





### **OUR MISSION**

The Newfound Lake Region Association's mission is to protect Newfound Lake and its watershed. The Association - through education, programs, and collaboration - promotes conservation and preservation of the region's natural, social, and economic resources.

#### **2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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# 2024 AMERICORPS WATERSHED STEWARDS

Hannah Fleischer Shannon McCord

#### **2024 ECOTOUR GUIDES**

Gregg Jeffrey Jeff Locke

#### **2024 LAKE HOSTS**

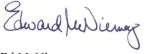
Mimi Brooks Chris Lisa Annaliese McClain

### **GET IN TOUCH**

Newfound Lake Region Association 10 N. Main St., Unit 1 Bristol, NH 03222 (603) 744-8689 NewfoundLake.org info@NewfoundLake.org

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2024 was yet another year of amazing growth for the Association: growth in our capacity, growth in our programs, and growth in our plans for the future. We are all eager to move into our Grey Rocks Conservation Center in June, but it's the work of 2024 that has built the work we'll be doing there. I've sometimes said Newfound Lake is like a thermometer: it's how we measure our success but it's not how we attain that success. We do that with your support, working to deliver the education and conservation programs our watershed needs. We continue to be admired and respected throughout the state, and this report should convey that sense of professionalism and achievement. Our lake is where it is today through our work and your work; 2024 brought us closer to the level of stewardship we want to provide to make tomorrow's Newfound Lake even better than today's.



Ed McNierney NLRA President



## **2024 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS**

NLRA saw important accomplishments across all programs and initiatives. Here are some of our key successes:



**Newfound Lake's water quality remains execellent.** Newfound Lake remains free of invasive aquatic plants and no toxic cyanobacteria blooms were recorded.



**Education programs reached broader audiences.** 700 residents and visitors joined us for educational programming to learn more about their role in protecting watershed health.



More property owners committed to protecting lake health. 29 property owners, including homeowner associations, worked with NLRA to identify and stop sources of stormwater pollution on their property.



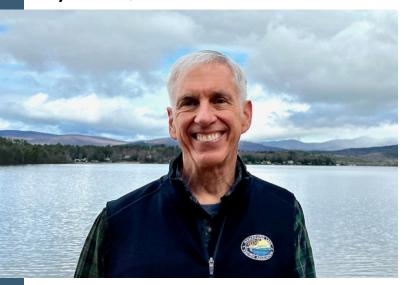
**Support for conservation grew.** 1000+ individuals, foundations, and businesses chose to support watershed protection efforts by making a donation or providing in kind goods and services to NLRA.



**Construction began on the Grey Rocks Conservation Center,** a space for community conservation efforts and the future home of the NLRA.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### by Jim Fitts, Treasurer



Last year we promised an exciting year for NLRA in 2024, and the year delivered! Your association is stronger operationally and financially than it has ever been. Our operating budget grew by 19%, reflecting both the addition of staff and the expansion of our conservation work and educational programming. And the big news, of course, is our progress on completing the Grey Rocks Conservation Center, which will become the nexus of all we do.

Under required accounting procedures both the capital campaign to fund the Grey Rocks Conservation Center and the annual support to fund programming are combined, while most of the expenses in building the Grey Rocks Conservation Center are capitalized and not shown as expenses. Thus, when our audit is complete it will show a substantial 'profit' for 2024. I think it more meaningful to separate out the two to give a clearer picture of our finances.

#### **Operations**

Strong support from memberships and the annual fund reached \$602,800 in 2024, against operating expenses of \$539,800, yielding an operating surplus of \$63,000. You can have confidence that when investing your charitable contributions with NLRA, you are supporting a financially sound organization with rigorous management of expenses.

