



## Privately conserved lands now protected under New Brunswick Legislation

**September 3, 2014 (Fredericton, NB)** – The province of New Brunswick has finalized the designation of new protected natural areas. Land conservation groups in the province are celebrating the inclusion of private Nature Reserves under the province's Protected Natural Areas Act. A total of 1850 hectares (18.5 km<sup>2</sup>) acquired for permanent conservation by the Nature Conservancy of Canada in New Brunswick, the Meduxnekeag River Association and the Nature Trust of New Brunswick have received designation under the act.

Six private Nature Reserves, each made up of several individual properties, have been designated and included by the Department of Natural Resources under the province's Protected Natural Areas Act. These changes were part of a recent process where new Crown Lands were also designated for protected natural areas.

The first private lands designated under the provincial act were properties owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada at the Musquash Estuary. In 2008, 811 hectares of private conservation land surrounding the Estuary was placed under the act in a pilot program to determine the process for designating private lands under the act.

All private Protected Natural Areas are Class II PNA, which means the lands may not be used for forest harvesting; mining or aggregate extraction; oil or gas exploration; permanent residential uses; commercial or industrial uses; or the introduction of non-native species. The area may be used for some recreational activities as well as for educational and scientific purposes.

Private lands can only become a Protected Natural Area if the land is managed solely for conservation, and if the landowners agree in writing to the designation.

The following private conservation lands have been included as new Protected Natural Areas:

### **Nature Conservancy of Canada:**

Additional lands at the Musquash Estuary Nature Reserve near Saint John –8 properties, 363 hectares (1,174 ha of NCC land at Musquash Estuary now under PNA)  
The Johnson's Mills Shorebird Reserve near Dorchester 32 properties, 148 hectares

Round Meadow Cove Nature Reserve near Dipper Harbour: 1 property, 43 hectares

### **Meduxnekeag River Association**

The **Meduxnekeag** Valley Nature Preserve: 14 properties totaling 305 hectares within the Meduxnekeag River Watershed north west of Woodstock.

### **Nature Trust of New Brunswick:**

Caughey-Taylor Nature Preserve, near St. Andrews-by-the-Sea: 7 properties, 188 hectares  
Green Island Nature Preserve, in Florenceville-Bristol: 1 property, 8 hectares.

For more information on the Protected Natural Areas, please visit:

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/natural\\_resources/ForestsCrownLands/content/ProtectedNaturalAreas.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/natural_resources/ForestsCrownLands/content/ProtectedNaturalAreas.html)

## Quotes

"The Nature Conservancy of Canada is pleased to work with the provincial government on the protection of critical habitats, said Paula Noel, Program Manager for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The Musquash Estuary is the largest private Nature Reserve in New Brunswick and, along with the nearby Round Meadow Cove Reserve, includes a variety of habitats and wildlife on the Bay of Fundy. Our Johnson's Mills Shorebird Reserve is a globally significant site for migrating shorebirds. Designation under the PNA act ensures permanent protection for these important areas."

"We are delighted to see the Protected Natural Areas plan come to fruition", stated Steven Wilson, President Meduxnekeag River Association. The Meduxnekeag River Association is a volunteer led organization committed to the "forever" protection of fragile land and species along the Meduxnekeag watershed and in particular the Appalachian Hardwood Forest. "We have been a strong proponent of the PNA plan and were one of the first properties to request inclusion. This is completely in synch with our vision of protecting fragile properties and species to be enjoyed by our grandchildren's grandchildren."

"The Nature Trust of New Brunswick is pleased to have designated a number of our nature preserves as Protected Natural Areas (PNAs). It is an important step forward for the province to give these ecologically significant areas the maximum amount of conservation protection possible," says Renata Woodward, New Brunswick Nature Trust Executive Director. "For example, Green Island Nature Preserve in Florenceville-Bristol is home to the endangered Cobblestone Tiger Beetle, while Caughey-Taylor Nature Preserve in Bocabec features the famous Sam Orr's Pond and other biologically rich and diverse habitat. Under the PNA Act, these areas are provided with additional protection measures, including the subsurface minerals, and will forever remain natural and offer beacons of biodiversity for the future."

## Learn More

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is the nation's leading land conservation organization, working to protect our most important natural areas and the species they sustain. Since 1962 NCC and its partners have helped to protect more than 2.6 million acres (over 1 million hectares), coast to coast. The Nature Conservancy of Canada has conserved over 140 properties and 15,700 acres in New Brunswick. For more information visit: [www.natureconservancy.ca/nb](http://www.natureconservancy.ca/nb)

Established in 1988, the Meduxnekeag River Association is a community-based watershed organization in Woodstock, New Brunswick that has protected over 800 acres of ecoregionally significant habitats. To learn more, visit [www.meduxnekeag.org](http://www.meduxnekeag.org).

Established in 1987, the Nature Trust of New Brunswick is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to preserving the province's remaining ecologically significant landscapes. To date, the Nature Trust has conserved over 5500 acres (2225 hectares) in 37 beautiful and diverse nature preserves in New Brunswick. For more information, visit [www.naturetrust.nb.ca](http://www.naturetrust.nb.ca).

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