



Photo: Black-capped Chickadee (Justin Dutcher)



Annual Report 2021

CELEBRATE • CONSERVE • PROTECT

Contents

- 3 LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- 4 ABOUT NATURE NB
- 5 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF
- 7 DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS
- 11 MONITORING THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY
- 13 THE PORT OF SAINT JOHN WATERBIRDS
- 15 PROTECTING THE PIPING PLOVER
- 17 A YEAR OF ADVOCACY
- 19 *FINANCIAL STATEMENT*
- 21 *PARTNERS AND SPONSORS*

Letter from the Executive Director

To our amazing supporters,

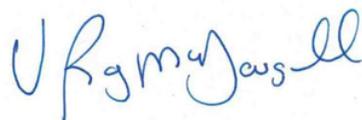
I am happy to report another successful year for Nature NB as we continued to navigate a post-Covid world. Our dedicated staff and board of directors strengthened our network of nature lovers who are looking for ways to contribute to the continued protection of New Brunswick's nature.

This year, we continued to find ways for you to participate in conservation and protection. We saw an increase in volunteers for our citizen science programs, the International Monarch Monitoring Blitz was a great success with observation numbers in the thousands, and we engaged with many of you in the lead-up to the fall federal election.

It is our duty, as naturalists, to be a voice for nature. By being a strong advocate for nature in New Brunswick, by participating in citizen science opportunities to help build a baseline for our ecology, or by sharing your knowledge and stories with others to spark a love of nature in them. Your help and support as a naturalist community is the key to protecting New Brunswick's natural heritage for the generations to come. In 2022, we will continue to connect New Brunswickers with the nature they love and to encourage you to be a voice for conservation.

As we celebrate 50 years of Nature NB, we remember how it all began; with a community of passionate naturalists. We are so grateful to all of you as we look back on 50 years of celebrating, conserving, and protecting our natural heritage, and we look forward to at least 50 more years with this incredible community.

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 government decision makers when their policies and practices threaten our natural world. With an appreciation and respect for nature, we can take better action for a more sustainable future. ♦

Our Board of Directors

Roland Chiasson

Holly Frazer

Co-Presidents

Paul Mansz

Past President

Matt Killick

Treasurer

Mike Lushington

Secretary

Sonya Hinds

Pierre Janin

Anne-Marie Leger

Jan Riddell

Jolène Dubé

Cheyenne Dickinson

Jennifer Dingman

Directors





Our Staff

Vanessa Roy-MacDougall
Executive Director

Melissa Fulton
Director of Operations

Lewnanny Richardson
Species at Risk Program Director

Adam Cheeseman
Director of Conservation

Jenna Knorr
Engagement Manager

Alysha McGrattan
Education Manager

Rae Sharp
Conservation Coordinator

Lauren Stead
Coastal Conservation Coordinator

Claire Vézina
Engagement Coordinator

Breagh Christie
Education Assistant

Lauren Verner
Conservation Assistant

JD Lejeune
Engagement Assistant

Maddy Hogan
Finance & Office Administrator

Department Highlights

Education

Welcome new staff

Breagh Christie joined the team in November 2021 as the Education Assistant.

School programming and support

We delivered 181 school education programs and during the CUPE strike of fall 2021, Nature NB's Educator Portal proved to be a valuable resource for teachers. We also provided track ID and outdoor education training to 16 teachers at Millidgeville Elementary School, as well as supported 8 elementary school teachers with nature activity binders which include detailed activities and lesson plans for teachers to do with their students.

Sign Series

We installed 22 bilingual, interactive, and seasonal pop-up nature sign series to municipal school trails in 11 communities across NB with very positive feedback.

Monarchs

The Saint John Naturalists' Club tagged 460 monarchs in 2021 and 1,030 seed packets were distributed between January 2021 and March 2022. Nature NB also developed partnerships with the Town of Hampton, Sunset U-Pick in Fredericton, and Government House to preserve and/or plant milkweed and monitor monarch butterflies.

We did the trail signs at Killarney Lake today and it was a lot of fun! My 4 kids enjoyed doing it and spent the whole afternoon outside!

