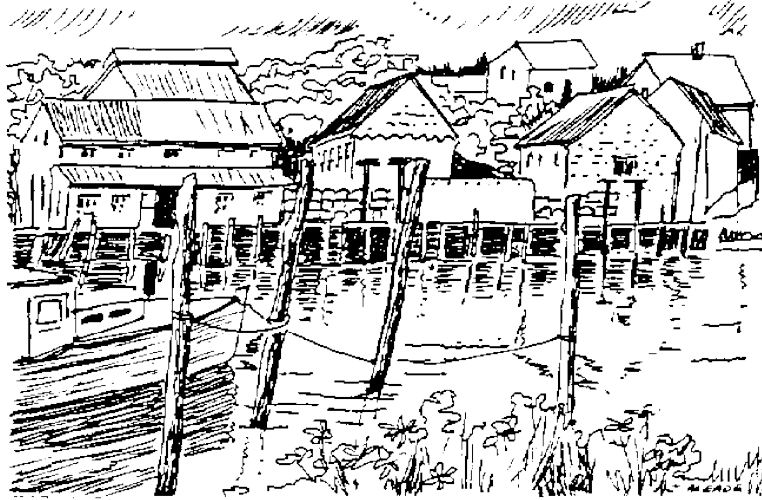


Grand Manan Trails. Annual Newsletter #4
November 1996



'Hemoglobin Hamlet' formerly Seal Cove

Contents:

[Our Crest Sells Well](#)

[More Trails are Adopted](#)

[Elder Hostellers hike trails during spare time](#)

[Updating the 1995 Guide Book](#)

[Red Point is Now a People Place](#)

[We Have 'Archives'](#)

[Letters](#)

[Right-of-ways on Grand Manan](#)

[1996 Trails Work](#)

[Dartmouth Volksmarch Club Descends](#)

[Funding for 1997](#)

[Grand Manan Tourism Association - Trails Committee](#)

We have enjoyed considerable growth in the past year. Both the number of businesses relating to the Grand Manan Tourism Assoc. and the list of 'Friends of G.M. Trails' have increased. This 4th Annual Newsletter goes out to all contributing members of the G.M. Tourism Assoc. as well as the supporters listed-as 'Friends of G.M. Trails'. Please let us know of anyone who is sufficiently interested to be placed on our mailing list.

Our Crest Sells Well

Cecilia Bowden did a great job of looking after sales of our crests. Last year's proceeds were instrumental in financing this summer's trails work. As before members of Grand Manan Tourism Assoc. offered these badges for sale. The \$5.00 collected goes directly into our maintenance fund.

More Trails are Adopted

We now have ten trails or portions of trails adopted. The adopters do all the work needed to keep their

trails open and marked. D.H.B. supplies signs and tin lid markers as requested. We also have a small inventory of hand tools if required.

Sheldon and Shirley Cook, Seal Cove

Look after the rutted track into Bradford Cove Pond and out to Hay Point. (see guidebook P.17)

Mirajam Cossaboorn, White Head

White Head. (P.21)

Peter and Marilyn Cronk, North Head

The Blue trail from Eel Lake Road past Little Eel Lake to Indian Beach. (p.10)

Jackie Foote - Seal Cove

Ross Island (P.21-22)

Sidney and Barbara Guptill, Seal Cove

A portion of the 'Back-of-the-island trail' (P.12)

Eugene Gillies and Cecilia Bowden, Deep Cove

The Deep Cove (orange) trail to Bradford Cove and the (red) trail south to Bradford Cove Pond. (P.17)

Maude and Gerald Hunter, Deep Cove

Southwest Head to Pats Cove via Flock of Sheep. (P.17)

Andy and Cindy Normandeau, North Head

Net Point. (P.6)

