

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW BRUNSWICK

FALL 2019

# ecoalert



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**Cover:** Students from the University of New Brunswick and organizers from New Brunswick's Extinction Rebellion chapter led a climate march through Fredericton on Friday, Sept. 20. Millions of people participated in climate actions during the global week of school strikes (Sept. 20-27), including in more than a dozen communities in N.B.

## editorial

BY LOIS CORBETT

# The kids aren't going to take it anymore — and neither should we

In late September, more than 700 young people marched through the heart of Fredericton to the lawn of the legislature with a united message for political leaders:

**The climate crisis is here. The time to act is now.**

Students' chants echoed through the downtown. Businesses closed in solidarity. Young mothers, fathers and grandparents joined the procession.

A week earlier, roughly 300 people joined student-led climate strikers and Extinction Rebellion's New Brunswick chapter on a march to the building of the premier's office. Shoulder-to-shoulder, New Brunswickers of all ages and walks of life called for a cleaner energy world and for action to break the back of carbon in our economy.

Students' voices in Fredericton were amplified by climate strikes in more than a dozen New Brunswick communities, and in towns, villages and major cities across the world. Millions took to the streets, galvanized by the example set by Greta Thunberg's solo 'Skolstrejk för klimatet' (school strike for climate) at the Swedish Parliament last summer.

I think one of the reasons Greta has inspired such numbers is that, for so many of us across the globe, we have for years felt a lot like young Thunberg — steeped with anxiety and anger at the inaction of those in power and their unwillingness to accept the science of climate change and act accordingly, with urgency.

She showed us we are not alone in this. We are millions strong. And we can stand up for the future we want for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren.

This has been, in many ways, one of the goals of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. To show New Brunswickers — living in a province dominated by powerful industry — that they are not alone in their concern for the environmental health of our province and communities.

From working to stop the dumping of raw sewage into the Wolastoq (St. John River), securing protections for groundwater and drinking water, speaking out against toxic budworm spraying, to more recent campaigns to educate communities about the risks of hydraulic fracturing, the potential damage to tourism and fisheries from a west-to-east export pipeline, and researching the physical and mental health effects of climate change and the extreme weather it fuels, our organization strives to be a source of community, action and change in New Brunswick.

We've shared many victories over the years. And perhaps one of the biggest is yet on the horizon. ***Thank you for being part of the solution with us for the past 50 years, and for many more to come.***



Lois Corbett is  
Executive Director of the  
Conservation Council of  
New Brunswick

**Editor's Note:** Dear reader, as you can well imagine, condensing 50 years of environmental action into one edition of EcoAlert is no small feat. As such, this magazine offers a snapshot of some of the highlights and campaigns of the Conservation Council over the years. We did our best to research and fact check key dates and names, but please let us know if you spot any errors. And by all means, please reach out to me at [jon.macneill@conservationcouncil.ca](mailto:jon.macneill@conservationcouncil.ca) with your favourite Conservation Council story, campaign, or memory from our shared history.



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# ACID RAIN

Then and now: how the  
1991 acid rain agreement  
shows the effectiveness of  
**taking a stand.**

It took politicians, scientists and regional environmental groups to  
make meaningful changes across North America

BY JOE TUNNEY





**A**cid rain may not be a topic you hear about often these days, but once upon a time, it was the hot button issue for environmental organizations all over North America and Europe.

During a **speech in 2012**, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said acid rain was “*at the top of the Canadian public policy agenda*” during his time in office.

For many veterans of the field, the 1991 acid rain agreement between Canada and the U.S. represents a real win and is a history we’re still learning from. While acid rain – mainly caused by sulphur dioxide from coal-fueled electrical plants – hasn’t been completely eradicated, it’s also not the threat it once was.

“It’s as if we caught it just in the nick of time and turned the page with a solution,” said Lois Corbett, executive director of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick.

The acidic nature of the pollutant can damage plants, lakes, aquatic organisms and even infrastructure.

The INCO Ltd. smelter in Sudbury, Ont., contributed its share to the problem and was the largest SO<sub>2</sub> polluter in Canada. But for the acid rain that fell in Eastern Canada, half came from the United States coal industry – making the problem an international one.

