



Conservation Council *of* New Brunswick
Conseil de conservation *du* Nouveau-Brunswick

Annual Report
2012-2013

Message from Our President

Our 2012-2013 year has been a very busy one. With the increased push for resource extraction by multinational companies, and the concomitant interest by Provincial and Federal Governments to facilitate that resource extraction, our work as researchers and educators about the consequences of these projects becomes even more critical.

One successful publication was the CCNB Action pamphlet, *Know Fracking*. Five thousand copies of the pamphlet have been distributed throughout New Brunswick, explaining the process of horizontal drilling for gas and the pitfalls associated with it. This came on the heels of our longer publication, *The Shale Gas Primer*, many copies of which were distributed throughout the province, and which is still on our website.

With the downturn of the forestry economy in New Brunswick, there is interest in a new approach to Crown management. We introduced the idea of community forestry to a group of decision-makers in Upper Miramichi, and will continue to advocate for the sustainable and multi-stakeholder use of Crown lands in New Brunswick. Anglophones, Francophones and First Nations are coming together to protect the resources we all need to breathe, drink and eat.

There is also increased interest in outdoor education for our young people. Our No Child Left Inside program expanded from one site on Keswick Ridge, to several other schools in southern New Brunswick, and has initiated collaboration between schools and advocates of biodiversity education.

The Fundy Baykeeper was part of a cross-cultural and cross border collaboration to make the St. Croix River once again a major spawning ground for the gaspereau, a critical food source for the fishery in the Fundy Bay. We also repeated the stellar community outreach party called the Musquash Paddle in August. The Baykeeper continues to do valuable research and education on the health of the Fundy Bay.

All in all, a good year, lots of dedication and hard work by the Board and Staff of the Conservation Council and its action arm, CCNB Action.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Coburn
President

Staff in Action



Céline Delacroix, Executive Director, enjoying the EcoTunes fundraiser in Fredericton in the summer of 2013.



Alison Jutta, Office Manager, at the Eco-Soirée Fundraiser & Awards Night.



Inka Milewski, Science Advisor, launching an underwater camera to examine the sea bottom under an old fish farm in Shelburne Harbour, NS.



Nadine Ives, No Child Left Inside Coordinator, singing a tune at the EcoTunes fundraiser for CCNB that she helped to organize in the summer of 2013.



Stephanie Merrill, Freshwater Protection Program Director, checking out wind power on her way to speak in communities threatened by extreme energy projects like shale gas.



Fundy Baykeeper Matt Abbott takes away a load of beach debris from Simpson Island on the Baykeeper boat.

