who championed a trail building project at **Noremac Nature Preserve** during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Acting Communications Coordinator, Kelsey Hogan, spoke with Charly and Laura Bonga to learn more about how the pandemic was a time to **reconnect** with nature.

Charly and Laura Bonga were instilled with a love of nature from a young age. The two grew up spending time outdoors with their family, enjoying long hikes on nature trails and paddles on the river. Like many New Brunswickers, their childhood memories are filled with picking berries in the summer, fiddleheads in spring, and playing along the grassy riverbanks of the Wolastoq/Saint John River among the frogs and ducks.

These early experiences filled them with appreciation for New Brunswick's natural spaces and have fueled a desire to give back to the places that have given them so much. "We have both always been excited by the outdoors and trying to help with environmental causes for as long as I can remember," said Laura.

Born and raised in Saint John, the sisters returned to their hometown after graduating from Acadia University during the COVID-19 pandemic and spending time tree-planting out west. They both feel fortunate to have accessible natural spaces right in their backyard to explore – Blueberry Hill Nature Preserve, Boars Head Nature Preserve, and Manawagonish Island, to name a few of their favourites. With time on their hands during the pandemic, they were keen to give back as volunteers to support stewardship of local nature preserves.

The newly established Noremac Nature Preserve is located around the corner from the house where the two young women grew up. This preserve protects 8.93 hectares (22.06 acres) of old-growth Acadian forest that provides habitats to diverse wildlife, including flying squirrels, Canada lynx, and barred owls. Walking through the mature stands of white cedar, red spruce, balsam fir, white pine, maple, and white birch, visitors to this unique property are enveloped by the peace and calm of the forest, which provides refuge to wildlife and humans alike from nearby urban areas. "All of a sudden, you're in this magical, quiet, mossy forest. You feel like you're so far removed from the city. It smells so nice in there," said Charly.

At a grand opening event a few years ago, the sisters were captivated by land donor Marion Cameron's vision for a trail system through the nature preserve, which would allow future generations to experience the untouched beauty of the old-growth Acadian Forest. Marion wanted other people to be able to enjoy the donated land, in perpetuity.



PHOTO: Charly and Laura Bonga at a trail building event at the Noremac Nature Preserve

To bring Marion's inspiration and vision to life, Charly and Laura organized trail-building events. They enlisted the help of experienced Nature Trust stewards, Evan Baker and Eric and Jane Hadley, to help design the trail and guide them on techniques. Building a new trail takes a community effort, so the sisters recruited friends, family, and volunteers from local hiking groups. During the week, Charly and Laura both worked at a climbing gym and would chat about their weekend trail building project. Soon, climbers joined the project, eager to help out and learn more about the conservation efforts on the nearby preserve.

Before long, they had a dedicated group of 15 volunteers, including their friend, Josh Carew, and father, Mike Bonga. Laura was eager to share how much the project has galvanized community teamwork, especially during a time of social disconnection. "It's been really good to meet new people and for them to meet each other."



PHOTO: Volunteers at a trail building event at the Noremac Nature Preserve

Nature Trust stewards like Laura and Charly are incredible community builders and ambassadors, not only for our organization, but for the wildlife and unique places in our province. They recognize the importance of protecting these unique places for the benefit of people and wildlife forever. "It's really important for our wellbeing to be able to enjoy nature and go for walks, and also not have to drive really far to do that and enjoy it in our own backyard," said Charly.

The Nature Trust team would like to thank all of the volunteers who supported the trail building project at Noremac Nature Preserve. A special thank you to Charly and Laura for their passion, dedication, and enthusiasm for bringing them together to steward cherished spaces across New Brunswick.

As stewards, Charly and Laura play an essential role in maintaining a network of nature preserves in the Saint John region and beyond. They also generously contributed to the **Conserve Y(our) NB: Protect Ross Island campaign** by donating their beautiful artwork to the cause. Thank you, Charly and Laura!



