



Annual Report 2020

CELEBRATE • CONSERVE • PROTECT



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Letter from the Executive Director

To our passionate supporters,

I hope this letter finds you well during these trying times. I am pleased to report that despite the ever-changing nature of 2020, Nature NB has had a successful year. Thanks to our dedicated staff and Board of Directors, we were able to adapt and cultivate a growing network of nature lovers who, in a time of uncertainty, turned to nature for comfort.

This year, as we continued to advocate for permanent protection of our land and freshwater, we supported the Government of New Brunswick with their Nature Legacy program and encouraged our members and supporters to ask candidates of the September general election how they plan on meeting the conservation commitments made last year.

As naturalists, we need to support Canada's commitment to conservation by being a strong advocate for nature in New Brunswick. Nature NB is committed to continuing to offer ways that nature lovers can take action, whether through our citizen science initiatives, encouraging your local politicians to be a voice for conservation, or sharing your stories of New Brunswick's incredible natural spaces. Your support as a naturalist community is key in protecting our natural heritage for generations to come.

In 2021, we hope to continue connecting New Brunswickers with the nature they love and encouraging you to be a voice for conservation. We look forward to continuing our goal of ensuring nature is on the national, provincial, and local agendas, and we thank you for trusting us to be a voice for nature in New Brunswick.

Moving out of 2020 and into 2021 means preparations are underway for our 50th anniversary in 2022! There is lots to look forward to in the coming year and we look forward to many more years of celebrating, conserving, and protecting our natural heritage.

Yours in conservation,



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

Roland Chiasson
Co-President

Vacant
Co-President

Paul Mansz
Past President

Mike Lushington
Secretary

Matt Killick
Treasurer

Holly Frazer
Sonya Hinds
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Anne Marie Leger
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Pascale Ouellette
Directors

Our Staff

Vanessa Roy-McDougall
Executive Director

Melissa Fulton
Director of Operations

Lewnanny Richardson
Species at Risk Program Director

Adam Cheeseman
Director of Conservation

Kaely Scott
Executive Assistant

Alysha McGrattan
Education Coordinator

Becca Sharp
Conservation Assistant

Jenna Knorr
Engagement Assistant

Allison MacKay
Coastal Conservation Coordinator

Claire Vézina
Engagement Assistant



Department Highlights

Engagement

Nature Legacy

Throughout 2020, we helped the Government of New Brunswick in reaching their target of 10% protected land and fresh water. Planning stages began early in the year, and we promoted the program on our social media to encourage the nomination of natural areas.

COVID-19 Response

In March 2020, we faced a province-wide lockdown as the COVID-19 virus swept across the globe. As Nature NB adjusted to working from home, we faced the reality of not being able to host in-person events and programming. We embraced digital presenting by partnering with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick on their Passport to Nature birding webinars, and hosted

4 of our own webinars during the summer: two about Monarchs (one by staff, one by Jim Wilson), one about reptiles and amphibians (by Rachel Robichaud), and one about Machias Seal Island (by Dr. Heather Major). We also promoted activities to get New Brunswickers outside such as the Maritime BioBlitz and surveying for Milkweed and Monarchs.

NB Naturalist Special Issue

In December, Nature NB with guest editor Don MacPhail released an NB Naturalist Special Issue all about the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). December 2020 marked the 121st year of the CBC, and New Brunswick has had naturalists participating in the count from the start! This special issue includes, among other articles, an interview with David Christie, a timeline of the CBC in New Brunswick and Canada, and count summaries from the past 6 years.

Species at Risk

Piping Plover Conservation

Joined by his summer students, Lewnanny surveyed 17 beaches on the Acadian Peninsula where he identified over 36 nesting pairs of Piping Plovers. He and his team also surveyed 13 additional beaches for dune protection.

