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50clf

Conservation
Law Foundation

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
OF CLF

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Sara Molyneux

When I reflect on the impact that CLF has had on New England in our first 50 years, I don't just think of the pioneering legal victories we've won, the polluting power plants we've closed, or the policies we've created and enforced.

I also think of the people whose lives have been made better, water made safer, and air made easier to breathe because our staff, our supporters, and our volunteers have fought day in and day out, year in and year out to make New England healthy and thriving for all.

That doggedness is perhaps our most enduring and celebrated trait – one well cultivated by the staff, supporters, and volunteers who came before me. I am inspired and humbled by your hard work, vision, and leadership – Boston Harbor is clean, Georges Bank free of oil rigs, Eastport Harbor safe, and Cape Cod

National Seashore protected from off-road vehicles because of you.

I am equally inspired to work alongside CLF's current generation who, under Brad's leadership, is building on our remarkable 50-year legacy with victories that are as impactful and far-reaching as they have ever been. In the last year alone, we have:

- secured two transformative decisions in Massachusetts' highest court aimed at curbing polluting fossil fuels,
- helped to permanently protect one of New England's most spectacular ocean habitats,
- fought a proposal for a polluting gas power plant in Rhode Island,
- moved closer to a coal-free New England thanks to an historic settlement in New Hampshire,
- pushed for stronger protections for Lake Champlain,
- and launched a first-of-its-kind lawsuit against ExxonMobil that calls the

corporate giant to account for putting our climate, our communities, and our children's and grandchildren's futures at risk.

These victories are only possible thanks to your steadfast support. Many of you have been part of the CLF community for decades, while others are just learning about our groundbreaking work. Together, you provide the support we need to prosper, the encouragement we need to stay the course, and the vision we need to continue to raise the bar year after year.

Thank you – I look forward to what CLF's next 50 years will bring for people and communities throughout New England.

Sincerely,

Sara Molyneux
Chair, Board of Trustees

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Eco Photography



A handwritten signature of Bradley Campbell in black ink.

When CLF was founded in 1966, the idea of using the law, policy, and science to defend the public's right to a clean and healthy environment was novel and untested. Achieving environmental goals by showing that they make economic sense was near heresy.

Fifty years later, CLF has perfected the art of both – to the lasting benefit of New England's people, communities, and environment. But even as we pause to celebrate our past successes, this golden anniversary is really a time for looking forward. Today, we stand at a turning point – in CLF's history and that of the planet. Climate change threatens to reshape our forests and ocean, our coastlines and communities. New contaminants in our air and water are putting public health at risk. Emerging technologies such as self-driving cars have the potential to make or break our clean air and healthy climate.

And the environmental laws on which CLF built our reputation are becoming obsolete as they are outpaced by new threats and agencies that increasingly lack the resources to enforce them.

So the question is: Will we stand by and allow these challenges to jeopardize the futures of our children and grandchildren? Or will we stand up and fight for a future in which our children and our communities are not just safe from harm, but are vibrant and thriving?

You know CLF and that means you already know our answer.

If I have learned one thing about CLF in my first year as president, it is that we never give up and go home just because a challenge seems too big to be overcome. Today, the battles may be more complicated, our foes savvier, and, in the face of a changing climate, the risks far greater.

But CLF has proven again and again that with perseverance, dedication, and innovation, we can take on big issues in one town, one state, or one region – and have an impact far beyond our borders.

The old models of protecting our environment and our communities no longer apply – which simply means that CLF will once again lead in creating new ones. As our friends and supporters, your unwavering support and commitment have never been more important. You are a critical part of CLF's legacy and a vital partner in our future.

At 50, CLF is just getting started.

Sincerely,

Bradley Campbell
President

GOING LOW-CARB

Transforming New England's Energy System



Dedyar Viktor/Shutterstock

CLF is working to make New England's economy carbon-free, which is the only solution to curb the worst impacts of climate change.

New England's coal-fired power plants were at their peak when CLF opened its doors 50 years ago. The majority of the region's coal fleet came online in the post-war boom years of the 1950s and 1960s and they would go on to dominate our region's electricity mix for decades. Today, however, only a handful of these dirty power generators remain, a mix of environmental pressures and market forces having brought the industry to its knees. By 2020, with a significant push from CLF (SEE PAGE 6), New England is expected to be coal free for good.

The question now is what kind of energy will step in to take coal's place. Over the past decade, lawmakers and industry wonks have thrust natural gas into the energy spotlight as the "next big thing." Indeed, cheap and abundant natural gas helped hasten the coal industry's demise and it has come to overshadow other

fuels on the electricity grid. When oil prices skyrocketed a few years ago, it also became the go-to fuel for heat, and homes and businesses throughout New England scrambled to sign on.

So too for our region's governors and energy regulators, who virtually swooned when Big Gas came knocking with promises of more cheap domestic gas. But all that gas comes with two big catches. The first is that enormous new pipelines will need to be cut through New Englanders' backyards in order to deliver that gas, and the region's electricity customers will be on the hook to pay for them.

The second catch is that indiscriminate adoption of natural gas in New England will make it impossible to end the region's addiction to climate-polluting fossil fuels – which is imperative if the region is to meet its aggressive goals for cutting emissions of damaging greenhouse gases (SEE SIDEBAR NEXT PAGE).

CLF has never stood silent when a bad idea is thrown our way, and the irrational exuberance for Big Gas has been no exception. First, CLF fought against oil and gas giant Kinder Morgan's proposal for an oversized and unnecessary new pipeline, heralding the news when, earlier this year, the company canceled the project in the face of legal hurdles and strong on-the-ground opposition.

With other proposed pipelines waiting in the wings, CLF took its case against the gas industry – and state regulatory agencies – to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which ultimately agreed that the so-called "pipeline tax" financing scheme was illegal. New Hampshire's Public Utilities Commission came to the same conclusion just a few months later. These victories put the business case for any new gas pipeline on shaky ground.

At the same time, CLF is working to ensure that proposed new natural gas power

The Block Island turbines make up the first offshore wind farm in the country [SEE SIDEBAR, PAGE 7].



plants don't sink New England's climate goals, with ongoing battles in Rhode Island and Massachusetts heating up.

But these victories alone are not enough. The reality is that for New England – and the entire country – to meet the targets agreed to in the just-ratified Paris Climate Agreement, let alone state-based climate goals, the pressure is on to decarbonize our economy. In other words, to make the switch from powering homes and businesses with outdated fossil fuels to running them on clean, local energy, New England needs to do more than avoid the natural gas trap. It must aggressively cut carbon emissions while adopting policies and projects that boost low-cost, home-grown, renewable energy.

Large-scale renewable energy combined with new technologies – small-scale solar and wind, for example, and a smarter grid – can potentially transform our energy system, but only with the right policies and incentives in place. Similar policies and technologies can also lead customers to curb their demand – encouraging energy efficiency and allowing New England to reduce its electricity usage overall.

Market reforms, too, are necessary if the region is to cut its ties to dirty energy for good. ISO New England, the region's grid operator, is exploring ways to make the energy market more competitive for innovative clean technologies. It has invited policy makers, regulators, industry heads, and environmental advocacy leaders like CLF to the table to help develop a road map to reform.

Ultimately, a carbon-free future is the only solution to curbing climate change. But that future can't wait until 2050. Rapid change within the next decade is needed to ensure a healthier climate, thriving environment, and clean-powered economy for future generations of New Englanders and beyond. CLF's unique expertise in the legislative, policy, regulatory, and legal arenas has already helped New England to break free of dirty coal and loosened Big Gas's grip on the region's energy future. Now, CLF is poised to shepherd in a new era of clean energy innovation, creativity, and transformation.



State Goals for Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2050

-75–80%
Below 2003 emissions levels

Maine (over the long term)

-80%
Below 1990 emissions levels

New Hampshire

-80%
Below 1990 emissions levels

Rhode Island

-75%
Below 1990 emissions levels

Vermont

-80%
Below 1990 emissions levels

Massachusetts

-80%
Below 2001 emissions levels

Connecticut

— Reductions in Emissions
— Allowed Emissions



SOURCE: ISO NEW ENGLAND

COAL-FREE NEW ENGLAND 2020

With tenacious legal and policy advocacy, CLF has challenged coal plants across New England for violating environmental regulations and harming public health. The region is on track to be coal-free by 2020, leaving New England's air and water cleaner, its climate healthier, and its energy system on a path to be carbon free.