**STEWARDSHIP POSTCARD
2020-21**

67

**NATURE
PRESERVES
MONITORED**



15

**SPECIES
SURVEYS
COMPLETED**



11

**INVASIVE SPECIES
REMOVAL
WORKSHOPS**



204

**DEDICATED
NATURE TRUST
VOLUNTEERS**



19

**PRESERVE
TRAILS
MAINTAINED**



3,241

**VOLUNTEER
HOURS
WORKED**



OUR SUPPORTERS

2020-21

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick may provide the means for land conservation, but it is the individuals and groups featured on this list who truly make it possible. The following list recognizes the individuals and families who gave generously to our organization between May 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021. We thank you for your support.

DONORS OF LAND

Margo & Walter Emrich
Lance & Frances Howard

LIFE MEMBERS

Bill Armstrong
Karen & Eugene Brewer
Ann Chudleigh
Barbara Clayden
Leta Clayden
Dr. Stephen Clayden
Jessie Davies
HMS Transportation
Lydia LaPointe
Elizabeth MacFarlane
Doug Milton
Jim Ross
Jane Tarn
Liz Von Ziegesar
Sheila Washburn
Lois Ellis

INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

\$ 1,000+

Anonymous x3
Edouard Allain
Susan Ballantyne
Suzanne Bonnell-Burley & Wayne Burley
Laurie Campbell & Gabriel Bourgeois
Ann Chudleigh
Shirlyn Coleman
Robert Dallison
Jessie Davies
Doug DeAngelis
Doris Demers & David Palmer
Karen & Carl Duivenvoorden
Ernest & Judy Edwards
Margo & Walter Emrich
Jo-Ann & David Fellows
Katherine Grant
Jane & Eric Hadley
Angus Hamilton
Lance & Frances Howard
Margo Inches
David Johnston
Helen Johnston
Mary & Brian Kaye
Mitch Kyle
Lydia Lapointe
Peter Lelievre
Helen Leroux
Carol MacDonald
Malcolm & Barb Mackay

Lynn MacKinnon
Ann McCain-Evans
Michael & Bridgette McEwing
Doris McKnight
Edward McLean
Michael Meighen
Susan Mott
David O'Brien
Jacqueline & Derek Oland
Margot Sackett
Hugh Scarth
Judith Seymour
Margo & Larry Sheppard
Donna & Alec Smythe
Dusan Soudek
Robert Stewart
Jane Tarn
Tuam View Investments
Sheila Washburn
Donna Young

UNDER \$ 1,000

Anonymous X 38
Benjamin Abramson
David & Lynn Addleman
Wilfred Alliston
Scott Edward Anderson
Andrea Brewer
Sheila & Timothy Andrew
Danielle Andrus
Adam Archibald
Susan Arkinson
Andrew Atkinson
Sherry & Bruce Bagnell
Joey Ann Baird
Evan Baker
Stuart Baker
Madeleine Ballantyne-Rice
Gillian Barfoot
Cindy Barker
Eileen Barker
Katelyn Barker
Roberta Barnet
Jeffrey Barton
Hallie Bass
Catherine Bastien & Dominique Lecomte
Geoff Bastin
George Bastin
Mary Bastin
Jacqueline Bateman
James Bates
Ladds Batten
Andrew Bearsto
Lori Beaman
Caroline Belair
Susan Belfry
Michael Bellefleur

