

Natural Landscapes

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Summer 2002

Jean Rosner...You Will Be Missed! *by Beverly Colpitts*

On May 13, 2002, Jean Rosner, long-time friend and partner of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, passed away in her home in Concord, Massachusetts. Born February 14, 1917, in Winnetka, Illinois, this American woman was no stranger to the Cape Mabou highlands of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. In fact, many would argue that Jean's commitment to preserving this natural area is the sole reason that this pristine landscape still exists today.



Jean Rosner, summer 1999, at home in Sight Point

The region of Sight Point lies on the west coast of Cape Breton between Mabou and Inverness. It encompasses outstanding sea cliffs, brooks, mountains, woodlands, extensive recreational trails and remnants of historical farmland. The Nature Trust is working with several private landowners in the area through the Mabou Highlands project to establish a 2000 acre protected area that will provide a unique blend of minimal impact residential use and vast expanses of "forever wild" forested highlands, shoreline and meadows.

Jean Rosner was one of the key private landowners of Sight Point, owning 1000 acres of the proposed protected area. Her association with Sight Point began in the early 1940's, when her mother, Carmelita Hinton, decided to bring her boarding school students to Cape Breton. Carmelita brought Jean along on this particular trip. In previous years, Carmelita had taken her students on summer trips to Europe. However, with the outbreak of WWII, Europe became an undesirable destination, and Cape Breton seemed like a good alternative. Marni Rosner, one of Jean's daughters, recalls hearing that her grandmother and the high school students enjoyed hiking and biking over the horse-wagon trails and dirt roads along the spectacular Cape Breton coastline. Marni says Carmelita "loved both the breathtaking scenery and the hospitable farm families who allowed them to set up tents in their pastures." Carmelita's experiences at Sight Point spurred her to buy a farm at the end of Sight Point Road, as a permanent summer camp for her school. Later, Carmelita decided to buy another farm at Port Ban for her family.

For over 50 years, Jean made Sight Point her other home. To the best of Marni's recollection, Jean returned to Sight Point every summer following the birth of her son, Peter, in 1950. During these years she worked fervently to find other like-minded individuals to buy parcels of land in Sight Point, in hopes of preserving its beautiful shoreline. She worked with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to place conservation easements on a strip of shoreline to protect it from development. Jean's conservation efforts later expanded from the shorelines to the whole Sight Point area. She was pleased to learn of the founding of the Nature Trust, as she had been seeking a Nova Scotia based organization to help fulfill her vision.

Neal Livingston, Nature Trust member and Cape Breton filmmaker, had this to say about Jean: "She made us aware that one can act on and be successful in achieving one's desires, especially [those] that are ensuring [nature's] preservation, and the ability to ensure that in the future we will be able to enjoy nature in an undeveloped state."

Bonnie Sutherland, the Nature Trust's Executive Director, hopes that the organization will be successful in creating a natural legacy at Sight Point that will go at least a small way towards honouring Jean's passion and commitment to conservation. Bonnie adds: "She was an inspiration for all of us at the Nature Trust. She believed strongly in making the world a better place, environmentally and socially. Even into her 80's, she was active, involved and full of enthusiasm. She was a wonderful model of how one person really can make a difference." The Nature Trust continues to work with landowners toward Jean Rosner's vision. The first conservation easement has been signed, protecting over 200 acres of this spectacular site...see our next issue for the exciting details!

Project Updates

Coastal Plain Stewards

The Coastal Plain Stewards project is preparing for its fourth busy field season. With the completion of a conservation assessment of Ponhook Lake, one of the province's coastal plain hot spots, we are organising an exciting slide presentation for landowners and community members in the Ponhook Lake area. We will introduce landowners to the rare plants in their own back yard, and encourage stewardship of the plants and habitat along their shores.

The coastal plain plant monitoring program is also entering its fourth season. Many monitors have been turning in high quality data on some of the endangered and rare species of coastal plain plants. This coming season we are aiming to recruit monitors at more of the priority coastal plain sites.