Beach Clean-ups

Lewnanny continues to remove garbage from the Acadian Peninsula coastline, removing over 1,542 pounds of garbage over 18 kilometres of beach in 2020. He shares all of his cleanups on Instagram to bring the garbage pollution problem to light. Through our partnership with Brasseux d'la Côte, 167 large garbage bags were displayed in front of the brewery to raise awareness of the issue. Lewnanny also helped with the removal of more than 550 lobster cages from 2 Miscou beaches.

Partnership with the Collège de Bathurst

When schools and universities had to close in March, a professor from the Collège de Bathurst teaching a course in environmental science reached out to Lewnanny for help. He helped the students identify their observations of wildlife in the Baie de Chaleur on iNaturalist. The professor hopes to reconnect with Lewnanny in 2021 to continue their partnership.

Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster

Nature NB and a volunteer from Kouchibouguac National Park discovered a new site where the Gulf of St Lawrence Aster is growing for the first time. Middle Miscou Beach is 1 km away from South Malbaie Beach - a known site for this aster. Over 100 plants were counted at this new site, and two other sites on Miscou were active in 2020. Nature NB will continue to monitor this new population to see how this site will hold up in the future.

Education

Accessible Nature Education Programs

This year, we've made our nature education programs more accessible than ever by offering virtual nature education programs to schools and groups around the province. We launched our Educator Portal with NB curriculum-linked activities designed for educators to make teaching about nature, in nature, easy!

Monarch Butterfly Project

We presented to high school students across Atlantic Canada on incorporating milkweed into their school gardens as part of a Webinar led by Ducks Unlimited in February, and we did a similar webinar with Cape Jourimain in September.

World Wetlands Day

We spent World Wetlands Day at Simonds High School leading interpretive snowshoeing sessions all day, learning about the plants around the wetlands at the school as part of a larger school-wide event run by Ducks Unlimited in February.

Science Literacy Week

To encourage safe, physically-distanced nature education opportunities, we created self-guided nature walks at Hanwell Recreation Centre, Ganong Nature Park, New Maryland Trails, and Gateway Wetlands Nature Trail. Signs were temporarily affixed to point out commonly-seen species that are often overlooked, and highlighted interesting facts about species we know and love.

Conservation

Maritimes Backyard BioBlitz

In partnership with other Maritimes groups, Nature NB hosted the first annual New Brunswick Backyard BioBlitz on iNaturalist in April 2020. Between April 24-27, 2020, New Brunswickers were encouraged to get out into their backyards to explore nature as a way to ease the stress of lockdowns and uncertainty regarding COVID-19. Using iNaturalist, New Brunswickers collected over 3,800 individual wildlife observations of over 700 species! This data helps to better understand New Brunswick's biodiversity and contributed to Nature NB's missions of celebrating New Brunswick's natural heritage. To explore the observations, you can visit our iNaturalist project online.

Port of Saint John Project

As part of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Oceans Protection Plan Coastal Environmental Baseline Program, Nature NB has continued waterbird surveys at 34 coastal sites along the Bay of Fundy and the Wolastoq (Saint John River). This data aims to understand the distribution, abundance, and behaviour of various birds around the Port of Saint John and will be included in a large dataset used to better understand the current environmental conditions of the Port. For more information check out our blog post.

Species at Risk Partnerships in Agricultural Landscapes

Nature NB coordinates New Brunswick's Species at Risk in Agricultural Landscapes project which has brought together various partners from Indigenous, academic, agricultural, conservation, and government sectors to develop a species at-risk conservation plan in agricultural landscapes of the Wolastoq/Saint John river watershed. This conservation planning process has led to the identification and prioritization of various strategies that can be taken to help protect a variety of species including bats, grassland birds, turtles, aerial insectivores, butternut, monarch butterfly, and more. For more information, you can visit www.naturenb.ca/sarpal.

Healthy Coasts NB

This year, Allison took the lead of a new project: Healthy Coasts NB. This is a multi-year, multi-partner project with the collective vision of "a path to healthy coasts and thriving communities in harmony with nature." Healthy Coasts NB has been holding planning sessions and webinars for coastal communities along the Northumberland and Gulf of St. Lawrence coasts to support community livelihoods by encouraging a safe, resilient, and sustainable coastal way of life. ♦



Making Nature Education Accessible to All

Due to the global pandemic restricting gatherings, Nature NB has had to make changes to how we deliver our education programs. The Nature NB education department has used this as an opportunity to re-examine our programming, and increase its accessibility for the present, and for the post-pandemic future.

