

ANNUAL REPORT 2023–24



NEW BRUNSWICK
MUSEUM



MUSÉE DU
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

The New Brunswick Museum

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VISION

The New Brunswick Museum (NBM) is a collection-based public institution which engages people in both official languages, and contributes to the knowledge and understanding of New Brunswick's cultures and natural environment.

MISSION STATEMENT

The New Brunswick Museum is New Brunswick's provincial museum. It is a principal repository and steward of material that documents or represents the natural and human history of New Brunswick and other related regions. In partnership with institutions and communities we collect, preserve, research and interpret material to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of New Brunswick provincially and globally.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that New Brunswick is situated on the unceded and unsurrendered territories of the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaq, and Peskotomuhkati peoples. We seek to repair and rebuild meaningful relationships with Indigenous peoples and honour these lands which hold the hopes of future generations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 1, 2023 – MARCH 31, 2024

The New Brunswick Museum was established under the *New Brunswick Museum Act* as a Crown agency with a Board of Directors of not more than 15 members to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, one of whom shall be appointed as President of the Board by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Tracy Clinch

Chair (since February 2024)
Riverview, NB

William Forrestall

Vice Chair
Fredericton, NB

Catherine Isabel Eddy

Secretary
Fredericton, NB

Pierre-André Fruytier

Treasurer
Rothesay, NB

Chief Hugh Akagi

St. Andrews, NB

Ian Baird

Fredericton, NB

Suzanne Coulombe

Saint-Quentin, NB

Emmanuel Elmajian

Saint John, NB

Brian Lordon

Riverview, NB

Noel Milliea

Elsipogtog, NB

Wayne Power

Rothesay, NB

Francine Quinn-Steeves

Rothesay, NB

Lyne St-Pierre-Ellis

Fredericton, NB

Ralph Thomas

Saint John, NB

Neil A. Vibert

Miscou, NB



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

As Chair of the Board of the New Brunswick Museum, I am proud to reflect on an extraordinary year of accomplishments, and pleased to submit the Annual Report of the New Brunswick Museum for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024 in compliance with the *Accountability and Continuous Improvement Act*. We are accountable for the preparation of this Annual Report and the results contained herein.

First and foremost, the staff have undertaken the monumental task of cataloguing and moving a collection of over four million pieces to a new facility on Lancaster Avenue, ensuring the rich history and culture of New Brunswick will be preserved and protected for generations to come. It is a testament to their unwavering commitment to our mission.

We have also been fortunate to benefit from the strong leadership of Chief Operating Officer Brent Suttie. His vision and guidance have been instrumental as we navigate this period of transition and growth, laying the groundwork for the exciting journey ahead.

This year, we were successful in securing critical federal and provincial funding to bring our vision for a new New Brunswick Museum closer to reality. This support underscores the value that the Museum brings to the province and the national significance of our work.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the donors who have supported us, and to the broader public for their continued interest and engagement. The creation of a new cultural hub for the province is not only a museum project—it is a project for all citizens.

I am grateful for the unwavering support and fortitude demonstrated by the Department of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture. They have been essential in advancing our shared goal of preserving and promoting New Brunswick's cultural heritage. Their commitment has been invaluable in helping us move forward with confidence and a sense of purpose.

I am continually reminded that the success of any organization depends on the strength of its people. Our Board is an exceptional group of talented, diverse individuals, each bringing unique skills and perspectives to the table. Their dedication to our mission and commitment to achieving our goals have been invaluable. I am deeply grateful for their hard work during this pivotal time.

Looking forward, we are not only building a new museum, we are realizing a vision to serve as the cultural hub of a larger museum network across the province. This network will bring together our community museums, facilitating collaboration, shared resources, and joint programming. United under one umbrella, we ensure that the diverse history and culture of each region is celebrated and preserved, offering a richer, more accessible narrative of our past.

At the heart of this network lies the New Brunswick Museum, a cornerstone for cultural preservation, education, and engagement. Our vision is to be a dynamic space that fosters connection between communities and their stories. This new, state-of-the-art facility will allow us to expand our exhibitions, enhance our educational programs, and strengthen our outreach across the province.

With construction set to begin, we are entering an exciting phase of this journey. Breaking ground marks a new chapter for cultural preservation and collaboration, a lasting symbol of our shared heritage and a beacon for future generations to explore, learn, and take pride in our rich history.

I am filled with anticipation and excitement for what lies ahead. We are building something that will shape the cultural and historical landscape of New Brunswick for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our shared vision.



TRACY CLINCH
CHAIR

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

I am pleased to provide an overview of the Museum's major achievements over the past year, reflecting our commitment to revitalizing our facilities while providing service for all New Brunswick communities and partners.

One of our most significant accomplishments was the relocation of staff, collections and associated infrastructure from the historic building on Douglas Avenue to a new facility on Lancaster Avenue. This was completed smoothly, with minimal disruption to operations, and the Museum's collections were preserved and accessible throughout the transition.

The retrofit of the Lancaster Avenue facility has also been a major success. Critical upgrades to the exterior cladding and interior climate control systems were completed, improving the building envelope and appearance while increasing energy efficiency and operational functionality.

Additionally, we have made substantial progress on the development of our new Museum facility on Douglas Avenue. The design has been refined and construction is set to begin. I am confident it will meet our functional requirements and align with our vision for a Revitalized NBM.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of the Museum's Board and staff, who generously provide thoughtful, pragmatic feedback, and the efforts of Project Manager JWS Project Management Ltd., Architects Diamond Schmitt, Construction Management partner EllisDon, Simpson Construction, McFawn Construction, the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and our facilities management staff. None of these achievements would have been possible without their vital contribution.

As work on our facilities advances, we will continue province-wide engagement with First Nations and community museums and begin comprehensive, consultation around our exhibitions and programming. Outreach projects such as BiotaNB, the Edmundston Auto Museum, Ministers Island, Place Fort LaTour and the Norton Fossil Center count as tremendous successes, fostering community relationships and ensuring our strategic direction aligns with the expectations of our diverse partners and stakeholders.

This year, we have also worked diligently to increase earned revenue by providing professional services to government and industry clients alike. A key objective of a Revitalized NBM, this has strengthened our financial position and diversified income stream, contributing to our long-term sustainability.

I would like to acknowledge the unwavering support of the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, who have helped make this possible. I am also grateful to the Museum's professional staff, who in addition to their day-to-day responsibilities, have taken on the responsibilities for packing, transport of existing collections while also contributing to the design of the future Museum.

The accomplishments highlighted here emphasize our strategic focus to enhance infrastructure and ensure we are well-positioned for future growth. They will provide lasting, positive impact on our operations, infrastructure and ultimately our ability to serve the community.



BRENT SUTTIE
COO AND DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

PRIORITY PILLARS & OUTCOMES 2023-24

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM

The Strategic Plan establishes clear goals, objectives, and actions to renew the facilities and assure a strong, empowered, and sustainable New Brunswick Museum, which serves all New Brunswickers through an invigorated Pan-NB approach.

The Plan contains Four Priority Pillars, which together convey the longstanding Foundational Values and Priorities of the New Brunswick Museum.

The Priority Pillars and Performance Targets outlined in the Minister of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture's mandate letter serve as the foundation for the Museum's annual planning.

The following section tracks our progress toward these targets.



