



Maine Coast Heritage Trust

1999 Annual Report



Maine Coast Heritage Trust

1999

Annual Report

CELEBRATING OUR

30th

ANNIVERSARY

1999



The Trust receives a landmark waterfront property, Aldermere Farm in Rockport.

2000



MCHT assists with the largest conservation easement in Maine history (20,268 acres) on Nicasious Lake. Land protected by MCHT exceeds 100,000 acres and 300 entire islands.

1997



MCHT purchased Calderwood Island, its largest island preserve.

1971



The Trust's first project: a conservation easement, on Buckle Island (off Swans), is granted to Acadia National Park.

1995



Four hundred supporters joined with MCHT and the Town of Grand Lake Stream to conserve Maine's premier land-locked salmon fishing river.

GEORGIA PACIFIC



© PEGGY ROCKEFELLER

1970

Peggy Rockefeller (L) and Tom Cabot (R) establish Coast Heritage Trust (the name was changed to Maine Coast Heritage Trust in 1975). The Trust helps secure passage of a law that allows use of conservation easements for land protection in Maine.

1982



MCHT accepts its first easement (on Fog Island off Isle au Haut) and serves as one of four founding sponsors of the national Land Trust Alliance.

1988



C. AYERS ©

Bold Coast Campaign conserves stellar properties in eastern Maine, assuring protection of Boot Head, Western Head & Great Head (1988); Hearst Lands in Cutler and Whiting (1989); Jim's Head (1990); Martin Preserve (1993); and Hamilton Cove (1998).

1985



Hatch Natural Area in Castine becomes MCHT's first preserve.

1983



The City of Belfast receives the Trust's first Land Heritage Award for its conservation of Belfast Heritage Park. MCHT holds its first Conference of Maine Land Trusts.

30 Years of Land Protection

LAND CONSERVATION:

The individuals who joined forces to found Maine Coast Heritage Trust, three decades ago, shared a vision of sustaining the rugged beauty, natural integrity and rich heritage of the Maine coast. They knew that Maine's long and varied shoreline – quiet and remote as parts of it seemed then – would be discovered in time and subjected to intense development pressure. As a defense against that future, the Trust designed a strategy to encourage island and coastal landowners to consider conservation options in their planning.

MCHT's mission – to conserve Maine's most distinctive lands – may have seemed naïve to observers during the Trust's



MCHT board members review a land project on a 1983 field trip.

early years. How could a small board and handful of staff make any significant headway toward such a lofty goal? Yet the vision that motivated board and staff left no room for skepticism. From the outset, MCHT developed a habit

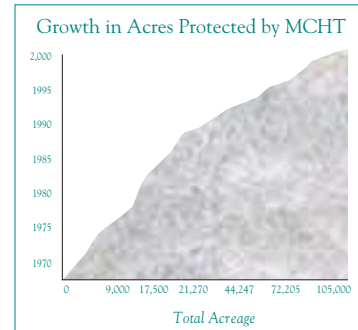
of thinking big – tackling ambitious projects that seemed improbable if not impossible. And with each notable success – from MCHT's first easement on Buckle Island to the ambitious Bold Coast campaign (that part of coast from Cutler to Lubec) – we gained confidence in the value of setting sights high.

We drew inspiration from the foresight and generosity of the landowners with whom we worked. These individuals and families demonstrated a remarkable capacity to look beyond their own lives and experience, translating their love for the land into a commitment to secure its future.

THE WORK OF VISIONARIES

its vision – acre by acre and mile by mile. Gifts from committed donors helped the Trust grow, expanding its capacity as the need for land conservation increased.

What began – three decades ago – with the vision of a few energetic and resourceful people has blossomed into a powerful movement.



There are now 81 land trusts in Maine, driven by a devotion to the land that has marked the Trust's work since its founding. Throughout the years, MCHT has led the land trust

movement – developing creative new approaches to conservation, fostering the growth of local trusts, and protecting the places that make Maine exceptional.