- Anne



Conservation

Welcome new staff

Lauren Verner joined the team as Conservation Assistant and Lauren Stead joined the team as Coastal Conservation Coordinator.

Coastal conservation

We provided over \$80,000 of direct funding to local groups and organizations across the province to support coastal conservation including Bank Swallow monitoring in Chaleur and Southeast NB, a community botany walk in Miscou, coastal conservation engagement sessions in Chaleur region, and supporting construction of a living shoreline project in Cocagne.

Public education

We helped support the delivery of a public education campaign on natural approaches to reducing erosion along the coast which targeted all coastal land owners in New Brunswick.

Citizen science

In 2021 we doubled the number of volunteers with the Port of Saint John Watershed Survey and increased volunteers in both the Important Bird Areas and Protected Natural Areas programs.



Coastal restoration in Cocagne for erosion protection

Species at Risk

Piping Plover conservation

In 2021, 44 pairs of Piping Plover nested on 18 beaches in New Brunswick's North-East. Posters about Piping Plover protection were set up on 17 beaches and benefited the pairs nesting there.

Beach clean-ups

Lewnanny and his team of coastal protectors took to the beaches of the Acadian Peninsula to clean, monitor, educate, and protect the coastal environment. Over 75 posters were used to raise awareness on the importance of protecting the coastal environment. The team of coastal protectors were successful in removing more than 2,800 lbs of garbage from approximately 20 beaches. The equivalent of 15 km of beach was cleaned up thanks to their efforts.

Partnership with schools

During the 2021 school year, we visited schools with a new approach. Lewnanny joined the North-East Francophone School District's re-imagined school where he conducted a total of 16 workshops at École La Source. This partnership is set to continue in March 2022 for another series of 16 nature workshops.

Partnership with les Brasseux d'la Côte

All of the garbage picked up over the summer was displayed at Brasseux d'la Côte in Tracadie for 3 days. The media was invited to come and see the amount of garbage that Nature NB collected in 2021. Brasseux d'la Côte continues to donate ten cents of every can of Barram sold to Nature NB.



Swallow box building workshop

Engagement

Club support

In 2021, we supported the Saint John Naturalists' Club with the hiring of their first staff member, Julie Bauer. We also continued to offer remote support for club meetings during the pandemic.

Nature Legacy

Throughout 2021, we continued to meet with the Government of New Brunswick about meeting their target of 10% protected land and freshwater. We promoted the programs on our social media to encourage public comments and help carry nominations through the selection process.

Federal election

In the lead up to the federal election in the fall, Nature NB hosted an all-candidate debate with *100 Debates for the Environment* with UNB Sustainability. We published a joint press release with CPAWS-NB, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, and the Nature Trust of New Brunswick asking candidates what they will do to protect NB's nature and act on climate change.

Festival of Nature

We hosted a decentralized Festival of Nature in 2021 to accommodate the provincial Covid-19 restrictions. With the help of our members, clubs, and some partner organizations, a total of 21 events were hosted in different locations in New Brunswick to help get people outside and celebrate nature. We also hosted a province-wide Bioblitz on iNaturalist the weekend of the Festival. ♦



Map of Candidate Conserved Areas for the Nature Legacy program

Monitoring the Monarch Butterfly

Nature NB and the Saint John Naturalists' Club have been working for monarch conservation since 2019. Together, we have been distributing milkweed seeds across the province for people to plant and increase the habitat for this species at risk. Over the past few years, the Nature NB education department has taken on more monarch conservation work with the Saint John Naturalists' club.

The summer of 2021 was a very successful year for monarch conservation with Nature NB. Staff observed the first monarchs in New Brunswick in early June; earlier than in previous years. Summer students were tasked with monitoring milkweed patches in the Fredericton, Saint John, and Hampton regions looking for eggs, caterpillars, and adult butterflies from June to August.

Kenzie Whalen documented their milkweed monitoring for the NB Naturalist. Read it here!

We also developed partnerships with the Town of Hampton and Sunset U-Pick to maintain patches of milkweed that would otherwise get mowed. A third partnership with Government House allowed us to monitor monarchs in the vicinity and further our public education initiatives about the monarch butterfly and its life cycle.