The fight leading up to the accord was a decade long. As Mulroney said, the issue received top billing inside Canada, however, our neighbours to the south were a little late to the party. In the early 1980s, it was clear the conversation had quite a ways to come, with President Ronald Reagan saying, **“trees cause more pollution than automobiles do.”**

Still, Canada’s Mulroney government stood its ground and with New England also being affected, conversations eventually began to move towards progress.

But while the prime minister was fighting the battle abroad, inside the country, smaller, regional organizations, like the Conservation Council, were playing their role by campaigning for certain industrial regulations that fell under the provinces’ jurisdiction.

“As one of the 52 member organizations of the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain, the Conservation Council was uniquely positioned to provide public insight and direction during the lead up to annual strategic meetings of the Eastern Canadian Premiers and New England Governors,” said Adele Hurley, who spearheaded the coalition with Michael Perley, “whose mandate includes protection of human health, forests, and the fisheries of Atlantic Canada.”

Other organizations, like cottagers’ associations and fishermen’s

organizations, made waves about the threat, too.

Other organizations, like cottagers’ associations and fishermen’s organizations, made waves about the threat, too.

Corbett said that the scientific team at Environment Canada – as well as other scientists of the day – were strong leaders and stirred policymakers into action on a topic that needed immediate attention.

It was even reported that acid rain could affect the country’s maple syrup production.

“Yikes. How much more Canadian of a threat can you get?” said Kai Millyard, a veteran in the world of environmental activism. Millyard has worked on campaigns with *Pollution Probe* and *Friends of the Earth*.

The goal was to have Canadian industries choose between adding scrubbers to their

denial phase – kicked in and helped make the required changes.

On the international level, Millyard believes the campaigns were successful because Mulroney and others appealed to the United States’ own self interest – showing the damage it would do to the eastern part of the country.

“And the fact that it also kept those Canadians to the north happy, you know, was just sort of a side benefit,” he said.

The danger of acid rain acted almost as a primer for larger environmental issues to come, Millyard said. While many of the pollution issues of the day came from local sources, the Maritimes were being polluted by smokestacks in the midwestern United States.

Now, climate change has increased the stakes from a North American problem into



## “NEVER GIVE UP

on the importance of taking a message directly to your minister of environment... So, while it may be complicated – it may mean that you need a scientist and an organic chemist with you to explain some of the science – we should never back away from an important area of public policy like acid rain.”

– Lois Corbett, Executive Director, CCNB

smokestacks to remove the sulphur dioxide or switching to cleaner fuels.

“So groups, like the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, were able to just walk down the street and talk to their environment minister and say, ‘This is important. It’s having an impact on our salmon, on our forests, on our rivers and lakes, and we need to do something about it,’” Corbett said.

“Each group had to campaign in its own province to get that action to happen,” Millyard said.

“And then we had to work together on the national stage.”

He said that regulations imposed by governments often didn’t tell polluters how to improve but simply gave them a five-year deadline.

*Inco Ltd.*, now known as *Vale Ltd.*, actually fundamentally rebuilt its smelter’s system, he said, and was dramatically more efficient as a result.

Corbett said credit is due to Canada’s engineers, who – after moving through their

a global one.

But the last chapter of the acid rain story is still being written, he said, and has been incorporated into the larger conversation about the changing climate.

“We’re talking about phasing out coal altogether. That’s going to take a little while,” he said.

For Corbett, the success of the accord comes with two takeaways. First is the importance of never giving up.

The second takeaway was the significance of education campaigns the Conservation Council and other groups held.

Public education played a major role in helping raise the profile of the threat, which helped turn the tide.

“Ordinary people could take a science issue and understand what was going on; who was responsible for causing it and what steps they could take,” she said. “Whether it’s writing letters to the editor to talking to their young children about it.” ●



# 'Pretty incredible': annual Musquash Paddle highlights importance of preservation

Protection of the Musquash Estuary was nearly a decade in the making

BY JOE TUNNEY

**N**early 120 people flocked to the Musquash Estuary this past July to witness its beauty and celebrate the waterway being a protected area.

"From a Marine Protected Area standpoint, this has become almost a living laboratory," said Paul McNab, a researcher from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, floating down the Musquash River in his kayak. "[Like] how do you actually develop and implement these protective measures?"

The decision to make the estuary a priority for the Conservation Council of New Brunswick dates back to the late 1990s, after the dismal results of a habitat assessment and the critical role estuaries have in supporting marine productivity and health.