1980

CLF publishes *Coal Issues Handbook* to help **assess the costs & benefits** of coal-fired power plants in New England.



1994

CLF **stops construction** of three coal-fired power plants in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

2010

85-year-old Somerset Station **closes down** after years of advocacy by CLF and Somerset residents.

2014

New England's largest coal plant, Brayton Point in Somerset, Massachusetts, announces **plans to close** by 2017.

1992

CLF convinces State of Massachusetts to **reverse a license** that allows coal plants to be built in New Bedford.

2009

Working with local lobstermen and fishermen, CLF helps to **defeat plans** for a coal gasification plant and diesel refinery in Wiscasset, Maine.

2012

CLF settles lawsuit with owners of Salem Harbor Station to **shut down** polluting plant by 2014.

2014

Salem Harbor Station and Mt. Tom Station in Holyoke, Massachusetts, **go dark**.

2016

Historic settlement forces Eversource to **sell its coal-fired power plants** in New Hampshire. Heavily subsidized for years, the plants aren't expected to stay open once they have to compete on the open market.



COMMUNITY VOICES: THE CLEAN ENERGY LANDSCAPE

On one of those perfect, blue-sky-and-sunshine summer days that New Englanders dream of all winter long, Peter Baute emerges from a shaded trail into a small clearing overlooking Block Island Sound. At least half a dozen people mill about the clearing, cameras in hand, jockeying for the best angle of the scene before them.

They're not here to photograph the cloudless sky, the blue-green water, or even the dramatic Mohegan Bluffs that plunge into the ocean nearby. Instead, they're transfixed by three enormous wind turbines – part of the country's first offshore wind farm – under construction three miles offshore.

"Nobody used to come to this view point," Peter says. "Now, it's gotten to be a major stop." The turbines' blades were motionless on that August day, but the full five-turbine farm was scheduled to go online in early November. The project, owned by Deepwater Wind, will supply energy to the entire Block Island community, with electricity to spare for the Rhode Island mainland.

Peter is as mesmerized watching the turbines rise up from the ocean floor as everyone else. But he also acknowledges that, for him, they're more than engineering marvels. "They're graceful," he says. "And they mean something to me."

The retired physician served on the Block Island town council when Deepwater Wind first proposed the project and he actively advocated for the wind farm over the seven years

it took for its many permits to win approval. "It was a lot of hearings," he says, "a lot of legal battles." But, for Peter, the project's benefits – from replacing the diesel generators currently powering the island (and cutting the pollution that comes with them) to the projected savings on residents' monthly bills – were well worth the years-long effort.

What's more, he says, "these turbines mean that we're not burning oil and sending people into the ground to dig for coal."

As a long-time island resident, Peter's acutely aware of the impacts of climate change and the need to turn away from climate-warming fossil fuels. The main road to his home was washed out when Hurricane Sandy battered the island four years ago. "Year to year, sea level rise doesn't look like anything. But 30 years out? We've seen eight inches in the last 20 years. It's accelerating; it's not slowing down."

And, while he knows that this small project on Block Island won't make much of a dent in stopping global climate damage, he sees the Block Island wind farm as a step in the right direction. "It depends more on what we do as a world than what we do here on Block Island," he admits.

But as he looks out on the five turbines rising in his corner of the globe, he recognizes that big transformations often start with small strides. And, with larger offshore wind farms already planned for New England's ocean, he's proud to have played a part in blazing this new path for New England's energy future.

WEB OF DECEIT

Holding ExxonMobil Accountable for Its Decades of Climate Denial



ExxonMobil's indifference to the communities that host its facilities has put the people and neighborhoods of Everett and Chelsea, Massachusetts, at risk.

On January 9, 2006, residents of the Mystic River communities of Chelsea and Everett awoke to find the foul odor of diesel hanging in the air and the river covered in a blue-green sheen. Clearly, one of the local industries that dominate the shores of the lower Mystic had spilled fuel into the river. But, as the hours ticked by, none of them stepped forward to claim responsibility. Meanwhile, the spill continued its sickly-hued spread up the Island End River and down to Boston Harbor.

It wasn't until two days later, when the Coast Guard came knocking on the door, that anyone at the ExxonMobil Pipeline Company realized the spill had come from its oil terminal, which sits perched on the river's edge. With no one at the facility even noticing, faulty valves had allowed 2,500 gallons of kerosene and 12,700 gallons of low-sulfur diesel to pour into the river. Exxon's negligence went deeper than that

one night, however. According to a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice, the company not only knew about the faulty valves, it had never even tried to repair them. What's more, had its employees conducted a regular required inspection of the facility, they would have discovered the spill while it was happening.

Ten years and a \$5.9 million fine later, you would think that ExxonMobil had learned its lesson at its Everett terminal. But it hasn't. Today, virtually every time that it rains, this same facility dumps toxic pollution into the Mystic River in clear violation of its Clean Water Act permit. What's worse, says CLF President Bradley Campbell, the storage terminal is "utterly unprepared for the more intense storms, the more intense rain, and the sea level rise that lie immediately in front of us, given climate change we know we can't avoid." A major storm could overwhelm the facility, resulting in thousands of gallons of oil spilling into the densely populated

neighborhoods that surround it – and into the Mystic River and Boston Harbor.

Anyone who's been following the news recently won't be surprised by ExxonMobil's indifference to the climate impacts that lie ahead, except where it will impact the company's bottom line. Its climate deceit is well documented by its own scientists, who recognized that fossil fuels were impacting the climate as early as 1969. But Exxon saw dollar signs instead of disaster in our changing climate, taking steps to capitalize on melting Arctic ice and the oil reserves now accessible because of it, while at the same time funding climate denial organizations to confuse the public about the impending reality.

Here in Massachusetts, Exxon's decades of deceit and indifference have left local communities and sensitive ecosystems at risk of catastrophe. "This is where climate change and climate deceit really hit home," says Campbell. "A spill of hazardous waste



TOP LEFT: Community members from Chelsea and Everett join CLF President Brad Campbell and Massachusetts Advocacy Center Director Veronica Eady at a press conference announcing CLF's lawsuit. TOP RIGHT: Increased storm surge from climate change could flood Exxon's Everett facility (BOTTOM), spewing toxic pollution into nearby neighborhoods and the Mystic River.

or oil here isn't going to just result in a cleanup task for Exxon, it's going to do severe damage and harm to families and children."

CLF's lawsuit against the corporate giant is aimed at changing those odds by forcing the company to live up to its legal obligations under the Clean Water Act and thereby protect its community neighbors. "Exxon is rolling the dice with the safety of the communities that have hosted them for generations," says Campbell. "We need only speak with our community partners to understand that this lawsuit is vital, not for some abstract principle, but for the safety of homes and businesses that lie in harm's way."

Indeed, those community partners – including Chelsea Collaborative, Mystic River Watershed Association, GreenRoots,

Inc., and others [SEE SIDEBAR, PAGE 12] – have been critical in helping CLF shape its case against Exxon. "At every step of this case, we're in close consultation with the community to make sure they feel their needs and rights to protection are being respected," Campbell says. "Also, to the extent there are opportunities for ExxonMobil to mitigate the damage it has done, we want to ensure those remedies are shaped in ways that respond to the priorities of the community."

Chelsea and Everett aren't the only communities in danger if companies across New England fail to prepare for the rising seas and increased storm surges that climate change will bring. "This is an issue for everyone who cares about the health of their family, the safety of their business, the integrity of their neighborhoods," Campbell says. His goal is for CLF's case

against Exxon to serve as a wake-up call for corporations nationwide to step up and demonstrate that they are ready for the types of weather that could put a community at risk. "Every architect or engineer designing a new building or a new piece of infrastructure needs to bear in mind what that facility is going to have to withstand in the 20 years that lie ahead," he says.

