



FREDERICTON NATURE CLUB



Cardinal pair / Photo by Ajit Thakkar

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2026

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Snow Petrel (*Pagodroma nivea*) / Photo by Karl Phillips



Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) / photo by Peter Duguid

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FINANCIAL PICTURE

Maxwell, our Club Treasurer, has submitted a financial statement up to date to the end of February.

STARTING BALANCE	
Sept 24, 2025	2432.79
INCOME	
Memberships (39 Adult)	980
Memberships (1 Student)	10
EXPENSES	
Nature NB dues	125
Web fees	284.35
Gifts to speakers	76.39
Miscellaneous	19.2
TOTAL	2,917.85

Editor's Corner

Happy late winter, everyone!

Spring will replace winter at 10:46 a.m. on March 20, though it would be natural not to think about spring until April 1st! * In the meantime, how did your winter turn out? A solid Fredericton Christmas Bird Count on December 14th with 74 human participants and a tally of 53 bird species and 8,114 individual birds, augured well for birding this winter. A bit more about the Fredericton CBC later in the issue.

You will recall the editorial about the Sisson Mine project in the summer 2025 newsletter. Your editor was in favour if the highest environmental standards were met and if New Brunswick First Nations condoned this project. I learned that the opinion expressed was controversial. The current issue features a briefing paper by the Nashwaak Watershed Association with a conservation-minded point of view. The Nature Trust of New Brunswick also submitted information and photos about their nature preserves and trails as well as calls for nominations for environmental champion for the 2025 Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Land Conservation

** We follow astronomical seasons that depend on the equinoxes. "The natural rotation of Earth around the sun forms the basis for the astronomical calendar, in which we define seasons with two solstices and two equinoxes. Earth's tilt and the sun's alignment over the equator determine both the solstices and equinoxes." 1. There are also meteorological seasons. "Meteorologists and climatologists break the seasons down into groupings of three months based on the annual temperature cycle as well as our calendar. We generally think of winter as the coldest time of the year and summer as the warmest time of the year, with spring and fall being the transition seasons, and that is what the meteorological seasons are based on." 2.*

Le mot de la redaction

Bonne fin d'hiver à tous !

Le printemps remplacera l'hiver à 10h46 le 20 mars, même s'il serait naturel de ne pas penser au printemps avant le 1er avril ! * En attendant, comment s'est déroulé votre hiver? Un solide décompte des oiseaux de Noël de Fredericton le 14 décembre, avec 74 participants et un total de 53 espèces d'oiseaux et 8 114 individus, augurait bien pour l'observation des oiseaux cet hiver. Un peu plus d'informations sur la CBC de Fredericton plus loin dans ce numéro.

Vous vous souvenez sans doute de l'éditorial sur le projet de la mine Sisson dans le bulletin de l'été 2025. Votre rédacteur était en faveur si les normes environnementales les plus strictes étaient respectées et si les Premières Nations du Nouveau-Brunswick approuvaient ce projet. J'ai appris que l'opinion exprimée était controversée. Le numéro actuel présente un document d'information de la Nashwaak Watershed Association avec un point de vue axé sur la conservation. La Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick a également soumis des informations et des photos sur leurs réserves naturelles et sentiers, et lance des appels à candidatures pour champion de l'environnement pour le Prix du lieutenant-gouverneur 2025 pour l'excellence en conservation des terres

** Nous suivons les saisons astronomiques qui dépendent des équinoxes. « La rotation naturelle de la Terre autour du soleil constitue la base du calendrier astronomique, dans lequel nous définissons les saisons avec deux solstices et deux équinoxes. L'inclinaison de la Terre et l'alignement du soleil au-dessus de l'équateur déterminent à la fois les solstices et les équinoxes. » 1. Il existe également des saisons météorologiques. « Les météorologues et climatologues décomposent les saisons en groupes de trois mois basés sur le cycle annuel des températures ainsi que sur notre calendrier. Nous considérons généralement l'hiver comme la période la plus froide de l'année et l'été comme la période la plus chaude de l'année, le printemps et l'automne étant les saisons de transition, et c'est sur cela que se basent les saisons météorologiques. » 2.*

Traduit avec **DeepL.com** (version gratuite)

1. National Centers for Environmental Information. "Meteorological Versus Astronomical Seasons." U.S.A.: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: NECI, 2023.
<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/news/meteorological-versus-astronomical-seasons>
2. Ibid.

