



# Annual Report 2022

CELEBRATE. CONSERVE. PROTECT.

# Contents

**3 LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**4 ABOUT NATURE NB**

**5 BOARD AND STAFF**

**7 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

**7 EDUCATION**

**9 COMMUNITY SCIENCE**

**10 PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

**11 MONARCHS**

**16 SPECIES AT RISK**

**18 AGROECOSYSTEMS**

**20 ENGAGEMENT**

**23 COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

**24 FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**25 PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**

# Letter from the Executive Director

To our community of naturalists,

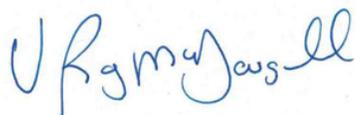
I am pleased to report another successful year for New Brunswick nature in 2022. As the year marked 50 years of Nature NB, we celebrated those who laid the foundation for all of our successes, and nurtured new connections to grow our network of naturalists.

2022 was a year of celebrating nature. In July, we celebrated the protection of over 90,000 hectares of new protected natural areas by the government of New Brunswick; a feat made possible thanks to your nominations and support for the Nature Legacy initiative. We celebrated New Brunswickers' connections with nature as we continued to deliver a growing number of education programs and doubled the number of volunteers for our community science programs throughout the year. In June, we hosted the Festival of Nature in Fredericton, gathering nature-lovers from across the province for the first time since 2019 to celebrate New Brunswick's nature with friends old and new, and celebrate Nature NB's 50th anniversary.

As members of the naturalist community, we need to be a strong voice for nature. Whether you encourage your local politicians to take a stand for conservation, participate in one of our many community science initiatives, or share your love of New Brunswick's beautiful natural spaces with friends and family, you play an important role in protecting our natural heritage for years to come.

For 50 years, Nature NB has worked to celebrate, conserve, and protect New Brunswick's natural heritage. We look forward to continuing this important work with this incredible community.

Yours in conservation,



Vanessa Roy-McDougall



# 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

**Paul Mansz**

Co-President

**Anne Marie Leger**

Co-President

**Roland Chiasson**

Past President

**Matt Killick**

Treasurer

**Mike Lushington**

Secretary

**Sonya Hinds**

**Pierre Janin**

**Jan Riddell**

**Cheyenne Dickinson**

**Jennifer Dingman**

**Tony Diamond**

**Ashley Brown**

Directors





# Our Staff

**Vanessa Roy-McDougall**

Executive Director

**Lewnanny Richardson**

Species at Risk Program Director

**Adam Cheeseman**

Director of Conservation

**Alysha McGrattan**

Education Manager

**Jenna Knorr**

Engagement Manager

**Lauren Stead**

Coastal Conservation Coordinator

**Rae Sharp**

Conservation Coordinator

**Lauren Verner**

Conservation Program Coordinator

**Claire Vézina**

Engagement Coordinator

**Breagh Christie**

Education Assistant

**Maddy Hogan**

Finance and Office Administrator

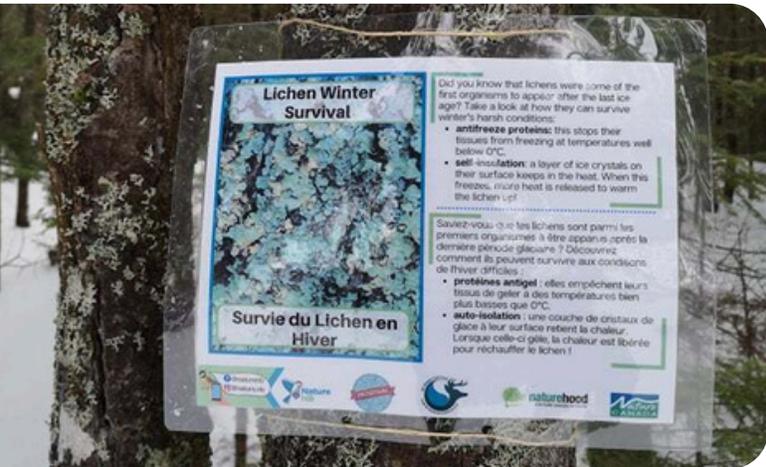
# Project Highlights

## EDUCATION



### School Programming

We delivered 180 school programs in 2022, 15 of which were virtual to continue being as accessible as possible, especially for rural schools. During NB Science Week 2022, we facilitated presentations for students in grades 3-5 and for students in grades 6-8. These two presentations reached approximately 1,500 students and teachers.