#### **Grey Rocks Conservation Center**

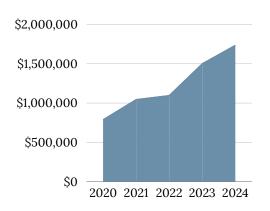
2024 saw additional realized and committed support of \$992,500 for the project. Adding 2023's support brought us to exceed our initial project budget of \$2.2 million. As of this writing we have \$2.763 million in pledges and donated support and have incurred costs of \$1,239,400, leaving \$1,523,600 in cash and pledges to complete the project, including funding the building endowment. While the main items have been covered, we continue to accept donations to build capacity for expanded programming that will be possible.

#### **Balance Sheet**

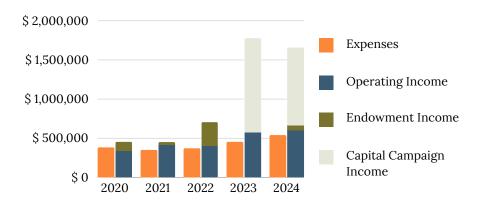
Our assets have grown substantially, mostly because of the Grey Rocks Conservation Center. Total assets grew by \$1,460,100 in 2024, \$1,141,400 of which were the improvements at Grey Rocks. Our endowment has also grown due to additional contributions and an 11.3% annual return, now reaching \$1,672,600. Total Association assets have reached \$4,939,500, with only \$2,000 of liabilities at year end.

Our annual audit is underway and there may be small changes in the numbers presented here. What won't change is the substantial progress we've made with your support, and the ability to further fulfill our mission because of an incredible financial foundation. The 2024 audited financial statements will be available at NewfoundLake.org/about-us once they are complete.

#### **GROWTH IN ENDOWED FUNDS**



#### **GROWTH IN INCOME AND EXPENSES**



### STRATEGIC PLANNING

From long-range thinking to tactical on the ground work, our strategic plan guides all of our decisions. With a motivated board of trustees, expert staff, and a community committed to protecting Newfound's land and water, NLRA ended 2024 with incredible progress across all five of our strategic goals. Check out the next pages to see how these goals are turned into action.

## **OUR VISION:**

# A cleaner, clearer Newfound Lake.



### **GOAL: IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

by establishing water quality targets, expanding watershed health monitoring, and launching innovative protection efforts.



#### **GOAL: EXPAND LAND CONSERVATION**

by establishing a land conservation target that ensures healthy water and prioritizing the protection of land that keeps water clean.



### **GOAL: GROW WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP**

by building new and enhancing existing education programs that spread the knowledge of watershed science and environmental literacy.



### **GOAL: INCREASE COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

by strengthening relationships with current supporters and engaging new supporters through communications and outreach.



### **GOAL: BOOST CAPACITY TO DELIVER OUR MISSION**

by capitalizing on our assets and investing in our staff and volunteers.

### **CONSERVATION IN ACTION**

### Invasive Species Prevention and Detection

Aquatic invasive species are plants and animals found in a waterbody where they don't naturally occur. Invasive species often do not have any natural predators and can overwhelm the lake ecosystem, causing serious problems—creating hazards for recreators, disturbing habitat for native plants and animals, and reducing water quality. Once an invasive species is established, it is nearly impossible to eradicate. Management can cost tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, and property and recreational values can be reduced by roughly one-third. Prevention and early detection are key in keeping Newfound free of invasives.



### Lake Host Program: Invasive Species Prevention

Each year NLRA partners with NH LAKES to ensure Lake Hosts are present at Newfound's public boat launches. The Lake Host program stops invasive plants and animals from entering Newfound Lake by offering complimentary boat and trailer inspections and educating recreators on their responsibility to help protect our precious lakes and ponds. In 2024 over 18% of inspected boats came from lakes with documented invasive species infestations. Since 2002, Newfound Lake Hosts have inspected 58,203 boats and prevented 21 invasive species outbreaks. Their work is critical for keeping Newfound invasive-free.