As pressures on the land intensify in coming decades, the power and vitality of that founding vision will continue to guide the Trust's work.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the many individuals, foundations, and corporate donors who have helped to assure the success of our efforts.

Ed Woodsum

Harold E. Woodsum, Jr.
Chairman



"I know of no movement as convincing, as effective, as compassionate as the land trust movement. It is like water, seeping into the most unexpected places; filling the basins of the human heart."

– Terry Tempest Williams, author

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The essence of MCHT's work – saving the places that make Maine unique – has not changed in 30 years, but realizing that vision now requires more resources and creativity.

In the Trust's early years, development pressures along Maine's coast were just beginning to build. Few properties faced imminent threats and most people conserved their lands through outright gifts or donated easements.

The pace of change has quickened during the intervening decades, transforming both the culture and landscape. According to Evan Richert, Director of the Maine State Planning Office, "as much land was converted to urban and suburban use between 1970 and 1990 as had been converted in all the previous history of the state." As more people "discover" Maine's coast, changes that may seem minor in isolation have a dramatic cumulative effect.

The work of land conservation becomes – at once – more urgent and more challenging as development pressures intensify. Coastal property values are soaring, making the cost of conservation rise. MCHT continues to rely on land and easement donations, but many landowners can no longer afford to protect their properties without some compensation. Negotiations to conserve land frequently occur under the gun, pressured by the threat of imminent development. Patterns of land ownership grow more complex, with major transfers of corporate holdings and multiple generations of families sharing title to private lands.

All these changes are set against a dynamic backdrop of shifting tax laws, governmental programs and funding sources. Land conservation no longer has the luxury of operating apart from the political sphere. As Maine's successful two-year public land bond campaign demonstrated, it is now essential to build coalitions and generate bipartisan support for land protection.

MCHT is meeting this array of challenges with creative and collaborative approaches. We are pioneering new conservation techniques, involving more conservation

MAINE'S CHANGING LANDSCAPE


buyers in land transactions, and forming alliances with a broader range of groups than ever before. The Trust is also developing new sources of funding to compensate for the increased costs of conservation.



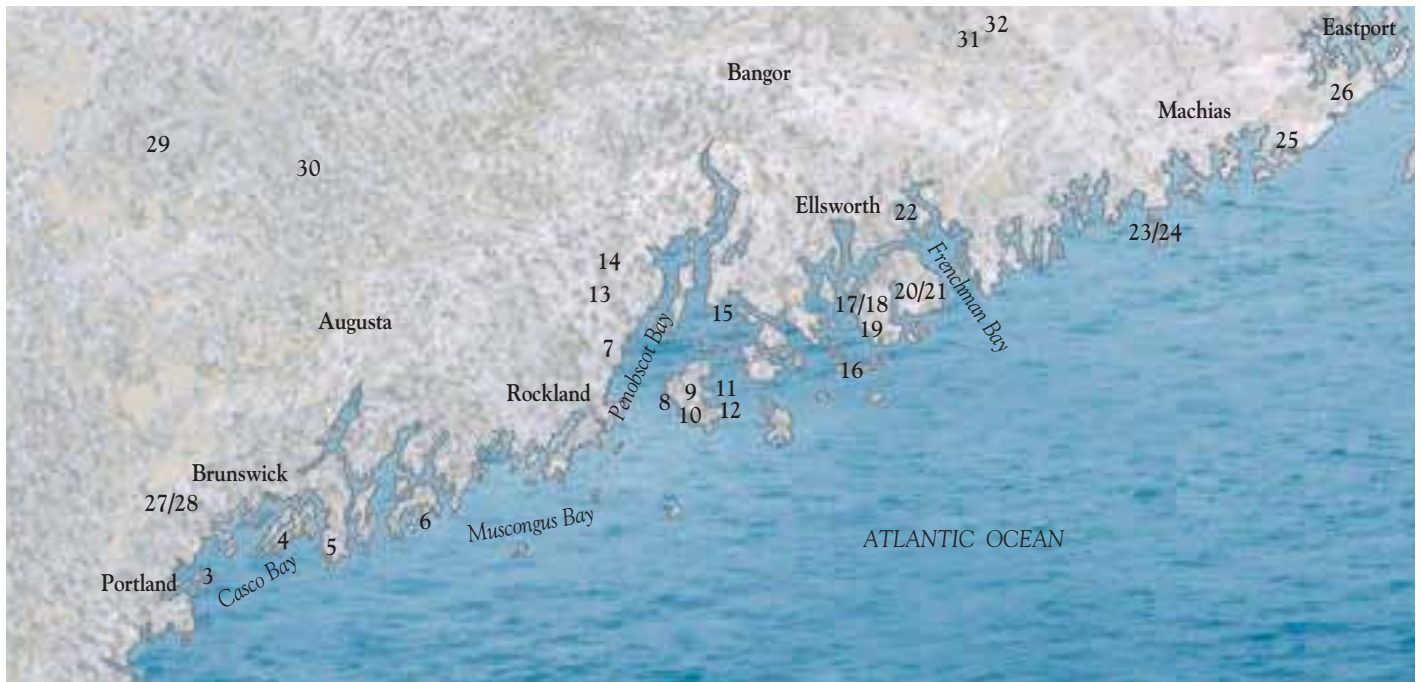
The work of land conservation has become more urgent and challenging as the recent Frenchboro Long Island project demonstrates.

