



NATURE TRUST
of NEW BRUNSWICK

Fondation pour la
PROTECTION DES
SITES NATURELS
du NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Conserve. Steward. Educate.

Annual Report 2016/17



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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,

2016-17 has been a busy and exciting year at the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. First, we welcomed Roger Roy to the board. Roger brings with him years as a landowner, a Nature Trust volunteer and as a forest educator with the University of Moncton, Edmundston Campus. We are also very pleased that Gordon Yamazaki of the Canadian Rivers Institute at UNB, Fredericton has joined us. Gord has such a great resume and has been a long-time steward of the Sugar Island Nature Preserve and Burpee Bar Nature Preserve.

We said goodbye to past president Lynn MacKinnon and to Eric Hadley, both of whom completed terms on the board and agreed to continue their involvement as Trustee Emeritus. Thanks to Lynn's contributions to the Nature Trust, the On the Rise fundraising event has increased each year, that's just a small reminder of Lynn's encompassing dedication. We say thanks to Eric Hadley but not farewell; we will continue to look forward to seeing Eric and Jane Hadley's energetic volunteering helping maintain our trails.

Kudos to Past President Mike Bonga for his national role as the founding secretary of the newly-established organization, Land Trust Canada, which will help represent private land conservation nationally. Finally, Wayne Burley has stepped up to serve as Vice President. Wayne is passionate about natural and cultural heritage and has served other organizations in executive capacities. It's a comfort to me that our board has so many good hands on deck!

This year the Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Land Conservation was awarded to William (Bill) Jones, of Fredericton. Mr. Jones has for many years been an outstanding volunteer and philanthropist for nature in New Brunswick. He's well known to us in his many roles, but most prominently for us as one of the donors of the Pickerel Pond Nature Preserve. Congratulations, Bill!

As president, I've seen up-close how the Nature Trust is helped in countless ways by the dedication and hard work of our staff. The good nature and can-do attitude that is on display every time I visit our busy office astounds and lifts me. I dare say our staff are setting a standard for outreach and community-building that is hard to match in Canada. And the administration of our office and stewardship of our funds is second-to-none. Thank-you, Renata and the rest of our staff!

Finally, to the hundreds (thousands) of you who donate time, land, and money to the Nature Trust of New Brunswick I extend a heartfelt thank-you on behalf of the board. It all happens because of your support! We welcome any comments or questions you may have. See you on the trail one day!

Vince Zelazny

President, Nature Trust of New Brunswick



Letter from the Executive Director,

In 2016-17, the Nature Trust focused on enriching conservation, stewardship and education programs through utilizing practices of engagement organizing. Staff, Board and Nature Trust committees are now using the Salesforce platform allowing for better communication and project management. Policy work was focused on with the completion of the Investment Policy Statement, Stewardship, Acquisition, Conservation easement, Governance, and Nomination policies and procedures.

Establishment of sustainable stewardship groups has been a very lengthy but a rewarding process through which we met and worked with hundreds of passionate volunteers who are showing exemplary care of the Nature Trust's preserves. The Nature Trust established three new nature preserves, extended three and renewed one lease. The Conservation Planning Department worked with landowners across the Upper and Lower Saint John River through the Landowner Stewardship Program, particularly focusing on the Appalachian Hardwood Forest.

I represented the Nature Trust at the Second Alumni Congress of the Quebec Labrador Foundation in Barcelona, Spain, where I connected with conservation professionals from around the world. It is astonishing to see conservation efforts all over the globe. It is also encouraging that Canada has committed to conserve 17% of the country's land base and 10% of marine areas by 2020. Looking forward, we must focus on bringing New Brunswick from conserving 4.7% to 17% of our beautiful province. We currently do not have provincial conservation targets, which the Nature Trust believes is an important first step to take. We encourage you to join us in advocating for increasing the conserved land base in New Brunswick.

Yours in conservation,

Nature Trust of New Brunswick Executive Director, Renata Woodward





Bonney Nature Preserve on the Kingston Peninsula

Our connection to land shapes our life and legacy

by Renata Woodward, Executive Director

For many individuals and families, land is more than just a piece of property. It holds the memories of families and their lives. In many cases, it becomes an important piece of family history. This was true for the late Mr. Bonney [Reg] who had strong ties to the land where he spent his childhood.