At the time, the Council partnered with fishermen's organizations and local and national conservation groups to strengthen its grassroots movement.

In 2006 and after nearly a decade-long effort, the federal government designated



Paul McNab

where the Musquash River meets the Bay of Fundy as a **Marine Protected Area (MPA)** – Atlantic Canada's first.

As a result, no industrial development has been allowed on the estuary, despite being within the jurisdiction of the Saint John Ports Corporation.

A liquified natural gas (LNG) terminal and a coal port were two proposals that

never came to fruition thanks to the MPA designation.

Protecting a body of water comes with its own difficulties, McNab said. While researchers can walk into the forest and perform a census, that's much harder when the habitat and its inhabitants constantly moves and migrates.

"Canada, of course, has a long history and a celebrated history [of protecting its habitats], but moving it into the salt water is probably where we're still at a very early stage," he said.

Each MPA is different, McNab said, with the tidal range of the estuary being much larger than other bodies of water. Still, knowledge gained from the Musquash and the protections surrounding it has been used all across the country, the researcher said.

While the point of the annual Musquash Paddle is to celebrate its preservation, it's also about getting people out on the water to enjoy the outdoors.

*Continued on page 5...*







*Tracey Taylor and family*

The Conservation Council partnered with CTV to raise awareness about the event and held a social media contest, with the winners being the Taylor family from Quispamsis.

"I knew there were some shipwrecks out here, so when I saw the contest I thought it would be a good idea to put a comment in," said Tracey Taylor, accompanied by her husband and three daughters.

The 10-kilometre kayak ride begins in a saltmarsh, follows the river's many twists and turns – passing a few beached ships from the 1900s – before flowing into the bay.

"For me to be able to kayak that far inside a saltmarsh is pretty incredible because there would have been a lot more salt marshes like that not that long ago," said Chris Miller of the *Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society's* Nova Scotia chapter. "To actually be in a place that's been protected, to experience that wetland, it's really quite unique and beautiful."



*Black Beach*

Some people decided to stop their ride at the six-kilometre mark, near the mouth of the river, while others carried on to Black Beach; another four kilometres on open water through the Bay of Fundy and its picturesque shoreline, coves and islands.

Porpoises, seals, cranes and a bald eagle were seen along the way, without any garbage cluttering the view.

At the end, to commemorate a hard day's work, a free BBQ was held.

"The effectiveness of watersheds when left in their appropriate condition, undeveloped, is really indisputable," said Robin Doull, a participant in line for a hamburger. "We've struggled as a

province with flooding the last couple years. There's a lot that goes into that but there's no question that development in watersheds have contributed greatly to vulnerability. I think it's critical that we start backing some of that up."

"I found it pretty easy," said Khayman Giroux, another kayaker at Black Beach, there with his grandmother. "Currents were helping us along the way."

All in all, it's estimated more than 70 boats were out on the water.

"We have to protect all of our coastlines, I think," said Al Reed, another participant. "We're developing far too much of our world." ●



# Freshwater a core focus for Conservation Council since inception

From the rivers to the sea, protecting New Brunswick's waters has kept the wind in our sail for 50 years

BY JOE TUNNEY

Photo: Nick Hawkins

**W**ith the Conservation Council of New Brunswick turning 50 years old this year (but not looking a day over 30), we're reflecting on the successes we've seen over the last five decades.

Since the beginning, the different fresh and saltwater bodies of water of New Brunswick have been a major focus for the non-profit – from acid rain, to the Musquash Estuary, to groundwater protection, to the ongoing fight to gain further protections for the Bay of Fundy.

In fact, the Conservation Council was partially formed in response to a threat facing New Brunswick's longest river.

"One of the top two or three issues, likely, for the Council when it started out was water protection in New Brunswick," said Dr. Mark McLaughlin, assistant professor of history and Canadian studies at the University of Maine.

"Particularly, water pollution in the St. John River."

Back then, the Conservation Council had committees dedicated to specific topics, including one on water. That committee was composed mostly of people who raised a stink about how much the Wolastoq (St. John River), well, stank, in the early 1960s, McLaughlin said.

The concern in the decade leading up to the Council's formation was that dams along the river acted as collecting points for effluent dumped by mills and other industries in the Upper St. John River Valley.

"Then there was concern that if you built this massive dam, near Mactaquac, and create an 80-kilometre-long headpond, that was definitely going to cause a lot of problems," McLaughlin said.