PRIORITY PILLARS I & II*

I. REGENERATION THROUGH NEW FACILITIES. II. A STRONG AND EMPOWERED NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM

▶ **Select the site for a new building**

JULY 2023 | NBM announces it is moving forward with facilities renewal project at current Douglas Avenue location.

Diamond Schmitt Architects are selected for the Museum's Revitalization project.

▶ **Select a project manager for the next phase**

JANUARY 2023 | JWS Project Management is retained, and EllisDon is named as Construction Manager for Revitalization Project.

▶ **Develop a project budget**

SEPTEMBER 2023 | Project budget approved by Museum BOD. Submitted to Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture.

▶ **Develop and implement engagement plans with stakeholders and partners, including government and Indigenous partners**

SEPTEMBER 2023 | Province-wide engagement sessions begin for Revitalization Project. A 38-page report is produced and available at www.revitalizenbm.com

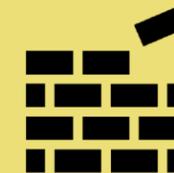
▶ **Engage with New Brunswick Museum Foundation to develop and support the capital campaign plan**

MARCH 2024 | Directors of the Foundation for the NBM are appointed to Capital Campaign Advisory Committee, and a Capital Campaign Consultant is engaged. FNBM assists in the development and support of a campaign plan.

▶ **Enhance communications capability in support of fund-raising**

APRIL 2023 | A communications consultant is retained. A CRM for prospect research and stakeholder communications is well established.

** Pillar II is closely tied to Pillar I and is not shown separately.*



PRIORITY PILLAR III

A VIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE NBM

▶ **Map resources required to support the capital project (those not included in current funding agreements), especially in communications and accounting**

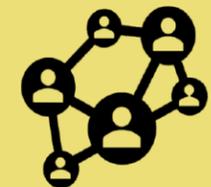
JULY 2023 | Capital campaign goals are announced and a robust communications plan is developed.

▶ **Complete collections move to Lancaster Avenue transitional site and establish transitional operations there.**

DECEMBER 2023 | NBM unveils Research and Collections Center on Lancaster Avenue as progress continues on Revitalization Project. Completion of entire collections move expected in January 2025.

▶ **Identify deficiencies and resources needed to sustain operations during the transition period and to prepare for Revitalized NBM**

ONGOING | Human resources shortages have been identified and are being addressed by filling vacant positions and creating new positions to fill gaps in capacity and expertise. Sustained funding and investment from both public and private sources is a priority.



PRIORITY PILLAR IV

AN INVIGORATED PAN-NB APPROACH

▶ **Collaborate with the Department of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture to engage heritage and museum partners and explore opportunities for support and collaboration with the NBM**

Collaboration with the Department is ongoing. NBM continues to leverage partnerships and collaborations to complement the collections, expertise, knowledge, and research at the NBM-MNB.

▶ **Continue management of regional and provincial Heritage Fairs**

MAY 2023 | NBM was instrumental in the planning and execution of a national-best eight regional heritage fairs and one provincial fair.

▶ **Expand community engagement through enhanced use of digital platforms and content**

ONGOING | A website audit is complete and funding has been secured for an upgrade. New website expected to launch early 2025. The digitization of the Museum's collection continues.

▶ **With a community museum partner, explore the feasibility of a joint exhibition project**

AUGUST 2023 | NBM designed and developed a shared fossil discovery exhibit with the Quaco Museum in St. Martins, N.B.

2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS BY DEPARTMENT

Archives and Research Library

■ OF NOTE

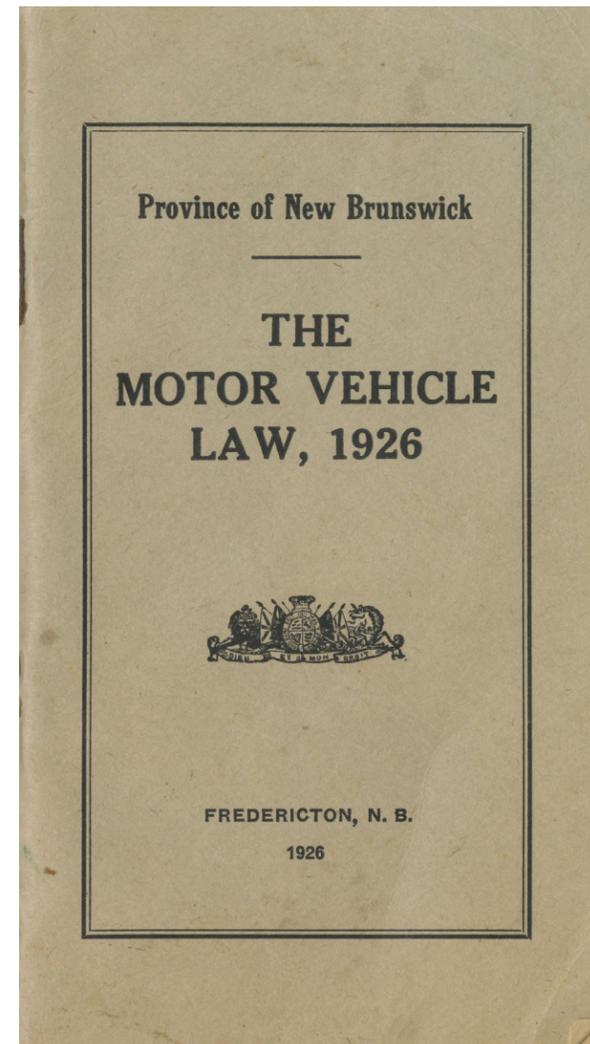
- ▶ Provided consultation, review and training for the development of an archives at **Rothsay Netherwood School**.
- ▶ Staff rehoused a significant number of delicate volumes by making acid-free phase boxes or wrapping in Tyvek in preparation for move to Lancaster Avenue Research & Collections Centre.
- ▶ Forty-five drawers of oversize archival material organized and wrapped in preparation for the collections move.
- ▶ Two volunteers assisted with sorting of collections (**Ganong Library**, **Canadian Illustrated News** and the **London Illustrated News**) and housing of delicate volumes (small monographs into acid-free envelopes).
- ▶ Three summer students were hired under Federal and Provincial student employment programs, and assisted with creating the preliminary listing of outstanding pending additions to the library; researching, sorting and describing an archival fonds as well as the rehousing of archival collections into acid-free boxes in preparation for the collections move.
- ▶ Provided archival loan material for the **Saint John Jewish Historical Museum's** 2023 Summer exhibition, Bar Mitzvah.

■ ACQUISITIONS

379 new titles were added to the research library catalogue and we received issues of sixty-two periodical titles between Apr. 2023 and Mar. 2024.



