



Nature NB

Annual Report 2018

Letter from the Executive Director

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I am pleased to report that 2018 was another successful year for Nature NB. Thanks to a dedicated (and growing) staff and active board of directors, we were able to deliver a record number of programs throughout New Brunswick and nurture a growing network of Nature clubs and NatureKids clubs.

Our focus in 2018 was to educate and mobilize New Brunswickers in holding the New Brunswick government accountable to their role in increasing Canada's protected natural areas to 17% by 2020. This included meeting and collaborating with all levels of government, partnering with other like-minded organizations, and encouraging New Brunswickers to ask their local politicians about current conservation issues and solutions.

As members of the naturalist community, we need to support Canada's commitment to conservation by being a strong voice for nature and Nature NB is committed to offering nature lovers a variety of ways to take action. Whether you encourage your local politicians to stand up for conservation, participate in one of our many citizen science initiatives, or share your love of our amazing natural spaces with friends and family, your contributions play an important role in protecting our natural heritage for generations to come.

In 2019, we hope to continue connecting New Brunswickers with the nature they love and look forward to making sure Nature is on the national, provincial, and local agenda.

Yours in Nature,

Vanessa Roy-McDougall
Executive Director

About Nature NB

Our province has a rich natural heritage and we want to share that with all New Brunswickers. We engage and teach people of all ages, from all corners of the province, in both official languages.

When people feel a connection to nature, they work to protect it for themselves and for future generations to discover and enjoy.

Through education, networking, and collaboration, we advocate in favour of biodiversity, ecologically sustainable development, conservation, and protection, and a general awareness of the natural world around us. We consult with industry and governmental decision makers when their policies and practices threaten our natural heritage. With an appreciation and respect for nature, we can take better actions for a more sustainable future.

Our Board of Directors

Mike Lushington
Co-President

Paul Mansz
Co-President

Don MacPhail
Past President

Joel Butler
Secretary

Matt Killick
Treasurer

Directors
Tony Diamond
Janet Doucet
Holly Frazer
Nicolas LeCompte
Paula Noel
Jan Riddell

Our Staff

Vanessa Roy-McDougall
Executive Director

Melissa Fulton
Programs Director

Lewnanny Richardson
Director of Species at Risk

Emma McIntyre
Program Coordinator

Adam Cheeseman
Program Coordinator

Jillian Edwards
Communications Coordinator

Breanna Capobianco
Dominique Sooley
Executive Assistants

Your Support in Action

Highlights from 2018



Two nature clubs helped establish a group of stewards for the Jacquet River Gorge Protected Natural Area. These volunteers are helping to better conserve our amazing Protected Natural Areas.

We created a Schoolyard Bioblitz Education Kit to help teachers bring their students outside to learn about the natural world!

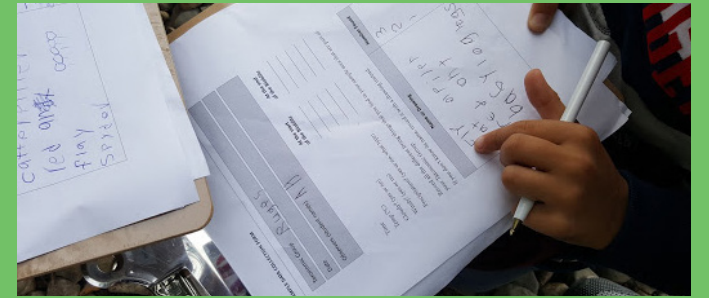


Over 180 nature lovers joined us at the Festival of Nature for a weekend exploring Bathurst and the beautiful Chaleur region!

We were happy to welcome the St. Andrews Nature Club into our network of naturalists.



We helped over 250 kids become junior scientists! They conducted mini bioblitzes in their schoolyards as part of Science Literacy Week.



NatureKids clubs across the province joined the Christmas Bird Count for Kids in December! We took our binoculars and explored our neighbourhoods to find as many birds as we could.

With the help of local birders, we produced the Birding Trail of the Acadian Peninsula, the first in a series that will highlight amazing birding locations in New Brunswick.

