



# Frenchman Bay CONSERVANCY

*protecting the land you love*

## Frenchman Bay Conservancy Steps Up the Pace

*Frenchman Bay Conservancy set a new record for itself by completing five conservation easements in December. The projects protect over 280 acres, including working forest land, lake frontage, farmland and in one case a network of public trails.*



PHOTO: JAMIE BROWN

### ***The protected land includes:***

- 90 acres of working forest land in the watershed of Flood's Pond, the water source for the Bangor Water District
- 38 acres in Hancock with a small farming operation that supports a Bed & Breakfast
- 48 acres on Great Pond in Franklin with nearly a mile of shore frontage
- 52 acres on Little Tunk Pond in Sullivan with over half a mile of shore frontage
- 53 acres on Baker Hill in Sullivan with trails open to the public (profiled in last fall's newsletter)

The Hancock property hosts a small farming operation.

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# President's Column

*A message from our president: Lisa Heyward*

February, 2007

Happy New Year,

This is a year for celebration at Frenchman Bay Conservancy. It is our twentieth anniversary year! What better way to start such a special year than with the announcement of five new easements in December 2006. The easements encompass 283 acres and one includes a system of trails that the owner is happy to share with the public. Please read about them in more detail in articles in this newsletter.

Almost every year we have been able to cheer the signing of an easement, but this last year is the first in which we were able to bring so many to completion. When we created the position of Conservation Director in 2005, it was specifically to allow us to take on the negotiation of multiple land protection projects.

We are thrilled to see our investment paying off so amply through Jamie Brown's hard work. To achieve what he has in the twenty months since he joined the FBC staff, Jamie has developed his expertise not only in Maine law around conservation easements, but also about mortgages and insurance rules. He has had to meet with lawyers, surveyors, State conservation officials, water extraction specialists, and Notary Publics. Our staff's expertise and contacts are invaluable in assisting landowners who wish to protect their property.

Jamie tells us that we are looking forward to a year of continued momentum in land protection projects. Frenchman Bay Conservancy is negotiating and arranging land protection on its own, but also is working in collaboration with neighboring land trusts on other projects. It is exciting and challenging work, and we look forward to sharing our successes with you through the year.

We will be inviting you to share in the celebration of our twentieth anniversary in a variety of events throughout the summer. Please join us in honoring this conservation work.

Sincerely,



Lisa Heyward, *President*



PHOTO CATHY GODDARD

Great Pond in winter.

# Frenchman Bay:

*An inside view from Beppie Noyes*

## cop<sup>ing</sup> with Winter

Excerpt from *Winter* 2000

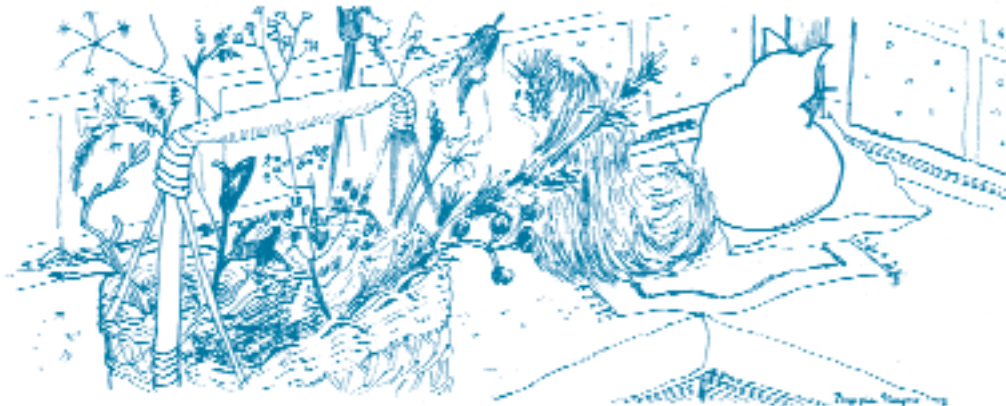
***Stand in front of a window—a storm window—where it is warm and quiet. Look out and contemplate. With practice, this becomes a sort of eyes-wide-open meditation.***

The best method of coping with winter is to contemplate. Stand in front of a window—a storm window—where it is warm and quiet. Look out and contemplate. With practice, this becomes a sort of eyes-wide-open meditation. At sunrise on a bitter cold day, pale orange mist of sea smoke catches in the rays of the rising sun. On a windy day, there's action. Dry leaves like tickets from last fall's concert scurry across the snow. Bare-branched trees sway stiffly, like old men trying to remember how it was to be young. Gulls play coast-and-come-back, laughing and dipping and soaring. Squaw ducks and loons and eiders have the harbors to themselves. Only a few draggers rock in the wild waves that roll on and on until they crash onto the icy shore. (The waves, not the draggers.)