### Weed Watchers: Invasive Species Detection

A single fragment of an invasive aquatic plant is all it takes to start an infestation. Early detection is critical to stopping invasive aquatic plants from causing serious damage. Weed Watchers are NLRA volunteers that paddle along the shorelines of Newfound to monitor for potential infestations. The summer-long Weed Watching season culminates with our annual Weed Stampede. The Weed Stampede invites seasoned and novice Weed Watchers alike to join this two day, lake-wide event to check for invasive aquatic plants. For the second year in a row Weed Watcher volunteers surveyed 100% of Newfound's waters that are at risk of invasive aquatic plants. In total Newfound's 33 Weed Watchers logged 97.9 hours and paddled over 100 miles to ensure that Newfound remained weed free in 2024!

### Stormwater Management



Stormwater remains Newfound Lake's largest threat. NLRA works with state and local governments to address stormwater on large-scale projects guided by the watershed management plan, and directly with individual homeowners and neighborhood associations on small-scale stormwater management projects.

In 2024, NLRA's Small-Scale Stormwater Program completed 29 property assessments and assisted in the installation of 31 stormwater management features on 11 properties through the Newfound Watershed. Our work in 2024 will keep over 34 tons of sediment from reaching Newfound Lake every year.

In 2024 we also partnered with NH LAKES to bring the LakeSmart program to the Newfound Watershed. The LakeSmart program recognizes homeowners who have taken steps to stop stormwater pollution and protect Newfound Lake. The first three properties in the Newfound Watershed received the LakeSmart award in 2024, with several more homeowners actively working to become LakeSmart in the near future.

## **CONSERVATION IN ACTION**

### Education and Outreach

Improving environmental literacy and connecting residents and visitors of Newfound with conservation is key to our vision of a cleaner, clearer Newfound Lake. NLRA offers free, year-round community events and connects with schools, summer camps, childcare centers, and other community groups to teach watershed science and conservation principles.

In 2024 NLRA ran over 50 free community programs that ranged from talks to hikes to nature exploration and were attended by almost 700 residents and visitors. Our work with schools includes longer-term curriculum support and projects that investigate local ecosystems. Most of our 110+ classroom visits were with 2nd, 4th, and 5th grades in the Newfound Area School District. We also partnered with the Minot-Sleeper Library and 8th grade science classes at Newfound Memorial Middle School to develop a district-wide wildlife and dataliteracy project. Outside of the classroom, we brought environmental science to watershed camps and afterschool programs with activities that included birding, sampling aquatic invertebrates, and snowshoeing.

Would you like to partner with NLRA and bring educational programming to your school or community group? Email Education and Outreach Manager Mirka Zapletal: Mirka@NewfoundLake.org.





Join us for upcoming events! Learn more at <a href="NewfoundLake.org/events">NewfoundLake.org/events</a>.

#### **NEWFOUND LAND CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP**

#### **PRINCIPAL PARTNERS:**

Newfound Lake Region Association Lakes Region Conservation Trust Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests The Nature Conservancy

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Dick Batchelder (Bristol)
Dick Beyer (Hebron)
Vin Broderick (Hebron)
Rosemary D'Arcy (Bristol)
Jim Fitts (Bridgewater)
Parker Griffin (Hebron)
Roger LaRochelle (Hebron)
Dawn Lemieux (Groton)

Lori Lerner (Bridgewater)
Jon Martin (Bridgewater)
Andy McLane (Hebron)
Rob Moore (Bristol)
Kim Sharp (Alexandria)
Martha Twombly (Hebron)
Ken Weidman (Bridgewater)

### Land Conservation

One of the best ways to protect the quality of Newfound's water is to protect the fields and forests of the Watershed. Natural, undeveloped areas soak up rainwater, filtering it into the ground before it picks up pollution and runs into streams, rivers, and Newfound Lake. NLRA works to conserve land as a member of the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership (NLCP), a group that has driven land conservation in the watershed since its establishment in 2009.

The NLCP has committed to protecting 30 percent of the land in the watershed by 2030. To date, 25 percent is protected, and the partnership is actively working with landowners in all five watershed towns.