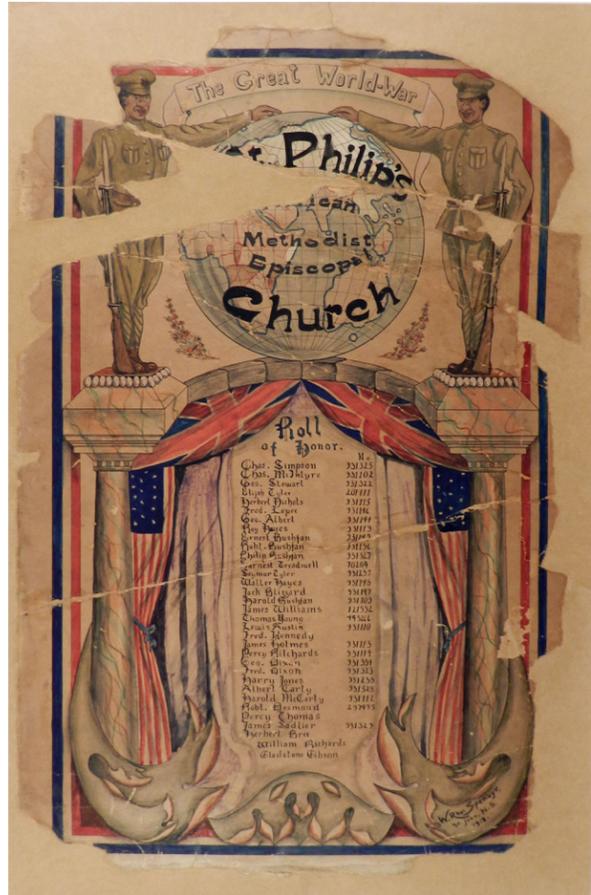
- ▶ **Gordon Henderson**, gift – New Brunswick Tourist Pamphlet, 1939 (*left page*).
- ▶ **Lucy Barnhart**, gift – Motor Vehicle Law, 1926 for Province of New Brunswick (*below*).



- ▶ Purchase – Ephemera and postcards including **Prince of Wales Cottages**, **Aula Overnight Cabins** and **Suzanne's Restaurant**, Grand Falls (*above*).
- ▶ **YMCA Greater Saint John**, gift – 2 photos showing Champion Business Boys' Athletic and Gymnastic Contest 1909-1910.
- ▶ **William W. Gardiner**, gift – Manuscripts on various Saint John and New Brunswick topics, including Sturgeon Man.
- ▶ **Margaret Small Greenshields**, gift – Photograph of Market Slip, Saint John by **Richard Henry Smith**, Sackville, N.B. (*next page*).

■ RESEARCH

Research topics included the **African School** in Saint John governed by the **Madras School Board** in the 1820s and 1830s; the history of the Gallop family and their property in Kingsclear; and a number of genealogy requests, including that of someone whose ancestor was a schooner master, and information about a Saint John family for whom the researcher's ancestor worked as a nanny in the late 1910s.



■ PHOTO REQUEST HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Interpretive Banner displayed at the **New Brunswick Black History Society** re: Union Alley – used the Honour Roll of the **St. Philip's African Methodist Episcopal Church** Honour Roll – April 2023 (*above right*).



- ▶ Interpretive panels at the Tekakapimək Contact Station, Maine – Ganong photos **Nicholas Lolar** (May 2023) (*below left*).
- ▶ 125 NB photographs to be used in a backdrop video presentation for **Symphony New Brunswick's Virtuoso 5: Reflections** – including concerts at Fredericton, Dieppe, and Saint John (Jan 2024).

Development

NBM's Development Department continued to steward the museum's fundraising, donor, sponsorship, and membership programs in 2023. Highlights from the year included:

- ▶ Securing funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program for *Zoology Collections Management: An Upgrade Supporting Global Research*.
- ▶ Securing continued support for BiotaNB through 2024.
- ▶ Securing continuing commitments from numerous generous donors.
- ▶ Supporting NBM's RevitalizeNBM fundraising objectives.
- ▶ Growing NBM's Membership by more than 50%.

We are grateful for support from:

- ▶ The Government of Canada
- ▶ The Department of Canadian Heritage
- ▶ Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)
- ▶ The Province of New Brunswick
- ▶ NB Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development
- ▶ NB Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture
- ▶ New Brunswick Regional Service Commission 8 (Sussex)
- ▶ New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund
- ▶ New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund
- ▶ The McCain Foundation
- ▶ JD Irving, Ltd.
- ▶ S.M. Blair Family Foundation
- ▶ Village of Valley Waters

Exhibitions and Visitor Experience

- ▶ The NBM Boutique had more than \$195,300 in sales, including \$8,800 in online sales. Two-thirds of online purchases were shipped across Canada, from Victoria to St. John's.
- ▶ Provided advice and expertise on exhibitions for various organizations such as the New Brunswick Military History Museum.
- ▶ Museum Interpretation staff have been transferred to Museum Services to assist with packing and moving the NBM's collections.

Museum Services

- ▶ Planning and directing packing and relocation of all NBM collections in coordination with Curators and their staff.
- ▶ Careful packing, documentation, and relocation of NBM collections to Lancaster Avenue.
- ▶ Collections from Crescent Valley were moved to Lancaster Avenue throughout November and December 2023.
- ▶ Collections from Douglas Avenue Collections and Research Center were moved to Lancaster Avenue starting December 2023.
- ▶ NBM staff were trained on equipment and machinery used to unload and store collections.
- ▶ Provided expertise and advice to various organizations on preventive conservation of collections, including Metapenagiag Heritage Park (Stan Modeste's totem pole) and the Albert County Museum.

Humanities

■ OF NOTE

- ▶ Staff member **Tina R. McBriarty**, Curatorial Assistant, retired from the NBM's Humanities Department after forty-one years of service in many sections of the museum including registration, conservation, preparation, exhibitions and research, and the Archives and Research Library
- ▶ Unveiling of the **New Brunswick Mat Registry** diptych hooked mat, *Adagio / Allegro*, at the "Carnegie Hook-In" held in April 2023 in Rothesay.
- ▶ The **New Brunswick Museum/ New Brunswick Mat Registry** collaboration moved ahead with the development of a website and virtual exhibition with the hiring of a project manager as well as the graphic designer.
- ▶ Provided **Albert County Museum** and **R.B. Bennett Centre** with a PowerPoint presentation on the New Brunswick Museum's **Richard Bedford Bennett** Bequest – a collection of items presented to him while he was Prime Minister of Canada from 1930-1935.
- ▶ Provided detailed information on a trade silver hatband (crown) associated with Québec silversmith **Charles Duval** for Professor **Robert Derome** at the **Université du Québec à Montréal**.
- ▶ Consulted with Wabanaki artist **Natasha Sacobie** on the intricate details of a Wolastoqey beaded ermine tobacco pouch that she was reproducing.
- ▶ Provided video interview discussing the work of renowned New Brunswick artist **Kathy Hooper** for a video that accompanied the exhibition, "Mountains of Wonder and Tangles of Truth" shown at the **Saint John Arts Centre** and the **Beaverbrook Art Gallery**.

- ▶ Over seventy-five fragile ship models required specialized support, packing and wrapping for the collections move.

■ ACQUISITIONS



2023.3.8

A collection of ten original hooked mat designs and six hooked mats dating from 1955 to 1962 by **Mary Street Williamson** (1912-1997) of St. Andrews, NB (2023.3) :

- ▶ **Mary Street Williamson**, Canadian, 1912-1997
Hooked mat pattern, 1958-1962
Graphite on brown wove paper
Support: 55.8 × 85 cm
Gift of **Robert Williamson**, 2023 (2023.3.8) ;



2023.3.11

- ▶ **Mary Street Williamson**, Canadian, 1912-1997
Mat, 1961
Hooked wool on burlap
Overall: 52.5 × 81.5 cm
Gift of **Robert Williamson**, 2023 (2023.3.11).

An Imperial War Service Medal presented in July 1945 to **John Allen** (1879-1958), a retired employee of the CNR in the Atlantic Region for faithful service. Gift of **Lt. Col. John Dick** (2023.5).