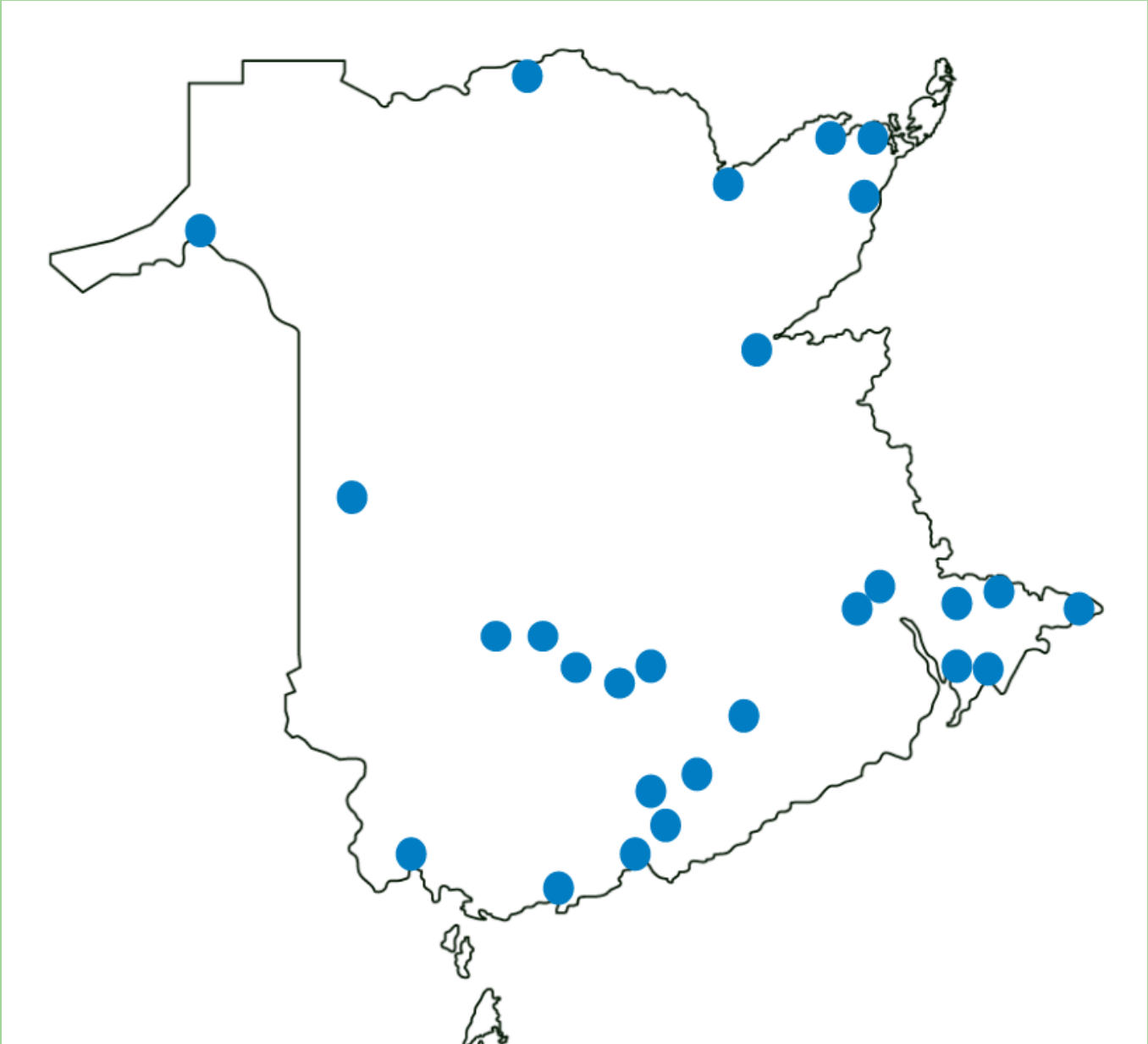


We doubled the number of volunteers who monitor Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas and collect valuable information about the birds that live there throughout the year.

We discovered a new Chimney Swift site. This discovery will help biologists better monitor this threatened species.