### **CONSERVATION IN ACTION**

### Watershed Management Planning

NLRA protects water quality through the implementation of the Newfound Watershed Management Watershed planning is the process of outlining how to best protect water quality and watershed resources. The watershed plan engages state agencies, watershed towns, and individuals on initiatives including large-scale stormwater management projects, lakefriendly town ordinances, and land conservation goals. In 2024 focus continued on work with watershed planning boards to help each town with their unique conservation goals. In Groton, we helped the planning board update floodplain mapping. Floodplain mapping protects floodplain areas and directs development to the most appropriate areas. We continue to bring town boards together to talk about important watershed-wide issues at the annual Watershed Workshop.



### AMERICORPS WATERSHED STEWARDS



2024 was NLRA's sixth year as part of the Lakes Region Conservation Corps (LRCC), a regional AmeriCorps program that brings AmeriCorps members to Newfound. During their five month term of service Watershed Stewards help advance NLRA's conservation mission while gaining important skills and experience to further their careers.

Watershed Stewards provide a real boost to our capacity during the critical summer months. Some highlights from 2024 include engaging 323 people through educational programs, scouting for invasive species, collecting water quality data, and installing stormwater management structures throughout the watershed. All told, in 2024, AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards served nearly 2,000 hours expanding the stewardship of Newfound Lake and its Watershed.

### **VOLUNTEERISM IN THE WATERSHED**

Volunteers are critical to our mission to protect Newfound. In 2024, 128 volunteers put in more than 1,000 hours for the benefit of the watershed. Volunteers lead education programs, monitor water quality, guard against invasive aquatic species, maintain Grey Rocks Conservation Area, provide administrative support, govern and participate in strategic planning, and more!



### 2024 Volunteers

Dick Batchelder

Jen Berry

Dick Beyer

Kathy Bird

Nancy Blair

Tripp Blair Michael Bliss

Victoria Bliss-Calkins

Joe Boucher

Karen Boyd Paul Bradshaw

Bill Brady

Vin Broderick

Karen Byrne

Craig Cadieux John Christ

Linda Cirurso

Steve Cole Jan Collins

Deirdre Conway

Herb D'Arcy

Rosemary D'Arcy

Paul DeBassio

Sharon Devine

Leslie Dickey

Rocco Fiacchino

Dave Finnell

Lacey Finnell Jim Fitts

Coleen French

Mike Garagliano

Jack Giller

David Goldstein

Parker Griffin

Jenny Guelich

Steve Gunn

Kay Hanson Mary Hazelton

Paul Hazelton

Daryl Healy

Melissa Heiser

Holderness School

David James

Gregg Jeffrey

Sondra Keene

Jim Koch Kitty Koch

Thomas Lafferty Roger LaFontaine

Lakes Region Conservation Corps

Andrea LaMoreaux

Roger LaRochelle

Dawn Lemieux

Lori Lerner

Kathy Lewis

Cris Lisa

Matt Lisa

Sandy Mackay

Sandi Madden

Andrew Magoon Jared Mansure

**Bob Martens** 

Jon Martin

Andy McLane

Ben McLane

Shani McLane

Ed McNierney

Tom McShane

Rob Moore

Bill Murdock

Ellen Murdock

Miles Nogelo

Catherine O'Brien

Rob Pinsonneault

Catherine Pitari

Cookie Ragen

Vin Raso

Cathy Redman

Dave Redman

Paul Regan Michelle Robbins

Fred Ruoff

Katie Ruoff

Toby Sackton

Val Scarborough

Kim Sharp

Kevin Shelton

Carolyn Shulman

Nancy Springer

Steve Shulman

Amy Stewart Cathy Taglieri Ed Taglieri Carole Tremonti Martha Twombly Gillian Van Schaick Jim Van Schaick Greg Wagner Lynn Wahl Martin Wahl

Ken Weidman



### JOIN THE EFFORT!



NLRA has a volunteer opportunity for everyone. See how you can make a difference for Newfound: NewfoundLake.org/volunteer.

# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Celebrating the success of the campaign for the Grey Rocks Conservation Center.



Grey Rocks Conservation Area was donated to NLRA in 2011 with the vision of being a permanent home for conservation efforts in the Newfound Watershed.