*Toxic contaminates dumping in Newcastle*

Around this time, MLA Fred McCain declared to the New Brunswick legislature that water in the Wolastoq was as, "thick as molasses."

Soon the province's Water Authority was revealed to be wholly ineffectual as a regulatory body when it came to industrial sources of sewage and, by the end of 1971, pulp and paper mills were told they needed to install primary treatment facilities.

McLaughlin said the Conservation Council originally wasn't planned to be an environmental group, but rather a "coordinating council" for a number of other environmental groups. It wasn't long until people recognized a larger organizing environmental body – one working on the provincial level – was necessary.

Back in the day, many of the members of the Council personally knew politicians and other influential New Brunswickers and lobbied them, one-on-one. While climate-related topics regularly make headlines nowadays, McLaughlin said one of the most important things the Conservation Council did was raise awareness about environmental issues.

The advocacy efforts of the Council shifted over time to include both a one-on-one approach and direct action.

The 2014 moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, put in place under the Premier Brian Gallant government, was one such example of the new campaigning strategy being successful.

One of the major dangers of fracking is groundwater contamination. Whether from methane leaks or surface spills, the extraction of natural gas or oil with fracking can lead to the contamination of local wells – among other things.

The Council spearheaded a province-wide education campaign which led to the formation of roughly 40 local groups concerned about fracking and its impacts on their community.

The grassroots movement swelled to include New Brunswickers of all walks of life calling for an end to shale gas extraction in the province. The Conservation Council played a supporting role to community groups while continuing its advocacy with elected representatives to get a moratorium in place.

*Continued on page 8...*





“And we continue to work with the New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance to ensure the moratorium is not lifted,” said executive director Lois Corbett about Premier Blaine Higgs government’s interest in allowing fracking near Sussex. “The moratorium was the right public policy in 2014 and it’s the right policy today.”

Water classification is another important freshwater project the Conservation Council helped drag into the light of day.

In 2014, it was revealed that the Department of Environment’s Water Classification Program, formed in 2002, had been an “illusion” and protected none of the province’s waterways.

At the time, the New Brunswick ombudsman, Charles Murray, described it as, “like a smoke detector without batteries.”

Frustrated by the program’s inaction, the Nashwaak Watershed Association and its supporters, including the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, filed a complaint to the office of the ombudsman in February 2013, spearheading Murray’s investigation.

Today, the core focus of the Council’s Freshwater Program is ensuring the **Water Protection Strategy for New Brunswick**, announced in 2018, is brought into force with laws that classify and protect our rivers, bays, streams and drinking water at the watershed level.

It’s unlikely such landmark legislation will be achieved overnight in New Brunswick, but if there’s one thing the Council has proved since 1969, it’s that it is here to stay, and its staff and supporters won’t stop fighting for a healthy, sustainable province.

Janice Harvey, former Executive Director and founder of the Council’s Marine Conservation Program, puts it best: “Victories come at the end of 10 years. It often takes that long, and it has to be sustained. That’s the benefit of having a long-standing organization like the Conservation Council, with the continuity and consistency and persistence to just keep at it until you get what is needed.” ●



Our new book is a must-have for New Brunswickers who love to get out and about!

Our best-selling **The Great Trees of New Brunswick, Vol. 2** serves as the definitive field guide for native tree species in New Brunswick, includes interesting tree trivia questions, information on how our changing climate will affect the trees we love, and heartfelt stories from New Brunswickers who share a deep appreciation for nature.

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## ***Wins You Made Possible***

For 50 years, The Conservation Council of New Brunswick has worked on critical environmental and public health issues from nature protection to water and forest policy to climate change. Taking action and working with communities, governments, businesses and individuals to make change is what we do best.

Our success is made possible by people like you, our passionate supporters of all ages and backgrounds who share a vision for a healthy, sustainable New Brunswick.







# A History of New Brunswick's fracking moratorium

## 2010

01

**Conservation Council launches public education tour**

The Conservation Council begins a tour of the province to visit communities and raise public awareness of the risks of shale gas fracking to drinking water and public health.



## 2011

02

**The New Brunswick Anti Shale Gas Alliance (NBASGA) Formed**

Galvanized by the Conservation Council's province-wide public awareness campaign, upwards of 40 community groups emerge to protect water and oppose fracking in New Brunswick.