FEATURE ARTICLES



THE NASHWAAK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 22029,
Fredericton RPO Marysville,
NB, E3A 4A1
(506) 447 - 9699

Re: Sisson Mine, December 2025

Summary

The proposed Sisson Mine would affect the Nashwaak Watershed and all communities downstream indefinitely, from Stanley to Fredericton and all the way to Saint John. We want to ensure the public has access to relevant information so they can guide the government to make the best decision for the future of a healthy ecosystem and its inhabitants.

Background:

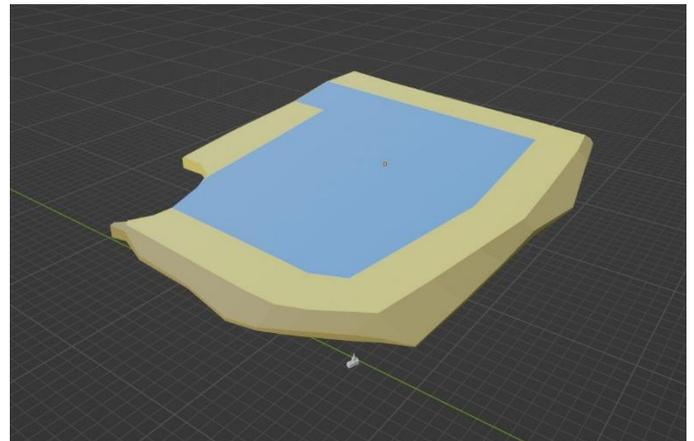
The proposed Sisson Mine would be located in the upper Nashwaak River watershed near Stanley, NB. It came to be known in 2012 when Northcliff Resources secured mineral rights in 2012 and completed a feasibility study in 2013. A provincial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was approved in 2015 and in 2017 the Sisson Mine received Federal Environmental Approval. The owners have been unable to secure funding, and the mine just came back on the radar again in May 2025.

The mine is proposed on public (Crown) land / Maliseet traditional territory on top of 19.1km of streams. It is an open-pit tungsten and molybdenum mine. Tungsten is used for tools, aerospace, and armour-piercing ammunition.

The mine would be 300-370 meters deep. Tailings storage facility would be 7.5 square kilometers (with surrounding infrastructure); 8.8km dam and the total disturbed area including transmission lines and a quarry is ~12.53 square kilometers. At its highest point, the tailings dam would be twice as tall as the Mactaquac dam.



Size of the proposed tailings pond on a map of downtown Fredericton.



Size of proposed tailings pond in relation to the Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Fredericton

Why is the mine a concern again now?

The majority of the world's Tungsten and Molybdenum is in China, with current tariff disputes China has greatly increased prices, which has forced countries to look elsewhere to secure their needs.

May 2025: US Department of Defense War gives Northcliff \$20 million CDN for feasibility study. May 2025:

Canadian federal government gives Northcliff \$8.2 million CDN.

Nov 2025: Prime Minister Carney announced the mine as a potential Nation Building project resulting in a resurgence of Sisson Mine in mainstream media.

The estimated royalties (money the government receives from the mine) are estimated to be \$280million over 27 years. That is just over \$10million a year.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Status:

EIA approval granted by the NB government in 2015 is conditional on 40 requirements; so far none have been met, and timeline has been extended twice to 2030.

Some of the conditions include:

- Re-start the EIA process if construction was not started by 2020 - instead it has been extended twice to 2030

Financial concerns:

- Submit a Financial Security Plan, including a certificate of liability insurance for catastrophic events (within 6 months)
- Adequate bonding is required to (1) ensure funds are available to properly close the mine, (2) ensure funds available to perpetually collect, monitor, and treat contaminated water, (3) deal with a catastrophic failure of the Tailings Storage Facility.
- AMEC review (2015) noted bonding requirements have been underestimated by “millions”; approximately 50% of the operational costs for post-closure are considered low, and with inflation, the number approved back in 2015 is likely even more inadequate.