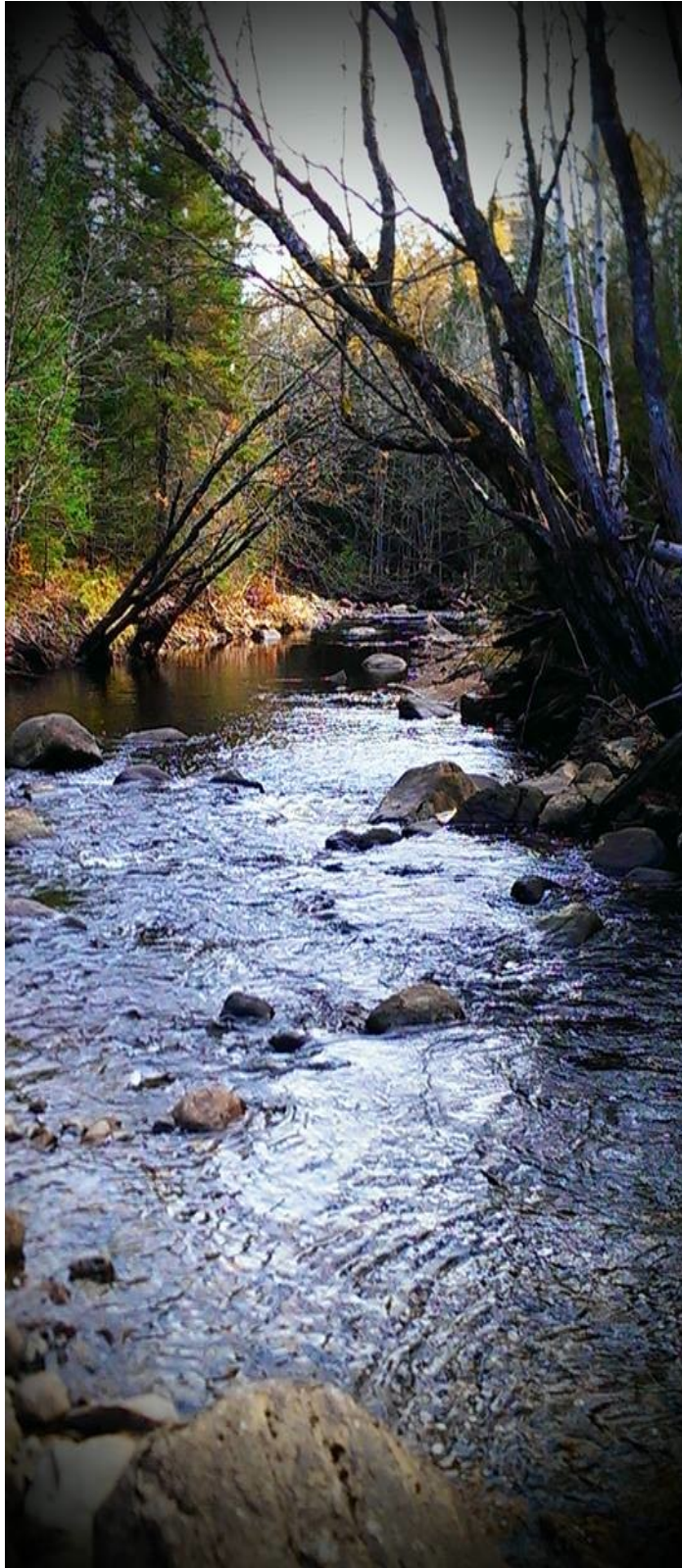
Staff in Action



Kevin Matthews, Renewable Energy Advisor, tells the stories of inspiring renewable energy projects in New Brunswick in his documentary, *Moving Forward*.



Tracy Glynn, Forest Campaign Director, speaking at an Idle No More Gathering in Moncton in January.



Board of Directors

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Programs

Forest Conservation

The Conservation Council's forest conservation program aims to harness public support for measures that protect and restore New Brunswick's native mixedwood forest, community forestry initiatives that are more ecologically and socially acceptable, and respect for Aboriginal treaties and rights.

Upper Miramichi Community Forest Partnership

CCNB continued its partnership with the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi and its residents this past year. We organized a 7 Wonders Community Challenge that celebrated Upper Miramichi's natural beauty, heritage and way of life. The Priceville Footbridge, submitted by Susan Hunter, won in an online poll where hundreds voted. We co-hosted Upper Miramichi's Forest Festival and Lumberjack Competition with the Central NB Woodmen's Museum in August. Most recently, we held a visioning session to guide our plans for the future. Visit: uppermiramichicommunityforest.org.

Amplifying the call to ban herbicide spraying of our public forest

CCNB worked with deer biologists and forest scientists to call for a ban on herbicide spraying on public land. Glyphosate-based herbicides are sprayed on 12,000-14,000 ha of softwood plantations and cutover areas on public land in New Brunswick each year. Recent scientific studies linking glyphosates to human health impacts have triggered a Health Canada review of the herbicide. Beyond human health concerns, the diversity of our forest has suffered. Old spruce and fir stands and beautiful maple and birch ridges have been clearcut, doused with herbicides and replaced with tree farms. Herbicides kill broad leaf trees and vegetation, destroying food sources of many forest species.

Mapping deforestation and forest degradation in New Brunswick

CCNB released maps to the public that revealed that New Brunswick has no large intact naturally undisturbed forests of 500 square kilometres or more.



Bringing back our trees and tree knowledge

We cannot protect that which we don't know. Sadly many of us in New Brunswick cannot identify our 32 native tree species. Our diverse Acadian forest is being simplified into plantations of two or three tree conifer species. We have trees and plants that provide food and medicine but we do not know what is safe to eat and not eat. We are missing out on the richness of the life that surrounds us by not being able to identify the sights, smells and tastes found in our forest. The Conservation Council plans to restore our tree knowledge and our forest. Visit: acadianforest.ca.