## 2012

03

**Chief Medical Officer of Health's Recommendations Concerning Shale Gas Development in New Brunswick**

New Brunswick's Chief Medical Officer of Health releases a seminal report raising the health risks of fracking.



## 2013

04

**Shale Gas Debate in NB Gains International Attention**

The shale gas debate in New Brunswick gains international attention when violence breaks out between concerned New Brunswickers, led by members of the Elsipogtog First Nation, who had been practising civil disobedience by blocking access to shale exploration equipment in Rexton, and RCMP officers enforcing an injunction against the blockade.

## 2014

05

**Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing Announced by Premier Gallant**

In October, NBASGA files a lawsuit against the provincial government based on a challenge under Article 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (the guarantee of the security of the person), citing threats to breathable air, drinkable water, and threats proceeding from climate change. In December, Premier Brian Gallant announces a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing.



## 2015

06

**New Brunswick Commission on Hydraulic Fracturing Created**

As the international debate over fracking continues, a series of new reports released by the shale lobby attempt to cast doubt on the science surrounding the risks associated with fracking. The Gallant Government creates the independent New Brunswick Commission on Hydraulic Fracturing to further study the issue.

## 2016

07

**Report Released by Fracking Commission Condemns Fracking in New Brunswick**

The independent fracking commission releases its report in February, recognizing the risks to public health and drinking water, and urging N.B. to transition to a low-carbon economy. Following the commission's findings, and with the sustained support for a moratorium from communities across N.B., Premier Gallant announces on May 27, 2016 that the fracking moratorium will remain in place indefinitely.



## 2018

08

**Premier Higgs says his government will allow regional fracking**

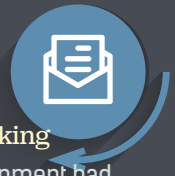
After forming a minority government in the fall of 2018, Progressive Conservative Premier Blaine Higgs says his government plans to lift the moratorium on a regional basis.

## 2019

09

**June 2019: 1,000+ New Brunswickers speak out for water, against regional fracking**

News broke in June 2019 that the Higgs government had started the process for allowing fracking in the Sussex and Albert County regions, despite not having met any of the five conditions for lifting the moratorium. The Conservation Council responded by creating a letter-writing tool to help New Brunswickers speak up for water protection and against the risks of fracking. More than 1,000 New Brunswickers sent letters to their MLA and the Higgs Government.



**August 2019: Corridor says it is no longer looking for investors in its NB shale prospect**

Corridor Resources says it is stopping its search for investors in its Frederick Brook shale prospect near Sussex, citing a tired excuse used often by development-at-all-costs governments and industry alike: blaming the regulatory burden of having to consult with First Nations.



# ACHIEVEMENTS

Here are some of the important campaigns the Conservation Council and its supporters made happen.

✓ Establishment of the New Brunswick Department of Environment by Premier Richard Hatfield

✓ Establishment of New Brunswick's first farmers' conservation club

✓ Enactment of the *Clean Water Act* to guarantee safe drinking water

✓ Initiation of the Eastern Canadian Premiers and New England Governor's Climate Action Plan

✓ Legal requirement for NB Power to supply 10 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources

✓ Establishment of Canada's first community supported agriculture (CSA) project in Keswick Ridge, N.B.

✓ Creation of New Brunswick's energy efficiency agency

✓ Campaigned to stop the building of a second nuclear power plant at Point Lepreau, end the spruce budworm spray program and establish protected wilderness areas in the Kennedy Lakes and the Christmas Mountains.

✓ Increase public support for an end to herbicide spraying in the Crown forest by helping thousands of New Brunswickers write their MLA and government officials

✓ Reaching thousands of children and hundreds of educators across N.B. about the importance of taking school curriculum out of the classroom and into nature through our Learning Outside project

✓ Supporting more than 500 local food producers and craftspeople connect with New Brunswickers through our free BuyLocalNB online directory

✓ Discovery and clean-up of lead smelter contamination in Belledune and wood preservative contamination in Newcastle

✓ Protecting drinking water and public health through our successful public education campaign to secure a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in the province.