Specific to the tailings facility:

- Test for and map risk of water loss from the tailing storage facility
- Test for pathways for groundwater movement
- Provide Tailings Storage Facility failure modeling by 3rd party
- Establish and fund an Independent Tailings Review Board, to evaluate Tailings Storage Facility vis-à-vis Best Available Technology

Concerns with wastewater leakage and treatment

- No liner for Tailings Storage Facility: forever leakage of potentially harmful wastewater that must be collected and pumped back into Tailings Storage Facilities
- Dependent on **indefinite operation of waste-water collection ditches and pumps**
- Proposed water treatment system “known to fail”, according to a 2015 AMEC report: “The idea of a floating baffle curtain wall [treatment system] may not be feasible.”
- There have been 12 tailings dams failures in Canada alone in the past 50 years, including the Mount Polley disaster in BC in 2014.

The Nashwaak River is Atlantic Salmon Spawning Habitat:

- According to a 2024 Department of Fisheries and Oceans report, the Nashwaak River is the largest single salmon-producing tributary of the Wolastoq (Saint John) River downstream of the Mactaquac Dam: 14.1% total productive habitat
- Outer Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon population was assessed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC, 2010); a decision under federal *Species at Risk Act* has been pending since 2010

To stay informed about the proposed Sisson Mine and action you can take to protect the watershed sign up for our e-newsletter through our website www.nashwaakwatershed.ca

Strictly For the Birds

Dear readers:

The data on the following page is derived from spreadsheets for the 2020 to 2025 Fredericton Christmas Bird Counts. It is trivial but perhaps of some interest to club members. Unfortunately, the historical data on the Audubon Christmas Bird Count website is not currently available without authorization. If Audubon again facilitates access, you will be able to access historical count data at: <https://netapp.audubon.org/cbcobservation>

Gilles Belliveau, a former FNC member, maintains the NB Winter Bird List. As of February 9, that list had hit an impressive 173 species (more species than I see in a year!). You can view the up-to-date list at: <https://nbwinter.gbnature.com> (it's not updated every day but the winter bird listing finishes at the end of February).

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a global event, occurred this year from Friday February 13 to Monday February 16. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology created nice posters for this event, which public libraries in Fredericton kindly posted on behalf of our club and the birdwatching community. You can google GBBC (or spelled out) to uncover lots of information about this event. One website that provides explanatory information is <https://ebird.org/news/great-backyard-bird-count-2026> ; another is: <https://www.birdcount.org/>

“Official results for the 2026 Great Backyard Bird Count are not yet published ... Once the data is processed, results will be available on the **official GBBC website** and through **eBird**” – AI blurb on <https://www.bing.com/search/>



Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) / photo by Denise Weigum



Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) / photo by Peter Duguid

Bird Bits From Six Fredericton Christmas Bird Counts, 2020-2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sp. Totals	52	50	57	57	53	53
Bird Totals	5742	7186	7373	8298	4884	8114

10 Most Abundant Species Per Count Year

2020	2021	2022			
Common Redpoll	714	European Starling	1207	American Crow	1158
Black-capped Chickadee	615	Black-capped Chickadee	905	Herring Gull	1099
European Starling	578	American Crow	721	European Starling	893
American Crow	482	Rock Pigeon	708	Rock Pigeon	608
Rock Pigeon	366	Canada Goose	535	Mallard	591
Mallard	362	American Goldfinch	521	Black-capped Chickadee	455
Bohemian Waxwing	346	Mourning Dove	357	Canada Goose	403
Common Goldeneye	285	Mallard	294	Bohemian Waxwing	315
Evening Grosbeak	254	Herring Gull	265	Evening Grosbeak	312
Mourning Dove	200	Great Black-backed Gull	253	Common Goldeneye	257
2023	2024	2025			
Herring Gull	1218	Black-capped Chickadee	696	Rock Pigeon	1382
American Crow	1071	Rock Pigeon	670	American Crow	848
Rock Pigeon	853	Mallard	613	Black-capped Chickadee	800
Black-capped Chickadee	831	American Crow	431	American Goldfinch	619
Mallard	611	Common Goldeneye	382	Common Goldeneye	610
European Starling	431	European Starling	377	European Starling	575
Common Goldeneye	378	American Goldfinch	298	Evening Grosbeak	572
Mourning Dove	377	Blue Jay	187	Mallard	274
Canada Goose	355	Canada Goose	148	Mourning Dove	257
American Goldfinch	320	Mourning Dove	147	Bohemian Waxwing	247