And there are other important tools to help one through the northern winter. Good books, a hobby, seed catalogues. As my gardening daughter reminded me, all this winter weather is just preparing for life, for spring. The roots and seeds, bulbs and buds are waiting for their opening number. The sun is already warmer on the cheek, and we can't hide a sly chuckle thinking of our friends who escaped to the Southland only to be caught in the freak ice and snowstorms, jamming airports and roads and burying cars. Up the drift without a shovel.

As I took my daily walk, this poem popped into my head:

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The articles below profile two of these easements; look for more about the others in our next newsletter.

### **Great Pond, Franklin**

by landowners Cathy Goddard and Nick Davidson

A walk around our property on Great Pond takes you along a rocky shoreline with scenic ledges and tall pines to wetlands areas. The woodlands include a diverse mix of natural softwood and hardwood forests. Two forested wetland areas, a cranberry bog and stream add to the ecological diversity.

In winter tracks of bobcat, coyote and fox are found along with many of the smaller species such as squirrel,

mink, hare, and voles. Occasional deer and moose tracks can be followed through the woods. After ice-out the bald eagles, osprey and heron return to fish, and the loons to nest.

The pileated woodpeckers kek-kek call and drumming can be heard all year round.

We are fortunate that Great Pond provides the needed habitat and food (aquatic plants, fish and freshwater mussels) to support a community of aquatic mammals. The otter family is especially entertaining to watch, the beavers work diligently on their dams and lodges, and the muskrats feed on rocks and build their feeding stations.

Great Pond is a warm, shallow lake covering 262 acres in Franklin. The conservation easement protects 48

***The easement will maintain this wildlife haven by preventing subdivision, commercial logging or development.***

acres with 4,300 feet of water frontage including scenic Bluff Point. Great Pond still has a largely undeveloped waterfront, however development pressure is increasing and the recent construction of a road along the western shore is certain to increase that pressure.

The easement will maintain this wildlife haven by preventing subdivision and commercial logging or development. We may “own” the land for now, but we are really stewards of the land for future generations of both humans and wildlife.

### **Three Pines, Hancock**

by Jamie Brown

When Ed and Karen Curtis bought their land just a little way down the shore from Tidal Falls, they felt very fortunate to have found such a special place. They look out over the waters of Sullivan Harbor with the Sorrento shore in the background. The steep contours of the land direct several small streams through a typical mix of hard and soft woods and down into the waters of Frenchman Bay. Wildlife abounds on and around the property. A bull moose recently emerged from the woods, stopped by to investigate the resident chickens, and then just as quickly disappeared back into the early morning darkness. Deer also routinely visit the area, and a wide variety of ducks float along the ledges just off-shore.

The easement prohibits construction of additional residential structures on the 40-acre property so as to maintain the property's existing natural buffers that help to protect Frenchman Bay. A 15-acre ‘farming area,’ located away from the shoreline, has been



PHOTO CATHY GODDARD

Sunset over Great Pond.

reserved by the owners to allow limited expansion of the existing clearings and structures for the purpose of sustaining small-scale agricultural operations. "We have planted an organic garden and fruit orchard, and are raising the sheep and chicken in a manner that will have the least negative impact on the environment, includ-



***A 15-acre farming area has been reserved by the owners to allow limited expansion of the existing clearings and structures for the purpose of sustaining small-scale agricultural operations.***

ing nearby Frenchman Bay," say the owners. They are working on managing the wooded areas in a similar manner, and are allowing the sheep to naturally maintain and enlarge the clearings.

"We knew back then [when we bought the place] that apart from our own home we wanted no further development to occur on the property. The conservation easement allows our wishes to be followed into perpetuity."❖

## In Memoriam

We have received donations in memory of Steve Wilbur and Eunice Orr. We thank their friends and family members for helping us protect the land they loved.



**Frenchman Bay  
CONSERVANCY**

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## **Blue Heron Society Benefits** ***Annual Donors \$1,000 and up***

It is up to us, the inhabitants of Downeast Maine, to protect our most valuable natural landscapes and fragile ecosystems for the benefit of future generations. Please join us in our land protection initiative and become a member of the Blue Heron Society by donating an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.

Frenchman Bay Conservancy is always eager to hear our members' comments and suggestions about our programs. As a member of the Blue Heron Society you will have special opportunities to discuss your vision and ideas for the organization with our Directors, staff and other donors. You will receive:

- Reports and personal briefings from the Executive Director about potential and ongoing projects.
- Invitation to an annual reception for Blue Heron Society members.
- Special acknowledgement in the Annual Report.

