

NATURE TRUST  
of NEW BRUNSWICK

---

Fondation pour la  
PROTECTION DES  
SITES NATURELS  
du NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Conserve. Steward. Educate.

Annual Report 2015/16





## Content

Letter from the President & Executive Director	1
Conservation: Nature Preserve Expansion	2
A Glance at our New Nature Preserves	3
Stewardship: The Grand Tour	4
Education: The Landowner Stewardship Program	6
Frog Walks 2015	7
Finances	8
Planned Giving	10

## Mission

To **CONSERVE** areas in perpetuity that have ecological, scenic, cultural, geological, or recreational value by establishing a network of nature preserves throughout New Brunswick.

To **STEWARD** the nature preserves through sustainable management with the support of land stewards and community groups.

To **EDUCATE** the public about the importance of land conservation and environmental stewardship, engaging and connecting all people with nature.

# Dear Friends of the Nature Trust:

Letter from the President,

2015-16 has been an incredible year at the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. We gained three new board members in 2015: Sara Taaffe, Tim Nowlan, and Raja Wetuschat. It has been a delight to have them as part of the team, and we look forward to continued collaborations! We also said goodbye to board members Jane Barry, Monika Stelzl, and Roy Hickey –thank you for your years of hard work and dedication to the Nature Trust.

It was with great sadness that the Nature Trust family learned of the passing of Don Dennison in 2015. Don served as President of the Nature Trust and was then named President Emeritus. A leading force behind the development of many projects, Don was an advocate for innovation, conservation and land acquisition for the Nature Trust. One of Don's major contributions was the creation of the Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Land Conservation in New Brunswick to recognize individuals or groups making a significant difference. After Don's passing, his family established the Don Dennison Legacy Fund, which will allow the Nature Trust to continue the organization's mission, particularly directed towards support of the Lieutenant-Governor's Award of Excellence in Land Conservation. It is an honour for the Dennison family to recognize Don's contributions to the Nature Trust for the benefit of all New Brunswickers.

The Board of Directors has finalized the organizational chart of the organization, implemented new governance policies, overseen the development of financial policies and procedures, and accomplished goals set in the 3rd and 4th year of the strategic plan. We are proud of the work that was done in 2015-16 including the protection of more than 200 acres. We look forward to what lies in store for the Nature Trust over the next number of years.

Nature Trust of New Brunswick President, Mike Bonga



Letter from the Executive Director,

In 2015-16, the Nature Trust has undertaken process improvement initiatives in the finance and administration, fundraising, acquisition and stewardship departments in order to adjust to the growth of the organization and properly guide staff, Board members, and volunteers.

The Nature Trust has been selected to participate in the Better Organizations for Nature project, funded by the Gosling Foundation, through which the entire team was trained in engagement organizing and the implementation of a new Constituent Relationship Management tool – Salesforce, and planned a process for self-sustainable stewardship groups.

On the ground, conservation, stewardship, and education continue to be the Nature Trust's primary focus. The Nature Trust established three new nature preserves, extended one, and renewed the 10 year lease on Beardsley Hill Nature Preserve. The Conservation Planning Department worked with landowners across the Upper and Lower Saint John River through the Landowner Stewardship Program, which has created many new conservation opportunities.

Many stewards, members, volunteers, partners and funders were engaged through the Grand Tour of 2015 which enhanced the state of 21 nature preserves. The Nature Trust has partnered with many organizations that amplified our stewardship and educational efforts. These projects included wildlife interpretation walks, kayak and canoe trips, and many more.

I was fortunate to represent the Nature Trust at the First International Congress in Private Land Conservation in Berlin, Germany where I was able to learn about innovative conservation practices from around the world. It is evident that New Brunswick is not immune to global environmental issues such as climate change. There is a growing sense of urgency to protect New Brunswick's most special places, adding to the existing network of protected land and mitigating local environmental threats. The Nature Trust would like to extend a sincere thanks to our allies, and to invite each of you to join our forces to enhance land conservation in New Brunswick.