Nearly all of these creative approaches came into play in the Trust's recent work on Frenchboro, the largest single acquisition in our 30-year history. This eight-month long project – which began in 1999 and carried into 2000 – demonstrated how quickly MCHT must respond to complex conservation challenges. By collaborating with the Island Institute, Maine Seacoast Mission and community members on Frenchboro, and by mobilizing support from committed donors, the Trust was able to secure 950 acres and five miles of rugged shoreline – one of the most significant wild parcels remaining along Maine's coast.

We could not attempt projects of this complexity and magnitude without the generosity and commitment of our supporters, and the landowners and partner groups with whom we work. Your remarkable dedication over the past 30 years gives me confidence that MCHT can address the major challenges we will face in the coming decades.



James J. Espy, Jr.
President



YEAR IN REVIEW

Summary of 1999 Conservation Projects

	Projects	Acres	Shorefront Miles
Gifts of conservation easements	16	944	8.5
Gifts of land	4*	4	0.4
Purchases of land	12	792	10.6
Purchases of easements	0	0	0
Total	32	1,740	19.5

*3 of the "fee gifts" involve properties previously protected, thus their acreage is not counted in the gain for this year.

SOUTHERN COAST

1 York

With assistance from MCHT, family members donated an easement on their tidewater farm to York Land Trust. The historic property, with 49 acres of hayfields, mixed woods and tidal flats, complements an adjacent conservation property.

2 York

Farther upstream along the York River, another landowner donated a 46-acre conservation easement, protecting open hayfields, wetlands and salt marsh. The easement, drafted by MCHT and held by York Land Trust, maintains the rich ecological values of this tidal corridor.

3 Cumberland

An easement to Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust maintains the unspoiled character of a 15-acre peninsula on Chebeague Island. The easement, crafted by MCHT in cooperation with 29 family members, provides shore access for clammers and residents who enjoy walking out the adjoining tidal bar to Little Chebeague Island, a state-owned property.



A York saltwater farm provides permanent open space and pastoral river views in a region under intense development pressure.



Ownership and management by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will help ensure the future of seabird nesting colonies on Ram Island.

4 Harpswell

MCHT helped the owner of a thriving seabird colony sell his 6.5-acre island to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, conserving habitat for nesting gulls, eiders, cormorants and – historically – terns. Ram Island lies close to several other protected islands.

5 Phippsburg



An easement donation to MCHT preserves extensive wooded shoreline near Popham Beach State Park, fulfilling the vision of its former owner who specified the gift in her will. The 77-acre property includes a rich mix of vernal pools, tall pines, freshwater wetlands and tidal flats near preserves on Spirit Pond and Atkins Bay.

