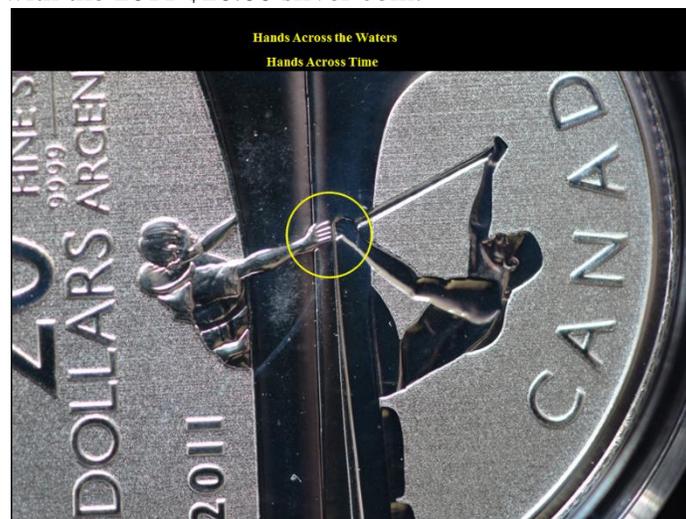




## Species Inventory Along an Ancient Portage Trail

“The Ancient Portage Trails of NB” project is a special project under Canoe Kayak NB (CKNB) for more than the past 7 years. The project deals specifically with restoring only six (6) ancient portage trails of the more than eighty (80+) portage trails that once existed in the province. An ancient portage trail is a true link between the past and the present, a link historically between the waterways as our highways of the past, versus today’s land highways.

The portage trails represent a link between peoples & culture across time. These values are voiced in the themes: “Hands Across the Waters” & “Hands Across Time” as seen below enmeshed with the 2011 \$20.00 silver coin.



### Species Inventory Along McKay Brook - Gordon Meadow Brook Portage *- connects the Nepisiguit watershed and the Miramich watershed) – 3.0 km.*

This portage trail, serving as a bridge between the two watersheds, made it possible for aboriginal peoples from Metepenagiag and Pabineau to have contact for hundreds of years, if not much longer. Metepenagiag, via archeological work, show a history of 3,000 years.

As a result of the restoration work on the ground and in recognition of the portage trail being a part of the natural environment, a vision began to formulate whereby the ancient trail could become a resource for ecological education via a flora and fauna inventory. So much of New Brunswick history has evolved from its natural resources; that is, its waterways and forests. Consequently, the extended vision was to use this section of forest

to provide a sample of the interconnectedness and inter-dependence in nature. An ancient portage is an almost perfect setting. As stated earlier, the portage trail is a bridge between waterways and people.

Canoe kayak NB (CKNB) approached and eventually partnered with the Miramichi Naturalists Club (MNC) to perform a species inventory along the 3 kilometer **McKay Brook - Gordon Meadow Brook** portage trail. The talented human resources from CKNB and MNC, armed with purpose and the much valued grant from the Wildlife Trust Fund (WTF) proceeded with that task.

The species inventory has several general objectives:

- to value the natural world for itself
- to illustrate the importance of understanding the interdependency of species in the natural world and hence, the need for such knowledge where there is human intervention
- to make available a resource for experiential learning for the general public, visitors to the province and for school districts.
- to employ 'feet on the ground' to experience the outdoors and hence, enhance active living
- to provide a foundation resource that will be dynamic; that is, to continue to grow and develop over time

The species inventory has and is being compiled by the dedicated work of Dave McLeod and Jim Saunders from the MNC. The quality of their work is not only evidenced by the work to date but also by their commitment to continually update the inventory. The plan is to soon have the results of the species inventory available to the public via several websites: CKNB, MNC and NB Trails initially.

To date, the following six checklists have been produced for this portage trail; three for plant groups and three for vertebrate (with a backbone) animal groups as follows:

**Plant Checklists (definitions of each type are provided with each list):**

1. Vascular Plants - 142 species
2. Bryophytes (non-vascular) - 16 species
3. Lichens (non-vascular) - 20 species

**Vertebrate Animal Checklists:**

1. Birds - 23 species
2. Mammals - 9 species
3. Amphibians and Reptiles - 5 and 3 species respectively



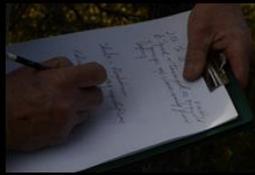
Dave McLeod



### Species Inventory



Jim Saunders



- Species Inventory Continued
- recording: 150+
  - sample taking
  - some tree age determination
  - soil samples
  - photos
  - eventual info development for the public
  - etc.



