

# Natural Landscapes

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Fall 2001

## 'What are we waiting for to make a better world?'—Robert Bateman

By Heather Drope

Robert Bateman says the future of our planet lies with the next generation, and right now we are treating nature like a free lunch. Species are being wiped out of existence every day, and he asks: What are we waiting for to make a better world?

Mr. Bateman, a world-renowned artist and conservationist, was the guest speaker at

presentation, Mr. Bateman told about his family ties to Nova Scotia. He has a son who lives here with his family and his mother was a "Springhill girl." He and his wife live in British Columbia but he often visits our province because of these ties.

He said that last year he celebrated three life changing events: his 70th birthday, the publishing of his book *Thinking Like a Mountain* and the most challenging art exhibit of his career.

He is not only passionate about his art but about the environment and the humans that inhabit the Earth. He is particularly concerned about negative influences on today's youth, such as TV advertising that promotes greed and selfishness. "At the very least, the cultivation of instant gratification will deplete one of our most important resources - the courage, spontaneity and creativity of a whole new generation," he writes in his book.

The dinner and auction, major fund-raisers of the Nature Trust, are eagerly

anticipated and were again a major success. This year's event was held at the Lord Nelson Hotel.

The auction items were plentiful and all attracted many bids. The theme leaned toward nature, especially the tent set up on the stage at the end of the ballroom. The tent drew the bids of some of the younger people. It put a smile on my face to watch these youths learn the art of bidding and counter bidding, especially for such a great auction item. Even the Nature Trust staff got into the spirit of the bidding. They had

their minds set on a gelato ice cream cake and collectively bid on that.

There was an auction item for everyone's taste and this part of the evening continues to be a major attraction.

A table was set up in the corner of the ballroom by The Book Room to sell copies of Mr. Bateman's most recent book, *Thinking Like a Mountain*.

The socializing, book signing and bidding were so intense that it took three calls to dinner to have everyone start moving into the dining room.

The Nature Trust extends its thanks to Robert Bateman, generous donors of the auction items and the volunteer dinner and auction committee: Maggie Moss, Joanne McCormick, Greg Lukeman, Richard Nickerson and Mike Coolen.

Mr. Bateman's presentation, like the title of his book, was truly about 'thinking like a mountain'. From a mountain top, we get a "good view from all directions," he said.

Mr. Bateman ended his inspiring presentation with a quote from Albert Einstein: "We cannot solve the problems of today with the same thinking that gave us those problems in the first place."



Margaret MacDonald, President of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, with guest speaker Robert Bateman at the Nature Trust's annual dinner and auction. (Heather Drope photo)

the fourth annual dinner and auction of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

The event, held in Halifax in late October, attracted 300 people and raised about \$31,000 for the Nature Trust.

Some countries are taking the lead in protecting the environment. For example, in Israel military officers also receive training as naturalists. The Netherlands, Mr. Bateman believes, is the best country in the world as an example of social and environmental planning for the future.

Prior to the main part of his

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## Project Updates

### Cape Breton's marten population added to endangered list

By Toby Rowe  
Coordinator  
Forest Legacy Project

The forests of Nova Scotia provide habitat for many animal species. Unfortunately, habitat loss and alteration due to natural and human causes often have a negative impact on native species.

In June of 2001, the Cape Breton population of the American Marten (*Martes americana*) was added to the Nova Scotia endangered species list.

In most of Canada, the marten is common in suitable habitats. Cape Breton, however, is not the only region in Canada with an endangered marten. The Newfoundland marten was given endangered status in 1996, and the mainland Nova Scotia population of the marten had virtually disappeared by the 1930's. A reintroduction program in Kejimikujik National Park seems to have been successful.

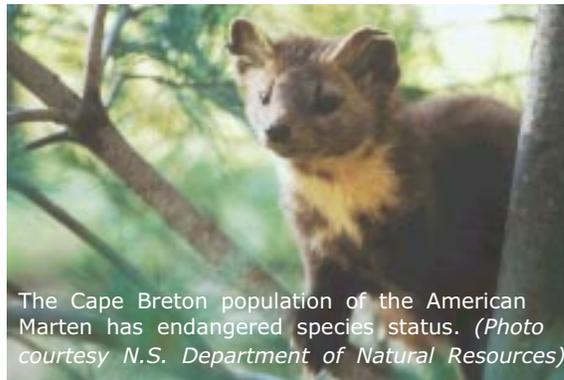
The Cape Breton population is probably fewer than 50 animals with no recent evidence of breeding. The marten inhabits two regions of the Cape Breton Highlands.