As one of the largest and most profitable corporations in the world, says Campbell, "ExxonMobil has a unique obligation to lead the way on this issue. It can continue to ignore its responsibility to Everett and Chelsea – and to the many other communities that host its facilities. Or it can protect these communities and make its facility a model of what corporations should be doing across the country to prepare for the climate impacts that we know are coming."



COMMUNITY VOICES: A MESSAGE TO EXXONMOBIL

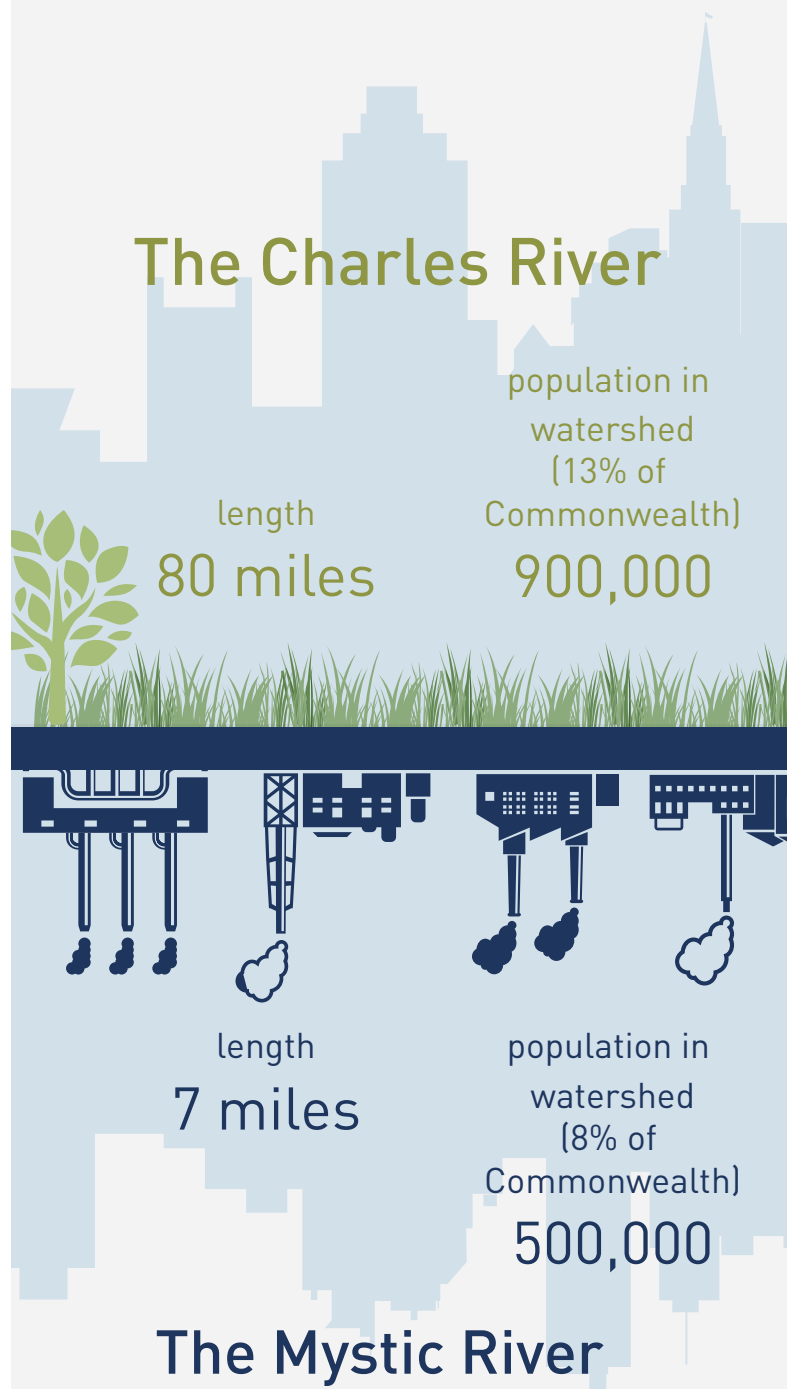
Roseann Bongiovanni is a lifelong Chelsea resident who has led significant environmental justice campaigns for more than 21 years. She is the Executive Director of GreenRoots, Inc., an organization dedicated to achieving environmental and climate justice for Chelsea.

Growing up in Chelsea and neighboring Everett, many in our community, myself included, never realized we were living in a waterfront community simply because we had no access to our riverfront. There were no waterfront parks, no fishing piers, no walkways along the water, and almost no views of the river itself. Massive oil storage tanks, industrial facilities, parking lots, and dilapidated piers blocked the views of our waterfront.

I would like ExxonMobil to understand the burden – the impact – they’re having on the local community. They’re not just spilling pollutants into an unknown river or into unknown air with no one around them. I would like ExxonMobil executives to think about Chelsea and Everett as if this was their home, as if their parents lived here – as if they were trying to raise a family here, like I am. Would they want their family members exposed to the same pollutants that they’re exposing us to? Why is it fair that they’re doing that to our community? ExxonMobil is impacting our lives, our public health, our quality of life.

We’re not talking about just a few people. These are some of the most densely populated, lowest income, and most ethnically diverse neighborhoods in the entire state, right here in Chelsea and Everett. They are the ones that are literally seeing and feeling the burden every single day. ExxonMobil needs to realize that. If Exxon said, “We didn’t realize what we’ve done, we made a mistake, we want to work with the community, we want to be a better neighbor, we want to rectify what we’re doing wrong, WE’RE SORRY,” that would be a significant victory. But they won’t. They’re not talking to us, they’re violating their permits, and they’re continuing to lie.

Every day we’re vulnerable. We worry about the constant threat of chemical and petroleum spills, and of not being able to protect our people, our environment. If a Superstorm Sandy or Hurricane Katrina hit Boston, you’d see all of our folks out of their homes, everything that they’ve worked so hard for – completely gone. It’s crazy scary, and it’s reality for us.



A Tale of Two Rivers

The Charles and Mystic rivers are Boston's most iconic waterways. Both have played critical roles in the city's history, economy, and culture.

Both have suffered from devastating pollution. But their courses have diverged dramatically over the last 20 years, with the Charles becoming the focus of significant local and government cleanup efforts. While more work remains to be done for the Charles, today the river is a treasured asset, with miles of greenways along its riverbanks. In stark contrast, the Lower Mystic has been left largely to languish, walled off by industry from the low-income communities lining its shores and with only dedicated local groups tasked with carrying out the fight for its health. ExxonMobil's neglect is just the latest in a long line of injustices endured here. CLF is working alongside community partners to help change the Mystic's story.

environmental
justice
communities in
watershed (of 35 total
communities)

4

Superfund Sites

1

2015 EPA Water
Quality Grade

B+

pollution limits
established by EPA

2008

environmental
justice
communities in
watershed (of 22 total
communities)

8

Superfund Sites

3

2015 EPA Water
Quality Grade
(per waterbody
in the Mystic River
watershed)

A to F

pollution limits
established by EPA
still waiting

BOSTON HARBOR 2.0

The New Frontier in the Fight to Save Boston Harbor



Boston Harbor's resurgence has created a rush to overdevelop the waterfront without considering climate impacts or the public's long-standing right to access it.

When CLF launched its 1983 lawsuit against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for dumping toxic sludge and untreated wastewater into Boston Harbor, years of neglect by the federal government, the state, the city, and polluters had turned the harbor into a shameful liability. But over time, and thanks to the dedicated efforts of public and private partners, the harbor has become the pride of Boston and a centerpiece of booming economic growth, technical innovation, and city life.

The lessons of Boston Harbor are many, but the ultimate takeaway seems pretty simple: doing the right thing now, even if it's costly, delivers remarkable returns later, and ensures true resilience over time. But those lessons are too easily forgotten or ignored. Today, short-sighted, profit-driven development is threatening to once again

shortchange the city's sustainable future, this time in the face of a changing climate.

A generation ago, no one could have imagined that unchecked development along Boston's waterfront could ever be a problem. Who would want to live, work, or play alongside what was essentially an open sewer? And climate change impacts weren't yet part of the public dialogue.