The longtime owner of a beautiful shoreline parcel near Popham Beach directed in her will that the property be conserved.

6 Boothbay Harbor

Once home to a blue heron rookery, Outer Heron Island lies near several other protected bird-nesting islands. Owners of this wild 60-acre island near a busy boating hub sold their property to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. MCHT and local land trust partners helped initiate this project and secure funding for the island's purchase.

7 Rockport

MCHT received title to Aldermere Farm, a landmark property in the midcoast, through an extraordinary bequest. Open meadows at the 137-acre farm look out to the Camden Hills while its woods front on Penobscot Bay.



For all its scenic beauty, Aldermere Farm is still very much of a working farm with a prize-winning herd of Belted Galloway cattle.

8 Vinalhaven

An easement donated to Vinalhaven Land Trust (VLT) helps maintain the unspoiled character of Whitmore's Pond, a wild basin at the head of Crockett Cove. MCHT and VLT have secured five easements on woodlands and marsh surrounding the Pond.



Five landowners around Whitmore's Pond have worked with VLT and MCHT to conserve the integrity of this unspoiled inlet.

9 Vinalhaven

Owners of a prominent hill overlooking Winter Harbor placed additional restrictions in their existing conservation easement to better ensure that the land will remain forever wild.

10 Vinalhaven

Neighbors took quick action to protect Little Smith Island just as it was going on the market. By purchasing the wooded, 4-acre island and donating it to MCHT, they helped Vinalhaven Land Trust and MCHT complete protection of eight of Seal Bay's wild islands.

11 Vinalhaven

Purchase by a conservation buyer enabled MCHT to conclude a multi-year effort to preserve Big Hen Island. This bold island marks the entrance to two popular cruising grounds – Winter Harbor and Seal Bay. MCHT holds a forever wild easement on the island that permits low-impact public use.



In collaboration with MCHT and Vinalhaven Land Trust, Seal Bay landowners have succeeded in preserving eight of the Bay's undeveloped islands.

12 Vinalhaven

Five siblings worked with Vinalhaven Land Trust to place a restrictive easement on four islands at the gateway to Seal Bay: 1-acre Mink, 8-acre Bluff Head, 21-acre Neck and 3-acre Ram. MCHT helped negotiate this easement, concluding years of effort with multiple landowners to protect the Bay's undeveloped islands.

13 Belmont

A loan and technical assistance from MCHT enabled Coastal Mountains Land Trust to purchase 17 acres that buffer salmon spawning grounds at the headwaters of the Ducktrap River. The Ducktrap is one of seven Maine rivers to which Atlantic salmon still return.

14 Northport and Belmont

An easement gift on 515 acres of forest and wetlands will safeguard two miles of tributaries feeding the Ducktrap River, a significant spawning ground for Atlantic Salmon. MCHT helped with drafting and title work for the easement, held by Coastal Mountains Land Trust.



Atlantic salmon return each year to spawn in the clear waters of the Ducktrap River. MCHT and partner groups in the Ducktrap Coalition have helped protect these vital spawning grounds, most recently by conserving 532 acres at the river's headwaters.

15 Penobscot Bay

An easement donated to MCHT will help to sustain nesting colonies of guillemots and eider ducks on Western Island. This beautiful 20-acre island lies in an archipelago off Cape Rosier near MCHT's Pond Island Preserve.

16 Swans Island

Town purchase of a shorefront parcel gives residents of Swans Island access to Burnt Coat Harbor where they can launch recreational and commercial fishing boats. MCHT helped work with the landowner and town through the acquisition process.



Newly conserved Western Island in Penobscot Bay is home to nesting seabirds.

17 Mount Desert

MCHT helped the local Pretty Marsh Community Corporation place permanent restrictions on a small parcel that provides shore access.



The fields of Beech Hill Farm generate fresh organic produce for the local community.