✓ Clean-up of the St. John (Wolastoq) River

✓ Establishment of the Musquash Marine Protected Area under Canada's Oceans Act

✓ Establishment of New Brunswick's Climate Action Plan

✓ Establishment of New Brunswick's Water Protection Strategy

✓ Showing New Brunswickers momentum around cleaner energy living in our own communities through the council's N.B. Eco Homes Tours

✓ Enactment of a new and improved *Fisheries Act* in 2019 to ensure sustainable fisheries and critical habitat protection crucial for thriving inshore fisheries

✓ Environmental regulation of salmon aquaculture in the Bay of Fundy

✓ Protecting the Bay of Fundy and thousands of sustainable fisheries and tourism jobs by successfully campaigning against a west-east bitumen pipeline





# CONSERVATION COUNCIL

## Awards



1986-7

The **Conservation Council** received the “**Tip of the Hat**” award from Lorne Green’s *New Wilderness* television program for our work on groundwater pollution.

1991

On June 5 *World Environment Day*, the **Conservation Council** was added to the **United Nation’s Global 500 Roll of Honour** for outstanding environmental achievements in a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.

1992

Marine Conservation Program Director **Janice Harvey** received the **Gulf of Maine Council’s Visionary Award** for her work as coordinator of the Bay of Fundy project. The same year, Harvey received the **Orca Award** from the *New Brunswick Environmental Network*.

2000

Marine Science Advisor **Inka Milewski** received the **Orca Award** from the *New Brunswick Environmental Network*.

2002

Policy Director **David Coon** received *Canadian Geographic’s Canadian Environmental Achievement Award* for his work on global warming.

2004

Policy Director **David Coon** and Marine Science Advisor **Inka Milewski** receive the **Phoenix Award** from the *New Brunswick Environmental Network* for not backing down on raising awareness of ground contamination and pollution issues in northern New Brunswick in the face of corporate intimidation.

2009

The **Conservation Council** receives The Council of Canadians’ **Activist of the Year Award** in recognition of 40 years of successful campaigning to protect the air, land and water of New Brunswick. Forest Campaigner **Tracy Glynn** received the **Gaia Award** from the *New Brunswick Environmental Network* for expeditiously advancing social and environmental justice by engaging people from across the province on environmental issues requiring immediate attention.

2011

Freshwater Protection Coordinator **Stephanie Merrill** received the **Gaia Award** from the *New Brunswick Environmental Network* for her dedicated efforts to protect New Brunswick communities from the damage from shale gas fracking.

2016

Fundy Baykeeper and Director of our Marine Conservation Program **Matt Abbott** won the *Gulf of Maine Council’s* prestigious **Visionary Award** for his contributions toward protecting the Bay of Fundy, including the Baykeeper’s marine debris project, leading efforts on *Marine Protected Areas*, and conducting education and outreach on environmental issues in the bay, such as the use of pesticides on salmon farms.

2017

Fundy Baykeeper and Director of our Marine Conservation Program **Matt Abbott** was given the *Atlantic Salmon Federation’s* highest honour, the **T.B. ‘Happy’ Fraser Award** for both Abbott’s and the *Fundy Baykeeper* program’s long standing commitment to the protection and restoration of wild Atlantic salmon.

2018

Executive Director **Lois Corbett** won the *New Brunswick Environmental Network’s Phoenix Award* in recognition of her dedication to advancing smart public policy and legislation in New Brunswick. Corbett took the helm of the Conservation Council in 2014 after 30 years of professional experience in the Canadian nonprofit environmental sector, advocating for policy reform to tackle everything from smog and acid rain to climate change and renewable energy solutions, from watershed protection, improving forestry practices, to waste reduction.

2019

A fitting way to kick off our 50th anniversary, the **Conservation Council of New Brunswick** received *NB Power’s Legacy Award* at the public utility’s annual *Energy Efficiency Awards* gala. NB Power noted the impact of our *Climate Change and Energy Solutions Program* for teaching New Brunswickers about the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy, and our advocacy work to reduce New Brunswick’s carbon pollution footprint while growing a renewable economy.





1969

The **first Annual General Meeting of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick** happened on Oct. 17, 1969. From left to right: Dr. G.G. Shaw, treasurer; Dr. R.M. Strang, secretary; K.K. Langmaid, president; Dr. Austin Squires, second vice president; and David Walker, first vice president.