2023.5



2023.6

In preparation for the documentation of the fiftieth anniversary of the production of the **Bricklin Safety Vehicle** in New Brunswick, this 8 June 1996 first day cover stamp was purchased (2023.6) :

- ▶ **Canada Post Corporation**
Canadian Bank Note Company, Limited,
Canadian, founded 1897.
First day cover: Historic Land Vehicles - Bricklin SV-1 - Sports Car, 1975, 8 June 1996.
Stamp (multi-coloured ink on CPP - Coated Papers Limited paper), mounted on colour letterpress half-tone printed on card.
11.3 × 19 cm
Purchase, 2023 (2023.6).

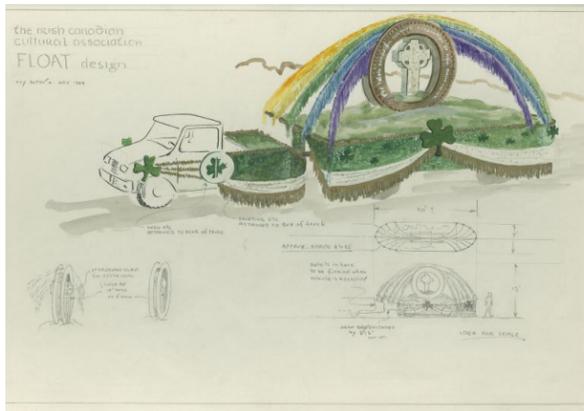
Four works of provincial art were acquired at auction including this evocative work by New Brunswick painter, **Alexander Watson** (1858-1921) who specialized in watercolour landscapes that incorporated figures (2023.7) :

- ▶ **Alexander Watson**, Canadian, 1858-1923
Painting: *Woman and Child at River*, 1921
Watercolour over graphite, heightened with white, on wove paper
35.4 × 26.5 cm
Purchase, 2023 (2023.7.2).

Ray Butler's Preparatory Drawings for a 1987 Parade Float for the Saint John Chapter of the **Irish Cultural Association of New Brunswick**. Gift of **Marijke Block** (2023.8.1.6).



2023.7.2



2023.8.1.6

Some of the performance wardrobe designed by **Elisabeth Rasing** for internationally renowned New Brunswick concert pianist **Margaret Ann Ireland** (1928-2018) [2023.9] :

- ▶ **Elisabeth Rasing**
Dress, before 1963
Silk brocade with polyester ?
122 cm
Gift of Nicola Carter, 2023 (2023.9.3).



2023.9.3

A collection of historic furniture and furnishings from the Jardine Family cottage at Rexton, NB:

- ▶ **Maker Unknown (Canadian School)**
Painted pine with metal
79.4 × 173.5 × 52 cm
Gift of **Barbara Jardine**, 2023 (2023.10).



2023.10



2023.11.5 1



2023.11.5 2

The photographic and movie equipment of renowned filmmaker and wildlife photographer, **Burton Stanley Moore** (1883-1972) of Perth-Andover, NB:

- ▶ **Burton Stanley Moore**, Canadian, 1883-1972
Motion picture camera, 1925-1930 ?
Wood, metal, and film
17.5 × 15 × 24 cm
Gift of **Gary Moore**, 2023 (2023.11.5).

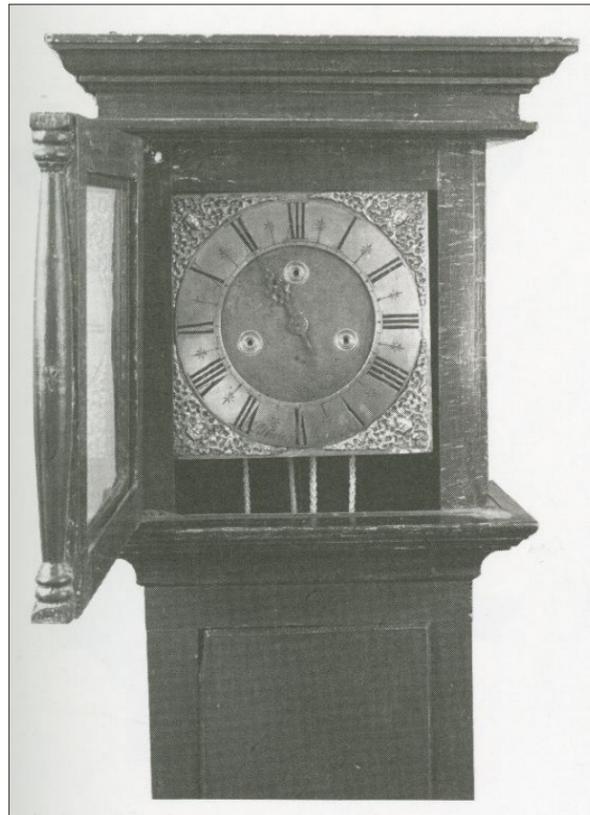
Throughout the year, staff continued to provide the full-size cartoons for the 1948 **Fredericton High School Mural** by **Fred Ross** (1927-2014) :



2023.12.1

- ▶ **Fred Ross**, Canadian, 1927-2014
Drawing: Study for **Fredericton High School**
Mural: Central Figure, 3 October 1946
Crayon over graphite on wove paper ?
200.7 × 71.1 cm
Gift of **Cathy Ross**, 2023 (**2023.12.1**).

An eighteenth-century English clock in a New-Brunswick-made longcase used in Pointe-de-Bute, NB, by the Trueman family :



2023.13

- ▶ **Maker: Robert Henderson**, British, active 1678-1756?
Cabinet Maker: **William Trueman**, British, 1722-1797
Longcase clock: The Trueman Clock, before 1774-1780
Brass with white pine and tamarack
227.5 × 51 × 30 cm
Gift of Eugenia Coates, 2023 (**2023.13**).

■ PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ **Ljubomir Radić** and **Peter J. Larocque**, “General Domville”: *plovidba Saint John- Hong Kong-Split* in **Informatica Museologica**, N°. 53 (2022) [Article about a New Brunswick-built sailing vessel in the collection of the Croation Maritime Museum, Split Croatia].
- ▶ **Peter J. Larocque** and **Amy Ash**, *Breath: An Installation by Ann Manuel* (catalogue accompanying the New Brunswick Museum-curated **Know Your Own Artists** series exhibition to be held at the **Beaverbrook Art Gallery**, Fredericton, NB).
- ▶ *Jack Humphrey: New Brunswick Landscapes – A 2024 calendar* produced by the Humanities Department based on the collections of the New Brunswick Museum.

■ LOANS

Bateau ivre, a sculpture by **André Lapointe** loaned to his retrospective exhibition, *Parcours*, held at the **Beaverbrook Art Gallery**, Fredericton, NB, and the **Galerie d’art Louise-et-Reuben-Cohen**, Moncton, NB.

Three works by **Kathy Hooper** loaned to the **Saint John Art Centre** for a retrospective exhibition of her work organized and curated by **Amy Ash**.

- ▶ *Dark Series I*, 1992
- ▶ *There Could Be a Mountain Near to You Which Spits Flowers into the Air Each Morning*, 1976
- ▶ *Sea of Blue*, 1969.

Loan of Canadian Impressionist **Helen Galloway McNicoll** (1879-1915) painting, *The Farmyard*, c. 1908, to the **Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec** for a major retrospective.

Extension of loan of Mi’kmaq artworks to the **Beaverbrook Art Gallery** for the **Wabanaki Modern** exhibition.