“Reg was an enjoyable person to be with. He was extremely curious about everything, and we had long conversations about every topic imaginable. He loved being outdoors and felt happiest there, and much of that feeling originated in his childhood when he spent much of his time tramping about the land.” shared Bob Saunders who was Reg’s climbing companion and friend for over 20 years. “Reg had a phenomenal memory and when we weren’t talking about tiny incidents that had happened on our many trips together in the mountains and which I had completely forgotten, we often spent hours talking about his youth in New Brunswick - from age two, no less! And much of the talk centered on the land and his relationship to it.”

For me it is a type of personal meditation, a “mindfulness” session when speaking with people about their land. You sit back, stop doing whatever you are doing, and listen to the happy memories. You tune into the feelings of true connectedness, and picture the land as it once was.

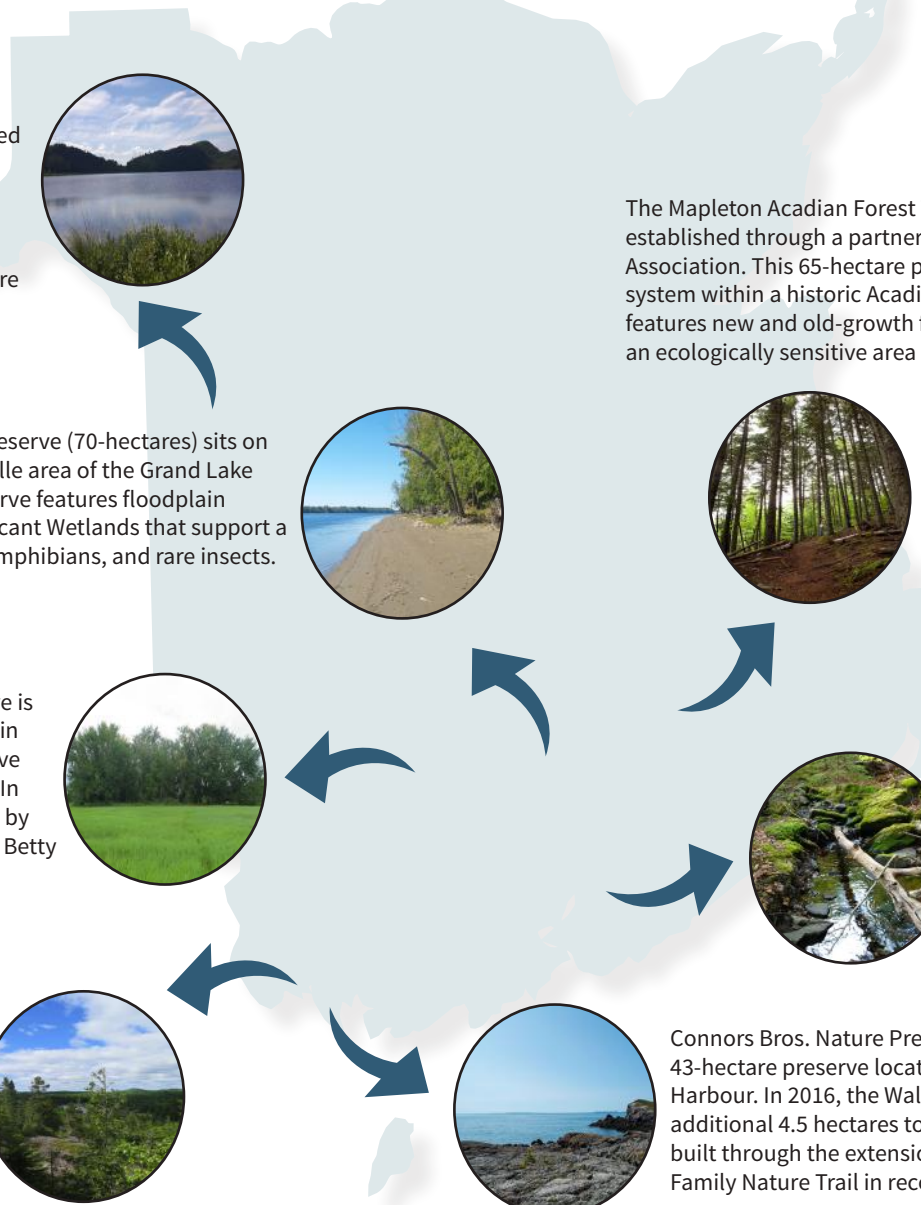
I never met Reg in person as he resided in Calgary, but we had many phone and email conversations in regards to his land on Kingston Peninsula and the need for increased conservation in New Brunswick. One of Reg’s notes about his land said: “I remember spring nights being lulled to sleep in my bed in the upstairs bedroom by thousands of frogs croaking and peeping like a vast symphony. Of mist creeping from the marsh on summer evenings across the lower meadows and pasture land.”