Thanks to the incredible enthusiasm and support from the Newfound community, NLRA broke ground in the fall of 2024 on the Grey Rocks Conservation Center. The conservation center will serve the growing needs of the watershed, the community, and NLRA. It will promote environmental awareness and stewardship, enhance conservation work, and ultimately secure a brighter future for Newfound.

### Construction Timeline

### 1. Design and planning (Complete!)

The conservation center is designed for energy efficiency and models sustainable building practices and development.

### 2. Building Envelope (Complete!)

The building envelope makes use of panelized construction to minimize waste and maximize energy efficiency. It is designed to meet Passive House standards.

### 3. Interior Finishes and Landscaping (Winter 2024/Spring 2025)

The interior of the conservation center will include a great room for educational programs and exhibits and work space for staff and volunteers. Landscaping will manage stormwater and promote ecological function.

### 4. Grand Opening (Spring/Summer 2025)

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Grey Rocks Conservation Center, a space dedicated to connecting the community to the Newfound Watershed.

# GREY ROCKS CONSERVATION CENTER CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS

Jen Berry

Kathy Bird

Nancy Blair

Tripp Blair

Karen Boyd

Bill Brady

Jim Fitts

Parker Griffin

Andrea LaMoreaux

**Bob Martens** 

Andy McLane

Ed McNierney

Rob Moore

Rob Pinsonneault

Val Scarborough

Carolyn Shulman

Steve Shulman

Carole Tremonti

Martha Twombly

Gillian Van Schaick

Jim Van Schaick

Greg Wagner

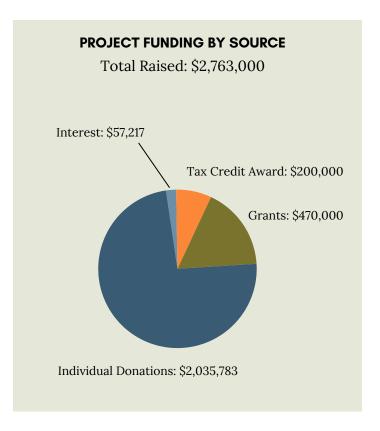
Ken Weidman

### Thank you Newfound!

The Grey Rocks Conservation Center project is possible because of community support. Hundreds of supporters have made generous contributions to the special campaign for the conservation center. NLRA is incredibly grateful to the people that believe that Newfound's clean water and healthy forests are worth protecting, and have followed this belief to action by making a financial commitment. By investing in conservation, you are creating a brighter future for the Newfound Watershed.

Supporters of our special campaign for the Grey Rocks Conservation Center are included among NLRA's 2024 members and donors on pages 12-17 of this report.

We would also like to thank the generations of Newfounders that laid the philantrhopic foundation for this project over the last fifty years. Many supporters and volunteers have dedicated themselves to NLRA's conservation efforts for decades. We are proud and grateful to be launching to greater heights of conservation success because of this long tradition of support.



### Construction Progress

NLRA broke ground on the Grey Rocks Conservation Center in October, 2024. By December, the conservation center envelope was complete and interior work had begun. Currently, the conservation center is scheduled to be complete in June of 2025.





October 2024 December 2024

#### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THESE BUSINESSES

Badger Peabody & Smith Realty Bryant Paving The Dumpster Depot Franklin Savings Bank Golden Leaf Landscapes Hart's Restaurant Lauren Roman Interior Design LaValley Building Supply Mallory Portraits Meredith Village Savings Bank Newfound Insurance Agency Newfound Law Peter Limmer & Sons Sippican Partners Construction Wescott Law, PA Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank

We are grateful for your support of our work to protect the Newfound Watershed.

Asterisks indicate Shore to Shore Society members, our longest-giving donors, who have included NLRA in their annual charitable giving for 15 years or more.

This list has been compiled with care! If you notice an error or omission, please contact <u>Audrey@NewfoundLake.org</u>.