Beverly Benedict
Rheal & Bernadette Berube
Gart Bishop
Peter Blight
Iris Bliss
Paul Bogaard
Charly Bonga
Jan Bonga
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Maryse Bourgeois
Eileen Boyd
Judy & Larry Boyd
Phillip Boyd
Jane Braedley
Carol & Dale Bray
Sébastien Breau
Ann & Terrance Brennan
Gene Brewer
Michael Britton
Barb Brown
Nadine & David Brown
Pamela & Michael Brown
Jules & Patti Burgevin
Courtney Burk
Carl Bursey
Marion Cameron
Frank Camm
Ansel A Campbell
Douglas Campbell
Fay & Duncan Campbell
Gail Campbell
Margaret & John Campbell
Stephanie Campbell
Anita & David Cannon
William Cardy
Wendy Carty
Lisa Cattaruzza
Michael Caughey
Marieka Chaplin
Mira Dietz Chiasson
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Robert Currie
Tara Currie
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Georgie Day
Tracey Dean
Jocelyn Deichman
Heather DeMille
Alison Deming
Jefford Dennis
Gail Dennison
Dianna Desaulniers
Dorothy Diamond
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Katelynn Everett
Lee-Anne F
Mary Ferris
Mary Flagg
Elizabeth Fleet
Chris Flemming
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Alastair M Fox
Dyanne Frame
Lisa Freeze
Jane Fullerton
Grant Furlotte
Peta Fussell
Sadie Gagner
Amber Garber
Mary & James Gatien
Carol & Stratis Gavaris
Kevin Gick
Wilma Gilchrist
Steven Gilliland
Carole-Anne Gillis
Mark Glass
Linda Glassford
Andrew Goodman
Claire Goodwin



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Sue Green
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Melissa Grey
Joan Groom
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Lynn Gulliver
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Michael Watson
Michael Wetmore
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Pam Whitty
Adam Wilkins
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Nancy Williston
Gavin Woodward
Nadia Woodward
Renata Woodward
Sarah Bethany Wright
Henry Yates
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Bethany Young
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Graham Young
Karen & Chris Young
Adrian Zelazny

IN MEMORY OF LESLIE BURGESS

Joan Pearce

IN MEMORY OF BEVERLEY PARKEY

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Joan Brooker
Kerri-Lynn Chartier
Elaine & Ridger Maker
Jane Miller
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Margo & Walter Emrich

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Benham Arlene

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IN MEMORY OF ANITA & GERRY MADIGAN

Tess Madigan



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IN MEMORY OF
SHIRLEY BUBAR

Theresa Glanville

IN MEMORY OF
MURRAY WATTERS

Marianne & David Bell
Gaynor & Gary Caldwell
Cheyenne Currie
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Julie & Jason Green
Herrick Hansen
Allison & Rhonda Kennedy
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Marsha & John Lang
Patricia O'Brien
Darlene Roach-Butler
Brian Sykes
Margaret & Burpee Wagner
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Pamela Watters
Shelley Watters

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ART MACINTYRE

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Les Burrige
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MATT & MIKE JR BOWLIN

Michael Bowlin

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BRENDA COWAN

Vicki Cowan

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LAURIE CAMPBELL &
GABRIEL BOUGEOIS

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EVELYN JOHNSTON

Beth Johnston

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LYNN MACKINNON

Catherine Sutherland

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JESSIE AND HUW DAVIES

Rhiannon Davies
Elizabeth Paynter

IN HONOUR OF
ROBERT THORNE

John Sabine

IN HONOUR OF
NANCY & MARC

Nancy & Schroeder

IN HONOUR OF
JUSTIN, JEN, CHARLES &
DOROTHY EARL

Rachel Earl

IN HONOUR OF
ROXIE YOUNG

Anonymous

IN HONOUR OF
MEGAN EDWARDS &
ADAM WORTH

Marnie McCall

IN HONOUR OF
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Central Okanagan Naturalists Club

IN HONOUR OF
LOIS RAMSEY

Fenwick Bonnell

IN HONOUR OF
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Joyce & Robert McCavour