Along with our initial landowner contact work, this summer we will follow-up with many landowners contacted in previous years through the Coastal Plain Stewards project. We are looking forward to having the chance to visit and talk about how the plant populations and habitat along the shoreline have changed over the years. We will also encourage landowners to have signs placed along the shoreline to discourage disturbance of the sensitive habitat plants that grow there.

We are looking forward to a strong turn-out at the four coastal plain guided walks scheduled for the month of August. Come and join us to learn about the fascinating history and ecology of these beautiful botanical oddities!

--by Meredith Flannery, Project Coordinator

Fundy Shorebird Project

For the second year, the Nova Scotia Nature Trust will be working with landowners along sections of the Minas Basin to promote the conservation of shorebird habitat. The Minas Basin is a site of international importance for migratory shorebirds -- millions of shorebirds pass through the Bay of Fundy, including the Minas Basin, each fall.

This summer the focus will be the community of Evangeline Beach. This bustling community attracts hundreds of thousands of shorebirds to its shores, and its breathtaking scenery makes it a very popular summer destination for cottage residents and tourists.

Increased human activity in coastal regions poses threats to wildlife, including shorebirds. The Nature Trust, along with several conservation partners, is taking the message of conservation directly to landowners and recreational users, building upon the conservation efforts the Trust initiated last year. We are striving toward establishing a community that is 'shorebird friendly', one that has many of its residents enlisted as 'shorebird stewards.' Several households have already signed on with the Nature Trust and we anticipate our efforts this year will yield many more stewards.

--by Donald Sam, Project Coordinator

In the Next Issue...

Learn more about the Mabou Highlands project and our new projects - Land Stewards and Conservation without Borders in the next issue of Natural Landscapes.

A Forest Legacy

Since our last update, we have identified over 25 sites throughout the province that appear to contain true old growth forest. We have started contacting landowners to confirm the condition of these forests and make owners aware of the importance of these special places. This spring, we made presentations to the Wentworth Community Development Council and the St. Mary's River Association and hope to build relationships with them.

This summer we will be busy visiting with landowners and getting out to as many sites as we can. On our site visits we will be looking for trees to enter into our Big Tree Hunt. Call the Nature Trust for details. Throughout the summer we will present Stewardship Awards to landowners who have decided to become part of our growing list of Stewardship Agreement holders.

--by Toby Rowe, Project Coordinator

New Project!! Land Stewards

The Nature Trust is embarking on a new project this summer to focus on the active stewardship of its conservation lands. A major focus of the project will be to undertake restoration activities to address issues such as: invasive flora species, lack of old forest species necessary for natural succession, and human impacts on land through ATV damage, garbage dumping, and illegal cutting of trees. The project aims to involve and train community members to be the active guardians of Nature Trust conservation lands in their community. The Land Stewards Project will be co-ordinated by Jennifer Pinks.

--by Karen Potter

Guided Walks 2002

Panuke Lake Old Forest Walk - Halifax County

Sunday July 14 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Rating: Moderate (approx. 6 km with some rocky terrain)

Participant Level: Older children and adults

Join David MacKinnon and Nature Trust staff on this hike to visit an old growth forest. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see Nova Scotia's best example of remnant old-growth Eastern Hemlock-Red Spruce forest. Bring sturdy hiking boots, water, snacks, bug repellent and sunscreen. Meet at 1:00 pm in the Sobey's parking lot, Tantallon (Exit 5, Hwy 103).

Great Pubnico Lake - Yarmouth County

Saturday August 10 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Rating: Easy

Participant Level: All ages

Explore the shoreline of this vast, rugged lake with naturalist Lillian Perry to discover a number of delicate and rare plants of the Atlantic coastal plain. Easy walk starting at the dock. Bring rubber boots, sunscreen, water and snacks. Meet at the Petro Canada station at Exit 31 (Pubnico), off Hwy 103.