Alysha with a tagged monarch butterfly at the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory



Common Milkweed Plant (Jim Wilson)

For two years now (2020-2021), Nature NB has collaborated closely with Mission Monarch, a community science program run by the Space for Life Insectarium documenting the monarch's reproductive success. The program is part of an international research and education effort aimed at saving the monarch butterfly. In these two years of collaboration, we were able to recruit four times more participants and collect nearly ten times more observations in New Brunswick compared to the period preceding our collaboration (2016-2019).

In 2021, Nature NB hosted 11 blitzes during the International Monarch

Monitoring Blitz and 69 households hosted their own. Through these blitzes, 116 people surveyed 7,439 plants and 1,269 monarchs were observed in all stages.

These observations offer a valuable snapshot of the monarch population status for scientists, which will allow them to suggest efficient conservation actions across North America. As the Canadian coordinators for the International Monarch Monitoring Blitz, Mission Monarch are using Nature NB as a case study as a demonstration how collaboration with an organization helped increase the number of observations in a specific region. ♦

The Port of Saint John Waterbirds

Nature NB began a long-term waterbird survey project in the Port of Saint John in 2019 which aims to capture information on the abundance and distribution of waterbirds in the region. The monitoring conducted through this survey helps inform oil spill preparedness and development proposals in the Saint John region.

In 2021, Nature NB transitioned the project to be led by citizen scientists. Volunteers monitor 1-2 sites along the coast throughout the year to complete surveys and submit their data. There are 33 sites to survey, covering the study's target area from Musquash Estuary to Cape Spencer. Nature NB's Conservation Assistant, Lauren Verner, wrote a blog post about her experience collecting baseline data for the Port of Saint John Waterbird Survey. [Read it here!](#)

Typically, baseline studies are conducted before a planned project in order to establish what has changed once the project is complete. However, baselines can also be used when there are no current planned projects or changes but there is a possibility or a risk of change. This is the case with the Port of Saint John Waterbird Survey. The baseline data shows the current state of the environment and can be used for assessing developments within the area for environmental emergency responses or any other changes that may occur in the coming years from pressures such as human disturbance or climate change.



After just a few years of surveys, we've noticed that Saint John is home to a wonderful diversity of waterbirds. The surveys also show behaviours of some species, especially those nesting in and around Saint John; did you know Manawagonish Island is among the three largest breeding colonies of Double-crested Cormorants in the Maritimes? During the breeding season, there is a flurry of activity from the Cormorants wherever there is an abundance of food, and there is no better concentration of food in Saint John than Reversing Falls. It's remarkable how much wildlife is at our doorsteps in New Brunswick. ◆



Lorneville Breakwater, one of the survey sites



Lauren also spotted a seal while surveying water birds for the Port of Saint John Waterbird Survey

Protecting the Piping Plover

The Species at Risk Program takes place in the Acadian Peninsula and our objectives are mainly focuses on the recovery of species at risk and their habitats. Over the past 26 years, our work has seen some success on the protection of Piping Plovers. Our work also includes public education on a variety of species and considers all species at risk in the region.

In 2021, Nature NB's team of coastal protectors took to the beaches of the Peninsula to clean, monitor, educate and protect the coastal environment. Approximately 180 surveys were conducted. Through our activities, we counted 44 pairs of Piping Plovers nesting on 18 beaches of New Brunswick's North-East. Over the course of the summer, the team counted 176 eggs laid, 114 hatched



eggs, and a total of 59 juveniles who took flight. The banded adults, of which there were 27, were also monitored in 2021. Overall, we monitored and protected more than 75% of the Piping Plover population of the Acadian Peninsula.

Bird colonies such as Common Tern, Gull, Great Blue Heron, and Cormorant colonies have all benefited from our efforts again this year. Monitoring of these is done when the opportunity arises. The tern colonies did well this year and a colony in Tabusintac successfully nested for the second time on a new small island near Tabusintac Tern Island.