Reg has passed and I was saddened by the news as I felt a connection with Reg through the many conversations about his childhood and his land. Shortly after his passing, the Nature Trust was informed that it had become the beneficiary of his close to one million dollar estate, including the 3.6-hectare property in Lower Kingston where he grew up, featuring farmland, old forest, a creek, and habitat for wildlife.

The Nature Trust has removed a building from the land and is working to restore the area. It was clear from many conversations that Reg’s wishes were to protect more land in the vicinity of the Kingston Peninsula and the Nature Trust is working towards fulfilling those wishes.



Nature Preserves Protected in 2016/17: Three new preserves, three extensions, and one lease renewal



Shea Lake Nature Preserve is a 151-hectare property that is owned by Acadian Timber and leased to the Nature Trust. This is the first nature preserve to be protected by the Nature Trust. Shea Lake features 17 different species of rare orchids.



The Mapleton Acadian Forest Trail Nature Preserve was established through a partnership with The Elgin Eco Association. This 65-hectare property boasts an extensive trail system within a historic Acadian Forest habitat. The preserve features new and old-growth forest with brooks, ravines, and an ecologically sensitive area comprised of giant hemlocks.



The Nələkwanəkək Nature Preserve (70-hectares) sits on Middle Island in the Maugerville area of the Grand Lake Meadows complex. The preserve features floodplain forest and Provincially Significant Wetlands that support a diversity of plant life, birds, amphibians, and rare insects.



The Sugar Island Nature Preserve is an 8.1-hectare preserve located in the Saint John River. The preserve features a variety of rare plants. In 2016 the preserve was extended by 2.8-hectares from a donation by Betty Hawkins.



The Bonney Nature Preserve located on the Kingston Peninsula is a 3.5-hectare preserve donated to the Nature Trust by Reg Bonney in 2017. The preserve features mature stands of hardwood forest and a creek. Read about Reg's donation on page 2.



Located on the coastline in Bocabec is Caughey-Taylor Nature Preserve (240 hectares), featuring pristine water front, brooks, a marsh, and the iconic Sam Orr's Pond. A crucial 2.6 hectare strip located in the middle of the preserve was purchased in 2016 to expand the preserve.



Connors Bros. Nature Preserve at Pea Point is a 43-hectare preserve located in the Village of Black's Harbour. In 2016, the Wallace family donated an additional 4.5 hectares to the Nature Trust. A trail was built through the extension and was named the Wallace Family Nature Trail in recognition of their generous gift.





Stewardship Group Development

Taking a grassroots approach

by Richelle Martin, Stewardship Manager

The Nature Trust has set out on a mission to develop strong groups of volunteer land stewards to help care for our growing network of nature preserves across the province. Having groups of stewards, like the “Friends of Blueberry Hill”, as the caretakers and experts of these natural spaces allows for increased monitoring, improved trail maintenance and capacity to take on restoration projects. In 2016, the Nature Trust, in collaboration with partners and naturalists, offered 10 site-specific stewardship group training workshops equipping volunteers with the skills necessary to take on the monitoring and care for their nature preserve.

Included in these groups were projects with youth stewardship groups from the Millville Elementary School at the Slippery Mitten Nature Preserve and the École Samuel-de-Champlain at the Boars Head Nature Preserve. Together we worked on a monitoring project of the northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) at Slippery Mitten. In an attempt to find out whether these nocturnal squirrels were utilizing our nature preserve, we built flying squirrel nesting boxes with the school and installed them on the preserve with wildlife cameras to try and capture photos of them using the boxes. We were pleased to get many great shots!