Tracy Glynn, Forest Campaign Director, forest@conservationcouncil.ca

Freshwater Protection

Our Freshwater Protection Program advocates for a holistic and integrated approach to water management in the face of increasing pressures on our freshwater ecosystems from pollution, ecological impoverishment, climate change and industrial demand.

Take me to the river!

CCNB has continued our work to make connections on the St. John River and beyond. We have been working on building a database and online map that will connect river users to river access. With help from other recreational organizations we are identifying where boaters, paddlers and swimmers can find access to major rivers systems across the province. This started with interest in the St. John River but quickly we were able to include provincial-wide information. When finished, it is anticipated that river users will be able to help expand the river access data available from their own experiences and share river use stories! We plan to release the online mapping tool in the Spring of 2014. We have also been actively involved in building and promoting the idea of a Nashwaak Greenway to straddle the Nashwaak River, a major tributary to the St. John river just outside the city of Fredericton. We worked this year with other local watershed organizations to advance the idea of a linear park and protected riparian area with recreational interests, local businesses and municipal and elected political leaders. So far the response has been tremendously positive!



Nashwaak River near Marysville. The Greenway initiative is an amazing opportunity to protect sensitive ecological river riparian areas while providing recreational land and water trails.

Water governance

Water governance is the complicated web of how society interacts with – manages, uses, depends on -- water. CCNB has continued to play a key role in advocating water, particularly watershed management, as a primary lens for decision-making. We have been at the forefront of responding to the major issues; whether to address the current issues of shale gas fracking, a new pipeline from the west, or proposals for mines, we continue to defend a fair process for public participation and priority for beefing up, not rolling back, our protective measures. We have continued to participate in the government's long term wetland management stakeholder working groups, have been invited to be a member of the New Brunswick Energy Institute, and in the Spring we released an information brochure on shale gas and have distributed almost 5000 copies in 6 months! These are all indicators of the role that CCNB plays in contributing to important water policy conversations in the province.

Our Program Director has given numerous presentations about water and the regulatory framework in which water is protected to schools, university classes, municipalities, service and community groups.

Stephanie Merrill, Freshwater Protection Program Director, water@conservationcouncil.ca

Marine Conservation

The Conservation Council works to turn the tide on ecological decline in our marine ecosystems, including the Bay of Fundy and the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Gaspereau Restored to the St Croix River!

For two decades gaspereau (also called alewives) have been denied passage up the St. Croix River due to a Maine law that closed the fishway at the Grand Falls Dam. Gaspereau are a keystone species, ecologically important to the rivers where they spawn and to the coastal ocean waters where they spend most of their time. The St. Croix River has potential to have the largest run of gaspereau on the North American east coast. We helped convince the Maine State Legislature and Senate to re-open the river. Our Fundy Baykeeper, Matt Abbott, testified before the Maine Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources in April 2013. The river was officially opened May 1.

National Water Centre

In late 2012, Ken Irving donated his former home and property to Lake Ontario Waterkeeper. The stunning property along the Kennebecasis River in Saint John will become a centre to celebrate and promote the right to swimmable, drinkable, fishable water. As the local Waterkeeper, our Fundy Baykeeper has been actively involved in the centre. The purpose of the centre is to find creative solutions to water issues and to promote a culture that celebrates Canada's waterways.

Assessing Salmon Farm Impacts

As reported last year, our Science Advisor, Inka Milewski, has undertaken a project to assess the environmental impact of a recently abandoned salmon farm in Shelburne Harbour, NS. We focused our efforts in Shelburne as the site had been recently abandoned, allowing us access to the sea bottom under the site. By collecting samples from the sea bottom and taking underwater photographs, we were able to measure and illustrate the impact of excess nutrients from salmon feces and uneaten feed. We found the site to have much less species diversity than healthy reference sites in the same harbour. By working through the Atlantic Coalition for Aquaculture Reform, which we spearheaded in 2010, we inform communities about the risks of salmon farms to coastal waters.

Fundy Baykeeper on Patrol

Our Baykeeper actively patrols by water, land, and air. Our patrols have forced action to clean up large industrial debris and exposed ecologically damaging shoreline developments. The Baykeeper sits on the Marine Debris Working Group of the Southwest New Brunswick Bay of Fundy Marine Advisory Committee and advises provincial and federal government on the marine debris problem.