- Redpoll, the most common bird in 2020, was not common again until 2025 with 179 individuals.
- Black-capped Chickadee, our provincial bird, was a consistently abundant species as were American Crow, Rock Pigeon, and European Starling.
- Mallard, Common Goldeneye, and Canada Goose tended to appear in the top ten.
- Mourning Dove was common.
- Bohemian Waxwing: common in 2020, 2022, and 2025.
- American Goldfinch was in or near the top 10 most of the time.
- Evening Grosbeak was in the top 10 three times with 2025 as its best year.
- Herring Gull appeared in the top 10 three times; Great Black-backed Gull once.
- Blue Jay was common but slightly below the top 10.
- White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch (none reported in 2025), Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker were common but below top 10.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet was a fairly common species.
- House Finch and Purple Finch were fairly common species; less so in the last two years.
- 1 Long-tailed Duck and 1 Red-necked Grebe were tallied in 2020.
- Peregrine Falcon was first reported in 2021; reported twice in 2022.
- Tufted Titmouse was first reported in 2022 (5 reported in 2025!).
- Red-bellied Woodpecker was first reported in 2022; again in 2023 and 2025 (5 birds).
- In 2023 notable species were Lesser Black-backed Gull, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow.
- A new count species in 2024 was Wilson's Snipe. Hermit Thrush was also seen in 2024.
- 2025 was a good count year ... but the results were recently sent to you. Happy birding!

MEETING REPORTS

PRESENTER: **Dr. Barry Monson**

TITLE: **Birding in Panama**

DATE: **Thurs., December 4, 2026**

ATTENDANCE: **30+**



Barry and Milda joined a tour group called Birding Panama from March 2-16, 2025. Arriving a day early, they soon noted and photographed beautiful species including Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Black Vulture, and Crimson-backed Tanager.

Barry projected excellent slides of Panama maps including one of the

Panama Canal that, as Barry pointed out, “plays an outsized role in the country and in birding.” A typical day of birding on the Pipeline Road near the Canal offered sightings of five species of Trogon (including Gartered Trogon). Here Barry also photographed other wildlife including Geoffroy’s Tamarin, Coatiundi, Common Basilisk (and then more birds, e.g., Collared Aracari and White-necked Puffbird).



Gartered violaceous Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*) / photo by B. Monson

From here it was onto El Valle de Anton where Barry snapped beautiful photos of Chachalacas, Blue-grey Tanagers, and a Clay-coloured Thrush in the hotel garden. In the hills above the town, the couple photographed a Southern Lapwing. Later, near the ocean, Barry photographed a Yellow-headed Caracara.



Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) / photo by B. Monson

The tour group now traveled west to Volcan, one of the highest elevations in Panama. They caught glimpses of Quetzals and managed to photograph both male and female Resplendent Quetzals³ with their camera’s zoom lens. (This species is the national bird, not of Panama, but of Guatemala and is considered one of the world’s most beautiful birds).

Near the Costa Rican border, the tour group visited the Parque Internacional la Amistad/Reserva de Biosfera la Amistad. Later they spotted nests of Chestnut-headed Oropendolas and managed to snap a good photo of a Painted Bunting, a bird that was a rare visitor to New Brunswick this winter but that is probably common in Panama.



Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*) / photo by B. Monson

The tour group left Volcan at 6 a.m. for a 7 p.m. breakfast at Birder’s Paradise, then moved on to David, where they boarded an astonishingly efficient flight back to Panama City. However, our driver Agapito had to slog back with the van and the heavy luggage along the mostly decrepit Pan-American highway to where it stops at Yaviza at the edge of the Darien Gap. We were on the lookout for our second destination bird, Instead, we saw a Great Potoo (distant kin to the Nightjars).

Our next expedition started from Meteti at 4 a.m. (birders were up at 3:30 a.m.) and wended its way on to Yaviza where we were able to see a baby Harpy Eagle, but unfortunately not an adult.