One population is found on the northwest side of the Highlands, mostly within Cape Breton Highlands National Park. The second population is in the southeastern highlands of Victoria County from the Ingonish River valley southwest to Middle River. The distance between these two areas makes it unlikely that martens move between them, thereby creating two separate populations.

Threats to the marten's survival in Cape Breton include the loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat and reduction of breeding opportunities and possibility of inbreeding due to geographic isolation of animals.

A Department of Natural Resources status report states optimal habitat has been severely reduced and is highly fragmented from spruce budworm infestation and the subsequent timber salvage operations, thinning of forest stands and natural events such as forest fires.

The marten's optimal breeding habitat is extensive mature or "overmature" coniferous or mixed forests with tree cavities for denning, and windthrown and fallen trees for shelter of prey species.



The Cape Breton population of the American Marten has endangered species status. (Photo courtesy N.S. Department of Natural Resources)

Once a species is designated as endangered, it is protected under the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act. Protection is provided for all individual animals, their potential residences such as denning sites, and the core habitat required for their survival, once that habitat has been identified. A recovery plan must be prepared within one year of the species being listed as endangered. In the case of the marten, the Recovery Team, which has been in place for about two years, will have a plan prepared by June 2002.

Although, the Forest Legacy project is not specifically targeting marten habitat in its landowner contact program, several sites with large tracts of forest are within or on the edge of the known range of the marten.

*See Natural Landscapes Volume 5, Number 3, Autumn 1999 for natural history of the American Marten. Thanks to Mark Elderkin, Wildlife Biologist, Species at Risk, Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, for providing information.*

### Shorebirds Project

In Nova Scotia, the project focuses on the Evangeline Beach region near Grand Pré.

Representatives of the Nature Trust will meet with local residents to discuss private land stewardship. To set the stage for these meetings, this past summer we organized events such as guided walks and public talks to raise local awareness for shorebirds and project work.

The project is also producing support materials for outreach efforts. We monitored shorebird activity during the 2001 fall migration. We tracked roosting activity at Evangeline Beach and surrounding areas, noting an estimated 35,000 birds at one location.

-By Donald Sam, Project Coordinator

### Coastal Plain Stewards Project

The purpose of the Coastal Plain Stewards landowner contact program is to raise awareness about rare and endangered coastal plain plants that thrive along the privately owned shores of lakes in southwestern Nova Scotia, and to protect critical habitat. We have met with a number of enthusiastic landowners in this region.

New landowners have entered into Stewardship Agreements with the Nature Trust, while others have invited us to place signage on their lake shore to discourage the disturbance of coastal plain habitat and rare and endangered coastal plain plants.

-By Meredith Flannery,  
Project Coordinator

### Sight Point/MacKinnon's Brook Project

Easement negotiations are on-going with several key landowners, while preliminary negotiations continue with others. Due to concerns brought up by some Sight Point landowners, the original easement template has been revised to be more landowner friendly; it is now easier to understand while still maintaining the legal strength required to protect the land.

-By Sean LeMoine, Project Coordinator

## *Kimberly-Clark donates land to Nature Trust*

# Hardwood Lake gains protection

By Donald Sam

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust now owns a property that spans the entire east side of Hardwood Lake, Kings County.

Kimberly-Clark Nova Scotia donated the 338-acre (135-hectare) parcel to the land conservation group on Oct. 30. Protection of this property largely ensures that the lake's shoreline will remain undeveloped.

The site of a Girl Guides camp, Hardwood Lake's wilderness setting is now preserved and will continue to foster fond memories of nature, serenity and Nova Scotia's outdoors.

Kimberly-Clark expressed its interest in donating the site to the Nature Trust late last year. Although the company had commercially cut much of the property, it had been careful to preserve a substantial 'no cut' area around the lake. As a result, well established mixed forest surrounds the lake, providing a near idyllic setting for the Hardwood Lake Girl Guides camp.

Many nearby lakes in the region have been developed for shoreline cottages, and Hardwood Lake may have succumbed to the same fate.

Representatives of the various organisations gathered at the Nature Trust office in Halifax to formally transfer title to the property. Kate Archibald, Director of the Kings County Girl Guides Association, Steve Rutledge, Woodlands Manager of Kimberly-Clark Nova Scotia, Margaret MacDonald, President of the Nature Trust, and Bonnie Sutherland, the conservation group's executive director, were among those on hand for the official signing and transfer.