Tusket River Nature Reserve - Yarmouth County

Sunday August 11 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (meet at 9:30 am)

Rating: Easy

Participant Level: All ages

The NS Nature Trust will lead a short walk to Wilson's Lake Nature Reserve. Come out and see the rarest plant species in Canada and learn about their history, significance and ecology! Bring sunscreen, water and snacks. Meet at the carpool parking lot at 9:30, Exit 33, Hwy 103.



Nature lovers on a guided walk at Gillfillan Lake in 2001
(Heather Drope photo)

Fancy Lake - Lunenburg County

Saturday August 24 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Rating: Easy

Participant Level: All ages

Join walk leader Ruth Newell, to see the coastal plain flora on Fancy Lake (also home to the endangered Atlantic whitefish). Highlights include Meadow-beauty and Golden-crest. Bring sunscreen, water and snacks. Meet at the Blarney Stone, off Hwy 103, at Hebbs Cross.

Ponhook Lake Nature Reserve - Queen's County

Sunday August 25 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Rating: Easy

Participant Level: All ages

An easy walk along a cobble lakeshore to see uncommon, rare and/or endangered plants of the Atlantic coastal plain including Golden-crest, Redroot and Buttonbush. Bring sturdy footwear, water, lunch and sunscreen. Meet at the service station in Wileville on Route 325, about 1 km west of Exit 13, Hwy 103. *This walk is co-sponsored by the NS Department of Environment's Protected Areas Division with biologist David MacKinnon.*

Hike the South Mountain - Kings/Annapolis Counties

Presented by NS Department of Environment and Labour Protected Areas

Saturday September 7 (Rain date - Saturday September 14)

10:00 am (meet at 9:00 am sharp)

Rating: Moderate

Participant Level: Older children and adults

Explore the Cloud Lake Wilderness Area with Leif Helmer, NS Department of Environment and Labour Protected Areas Coordinator. Hike mixed wood drumlin hills and pine topped eskers and discover a series of kettle lakes. The Nature Trust recently acquired a privately owned parcel within the Wilderness Area. Meet in front of Zellers at the Greenwood Mall. For more information, call Leif Helmer at 543-4685.

Please pre-register for all walks
(902) 425-5263

Nature Trust Welcomes New Staff

Beverly Colpitts is multi-talented new office coordinator who is helping us out part-time, while continuing her work as coordinator for the Atlantic Science Links Association. She has been a keen volunteer with the Trust's special events and newsletter committees. Bev has an environmental studies/biology degree and has worked with a number of environmental non-government organizations, doing a bit of everything, from helping to organize conferences and overseeing general office coordination, to public relations, education and fund-raising.

Jennifer Pinks has been hired as the coordinator for the Land Stewards Project. Jennifer comes to us with a 20 year career, spanning a diversity of fields such as environmental impact assessment, public and community relations, and project management for not-for-profit social programs with several international charities. She has worked and lived in central and western Canada, Venezuela, Malaysia, Thailand, and is now settled in Nova Scotia with her husband and daughter. She is looking forward to working directly in her area of specialization - environmental sustainability.

Heather McKinnon has just joined the Nature Trust team for a six month term. As the Forest Legacy Project assistant, she will be helping with landowner contact and site visits. She will also be overseeing this year's raffle. Heather completed her Honours Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2001, and then worked as a field assistant at Nova Scotia Power. She has shown her commitment to conservation and education through her volunteer work at the Museum of Natural History and the Nature Trust.

Lisa Rockwell joined the Coastal Plain Stewards project team. Lisa will be with us until August, carrying out the volunteer plant monitoring program and managing the guided walks. She has experience in environmental education and a keen interest in conservation. Come September, Lisa will be entering her final year in Biology and Geology at St. Mary's University.