But the harbor's cleanup created a new urban frontier, one that has resulted in the fast-paced development of apartments, condos, hotels, office space, restaurants, and more along the waterfront. Today, developers are stampeding to build on the parts of the waterfront – the Seaport District, East Boston, and South Boston – that have been less built out, until now. Such rampant growth brings a short-term economic boon, yes, but it also brings long-term risk if it is not countered by a comprehensive and strategic vision of climate-readiness.

This is where the new line in CLF's battle to protect Boston's harbor and waterfront is being drawn: with CLF leading the charge to do the right thing now – in which new development would be informed by strategic and forward-thinking planning – over the current close-your-eyes-and-hope-for-the-best approach.

The costs of not doing the right thing now will be devastating. Four years ago, Bostonians watched in horror as Superstorm Sandy tore through New Jersey and New York, destroying homes and businesses with its storm surge and flooding. But Boston averted similar catastrophe from Sandy by mere hours. Had the storm made landfall here just five and a half hours earlier, at high tide, the floodwaters would have reached the steps of Boston City Hall – a half mile inland from the city's waterfront.

The City of Boston has hardly ignored its climate risk – in fact it's been lauded



Eric Kilby via Creative Commons 2.0



Kendra Gillett/MOTT via Creative Commons 2.0

Chapter 91, a 300-year-old law, protects the public's right to access the revitalized harborfront.

for its attention to it. The Boston Climate Action Plan and Climate-Ready Boston Initiative provide frameworks for coastal communities across the country in how to analyze and model the future climate conditions that will reshape our coastlines. Yet the blind spot in the city's climate readiness work remains execution along its own vulnerable waterfront, where more than \$7 billion in new and planned development is currently in the works – development that, by and large, ignores the impending realities of bigger and more severe storms, flooding, and sea-level rise.

Fighting City Hall and powerful developers is familiar ground for CLF. Even as we carried on our fight to clean up Boston Harbor through the 1980s and into the new millennium, the organization was also at work defending people's right to access and enjoy the increasingly attractive waterfront that they had paid to clean up. If developers had had their way then, the Boston Harbor

waterfront would look nothing like it does today. Instead of nearly 40 miles of Harborwalk, the waterfront would have been walled off behind residential and commercial real estate. CLF's ultimate victory in those earlier development battles meant that the people of Boston now not only had a harbor on the mend, but improved access to that harbor by transit and on foot, along with green and other public spaces that have since become cultural and recreational destinations for tourists and locals alike.

CLF's work ahead will mean more than enforcing Massachusetts' 300-year-old laws that protect the harbor and the public right to access it, however. Boston – and all of New England's coastal communities – must find ways to live with rising waters, address the vulnerabilities of existing homes and businesses, and ensure that new development tackles, rather than ignores, climate reality.

That will mean bringing all of CLF's skills to the table – watchdog defender of existing laws, forward-thinking advocate for reformed and new policies, and in-it-for-the-long-haul dedication to the people and communities of New England.

A Healthy, Resilient New England

Tackling the root causes of climate change by cleaning up our energy supply and making our homes, businesses, and cars cleaner and greener is critical in averting the worst impacts our changing climate will bring. But it's not enough. We need to brace for the climate impacts already in motion by making our communities across New England more resilient – able to withstand and bounce back from bigger storms, erratic weather patterns, and rising seas.

By preparing for climate impacts today, we will ensure our communities can thrive tomorrow.

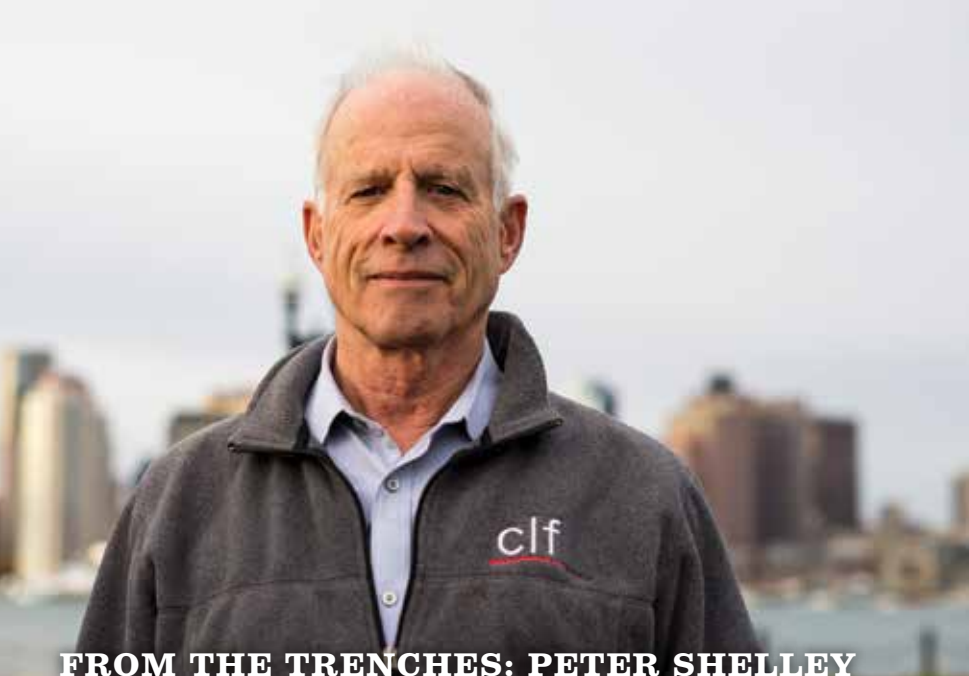
For CLF, that means looking at how we're caring for our natural resources and planning for our built environment, so that everyone in New England has a chance for a thriving and healthy future.

THE NATURAL WORLD

Our forests, wetlands, coasts, and ocean are what make New England such a remarkable place to live, work, and play. They are also our best natural buffers against climate impacts – but only if we care for, protect, and strengthen them. Restored wetlands and fragile dunes, for example, will help to absorb flood waters from big storms, while reconnecting rivers with their historic floodplains will ensure that when waterways do flood, the water stays in its natural channels rather than breaking through banks and putting streets underwater.

THE BUILT WORLD

Current regulations guiding the building of homes, businesses, and infrastructure haven't caught up to climate reality. Instead, decisions are driven by a mix of local, state, and federal standards – many of which are based on decades-old data, such as floodplain boundaries developed in the 1980s. Addressing regulatory gaps in how we build new homes and businesses, adapt stormwater and wastewater management systems, and protect transit systems is critical to ensuring the long-term safety and security of our communities.



FROM THE TRENCHES: PETER SHELLEY

The cleanup of Boston Harbor wasn't Senior Counsel Peter Shelley's first big case with CLF (as a third-year law student in the late 1970s, he was part of the landmark effort to stop oil and gas drilling on Georges Bank), but it has certainly been the most iconic of his long career with the organization. Peter reflects on what the case meant for him, for CLF, and for the people of Boston.

In the early 1980s, about 80 tons of solid sewage waste were being discharged off Logan Airport into Boston Harbor every day. CLF recognized that the only way we would be able to create change would be to hold someone legally liable. But until the Environmental Protection Agency had a change of heart and joined our side in 1985, the case was essentially the People (represented by CLF) versus EPA, versus the Commonwealth, versus, well, everyone.

When we made the initial decision to fix this problem, no one had any idea how big the challenge was, how long it was going to take, or what it was going to cost. But one of the things that has been true about CLF from the beginning is that once we tackle something, we don't let go until it is fixed. I filed the first legal papers in July of 1983 and in March of 2016, the case officially came to a close. I've been really proud that CLF and our supporters have been willing to see things through to this outcome. I don't think there's any question in anyone's mind that the Boston Harbor cleanup was worth it.

This case was formative in many ways. In very practical terms it was about cleaning up and recapturing the harbor for the people of Boston. But it was formative for CLF as an organization, too. We realized we had to be more vigilant – we couldn't just assume that government was doing its job and accomplishing all of the lofty objectives that animate critical federal laws like the Clean Water and Clean Air acts. Without a group like CLF to hold the government accountable for its responsibilities, New England would be seeing one Boston Harbor after another.