A workshop held in Florenceville-Bristol included presentations on ecological knowledge from the Maliseet Nation Conservation Council and the endangered cobblestone tiger beetle (*Cicindela marginipennis*) from Canadian Rivers Institute. This included a trip in Canoe Kayak New Brunswick’s big canoes with the stewards to visit Green Island Nature Preserve. The Friends of Grindstone Island stewardship group organized their first trip to Grindstone Island to complete a botanical survey and monitoring of the island. Following the trip, they hosted a “Grindstone Night” information session and fundraiser bringing in nearly 100 people.

The stewardship group development project is about empowering people to take responsibility to care for their local environment, and spreading appreciation and awareness for New Brunswick’s natural heritage. We are using a grassroots approach, fostering community leadership to have these stewardship groups running on their own. We envision some of these groups hosting their own public events at the nature preserves, taking on citizen science projects, and becoming advocates for conservation in their communities. The Nature Trust gratefully acknowledges the support of: Crane Mountain Enhancement Fund, Environmental Trust Fund, Environment and Climate Change Canada, McCain Foods, MEC, Remsoft, TD, Trail Infrastructure Fund, and the Wildlife Trust Fund. If you are interested in collaborating with The Nature Trust on this project or getting involved in one of the stewardship groups, please contact Richelle, Stewardship Manager, at richelle.martin@ntnb.org or 506-453-4886.



“It has been so inspiring and motivating getting to work with so many passionate and knowledgeable people over the years who put their heart into the common goal of conserving and stewarding New Brunswick’s natural places. My job as Stewardship Manager at the Nature Trust is working for our volunteer stewards. With the help of stewardship groups, we have the power to restore natural areas and to conserve biodiversity of the nature within them forever.”

- Richelle Martin, Stewardship Manager

STEWARDSHIP POSTCARD

Update on 2016-17 Stewardship Groups



NATURE TRUST
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VISITED AND MONITORED:

47 nature preserves.



MAINTAINED:

over **15 km** of hiking trails and **CLEANED** nearly



10 km of shoreline.

GUIDED:

7 interpretive nature walks
4 big canoe trips
1 stand up paddleboard trip
at **12** nature preserves.



ENGAGED:

over **500** people at **26** frog walks at Hyla Park Nature Preserve.



DELIVERED:

10 stewardship workshops.



CELEBRATED:

5 new nature preserves openings.



ESTABLISHED:

7 new stewardship groups.



SURVEYED:

Flora and fauna at **4** nature preserves.



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



Canadian Rivers Institute, Canadian Wildlife Service, Canoe Kayak New Brunswick, Chance Harbour Nature Spa, City of Fredericton, COJO Diving, Connors Bros. Clover Leaf Seafoods Company, Conservation Council of New Brunswick, Cooke Aquaculture, Crane Mountain Enhancement Fund, Eastern Charlotte Waterways Inc., CPAWS-NB, Elgin Eco Association, Fredericton Makerspace, Get Outside! NB, Gosling Foundation, Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, Grand Manan Trails Association, Maritime DayTripping, Maliseet Nation Conservation Council, McCain Foods, Meduxnekeag River Association, Nature NB, NBEN, NB Museum, NB Provincial Parks, Paddlefest, Remsoft, Second Nature Outdoors, Town of Florenceville-Bristol, Town of Grand Bay-Westfield, Trail Infrastructure Fund, Trecologic, Tri-County Ground Search and Rescue, University of New Brunswick, Village of Blacks Harbour.



Appalachian Hardwood Forest

New Brunswick's Hidden Treasure

by Aaron Dowding, Conservation Planning Manager

My life changed the first time I quietly stood and craned my neck to take in the soaring canopy of maples and ash in a forest so noisy with bird song and so lush with tropical looking ferns that if someone had told me I wasn't in New Brunswick anymore, I would have believed them. For those of us who have spent time in New Brunswick's forests, we all know when we've walked into truly nice woods – whether they're well cared-for woodlots or nature preserves, they give us a similar feeling. We feel a bit smaller when we look up to a towering hardwood forest. We feel like we're a little bit more connected to the living world around us when we walk among thigh-high ferns and a lush carpet of spring wildflowers. Our instinct tells us that in these forests we're surrounded by living things that are part of something so much bigger and older than ourselves.