Educator Program Kits

Educators across NB can now access curriculum-linked teaching resources through our Educator Portal and Newsletter. Our Education Coordinator, Alysha, is ensuring teachers have the tools for nature-based education with the launch of our Educator Portal housing NB-themed, seasonally-appropriate Program Kits. The kits cover themes such as Adaptations, Astronomy, and Trees and include a suggested grade level which corresponds to the New Brunswick curriculum. Each kit has a series of four easily-adaptable activities designed to incorporate nature education in the classroom, and encourages teachers to take their students outdoors. This project was well-received when it launched in the fall, with over 200 unique visits to the Educator Portal in both languages to date.

Virtual Presentations

Shifting some of our nature programming to a virtual format during the fall of 2020 has allowed Nature NB to continue its presence in classrooms across the province, despite travel and visitor restrictions. The switch to virtual has allowed us to connect with three new schools. All virtual programs have a component encouraging teachers to take their classes outside to explore themes covered during the presentation. We are excited to continue to offer our virtual programs post-pandemic to make nature education more accessible to schools in remote locations (especially for short-notice requests), and as an alternative to rescheduling in-person programming when winter road conditions prevent Nature NB staff from travelling.





Self-Guided Nature Walks

Interpretive nature walks have always been one of our most well-loved activities with schools and communities, and nature connections are needed now more than ever! To avoid large group gatherings, we began offering Self-Guided Nature walks with temporary signage pointing out common species and natural features along trails around the province. In 2020 we ran these activities in four separate communities and had fantastic feedback from folks of all ages. This testimonial we received says it all:

“Thank you so much for this fun activity at the Gateway Wetlands Trail! We went to just go for a walk but loved the surprise

of an informational tour around the trail. My children loved the Witch’s Broom and Old Man’s Beard, they thought they were funny names and definitely interesting why they were called that. We started homeschool this year and it was the perfect opportunity for sun/fresh air, exercise and learning! Are there more of these around the city?”

Looking Ahead

For 2021, Nature NB plans on continuing to provide much-needed nature education resources to educators across the province, expanding our supporter community, and bringing nature-based education to even more New Brunswick youth. ♦

Protecting the Coast and Coastal Communities



Healthy Coasts NB is led by Nature NB with founding partners the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, Anqotum Resource Management, and Birds Canada. The project works with communities along New Brunswick's Gulf of St. Lawrence coast, to learn about and protect dynamic coastal ecosystems. In protecting coastal ecosystems we not only conserve the rare and important species that rely on them, but we also protect essential ecosystem services, like natural sheltering from extreme weather and coastline

erosion, better physical and mental health, strong sustainable economies, and important natural resources.

Working with Communities

Using a two-eyed seeing approach, Healthy Coasts NB works with communities to identify and support activities that will benefit coastal habitats, species of conservation and cultural importance, and coastal livelihoods. The project also works with communities to support ongoing conservation efforts for Species at Risk, including the Piping Plover and other migratory birds. Supporting a win-win approach to help coastal communities thrive, Healthy Coasts NB aims to also preserve the shared natural heritage and coastal way of life.

Helping Communities Build a Sustainable Coastal Lifestyle

The Healthy Coasts NB team has been supporting communities to identify social, environmental, and/or economic features that coastal residents want to protect, as well as what activities are harming the health of these features. We have begun planning in five coastal communities, and the process looks very different in each. Some communities have substantial conservation capacity already through the activities of watershed alliances and other environmental NGOs, while other communities do not. In regions with lower capacity for conservation we aim to increase this capacity through sharing information and conservation plans from other areas, supporting in funding acquisition, and linking knowledge holders

together for a common goal. We have identified social and biodiversity targets and human-based pressures that have negative effects on the targets in several of these communities, and will begin planning in two more communities in 2021.