Nature Trust of New Brunswick Executive Director, Renata Woodward







## Clark Gregory Nature Preserve in the Bay of Fundy

### Protecting shoreline and memories

On October 10th, 2015 the Nature Trust of New Brunswick was honoured to expand the Clark Gregory Nature Preserve on Deer Island in the Bay of Fundy. With rich forests and a rugged coastline, Clark Gregory Nature Preserve is a beautiful place to visit. The 30.18 hectare nature preserve features several areas where the local residents can be seen enjoying picnics and the scenic views of the Bay of Fundy.

“This is a very important acquisition that enlarges the Clark Gregory Nature Preserve to the north, with another piece of relatively undisturbed coastal forest,” says Walter Emrich, Chair of the Stewardship Committee. “It also adds to the significant amount of Bay of Fundy coastline that is being protected by the Nature Trust.”

Betsy Duncan, the donor of the land, named the nature preserve in memory of her partner. Like the local residents, Dr. Clark Gregory adored the beauty of this land. After the donation of the original piece of land, Duncan assisted the Nature Trust in the acquisition of an extension on the preserve. “It now is complete. One smoothly rising headland stretching toward Hibernia Cove to Chocolate Cove, saved from development forever.” says Duncan.

Featuring cliffs, forests, wetland, and meadow, this preserve offers a range of refuge for various species. Of particular interest is a stand of mature wild pear bushes, a species whose typical range is more southerly, making it uncommon in this area. The critically-imperiled small-flowered bitter-ress (*Cardamine parviflora* var. *arenicola*) and the imperiled slender mouse-tail moss (*Isothecium myosuroides*) can also be found on the preserve.

Duncan is very happy that her donation has made an impact on the protection of land in New Brunswick. She encourages all nature lovers to visit Clark Gregory Nature Preserve. “Now the wildlife rests a little easier and the human visitors find great views and a moment of peace. You are particularly encouraged to visit the last two weeks of May, when the wild pear trees explode with blossoms.”

As Betsy puts it, “Clark is pleased”. The Nature Trust is grateful to fulfill Clark and Betsy’s wishes.



# Nature Preserves Protected in 2015/16:

Four new preserves  
One lease renewal

The Beardsley Hill Nature Preserve was first identified as an important Appalachian hardwood forest site with numerous rare plants in the 1990s. Beardsley Hill has been protected under a conservation lease agreement since 2000. The purpose of this lease agreement is "to protect the ecological value of the woodland covered by it through voluntarily limiting human intervention".



The Kingston Family Nature Preserve is a 119 acre preserve located along the banks of the Northwest Miramichi River. The preserve offers a variety of habitats, including mixed woods, shrub meadows, wetlands, and shoreline.



The Ferris Street Forest and Wetland Nature Preserve is a beautiful area of mixed forest and Provincially Significant Wetland. Located near the Sunset U-Pick berry fields on the City of Fredericton's northside, the 40 acre preserve provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife. The preserve features a 2 km trail system through the forest for residents to enjoy.



The Currie Nature Preserve is a 17.3 acre nature preserve located in the South-Western part of New Brunswick. The preserve features beautiful wetlands and forests.



The Clark Gregory Nature Preserve Extension (5 acres) adds to an existing 73 acre preserve that includes the two headlands on either side of the entrance to Chocolate Cove. The preserve is located at Chocolate Cove on Deer Island in the Bay of Fundy. With its cliffs, forest, wetland, and meadow, this preserve offers a range of sights for visitors to enjoy.





## Grand Tour Series

### Caring for 21 Nature Preserves

In 2015, the Nature Trust embarked on a Grand Tour of 21 nature preserves. The Grand Tour gave the Nature Trust the opportunity to engage the communities surrounding these nature preserves in stewardship of these special places, as well as offering outdoor education. The tour involved events such as trail maintenance days, paddle events to remote islands, and monitoring trips. There were many learning opportunities, such as Important Bird Area interpretations, flora monitoring, and frog walks.

During the Grand Tour, the Nature Trust celebrated three grand opening events. A cleanup was held on Frye Island Nature Preserve attracting over 100 volunteers. La Réserve naturelle Joseph Allain was celebrated in style with voyageur canoe trips around the preserve with Canoe Kayak NB. There was also a hiking trip to the Clark Gregory Nature Preserve celebrating its expansion.