Marker stakes every 50 meters 0.00 - 3.00 south to north



Directions to Portage Trail:

Travel Directions From City of Miramichi

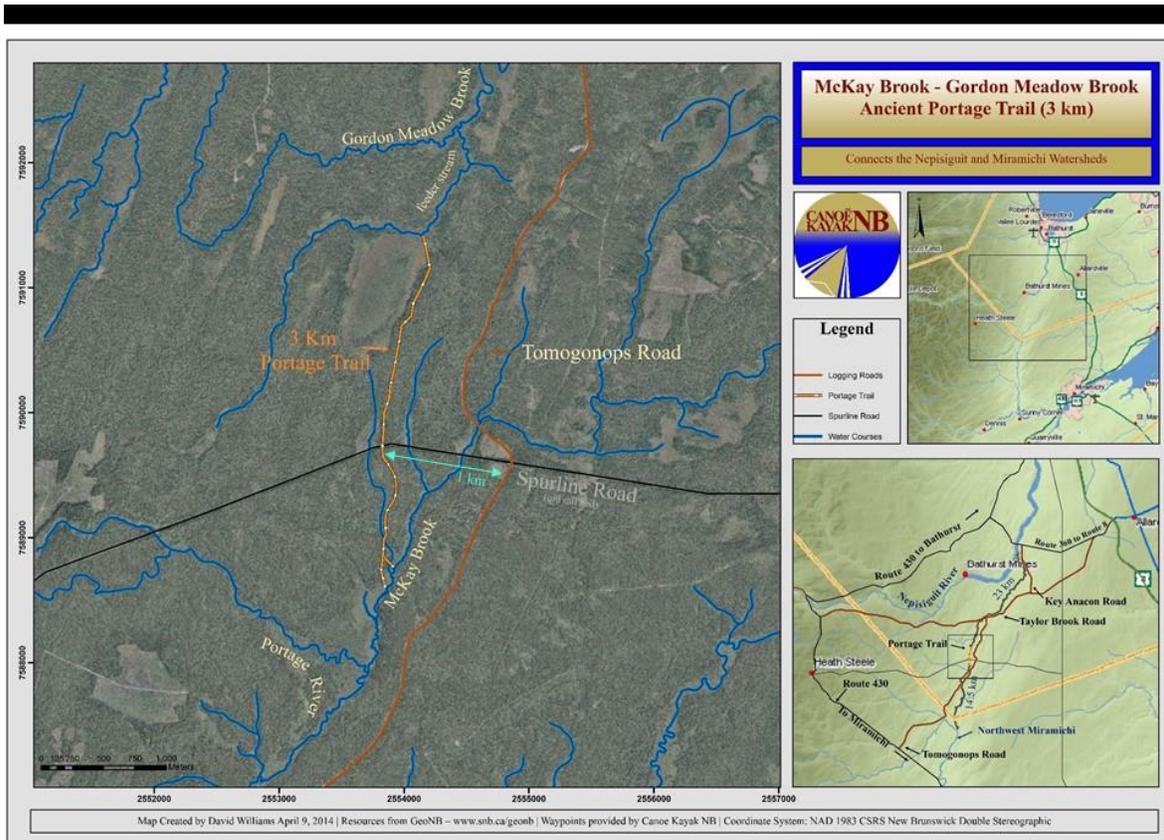
Option 1- From junction of route 430 and Newcastle Blvd

- to Wayerton, across the Northwest Miramichi River 23 km
- turn right onto the Tomogonops Road 9.6 km
- (the Tomogonops Road is a logging road, **be prepared to meet logging trucks**)
- turn left onto The Spurline (will cross 2 bridges on route) 18.5 km
- drive 1 km, park along shoulder area 1 km

Option 2 - Travel Directions From City of Miramichi (north section of the city)

- assuming arrival at Centennial Bridge, City of Miramichi (former Town of Chatham).  
across or near the Centennial Bridge to route 8 to exit to Allardville 54.4 km
- turn left onto route 360 (stop sign)
- turn left onto the Anacon Road (slow down to see exit)- a logging road 13.8 km
- turn right onto Taylor Brook Road 6.8 km
- turn turn left to Tomogonops Road 7.1 km
- turn right at The Spurline (old rail bed, now a Sentier NB route) 6.6 km
- drive 1 km, park on shoulder area 1 km

The portage trail is right angles to The Spurline: north of the Spurline, the portage trail continues 1.8 km to Gordon Meadow Brook; on the south side, 1.2 km to McKay Brook. (see map below)



**Rewards:**

It certainly becomes clear as a living history why both the pole and paddle were proper instruments of travel, not to mention the beauty and simplicity of the canoe along with the skill and knowledge of aboriginal peoples.

Come and experience an ancient trail. Come and observe nature via a species inventory along the McKay Brook-Gordon Meadow Brook ancient portage trail.

Prepared by,

Tim Humes,  
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