Today, CLF has one of the best clean water advocacy programs in the country. We are doing groundbreaking work that sets precedents for groups nationwide and we continue to challenge the EPA to be better – all so that we can have a safe and clean environment and realize the economic benefits that brings to the people of New England.

Swimmable,

CLF has taken the lessons learned from its hard-won victory cleaning up Boston Harbor and put them to work all across New England, holding polluters accountable and pushing for enforcement of clean water laws at the local, state, and federal levels. Today, CLF is:

- **CLEANING UP STORMWATER POLLUTION**

CLF is fighting for new protections and creative solutions to keep polluted stormwater from wreaking havoc on our waterways.

- **CURBING NUTRIENT POLLUTION**

CLF is working state by state, waterbody by waterbody to control nitrogen pollution and prevent dead zones and toxic algae blooms.

- **ENFORCING THE LAW**

CLF is holding polluting businesses accountable to the Clean Water Act, one polluter at a time – and helping out local communities with every win.

CLF envisions a New England with waters free of contamination and pollution and that people can swim in, fish, and drink from without worry. Learn more at www.clf.org/cleanwater.

Fishable, Drinkable Water for All

Great Bay Estuary

New Hampshire

CLF's Great Bay-Piscataqua River Waterkeeper® acts as on-the-ground advocate, convener, and watchdog, mobilizing local support and acting as the fragile estuary's "eyes and ears" to guard against illegal pollution and other threats.



Long Creek

Maine

Before CLF took action, Long Creek was nearly dead from pollution flowing off of the Maine Mall area's many roads, parking lots, and flat roofs. Today, local businesses and governments are partnering to bring the creek back to life.



Cape Cod

Massachusetts

CLF sued the Environmental Protection Agency over its lax enforcement of clean water laws that left the Cape's bays overrun with harmful pollution. The suit resulted in a revamped regional plan to address the problem.



Lake Champlain

Vermont

CLF's years of advocacy to clean up the iconic – and ailing – lake have paid off with new laws aimed at curbing pollution. CLF is now working to ensure the laws are strengthened and enforced so that they truly make a difference.



Mashapaug Pond

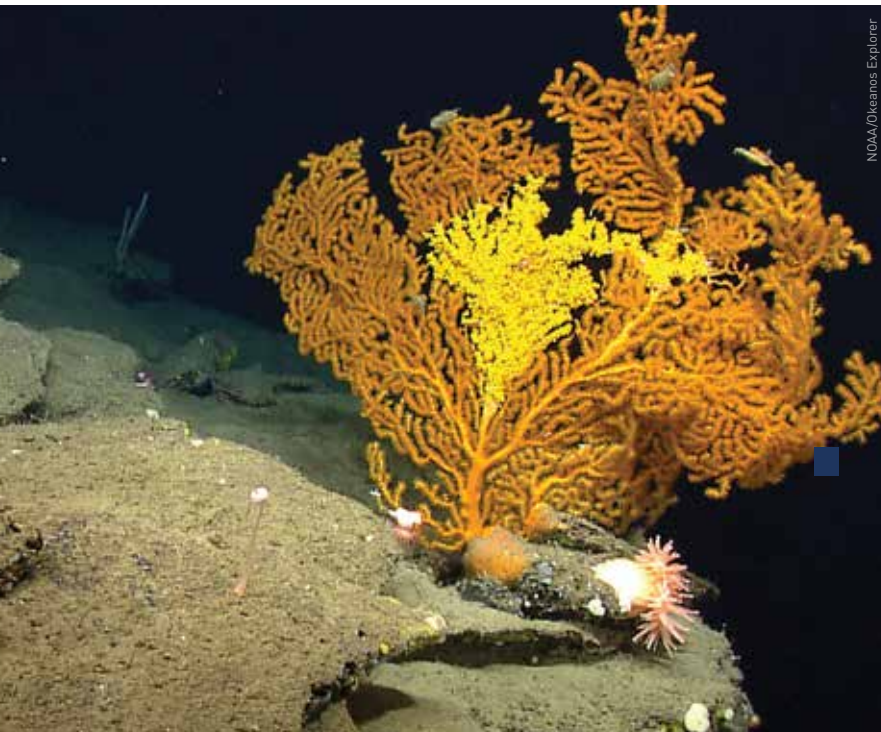
Rhode Island

CLF is suing the Environmental Protection Agency to uphold the Clean Water Act and require big polluters to control their dirty stormwater discharge and curb the unchecked pollution that is harming the state's waterways.



OUR CHANGING OCEAN

Climate Impacts in Motion



NOAA/Okeanos Explorer



Brian Kerry



Brett Seymour

Marine protected areas, like the just-designated Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, provide refuge for wildlife such as cod and serve as open-sea laboratories for scientists studying the impacts of climate change on New England's ocean. But one protected area is not enough.

In September, leaders from around the world gathered in Washington, D.C., for the third annual Our Ocean Conference, hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry. Together, they committed to 136 new initiatives aimed at conserving and protecting fragile ocean areas worldwide.

In between commitments from the countries of Sri Lanka and Panama, CLF Vice President and Director of Ocean Conservation Dr. Priscilla Brooks took to the microphone to address heads of state and environment ministers from around the world. On this global stage, Brooks announced CLF's commitment to address climate impacts in the fast-warming Gulf of Maine and along New England's coast.

How severely those impacts will hit New England waters is still unknown. But what is known is that water temperatures in the Gulf of Maine are rising faster than virtually any other ocean area in the world. By the

end of this century, the Gulf is expected to be five degrees warmer than it is today.

From lobsters moving northward in search of cooler temperatures, to dramatic changes in the abundance of plankton that could weaken entire food webs, a warmer Gulf of Maine could wreak havoc on New England's fisheries, recreational opportunities, and even tourism, all of which contribute significantly to healthy coastal economies.

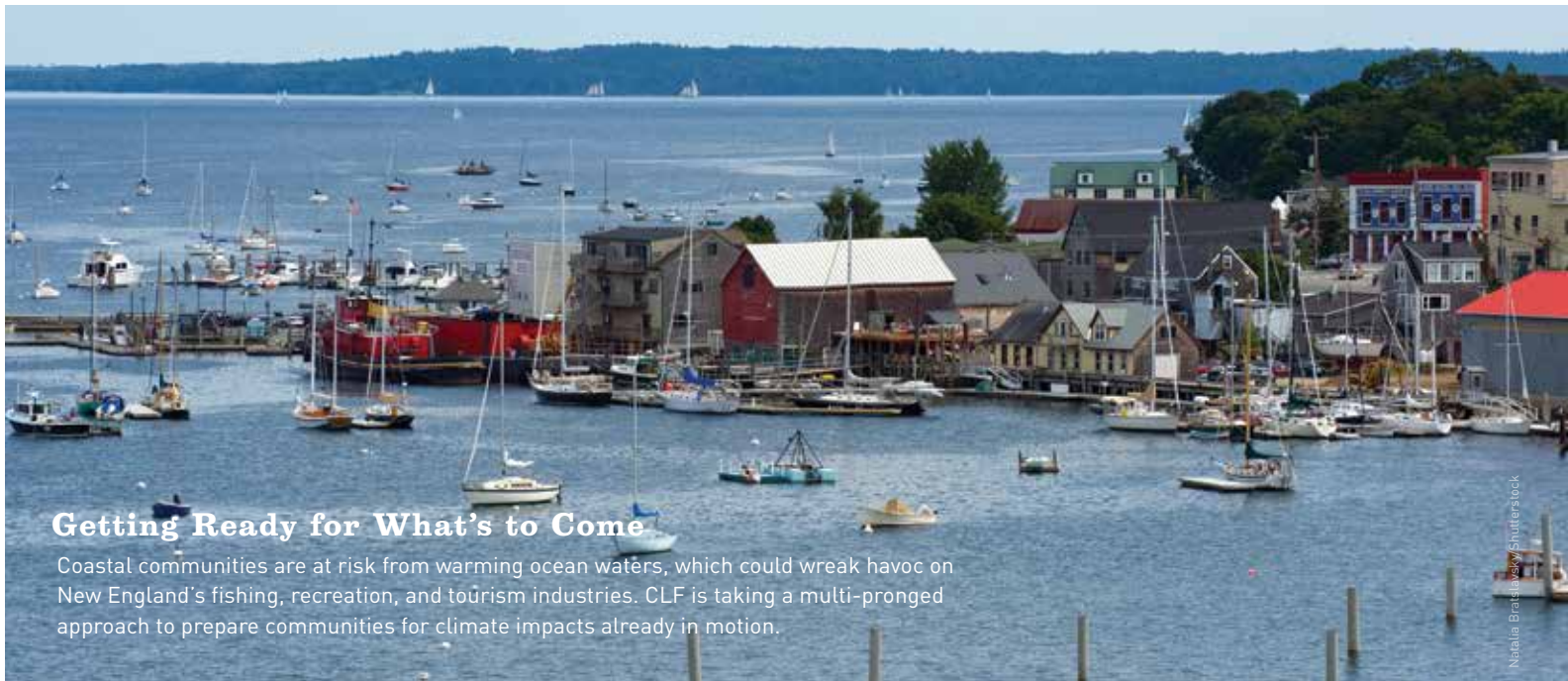
What's more, sea level rise and increased storm intensity could inflict significant damage to coastal businesses, beaches, and residences, with lasting consequences to the economy and environment.

