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Blue Hill Heritage Trust receives surprise bequest of land in Surry.

A 62-acre parcel of land in Surry has become conservation land thanks to the foresight of its former owner, Louis Peterson, who left the land to Blue Hill Heritage Trust in his will. Peterson's death was unexpected, as was his bequest to the Trust.

A Massachusetts resident with a strong environmental interest, Peterson often visited friends who lived near his land. He purchased the property over twenty years ago and enjoyed walking on it during his visits. During one of those visits he met Hugh Curran, a member of the Friends of Morgan Bay, an organization that partners with Blue Hill Heritage Trust. Curran and Peterson talked about the natural values of his property and about the concept of a conservation corridor from the Emerton Heath to Morgan Bay. According to Curran, Peterson was "incredibly enthusiastic about the conservation possibilities for his land."

The Peterson land is adjacent to land already owned by the Trust, which includes a large portion of the Emerton Heath, an extensive wetland complex off the Morgan Bay road.

"Bequests of land or money have a powerful impact on the work of local land conservation organizations like the Blue Hill Heritage Trust", said Jim Dow, the Trust's Executive Director. "We are grateful to Mr. Peterson and pleased that he chose to create a meaningful and lasting legacy in this way."

Blue Hill Heritage Trust is a not-for-profit, membership-based land conservation organization founded in 1985 by residents of the Blue Hill Peninsula. Its mission is to work with landowners to conserve land and water of special ecological, natural, agricultural, scenic, cultural and recreational significance in Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Penobscot, Sedgwick and Surry and to increase public understanding of the importance of land and water conservation. The Trust currently owns or holds conservation easements on 5,800 acres of land throughout the Blue Hill Peninsula. For more information visit the Trust's website at www.bluehillheritagetrust.org or visit its office at 258 Mountain Road, Blue Hill.