### Sign Series

We installed 16 sign sets in 10 different communities. The grade 8 students at the Bath Community School helped install a set and used this as an opportunity to learn about sign-making and how to appropriately install signs on a trail. Grade 10 and 11 Essential Skills students also helped install a sign set. We created sign sets for FROSTival, in Fredericton, and for Winterfest, in Sackville with multiple families participating in the associated activities and sharing positive feedback.

# Project Highlights

## EDUCATION

### Library Exploration Packs

We delivered 24 backpacks to the Fredericton Public Library to help locals explore nature. We developed six Learn to Bird packs and six Geocaching packs for adults and we developed 6 Learn to Bird packs and six Bugging Out packs for kids. The popularity of the packs and the positive feedback we received has encouraged us to expand this initiative in other New Brunswick communities in 2023.



### NatureKids NB

In September 2022, we began a new NatureKids NB program. There are currently 9 active groups across New Brunswick who participate in monthly, age appropriate and seasonally-relevant activity suggestions prepared by Nature NB. In this first year of the new program, 17 NatureKids activities have been completed by various groups. In August, NatureKids NB did a trip to Cape Jourimain with the Fredericton Boys and Girls Club, allowing 73 participants to experience a unique nature trip!



# Project Highlights

## COMMUNITY SCIENCE



### **Port of Saint John Waterbird Project**

We recruited five new volunteers for the Port of Saint John Waterbird survey in 2022. We are planning a volunteer event in early 2023 with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick to share information on this community science initiative and offer resources for waterbird identification and surveying.



### **Seabird Survey**

We supported naturalists in Northern New Brunswick to initiate the Bay of Chaleur Seabird Survey to collect important data on the movement of birds in the region.



### **City Nature Challenge**

We hosted the City Nature Challenge in five New Brunswick regions. 759 observations were made in Westmorland County, 543 observations were submitted from Northern NB, York County had 138 observations, and Albert County submitted 52 observations, and 22 observations were made in Saint John.

# Project Highlights

## PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

### New Stewardship Groups

We hosted two field outings in 2022, one at Grand Lake during the Festival of Nature and the other at Ayers Lake Stream in October. The Ayers Lake PNA Stewardship group marks a new approach to the program wherein members of the stewardship group will visit the broader area of the PNA rather than the PNA directly due to accessibility issues. In this way, the stewardship group acts as support for the positive management of the protected area and surrounding areas moving forward.



# Project Highlights

## MONARCHS



### Education and Outreach

Nature NB continued to engage communities in monarch conservation throughout New Brunswick. This was achieved by providing easy-to-use resources to help New Brunswickers make their yards, gardens, and towns friendly for monarchs and other pollinators (focusing on breeding habitat and nectaring habitat), providing important educational information about threats to monarchs, and different stewardship initiatives that community members can join. Nature NB hosted 4 Monarch Life Cycle and Habitat workshops with a combined total of 133 participants. Our virtual monarch workshop videos on Nature NB's Youtube page have received a combined view count of 427 to date. Our monarch resource webpage received nearly 2032 unique page views in 2022.



# Project Highlights

## MONARCHS

### **Community Science**

Nature NB encouraged the use of community science platforms where the public could submit milkweed and monarch observations. We recruited volunteers to submit observations and supported new volunteers with training opportunities where possible. We have continued to see significant increase year to year in the number of monarchs/milkweed observed, and number of volunteer observers. Monarch butterflies have become the 5th most observed species in New Brunswick on iNaturalist.



### **Milkweed Seeds**

A group of volunteers in the Saint John region collect and process locally-sourced native swamp milkweed seeds and provide Nature NB packets of seeds to distribute. In 2022, we distributed 3,128 packets (approximately 220,000 seeds). During the fall of 2022, the volunteers collected an estimated 430,000 swamp milkweed seeds (enough for 2,860 packets), for distribution throughout 2023.

# Project Highlights

## MONARCHS



### **Municipal and Industry Engagement**

Working with local volunteers, Nature NB was successful in encouraging the Town of Hampton to re-commit to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge for their third year, undertaking actions such as putting up informational signage, altering mowing schedules, and supporting community science initiatives and milkweed seed giveaways. The town of Cap-Acadie has also signed the Pledge for 2023, and Nature NB is in communication with the City of Fredericton and several municipalities in the Saint John region about signing in the spring of 2023. Other organizations/industries engaged include Sunset U-Pick in Fredericton, Government House, and Provincial Parks.