Looking Ahead

Once features to be protected are identified, the Healthy Coasts NB team will work with the local community to develop and implement a plan that addresses the concerns of harmful activities in hopes of protecting habitats, species, and the coastal way of life. For some of the Healthy Coasts NB communities, planning these mitigation strategies will happen in the fall of 2021, and actions from the plans could occur as early as spring 2022. ♦



Keeping the Acadian Coastline Clean

Every time Lewnanny, our Species at Risk Program Director, and his coastal protection team visit a beach for their monitoring activities, they pick up any garbage they see and bring it back out with them. In 2020, they removed over 167 large bags of garbage which represents over 1,542 pounds of garbage that was diverted to the Red Pine landfill. Several lobster traps and ropes were removed from the beaches and more than 83 beach clean ups were conducted over 18 kilometers of sandy beaches. Despite the pandemic, approximately 25 volunteers helped clean the beaches in 2020.

Working with Lobster Fishers

In addition to the mostly plastic garbage, Nature NB along with the Maritime Fishermen's Union and Vert Rivages were able to remove 550 lobster traps from the two beaches at Wilson Point in Miscou. The removal of these traps was thanks to the work Lisa Fauteux from Vert Rivages and Lewnanny Richardson from Nature NB put in with the lobster fishing community in the area. They realized that some lobster fishers were cutting the ropes from their traps and leaving the traps in the water when the fishing season

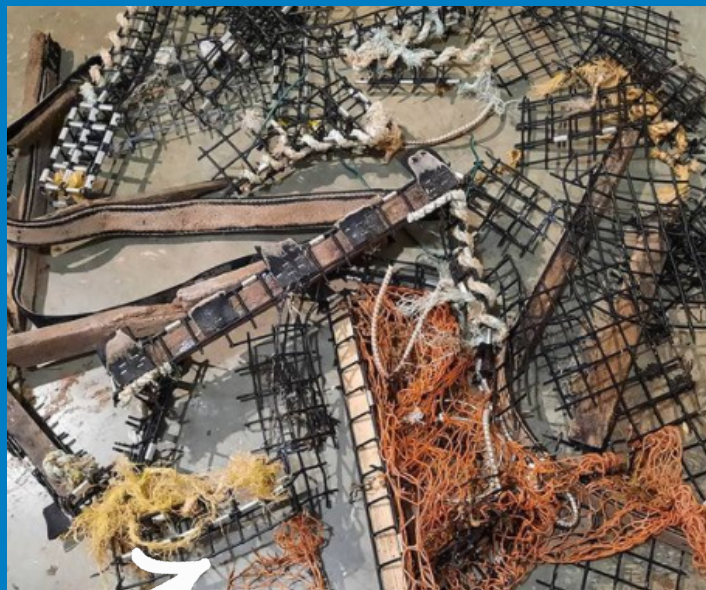


Barram, brewed by Brasseux d'la côte in Tracadie-Sheila, benefits Nature NB with each can sold.

finished in the fall. This was happening for two reasons: 1) it is expensive to remove and recycle lobster traps, and 2) they were unaware of the environmental impact of leaving the lobster traps behind. Lisa and Lewnanny, along with the Maritime Fishermen's Union, held a presentation to raise awareness of the issues with leaving the lobster traps in the water, and were successful in changing their mentality. With the help of the fishers, they were able to remove the leftover traps, and they are already seeing a difference on the beaches with far fewer traps washing up on shore. Lewnanny single-handedly removed over 10 lobster traps from Plover Ground North Beach, cutting the traps one by one and bringing them back in pieces to be diverted to the local landfill.

Raising Awareness

Each time litter was removed from a beach, Lewnanny posted a photo of the litter removed that day. Over 83 posts



Beginning in 2020, Lewnanny and his summer students like Josué Chiasson (far left) began collecting discarded traps from the beaches. By cutting the traps down into smaller pieces, they can be removed from the beaches and disposed of properly.

were made receiving more than 4,836 likes and 52 positive comments in 2020. By sharing his efforts to clean the coastline of the Acadian Peninsula, people can better understand the issue of litter on Atlantic Canada's beaches. All the photos can be found by following the Instagram account @lewnanny.