18 Mount Desert

An easement gift to MCHT protects prime agricultural soils, heirloom orchards and the expansive mountain views from Beech Hill Farm. The landowners gave title to the 76-acre organic farm to College of the Atlantic.

19 Mount Desert

Thanks to a generous bargain sale by landowners, MCHT acquired a 24-acre parcel that includes a prominent open meadow along Beech Hill Road providing scenic vistas to the mountains of Acadia. The Trust has placed the meadow under a restrictive easement to ensure that it will remain undeveloped after sale to a private conservation buyer.

20 Mount Desert

An easement granted to MCHT allows for construction of a new trailhead for the popular Giant Slide hiking path up Sargent Mountain. The future trail will allow hikers to begin their walk in the woods rather than on a paved road in a residential area.



MCHT acquired land adjacent to Acadia's Aunt Betty Pond (foreground) to maintain wildlife habitat and ridgeline views from Park trails and carriage roads.

21 Bar Harbor

To protect views in Acadia National Park and wetlands that feed Aunt Betty Pond, MCHT purchased a 67-acre tract threatened by subdivision and logging. A generous gift from neighbors enabled the Trust to buy the land, part of which will be conveyed to Acadia National Park. The balance, which lies outside the Park boundary, will be sold with easement restrictions to a conservation buyer.

22 Hancock

Birds and seals in a designated "wildlife concentration area" will benefit from an easement that protects 52 tidal acres and an 8-acre island on the Skillings River. The easement, held by Frenchman Bay Conservancy and developed with help from MCHT, buffers popular seal haulout ledges monitored by a seal-research program.



The waters off a newly conserved parcel in upper Frenchman Bay represent some of the richest habitat along Maine's coast.

DOWNEAST

23 Addison

MCHT helped facilitate sale of Inner Sand Island, an undeveloped 18-acre eider-nesting colony, to the Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge.

24 Beals

Gift of an easement to Great Auk Land Trust maintains views to the ocean across 7 acres of open meadows on an historic farmstead.



Residents of Cutler will benefit from MCHT's gift of 58 acres for affordable housing.

25 Cutler

To help ensure that local residents can afford to live in Cutler, MCHT gifted 58 acres of land behind the village to a nonprofit community housing group. MCHT and the community worked together to plan the siting of houses and use of the woodlands for recreation and potentially for forest products.

26 Trescott

Furthering wildlife conservation efforts in Cobscook Bay, MCHT acquired the three Carlos Cove islands. This wooded cluster provides perching habitat for bald eagles and sheltered feeding grounds for shorebirds and waterfowl.

INLAND

27/28 Pownal

Support from MCHT's Revolving Loan Fund allowed the Pownal Land Trust to protect the threatened Knight Farm, a landmark property visible from Bradbury Mountain State Park. MCHT also helped craft an easement, held by the local trust, that maintains its scenic and agricultural values.



With assistance and interim funding from MCHT, the Pownal Land Trust secured easement restrictions on a classic farmstead near the village center.

29 Wilton

MCHT supported the Foothills Land Conservancy in an ambitious project that involved purchasing 231 acres of woods, fields and wetlands by the headwaters of Wilson Lake. The property will be open to the public for outdoor pursuits.

30 Rome

A forever wild easement preserves a large stand of old growth pine on a 17-acre peninsula along Belgrade Stream directly across from the town of Belgrade Lakes. MCHT facilitated the easement which is held by the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance.

31/32 Township 40 (Hancock County)



A partnership of conservation groups and forest product companies helped the State acquire a chain of wild islands in Niatous Lake, and a link to the Bureau of Parks and Lands' Duck Lake Reserve.

With help from MCHT, the Forest Society of Maine and Trust for Public Land, the State acquired 78 islands in Niatous Lake at below market value. The long chain of islands is a favorite destination for picnickers and campers. A tract that connects Niatous Lake to the State's adjacent Duck Lake Reserve was also acquired.



