



The Nature Trust of New Brunswick Inc.
La Fondation pour la protection
des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Conservation on canvas: an artist's journey through conserved land in New Brunswick



*NB artist and art educator Michael McEwing painting Connor Bros. Nature Preserve at Pea Point on the Bay of Fundy
(Photo Credit: Doug Dickinson)*

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014 (Florenceville-Bristol, NB) In September 2013, New Brunswick artist and art educator Michael McEwing decided to embark upon a journey to visit all of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick's (NTNB) nature preserves and complete at least one landscape painting for every one visited. This project, in partnership with NTNB, entitled 'Conservation on canvas: an artist's journey through conserved land in New Brunswick', will be officially launched when McEwing reveals the first of his series of work at the opening reception of a mixed media exhibition at the Andrew and Laura McCain Art Gallery in Florenceville-Bristol on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 pm.

"Last year, I completed a series of landscape paintings in the Tantramar Marsh area in Sackville and realized I really liked the challenge of doing a body of work that represented a certain place," says McEwing. "At the Dooryard Arts Festival, I saw a series of acoustic music videos that were produced at NTNB's nature preserves and I thought there was something unique in each one of the preserves that lends itself to the performance. I was inspired to discover what was unique about each one through exploring and painting."



*Progress painting of Hyla Park Nature Preserve
in Fredericton*



Michael McEwing's home studio, featuring paintings of NTNБ preserves

With 36 nature preserves scattered throughout the province, this is not an easy undertaking, but McEwing is up to the challenge and has already visited seven nature preserves and completed the first two paintings in just four months. He anticipates that the project could take three years in total and has created a blog (conservationcanvas.weebly.com) to share his experiences of visiting the nature preserves, as well as to track progress with his paintings.

“My favourite experience so far has been my trip to Grand Manan for

NTNB’s annual meeting because I got to meet so many people behind the organization, as well as explore three of the beautiful nature preserves,” says McEwing. “Actually getting outside, exploring, and imagining what the nature preserves can look like on canvas has been a lot of fun.”

Projects such as this help bring awareness to efforts to conserve special and ecologically significant areas in the province. Last year, NTNБ partnered with the New Brunswick Museum, New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, and UNB Art Centre for the Nature of ART of Nature exhibition, which attracted over 700 people to exhibits in Saint John and Fredericton.

“We’re thrilled to be partnering with the artistic community again to demonstrate the inspirational beauty of our nature preserves,” says Wayne Burley, NTNБ Board Member. “I think it helps show that conservation is not only for biologists and environmentalists, but that we can all be a part of it in our own way.”

Aside from bringing awareness to conservation efforts in New Brunswick, McEwing has personal goals for the project and acknowledges that just visiting all of the nature preserves will be an achievement. Next, he plans to make a winter visit to one of the nature preserves, but will have to do some research to determine the spot that will look best nestled under a blanket of snow.

About the Nature Trust of New Brunswick

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to preserving New Brunswick’s outstanding ecological landscapes for people and nature. The Nature Trust currently protects 36 nature preserves in the province. For more information about the organization, visit naturetrust.nb.ca.

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