# Project Highlights

## MONARCHS

### Monarch tagging

The Saint John Naturalists' Club tagged a total of 497 monarchs between August 17th and September 17th 2022. The total estimated volunteer hours contributed by 61 volunteers over 18 tagging days at Point Lepreau was 482 hours. Three tagging workshops for new volunteers were hosted training a total of 22 new volunteers. The SJNC developed a "Leader Guide" and "Volunteer Guide" for tagging at the Point. A special tagging event was also organized with NB Power that involved more than 20 Mi'kmaq representatives, many of them Elders, each of whom attended a presentation on the Monarch life cycle and later tagged at least one Monarch. It was a special and very moving experience for many participants and several symbolically dedicated their released butterfly to the memory of a departed loved one.



# Project Highlights

## MONARCHS



### **Staging Habitat Surveys**

Nature NB staff worked closely with staff from the Canadian Wildlife Service and the NB monarch working group to identify sites in Southern NB that could be used for staging during monarch migration. Staging habitat is important to document and understand as it represents key areas where Monarchs rest and refuel during their migration through New Brunswick. Between August 30th, and September 13th, Nature NB staff surveyed 27 sites along the Bay of Fundy coast, as well as the lower Wolastoq/Saint John River. These surveys collected information on habitat characteristics, weather conditions, floral resources present, and monarch abundance and behavior. Over the course of the 27 surveys, Nature NB tagged a total of 30 monarchs in 5 locations.

# Project Highlights

## SPECIES AT RISK

### Coastal Conservation

We provided over \$95,000 of direct funding to local groups and organizations across the province through the Wele'k Pemjajika'q Sikniqt - Côtes en santé - Healthy Coasts NB project.

This funding supported coastal conservation including Bank Swallow monitoring in Chaleur, Tabusintac and Esengoôpetitj and Southeast NB, a community botany walk in Pointe Sapin, a dune restoration event on Miscou Island, coastal conservation engagement sessions in Chaleur region, and supporting construction of a living shoreline project in Cocagne



# Project Highlights

## SPECIES AT RISK



### **Piping Plover Conservation**

In 2022, 43 pairs of Piping Plovers nested on 20 beaches in New Brunswick's North-East. Posters about Piping Plover protection were set up on 17 beaches to educate the public on the presence of these endangered birds and on being a respectful beach-goer where wildlife is concerned.



### **Beach Clean-ups**

Lewnanny and his team of coastal guardians took to the beaches of the Acadian Peninsula to clean, monitor, educate, and protect the coastal environment. The team was successful in removing over 2,260 lbs of garbage from 21 beaches. The equivalent of 15 km of beach was cleaned up thanks to their efforts. Lewnanny continues to post photos of the beach clean-ups on his Instagram account, raising awareness of the issue.

# Project Highlights

## AGROECOSYSTEMS



### **Species at Risk**

We completed a multi-partner collaborative conservation plan that has eight priority strategies to help in the conservation of over a dozen Species at Risk. In October 2022, we partnered with Local Valley Beef, a local producer in Centreville, NB, to host an educational farm day exploring how various farm practices can incorporate Species at Risk conservation. Throughout the year, we supported research into habitat suitability of farm infrastructure, Indigenous knowledge integration, and Bobolink nesting behaviours in the Wolastoq/Saint John river watershed.



# Project Highlights

## AGROECOSYSTEMS



### **Engaging Local Producers**

To better engage with local producers as we move forward with our project, Nature NB plans to act as a sponsor and participant at the Horticulture Congress in Fredericton in March of 2023. The Horticulture Congress will also mark the launch of a survey to gain insight from local producers on the conservation strategies developed earlier in 2022. We plan to use the results of this survey to inform our work in 2023 and beyond.

### **New Partnerships**

We are working on a new collaboration with CARMA, a charity to reduce numbers of feral cats in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. This partnership is a new approach for Nature NB and uncommon for nature nonprofits. We are working to develop educational materials on the impacts of outdoor cats on Species at Risk, as well as help with their Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program, which will humanely reduce the outdoor cat population. This is a unique and brand new opportunity for us and will hopefully start bridging the gap between animal welfare sectors and environmental sectors.