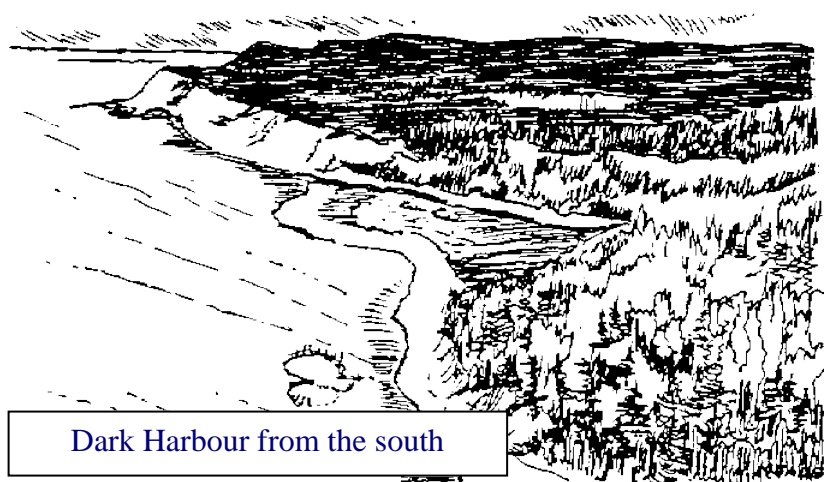
Nora Parker, North Head

Beech Hill. (P.24)

1st. Mannanook Troop - Boy Scouts - G.M.

Do a Spring hike on the 'Back-of-the-island' trail, clear obstructions and report on trail conditions.

Trail adopters make a major contribution to our system. If we could double the number of adopters we would just about halve the annual maintenance workload. You can adopt a large or small portion and rely on us for signs, markers and any too heavy work like blow-downs. Can you help ?



Dark Harbour from the south

Elder Hostellers hike trails during spare time

The Marathon Hotel's numerous Elder Hostel Courses spend a full week on the island. Courses run from the last week of May - through the first week of October. D.H.B. orients each group with a Sunday evening slide show which highlights our trails. On a Monday morning bus tour trail heads and suitable venues are pointed out. These folk (from all over Canada

and the United States) have become great supporters of our trails and purchasers of crests and trails guides. Please notice Joanne Meade's illustrations in this issue - an Elder Hosteller!

Updating the 1995 Guide Book

Page 9. Ashburton Head from the Whistle Road and Ashburton Head to The Whistle

From where the trail to Ashburton Head from The Whistle Road reaches the burn (beyond the connecting trail to Whale Cove) a new rough gravelled road now goes to The Bishop and out to the Whistle Road near the lighthouse. It can be easily walked and can be good for woodland birds and wildflowers seasonally. The red trail is still maintained and follows the clifftop around Northern Head.

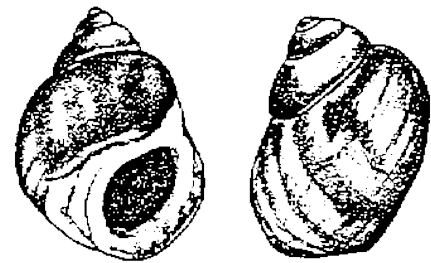
Page 21 White Head Island

A new small primitive campground has been opened at Pebble Beach in Gull Cove. Situated between the road and the beach it offers a grassy meadow for tenting as well as tent platforms in a sprucegrove. Water, toilets and picnic tables are provided. Picnicing is free, a small charge is made for campers.

This is a much welcomed facility which nicely serves the Langmaid Cove to Sandy Cove 'back of the island' trail. A leisurely circumnavigation of the entire coastline could be done in a day. Back-packers can now go all the way from The Anchorage (or Red Point) via the new trail out past Ox Head and thence to the Ingalls Head Ferry Terminal for White Head Island.