A HUGE thank you goes out to all of our volunteers, stewardship groups, sponsors, and partners who joined the Nature Trust on the Grand Tour. The upkeep and monitoring of the nature preserves would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of all Nature Trust supporters. As we continue to work toward conserving beautiful properties in New Brunswick, we recognize that each and every one has made a significant contribution.

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and check out our website at [naturetrust.nb.ca](http://naturetrust.nb.ca) to stay up to date on all of our events.







“The pleasure and satisfaction I get out of my volunteer activities is certainly more than equal to what the Nature Trust gets from me. For someone who loves the outdoors, what could be better than visiting the spectacular islands in the Bay or exploring the amazing and diverse coastal habitats and helping to preserve them for others to enjoy?” - **Walter Emrich**

Chair of the Stewardship Committee and Director

# STEWARDSHIP POSTCARD

Results from the Nature Trust's 2015 Grand Tour events series.



NATURE TRUST  
OF NEW BRUNSWICK  
Fondation pour la  
PROTECTION DES  
SITES NATURELS  
DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

## VISITED AND MONITORED:

**21** nature preserves  
in **7** NB counties.



## ENGAGED:

over **180** volunteers,  
with at least **10**  
returning for multiple  
events.



## EXPLORED:

**8** nature preserves by water in  
**6** paddling trips, engaging over  
**150** people in recreational paddling of big  
canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddleboards.  
(Thanks Canoe Kayak NB!)



## RESTORED:

over **15 km** of  
hiking trails at **10**  
different nature  
preserves.



## INSTALLED:

**12** new interpretive signs.



## CELEBRATED:

**3** new nature preserves,  
totalling **190** hectares, and  
planning **2** more celebration events in Oct.



**PARTNERED WITH 20  
ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES  
& MUNICIPALITIES:**



Canoe Kayak New Brunswick, Get Outside! NB, Village of Blacks Harbour, Town of Florenceville-Bristol, Town of Grand Bay-Westfield, Village of Neguac, City of Fredericton, Eastern Charlotte Waterways Inc., Connors Bros. Clover Leaf Seafoods Company, Cooke Aquaculture, NB Provincial Parks, Nature NB, CPAWS-NB, Second Nature Outdoors, McCain Foods, Chance Harbour Nature Spa, Remsoft, RBC - Brookside Mall, Meduxnekeag River Association, Maritime DayTripping, and the Andrew and Laura McCain Art Gallery.

## ESTABLISHED:

**5** new stewardship  
groups and worked  
with **3** existing  
stewardship groups.



## CLEANED:

nearly **5 km** of shoreline.



## GUIDED:

**2** interpretive nature walks.



## SURVEYED:

Flora and fauna at  
**8** nature preserves.







## The Landowner Stewardship Program

### A New Brunswick Conservation Success Story

In 2015, the Nature Trust continued its Landowner Stewardship Program, working with New Brunswick landowners and sharing knowledge to practice good land stewardship on their own properties. Landowners who join this program will protect sensitive habitats on their land through proper land management, allowing nature to flourish on their property. The Landowner Stewardship Program allows landowners to enhance and rehabilitate their properties if there has been any damage done to sensitive habitats.

The Nature Trust works together with landowners on identification of critical areas for conservation on their property. The landowners have an option to become partners in conservation and tap into a wealth of information on how to care for wetlands, woodlands, and habitats that support species at risk.

As members of the Landowner Stewardship Program, Rod and Judy Gillis of Belleisle are true caretakers of their land. When Rod and Judy heard that the land beside and across the road from their property could possibly be clear-cut, they decided to purchase and preserve the forest and wetland, which had an existing dyke constructed on it many years back. The Nature Trust established a connection with Rod and Judy through the first outreach program in the Lower St. John River. The Landowner Stewardship Program interested the Gillis family from the start. "We wanted to do something for the community. We wanted to create a little bit of ecotourism, and give the community an opportunity to explore and enjoy nature," says Rod.

In partnership with the Nature Trust, the Gillis family was put in touch with Ducks Unlimited and Environment Canada who were responsible for maintaining a dyke on the property. Rod and Judy led the effort to repair the existing dyke with support from Environment Canada, and encouraged the public to get out and enjoy the beauty of the four trails they had built. The Gillis' were so keen to allow visitors to enjoy their natural surroundings that they worked with the Belleisle Watershed Coalition who constructed five lookouts for visitors to stop at along their hikes and spot various species of birds and other wildlife.