Thank You Brenda! Brenda Scott, who kept books for the Nature Trust over the summer, fall and winter, has graduated with a degree in commerce and is now working full-time with Grant Thornton. Brenda implemented excellent new systems to help the office run more smoothly. We wish Brenda all the best as a professional accountant!

MacKinnon's Brook Suite Receives East Coast Music Award

by Heather McKinnon



(l-r) Composer Scott MacMillan, Executive Director Bonnie Sutherland, and musician Ian McKinnon

Earlier this year, Ian McKinnon and Symphony Nova Scotia received the award for best classical recording of the year for MacKinnon's Brook Suite, at the East Coast Music Awards, in Saint John, New Brunswick. This orchestral suite was inspired by the land on the western side of Cape Breton Island and the life of the Scottish

settlers. The Nova Scotia Nature Trust is currently working with landowners to protect the Sight Point/MacKinnon's Brook area on the shores of the Mabou highlands. One dollar from every CD sold will be donated to the Nature Trust to help with this landmark conservation project.

The next performance of this musical tribute will take place on July 21, 2002 at the Huntsville Festival of the Arts, Huntsville, Ontario. On August 31, 2002 the MacKinnon's Brook Suite will be performed by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, in Edmonton, Alberta. A Maritime tour with Symphony Nova Scotia is planned for April 2003; the dates and locations for the tour are pending. Ian McKinnon and Symphony Nova Scotia will also be performing at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa in April 2003.

For information on MacKinnon's Brook Suite merchandise and tours please visit the new website at www.MacKinnonsBrook.org.

Large Turnout for Annual General Meeting with Bob Bancroft *by Greg Lukeman*

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust held its Annual General Meeting (AGM), on Tuesday, April 23rd, at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax. Over 60 people came out to show their support for the Trust, to find out about the year's activities and for a presentation by Bob Bancroft.

Based on AGM attendance in recent years, we booked a somewhat smaller venue this year, only to be pleasantly surprised by the large turn out. The increased attendance exceeded the fire marshal capacity for the room, forcing us into the unfortunate situation of asking some of our valued supporters to step out! We asked non-members to browse the museum and return after the business meeting for the slide show and keynote address. We apologize for the inconvenience and promise to book a larger room next year.

During the business meeting, Executive Director, Bonnie Sutherland emphasized the manageable growth of the Trust this year. Highlights included the securement of four properties, the establishment of a stewardship endowment fund, the Mackinnon's Brook Suite Project and the annual fundraising dinner with Robert Bateman. Bonnie thanked staff, volunteers, and collaborators for their contributions. This growth and success was reflected in the audited financial statement presented by departing treasurer Greg Crosby.

Along with Greg's departure, there were other changes to the Board. Martin 'Rudy' Haase also stepped down, and five new board members were appointed. Greg was thanked for his perseverance, commitment, and vigilance in his role as long-standing treasurer and board member. Rudy was thanked for his generosity as a donor of two conservation easements and for being an inspiration to us all. They both were presented with Alice Reed prints. Other business included approvals for an increase in membership fees for 2003 and for minor changes made to the bylaws.

Nature Trust staff presented an inspiring slide show, highlighting the conservation projects and protected properties. Meredith Flannery, Karen Potter and Toby Rowe reported on the Coastal Plain Stewards, Fundy Shorebird and Forest Legacy projects. Steve Gormley, Land Securement Coordinator, described the Nature Trust's success this year in securing four properties: a 180 acre private property within the Cloud Lake Wilderness Area, 330 acres on Hardwood Lake, a 20 acre parcel on the brow of Gaspereau Mountain, and the Ship Rock Islands (40 acres). He also described seven other properties which are going through the securement process.

The evening's finale was the poignant address by Bob Bancroft, dedicated board member and environment and wildlife expert on CBC's Maritime Noon. Bob spoke about the importance of old growth forests for a healthy Nova Scotian ecosystem using slides accumulated over his years as a wildlife biologist and naturalist.