IN HONOUR OF
KARIN HENDRIKSEN

Wouter Oudemans &
Peter Oudemans

IN HONOUR OF
THE ROSS FAMILY

Anonymous

IN HONOUR OF
JOHN HAYES

Cheyenne Currie

IN HONOUR OF
BETHANY YOUNG

Jacqueline Conners

IN HONOUR OF
KELLY BEAIRSTO

Karen Young

IN HONOUR OF
MARNIE & KEN

Megan Edwards

IN HONOUR OF
NEIL MACLEAN

Alexa Gauthier

IN HONOUR OF
OAK RIDGES MORAINÉ
LAND TRUST

Agents of Good

IN HONOUR OF
SALLY MELANSON,
BRIAN LEBLANCE, &
DEREK MELANSON

Lynn Davies

OUR SUPPORTERS

2020-21

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick may provide the means for land conservation, but it is the help of individuals and groups featured on this list who truly make it possible. The following list recognizes the corporations, foundations, partnering organizations, and government departments who supported our organization between **May 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021**. We thank you for your support.

Alcool NB Liquor
Atlantic Mariculture Limited
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Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund
Cape Journimain Nature Centre Inc.
CBRE
City of Moncton
Clover Leaf Seafoods Company
Colleges and Institutes Canada
Crane Mountain Enhancement Inc.
Davis Conservation Foundation
Drake Construction
Echo Foundation
ECO Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fundy Community Foundation
Fundy Regional Commission
Gaspereau Press Ltd.
Government of Canada:
 Canada Summer Jobs
 Young Canada Works
Government of New Brunswick:
 Community Investment Fund,
 Department of Natural Resources
 and Energy Development,
 NB Environmental Trust Fund,
 NB Wildlife Trust Fund,
 Post Secondary Education, Training
 and Labour,
 Work Ability Program
Island Nature Trust
Jolly Breeze Whale Adventures
Lothar Von Ziegesar Foundation
MapleCross Fund
Maple Leaf Homes
McCain Foundation
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Mi'kmaq Wolastoqey Centre
Nashwaak Watershed Association
NATECH
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nature NB
New Brunswick Environmental Network
New Brunswick Genealogical Society Saint John
Branch
Nova Scotia Nature Trust
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Seacliff Cottages Suited
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St. Thomas University
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
The Gosling Foundation
The Schad Foundation
Transalta
Tweed Collective
UNB Harriet Irving Library
United Nations Association in Canada
United Way Central NB, Greater Moncton &
Southeastern New Brunswick Region, Greater
Toronto, Saint John
Venture for Canada
Village of Salisbury Naturalist Club
Voices of Sustainable Environments and
Communities
Wildlife Habitat Canada
William Wharton Foundation
Zita & Mark Bernstein Family Foundation



ENGAGE:

CHANGING TIDES

A DISCUSSION WITH FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RENATA WOODWARD, AND NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, STEPHANIE MERRILL, ABOUT THE CHANGING LEADERSHIP AT THE NATURE TRUST AND THEIR SHARED PASSION FOR CONSERVATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.



After 12 years of dedicating her life to conservation in New Brunswick, Renata Woodward is onto new adventures. The Nature Trust has recently added Stephanie Merrill to our team as the new Chief Executive Officer. She has returned home from Saskatchewan to ensure the places she loves are protected, **forever**.

Our Conservation and Engagement Manager, Cheyenne Currie, sat down with the two leaders to reflect on Renata's career at the Nature Trust and learn about Stephanie's vision for the organization.

Renata began her journey with the Nature Trust as the Conservation Program Director in 2009. She served as the Nature Trust's Chief Executive Officer for a decade. Under Renata's leadership, the Nature Trust grew to a \$2.7 million operation with \$13 million in assets and a complement of twenty plus employees with a culture of success, ambition, and growth. Most importantly, she molded the organization into a key pillar of conservation in New Brunswick with a sound reputation supported by more than forty funders and thousands of members and volunteers. Together, they have worked to secure a network of over 70 nature preserves consisting of 10,000 acres of land protected in perpetuity.

Renata is known for her positive attitude and ability to inspire those around her. She has an unmatched drive and rarely did her visions go unfulfilled. When asked about her greatest conservation success, Renata speaks to her time spent mentoring hundreds of young conservation leaders.