Red Point is Now a People Place

Since being added to the Anchorage Provincial Park acreage last year, park personnel have turned the old alder covered gravel pit into a comfortable and scenic picnic spot. The Red Point road down to the sea (p.18) has been graded and ample parking provided. Two picnic shelters, a toilet and seaward-facing benches put in place. Beach access for hikers, as well as local periwinkles, has been improved making it easy to investigate the magnetic sand and geological contact point. The 'Board Walk' trail has been extended right out to the new beach access. Great views down Seal Cove Sound and out across Wood Island. A good place for sea ducks, loons and grebes.



Periwinkles

We Have 'Archives'

Since the formation of the Grand Manan Trails Committee in 1992 we have been collecting archival maps, notes, guides or anything written or duplicated which shed light on the history, location or condition of our heritage trails.

A significant addition came in this summer from Ed and Louise Jackson (Conn.) who donated a duplicated 1988 edition of a trails guide (with maps) done by Kevin O'Donnell (Fredericton) which

they have kept up-to-date and were still using. This version is the immediate predecessor of the stapled and picture covered editions (since revised three times) which are now being sold.

John and Mary Beth Beaton (Fredericton) have written recalling a trails map shown them by Sabra Jane Briggs at Deep Cove in 1967. Does anyone know of a copy ? We would like to treat this subject in a later edition or the newsletter.

Letters

We get plenty of them from grateful hikers who feel they should thank someone. This one was written in response to the invitation to "write your comments on this page, tear out and send to: Grand Manan Tourism Assoc...." at the end of the trails guide.



"Greetings! We have hiked on many trails in many places in Canada and afar but we've never enjoyed any as much as the trails on Grand Manan. They are well marked and always lead to some interesting vista, some spectacular wildlife (whales and seals at Southwest Head) or some downright surprises; our favourite was the picnic table as we came over the hill at Hay Point. (see map page 16 and description page 15. Ed.) We had great fun guessing just how that picnic table was carried, erected, dropped from the heavens, or? Thank you for a job well done in maintaining the trails for all to enjoy.

Liz, John, Briony and Stephen Thomas, Kingston, Ontario"

Not dropped from the sky certainly. Sheldon Cook (now retired from his teaching career at the High School) and his wife Shirley are two of our 'adopters' you see listed elsewhere in this issue. A few years ago they purchased, at their own expense, a picnic table kit. During a hiking season, they, with help from hikers scrambled down to that grassy point, each with a piece or two. When all was on site Sheldon assembled it. It is still in use.

Right-of-ways on Grand Manan

On August 4th, 1996 a nine member contingent of "Friends" attended a regular meeting of the Grand Manan Village Council at which D.H.B. present the Deputy Mayor and Councillors with the following brief.

GRAND MANAN TOURISM ASSOCIATION - TRAILS COMMITTEE

Aug.6, 1996

Subject: Rights-of-way on Grand Manan.

Who We Are

-G.M.T.A. formed its Trails Committee in 1992 to maintain our heritage hiking trails and to seek funding for this work.

-The Committee consists of:

Don Baldwin - co-ordinator

Cecilia Bowden

Bill Daggett
Eugene Gillies
Barbara and Sidney Guptill
Maude Hunter
Andrew Normandeau

- In 1993 a 'Friends of Grand Manan Trails' mailing list was begun. It now totals 78 individuals or couples who have all donated funds or personal effort to help maintain our trails. 'Friends' also includes our Scout Troop and Audubon Expedition Tours from Maine as well as Dartmouth Volksmarch Club from Nova Scotia.
- 10 islanders have adopted trails or sections of trails on a permanent basis. They maintain them routinely, usually at their own expense.
- An Annual Newsletter is produced each November and distributed to 'Friends' as well as members of Grand Manan Tourism Assoc. (which presently numbers 87).
- Funding for trails work has been provided by grants from the Provincial Environmental Trust Fund, Grand Manan Tourism Association and private donations.

Our Concerns - Unhindered access to shorelines, beaches, clifftops and other natural and scenic spots.