The Nature Trust would like to thank Jost Vineyards, MacFarland's Rent-it, Scanway and Certainly Cinnamon for generously providing wine and catering.

Welcome to New Board Members

Mary MacInnis, a Certified General Accountant, owns and operates her own accounting firm. She has volunteered for the Chester Theatre Council, Church Memorial Park and as flag officer for finance for the Chester Yacht Club.

Sylvie Ouellette is in training with Deloitte & Touche in the Chartered Accountant program. She graduated from St. Mary's University in 2001 with a degree in business accounting.

Linda Peers works for Centennial Hotels as Director of Marketing. She has volunteered for the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation, Metro United Way and Parker Street Food & Furniture Bank.

Brenda Sanderson is an Associate Creative Director at Corporate Communications Limited. She has been active in the United Way Capital Campaign for the last three years.

Dale Smith, retired Manager, Department of Natural Resources, was actively involved in all facets of major Provincial Park and protected area planning from 1978 to 2001. His efforts culminated in the designation of 31 protected wilderness areas in Nova Scotia.

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Thank you to members who have joined or renewed since the last issue of Natural Landscapes (end of March 2002):

Halifax Field Naturalists
Department of Environment &
Labour, Protected Areas Branch
Stora Enso Port Hawkesbury Ltd.
Bruce Blakemore
George and Margaret Alliston
Eric B. Atkinson
Anne Baetjer Jenkins
Bob Bancroft
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Walter T. and Ruthie Flower
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Thank you to donors who have made contributions since the last issue of Natural Landscapes (end of March 2002):

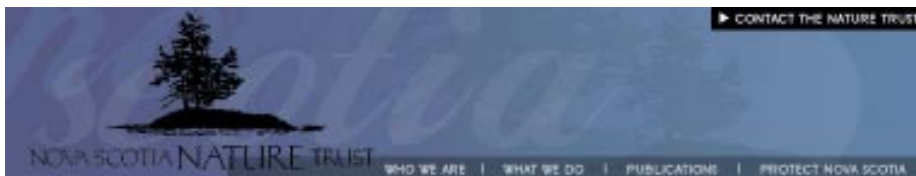
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Donald Tait
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*Special donations were made
In Memory of Jean Rosner
In celebration of Rudy Haase's birthday*

Thank you to the following foundations for their current financial support of the Nature Trust and its conservation projects:

The Chawkers Foundation
The Davis Foundation
The Donner Foundation
Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Program
Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation
The Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk
Mountain Equipment Co-op's Environment Fund
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources Habitat Conservation Fund
Oracle Giving Program
Shell Environmental Fund
Wildlife Habitat Canada
World Wildlife Fund

Check out www.nsnat.ca's new look!



A big thanks to Greg Lukeman, long-time volunteer, current board member, and Chair of the Nature Trust Public Relations & Publicity Committee, for his tremendous work revamping the Nature Trust web page. Please visit this work in progress - we welcome your comments and suggestions.



Fifth Annual Scenic Adventure Raffle

Support the Nature Trust and Enter to WIN an Exciting Nature Getaway!

Grand Prize

Two nights for two at the secluded seaside *Oceanstone Inn & Cottages*, a full day guided sea kayak excursion (lobster lunch included!) courtesy of *NovaShores Adventures*, and a whale watching tour with *Peggy's Cove Whale & Puffin Tour*

2nd Prize

Mountain Equipment Co-op Tent - the Tarn 2: a light, compact, two-person tent

3rd Prize

A limited edition Alice Reed framed print, *Eskers & Pickerelweed*, donated by *ScapeArts & Frame Plus Art*
(Estimated total value of prizes: \$1100)

Tickets are only \$3 each or 2 for \$5 - sales are limited!

Draw to be held on October 19, 2002 at the Nature Trust 5th Annual Dinner

Thank you to the donors of these fabulous prizes!