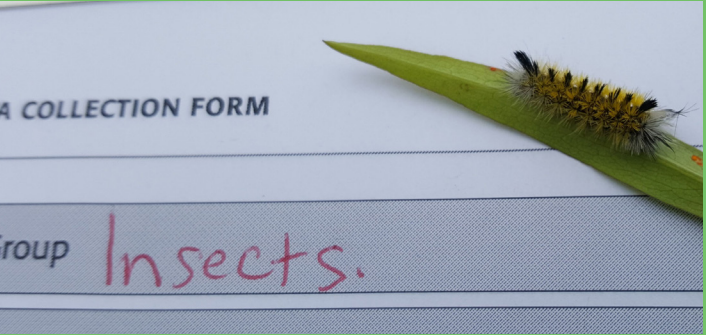
Program Outreach



Educate

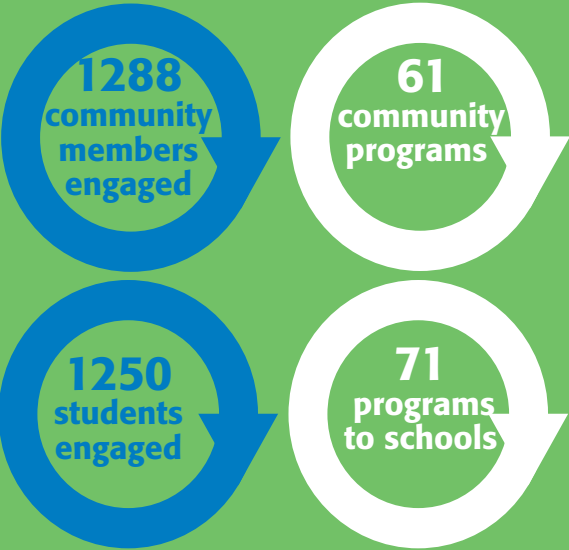
Schoolyard Bioblitzes

More than 250 elementary students in Fredericton and Florenceville become junior scientists during bioblitzes at their schools. We helped these young scientists survey their schoolyards for birds, insects, and plants; students even analysed their data to learn about the biodiversity that lives right outside their classrooms.



Bioblitz Education Kits for Teachers

Our new Schoolyard Bioblitz Education Kit shows teachers how to conduct a bioblitz (and other nature activities) with their classes. This resource is free and made specifically for New Brunswick curriculum. Hundreds of teachers have already downloaded the kit to explore nature with their students!



Bringing Kids to Unique Habitats

We brought kids from the Boys and Girls Club on special field trips to Cape Jourimain, a National Wildlife Area. The kids spotted birds from atop the observation tower, discovered marine life with a seine net, and explored marsh, forest, and coastal habitats. We were delighted to offer this unique opportunity to these kids, many of whom had not stepped foot in such an amazing natural area.



Birding Trail of the Acadian Peninsula

We created a beautiful birding trail guide with the help of birders from le Club de naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne. This guide highlights 13 beautiful and unique birding areas in the peninsula and educates both resident and visiting birders on the magnificent birding spots in the province.





NatureKids Clubs

The NatureKids had tons of adventures last year. They snowshoed, built nesting boxes, went backcountry camping, planted seeds, read stories around the campfire, went fishing, and enjoyed nature in many other ways!

One of our NatureKids was even treated to an extra-special adventure for winning our Instagram challenge. Nara loves geology so we brought her and her friends to the Maringouin Peninsula to explore fossils on the beach!

Board member and geologist Don MacPhail ("Dinosaur Don") joined us to help the kids discover and learn about rocks, fossils, and the history of the earth. We gathered our favourite fossils into a "museum" on the beach, had a picnic lunch, and took a quick trip to Johnson's Mills to see some shorebirds, too!

NatureKids Clubs thrive through our connections with nature lovers like Don and we are grateful we receive so much community support. NatureKids and their families discovered nature with help from local nature clubs the Atlantic Wildlife Institute, Bird Studies Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Nature Trust of NB, the Hammond River Angling Association, the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, and many more community groups



Conserve

Species at Risk

In 2018 a team of coastal guardians visited 33 beaches throughout the Acadian Peninsula to clean, monitor, and protect over 100km coastal environment.