Natural History

■ OF NOTE

- ▶ 399 hours were contributed to the NBM by volunteers throughout the year.
- ▶ Staff member **Mary Sollows**, Curatorial Assistant in Invertebrate Zoology, retired in January after nearly a quarter century at the NBM where she focussed on the invertebrate collections, particularly freshwater mussels.
- ▶ Movement of natural history collections from the Douglas Avenue Museum to the Lancaster Collections and Research Center dominated the year. A rough estimate suggests that by the time the move of natural history collections is complete, in excess of 400 metric tons of wet and dry collections, cabinetry, and shelving will have been shifted.
- ▶ The Gensel Collection of northern New Brunswick, Devonian-aged (390 ma), plant fossils was received from **North Carolina State University**. This world-class collection, consisting of an estimated 3000 specimens, including types (new species), was assembled by **Dr. Patricia Gensel** over a 30-year research career. Dr. Gensel deposited the collection with the NBM, where it can be curated and made accessible for future research and exhibition.
- ▶ **BiotaNB 2023** took place in the **Loch Alva Protected Natural Area** (PNA) near Saint John. Since 2009, BiotaNB has amassed over 33,000 species occurrence records for NB PNAs and documented over 900 new species to the province.
- ▶ Based on specimen and photo vouchers hosted on the NBM **Biodiverse-NB.ca** portal (2.5 million individual records), species checklists for the 207 PNAs were completed to support provincial PNA management plans.

- ▶ A special double-issue of the scientific journal, **The Canadian Field-Naturalist** was issued honoring **Dr. Donald McAlpine** (NBM Head of Natural History Department, Research Curator and Head Zoology Section) for contributions to the understanding of the natural history of the Canadian Maritimes. Organized by friends and colleagues, the issue includes a series of peer-reviewed papers, nearly all with NBM staff and Research Associates among the co-authors.
- ▶ The project *Reassessment of the Conservation Status of Macrofungi in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island* was completed with funding by **Environment and Climate Change Canada**. The project entailed the evaluation of the conservation status of 2,821 species of macrofungi from across the Maritime Provinces, part of the federal reassessment of species for the **Wild Species 2025** report.

The Canadian Field-Naturalist

Notes on the natural history of Donald F. McAlpine

In the high schools of New Brunswick in the early 1970s, a standard textbook for students of French as a second language featured the adventures of a fictional 15-year-old spelologist and aspiring scientist living in southwestern France (Dale and Dale 1964). Little did most of those students (myself among them) know that, in Donald McAlpine, we had a real-life teenaged investigator of local caves and cave life in our midst. By his early 20s, when he graduated with a B.A. in biology from the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Don had already authored several peer-reviewed scientific papers and other articles, mostly on the physical structure and fauna of solution caves in the province.

He reported a hibernating Tricoloured Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), the first provincial record of this

species (McAlpine 1976); examined the diversity and ecology of cave-dwelling earthworms with Dr. John Reynolds, who was then a professor at UNB (McAlpine and Reynolds 1977); documented cave-use by American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*; McAlpine 1977); and assessed the state of faunistic and ecological knowledge of these habitats in New Brunswick, emphasizing the need for further research (McAlpine 1979; see also McAlpine 1983a).

His curiosity and productivity are perennial. Dr. Donald F. McAlpine (Figure 1) is the long-time Research Curator of Zoology and Head of the Department of Natural History at the New Brunswick Museum (NBM). He is an unusually versatile biodiversity scientist who has made prolific contributions to knowledge, conservation, and public appreciation of Canada’s terrestrial, freshwater, and marine biota, focussing on the Atlantic region. His published works include more than 160 peer-reviewed papers, 20 book chapters, a major edited book on the biodiversity of the Atlantic Maritime Ecozone (McAlpine and Smith 2010a), a co-authored volume on the mammals of Prince Edward Island (Curley et al. 2019), flashcard guides to freshwater mussels (McAlpine et al. 2021b) and freshwater fishes of conservation significance (McAlpine and Karsstad *in press*) in the Maritimes, and many more natural history articles written for magazines, newsletters, and other forums. Don is, equally, and has long been, a generous mentor of students and citizen scientists, an instigator and genial leader of collaborative projects; and a tireless advocate for the key role of natural history museums in documenting and conserving biodiversity (McAlpine 1986, 1993, 2011, 2018a, 2022).

Growing up, Don lived in the city of Saint John, a few kilometres across town from the NBM. But every summer, after school was out, his family would move to their small cottage on the bank of the Wolastoq (Saint John River) at Grand Bay, about 15 km upriver from the city and the Bay of Fundy. By all indications, it was here that he emerged as a naturalist, with a special fondness for frogs, turtles, and their kin. With supportive parents, he soon found his way to the museum, and by his curly teens was volunteering after school and on weekends in the NBM natural history collections. At the time, zoologist-curator



FIGURE 1. Donald McAlpine, in Kenedy Lakes Protected Natural Area (PNA), New Brunswick, 14 August 2022. Photo: Mathieu Léger.

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<https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v137i1.3295>

- ▶ With external funding, and a new imaging system in place, the NBM joined the **North American Big Bee Bonanza Project**. Specimen labels and associated 2D images from the NBM collection of bees were made available on-line, supporting data transcription and measurement. The program aims to have over 1 million images of bees on-line from collections that can be used for analyzing the physical traits of pollinators.

■ PUBLICATIONS*

*Names in bold are NBM staff or Research Associates; underline indicates students.

- ▶ Allen L.F., **M.R. Stimson**, **O.A. King**, A.T. Hannberg, **S.J. Hinds**, A.F. Park, A.J. Edwards, M. Montplaisir, L. Marchetti, and S.G. Lucas. 2024. The first tetrapod ichnofaunal assemblage from the Boss Point Formation at Cape Enrage, New Brunswick (abstract). *Atlantic Geoscience Society, Annual Colloquium 2024*, p. 18.

- ▶ Beer, A, E. Burns and **H. S. Randhawa**. 2023. Natural history collections: collaborative opportunities and important sources of information about helminth biodiversity in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 50:3, 351-367, DOI: 10.1080/03014223.2022.2067190.

- ▶ **Blaney, C.S.**, **G. Bishop**, **S.R. Clayden**, and J.P. Goltz. 2023. A substantial eastern disjunction of Douglas' Knotweed (*Polygonum douglasii* Greene, *Polygonaceae*) in New Brunswick, Canada. *Canadian Field Naturalist* 137: 26-31.

- ▶ Bora, S., D.C. Melkani, M. Aarya, S.S. Bisht and **J.W. Reynolds**. 2023. Laboratory observations on incubation and hatchling pattern of the cocoons of the earthworm *Octolasion tyrtaeum*. *Megadrilologica* 28(4): 45–52.

- ▶ Brown, G.G., S.W. James, Cs. Csaba, E. Lapied, T. Decaëns, **J.W. Reynolds**, M. Misirlioğlu, M. Stovanić, T. Trakić, J. Sekulić, H.R.P. Phillips and E. Cameron. 2023. A checklist of megadrile

earthworm (*Annelida: Clitellata*) species and subspecies of the world [Data set]. In *Zootaxa* (v.1). *Zenodo*. [https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7301848].