Thanks to our partnership with Brasseux d'la Côte, Nature NB could display all 167 bags of garbage in front of their brewery, raising even more awareness of the issue, and allowing people to visualize just how much litter was found in one summer.

Looking Ahead

Looking forward to the slowing down of the pandemic, Nature NB's Species at Risk Program Director is hoping for more beach clean up volunteer opportunities for the local communities in 2021, and to continue working with the lobster fishermen to keep the Acadian coastline clean. ♦



NB Naturalist Special Issue

In December, we released a special issue of the *NB Naturalist* about the history of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), with Guest Editor Donald MacPhail. This edition continued a long-standing tradition of publishing local count data that began with Dr. Austin Squires at the New Brunswick Museum in 1956, and was taken over by Nature NB in the 1970s. This year (2020) is the 120th anniversary of the CBC in North America and is the 50th anniversary of the *NB Naturalist*.

The first goal of this special issue was to celebrate the long and storied history of the CBC in New Brunswick and across Canada. The second goal was to publish the last six years of New Brunswick's count results to the same standard of the previous 60 years. This issue also included information on how to access the data from each count, how compilers or citizen scientists can help make New Brunswick's CBC database more complete by inputting data from the multiple previous counts that were never posted to Audubon, and how to participate in future counts.

A lot of people contributed not only to the publication of this *NB Naturalist* issue, but also to get started on completing the historical CBC database. Don McAlpine and the staff at the New Brunswick Museum Archives provided information on 124 counts from the 1950s and 60s, many of the current provincial compilers dug through their personal files to find missing data, and Roger Leblanc and Jim Wilson helped track down data from counts other than their own, along with some lost summaries from other years.

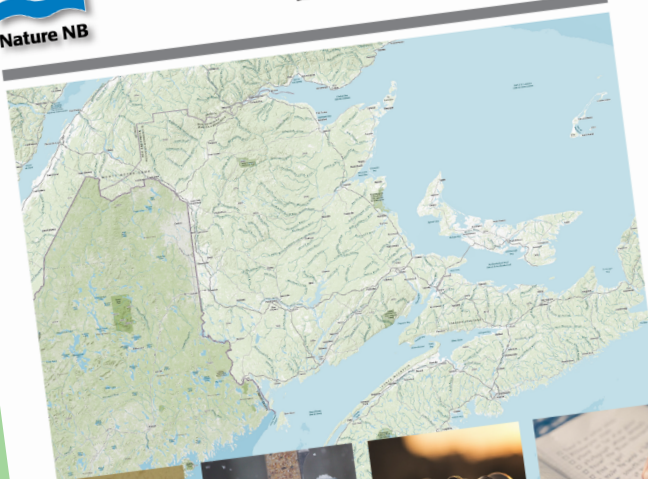
To read count summaries of the past six years, a timeline of the CBC in New Brunswick, a conversation with David Christie, and more, you can find this issue of *NB Naturalist* -- along with a nearly-complete archive of the publication -- on our website. ♦



William H. Moore, the first participant of the Christmas Bird Count in New Brunswick, counted birds around his home in Scotch Lake, NB in 1900.



Naturaliste du NB Naturalist



Christmas Bird Count Edition Édition sur le Recensement des oiseaux de Noël

Jim Wilson in Conversation with David Christie - Jim Wilson en conversation avec David Christie | Easy Access to Data from Eve Brunswick Count Since 1900 - Accès facile aux données de chaque recensement au Nouveau-Brunswick depuis 1900 | CBC Sur from 2014 to 2019 - Résumés du RON de 2014 à 2019

Donald MacPhail
Guest Editor

Introduction to the issue

This Special Issue of the NB Naturalist on the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in New Brunswick continues a tradition started by Austin Squires at the New Brunswick Museum in 1956 and continued since the 1970s by Nature NB, known at the time as The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists. 2020 is the 120th anniversary of the Christmas Bird Count in North America, and is also the 50th anniversary of the NB Naturalist. In a challenging year such as this one, we are glad to celebrate these accomplishments.