Further photos capture a sampling of the incredibly colourful and unique bird species of this Central American country, e.g., Lineated Woodpecker, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Green Honeycreeper, Mealy Parrot. Panama also boasts about 90 species of Flycatchers including Great Kiskadee and Social Flycatcher.

Barry ended his magnificent slide show of Panamanian bird life at this point. Many thanks, Barry!



Yellow-headed Caracara (*Daptrius chimachima*) / photo by B. Monson



Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) / photo by B. Monson



Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) / photo by B. Monson

3. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resplendent_quetzal). "Resplendent quetzal." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resplendent_quetzal

PRESENTER: Dr. Karl Phillips

TITLE: South Georgia, The Falklands, and the Antarctic Peninsula (with a Patagonian epilogue): Feb-March 2025

DATE: Thurs., January 8, 2026

ATTENDANCE: 35

Larissa Simulik, VP, opened the evening and introduced the speaker, Dr. Karl Phillips who is a club member. Karl is currently a post-doctoral researcher at UNB who is using telemetry to study the seaward migration of young Atlantic salmon. Karl's trip to the Antarctic and Sub Antarctic region aboard MV Hondius with other keen naturalists occurred in February-March 2025. The trip started in Ushuaia, the capital of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, and perhaps the world's southernmost city.

The first port of call was the Falkland Islands where Karl observed numerous birds. Slides of birds included the following species: Long-tailed Meadowlark, Striated Caracara, Ruddy-headed Goose, Falkland Steamer Duck, Black-browed Albatross, and Magellanic and Rockhopper Penguins. Karl touched on recent history of the Falkland Islands.



Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) / photo by Karl Peter Phillips

The next stop was South Georgia. Examples of slides that Karl showed were: Wandering Albatross, Sooty Albatross, Black-bellied Storm Petrel, Antarctic



Snowy Sheathbill (*Chionis albus*) / photo by Karl Peter Phillips

Tern, South Georgia Pintail (a scavenger), Snowy Sheathbill (Karl likened its head to a cross between the head of a vulture and that of a pigeon), King Penguin, Macaroni Penguin, Gentoo Penguin, Chinstrap Penguin, South Georgia Pipit, and King, Macaroni, Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins, but lucked out on the South Georgia Pipit. Karl also photographed mammals, e.g., Antarctic Fur-seal, Southern Elephant Seal, Leopard Seal, and Orca. Karl mentioned Ernest

Shackleton's crew's barely alive arrival at Stromness whaling station on his epic survival adventure after an 800+ mile ocean crossing (during which he kept a respectable bird list!) on a boat from Elephant Island.



Gentoo Penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*) / photo by Karl Peter Phillips

The ship then cruised to the Antarctic Treaty area that included Elephant Island. Karl showed slides of various species of which examples were Fin Whale, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Adélie Penguin, Humpback Whale, Crabeater Seal, Leopard Seal, Snow Petrel, and the two southernmost flowering plants (*the grass really excited Karl*). Karl referred briefly to Samuel Taylor Coleridge's famous poem, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," Herman Melville's classic sea tale, *Moby Dick*, and HP Lovecraft's At The Mountains of Madness.

The ship returned to Patagonia where the trip ended, and where Karl grabbed last-minute sightings of two of the region's icons: Magellanic Woodpecker and Andean Condor.

Club members who attended this early winter meeting made a wise choice because this was both an informative and highly enjoyable presentation. Thank you, Karl!



Magellanic Woodpecker (*Campephilus magellanicus*) / [photo by Karl Peter Phillips]

PRESENTER: Samuel Perfect

TITLE: A migration story, as told from the perspective of Long Point Bird Observatory

DATE: Thurs., February 5, 2025

ATTENDANCE: 40

Samuel is the program coordinator at Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO) on Lake Erie in southwestern Ontario. The program runs under the auspices of Birds Canada whose "open to the public" headquarters are located in Port Rowan. Samuel mentioned that even in winter there are visitors who come here to view birds like Sandhill Cranes.