Jay Espy at the "Vote Yes on #7" celebration with those featured in the television advertisements: (L to R) Larry Tottan, Hannah Espy and Matthew Ritger.

By an overwhelming 2-to-1 margin, Maine voters approved a \$50 million public land bond in November. The bond funds will be matched by \$25 million in private and other public funding.

The bond will reinvigorate the Land for Maine's Future Program, providing funds to protect exceptional natural areas that enhance public recreation.

Successful passage of the bond followed two years of grassroots organizing. Maine Coast Heritage Trust and The Nature Conservancy led a broad coalition of more than 40 environmental, sporting, and business groups, in addition to dozens of land trusts. The campaign won national recognition for the quality of its advertisements from the American Association of Political Consultants.

LAND HERITAGE AWARD



The Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust raised \$420,000 to conserve Thorne Head, a scenic 96-acre peninsula along the Kennebec River.

Gaining technical expertise and political savvy, Maine's land trust community made significant gains in 1999. The sixty local trusts that comprise the Maine Land Trust Network generated strong public support for the \$50 million land bond, helping to ensure its successful passage.

To keep members better informed, MLTN added another issue of the *Land Trust News*. This quarterly newsletter now reaches 1,200 staff and directors of local trusts throughout the state. MCHT's 1999 Land Conservation Conference, cosponsored by the Orono Land Trust, drew more than 250 people interested in building conservation skills.



Local trust representatives also took advantage of several more specialized trainings. MLTN received funding from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund and the Environmental Support Center to support organizational development workshops, including a well-attended MLTN planning retreat held in early 2000.

MLTN felt the absence of its long-time coordinator, Rupert Neily, during his extended medical leave but is glad to report that he is gradually returning to work.

MCHT presented its 1999 Land Heritage Award to Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust (LKRLT), recognizing its steadfast efforts to protect wetlands and shore frontage along the Back and Kennebec rivers. As an instrumental partner in the Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition, LKRLT has conserved priority lands and valuable marsh areas, including Hockomock Bay Farm, Hockomock Island and a critical portion of the Sagadahoc/Little River Marsh system.

In receiving title to Aldermere Farm in 1999, MCHT took on an unprecedented stewardship role overseeing management of an active farm in Rockport. The Trust's stewardship team worked closely with farm staff and others to effect a smooth transition and begin planning for the property's long-term use.



Herdsman Kevin Woltemath negotiates with one of the Aldermere Farm's famous "Beltsies."

MCHT completed natural resource inventories on two of its newer preserves: Hamilton Cove in Lubec and the Starr and Virginia Lampson Preserve in Castine. A study of breeding birds in Seal Bay, Vinalhaven, revealed that Penobscot Island (half of which MCHT owns) hosts at least 27 species of birds, most of them breeding. These inventories help identify significant species or community types that may have special management needs, and contribute to broader understanding of coastal biodiversity.

Recognizing that many island owners face stewardship issues involving aging and blighted forests, MCHT worked with the Island Institute and others to develop four articles on island forestry. The series, published in *The Working Waterfront*, reviews the ecological and cultural history of island forests, and explores past and current management practices.

The Trust continued to monitor 94 easements it holds, and helped the State develop baseline data for its easements.

Our Downeast Stewardship Assistant continued working with Lubec elementary school's Outing Club, which brings the children to conserved lands along the Bold Coast and Cobscook Bay.

With generous support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Maine Coast Heritage Coast continued the Maine Wildlife Habitat Initiative in 1999. This initiative provides challenge grants to help land trusts protect critical wildlife habitat, especially coastal wetlands and islands. The 3:1 matching grants leverage new sources of funding for conservation and enhance the capacity of local land trusts.

MCHT awarded \$142,500 in 1999 through nine challenge grants that will protect 10 miles of shore frontage and 2,800 acres. Since its formation in 1997, the Maine Wildlife Habitat Initiative supported 26 properties encompassing 3,700 acres and 24 miles of shoreline. An investment of \$367,500 in challenge grants has preserved lands worth more than \$6 million.