Assessing and Protecting the Musquash Estuary

Thanks to a campaign led by the Conservation Council and Fundy North Fishermen's Association, the Musquash Estuary was declared a Marine Protected Area in 2006. Since protection, Fundy Baykeeper has continued to work with a broad group of stakeholders to ensure the Estuary is maintained in its pristine state. In 2013, we held our 15th annual Musquash Paddle which drew nearly 100 people for a paddle through the Musquash Estuary.

Matthew Abbott, Fundy Baykeeper, marine@conservationcouncil.ca

‘No Child Left Inside’ Project

The Conservation Council is working with teachers, schools and the education system, along with other educators, to ensure children develop a stronger connection with nature by spending class time learning outdoors.

Valuing and Nurturing Our Children’s Connection with Nature

The goal of the Conservation Council’s ‘No Child Left Inside’ program is that every child in New Brunswick has ample opportunity to learn and grow in connection with the natural world. Our unique approach is to integrate nature into the school experience of New Brunswick’s children by embedding the use of outdoor classrooms and natural settings into the delivery of existing curriculum across all subjects. We facilitate this by supporting teachers with the provision of professional development opportunities and resources and by encouraging the development of outdoor classrooms and natural spaces on and near school grounds. We are part of an ever-expanding global network of educators, parents, researchers and community members who work passionately to reverse the trends that have resulted in today’s children and youth having less opportunity to play and learn outside.

Keswick Ridge Community School Pilot

Our pilot project with the Keswick Ridge Community School (a K- 8 school near Fredericton) has continued to evolve over the past year. Interpretive panels have been added to the Bird and Butterfly Gardens, the vegetable gardens have produced their second season’s crops. Learning stations along the Tula Woodland Trail are nearing completion with the installation of signage, a message centre and letterboxes for curriculum-linked materials. Once again, we worked with Nature NB (who partnered with us on the Bird and Butterfly Gardens) to build bird houses with three classes at the school.



Our intern from France, Anthony Balbous, helping students build birdhouses at Keswick Ridge School.

‘No Child Left Inside’ Outreach

We continue to build our province-wide network of teachers and educators interested in exploring ways to teach their students outside the classroom and in developing outdoor learning spaces. We have initiated activities with additional schools (including Barkers Point Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, Loch Lomond Elementary, Symonds High School, and Ecole Marée Montante). We are an active member of the Sustainability Education Alliance of New Brunswick and now represent New Brunswick as a member of the national Child & Nature Alliance – Canada.

Nadine Ives, No Child Left Inside Program Coordinator, nadine@conservationcouncil.ca

Renewable Energy

Mobilizing New Brunswickers

Through very hands-on programs, the Conservation Council engaged in making people aware of the continuing need to adopt a greener lifestyle. RenewablesNB, now in its fifth year, is a joint project of CCNB, the Falls Brook Centre, Cape Jourimain Nature Centre and the Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee. The aim was to promote and demonstrate the application of renewable energy technologies throughout the province. The collaboration focused on documenting examples of people throughout the province who are using renewable energy systems to reduce their need for heating and electricity and ultimately reducing their carbon footprint. People can see these case studies on the RenewablesNB website at RenewablesNB.ca.

CCNB RenewablesNB in its efforts to educate the general public and update codes and regulations acceptable for the use of renewable energy technologies has been working collaboratively with various government departments and agencies including the Departments of Environment, Energy and Public Safety, and NB Power and Efficiency NB.

The Council made a significant contribution to demonstrating the desire of people to move towards a renewable energy future by producing two short video documentaries; “Our Energy Future” (17 minutes) and “Moving Forward – Allons de l’avant” (22 minutes). Both videos have been widely screened entering film festivals and are posted on YouTube.

