

Miramichi Naturalist Club (a work in progress)

Club History Part 1, 1973 to 1990

(A work in progress by Peter Gadd. All suggestions and further information very gratefully received.

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MNC Presidents and New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists (NBFN) Involvement by members of the Miramichi Naturalist Club.

Year of NBFN AGM's	Presidents*	NBFN (D – Director)	No. NBFN Clubs
1973	John Bethell **		
1974	John Bethell		6
1975	John Bethell ?	Don LeHeup D.	6
1976	Harry Walker	Don LeHeup D.	6
1977	George Cadogan	Don LeHeup D.	6
1978	Winnie Walker	Harry Walker Pres. Vernon Goodfellow D.	6
1979	Vernon Goodfellow	Harry Walker Pres. Vernon Goodfellow VP Sarah Lounsbury D.	6
1980	?	Harry Walker Past P. P. Vernon Goodfellow VP Sarah Lounsbury D.	6
1981	Harry Walker	Harry Walker Past P. P. Sarah Lounsbury D.	6
1982	Harry Walker	Harry Walker Past P. P. Sarah Lounsbury D.	7
1983	?	Harry Walker Past P. P. Ian Walker V.P. Sarah Lounsbury D.	7
1984	?	Harry Walker D.	8
1985	?	Harry Walker D.	8
1986	?	Harry Walker D.	8
1987	?	Harry Walker D.	10
1988	?	Harry Walker D.	11
1989	?	Harry Walker D.	11
1990	?	Harry Walker D.	11

Others who were on the club's executive at various times in the 70's:

Ian Ward, Susan Marshall, Alma Smith, Jim Clark, Sheila Cameron, Jack Scott

** 276 Heath Court Newcastle is always listed as the Miramichi Naturalists' Club's address during this era, presumably Harry's address. NBFN Column fairly accurate as NBFN exec often listed in the publication.

**John Bethell primarily responsible for organizing the Miramichi Naturalist Club (North Shore Leader 29, March 1978 – Wildlife Column)

Miramichi Naturalists' Club formed in early 1973. Accepted as a federated club along with the Chignecto Club, at a meeting of the Board of Directors in Loggieville August 4, 1973.

Miramichi Naturalists' Club 1973 executive:

John Bethal – Pres., Harry Walker – V.P., Phillipa Brock – Secretary, John Keating – Treasurer. The founding executive.

In 1984 Harry and Vernon were involved with the NBFN Scholarship Fund

In 1988 the NBFN AGM's were named as Festivals of Nature. A change in name only as it seems the previous AGM's had a very similar format to FoN's.

In 1982 the Miramichi Naturalist Club invited NBFN members to a weekend field trip to explore the Sevogle River Gorge.

Ian Walker, who was very active with the club during this time, has provided a wealth of material from this era including very many articles printed in the local papers in the 70's and 80's. They are linked at the bottom of this document. Some of this information has been gleaned from the NBFN publication the NB Naturalist.

19 August 1983 in Miramichi Weekend:

"It is now official - the Black-capped Chickadee is New Brunswick's Provincial Bird. This was proclaimed by Lieutenant - Governor George Stanley at the annual meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation held in Sackville, from August 11 to 14. This time we are ahead of Ontario since it has no Provincial Bird. **It was two Miramichiers who were largely responsible for bringing this about. George Cadogan first proposed the idea of selecting a Provincial Bird at one of our Miramichi Naturalist Club meetings. Sara Lounsbury of Chatham conducted the preliminary opinion polls that led to the selection of the 4 birds, that were placed on the final ballot - the Black-capped Chickadee, the Gray Jay, the Robin and the White-throated Sparrow.**"

The NBFN publication gives a great deal of information about the annual Christmas Bird Counts throughout the province and lists by name each of the participants in every count. There is a lot of information about bird and mammal sightings in the Nature News column, compiled most often by David Christie.

Links to items from the NB Naturalist:

John Bethell Article Feb. 1974 [Page 1](#) [Page 2](#)

Harry Walker's NBFN President's Message 1979 [Page 1](#) [Page 2](#)

[Harry Walkers Report on the 1984 NBFN AGM](#)

Links to Harry Walker's Newspaper Articles from the 70's and 80's

(They may load slowly – this list is a work in progress and will be added to regularly for some time)

Volume One	Sept. 29, 1976 to May 5, 1977
Volume Two	May 11, 1977 to Dec. 21, 1977
Volume Three	Jan. 4, 1978 to Aug. 16, 1978
Volume Four	Aug. 23, 1978 to Feb. 2, 1979
Volume Five	Feb. 9, 1979 to Jul. 21, 1979
Volume Six	July 28, 1979 to Dec. 29, 1979
Volume Seven	Jan. 12, 1980 to June 27, 1980