Recipient	Award	Project
Coastal Mountains Land Trust	\$10,000	Salmon spawning habitat
Island Heritage Trust	\$12,500	Entire undeveloped island
Islesboro Islands Trust	\$20,000	Saltwater marsh and watershed
Maine Coast Heritage Trust	\$25,000	Tidal wetlands and upland
North Haven Conservation Partners	\$5,000	Entire Coastal Island
Orono Land Trust	\$15,000	Extensive bog complex
Quoddy Regional Land Trust	\$20,000	Three wild islands
Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association	\$20,000	Tidal river estuary
The Nature Conservancy	\$15,000	River corridor and floodplain forest

GIFTS FOR THE FUTURE

MCHT received extraordinarily generous contributions in 1999 from donors who – in a thriving economy – recognize the importance of investing in the future by conserving irreplaceable coastal lands. Many donors increased their giving levels, while others who had not given recently resumed their support.

Through estate planning, two landowners conveyed property interests – entrusting their cherished lands to MCHT for long-term stewardship. Albert Chatfield, Jr. bequeathed his landmark Aldermere Farm to the Trust, a property that will enrich the way that MCHT carries out its mission. Ilene Percy directed in her will that MCHT be given a conservation easement on her waterfront land in Phippsburg so that it will always remain undeveloped.

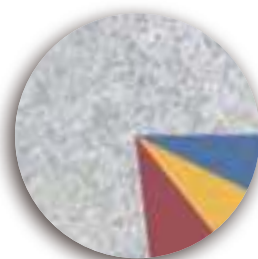


In supporting MCHT, donors protect special landscapes that future generations can enjoy.

Many individuals made donations to the Trust in honor of friends, colleagues and loved ones who – during their lives – held a special affinity for the Maine coast. Contributions in memory of Emily Allan of Seal Harbor and Robert Suminsby of Northeast Harbor honored these exceptional individuals while helping MCHT protect lands in the communities that they held dear.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	1999 Actual	2000 Budget
PROGRAM REVENUES		
Unrestricted Contributions	\$739,452	\$711,750
Restricted Contributions/Grants	107,391	93,961
Special Projects Fund	82,500	0
Investment Income used for operations	623,965	654,999
Other Revenue	21,087	17,000
Totals	\$1,574,395	\$1,477,710



PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Land Protection 77%	\$1,039,306	\$1,141,796
Stewardship 8%	116,559	172,000
Public Education and Outreach 6%	80,613	108,323
Fundraising 9%	117,948	157,347
Totals	\$1,354,426	\$1,579,466

Subtotal of Revenue		
Over (Under) Expenses	219,969	(101,756)
Restricted Revenue, Prior Years	58,127	101,756
Restricted Revenue, Future Years	(43,684)	0
Board Designated Transfer to Special Projects Fund	(200,000)	0
Net Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	\$ 34,412	\$ 0

Notes on Financial Information

Maine Coast Heritage Trust is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a publicly supported organization as defined in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) and not a private foundation under Section 509(a). Contributions are tax-deductible I.R.S. # 23-7099105.

Audited financial statements and opinion letter for 1999 were prepared by Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, CPAs, Bangor, Maine. Copies available upon request.

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(ON THE COVER)



In recognition of MCHT's 30th anniversary, Nils Obel of Camden, Maine created an original drawing in colored pencil.
Prints available upon request.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust works to conserve coastal and other lands that define Maine's distinct landscape, protect its environment, sustain its outdoor traditions and promote the well-being of its people. Since 1970, more than 105,000 acres have been permanently protected, including valuable wildlife habitat, farm and forest land and 315 entire islands.

MCHT provides conservation services to landowners, local land trusts, government agencies and communities throughout Maine.

As a membership organization, MCHT is supported by individuals committed to protecting Maine's natural beauty and resources. The Trust invites your support and involvement.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

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Maine Coast Heritage Trust

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