

Trust donates \$5,000 for peninsula projects

The Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust is donating \$3,000 to the Protected Areas Association (PAA) and \$2,000 to the Western Newfoundland Model Forest (WNMF) for two innovative environmental projects on the Great Northern Peninsula.

"Since 1999 the Legacy Nature Trust has been a partner and funder of more than 20 environmental projects around Newfoundland and Labrador," said Tammy Baldwin, interim executive director of the Legacy Nature Trust. "We are pleased to be in a position to invest in conservation efforts on the Great Northern Peninsula, and the worthwhile projects of the Protected Areas Association and the Western Newfoundland Model Forest."

The Protected Areas Association (PAA) has been dedicated to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use in Newfoundland and Labrador for more than 15 years. Funds donated from the Legacy Nature Trust will be used for mapping and field reconnaissance work in the virgin old growth forests of the Great Northern Peninsula.

Dr. John McCarthy, award-winning forest ecologist, will be leading the study, which will result in a series of maps and a clearer understanding of a new Newfoundland phenomenon — the Old Growth Boreal Forests.

"We welcome our first grant from Legacy Nature Trust, and it couldn't be for a more important project," said Laura Jackson, executive director of the PAA. "We need to know much more about the unique eastern Great Northern Peninsula forests, before the Province can make decisions about whether to simply log them or to conserve large portions of them for scientific research, recreation and ecotourism opportunities.

She said Dr. John McCarthy is the ideal person to conduct

this study, since he discovered the existence of an old-growth type of boreal forest in the Main River watershed at the southern end of the Great Northern Peninsula coastal forests.

The Legacy Nature Trust is also supporting the work of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest (WNMF) — a group of environmental stakeholders working together to advance sustainable environmental and forest management in Newfoundland and Labrador and beyond. Funds donated from the Legacy Nature Trust are being used to implement a rare plant survey, which aims to produce a list of rare plant species in the Doctor's Brook area of the Great Northern Peninsula.

"The Doctor's Brook rare plant survey on the Northern Peninsula will provide important information to assess the abundance and distribution of rare plants in the area," said Sian French, Parks and Natural Areas Division and Partner of the WNMF.

In particular, the study will attempt to relocate rare plants which have not been observed in the greater highlands of the St. John Bay area for at least 20 years; record accurate locations of all rare plants; and make recommendations about which areas should be included in the ecological reserve and which areas could be managed for timber production, based on rare plant distribution.

The Legacy Nature Trust is a charity that invests in the efforts of groups that develop effective projects to conserve the quality of the natural environments of Newfoundland and Labrador. Next June, the Legacy Nature Trust will be co-host of 'Valuing Nature — Stewardship and Conservation in Canada', a national conference that will bring an estimated 600 delegates from across Canada, to Corner Brook.

*NORTHERN PEN
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