Long Point is a narrow peninsula about 30 kilometers in length. Much of it is the Long Point National Wildlife Area ⁴, a protected area that is not open to the public. Samuel talked about the LPBO stations found within this area. "Old Cut" is the base station where bird banding takes place and where most boat trips start. A more remote station is "Breakwater," situated in a marsh habitat. Finally, "The Tip," where Samuel spends most of his time, boasts a lighthouse and is a dune environment that supports Red Cedar and Eastern Cottonwood as well as savannah grasses and Riverbank Grape. The peninsula and especially the Tip have been heavily eroded by storms. *Phragmites australis*, aka. Common Reed ⁵ is an invasive species that LPBO is trying to eradicate.



Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) / photo by Samuel Perfect

Volunteers and the Friends of Long Point Bird Observatory contribute to the success of LPBO by greeting visitors, painting, renovating cabins, constructing and putting up bird boxes, and performing other tasks. A Young Ornithologist's Workshop takes place in August.



Eastern Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*) / photo by Samuel Perfect

Non-avian species including insects, reptiles and amphibians, and various mammals inhabit Long Point. Samuel presented slides of some of these species including Coyote, Garter Snake, and Blanding's Turtle. He also talked about a "moth wall" where a wide variety of moths were captured, and he displayed slides of some, e.g., a colourful Cecropia Moth. "Project Monarch" involving the tagging of Monarch butterflies also occurs at LPBO in collaboration with ECCC.

However, the chief focus of LPBO is birds. Birds are captured in nets, bagged, banded, and released. There are 14 nets at each research station at LPBO. Typically, 50-100 birds are banded each day (though a record 400 birds have been attained). When birds are banded, the banders record a variety of data about the birds, most importantly the age and sex. More extensive data on individual birds' migratory routes can be collected through Motus tags: A Motus tower tracks the movements of birds across the landscape, sometimes over long ranges. One of the species whose movements have been tracked this way is the Blackpoll Warbler. Locally nesting birds are also banded. For example, there is a grid of 67 Tree Swallow boxes, and information about these swallows is gathered annually. Another important bird banding project at LPBO targets the Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Another aspect of birds that Samuel addressed is abundance. The most abundant banded bird at LPBO is the White-throated Sparrow but there are many other common species including Black-capped Chickadees (that tend to bite and peck when handled) and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (that are very vocal when handled). Inversely, rarities include Fish Crow, Townsend's Solitaire, American White Pelican, Surfbird, Piping Plover, Tufted Titmouse, and Prairie Warbler. Samuel displayed photo slides of these species.

Samuel's presentation was very professional and much appreciated by those in attendance. Thank you, Samuel!

4. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Point_National_Wildlife_Area). "Long Point National Wildlife Area." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Point_National_Wildlife_Area
5. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phragmites_australis). "*Phragmites australis*." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phragmites_australis



Motus tower pointing to a kettle of Turkey Vultures / photo by Samuel Perfect

Nature Trust of New Brunswick | Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick

Ash Noble, Acting Communications Coordinator | Coodinateur des communications par interim Nature Trust of New Brunswick | Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick kindly submitted the following information:

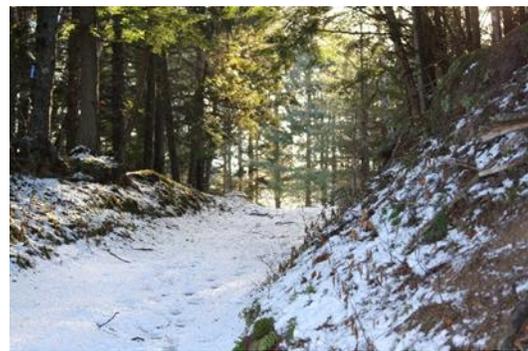
Explore the Nature Trust of New Brunswick's trails — by region!

Did you know that the Nature Trust of New Brunswick's public trails span an impressive 63 km across 26 preserves across New Brunswick, including 12 km across 6 preserves in the York-Sunbury region? That's a lot of ground to explore year-round, with something for everyone, from gentle walks to more challenging hikes.

From fresh spring growth and summer greenery to autumn colours and quiet winter landscapes, each trail offers a unique experience shaped by the changing seasons. Visit the Nature Trust website to start exploring and experience the natural beauty that these protected spaces help preserve for generations to come: <https://www.naturetrust.nb.ca/en/trails-by-region-1?rq=trails%20by%20region>



Beardsley Hill Nature Preserve, winter 2014 / photo courtesy of the Nature Trust of NB



Ferris Street Forest and Wetland Nature Preserve, winter 2015 / photo courtesy of J. Bradford/Nature Trust of NB

Nominate your environmental champion for the 2025 Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Land Conservation!