The solutions to these problems will be complex – which is why CLF is taking a multi-pronged approach: fighting to break New England's addiction to dirty fossil fuels and slash climate-warming emissions [SEE PAGE 4], and working to ensure that the region's coastal communities and ocean

waters – including its diversity of wildlife and habitats – remain strong and healthy in the face of climate impacts already in motion. The safest path forward, according to marine scientists, will require the permanent protection of our most fragile and ecologically important ocean areas.

CLF celebrated in September when President Obama announced the creation of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. This first monument in the Atlantic will cover nearly 5,000 square miles and protect centuries-old coral formations and endangered marine mammals. But one protected area in New England's ocean is not enough – especially given the dire predictions facing the Gulf of Maine.

The clear choice for another protected area is that around Cashes Ledge, an underwater mountain range and biodiversity hotspot located in the Gulf of Maine about 80 miles from Cape Ann.



Getting Ready for What's to Come

Coastal communities are at risk from warming ocean waters, which could wreak havoc on New England's fishing, recreation, and tourism industries. CLF is taking a multi-pronged approach to prepare communities for climate impacts already in motion.

With breathtaking beauty and abundant marine life, the area serves as a haven for the iconic Atlantic cod and endangered North Atlantic right whale. CLF has successfully worked to protect this fragile area from being re-opened to the most destructive fishing activities, but those protections are temporary. Permanent protection will ensure Cashes Ledge remains both a much-needed refuge for ocean wildlife and a critical underwater laboratory for scientists working to understand the ecological consequences of warming temperatures and increasingly acidic waters.

CLF is also working to safeguard New England's fishing communities, which form such a vital part of the region's economy and culture, from the new and complex challenges climate change has brought. That means restoring and protecting New England's legendary fisheries by making sure that commercial fishermen adhere to the rules around catch limits and closed areas – and that those rules are based on science and are enforceable. It also means considering the whole ecosystem when

designing fishery management plans, including protecting forage fish at the base of the food chain, and ensuring more deliberate attention is paid to the small boat fishing fleet's dependence on coastal waters.

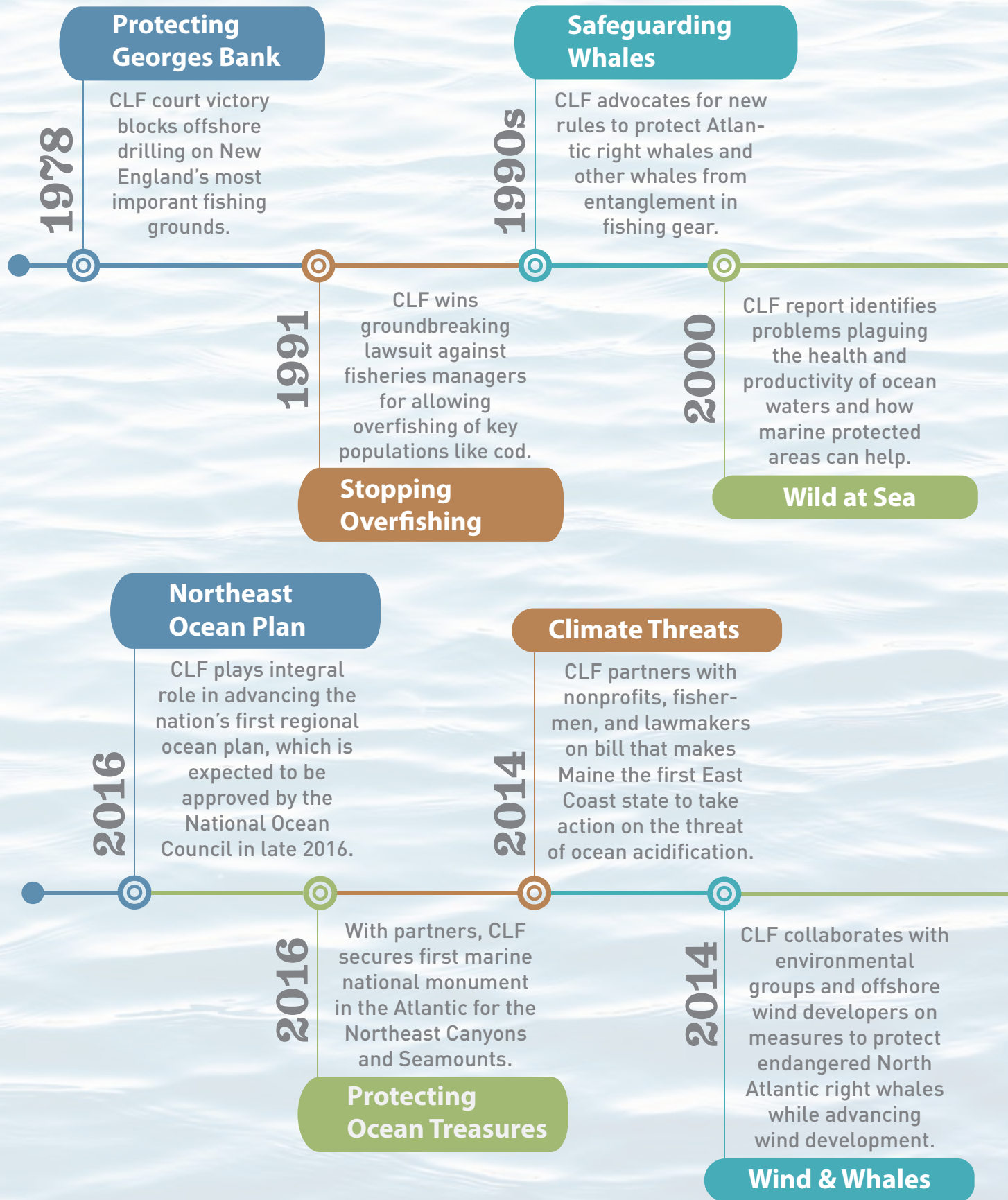
In addition, CLF is combating the effects of ocean acidification, which could devastate the region's shellfish industry, by cutting carbon emissions regionwide and stemming the flow of nutrients from nearby rivers into the ocean. Those nutrients not only worsen ocean acidification, but also create dead zones void of marine life.

Fishing is just one of the core uses of New England's ocean, however. New uses such as wind, wave, and tidal energy, gas pipelines, and offshore aquaculture are vying for space in the ocean alongside traditional uses like fishing, surfing, and boating. The first-in-the-nation Northeast Regional Ocean Plan is intended to help New Englanders capitalize on these opportunities, but not at the expense of the health of the ocean, the livelihood of area fishermen, or the places where locals and tourists alike go to play.