In protecting the Hardwood Lake property, the Nature Trust has forged new working partnerships which could lead to future opportunities to promote land conservation in Nova Scotia with Kimberly-Clark.

Hardwood Lake represents the fourth property donation to the Nature Trust within the past year.



On hand for an Oct. 30 signing ceremony marking the donation of land on Hardwood Lake, Kings County, from Kimberly-Clark Nova Scotia to the Nature Trust, from left, were: Kate Archibald, Director of the Kings County Girl Guides Association; Steve Rutledge, Woodlands Manager of Kimberly-Clark; and Margaret MacDonald, President of the Nature Trust. (Ned Norwood photo)



The Nature Trust now owns a 135-hectare parcel of land on Hardwood Lake, Kings County, as a result of a donation by Kimberly-Clark Nova Scotia. (Ned Norwood photo)

## *A photo album of the 2001*



The banquet room at the Lord Nelson Hotel on the evening of Oct. 20 was filled with people supporting and celebrating the work of the Nature Trust. (Julian West photo)



### *Some of the sponsors*

Representatives of the major sponsors of the dinner and auction, from left, included Kimberly Fox of the Sable Offshore Energy Project, Tina Battcock of El Paso Corporation, Margaret MacDonald of the Nature Trust, Steve Rutledge of Kimberly-Clark Nova Scotia and Richard Nickerson of Assante Capital Management. (Heather Drope photo)



Assante



Frame Plus Art



## *Nature Trust dinner and auction*



Birgit Bateman, wife of guest speaker Robert Bateman, gives Evelyn Gilbert of Sackville, N.B., a big hug after Evelyn won the door prize for the auction, a flight on Air Canada worth \$2,500. (Heather Drope photo)



Maggie Moss at this year's Nature Trust annual dinner and auction. (Julian West photo)

### *Thank-you, Maggie Moss*

In 1998, Maggie Moss approached the Nature Trust with a grand idea. It was a plan to raise substantial funds and promote and celebrate the conservation work of the Nature Trust. Just what we needed.

It would only take 300 or 400 guests, the interest of corporate sponsors, about 30 businesses and individuals to donate high-quality items for a silent auction and lots of hard work.

It was a big job, but Maggie's dedication, creativity and hard work made it happen. In the past four years, this event has raised over \$90,000 and increased the profile and membership of the Nature Trust.

*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.*

—Dr. Seuss in "The Lorax"

So thank-you, Maggie, for your outstanding contribution.



National NDP Leader Alexa McDonough was one of many people who bought a Robert Bateman book or had the author sign it. (Heather Drope photo)



Joanne McCormick is a hardworking member of the dinner and auction committee. (Julian West photo)



Helping with the dinner and auction were staffers Meredith Flannery, left, and Karen Potter, and volunteer Chad Smith. (Heather Drope photo)



The auction was a major attraction, drawing numerous bids for a variety of items. (Heather Drope photo)

## Raffle winners

We have some winners.

Cathy Stewart of Wolfville was one happy lady on the early afternoon of Sept. 24. She was told she'd won the grand prize in the Nova Scotia Nature Trust's 2001 Island Getaway raffle.

The island she and her husband, Keith, got away to was Grand Manan, N.B., in the Bay of Fundy.

The trip included: two nights accommodation for two at the Marathon Inn; two tickets for a Whales and Sails Adventures whale watching tour; a gourmet meal for two at the Inn at Whale Cove Cottages; return ferry trip on Bay Ferries for two adults and one vehicle from Digby to Saint John, N.B.; a Friday to Monday rental of a sport utility vehicle from Enterprise Rent-A-Car; and a round-trip ferry ride for two to Grand Manan Island from Coastal Transport Ltd.

The winner of the second prize was Bill Unger of Chester Basin. He won a half-day guided kayak tour for five people sponsored by Mahone Bay Kayak Adventures.

Anne Bastedo of Halifax won third prize, consisting of a birding excursion for two and overnight accommodation at Penny Estate.

Paul Clarke of Pictou won fourth prize of two tickets to a Symphony Nova Scotia performance of the MacKinnon's Brook Suite.