The Nature Trust is currently accepting nominations for New Brunswick organizations or individuals that you think have proven their dedication to land conservation through leadership, direct action, and long-term involvement.

Visit the Nature Trust website to learn more about the award and fill out their online nomination form for the 2025 Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Land Conservation by March 13, 2026, to highlight your conservation champion:

<https://www.naturetrust.nb.ca/en/lieutenant-governors-award>



Award 2024-04-18



Award Justin Dutcher 2023-03-30



Winners 2025-05-08

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Author: **Stewart, Amy**

Title: The tree collectors: tales of arboreal obsession / written and illustrated by Amy Stewart.

New York: Random House, [2024]. ISBN: 9780593446850

xxvii, 304 pages: color ill.; 22 cm.

Available at **Fredericton Public Library** downtown under call number **580 STE**

Abstract: "The Japanese practice of forest bathing, shinrin-yoku, changes the levels of stress and pleasure hormones in the body, decreasing cortisol and increasing serotonin. Tree collectors know this. And if being around one tree feels good, their thinking goes, imagine how a hundred trees would feel. In her first botanical nonfiction in more than a decade, Amy Stewart brings us on a captivating tour of tree collectors around the world asking: what drives one to collect something as enormous, majestic, and deeply rooted as a tree? In her gentle, intimate, slyly humorous way, Stewart brings these people to life, organizing their stories into categories. There are the community builders--like Shyam Sunder Paliwal who, after the death of his daughter, began a movement in his Rajasthan village to plant 111 trees whenever a girl was born--who do the remarkable work of knitting people together under an arboreal canopy. There are seekers who have taken their passion for trees around the world, or even into space. There are visionaries--the former poet laureate, W.S. Merwin, who planted a tree a day for over three decades, until he had turned a barren estate into a palm sanctuary. And there are healers--like Joe Hamilton, who plants trees on land passed down to him by his formerly enslaved great-

grandfather--who have found a way to heal their own lives, the lives of others, or even wounds of the past, by planting trees"-- Provided by publisher. Copied from NBPLS online catalogue. Includes bibliographical references.

Editor's comments: Highly informative but not academic. Although I read it cover-to-cover, it is possible to open this book anywhere and simply read selected vignettes about tree collectors and about arboreta in various places.



Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) / photo by Peter Duguid



Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) / photo by Peter Duguid



Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) / photo by Denise Weigum



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) / photo by Peter Duguid

Fredericton Nature Club Member Information

Annual membership, Fredericton Nature Club:
\$25.00 per adult; \$10.00 per student; Free for children
Two for a twoonie: 1 meeting and 1 outing.

Membership payment via e-transfer to: frederictonnatureclub@gmail.com

Our Treasurer prefers e-transfer but will also accept cash or cheques.

Fredericton Nature Club website: <http://www.frederictonnatureclub.com/>

Email webmaster, David Lilly at dillynb@gmail.com

Nature NB is the umbrella organization for all New Brunswick naturalist clubs. “Nature NB is a non-profit, charitable organization whose mission is to celebrate, conserve and protect New Brunswick’s natural heritage through education, networking and collaboration” – from their website.
website: <https://www.naturenb.ca/>

Publication Information for newsletter

The Fredericton Nature Club newsletter is published four times a year, i.e., seasonally. Contributions are welcome! Please contact the editor at: andre.vietinghoff@yahoo.com

Photographs in this issue are contributed largely by members. Those not identified are public domain images derived from Google Images

Many thanks for [special photo contributions](#) for this issue by **Peter Duguid, Barry Monson, Samuel Perfect, Karl Phillips, Ajit Thakkar, and Ash Noble** of the **Nature Trust of New Brunswick**. Thanks, as well to **Allyson Heustis** of the **Nashwaak Watershed Association** for sharing the NWA’s Briefing Paper on the Sisson Mine Project.

For future issues, the editor welcomes your nature-related book reviews, your nature photography, and your nature articles - preferably about New Brunswick, and better still, the Fredericton area.