We've also compiled this issue to:

- Publish a list of all 2,000 previous New Brunswick CBCs with precise information on how to access the data from each count;
- Indicate how compilers or other citizen scientists, with support from Birds Canada, can help make New Brunswick's CBC database more accessible by inputting data from the 1,500 Christmas counts that were never posted to Audubon; and
- Provide information on how to participate in future counts.

The Christmas Bird Count has a long and storied history in New Brunswick and across Canada, dating back to the first count on Christmas Day in the year 1900.

The National Audubon Society publication of the time, *Bird Lore*, described the count as a "new kind of Christmas [...] hunt", an alternative to the more traditional kind of Christmas hunt carried out with dogs and rifles. Much like today, this "hunt" asked birders to record their sightings and submit them to *Bird Lore* for publication. This tradition continues to this day, with the Audubon Society providing free public access to 120 years of count data.

While following COVID-19 precautions, we hope you are looking forward to participating in the 2020 Christmas Bird Count. With over 50 counts being held in the province between December 14, 2020 and January 5, 2021 there is sure to be one or two, if you like - near you.



William H. Moore had a Hairy Woodpecker on the first ever Christmas Bird Count.

The main purpose of this Special Issue is to publish the last six years of New Brunswick's count results to the same standard as the previous 60-odd years.

Donald MacPhail

A Timeline of the CBC in New Brunswick and Canada



Northern Cardinal (Photo: Anthony Sulpizio)

1900 - Christmas Day 1900 was when the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) started. Most counts were in New England or a bit further south, some were in California and Florida, but two of the 29 counts were in Canada. William H. Moore, of Scotch Lake, York County, New Brunswick was out of his house counting birds a few hours ahead of E. Fannie Jones in Toronto to become Canada's first Christmas Bird Counter. William H. Moore was a nature writer and educator for 40 more years but he never participated in another Christmas Bird Count. His house, around where he did his count, is still in good shape today and is close to the centre of today's Mactaquac count circle.

1901 - There were no counts in Canada.