### Individuals and Foundations

Beth and Michael Aaronson

Dean Abruzzio and Julie Salamone

Heidi Adams Jan and Jack Adie

Carole and Ricardo Aguayo

Janis Ahern

Richard and Deborah Aho

Reed Alexander and Doris Jurisson

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Paul Berton Martin Betelak

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Naomi Black

Tripp and Nancy Blair\* Rebecca and John Blair George and Marilyn Blaisdell\* Susan "Curly" Bleckmann David and Rebecca Bliss\*

Orrin Bliss

Victoria Bliss-Calkins Russell Bogdan Linda Bogdan

Dennis and Susan Bogdan Bob and Mary Bogosh Bette Bohlke-O'Gara\* George and Nancy Bolln\* Carole Bonnet-Eymard\*

Jonah Bookstein

Anne and Arthur Bosley Dan Bouchard

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Jerry and Eleanor Bowe\*

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Daisy Day

Jeffrey and Michelle Dean

Dori Dearborn

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Mary Delapp

Maureen and Robert Deluca

Dr. Laurence, Susan, Chris, Marc and

Andrew Demers\*

Diane DeMers and Dave Ballantine

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Glenn and Eleanor Dorr Marc and Susan D'Orvilliers

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Gary Frost and Dotti Balon-Frost Jeffrey Fuller and Paula Cullinane

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Debra Holloway

Brian Holmes

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Bridgewater Hills Association

**Bristol Shores** 

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### **PROTECT NEWFOUND!**

Join your friends and neighbors and become a supporter of the Newfound Lake Region Association. Your donation at any level makes possible the programs that protect Newfound's land and water for the benefit of the community.

#### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- All donors are considered NLRA members, with voting rights at the NLRA Annual Meeting.
- Subscription to our biannual publication, The Monitor.
- Notification of the latest news, special events, and volunteer opportunities via our email Newsletter, the *Newfound Connection*.
- 25% discount on EcoTour tickets.\*
- Eligibility for our annual Grey Rocks Boat Storage Lottery.\*
- Members-only events.\*
- Peace of mind knowing you are supporting the only organization working full time to protect the Newfound watershed.

<sup>\*</sup>Included with annual support at or above the \$50 level.



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### THE CLEAR WATER SOCIETY

Clear Water Society members have committed to the future of Newfound by including NLRA in their estate or financial planning. We thank them for their visionary approach to philanthropy!

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# Have you made a planned gift to NLRA? Let us know so we can say thank you and welcome you to the Clear Water Society!

We were introduced to Newfound by friends in 1998. Like so many others, once we saw it, it was love at first sight. We purchased what we thought would be a getaway spot but discovered quickly that it was meant to be our home!

Newfound is special and it is up to those who love it to take care of it. By proactively supporting the work of NLRA, we ensure it will retain its place as one of the great lakes in our country.

We hope that our love of the lake manifests itself in the work that we do to keep our lake pure and healthy. By conserving and protecting our lake, our children and grandchildren will benefit from our good works.

With our vibrant Newfound Community, we are confident that we can keep our lake clear and clean well into the future. Our planned gift is our investment in the future of Newfound Lake!

-Bob and Sue Martens, Clear Water Society Members



### WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

A gift included in your estate or financial plan is one of the most impactful ways you can support conservation and ensure the protection of our land and water for generations to come. There are many options for planned giving, allowing you to meet your estate planning goals while creating a legacy that reflects your values, priorities, and hopes for the future.

#### **WAYS TO GIVE**

- Gifts through a will or trust.
- Beneficiary designation of your retirement account, donor-advised fund, life insurance policy, or bank or brokerage account.
- Gifts of stock and appreciated securities.
- And more!

If you are considering a planned gift and would like to know more about how a planned gift can benefit you, your loved ones, and Newfound Lake, email Development Director Audrey West at <a href="Mailto:Audrey@NewfoundLake.org">Audrey@NewfoundLake.org</a> or call (603) 744–8689 for more information.



Protecting the Newfound Watershed for over fifty years.



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