- ▶ **Browne, C.L.** and **S.A. Sullivan**. 2023. Size records and demographics of an Eastern Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta picta*) urban population near the northern limit of the species' range in eastern Canada. *Canadian Field Naturalist* 137: 103-113.
- ▶ **Browne, C.L.** and **S.A. Sullivan**. 2023. Exotic Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) observations and removal from New Brunswick, Canada. *Canadian Field Naturalist* 137: 114-119 (**below**).
- ▶ Calder, J., P. Brunet, **M. Stimson**, and L. MacNeil. 2024. The Carboniferous-Permian tetrapod fossil record of Prince Edward Island reaches global significance (abstract). *Atlantic Geoscience Society, Annual Colloquium 2024*, p. 23.

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Acknowledgements
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FIGURE 1. Mineral staining on three plastral scutes (one gular and two anal scutes) from a Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) that was caught at First Arch in Fisher Lakes on 6 May 2015. Photo: Andrew Sullivan.

section of Fisher Lakes). We eradicated the exotic Red-eared Slider population in Rockwood Park with relatively little effort using baited hoop traps, hand captures, and a basking trap combined with a public education program.

Author Contributions
Conceptualization: C.L.B.; Investigation: C.L.B. and S.A.S.; Data Curation: C.L.B. and S.A.S.; Project Administration: C.L.B.; Writing – Original Draft: C.L.B.; Writing – Review & Editing: C.L.B. and S.A.S.; Visualization: C.L.B.; Funding Acquisition: C.L.B.

TABLE 3. Provincial population size and climate comparisons from three representative sites in New Brunswick (NB), Nova Scotia (NS), and Ontario (ON).

Province	Human population size*	Location	Average daily temperature, °C (SD)		Average annual degree-days†	
			January	July	Above 10°C	Above 18°C
NB	0.8 × 10 ⁶	Saint John	-7.9 (2.3)	17.1 (0.7)	708.3	36.4
NS	1.0 × 10 ⁶	Halifax	-4.1 (1.9)	18.8 (1.0)	921.9	114.3
ON	15.1 × 10 ⁶	London	-5.6 (2.8)	20.8 (1.3)	1256.3	255.5

*Statistics Canada 2022.
†From 1981 to 2010 (ECCC 2022).

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Canadian Field Naturalist 137: 1

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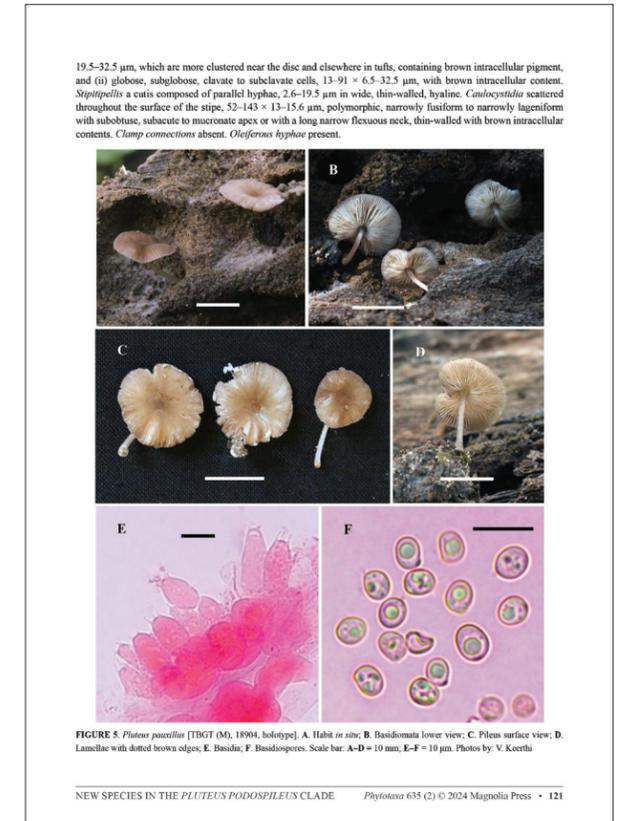


FIGURE 5. *Peltus pauciflor* [TBGT (M), 18904, holotype]. A. Habit in situ; B. Basidiomata lower view; C. Pileus surface view; D. Lamellae with dotted brown edges; E. Basidia; F. Basidiospores. Scale bar: A-D = 10 mm; E-F = 10 µm. Photos by: V. Keerthi

NEW SPECIES IN THE *PLUTEUS PODOSPILEUS* CLADE *Phytotaxa* 635 (2) © 2024 Magnolia Press • 121

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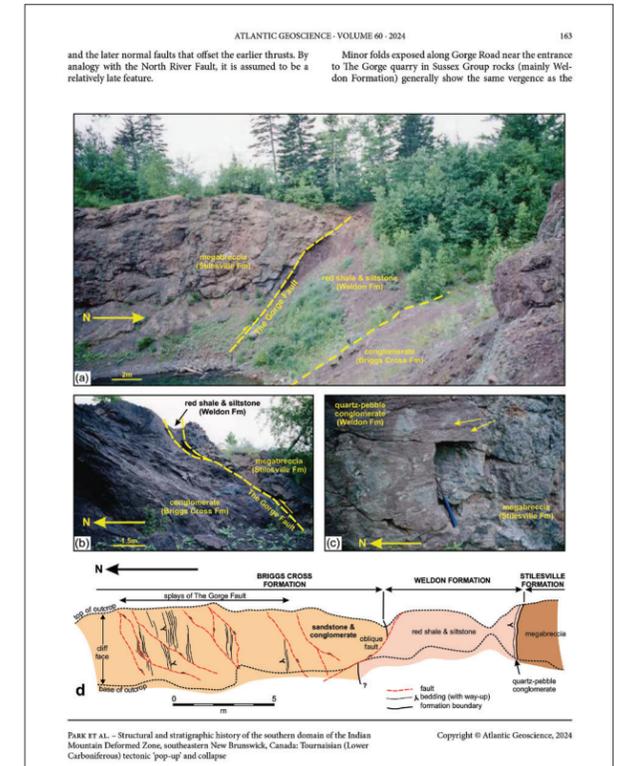


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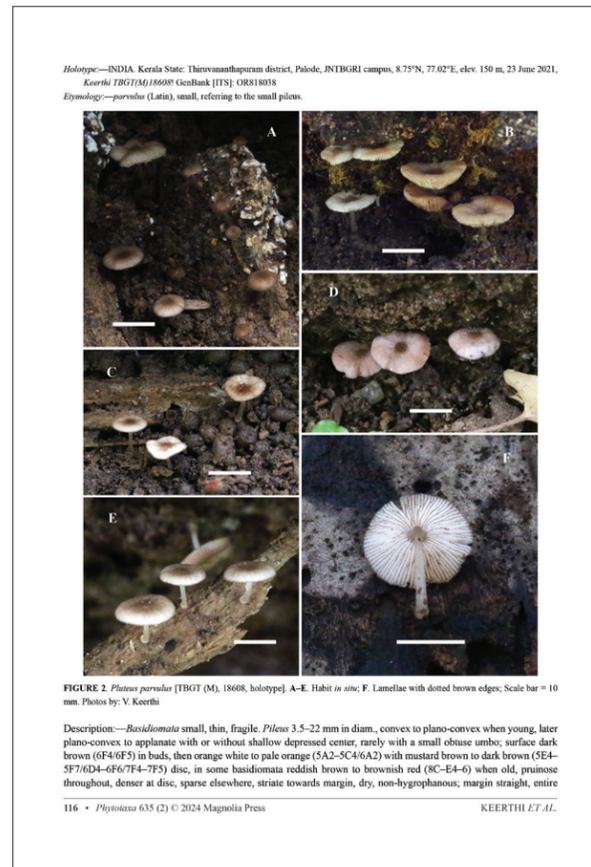
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LOANS

35 loans, comprising 2,293 natural history specimens, were made to researchers and institutions provincially, nationally (British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec), and internationally (Germany, Norway, Spain, United States).