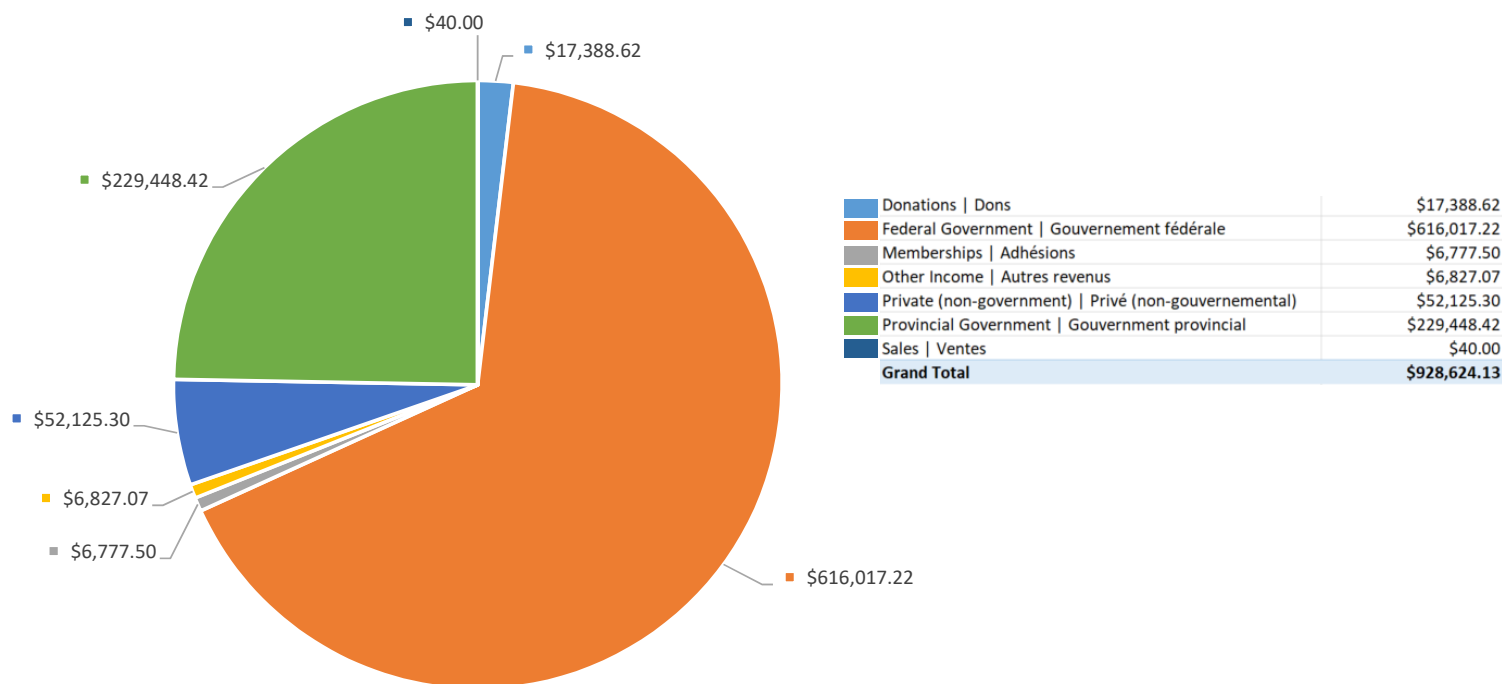
1902 - The third CBC in Canada, and the only one in 1902, was undertaken

by John MacSwain. He walked around Charlottetown for three hours in freezing temperatures, clear skies, and light wind, reporting "Inlet a single bird seen." He remarked that "fearful and severe weather in early December seems to have driven all birds to the south". No wonder it was almost 60 years before there was another count on Prince Edward Island.

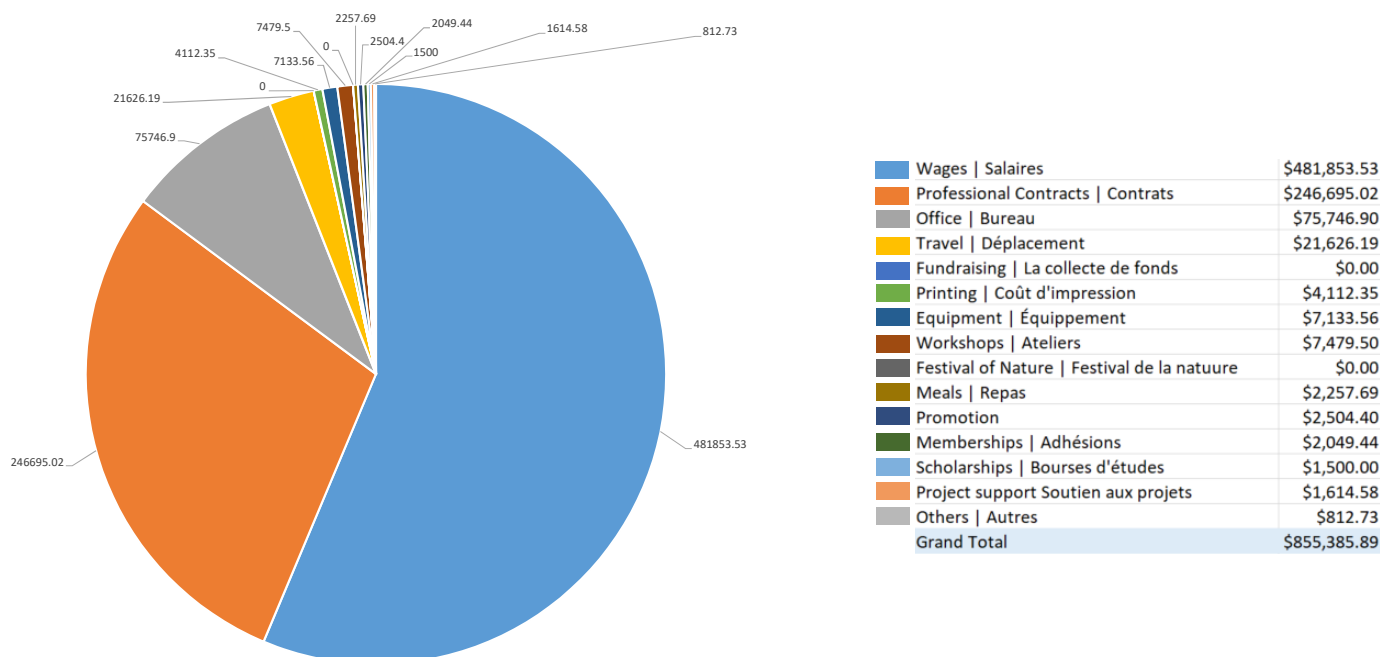
1903-1923 - There are no known New Brunswick counts from this time period. Across Canada though - in Toronto, but also in communities like Yorkton, SK, Penticton, BC, Edmonton, AB, and Brandon, MB - Canada's long CBC history was starting. A few towns in Nova Scotia did counts and Quebec did a dozen as well.