New Brunswick's Appalachian hardwood forest (AHF) is this kind of forest, and what precious little we have left are truly places of natural wonder and beauty. Many people know our Appalachian hardwoods intimately, and often from different perspectives; at the Nature Trust we believe that if we're going to preserve what's left of these forests, conservationists, woodlot owners, and foresters will all have to play a role in the effort.

The Nature Trust has spent the past two years reviving our AHF Conservation Project that started in 1997 when naturalists became worried that someday we would lose the majestic hardwood forests where they had found a hidden treasure-trove of rare and unusual plant life. In fact, more than 180 species of trees, understory plants, and lichen/mosses, make up the AHF; 43 of these are rare species. These forests have been nearly eradicated from their natural range in Carleton and Victoria Counties and less than 1% remains of its former coverage due to generations of forest conversion for agriculture, settlement, and logging. These woods also house the greatest species diversity of all of New Brunswick's hardwood forests, and many of the understory plants are found nowhere else in Atlantic Canada.

In May of 2016, we revisited the woods that were first surveyed in 1997 to find out if they were still in good condition and if their rare plant populations were still intact. Many of these special forests are part of working farms or family woodlots, so we've been spending a great deal of time meeting with the owners to help them learn about ways to manage Appalachian hardwoods. Following a visit from Nature Trust, a survey report with management and conservation recommendations is presented to the owners; often a site is owned by multiple owners so several kitchen-table discussions and woodlot tours are held.



We've been pleasantly surprised at the amount of interest in the project from landowners; many we've spoken to have a story about why they cherish their woods and their deep connection to the land. As we walk through Appalachian hardwoods with landowners, we point out rare plants and provide them with a copy of the "Guide to the Plants and Trees of New Brunswick's Appalachian Hardwood Forest" so that they can learn to identify these species on their own. Many people are surprised to know they have such unique plant life just under their noses and take on a new appreciation for their woods – sometimes our discussions aren't about forest conservation, rather, we talk of family, community, and life in rural New Brunswick. It is from these conversations that the Nature Trust is learning how best to combine forest conservation with rural priorities, so that our work has a positive impact on the lives of people today and in the future.

In two short years after reviving this important conservation project, we've already taken many positive steps forward: several landowners have partnered with the Nature Trust to work toward permanent protection of their woods; more than ten new AHF sites have been identified and surveyed; numerous new species discoveries have been made; and more landowners are making commitments to voluntarily preserving their woods because they too do not want to see Appalachian hardwoods disappear from New Brunswick's landscape.

I wish that everyone in New Brunswick were fortunate enough to have an experience like the one that changed the way I look at our woods. And I hope that one day, people will be able to walk into an Appalachian hardwood forest that is so old that the awe they feel stays with them for days; a forest so old that we can once again use the term Old Growth in New Brunswick and truly mean it. A forest with trees so massive and so magnificent that you'd have to lay down on the ground just to look up to see it all.

The Nature Trust gratefully acknowledges the support of: Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, The McCain Foundation, NB Wildlife Trust Fund, and the NB Department of Energy and Resource Development. For more information or to help with conservation efforts for the AHF project, please contact Aaron Dowding at (506) 457-2398 or aaron.dowding@ntnb.org.





Supporting the Three Pillars of the Organization: Conservation, Stewardship, and Education.

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick has revisited and finalized the investment policy statement, consolidating all funds to increase interest revenue while moving towards ethical investments, specifically geared towards low carbon investments.

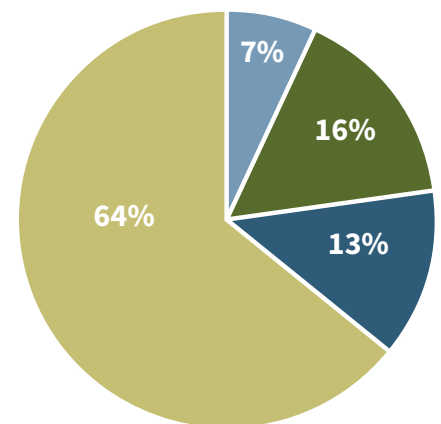
The majority of funds raised go towards the Conservation, Stewardship and Education pillars. The Nature Trust takes great pride in the stewardship of the existing network of nature preserves, allocating 16% of total revenues to the management of our nature preserves and hands-on education.