Specimens included a variety of fossils, lichens, fungi, mosses, vascular plants, insects, molluscs, parasitic worms, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.



V.F. Zoll, A.M. Bremner et al, Canadian Field Naturalist 137

Loans were made to institutions and agencies that included Acadia University, Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, Canadian BioGenome Project Genome Sciences Centre, Canadian Museum of Nature, Maliseet Nation Conservation Council, Simon Fraser University, Stonehammer Global UNESCO Geopark, Quaco Museum, Université de Montréal, University of New Brunswick, American Museum of Natural History, Hoosier Mushroom Society, New York State Museum, Purdue University, University of Arizona, University of Florida, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, University of Montana, University of New Mexico, University of Tennessee, Smithsonian Institution, Smithsonian National Zoological Park, United States Department of Agriculture, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, University of Oviedo, and the University of Tuebingen.



Documenting NB's biodiversity is an ongoing effort of the Museum's Natural History Department.

Since 2009 the BiotaNB program has focused on yearly biological surveys of Protected Natural Areas (PNA) in our province. Tens of thousands of species occurrences have been collected since the project began, but it may take months or even years for the full results to emerge.

During BiotaNB 2022 (Kennedy Lakes PNA), NBM Research Associate Dr. Greg Thorn collected a small, brown mushroom of the genus *Pluteus*.

After morphological and DNA studies, we know that this collection is *Pluteus inexpectatus*, a species only described in 2023 by Dr. Alfredo Justo and Renée Lebeuf, based on material from Quebec.

The NB collection is a new record for the province and Atlantic Canada, and only the third collection of this species known worldwide!

■ ACQUISITIONS

During 2023-24 records for 958 specimens or specimen lots across 10 collections (fungi, lichens, vascular plants, general invertebrates, molluscs, insects, fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and mammals) were added to the NBM natural history databases. Some noteworthy acquisitions follow.



- ▶ **Gray Treefrog** (*Hyla versicolor*): Welsford, Kings County, NB, 8 July 2023 (NBM-AR-013348). During BiotaNB 2023 NBM staff and associates documented the first occurrences of the Gray Treefrog in Saint John and Kings Counties. This species is currently undergoing a range expansion in the province, partly in response to climate change.

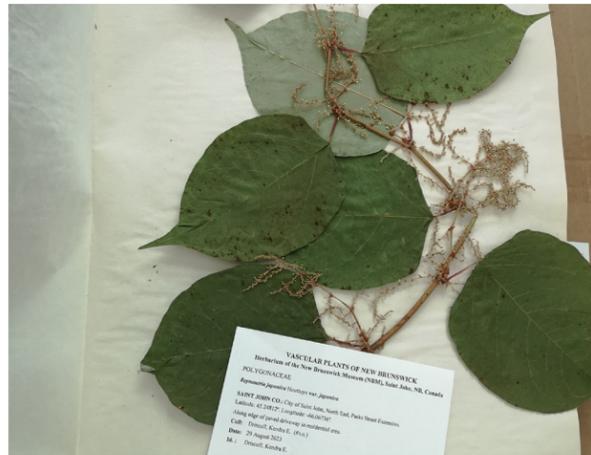


- ▶ **Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*): Ebenezer, Queens County, PEI, 28 April 2023 (NBM-AV-014406). There are only handful of records for the Barn Owl in Maritime Canada. This specimen was picked up dead. As is now routine for NBM natural history collections, the record includes

the dried skin and skeleton, dried tissue, frozen tissue in fluid stored at -80° C, and images associated with the record available on-line.



- ▶ **Witches Cauldron** (*Sarcosoma globosum*): Glassville, Carleton, County, NB, 8 May 2020 (NBM-F009811). This rarely encountered, circumboreal species was included in the publication "Expanded geographical distribution of *Sarcosoma globosum* (witches cauldron) in Canada", recently accepted for publication in the journal Acta Mycologica.



- ▶ **Japanese Knotweed** (*Reynoutria japonica*): Saint John, Saint John County, NB, 29 August 2023 (NBM-VP-044082). An invasive plant introduced to North America as a garden ornamental. This specimen was collected specifically to support research underway at the University of Tuebingen, Germany. The work seeks to understanding invasiveness by looking at variations in secondary metabolites in leaves. Leaf samples from older specimens in the NBM herbarium were also sampled for the project.



- ▶ **Shield Mushroom** (*Pluteus inexpectatus*): Grondines, Portneuf County, Quebec, 24 October 2021 (NBM-F-009793). A newly described species (see Ševčíková et al. 2023 in Publications), this is the specimen on which the description is based (the holotype). This and two other subsequent collections now in the NBM, one made by NBM Research Associate Dr. Greg Thorn in the Kennedy Lakes PNA during BiotaNB 2022, are currently the only three collections for the species in the world.



- ▶ **Round-backed Worm** (*Dendrobaena attemsi*): 1.6 km northwest of Halfmoon Lake, Kennedy Lakes PNA, 7 July 2019 (NBM-GI-11652). There are now 21 species of earthworm species reported from NB. With two exceptions all are of European or Asian origin, and all can have profound impacts on soil ecosystems.

This specimen (see McAlpine et al. 2023 in Publications) represents only the second Canadian occurrence for this European species, the first being from British Columbia.



- ▶ **Horseshoe crab** (*Kouphichnium lithographicum*): Cape Enrage, Albert County, NB, 1 August 2020 (NBM-GF-22762). This 320 million year old trace fossil trackway preserves the activity of early horseshoe crabs. It is one of many examples of vertebrate and invertebrate trace fossils recovered from Cape Enrage that are redefining our understanding of ancient climate change events during the Carboniferous Period in the region.



- ▶ **Fern** (*Sphenopteris* sp.? and *Mariopteris* sp.): Dalhousie (now Heron Bay), Restigouche County, NB, 29 September 2021 (NBM-GF-23388, 23390). Ferns are rarely preserved as "fiddleheads" (*Sphenopteris* sp.?) because they grow into unfurled ferns (*Mariopteris* sp.) fairly quickly. This makes this and other examples of Carboniferous Period (310 MYA) fossil fiddleheads a rare and unique discovery.

New Brunswick Museum Unveils Discovery of Rare 3D Fossilized Tree



In 2024 the New Brunswick Museum announced the publication of a remarkable discovery in New Brunswick palaeontology: the unveiling of a rare 3D fossilized tree that sheds new light on the evolution of early plant life.

The discovery was made in 2017 by Matt Stimson, NBM Assistant Curator of Geology and Palaeontology and Olivia King, NBM Research Associate and Saint Mary's University (Halifax) graduate student, near the village of Norton (now called Valley Waters). The fossil dates to the early Carboniferous period, approximately 350 million years ago. The discovery is being featured in a recent issue of the prestigious peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Current Biology*.