# Frog Walks at Hyla Park Nature Preserve

Within Fredericton City limits lies one of the few places in New Brunswick where the Gray Tree Frog (*Hyla versicolor*) makes its home. As the namesakes of Hyla Park Nature Preserve, these unique amphibians rely on the area as the perfect habitat for their lifecycle. Every summer the Nature Trust hosts weekly educational frog walks for the public to enjoy.

The Nature Trust has started an adoption program, which allows the public to symbolically adopt a frog, or other animal, to support the protection of it's habitat in New Brunswick. You can learn more about the Adopt an Animal program at: [naturetrust.nb.ca/wp/nb-wild-life-adoption-program/](http://naturetrust.nb.ca/wp/nb-wild-life-adoption-program/) or by calling (506) 457-2398.

## FROG WALKS 2015

A summary of our guided amphibian adventures at Hyla Park



NATURE TRUST  
of NEW BRUNSWICK  
Fondation pour la  
PROTECTION DES  
SITES NATURELS  
du NOUVEAU BRUNSWICK

### GUIDED:

**27** interpretive Frog Walks at Hyla Park Nature Preserve, engaging over **375** people in learning about amphibians and conservation!



### TRAINED:

**11** new Frog Walk guides



### RECORDED & SUBMITTED:

All frog data to FrogWatch.

### CAUGHT & RELEASED:

over **100** frogs to give people a closer look at our amphibian friends.



### HEARD:

the gray tree frog's mating call for **7** weeks and the spring peeper for **3** weeks of



### OBSERVED:

#### BOTH AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES!

- **100+** tadpoles
- **80+** green frogs
- **40+** American bullfrogs
- **13** Northern leopard frogs
- **3** spring peepers
- **1** wood frog
- **2** Maritime garter snakes
- **2** smooth greensnakes
- **2** painted turtles





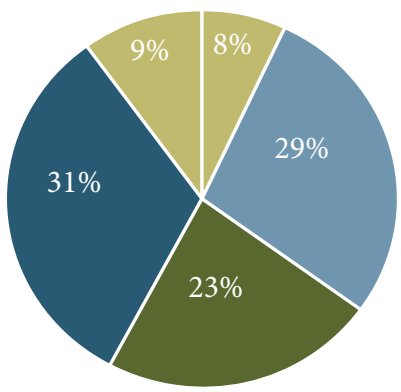


## Supporting the Three Pillars of the Organization:

### Conservation, Stewardship, and Education.

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick continues to ensure that the majority of funds raised go to the three pillars: Conservation, Stewardship, and Education. The Finance Committee has improved financial reporting to provide members and funders with a better understanding of the Nature Trust’s funding allocations. The Program Funding Allocation chart below shows the percentages of revenues in the following four categories: Conservation, Stewardship, Land Acquisition and Other.

**Program Funding Allocation**



- Legend**
- Land Acquisition
  - Stewardship
  - Conservation
  - Other

The Nature Trust takes great pride in stewardship of the existing network of nature preserves, allocating 29% of total revenues to the management of our nature preserves and hands-on education.

31% of the Nature Trust’s revenue is used for land acquisition for the establishment of new nature preserves with associated expenses such as legal fees, appraisals, baseline reports, negotiations, management plans, and the purchase/donation of land.

23% of revenue is used for conservation that includes strategic conservation planning, research, and landowner stewardship program that encourages positive land stewardship.

The “Other” category has been further split to show that of 17% of overall funds, operations consist of 8% for the operational support of all charitable activities of the organization and 9% is allocated to administration, communication, and fundraising expenses.

During the last year, the Nature Trust has worked on improving financial reporting. The Finance Committee and staff have worked on process improvement through the implementation of the latest finance policies and procedures, assessment, as well as staff reorganization and training.





