

# ISLAND NATURE TRUST

## Island Nature Trust Update

A public meeting of the Island Nature Trust was held in the Kelly Building at U.P.E.I. on Feb. 14. Dr. Ian MacQuarrie, chairman of the Trust, showed a selection of slides and outlined the general purpose and objectives of the Island Nature Trust.

The Deroche Point area has been identified as the most significant site in the province currently in need of protection. The provincial government has already purchased certain properties in the area and the Nature Trust has committed itself to assist financially in the undertaking. At present, the Trust is studying ways to best fulfill this commitment. One possibility under consideration is to obtain a long-term lease of the Deroche site and assume responsibility for annual maintenance and management plus associated expenses.

A tentative set of criteria for prioritizing potential natural areas was presented for consideration. The system involves rating sites on a sliding scale of value for features such as quality of site, species rarity, vulnerability, multiplicity of use, and so forth. The committee concerned is now inviting reactions and comments on the proposed rating scheme.

Dr. MacQuarrie outlined recent events with regard to the proposed development at Cable Head. He stated the Island Nature Trust's position that it is not possible to have a natural area and a recreational development in the same area. At present the government has requested that the developer prepare an environmental assessment for the Cable Head site. When the assessment becomes available, the Trust intends to become heavily involved in the review process of the assessment and in making sure that the whole issue becomes well publicized and debated by the public.

The next meeting of the Island Nature Trust is to be held on March 20. All interested persons are invited to attend. The time and place of the meeting will be announced later and can be obtained by calling 892-4121 extension 170.