The protection of the Piping Plover is at the heart of our activities and over 45 pairs of Piping Plover were recorded and monitored in 2018 on the beaches of northeastern NB. Staff were able to confirm the survival of 89 fledglings, compared to 55 in 2016. Among the 45 couples counted, productivity was close to 1.97 young per couple,

which is above the rate recommended by the Canadian Wildlife Service to allow the population to recover.

In addition to identifying critical habitat and installing interpretative signage at strategic locations, staff also focused on educating locals, tourists, businesses, and municipalities on the importance of protecting coastal areas and wildlife through effective stewardship activities, including beach cleanups and shaping public policy. In 2018, 272 pounds of waste were removed by staff and volunteers on 7 beaches bringing the total waste removal since 2013 to more than 4,288 pounds.



Climate Change

With increased flooding, erosion, and sea-level rise, New Brunswick continues to experience the impacts of a changing climate. Nature NB recognizes that protecting and restoring our natural areas can help minimize these impacts.

We continue to advocate for nature-based solutions, working with communities and partners through the Maritime Natural Infrastructure Collaborative. During the past year, we forged new partnerships, offered professional development workshops, consulted with municipal decision-makers, and

engaged the public around the importance of adapting to future impacts.



Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

New Brunswick is home to nearly 30 unique Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), all of which provide critical habitat for large numbers of birds.

As provincial IBA Coordinator, Nature NB spent much of 2018 strengthening the IBA program

in New Brunswick. We traveled to communities all along the Bay of Fundy to connect New Brunswickers to their local IBAs. From partnering with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to bring local families to see thousands of sandpipers at Johnson's Mills to hosting lively conversations about IBAs on a foggy evening in Maces Bay, we continue to promote the stewardship of these beautiful sites.



Protect

Stewardship

A newly-formed group of volunteers has been monitoring the Jacquet River Gorge, a truly beautiful part of our province.

Naturalists and outdoor enthusiasts have been flocking to the Jacquet River Gorge for years. This Protected Natural Area (PNA) is a destination for New Brunswickers seeking to experience Antinouri Lake, the rugged landscapes of the Gorge, and

the unique flora and fauna that make this such an iconic area. Local nature lovers, from the Jacquet River Nature Club and Restigouche Naturalists' Club, joined the new PNA Stewardship Committee to ensure the Jacquet River Gorge persists as one of New Brunswick's natural gems. The PNA Stewardship Committee visits the Jacquet River Gorge PNA annually to monitor species and report any threats they feel may be impacting the local environment.

It took less than one month for the Committee's true value to shine, when volunteers noticed a possible threat located just outside the PNA boundary. While the PNA itself is protected under New Brunswick legislation, external issues can still pose serious threats to the area.



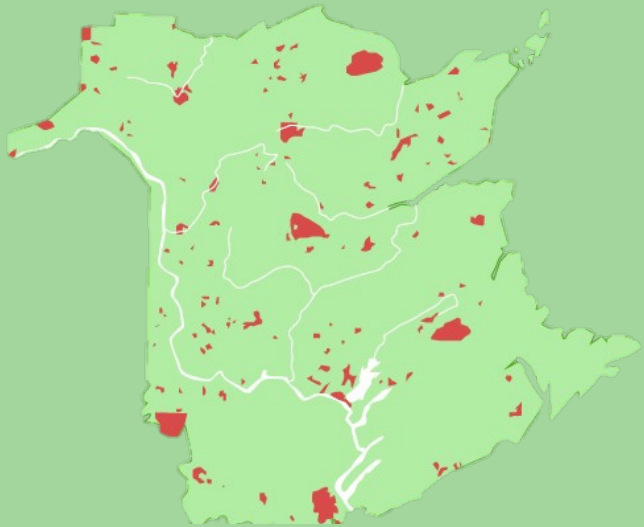
On their way into the PNA, some members of the Stewardship Committee noticed tar leaking into one of the tributaries of the Jacquet River. Immediately following the field trip, the Committee reported the concern to Nature NB, who worked with provincial staff at Energy and Resource Development and at Environment and Local Government to address the issue. In just a few days, a temporary solution stopped the leak, with a permanent solution planned for spring of 2019. Thanks to these committed volunteers, and their passion for this area, we successfully avoided major negative consequences to the Jacquet River and surrounding tributaries.