"During my 12 years with the Nature Trust, I had the privilege to work with many young people who were in school or just finished their education. Instilling passion or giving a chance to youth to experience the field of land conservation and watch them succeed after their internships at the Nature Trust was a huge success for all of us," said Renata.



Renata speaks fondly of memories she shared with mentors, volunteers, stewards, landowners, funders, partners, and staff she met through her time with the Nature Trust. She is grateful for meeting like-minded individuals who share her passion for conservation on the East Coast.

One of the people she's had the pleasure of meeting and working with along the way is Stephanie Merrill.

"My first memory of Stephanie was when she worked on a project associated with wetlands. She was connecting with different people about supporting a new and exciting project," said Renata. "At that time, the Nature Trust was a completely non-advocacy-based organization. However, I felt the work that Stephanie was doing was so important... Stephanie's ambition and passion made me educate myself on conservation organizations' steps to become more advocacy oriented. She was an example for me of how things need to get done on the ground and how we cannot be silent on things that affect causes we care about most."

Renata had difficulty choosing one memory that stood out the most during her time at the Nature Trust. One left a lasting impression.

"I will never forget a trip to the South Wolf Island Nature Preserve. I had participated in a two-day-long expedition to clean up the island and complete a botanical and bird survey. I felt like we were completely cut out of the world... I woke up to the sound of whales blowing air into the water while the seals were squawking over something nearby, protecting their young. The storm petrels were making their calls in the nearby forest. I will never forget this moment because I never felt more alive."



Renata has recently moved to Québec with her daughter to farm and pursue consulting ventures.

"Thank you to all the friends, mentors, donors, volunteers, stewards, and my kids for being a part of my life over the past 12 years. I am super excited to continue to watch the Nature Trust and support your successes as you work towards your future goals."



Growing up, Stephanie's weekend trips to her family cottage on French Lake, a part of the Grand Lake chain, were filled with swimming and beach walks, which turned into a lifelong appreciation for outdoor spaces that bring people together.

"I have a lot of fond memories being the oldest grandchild on my mum's side of the family. Spending summers at the family camp, being on the water, playing on the shore, and in the treelines with the cousins, watching and listening to the loons through binoculars with my Nan. It became where I wanted to be as an adult too, it is a part of who I am now," said Stephanie.



Stephanie's love of natural spaces in New Brunswick led her to a Bachelor of Science from the University of New Brunswick and a Master of Science in Forestry. She has worked for the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, the Canadian Rivers Institute, and the Global Institute for Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan. Stephanie has returned home to New Brunswick because she believes in the role each of us can play in the conservation movement.

Stephanie has spearheaded many projects related to the protection of important places in New Brunswick. Most notably, her work to engage citizens on the concerns of shale gas fracking in New Brunswick.

"I felt really determined about being able to respond professionally to a huge need around the province. The people of New Brunswick wanted someone to speak up on their behalf, and I felt very privileged to play that role. I learned a lot personally about what drives people to want to be living, learning, and playing in this province," said Stephanie.

Now, returning home to New Brunswick, Stephanie is ready to lead the Nature Trust and build on the momentum of recent successes.

"When you go other places, live in bigger cities, or travel abroad, you get perspective on what you have at home. We still have intact green space and forests that provide habitats and clean water and air. So it is important to appreciate that and instill this appreciation in others, to ensure we protect it. As humans, we protect what we love, and we love what we have positive experiences with."



Stephanie envisions engaging New Brunswickers in developing their own positive experiences: accessing, protecting, and stewarding nature. She looks forward to working with the Nature Trust community to grow the preserve network to increase wildlife connectivity throughout the province and ensure New Brunswick's plants and wildlife have refuges of suitable habitat forever. Stephanie is confident that we will meet our shared goal to protect 15,000 acres by 2030. (Thank you to the many supporters who have brought us within only 5,000 acres from this goal!) Also, Stephanie looks forward getting out to the preserves, building trails, removing invasive species, monitoring with stewards, and learning everything about being a part of the Nature Trust community.