Assets	Year 2016	Year 2015
Cash	\$581,419.00	\$392,398.00
Capital Investments	\$3,141.00	\$3,406.00
Investments	\$1,322,068.00	\$1,312,253.00
Interfund Balances	\$89,363.00	\$60,305.00
Conservation Lands	\$8,234,572.00	\$8,113,380.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$10,230,563.00</b>	<b>\$9,881,742.00</b>
Liabilities	Year 2016	Year 2015
Accounts Payable	\$35,569.00	\$38,557.00
Deferred Revenue	\$178,795.00	\$17,510.00
Interfund Balances	\$89,363.00	\$60,305.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$303,727.00</b>	<b>\$116,372.00</b>
Net Assets	Year 2016	Year 2015
Unrestricted	\$157,476.00	\$163,807.00
Invested in Capital Assets	\$3,141.00	\$3,406.00
Investment in Land / Easements	\$8,234,572.00	\$8,113,380.00
Stewardship Fund	\$698,710.00	\$661,221.00
Endowment Fund	\$832,937.00	\$823,556.00
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$9,926,836.00</b>	<b>\$9,765,370.00</b>
<b>Total Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>\$10,230,563.00</b>	<b>\$9,881,742.00</b>

Revenue	Year 2016	Year 2015
Public Support and Revenue	\$701,927.00	\$2,833,107.00
Investment Income	\$47,304.00	\$52,924.00
Change in Market Value of Investment	-	\$29,176.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$749,231.00</b>	<b>\$2,915,207.00</b>
Expenditures	Year 2016	Year 2015
Change in Market Value	\$64,393.00	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$708,957.00</b>	<b>\$2,770,703.00</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue</b>	<b>\$40,274.00</b>	<b>\$144,504.00</b>

Honourary Patron  
The Honourable Jocelyne Roy  
Vienneau

Honourary Directors  
Jessie Davies  
Robert Stewart

Board of Directors  
Mike Bonga - President  
Lynn MacKinnon - Past President

Vince Zelazny - Vice-President  
Brenda O'Donnell - Treasurer  
James LeMesurier - Secretary  
Edouard Allain  
Wayne Burley  
Walter Emrich  
Jane Fullerton  
Peta Fussell  
Eric Hadley  
Rick Hutchins  
Sandy Loder  
Timothy Nowlan  
Sara Taaffe  
Raja Wetuschat

Trustees Emeritus  
Bill Ayer  
Mike Dillon  
Jane Tims  
Don Vail  
Dorothy Diamond  
Ken Hirtle

Executive Director  
Renata Woodward

Permanent Staff  
Sarah Bailey  
Jessica Bradford  
Aaron Dowding  
Karen Fearnley  
Margo Sheppard



450  
MEMBERS

1500  
'FRIENDS'  
(RECIPIENTS OF E-NEWSLETTER)

Over 6000  
ACRES  
CONSERVED IN  
45  
NATURE  
PRESERVES

2395  
LIKES ON  
FACEBOOK

1750  
FOLLOWERS  
ON TWITTER

1140  
FOLLOWERS  
ON INSTAGRAM





# Planned Giving

Established in 1987, the **Nature Trust of New Brunswick** has conserved over 6000 acres of land in more than 45 beautiful nature preserves. By making a planned gift to the **Nature Trust**, you will give future generations a chance to experience beautiful, untouched natural areas in the province.

To make a planned gift to the Nature Trust, you can cut out and mail in the form below, or contact our office at:

**(506) 457-2398 | naturetrust.nb.ca | naturetrust@ntnb.org**

### Become a supporter or member of the Nature Trust for 2017.

Our network of supporters and members are key to our successes in conservation, stewardship and education. Please consider making a donation, become a member, or renew your membership for this year.

\$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  I would like to give: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make my donation a monthly donation.  \* indicates required field.

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code \_\_\_\_\_ \*Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

A cheque to the Nature Trust of New Brunswick is enclosed.

I will pay by Visa. Visa # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable receipt required?  Yes  No

Your donation will automatically make you a member of the Nature Trust. Please check the box if you do not want to become a member.

#### AS A MEMBER, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- The knowledge that you are a part of efforts to conserve and steward significant natural areas in the province of New Brunswick.
- Two issues of our print newsletter and one copy of the Annual Report.
- Monthly e-Newsletter
- Invitations for field trips, workshops, and other events.
- The right to vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- 10% discount on gear, rental, and training at COJO Diving – a Fredericton-based scuba diving business.