Smithsonian

Rare Fossil Shows Trees Looked Very Different 350 Million Years Ago

The newly discovered specimen looks like something from the imagination of Dr. Seuss, and it sheds light on a little-understood era of prehistory

Christian Thorsberg
Daily Correspondent
February 5, 2024

Forbes

FORBES > INNOVATION > SCIENCE

Weird Tree From 350 Million Years Ago Looks Like It's From Another Planet

Leslie Katz Contributor @
I write about the intersection of art, science and technology.

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Rare Fossilized Dr. Seuss-Like Trees Reveal Oddball Natural Experiment

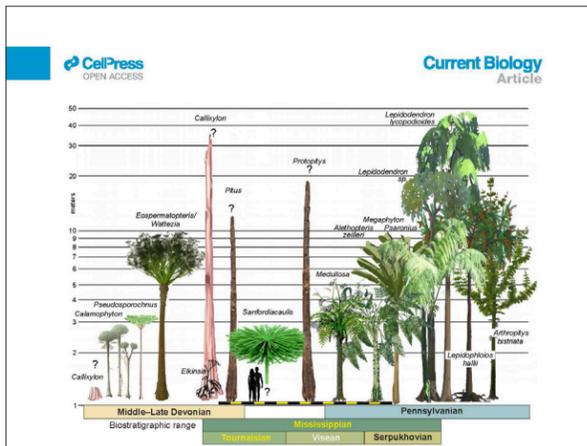
An ancient grove found in Canada provides a snapshot into some of the oldest tree forms

NATIONAL POST

News / Canada

Tropical New Brunswick home to Dr. Seuss-like tree from around 350 million years ago

The fossil of the extinct tree was found in 2017 and had a narrow trunk with a pompom top, similar to trees in Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*



Marketing and Communications

- ▶ The New Brunswick Museum achieved significant growth across its social media platforms in 2023-24. Reach on Facebook was up 292% over the same period last year, Interactions were up 285% and post shares increased by 467%. The Museum's Instagram account experienced similar growth. Reach was up 365% and Engagement was up 515%. In fact, all social media metrics increased, across all platforms.

■ SOCIAL MEDIA TOP 6



nbn_mmb

Le Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick est fier d'annoncer qu'un numéro spécial de la revue *Canadian Field-Naturalist* rend hommage au Dr. Donald McAlpine, chef de département de l'histoire naturelle et conservateur chargé de recherche / chef du département de zoologie au musée. Le numéro spécial "Honouring Donald F. McAlpine: Contributions to the Natural History of the Canadian Maritime" features twelve research articles authored by his colleagues and a biographical introduction highlighting his incredible work in biodiversity research, conservation, and more.

Check it out here: <https://bit.ly/3L4JKYD>



nbn_mmb

Today the New Brunswick Museum (NBM) Board of Directors marked a significant step forward for the Revitalize NBM project, with the unveiling of its bold new design and the announcement of critical funding.

"We are thrilled to unveil the design for New Brunswick's provincial museum, which embraces the historic Douglas Avenue location while creating a welcoming and engaging space for everyone," said Tracy Cline, Chair of the New Brunswick Museum Board. "With substantial funding from the provincial and federal governments and a significant contribution from the museum itself, this project represents an important milestone for our province. It's a testament to our commitment to preserving New Brunswick's rich heritage while embracing sustainability and innovation."

Read the full press release on nbn-mmb.ca

#NBM #NewBrunswick #History #Culture #Community

NOTICE:
New Brunswick Museum prepares for move out of Douglas Avenue Facility

AVIS:
Le personnel du Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick (MNB) se prépare à quitter les installations de l'avenue Douglas

NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM / MUSÉE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK



nbn_mmb

Calling all critter experts and backyard biologists! There's a new beetle in town and we need your help confirming its existence in New Brunswick! *Eliciscus micheli* is a species of weevil new to science, as described by (British) North American Associate, Julia Lewis and Canadian Museum of Nature Research Scientist, Dr. Robert Anderson: <https://doi.org/10.1093/iob/obz023>. This little insect has been spotted in Quebec and Maine, so researchers suspect its presence in NB! Keep an eye out for this distinctive little weevil on miller catkins in early spring! And of course, let us know if you find it!

#Beetlefeature #Insects #Research

CREATURE FEATURE
BULLETIN DES BESTIOLES

nbn_mmb

The New Brunswick Museum invites all residents to join the conversation and be a part of shaping the future of the NBM.

A series of public engagement sessions will take place in various locations across the province, where participants can expect to engage in interactive discussions, share their ideas, and learn more about the project's preliminary design concepts and the overall vision for the revitalized museum.

To RSVP for the public engagement session in your area, please visit the official project page: www.RevitalizeNBM.ca

Le Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick invite tous les résidents et résidentes à participer à la discussion et à contribuer à façonner l'avenir du MNB.

Les séances de mobilisation auront lieu dans divers endroits de la province, où les participantes et participants peuvent s'attendre à des discussions interactives, à offrir leurs idées et à en apprendre davantage sur les concepts préliminaires du projet et sur la vision globale du musée revitalisé.

Pour vous renseigner davantage sur le projet de revitalisation du MNB et confirmer votre présence à une séance d'engagement public dans votre région, veuillez visiter la page officielle du projet: www.RevitalizeNBM.ca

THE NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM

LE MUSÉE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended March 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

	General Fund	Property and Equipment Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	2024	2023
Revenues:						
Grants:						
Provincial	\$ 2,960,060	\$ 2,983,500	\$ 1,426,292	\$ –	\$ 7,369,852	\$ 4,091,484
Federal	–	–	3,716	–	3,716	149,521
Interest income	92,529	–	–	87,632	180,161	117,066
Webster Foundation	–	–	–	76,512	76,512	63,639
Museum services (note 5)	32,511	–	489,307	–	521,818	(130,792)
Other grants	–	–	20,699	–	20,699	88,168
Bequests and donations	–	–	29,144	22,246	51,390	81,124
	<u>3,085,100</u>	<u>2,983,500</u>	<u>1,969,158</u>	<u>186,390</u>	<u>8,224,148</u>	<u>4,460,210</u>
Expenditures:						
Salaries and benefits	2,484,798	–	390,363	–	2,875,161	2,592,428
Materials, supplies and services	651,691	–	1,182,879	23,910	1,858,480	892,528
Amortization	–	146,683	–	–	146,683	129,105
Collections and accessions	7,275	–	7,681	–	14,956	28,594
Grants	–	–	2,300	–	2,300	999
	<u>3,143,764</u>	<u>146,683</u>	<u>1,583,223</u>	<u>23,910</u>	<u>4,897,580</u>	<u>3,643,654</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(58,664)	2,836,817	385,935	162,480	3,326,568	816,556
Gain on sale of investments	–	–	–	25,522	25,522	3,648
Net surplus (deficit)	(58,664)	2,836,817	385,935	188,002	3,352,090	820,204
Fund balance, beginning of year	61,521	315,434	1,843,132	2,826,076	5,046,163	4,334,383
	<u>2,857</u>	<u>3,152,251</u>	<u>2,229,067</u>	<u>3,014,078</u>	<u>8,398,253</u>	<u>5,154,587</u>
Interfund transfers	58,664	124,431	(106,583)	(76,512)	–	–
Net remeasurement gains (losses)	–	–	–	116,158	116,158	(108,424)
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 61,521	\$ 3,276,682	\$ 2,122,484	\$ 3,053,724	\$ 8,514,411	\$ 5,046,163



Scan the QR code for financial statements and accompanying notes.