Land acquisition (64%) revenue consists of funds raised for the establishment of new nature preserves with associated expenses such as legal fees, appraisals, baseline reports, negotiations, management plans and purchase/donation of land and planned gifts for future land acquisition purposes. The Nature Trust received a large planned gift that was invested for future land acquisition work.

Conservation (13%) includes revenues associated with strategic conservation planning, research, and the landowner stewardship program, encouraging positive land stewardship.

Communication and Administration (7%) includes revenues for operational support of all charitable activities of the organization, administration, communication, and fundraising expenses.

Revenue Allocation



Legend

- Land Acquisition
- Stewardship
- Conservation
- Communications and Administration



Assets	Year 2017	Year 2016
Cash	\$338,176.00	\$581,419.00
Capital Assets	\$1,982.00	\$3,141.00
Investments	\$2,099,090.00	\$1,322,068.00
Interfund Balances	\$0.00	\$89,363.00
Conservation Lands	\$8,576,797.00	\$8,234,572.00
Total Assets	\$11,016,045.00	\$10,230,563.00
Liabilities	Year 2017	Year 2016
Accounts Payable	\$55,374.00	\$35,569.00
Deferred Revenue	\$33,014.00	\$178,795.00
Interfund Balances	\$0.00	\$89,363.00
Total Liabilities	\$88,388.00	\$303,727.00
Net Assets	Year 2017	Year 2016
Unrestricted	\$215,810.00	\$157,476.00
Invested in Capital Assets	\$1,982.00	\$3,141.00
Investment in Land / Easements	\$8,576,797.00	\$8,234,572.00
Stewardship Fund	\$699,510.00	\$698,710.00
Endowment Fund	\$1,433,558.00	\$832,937.00
Total Net Assets	\$10,927,657.00	\$9,926,836.00
Total Assets and Liabilities	\$11,016,045.00	\$10,230,563.00

Revenue	Year 2017	Year 2016
Public Support and Revenue	\$ 1,520,091.00	\$701,927.00
Investment Income	\$49,892.00	\$47,304.00
Change in Market Value of Investment	\$114,510.00	-
Total Revenue	\$1,684,493.00	\$749,231.00
Expenditures	\$ 1,025,897.00	\$644,564.00
Change in Market Value	-	\$64,393.00
Total Expenses	\$1,025,897.00	\$708,957.00
Excess of Revenue	\$658,596.00	\$40,274.00

Honourary Patron
The Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau

Honourary Directors
Jessie Davies
Robert Stewart

Board of Directors
Vince Zelazny - President
Mike Bonga - Past President
Wayne Burley - Vice-President
Brenda O'Donnell - Treasurer
James LeMesurier- Secretary
Edouard Allain
Walter Emrich
Jane Fullerton
Peta Fussell
Rick Hutchins
Sandy Loder
Timothy Nowlan
Sara Taaffe
Raja Wetuschat
Roger Roy
Gordon Yamazaki

Trustees Emeritus
Bill Ayer
Mike Dillon
Jane Tims
Don Vail
Dorothy Diamond
Ken Hirtle
Lynn MacKinnon
Eric Hadley

Executive Director
Renata Woodward

Permanent Staff
Aaron Dowding
Karen Fearnley
Jessica Bradford
Richelle Martin
Chelsea DiValentin
Bethany Young
Curtis Richardson
Brandi Rideout

460
MEMBERS

1550
'FRIENDS'
(RECIPIENTS OF E-NEWSLETTER)

Over 7000
ACRES
CONSERVED IN
50
NATURE
PRESERVES

2970
LIKES ON
FACEBOOK

1920
FOLLOWERS ON
TWITTER

1640
FOLLOWERS
ON INSTAGRAM



Thank you to Office Interiors in Fredericton for printing our Annual Report!



Planned Giving

Established in 1987, the **Nature Trust of New Brunswick** has conserved over 7000 acres of land in 50 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.

Monthly donations are available via Canada Helps or by contacting the Nature Trust at (506) 457-2398. Mail to: The Nature Trust of New Brunswick, PO Box 603, Stn. A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5A6