CLF had an active role in the development of the regional ocean plan, which will be finalized later this year, and the organization will be equally active in its implementation as the plan rolls out in 2017. Managing current ocean uses – and anticipating future ones – is a complex task, and the Northeast Regional Ocean Plan is a game-changing new tool for federal and state agencies, regulators, and other stakeholders to make smart decisions that effectively balance human use of our ocean with ensuring its long-term health.

As coastal communities brace for the impacts of climate change, CLF will be at the forefront of efforts to help reduce the severity of those impacts when possible, and to develop strategies to manage the impacts that can't be avoided. A healthy ocean will support sustainable and thriving coastal economies – and CLF is working to make sure New England has both for generations to come.

50 Years of Key Oceans Victories



Restoring the Ocean's Estuaries

2000s

CLF funds local groups to restore thousands of acres of estuaries and hundreds of miles of river to fish passage.

2007

CLF leads effort to strengthen national fishing law – the Magnuson-Stevens Act – to close over-fishing loophole.

Strengthening Fishing Laws

Pioneering Ocean Planning

2009 & 2010

CLF plays active role in development of first-in-the-nation state oceans management plans in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.



COMMUNITY VOICES: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

A typical day at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, New Hampshire, finds it packed with ocean enthusiasts: children and adults touch native starfish, learn from interactive exhibits about ocean habitats, and explore tidal pools along the protected New Hampshire coastline.

The Center doesn't just aim to teach visitors about the Gulf of Maine, it invites them to explore – to run their fingers through the coarse sand and dip their feet in the chilly saltwater – all in a larger effort to cultivate long-lasting stewards for this precious resource.

As an active advocate for the just-released Northeast Regional Ocean Plan, the Center sees ocean planning as a way to bridge their ocean education mission with the growing necessity to understand the North Atlantic as a complex system with intersecting uses, not just to manage resources better, but as an important way to advance ocean health.

"Ocean planning is a logical priority for the Seacoast Science Center, for a 'seven generations back, seven generations ahead' perspective," says Lull. "Ocean planning is taking our history and using it to understand our future. What are the intended consequences of the management decisions we make today?"

The massive humpback whale skeleton that stretches above the Center's entrance serves as a daily reminder of the consequences a lack of collaboration can bring. The whale, named Tofu, was tagged and tracked as part of a study to understand humpback whale movement and quickly became a beloved, if unofficial, mascot for the Center. But, at just two and half years old, Tofu was struck and killed by a ship whose route cut through well-known whale feeding grounds. Had the route been located even a mile off, it could have avoided the whale habitat altogether.

If we continue to manage the ocean without connecting and sharing across industries and communities, argues Lull, water quality may decline, fisheries could suffer, our coastlines will be impacted, and our iconic marine wildlife will no longer find our region a welcoming place to call home. Ocean planning on a regional scale reminds us that, by looking holistically at the ocean using science, data, and technology, small changes like shifting a shipping lane can result in positive impacts for all. Says Lull, "Given the complexity of the ocean, why wouldn't we take everything we know and use it to do things better?"

THE LEGAL FOOD HUB

Local Food, Local Farms, and Lawyers Lending a Hand



The Legal Food Hub is giving a helping hand to farmers and food businesses throughout New England.

Noah Fralich moved back home to Maine with one ambition: to open a business on his family's land in New Gloucester. His fledgling Norumbega Cidery was just getting off the ground when he hit a snag – the name of his business was already trademarked by someone else. Now, in the midst of trying to grow his business, he was confronting a significant legal issue, with limited means to afford a lawyer to help him solve the problem.

Fralich's not alone. Like any small business, farmers and food entrepreneurs have a slew of legal needs that, if not addressed properly from the outset, can lead to big problems down the road.

That's why three years ago, CLF launched a first-of-its-kind network called the Legal Food Hub, which connects farmers, food-related organizations, and entrepreneurs like Fralich with pro bono legal services

to help start, grow, and operate their businesses.

"Farmers and food businesses play an essential role in the health of our communities, environment, and economy," says Jennifer Rushlow, director of CLF's Farm and Food program. "We need them to thrive."

The Hub evolved out of Rushlow's efforts to hone CLF's niche in the agricultural sector. The organization's Farm and Food program strives to build a regional food system that supports access to fresh healthy food, protects farmland, grows the local economy, and cuts climate-warming emissions from food production and transportation.

In 2013, as Rushlow spoke with partners, farmers, and others at the center of New England's local food movement, she soon realized that many farmers and food businesses were going without the vital legal services that are essential to their

success. Indeed, according to the nonprofit Farm Commons, only 10% of surveyed farmers use legal services, compared to 70% of small businesses in general.

The legal gap was especially significant when it came to transactional law, such as incorporating a business, negotiating contracts with vendors, leasing or buying land or retail space, or transferring a farm to the next generation. "Some farmers and food businesses weren't consulting with lawyers because they couldn't afford one, while others didn't realize that they even needed legal help," she says.

That gap alarmed Rushlow, but she also recognized it as an opportunity. "We knew from our experience at CLF that there were many lawyers who would be willing to help if they knew about this problem and could make a connection," she says. Her own familiarity with the pro bono process at law firms from her time at in private practice buoyed her confidence.

The Legal Food Hub has helped more than 150 small farmers and food businesses find free legal help from volunteer attorneys, from small farmers to food trucks, food coops to cideries. In 2016, it will expand to Rhode Island, with plans for replicating the model nationally in the works.



"I knew that calling up a firm and asking them to do something for free was not as crazy as it sounds – especially where you can demonstrate a clear need for assistance."

The response to those calls, she says, was overwhelmingly positive. "Many of the attorneys we talked to were excited about local food and already familiar with the challenges that face farm and food businesses, so they immediately understood why this was so important."

The idea of dispensing free legal information is not a new one for CLF. In the organization's early years, it provided legal advice to conservation commissions, private landowners looking to leave their property to conservation, and nascent environmental organizations navigating the complexities of the then growing body of environmental law. So it was fitting when, nearly 50 years after its founding, the organization built on its earliest legacy

by rolling out the Legal Food Hub first in Massachusetts and then, the following year, in Maine.

Since then, the Hub has helped to secure close to a million dollars' worth of pro bono legal services for 169 cases in 109 cities and towns. The Hub's volunteer lawyer network has grown to more than 90 skilled attorneys who have helped clients with issues ranging from contract and lease negotiations to the transfer of land to the next generation. Success stories include 68 farmers, 110 local food entrepreneurs and organizations, and the legal work behind the creation of the Boston Public Market.

Rushlow and the Hub aren't resting on their locally grown laurels, however. Expanding on its success in Massachusetts and Maine, the Legal Food Hub will roll out in Rhode Island this fall, adding a new emphasis on aquaculture businesses. Rushlow is also in talks with the Yale School of Law to expand the Hub to Connecticut in 2017. From there,

a national expansion is on the horizon. "The challenges we address through the Hub are not limited to New England," Rushlow says. "Small farmers and food entrepreneurs nationwide face many of the same issues we see here. CLF can be a leader by helping partners in other states develop this model and supporting a sustainable and robust local food economy across the country."

For Noah Fralich, it all comes down to simply knowing that he has someone on his side. "It's wonderful to have legal services available to people who need them," he says.

- **Learn more about CLF's Legal Food Hub at www.legalfoodhub.org.**
- **Spread the word to lawyers who want to get involved. Interested yourself? Email legalfoodhub@clf.org**

FOOD HUB SUCCESS

Since its launch in 2014, the Legal Food Hub has leveraged \$825,000 in pro bono services.

93

FIRMS IN
OUR NETWORK

1,900

HOURS DONATED BY
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

169

CASES PLACED

"Thank you for letting me be part of this program. What you all are doing for small farmers is really wonderful."

Sue Frank

Dogpatch Farm



"It is challenging sometimes, as all lawyers know, to make time for pro bono work. This work, however, struck me as a way to do good and do it in a field that is my passion. It was a no brainer to volunteer!"

Beth Boepple

Volunteer Attorney



George Waldman

"Jon and Will [at Pierce Atwood] have been incredibly helpful already... I feel very fortunate to have their time and expertise. Thank you again for setting up this legal assistance. In just two weeks it has already proven to be invaluable."

Jed Rauscher

SoPo City Craft
Beverage Co.