"I am excited to meet the amazing people Renata speaks so highly of and learn about what makes you so dedicated to the organization and nature conservation," said Stephanie. "Conservation is not about the leader or the CEO; it is about building the team and the community of people needed to take on the huge task of protecting important spaces in the province. I am looking forward to helping to continue to build that."



PASSPORT TO NATURE POSTCARD
2020-21

10

PASSPORT TO
NATURE VIDEO
PREMIERES



10

PASSPORT
TO NATURE
WEBINARS



538

WEBINAR
PARTICIPANTS



32+

CLEANUP SITES
ALONG THE
BAY OF FUNDY



100+

GREAT FUNDY
COASTAL CLEANUP
VOLUNTEERS



FINANCE:

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020-21

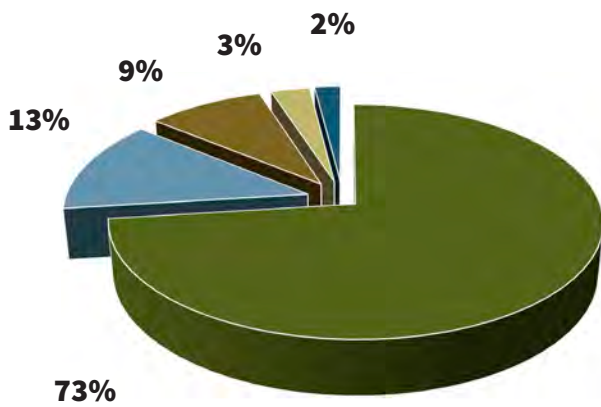
The majority of funds raised by The Nature Trust of New Brunswick continue to be allocated to our charitable mission to maintain our **conservation, stewardship and engagement** pillars. The Nature Trust allocated **73% of total revenues to Land Acquisition**, which includes five new preserves and one conservation easement. Expenses for this include baseline reports, negotiations, management plans, legal fees, appraisals, and purchase/donation of land. The chart below shows the breakdown of revenue allocated for five categories: **Admin/Communications, Operations, Stewardship, Conservation Planning, and Land Acquisition.**

Of the **Nature Trust's total revenue, 13%** was allocated to the ongoing **stewardship** of our existing nature preserves. This is done through the hard work of our dedicated volunteers and ever-growing staff, through outreach and hands-on activities.

The **9% of revenue for Conservation Planning** includes our **Landowner Stewardship Program** which encourages private landowners to adopt positive land practices. It also includes strategic conservation planning, research, project management, and field surveys, with a focus on projects related to conserving **species at risk** and rare and threatened habitats in key planning regions.

The **3%** that encompasses **Administration and Communications** includes revenues for charitable activities of the organization, communication, and public engagement.