Cathy Stewart, right, did some sightseeing with friends Chuck and Heather Coll during a trip this fall to Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy. Cathy and husband Keith of the Wolfville area won the grand prize in this year's Nature Trust raffle. (Keith Stewart photo)

## Excerpts from a letter from Cathy and Keith Stewart...

*We had a wonderful trip to Grand Manan...in fact we stayed another day. Friends joined us for the trip...we would all like to make the trip again next year. The whole trip went like clockwork with many humorous and wonderful incidents along the way.*

*We did miss the whale watching as the season closed around the first week of September. However, we do have the vouchers and perhaps will be able to use them next year.*

*The icing on the cake was four days of wonderful weather!*

*To describe all the trip's events would be like writing a book...(however) we would like to make a few comments about the agencies and people involved.*

*First Chuck Boyd, and the local representative, Shaun Lonar of Enterprise Car Rental. These men were more than helpful, extending the rental for another day without problem.*

*Greg Ryder of the Grand Manan Ferry Service rushed to get our vouchers to us in time. We were all particularly impressed with the ferry crew...how friendly and forthcoming they were with a wealth of useful information.*

*We all enjoyed the ferry trip from Digby, N.S., to Saint John, N.B., and return.*

*Two highlights of the trip were meeting Jim Leslie of the Marathon Inn and the dinner at Whale Cove Cottages. The meal was delicious and it was a pleasure to meet the owner, Laura Buckley.*

*The Marathon Inn...an apt description would be difficult to put into words. Jim Leslie went above and beyond the call of duty to make us welcome. His warm, easy and congenial personality set the tone for a very enjoyable four days. Jim was literally an encyclopedia of knowledge about Grand Manan...the Island history, its people, Nature Lore, birds...we consider ourselves lucky to have him share this knowledge so freely with us. Plus copious pots of tea and coffee.*

*This Grand Prize was terrific! We hope to be able to participate again next year, and perhaps even win again!*

## Omissions

Several names from our "recent donors" list in the past newsletter were inadvertently omitted. The mistake occurred because of a computer-human glitch.

The errors weren't discovered, as is often the case, until after the newsletter was published.

So our apologies. The names of those omitted included (because there may be more):

Heather Drope  
Martin Rudy Haase  
Anne Von Maltzahn  
Lucretia J. Weed  
David and Shirley Whiston  
Jim Wolford  
Eudoxia Woodward  
Barry J. and E.A. Yoell

## Securities donations eligible for tax break

People who own securities will continue to get tax benefits by donating to charities, such as the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

Finance Minister Paul Martin recently announced that special tax help, under a measure scheduled to expire on Dec. 31, 2001, is to become permanent.

Legislation to implement the announcement is expected soon.

The measure allows the capital gains part of income from publicly traded securities to be calculated at half that of other capital gains. The

result is a tax saving for the individual.

For groups such as the Nature Trust, the benefit is more money to carry out important land conservation work.

For further information, contact Bill Murphy of the Personal Income Tax Division at 613-996-6783 or Karl Little of the Finance Department at 613-996-7861.

## Reconnecting with Nature

By Emma Boardman

A few of the many ways to reconnect with nature and feel good about your contribution to saving our natural environment.

### During the upcoming holidays...

-Take care in choosing packaging for gifts. Create your own unique gift wrap from old magazines and calendars or by painting or stamping simple designs on old posters or newspapers. Save paper and bags from gifts you receive in order to use them next year.

-Re-use old cards by cutting off the back and sending the front as a postcard. If you prefer to buy new cards, buy cards from organizations whose profits go to a good cause. The Nature Trust's own Alice Reed print cards make attractive and unique holiday greeting cards.

-If you buy a Christmas tree, buy an organic, locally-grown one. Each year, the Halifax-based Ecology Action Centre sells chemical-free trees (as well as wreaths) which are grown in New Ross, Nova Scotia. (for more information, call 429-2202 - place order before Dec. 10)

### Or any day...

-Bring a sketchbook or journal to a natural area that inspires you, or simply go for a walk near your home. Bring binoculars and consult a field guide to find out more about the plants and animals you see.

-Join an environmental organization and volunteer with them.

-Use natural, pesticide-free methods in your garden. Learning how to do this takes some planning, but consulting an experienced gardener or a book such as *Chemical Free Yard & Garden: The Ultimate Authority On Successful Organic Gardening* (ed. Marshall Bradley, Rodale Press, 1991) or *Carrots Love Tomatoes* (Louise Riotte, Story Communications, Inc., 1975) to learn how is well worth it.