A MODEL INVESTMENT

Building Healthy Communities One Neighborhood at a Time



A rendering of Landing 53, a new development in Braintree, Massachusetts, that models how neighborhoods can be transformed from the ground up. ©Joseph Katzen

For a neighborhood to truly thrive, it needs healthy people, a healthy environment, and a healthy economy with opportunities for all. Improving neighborhood environments can boost health, but traditional financing sources simply aren't capable of addressing those needs at a project level.

Recognizing the complex challenges of building healthy and sustainable communities, three years ago, CLF Ventures and the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation partnered to create the Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund. Building on CLF's years of advocacy for equitable access to public transit and smart growth, the Fund focuses on bringing new sources of capital to mixed-use, transit-oriented real estate projects that can catalyze the creation of healthy neighborhoods in low-income communities.

"We believe in the power of these kinds of developments to positively impact the health of people in these communities, where health disparities are alarming when compared with populations in higher income neighborhoods," says Gina Foote, Fund Development Director for CLF. Foote cites one Massachusetts study that showed that life expectancy varied by as many as 33 years between Boston census tracts located only two miles apart.

Foote hopes that the Fund's latest investment, Landing 53 in Braintree, will spur a broader revitalization in the surrounding neighborhood. Located near the Weymouth-East Braintree Commuter Rail station, the new development is replacing two acres of run-down, semi-vacant buildings with 172 new apartments and 12,000 square feet of retail space. The project will add workforce housing, create jobs, and enhance the environment with new pedestrian walkways and other amenities.

Ultimately, Foote believes that the Fund – and developments like Landing 53 – can serve as models for a new kind of impact investment that can be replicated locally and nationally. That vision has attracted support from the Boston Foundation as well as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. CLF has also partnered with the Harvard School of Public Health, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and others to collect data for a detailed health scorecard to show what targeted development of this kind can mean for the environment and improved community health over time.

"Building and improving communities at the neighborhood level, project by project, is tough, complex work," says Foote. "But it's well worth the effort once you see the transformative impact on people's lives."

FINANCIAL REPORT

Forward Momentum



Over the past year, CLF continued to strengthen its revenue streams, in particular in individual fundraising. I'm pleased to report that Fiscal Year 2015, which closed on July 31, 2015, again saw increases in giving by individuals, showing not only the strong commitment of our current supporters, but the relevance of our mission to new supporters just learning about our work. Our endowment also continued to grow this year by 9 percent to \$9.1 million.

Of our \$8.4 million in expenses, 71 percent was attributable to program services, 20 percent to administrative services, and 9 percent to fundraising activities. In this the second year of implementation in our five-year business plan, we continue to invest in core administrative areas including Development and Communications.

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary this fall, CLF stands on firm financial footing, and we are seeing investments made in FY14 and FY15 bearing fruit. In addition, our Leadership Campaign raised \$3 million toward future investments in strengthening our core operations.

Thank you to those who showed such remarkable generosity in support of CLF and our vision for New England's future.

Finally, I am pleased to report that, for the third consecutive year, CLF achieved Charity Navigator's 4-star rating – the charity evaluator's highest designation. Only 19% of charities rated by Charity Navigator ever receive this "exceptional" designation for two or more consecutive years. Our third straight year is a clear demonstration of CLF's good governance practices and responsible fiscal management.

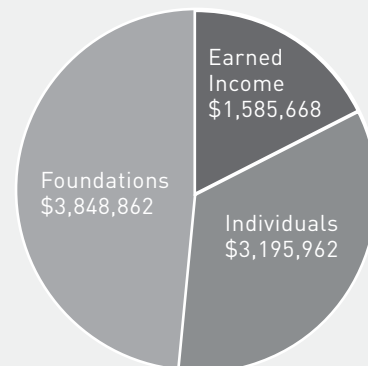
This is my last report as CLF's Treasurer, and I want to acknowledge the generous members and volunteers who make it possible for CLF to accomplish so much. I am grateful for your commitment and support as we continue to pursue groundbreaking initiatives that benefit all New Englanders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene H. Clapp".

Eugene H. Clapp
Treasurer, Board of Trustees

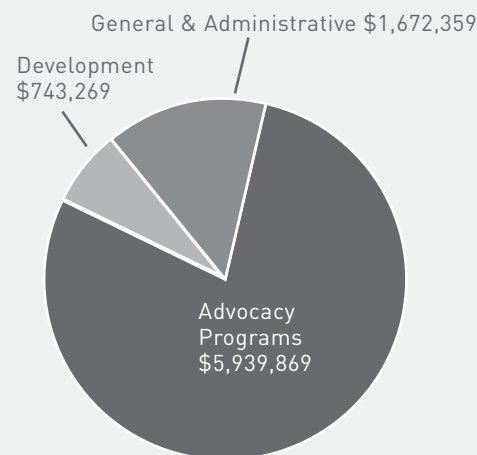
SOURCES OF OPERATING FUNDS

Total Operating Funds: \$8,630,492



USES OF OPERATING FUNDS

Total Operating Expenses: \$8,355,497



NET ASSETS [as of July 31, 2015]

Unrestricted Net Assets:
\$3,738,871

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets:
\$7,766,836

Permanently Restricted Net Assets:
\$5,596,560

TOTAL **\$17,102,267**

CLF LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The following individuals and foundations provided generous support for CLF's Leadership Campaign. We are grateful for their investment in CLF. The \$3 million they donated will ensure that we are able to diversify our expert skillset, retain our top talent, and strengthen our voice so that, together with all of you, we can answer the challenges of tomorrow with innovative solutions today.

Anonymous (4)
Mr. and Mrs. John Abele
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Amory
Ms. M. Robin Barone and
Mr. Sydney Lea
Sylvia Bates and Thomas Masland
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Brevard
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Anne and Martin Hayden
Horace Hildreth
Harold Janeway
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Mr. Matthew Kearns
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Mr. Robert Vanderslice
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Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Kilguss
Mr. Robert King and
Ms. Anne Faulkner
Brigitte and Hal Kingsbury
Sue and Chris Klem
Ted Ladd

Rob and Peggy Leeson
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Mr. Scott Hammond
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The WaterWheel Foundation
Mr. Pete C. Westover
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin V. White III
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Wilson

SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS OF CLF

The following individuals, foundations, and organizations supported CLF during the 2015 Fiscal Year, August 1, 2014, through July 31, 2015. Their generosity and shared vision – of a healthy, thriving New England for all – have made CLF's work possible. We thank our invaluable members whose continuing support helps protect New England's environment for all. **THANK YOU.**

President's Circle: \$50,000+

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John and Nancy Hammond
Sara Molyneaux and Donald F. Law, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael B. Moskow
Ms. Diana E. Oehrli

The Estate of Ms. Pamela M. Smith
Cyrus* and Barbara Sweet

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Ted Ladd

Jerry Nelson
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Ms. Anne Faulkner
Brigitte and Hal Kingsbury

Sue and Chris Klem
Michael and Sally Lemelin
Sharon and Bradford Malt
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Ms. Pamela M. Smith*
Mr. and Mrs. Renke Thyne

* Deceased





Natalia Bratslavsky/Shutterstock



Warren Price Photography/Shutterstock

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Jerry and Lynn Babicka
Bob and Pam Beck
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Ms. Kate Josephs
Mrs. Meg C. Hirshberg and
Mr. Gary Hirshberg
Mr. and Mrs. Seth Kerschner

George and Emily Lewis
Mrs. Charlotte S. Metcalf
The Estate of Mrs. Nina N. Purdon
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Dr. Sharman Altshuler
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Ms. Martha Leggat-Barr
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Ms. Sharon Cantor
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Ms. Myra Mayman
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Scott and Mary Brown
Mr. Thomas A. Brown
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and Dr. Geoffrey E. Clark
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Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Morris
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Mr. Michael I. Green
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nessen
Ms. Molly Norton
Oedipus and Ms. Amy Hyson
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Christian and Honor Passow
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Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sandy
Kate Saunders and John Grove
Preston* and Rebecca Saunders
Tedd and Ella Saunders
Ms. Thaleia Tsongas Schlesinger
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