We put up 75 posters over the summer of 2021 to raise awareness on the importance of protecting the coastal area to beach-goers. Signs about dune protection and the role of Marram grass were put up on 17 beaches. On these beaches, we also put up signs about Piping Plover protection which benefited more than 35 pairs nesting on the beaches. ♦



The team of coastal protectors removed over 2,800 lbs of garbage from 15 km of coastline



A Year of Advocacy

2021 was a year of advocacy for Nature NB. We urged the government of New Brunswick to move forward with their Nature Legacy program and mobilized support from the public. We also ensured candidates of the fall federal election knew that environmental issues were top of mind for New Brunswickers.

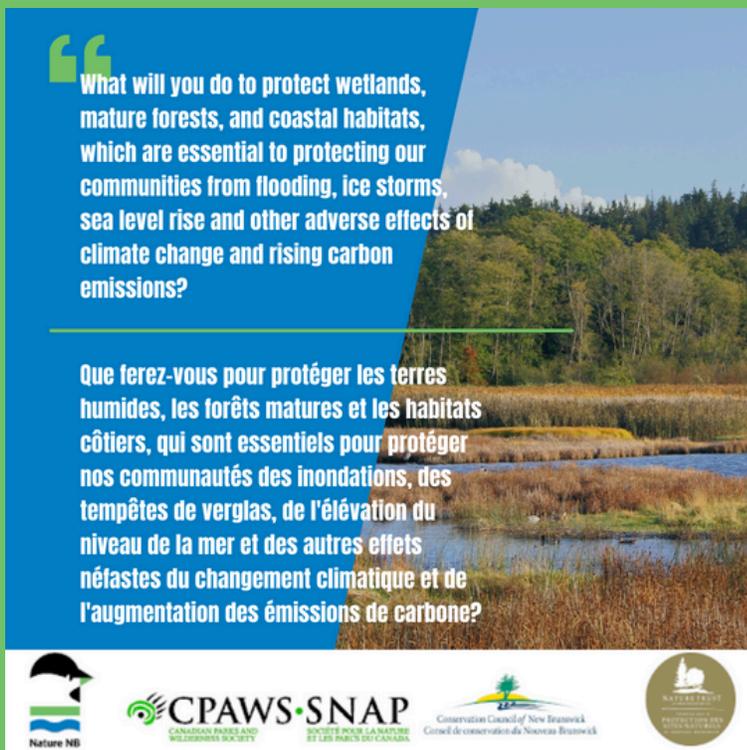
We continued working with the government of New Brunswick to spread awareness about the Nature Legacy program. While we encouraged New Brunswickers to nominate land for protection in 2020, in 2021 we asked the public to comment on these nominated areas to help support the future protection of these natural spaces. Though this year did not see any official announcement from the government, we are so grateful to all those who nominated land for protection and supported these nominations during the comment period. We have no doubt that your knowledge and passion of New Brunswick natural spaces will help push nominated sites through the selection process and see

permanent protection of our natural heritage.

Canada had a federal election in the fall of 2021. In the lead up to the election, Nature NB hosted an all-candidate debate with UNB Sustainability through 100 Debates for the Environment during which voters could tune in to hear what the candidates of the Fredericton region had to say about environmental issues in the province and Canada.

We published a joint press release with CPAWS-NB, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, and the Nature Trust of New Brunswick asking candidates what they will do to protect New Brunswick's nature and how they will act on climate change. We published questions on our social media and encouraged our members and supporters to get in touch with their local candidates to show them that the environment is important to their constituents, and that they will be held accountable when decisions are being made. We housed a list of questions on our blog along with links to the candidates' responses for anyone to reference leading up to the election.

In 2022, we look forward to continuing to stand up for nature and be a voice for the protection of New Brunswick' natural heritage. With supporters like you, we know we can remind everyone of the intrinsic value of our province's natural spaces. ◆



“ What will you do to protect wetlands, mature forests, and coastal habitats, which are essential to protecting our communities from flooding, ice storms, sea level rise and other adverse effects of climate change and rising carbon emissions?

Que ferez-vous pour protéger les terres humides, les forêts matures et les habitats côtiers, qui sont essentiels pour protéger nos communautés des inondations, des tempêtes de verglas, de l'élévation du niveau de la mer et des autres effets néfastes du changement climatique et de l'augmentation des émissions de carbone?

”

Sample social media post shared during the election period

Financial Statement

2021 Balance Sheet

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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