The importance of free access to islanders and visitors alike. The visitors are largely seasonal and represent an important part of our 'eco-tourist' trade. Islanders enjoy our natural heritage year round.

Those visitors who make the greatest use of our trails and scenic spots are people who come to the island for more than a single whale-watching or puffin trip. They typically rent cabins, join our Museum and Historical Society or make other cultural and economic contributions to our island life.

These visitors spread themselves island wide. They are not clustered at North Head. They give the southern end of the island its main tourism potential. They are focussed on the natural scene. Recent and future development of our island economy puts increasing pressure on our slender resources of land and water. Many islanders see tourism increasing to replace some of our dwindling traditional livelihoods.

With this in mind, we should undertake measures to ensure that the limited assets we own are shared by the greatest number of islanders and future visitors, upon whom we may increasingly come to depend.

Village Council should do everything in its power to enhance and protect all public rights-of-way to ensure that future generations enjoy, island wide, the freedom of access we presently enjoy.

Grand Manan Tourism Association - Trails Committee

c.c. Eric Allaby, M.L.A.

This presentation was favourably received by the councilors who had received a number of written concerns in preceding weeks, regarding the maintenance of public access to our shorelines.

1996 Trails Work

On November 12, 1995 a gale pushed over trees throughout the island. We knew that extensive chainsaw work would be needed to ready the trails this Spring.

Although the Grand Manan Rotarians again agreed to sponsor an application to the Provinces Environmental Trust Fund for a grant to employ a summer work crew, we were passed over and left to rely on our own slender resources. Monies donated by 'Friends' and earned by the sale of our crests were used along with the stepped up participation of local volunteers. As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter the number of 'adopters' was increased and all urged to be active. Due to the good work done by the 1995 crew under Shawn Green, large portions of trails needed only light work of the type we can do ourselves involving mostly hand tools.

We were very fortunate to get the services of Tim Huggard on a casual labour basis as he was waiting for the Seal Cove Cannery to begin operation. This energetic young man worked over miles of trails with a bolo knife in one hand and brush clippers in the other. The pack on his back contained marker discs, hammer and nails as well as sign making materials.' An early morning person, Tim had your scribe out at the trailhead for a 7.15 a.m. start on those days I was free to help. When the chainsaw was needed Tim got to lug it out and back! By the time our funds ran low all the main trails had received attention and the hikers were arriving. Only a section on the back of the island above Sloop Cove went unattended.

Dartmouth Volksmarch Club Descends

Typically our hikers represent family-sized groups or couples. However, such is not always the case. National Audubon Society Expeditions (Maine) bring groups of around 30 students late each Fall and Fundy Hikers (St. Martins, N.B.) regularly lead visiting groups Spring and Fall. Grand Manan Scouts and visiting troops also occasionally field larger groups. Dartmouth Volksmarch Club (N.S.) may have set a record with their recent three day full hiking schedule around Grand Manan. Aply led by Lionel and Lily Conrad 55 members hiked in beautiful Fall weather on Sept. 4th, 5th and 6th. They found accommodations at North Head and organized some evening social activities as well as finding time to visit the museum and whale-watch. The Conrads had been over in the Spring to reconnoitre. They were a charming and well organized group. Many purchased Trails Guides and crests. Several already plan to return on their own next year.

Elinor Maher, one of the hikers, published an account of their experiences in their Sept. Newsletter (vol.4, Number 3). she wrote

"Grand Manan - Hikers' Paradise

Lionel and Lily Conrad have done it again.' They led the Dartmouth Volksmarch Club through three days of the most spectacular scenery and perfect weather imaginable. Fifty-three hikers followed them up hill and down dale for three days

