

News release

The New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund celebrates 25 years of efforts to further wildlife conservation in New Brunswick

February 16, 2022

Fredericton, N.B.— Were the banks of your village’s stream stabilized or did you notice work on your local watercourse relating to endangered species? Maybe your child participated in a summer camp to learn about biodiversity and conservation, while your teenagers received a free manual when they registered in a firearm safety course. These are but a few examples of projects and initiatives made possible over the years by the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund (NBWTF).

Twenty-five years ago this February, the then-named Department of Natural Resources and Energy established a non-government agency to further wildlife conservation in New Brunswick. The NBWTF, managed by a volunteer council, looks back proudly and with a sense of accomplishments as it has left a positive mark on the province by funding a large variety of programs and initiatives.

NBWTF’s mission is to fund a range of programs through which the public can contribute to, participate in, and learn about the protection and enhancement of New Brunswick’s fish, wildlife, and their habitats. “First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund on this milestone anniversary”, said the Honourable Mike Holland, New Brunswick’s Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development. “For twenty-five years, NBWTF has provided valuable funding to a range of programs for the enhancement of New Brunswick’s wildlife, fish and their habitat. Thank you to the staff and volunteers for all the work you have done to further wildlife conservation in the province.”

“For twenty-five years, NBWTF has assisted wildlife organizations and universities by making funding available for projects and research which enhance our wildlife and its habitats. We extend appreciation to the 145 individuals who have, over these

years, given so freely of their time as volunteers on the Wildlife Council. Our thanks are also extended to our dedicated staff who are responsible for the operation of the New Brunswick Wildlife Council and Wildlife Trust Fund,” said James Marriner, Chair of the New Brunswick Wildlife Council and Wildlife Trust Fund.

25 years in numbers

- February 5, 1997: Alan Graham, New Brunswick’s Natural Resources and Energy Minister at that time, announced plans to establish a wildlife council and a wildlife trust fund, an initiative that was hailed as a new era of wildlife management in the province.
- The New Brunswick Wildlife Council held its first meeting on May 31, 1997.
- In 1998, the Conservation plate program was launched.
- The Wildlife Council is a committed group of 17 volunteers who represent hunting, angling, trapping, aboriginal, naturalist and environmental groups.
- Over the years, 145 individuals have served on the council, with 9 members serving two mandates and one person serving three mandates.
- Since 1997, the NBWTF has received 3,371 funding applications of which 2,453 were financed. A total of 314 organizations shared \$23,785,859 in funding (over \$10.7 million in research/monitoring, \$6.4 million in education, \$6 million in enhancements and \$554,130 in land acquisitions). These organizations were able to leverage the NBWTF’s contribution to complete projects totalling more than \$81 million.
- The NBWTF also initiated programs such as the Youth Manual program for youth between the ages of 10 and 16. Participants are eligible to receive free of charge the required manuals to take the Firearms Safety/Hunter Education Program, Bowhunter Course, or the Trappers Course. Since its inception, the programs have financed 32,552 education manuals for future generations of hunters and trappers.

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