### The MacKinnon's Brook concerts

## Three suite sell-outs



Many thanks to Scott Macmillan, left, and Ian MacKinnon, who performed sections of the MacKinnon's Brook Suite at the Nova Scotia Nature Trust dinner and auction. (Heather Drope photo)

### Thank-you, Alice Reed

The Nature Trust would like to thank artist Alice Reed for the latest of many generous contributions she has made to the organization over the years. A limited edition print of her work was auctioned off at the Nature Trust's Annual Dinner and Auction on Oct. 20. As well, Ms. Reed has donated a third of the revenue generated from the sale of her piece, "Dancing in the Light, MacKinnon's Brook," sold recently in her Studio Gallery in Antigonish. This money will go towards furthering the work of the MacKinnon's Brook Project.

Alice Reed's water-colour paintings are exhibited in galleries across North America, and are included in collections around the world.

She beautifully combines her art with her lifelong love of nature and her commitment to conservation in Nova Scotia by painting natural landscapes.

She has given a great deal of time and work to the Nature Trust, most notably with the paintings of wilderness areas featured in the very successful Sacred Worth Exhibition. The exhibit toured the Maritimes for two years and drew over 60,000 visitors. A painting she did especially for the Nature Trust of one of our project sites has been used as the key image in promoting the MacKinnon's Brook Suite concerts and CD.

Cards featuring Ms. Reed's work are available from the Nature Trust.

Three concerts of the MacKinnon's Brook Suite in mid-October played to sell-out crowds from Mabou to Halifax. Total attendance for the performances was close to 2,300.

The music is a tribute to the Scots who settled the western side of Cape Breton and to the land itself. The Nova Scotia Nature Trust is working with landowners to protect 800 hectares (2,000 acres) of land on the shores of the Mabou Highlands in an area known as MacKinnon's Brook. As a result of a partnership with Ian MacKinnon, the Nature Trust receives \$1 for each CD sold.

The world premiere of the orchestral suite, performed by Symphony Nova Scotia, attracted about 500 people to Strathspey Place in the Cape Breton community of Mabou on Oct. 10. The symphony was conducted by composer Scott Macmillan. Ian MacKinnon and David Greenburg were featured soloists.

The next night, in Antigonish, as part of a concert with a popular organist and singer, more than 800 people heard the suite.

The third concert on Oct. 12 at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium in Halifax attracted nearly 1,000 people.

A reception followed at the residence of David and Margaret Fountain for special guests and supporters.

*This year, why not put a gift  
from our tree under  
your tree?*



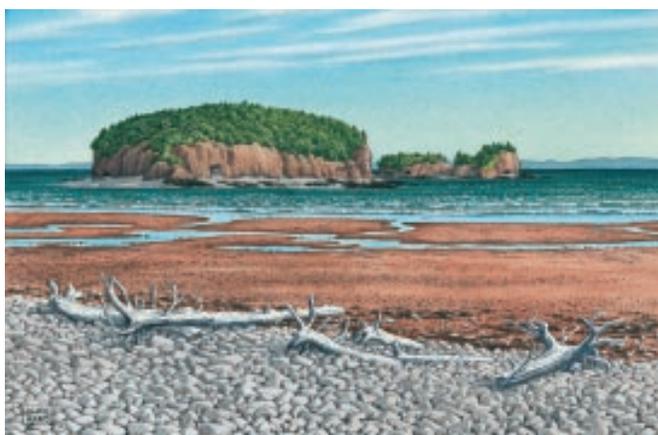
*Our gift selections include...*

*Nature Trust Mugs for \$6.50, plus \$4 shipping/handling*

*Nature Trust print cards, \$10 for 6, plus \$1.50 shipping/handling*

*MacKinnon's Brook Suite CD for \$20, plus \$2.50 shipping/handling*

*Gift memberships or honorary donations*



*Do you need cards for the holidays? This year, surprise your friends by sending distinctive and beautiful creations by Alice Reed. A package of six cards is only \$10. The cards celebrate Nova Scotia's natural areas being protected by the Nature Trust and proceeds benefit this work.*

## Nova Scotia Nature Trust

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Natural Landscapes is published to keep members updated on Nature Trust projects, issues in private land conservation and special events. All are invited to submit articles, commentaries or important notices. Please send submissions to:

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## SUPPORT 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 biological diversity. Members receive the newsletter, *Natural Landscapes*, are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting, and may participate in the various committees of the Trust. Members also have the satisfaction of knowing that they are making an important contribution to the protection of Nova Scotia's outstanding natural areas.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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\$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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send a tax receipt for income tax purposes

VISA# \_\_\_\_\_

expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

signature \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer

I would like to receive information on options for protecting my land

I would like information including the Nature Trust in my estate planning

I would like to receive more information to pass along to friends

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