F I F T Y  
Y E A R S



1981

After a two-year retrofit, **the ribbon was cut on Conserver House** in 1981. From left to right: Elbridge Wilkins, Mayor of Fredericton; Hon. Fernande Dube, Administrator of Finance; Senator Muriel McQueen Fergusson; Dana Silk, Executive Director; Dr. Lucy Dyer, President of the Conservation Council.



1983-7

One of many successful campaigns over the years, the Conservation Council played a key role to oppose the construction of a **second nuclear power plant at Point Lepreau** from 1983 to 1987.



1987-9

**Bike to the Future** was one of numerous fundraising efforts over the past 50 years organized to ensure the Conservation Council continues to be a strong, independent voice for sustainable communities.





1987

In 1987, the donation of the **Tula Farm on Keswick Ridge** led to a decade of work to promote sustainable agriculture. Shown here are the Conservation Council's Jim Bedell, far left, Kay Bedell, centre, and Ardeth Homes, far right, with representatives from the provincial and federal governments.



1991

The Conservation Council held a **mortgage burning ceremony** in 1991 to mark the final payment on Conserver House and the transfer of title to the council. Marking the occasion was Elizabeth May, left, then executive director of the Sierra Club, the Hon. Bruce Smith, Minister of Supply and Services, and Hon. Vaughn Blaney, Minister of the Environment.



1987

The Conservation Council has been instrumental over the years in bringing serious environmental issues to the public's attention in order for change to happen. Here, Janice Harvey, Joanne Faryniuk, David Coon, and Questa Layton hold a press conference on ground water contamination, part of a campaign that ultimately led to the enactment of **New Brunswick's Clean Water Act** in 1989.



1995

Conservation Council supporter Dr. Jim Goltz speaks at a rally in support of **protecting the Christmas Mountains from clear cutting** and calling for more protected areas in the province.



1999

Reunion of the **Conservation Council's founding members**. From left to right: Dr. Lucy Dyer, Dr. John Anderson, David Christie, Tim Dilworth, Margaret Taylor, Frank Withers, James Pataki, Harold Hatheway, Mary Majka.



2003

Conservation Council Science Advisor Inka Milewski speaks to a crowd **protesting soil contamination and air pollution issues** in northern New Brunswick.



2013

The Conservation Council was the first organization in New Brunswick to raise widespread awareness of the risks to drinking water and public health associated with shale gas extraction. This public education campaign sparked the creation of dozens of local groups which eventually formed a united front in the **New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance**, comprised of Anglophones, Francophones, First Nations and rural and urban New Brunswickers alike.



2016

Fundy Baykeeper Matt Abbott, far left, hosts environmental groups from across Canada and New Brunswick in September 2016 for a **tour of the Bay of Fundy** as part of our cross-country, collaborative effort to **stop the proposed Energy East Pipeline**.



2017

Members of the Calithumpians theatre troupe perform for a crowd of kids, including members of a local cub scouts group, during our "Getting to know trees" event at Odell Park, part of the Conservation Council's second annual **Five Days for the Forest Festival** in 2017.



2017

Launched in 2011, our **Learning Outside project** has reached thousands of students and hundreds of educators about the importance — and fun — of taking the curriculum and learning opportunities outside.





2017

Over 50 years, the Conservation Council has provided **mentorship and career development** opportunities for hundreds of young people through our offices in Fredericton and St. Andrews. Shown here, staff and student interns gather for a team photo.



2018

Since 1998, our Fundy Baykeeper has invited New Brunswickers for a guided paddle through the pristine **Musquash Estuary and inner Bay of Fundy**. The event began as part of our decade-long campaign to have the area designated a **Marine Protected Area**. The campaign was successful in 2006, and we continue the paddling tradition each year to celebrate its protection.



2019

More than 200 people joined retired forester David Palmer for a guided walk in Odell Park for the Fredericton launch of our book, **The Great Trees of New Brunswick, Vol 2**, on May 22, 2019.



2019

The Conservation Council has hosted 'poster-making parties' and helped promote the **youth-led climate protests across New Brunswick**. Shown here are students and New Brunswickers of all ages calling for immediate climate action before the Legislative Assembly in Fredericton.



2019

The Conservation Council organized New Brunswick's first **Eco Buildings Tour** in the summer of 2018. The next year, the tour expanded to include homes and businesses in the greater Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton areas. Here, participants tour Frank Jopp's solar farm outside of Sussex.

**THANK YOU,**  
for being part of the solution with us for 50 years.