### **YES! I want to join the Blue Heron Society.**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I /We pledge to contribute the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to Frenchman Bay Conservancy.

My/Our check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is attached (made payable  
to Frenchman Bay Conservancy)

***Frenchman Bay Conservancy is recognized as a nonprofit 501c(3) charitable organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.***

*I must go down to the sea again  
To the wintry sea and sky  
And all I ask is a stout outfit  
And a cane to navigate by.  
Down to the bay, old Frenchman's Bay,  
Where the Squaw Ducks yodel and the Eiders play  
Where the sea is blue when the sky is too  
Or dark mixtures of grays on stormy days  
And the shore is iced and the ledges are black  
And it's time for me to be heading back  
To my hearth and my book and a jigger or two  
Of that warming old Kentucky brew.  
When old Maine winter is doing his thing  
That's what I do as I wait for spring.*

(with a bow to John Masefield)❖

*Beppie Noyes*



## ***Many Thanks!***

Thanks to the generosity of the folks at Dennis J. King Masonry in Hancock, the chimney at the Tidal Falls office has been repaired. The old masonry was past its prime and would not be able to withstand another wet and cold Maine winter. A crew rebuilt the chimney and made sure that the new unit was weather-tight and secure. We appreciate the Kings' donation of labor and materials.

## **Fundraising:** ***How we ask and why***

As a member of Frenchman Bay Conservancy, you will receive several kinds of requests for funding. We do this because we know that people respond differently to appeals. Some are inspired by a picture of a completed project, some like to be in on a land purchase and some are interested in supporting the basic operations of the organization. We don't expect everyone to respond to every request and we are grateful for every gift you send. These are the kinds of appeals you'll receive:

### ***Membership Renewal Notices***

Membership renewal notices are sent in the spring. These gifts go into the general operating fund, which pays for all the staff time put into the land protection and stewardship programs.

### ***An Annual Appeal***

An Annual Appeal is sent in the fall. These gifts also go into general operating.

### ***Newsletters***

Three newsletters each year include a donation card. Each newsletter will highlight a specific program area or project and you'll have the opportunity to direct your gift to that program if you choose.

### ***Capital Campaigns***

Capital Campaigns to purchase land or complete major projects have their own schedule, outside the regular fundraising routine. We always offer our members the opportunity to contribute to such projects, either through a special appeal or through a newsletter. We also reach beyond our membership in these campaigns to engage more members of the community in protecting the places that are important to them.

If you don't wish to receive specific kinds of mailings, please let us know and we'll make every effort to respect your wishes. We can't customize the newsletter mailings because of the rules for bulk mail, but we can remove your name from the mailing lists of any appeal.❖



# Join us TODAY!

As a Frenchman Bay Conservancy member, you will receive our newsletter, which comes out three times a year so you can keep up on environmental happenings. For those of you who are more hands on, you will be able to participate in the many outdoor projects we sponsor from cleaning up trails to planting flowers. Your membership does make a difference!

Additional contributions are welcome, and all contributions are tax deductible.

***Your membership will help protect the clean water, open space and wildlife in Frenchman Bay.***

**YES!** I want to join Frenchman Bay Conservancy.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Summer address from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Levels

Please enroll me in the category checked below:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BASIC \$25  | <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTOR \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> SPONSOR \$250     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR \$500  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRIEND \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> BLUE HERON \$1000 |
|                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER \$ _____    |

☐ I am interested in becoming an FBC volunteer.

☐ My check, payable to FBC, is enclosed.

## Please remit form and check to:

Frenchman Bay Conservancy  
PO Box 150 Hancock, Maine 04640

***Thank you!***

# Frenchman Bay CONSERVANCY

Frenchman Bay Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust founded in 1987. Its mission is to promote conservation of the distinctive landscapes and natural resources of the Frenchman Bay and Union River watersheds for the benefit of wildlife and people.



For more information on the Conservancy, please visit our office at Tidal Falls, or contact us by mail, phone, or e-mail:

**Frenchman Bay Conservancy**  
**PO Box 150 Hancock, Maine 04640**  
**(207) 422-2328 [barb@frenchmanbay.org](mailto:barb@frenchmanbay.org)**

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Jamie Brown, *Conservation Director*

*Frenchman Bay Conservancy sets a new record for itself  
by completing five conservation easements in December.*

PHOTO: JAMIE BROWN

The view over Sullivan Harbor from Three Pines.

*Newsletter*

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