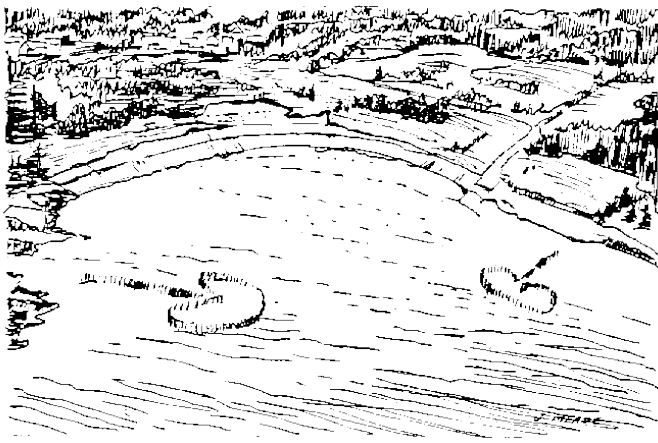
on Grand Manan, Queen of the Fundy Isles. Grand Manan is 24 x 11 Kms. with a population of over 2,000 and some of the most beautiful scenery in Atlantic Canada. All four hikes were challenging, following shaded woodland trails and awesome cliffs, totalling 51 kms. Cameras were much in evidence, particularly at lighthouses and the edge of 200 foot bluffs. The trails were well maintained with lots of signs, some of which were obviously meant to amuse, as well as inform walkers.

The Dartmouth Club was joined by hikers from Maine, Ontario, California, New Brunswick and other Nova Scotia Clubs. Our contingent was the largest hiking group to ever visit the island. Some people took the opportunity to go whalewatching and we all saw seals and seabirds as we followed the trail system around the island. We hiked past three beautifully situated lighthouses. Swallowtail light has recently been used during the making of a movie and a film crew was in evidence. Grand Manan is a haven for bird watchers and during late August and September the area is visited by many fall migrants so birders were plentiful in the area. Our walkers spotted cormorants, bald eagles, herons and many types of gulls. I could not recommend Grand Manan more highly for hikers."

Eric Burke, another hiker, also provided some simple statistics from the trip which involved "19 hours of rugged hiking" (a) number of hours spent waiting for ferries – 6 (b) average number of hills per kilometer of walking – 1 (c) average height of island hill - 500 meters (d) average number of seals and porpoises observed - 25. Dartmouth Volksmarch Club has 150 members at present.

Funding for 1997

We were greatly helped when seeking to refurbish our trails system in recent years by the receipt of grants from the Provincial Environmental Trust Fund. However, our request for a grant to do purely maintenance work this year was not favoured. It has been suggested that the 'powers that be' do not want people like us to become income dependent on them. Our budget from your donations and the sale of our crests saved the day. We got a good, well motivated worker and got him at the optimum



Whale Cove

time - in early spring, before the first hikers arrived. This is the ideal way to proceed. If you can donate towards next year's work you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your funds will be well used.

Don Baldwin keeps the books and your cheque can go directly to him at Baldwins' Bed & Breakfast, Seal Cove, Grand Manan, NB, E0G 3B0.

This years newsletter has been duplicated at Grand Manan Business Centre Inc. The Grand

Manan School Board Office is no more. Marie Thomas has retired and will be sorely missed. The new venue is more expensive. As always Maureen Baldwin has taken this newsletter from D.H.B.'s scribble through preliminary typing to its finished form. Joanne Meade has provided the black and white sketches.

Grand Manan Tourism Association - Trails Committee

Don Baldwin - chair	Andrew Normandeau
Maude Hunter	Billy Daggett
Eugene Gillies	Sidney Guptill
Cecilia Bowden	Barbara Guptil

Comments? Please contact:

Bob Stone, 51 Red Point Road, Grand Manan, New Brunswick, Canada E5G 4J1

Note: Laurie Murison prepared the newsletter for the web site version.



*Grand Manan Tourism Association
Box 1310, Grand Manan, N.B., Canada, E5G 4M9*



Have a Question? E-Mail us at: info@grandmanannb.com

This page designed by  ACCESS
Web Solutions

Page revised December 1, 2001