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Fundy Biosphere Reserve
Réserve de la biosphère
de Fundy

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Message from the Executive Director



The 2016-2017 year was a year of change for the biosphere when we said goodbye and thank you to Megan de Graaf, who lead FBR through 6 challenging and successful years. Megan built a legacy of partnership, education and environmental stewardship which is reflected in our 2016-2017 projects and initiatives.

In this short time I have been Executive Director, I have been impressed and grateful for the partnerships and supporters of the biosphere who help build our capacity, reach and effect throughout this amazing region. Together, we can meaningfully build capacity in our communities, promote sustainable development and build appreciation and conservation of our region's natural and cultural assets.

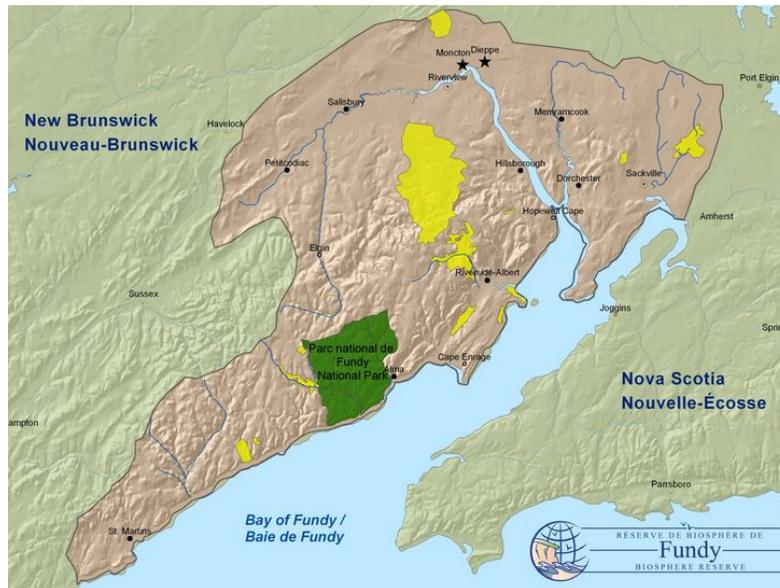
I am delighted to join FBR and help celebrate our 10th anniversary and Canada's 150th birthday in 2017. We have a lot of exciting initiatives and partnerships developing, so I invite you to stay connected and join Fundy Biosphere Reserve as we look to the next 10 years!

All the best,

Jennifer Dingman, PhD
Executive Director
Fundy Biosphere Reserve

Introduction

In September 2007, Fundy Biosphere Reserve was given UNESCO designation as a World Biosphere Reserve. It joined a network of Biosphere Reserves across Canada and hundreds worldwide, whose overall goal is to improve the relationship between people and their environment by promoting the conservation of biodiversity and fostering sustainable development initiatives.



Fundy Biosphere Reserve is an area of over 430,000 hectares of the upper Bay of Fundy, stretching from St. Martins to the Tantramar Marsh, near Sackville, and inland to Moncton. It is a community based initiative comprised of individuals and representatives of various stakeholder groups, organizations and local communities working to promote the sustainable development of the region by enhancing the research and innovation capacity and by creating a forum for various groups to share information, knowledge and best practices.

Mission, Vision and Objectives

The UNESCO Fundy Biosphere Reserve's mission is dedicated to conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable economic development.

Its vision is to create a diverse network of partners and stakeholders who will work to assist communities and resource sectors on the upper Bay of Fundy achieve a greater level of sustainability, while preserving the area's natural heritage. This will be achieved by focusing on the following:

- 1) **Conservation:** to contribute to the knowledge and practices concerning the conservation of ecosystems, species and the natural genetic diversity of the region;
- 2) **Sustainable Development:** to foster and promote sustainable development, i.e. development that is ecologically, culturally, economically sustainable across human generations; and,
- 3) **Capacity Building:** to provide a forum for dialogue and information sharing between communities, resource sectors, government agencies and researchers. It will achieve this through strategies that will focus on outreach, education, monitoring and research.

Building on these functions, the objectives of the UNESCO Fundy Biosphere Reserve are to:

- 1) Provide a forum for dialogue and information sharing between communities, resource sectors, government agencies and researchers;
- 2) Create a cooperative network of partners who will work to assist communities to achieve greater sustainable development; and,
- 3) Develop a governance model based on Research, Monitoring, Education and Outreach Committees.

The 2016-17 Board of Directors

The 2016-17 Board of Directors was comprised of ten Directors from various stakeholder groups throughout the region. The Directors, and their affiliations, are listed below:

Name	Affiliation
Micha Fardy (Chair)	Town of Riverview
Paul Gaudet (Vice-Chair)	Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park
Guy Gautreau (Secretary)	Community Member, Memramcook
Heather Fraser (Treasurer)	City of Moncton
Livia Goodbrand	Fundy National Park
Ken Kelly	Cliffside Inn and Suites
Charlene Fox	City of Moncton
Denise Roy	Conservation Representative
Edmund Redfield	
Alonzo Leger	

The Team

The Fundy Biosphere Reserve's office saw change in 2016-2017 but was productive none-the-less. **Megan de Graaf**, Executive Director until the end of 2016, initiated our comprehensive 10 year review, began the development of our Amazing Places Challenge and worked to engage community, government and stakeholders in the region and beyond. **Jennifer Dingman** joined as Executive Director in early 2017. Jennifer quickly began working to bring community together around common goals for the future of sustainable tourism, education, and stewardship in our region. **Ben Phillips**, Conservation Scientist until mid-2016, initiated public discussion around the wildlife corridors along the Chignecto Isthmus and engaged adventurers and tourists through video, photographs and storytelling at many of FBR's Amazing Places.