Financial Statement

Sources of Revenue



Expenses



2020 Balance Sheet

Nature NB (NBFN FNNB) Balance Sheet As at 31/12/2020

ASSET

Current Assets

York Credit Union Shares Non Profit	5.00	
York Credit Union (Reserve)	80,258.53	
York Credit Union (Operations)	101,709.73	
Omista Savings	5,980.15	
Investment Bond Beater	77,882.90	
Total Cash		265,836.31
Accounts Receivable	134,235.98	
HST 50% Rebate Receivable	8,649.26	
Total Receivable		142,885.24
Prepaid Expenses		3,189.36
Boat	30,766.50	
Boat Accumulated Depreciation	-4,614.97	
TOTAL Boat		26,151.53
Total Current Assets		438,062.44

TOTAL ASSET 438,062.44

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	23,060.22	
Accrued Account Payable	17,658.68	
WCB Payable	-3,231.36	
Deferred Revenue	119,596.21	
Total Current Liabilities		157,083.75

Long Term Liability

Credit Union Loan - Boat	24,946.86	
Total Long Term Liability		24,946.86

TOTAL LIABILITY 182,030.61

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings - Previous Year	182,793.59	
Current Earnings	73,238.24	
Total Retained Earnings		256,031.83

TOTAL EQUITY 256,031.83

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 438,062.44

Generated On: 19/07/2021

2020 Highlights

- Boat purchase to support our species at risk work
- Double the amount of Federal funding due primarily to several multi-year funding agreement with Environment Canada
- We were able to access The Federal Government Emergency Wages Subsidy
- Slight Decrease in Membership income (likely related to the no FON where members can renew in person) but we saw a 36% increase in donations
- 30% increase in wages with two new staff members added to our team (total of 9 full-time, 1 part-time)
- Significant increase in contract expenses as we are acting as the financial administrator for a large Environment Canada project
- Travel also decreased significantly as we pivoted to virtual programming



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

- Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick
- Birds Canada
- Brasseux d'la côte
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NB
- Clean Foundation
- Club de naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne
- Conservation Council of New Brunswick
- Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
- Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture
- Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Gestion H2O
- Homarus Eco-Centre
- Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
- Maritime Fishermen's Union
- Mount Allison Student Union
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
- Nature Canada
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Nature Trust of New Brunswick
- Environmental Trust Fund
- Wildlife Trust Fund
- New Brunswick Environmental Network
- Private donors
- Public Services and Procurement Canada
- Service Canada
- Sir James Dunn Foundation
- Venture for Canada
- Verts rivages
- Vision H2O
- WWF-Canada



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