Nature NB hopes to expand this PNA Stewardship program 2019 and 2020, working alongside dedicated naturalists to protect the nature we all cherish.

Advocacy

Over the last few years, Nature NB has taken a more active role in advocating for nature at all levels of government. Given the 2018 provincial election, we collaborated with both our provincial and national partners on a targeted campaign to ensure that nature conservation and increasing protected natural areas were included in all party platforms. Over 800 letters were sent to MLAs, party leaders and MPs by nature lovers from across the province. Following the election, Nature NB met with the Ministers and staff of Environment and Local government, Energy and Resource Development and Tourism, Heritage and Culture to offer our expertise and support in identifying conservation opportunities in New Brunswick. In

2019, we look forward to continuing this work and expanding our efforts during the 2019 federal election to make sure Nature conservation is part of the conversation.



Festival of Nature

We had a great time celebrating nature with you during our 2018 Festival of Nature in Bathurst. You explored Petit Rocher Fen with Jim Goltz, practiced your plant identification with Lucille Landry and Sabine Dietz, took a geological tour with Ken Walker and Don MacPhail, and participated in many other adventures.

Our silent auction was more successful than ever thanks to naturalists donating wonderful experiences like 2 days of birding Grand Manan donated by Jim and Jean Wilson, a “behind-the-scenes” tour with Don McAlpine donated by the New Brunswick Museum, and a birding tour of the Acadian Peninsula donated by Denise Godin, among many other unique nature experiences.

Our Nature Clubs contributed with amazing raffle baskets full of local and themed items that helped us break our record for money raised at the Festival.

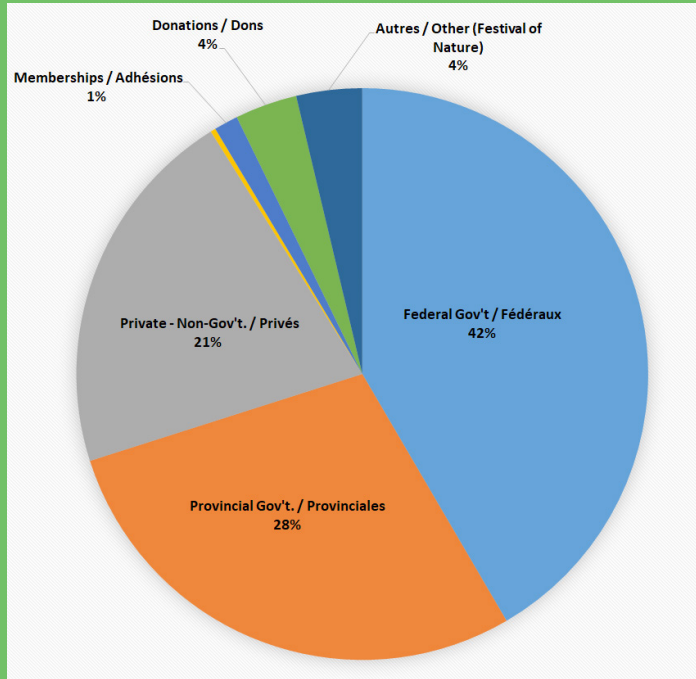
Thank you Janet Doucet, interpreter at Daly Point, who was instrumental in the success of the Festival. Thank you for welcoming us to Bathurst and helping us organize a wonderful weekend exploring the Chaleur region.

Your support at the Festival helped us to raise over \$3,000 to continue connecting people with nature and conserving the natural areas we love.