Progress Report – Projects and Activities

Surviving the Fundy Footpath



Surviving the Fundy Footpath is a six-part web documentary series (produced by VideoBand Productions) that follows Bruce Persaud, a city slicker from Toronto, with zero camping experience, as he attempts to complete one of Canada's toughest multi-day hikes. The project was a collaboration of the Fundy Biosphere Reserve, the Fundy Hiking Trail Association and VideoBand Productions that began in the 2015-2016 year and continues through this and next year with public screenings, film festivals and online release through our many partner organizations.

The documentary follows Bruce along the Fundy Footpath, a physically demanding and surprisingly tough trail that is listed by Explorer Magazine as one of North America's top 50 hikes. Many hikers, like newcomer Bruce, are caught off-guard during their first Fundy Footpath expedition. Thankfully, Bruce was surrounded by a perfect team to teach him everything he needed to know to complete the through-hike, including Alonzo Leger who built the Fundy Footpath, his son Marc Leger who is the current Fundy Footpath Trail Master, Ben Phillips, the Fundy Biosphere Reserve's Conservation Scientist and filmmaker Craig Norris of VideoBand Productions. By following Bruce's journey, would-be Fundy Footpath hikers get a glimpse of what it takes to complete the Footpath and how to better prepare themselves for the journey. The series also showcases with breathtaking imagery just how unique and incredible the Fundy Footpath is as a hiking experience.

The original 6-part short episodes blossomed into a 41 minute documentary which was accepted into numerous film festivals including the local, first annual Tideland Doc Fest hosted by Videoband Productions and others internationally. The 6-part series will be released on YouTube over six days starting Monday, May 8, 2017.

Amazing Places Challenge

In celebration of Canada's 150th year and the amazing places Canada has to offer, Fundy Biosphere Reserve has developed the Amazing Places Challenge to showcase 7 of our region's best sites and adventures. The challenge encourages people to visit all 50 Amazing Places and share their stories on social media.

Fundy Biosphere Reserve is home to a wide diversity of great trails and even greater destinations. FBR teamed up with Videoband Productions to create a photo essay series that will take you to seven *Amazing Places* and invite you to see unique activities, meet adventurous people and enjoy the landscape at the perfect moment. The series tells the stories of interesting local characters celebrating their favourite activities in their favourite *Amazing Places*. Once you see these Canadians doing what they love, where they love, it will be difficult not to want to join them.

This inspiring photo essay series encourages everyone to join the *Amazing Places Challenge* to create a deeper connection with the places of the region and tell their own story!



Partnership Program

In early 2016, the Fundy Biosphere Reserve launched its Partnership Program with four community Partners. These Partners have demonstrated their support of the FBR's activities by joining the Program. We'd like to offer our thanks to Legacy Partners Fundy National Park and VideoBand Productions, who have offered the FBR significant and long-term financial or in-kind support, and Developing Partners TransAlta and 91.9 The Bend CKNI. Without the support of these partners, the FBR would not be able to continue to offer impactful and relevant programming.

Funding

In 2016-17, the FBR successfully leveraged project funding received from the NB Environmental Trust Fund, Parks Canada, and Canada 150 to build capacity and produce meaningful projects in the region.



Financial Summary 2016-17

INCOME	Budget	Received	Receivable
Reserve	\$28,354.58	\$28,354.58	\$0.00
Mountain Equipment Co-op	\$34,456.00	\$25,842.00	\$8,614.00
NB Environmental Trust Fund	\$46,000.00	\$46,000.00	\$0.00
NBDHIC	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Fundy National Park	\$0.00	\$2,158.67	\$0.00
Memberships	\$100.00	\$221.40	\$0.00
Partnership program	\$0.00	\$4,927.20	\$0.00
Total	\$111,910.58	\$110,503.85	\$8,614.00
EXPENSES	Budget	To Date	Balance
Reserve	\$28,354.58	\$28,354.58	\$0.00
Salaries, MERCs, & RG Remittances	\$52,740.00	\$47,990.19	\$4,749.81
Office and Administration			
Bookkeeper	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Insurance	\$2,065.00	\$2,065.00	\$0.00
Communications & Distribution (Phone, Internet, Website, P.O. Box)	\$2,180.00	\$25.00	\$2,155.00
Materials and Supplies	\$0.00	\$140.11	-\$140.11
Bank Fees	\$100.00	\$125.00	-\$25.00
Travel and Field Expenses (general)	\$0.00	\$97.20	-\$97.20
Training and Skills Development	\$200.00	\$75.00	\$125.00
Projects			
Fundy Footpath Amazing Places	\$29,363.00	\$20,362.71	\$9,000.29
Forests of the Future	\$3,268.00	\$5,066.12	-\$1,798.12
CC Education in Schools and Communities	\$2,161.00	\$4,043.42	-\$1,882.42
Total Expenses for 2015-16	\$121,031.58	\$108,944.33	\$12,087.25
	-\$9,121.00	\$1,559.52	-\$3,473.25
Excess of Revenues over Expenses		\$10,173.52	

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