Kevin Matthews, Renewable Energy Coordinator, kevin@conservationcouncil.ca



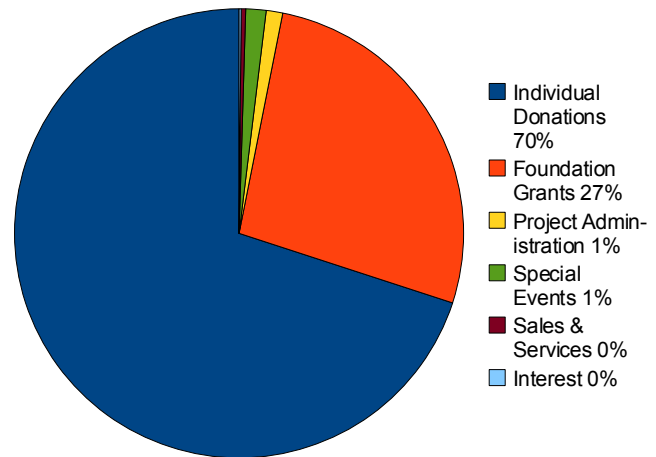
Julia Hansen, a UNB nursing student, volunteering for CCNB at the grand opening of Greener Village Community Food Centre in Fredericton in September 2013.

Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Statement of Operations*

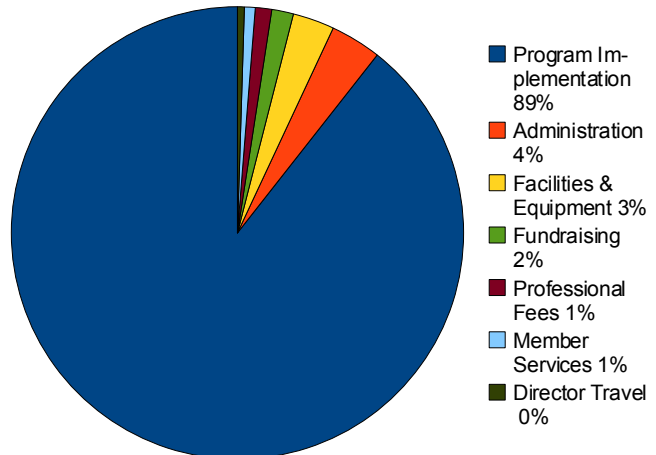
Income

Individual Donations	\$547,627
Foundation Grants/Govt Contracts	\$210,631
Special Events	\$11,402
Project Administration	\$9,258
Sales & Services	\$2,532
Interest	\$1,148
Total	\$782,598



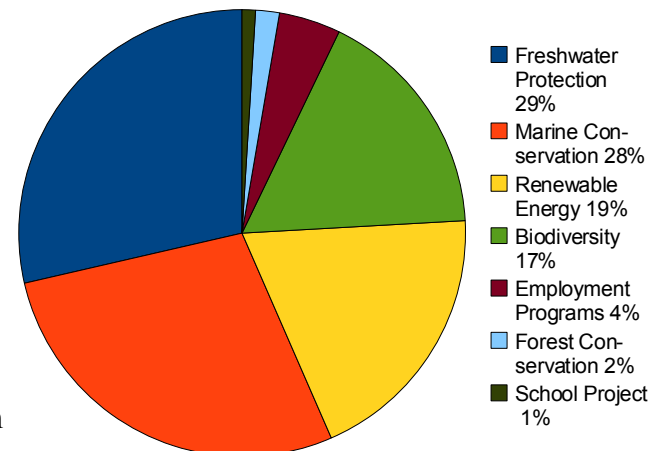
Expenses

Program Implementation	\$271,096
Administration	\$11,070
Facilities and Equipment	\$8,975
Fundraising	\$4,711
Professional Fees	\$3,551
Member Services	\$2,354
Director Travel	\$1,469
Total	\$303,226



Program Expenditures

Freshwater Protection	\$60,250
Marine Conservation	\$58,817
Renewable Energy	\$40,775
Biodiversity	\$35,758
Employment Programs	\$9,398
Forest Conservation	\$3,624
School Project	\$2,009
Total	\$210,631



*This statement should be read in conjunction with our audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2013.

Thanks to Our Funders

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Catherine Donnelly Foundation

Davis Conservation Foundation

Echo Foundation (formerly EJLB Foundation)

Efficiency New Brunswick

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund

New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund

Patagonia Environmental Grants Program

TD Friends of the Environment

Tides Canada - Dragonfly Foundation

Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation

Walmart-Evergreen



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