Financials

Sources of Revenue



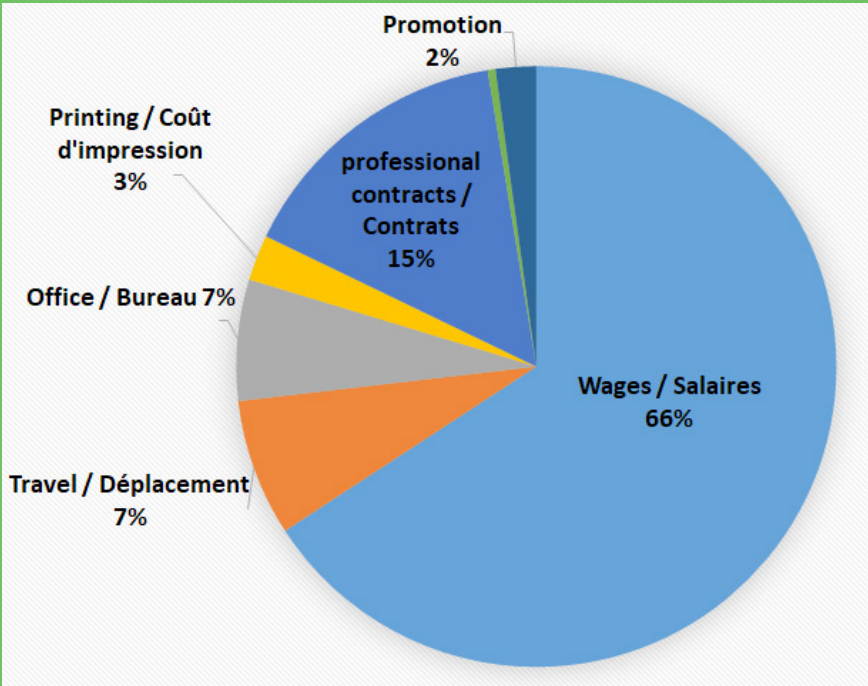
Highlights

- 50% increase in donations
- Increase in Festival of Nature registrations / sponsorships
- Increase in multi-year funding

Looking forward

- Increase staffing capacity
- More partnerships

Expenses

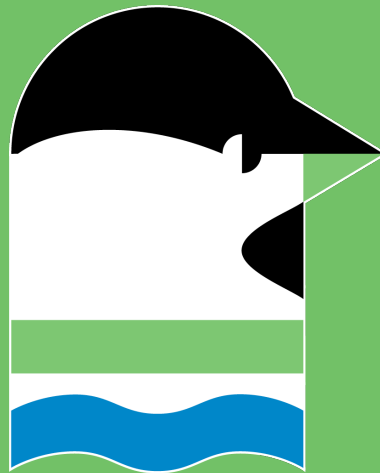


2018 Balance Sheet

ASSET		
Current Assets		
York Credit Union Shares Non Profit	5.00	
York Credit Union (Reserve)	55,495.09	
York Credit Union (Operations)	-52,453.14	
Omista Savings	5,973.25	
telpay clearing	0.00	
Investment Bond Beater	75,609.36	
GIC One Year	24,356.91	
Total Cash		108,986.47
Accounts Receivable	103,265.12	
HST 50% Rebate Receivable	3,122.35	
Total Receivable		106,387.47
Prepaid Expenses		386.01
Computers and Office Equipment	3,071.51	
Computers & Office Equip-acc amort	-844.66	
Total Computers and office Equip		2,226.85
Total Current Assets		217,986.80
TOTAL ASSET		217,986.80
LIABILITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		5,021.94
Salaries Payable		0.00
El Payable	0.00	
CPP Payable	0.00	
Federal Income Tax Payable	0.00	
Total Receiver General		0.00
WCB Payable		-58.78
HST Paid on Purchases		0.00
Prepaid membership		75.00
Deferred Revenue		42,780.82
Total Current liabilities		47,818.98
TOTAL LIABILITY		47,818.98
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings		
Retained Earnings - Previous Year		160,822.64
Current Earnings		9,345.18
Total Retained Earnings		170,167.82
TOTAL EQUITY		170,167.82
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		217,986.80

Thank you to our funding partners:

Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick
Birds Studies Canada
Canadian Heritage
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NB
Canadian Wildlife Foundation
Clean Foundation
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Gosling Foundation
Lush Cosmetics
Mountain Equipment Coop
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
Nature Canada
Nature Trust of New Brunswick
NB Department of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture
NB Environmental Trust Fund
NB Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
NB Wildlife Trust Fund
Private donors
Public Works
Service Canada
Sir James Dunn Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment



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