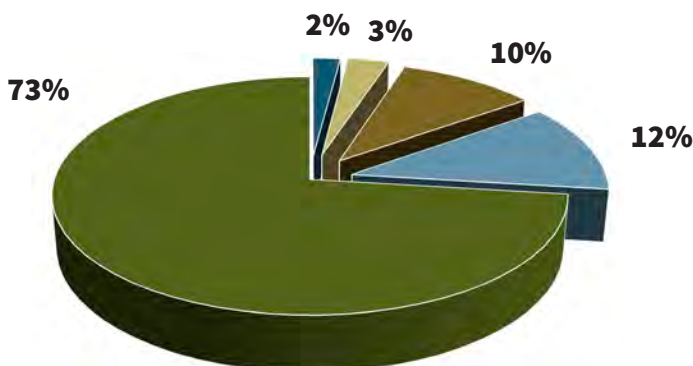
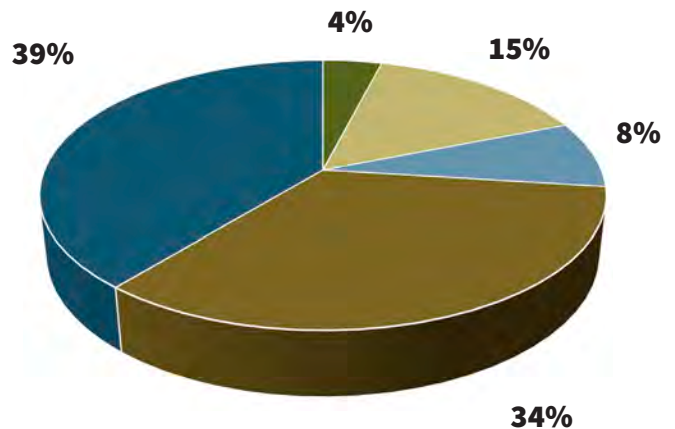
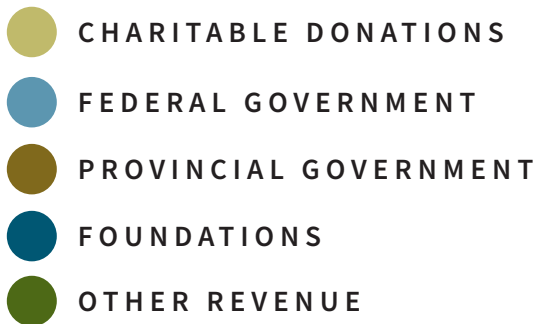
Operations make up 2% of the organization's total revenue and is used to support additional administration costs and fundraising expenses.



PROGRAM FUNDS ALLOCATION:



REVENUE SOURCES:



EXPENSES:



**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF
APRIL 30, 2021**

ASSETS:	2021	2020
CASH	\$823,752.00	\$533,109.00
CAPITAL ASSETS	\$23,836.00	\$30,172.00
INVESTMENTS	\$3,818,437.00	\$3,260,202.00
INTERFUND BALANCES	\$4,099.00	\$2,911.00
CONSERVATION LANDS/EASEMENTS	\$13,275,197.00	\$11,321,197.00

TOTAL ASSETS	\$17,945,321.00	\$15,147,591.00
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LIABILITIES:

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/ACCRUED LIABILITIES	\$79,062.00	\$54,726.00
DEFERRED REVENUE	\$32,787.00	\$85,674.00
INTERFUND BALANCES	\$4,099.00	\$2,911.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$115,948.00	\$143,311.00
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NET ASSETS:

UNRESTRICTED	\$527,191.00	\$339,807.00
INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	\$23,836.00	\$30,172.00
INVESTMENT IN LAND/CONSERVATION EASEMENTS	\$13,275,197.00	\$11,321,197.00
STEWARDSHIP FUND	\$1,739,554.00	\$1,360,449.00
ENDOWMENT FUND	\$2,263,595.00	\$1,952,655.00

TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$17,829,373.00	\$15,004,280.00
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TOTAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	\$17,945,321.00	\$15,147,591.00
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**SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2021**

REVENUE:	2021	2020
PUBLIC SUPPORT END REVENUE	\$3,151,853.00	\$2,886,415.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$83,947.00	\$102,763.00
CHANGE IN MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENT	\$598,552.00	\$0.00

TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,834,352.00	\$2,989,178.00
----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

EXPENDITURES	\$2,963,259.00	\$2,762,198.00
CHANGE IN MARKET VALUE	\$0.00	\$53,531.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,963,259.00	\$2,815,729.00
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EXCESS OF REVENUE (EXPENSES) FOR THE YEAR	\$871,093.00	\$173,449.00
--	---------------------	---------------------

THE NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK GRATITUDE REPORT 2020-21

Nature Trust of New Brunswick
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P.O. Box 603, Stn. A
Fredericton, NB E3B 5A6
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Phone: (506) 457-2398
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