# Project Highlights

## ENGAGEMENT

### Club Engagement

This year we hosted two virtual meetings to connect all of our nature clubs as an opportunity for them to share their projects and learn from each other, and to support one another. Nature NB has also been supporting the Fredericton Nature Club in increasing their membership after the pandemic, and engaging a younger audience. We have created business cards for the Fredericton Nature Club and the Restigouche Naturalists' Club to help in engaging their respective communities. We have also offered staff support for the Saint John Naturalists' Club with a full-time employee charged with coordinating their various conservation projects. We're hoping to offer more opportunities for club support in 2023.



# Project Highlights

## ENGAGEMENT



### **Festival of Nature**

We hosted the Festival of Nature in Fredericton this year. This year was the first in-person Festival of Nature since 2019, when it was held in St Andrews. Members joined Nature NB at the Annual General Meeting on Friday night to hear about the past year's successes, and attended the Celebration Banquet on Saturday night where they heard about projects some of the clubs have been working on, and took part in a lively game of Nature NB trivia. We had lots of positive feedback from participants and we look forward to exploring the nature of the Saint John region next year.

# Project Highlights

## ENGAGEMENT

### **Celebrating 50 years**

Nature NB celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022! To mark this milestone, we revealed a new logo in January. The Chickadee was reimagined and we added a purple violet, the provincial flower. As part of celebrating 50 years, we created a limited edition ornament with Aitkens Pewter featuring a Black-capped Chickadee. The ornament was designed based on a photo from New Brunswick photographer Justin Dutcher, and was sold throughout the year as a keepsake for members and nature lovers alike.



### **NB Naturalist**

As part of Nature NB's 50th anniversary celebration, we are publishing a special issue of the NB Naturalist with articles from the archives, new articles looking back on past accomplishments, a timeline of the organization, and more! Various clubs and members have contributed to this issue and we are looking forward to publishing it in 2023.



# Committees and Working Groups

Nature NB is active in the environmental movement across the province and plays a role in provincial working groups, board of directors, etc. Some groups we have been involved with in 2022 include:

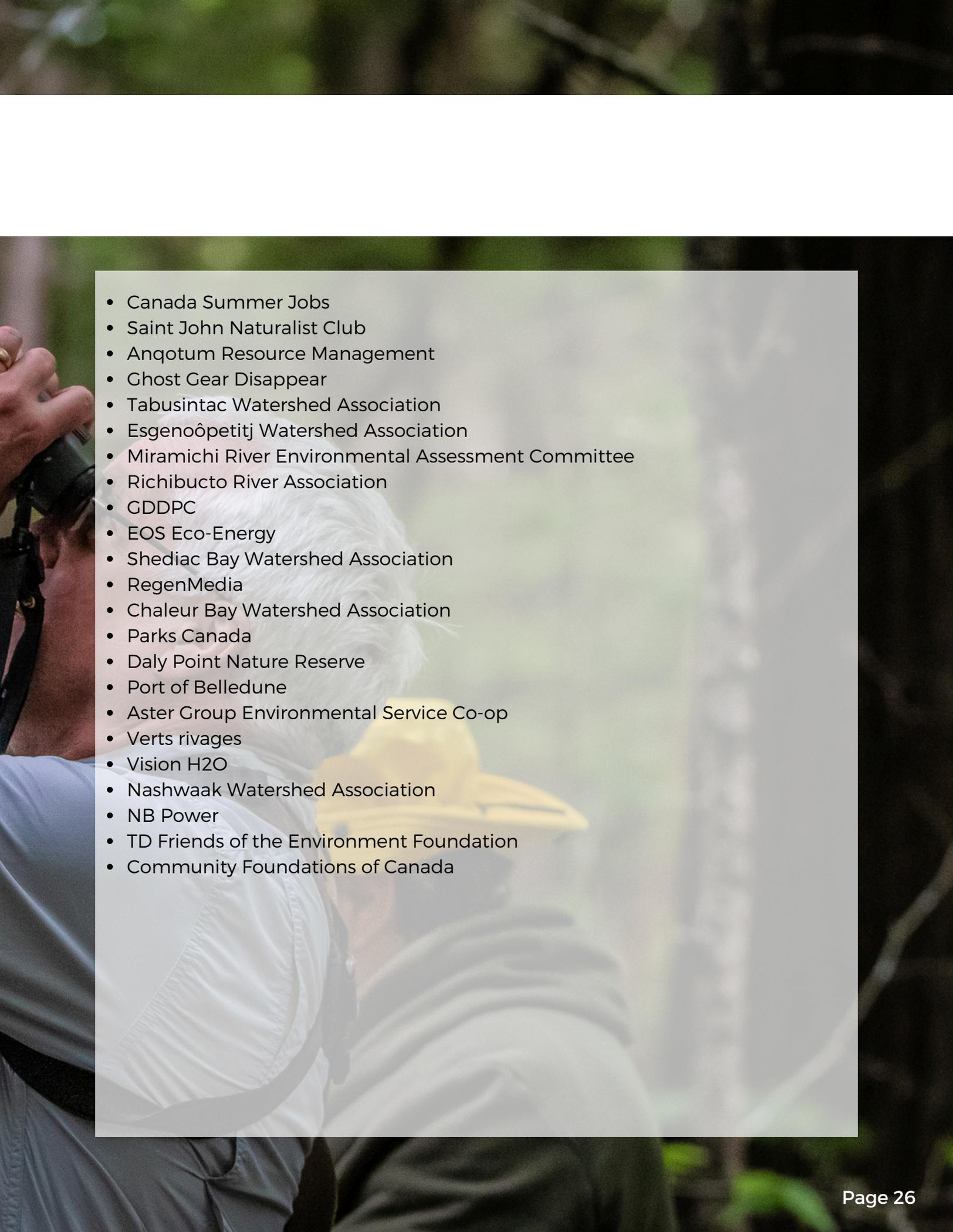
- Atlantic Canada Bank Swallow Working Group
- NB Biodiversity Collaborative
- Sustainability Education Alliance
- Great Minds Think Outside
- Inner Bay of Fundy Conservation Planning Initiative
- Aster Group Environmental Services Cooperative Board of Directors
- New Brunswick Environmental Network Steering Committee
- ClimAtlantic Advisory Committee
- New Brunswick Climate Change Adaptation Collaborative
- Chignecto Climate Change Collaborative
- NB Monarch Working Group
- Nature Canada provincial affiliates working group
- Naturehood Community of Practice



# Financial Update

# Thank you to our Sponsors and Partners

- Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick
- Birds Canada | Oiseaux Canada
- Brasseurs d'la côte
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NB | Société pour la nature et les parcs du Canada - N.-B.
- Clean Foundation
- Conservation Council of New Brunswick | Conseil de conservation du Nouveau-Brunswick
- NB Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour | Département d'Éducation postsecondaire, Formation et Travail
- NB Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture | Département de Tourisme, Patrimoine et Culture
- NB Department of Transportation and Infrastructure | Département de Transports et Infrastructure
- NB Department of Energy and Resource Development
- Environment and Climate Change Canada | Environnement et Changement climatique Canada
- Eco Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada
- Gestion H2O
- Maritime Fishermen's Union | Union des pêcheurs des maritimes
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council | Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada
- Nature Canada
- Nature Conservancy of Canada | Conservation de la Nature Canada
- Nature Trust of New Brunswick | Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick
- Environmental Trust Fund | Fonds en fiducie pour l'environnement
- Wildlife Trust Fund | Le fonds en fiducie pour la faune du Nouveau-Brunswick
- New Brunswick Environmental Network | Réseau environnemental du Nouveau-Brunswick
- Private donors | Les donateurs et donatrices privé.e.s

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- A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is seen from the side, looking through binoculars. The background is a blurred forest scene with green foliage and a person wearing a yellow hat. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box.
- Canada Summer Jobs
  - Saint John Naturalist Club
  - Anqotum Resource Management
  - Ghost Gear Disappear
  - Tabusintac Watershed Association
  - Esgenoôpetitj Watershed Association
  - Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee
  - Richibucto River Association
  - GDDPC
  - EOS Eco-Energy
  - Shediac Bay Watershed Association
  - RegenMedia
  - Chaleur Bay Watershed Association
  - Parks Canada
  - Daly Point Nature Reserve
  - Port of Belledune
  - Aster Group Environmental Service Co-op
  - Verts rivages
  - Vision H2O
  - Nashwaak Watershed Association
  - NB Power
  - TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
  - Community Foundations of Canada



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