Please contact the Nova Scotia Nature Trust office at (902) 425-5263, if you wish to purchase raffle tickets.



Order your Fifth Annual Dinner Tickets Now!

Mark your calendar: On Saturday, October 19, a real-life "Indiana Jones" will be in town at the Nature Trust's Annual Dinner with Silent Auction. **Wade Davis** is a Canadian anthropologist and botanical explorer and Explorer-in-Residence for the National Geographic Society, as well as a best selling author. Mr. Davis was recently the subject of CBC TV's *Life & Times*. In addition to our keynote address, participants will be able to take part in our popular silent auction featuring unique items, and will learn about how the Nature Trust is protecting irreplaceable natural areas in Nova Scotia. Please contact Karen at the Nature Trust to reserve your tickets now - phone 902-425-5263 or email karen@nsnt.ca. Tickets are \$75 each. Tables of 10 are available.

Alice Reed Note Cards for Sale

Pictured at right, accomplished watercolour artist & Nature Trust Honorary Director, Alice Reed, in her studio, painting one of 3 original watercolour images of Nature Trust conservation lands. These originals have been sold, but the images have been captured on note cards for sale at the Nature Trust for \$10 for 6 (2 images of each, 100% post consumer recycled envelopes).



Dancing in the Light, MacKinnon's Brook, Cape Breton



Barrier Beach at Yellow Head, Cape Breton



Time & Tide, The Brothers Islands, Bay of Fundy



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fundraising Committee Join one of the following sub-committees: corporate campaign, major gifts/giving, special events or planned giving.

Property Lawyer Get involved in major property transactions that protect Nova Scotia wilderness.

Investment Committee If you know how to invest money, we would love to put your knowledge to work on the Nature Trust's Investment Committee.

Newsletter Committee Use your creative talents as a writer, editor or layout designer (Pagemaker).

Fifth Annual Raffle Volunteers are needed to sell raffle tickets (page 7), in support of the Nature Trust.

Field Work Handy with a crowbar? A cabin on a property proposed for donation to the Nature Trust (close to Halifax) needs to be disassembled and eventually removed. If you would like to participate in some 'hands on' land conservation, call our office for details.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Nature Trust at (902) 425-5263 or e-mail nature@nsnt.ca.



Board of Directors

- Margaret MacDonald, *President*
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- Alice Reed

Executive Director

- Bonnie Sutherland

Newsletter Committee

- Emma Boardman
- Janet Brown
- Beverly Colpitts
- Heather McKinnon

Send submissions for Natural Landscapes to:

Nova Scotia Nature Trust

P.O. Box 2202
 Halifax, NS
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 phone: (902) 425-5263
 fax: (902) 429-5263
 email: nature@nsnt.ca
 www.nsnt.ca

JOIN THE NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST

Membership in the Nova Scotia Nature Trust is open to any person or corporation interested in the protection of Nova Scotia's natural beauty and native biodiversity. Members receive the newsletter, *Natural Landscapes*, are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, and may participate in the various committees. Members also have the satisfaction of knowing that they are making an important contribution to the protection of outstanding natural areas.

Name _____ Organization (if applicable) _____
 Mail Address _____ City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Membership:

- \$15 Student \$25 Individual \$40 Family \$50 NGO \$100 Supporter / Corporate
- \$500 Friend of the Nature Trust \$1000 Benefactor Other _____ (Charitable # 889627691RR0001)
- I would also like to make a donation \$ _____

Please send a tax receipt for income tax purposes

The Nature Trust also welcomes gifts of securities, trade lands, memorial gifts and bequests.

VISA# _____ I would like to volunteer
 Expiry date _____ I would like to receive information on options for protecting my land
 I would like more information on including the Nature Trust in my estate planning
 I would like receive more information to pass along to friends

Signature _____

Please make cheque or money order payable to: Nova Scotia Nature Trust, P.O. Box 2202, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3C4