



## **Grand Manan Trails. Annual Newsletter #7** **November 1999**



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### **Maintenance**

The warm dry weather of April and the availability of sufficient funds enabled us to get a record early start on the annual task of monitoring all our trails (well before the blackflies.) We were also fortunate in getting, for the second year, Kirk Worthen to do the main task of lugging tools and the chainsaw and dealing with winter blow downs. We did not quite complete all of our programme before Kirk was wooed away by a regular job on a salmon raising operation.

Tom Wetzel and his wife, Ann, son Tim and friend David Small have maintained the trail from Dark Harbour Road to Western Head and south to Little Dark Harbour again this year. If you wondered how the new picnic table got up to Western Head—ask them! [top](#)

### **New Adopter**

Over on White Head a new trail 'adopter' has come forward. Keith Mourik is walking around the island trail frequently and carrying a tool or two when something needs to be done. [top](#)

### **Thanks Adopters**

Our thanks go to all the stalwart 'adopters' who worked on their trails without any special recognition this summer. They are our biggest single asset. [top](#)

### **You Reported**

Thank you everyone who took the time to note a trails condition and forward it directly (or indirectly) to the trails Co-ordinator. Knowing what needs to be done and where, allows us to use

our limited workforce to its best effect. [top](#)

## **Geology of the Grand Manan walking trails Or Rock around the island**

By Chuck Letourneau. June, 1999

*Chuck Letourneau, his wife, Julia and son, Geoffrey are regular visitors to Grand Manan for their summer holidays. They are Friends of trails and Chuck has written this account of the island geology to be included in the next revision of "The Heritage Trails and Footpaths on Grand Manan".*

“ (The house) fell not; for it was founded upon a rock.” The Gospel According to St. Matthew 7:25

The trails described in this guide will take you from the top of magnificent cliffs to the amazingly changeable tidal shoreline, giving you ample opportunity to look at the rocks and landforms along the way. From the ancient to the (relatively) modern, the geology of Grand Manan is an open book to be appreciated and interpreted by the observant hiker. Here are just a few of the highlights.

As you hike the beautiful trail between southwest Head towards Pats Head, pause for a rest in a field of large rounded boulders that are of very different composition than the local bedrock. You are in the midst of one of “ The Flocks of Sheep.” These odd rocks are glacial erratics: boulders that were picked up on the mainland by a glacier, tumbled and smoothed as they were carried along in the ice, then deposited in a pile when the glacier melted. Be aware that these boulders are relatively recent immigrants to the island. The last glacier disappeared from this area only ten to fifteen thousand years ago. That means “ The Flock of Sheep” are barely lambs on the Geological Time Scale, considering that the oldest rock exposed on the island is around 640 million years old!

If you are on the trail near the wind-swept Ox Head you may be clambering over some of that ancient sedimentary and metamorphic rock. Most of the rock exposed on the eastern side of the island (from Red Point to North Head) belongs to the Precambrian formations (even the bedrock buried under the sand and cobble beaches of Castalia.) The jagged teeth that are completely exposed at low tide and spike menacing above the water at high tide are narrow ridges of tough, resistant volcanic rock that was forced into cracks and joints in the softer (now eroded) bedrock. The ancient sediments and volcanics of the eastern shore were squeezed and deformed by a mountain-building event about 380 million years ago.

The incredible heat and pressure they endured changed them into a family of rock types known as metamorphic rocks.”

On the exciting hike from Whale cove to the Whistle, seat yourself on a convenient block of darkish rock at the scenic lookout on Ashburton Head. Your bottom is likely in close contact with part of an ancient lava flow (well cooled by now!). The magnificent formation (lava spewed from volcanoes formed a fine-dark rock called basalt, and molten rock called diabase.) It took millions of years to build these layers, beginning sometime between 208 and 217 million years ago, in the Triassic Period. These volcanic rocks sometimes contain interesting minerals, with small beautiful crystals lining the spaces left by gas bubbles that escaped from the cooling molten rock.

If you are walking along the Dark Harbour Road just before it dives down into the steep valley at Dark Harbour, stop to examine what looks like a forest of six-sided pillars carved out of solid rock by some hyperactive stone-mason. These are fine examples of columnar basalt, their natural shape formed as slowly cooling lava shrank in volume. You can see similar formations, also of Triassic age, from the look-outs on the cliffs at Southwest Head. A long geological fault— a great break in the earth’s crust - runs from Whale Cove to Red Point, separating the low eastern coastal plain from the high, sparsely populated centre and western parts of the island. At Red Point - one end of the very accessible and enjoyable walk from the Anchorage - you can clearly see where the fault has brought the younger reddish sedimentary rocks of Triassic age in contact with the ancient grey Precambrian rocks.

Don’t forget to check out the Hole-in-the-Wall visible from the trail between Fish Head and Whale Cove. This is an example of what time and erosion can do to shape the landscape.

Other exciting exposures of rock include the gleaming white quartz cliff on White Head Island (from which the island takes its name) and the shattered headland at Swallowtail light where a big chunk of the island has tilted away from the rest (as can be seen from the footbridge just down from the parking area.)

So, don’t curse that rock you just stumbled over take the opportunity to learn from it. A new and fascinating aspect of the Grand Manan experience will be revealed. [top](#)

## **Friends keep us in operation**

We remain firmly indebted to those friends who support us financially, sometimes on an annual basis. Other sources have been tapped in the past but again this year the sum total of the private donations has become our best, most reliable source of income. Our biggest single source of funds comes from the sale of our crests. Nine members of the Grand Manan Tourism Assoc. offered them for sale without profit this year. In sales, Island Arts again led the field with the Museum, Shorecrest Lodge, Cow-Mon-In and Harrington Cove Cottages as the other front runners. Can you help in 2000? Cecilia would love to hear from you. She is also looking into the production of a pin in the same distinctive design for sale next year. [top](#)

## **More sketches donated**

In August John Belyea and his wife, Ellen from Saint John came to Grand Manan once again to watch the whales and deliver a second great batch of his black and white sketches of the island. We have decided to use his work exclusively in this year's newsletter in order to give you a foretaste of his impressive talents. *(Note if you wish to see these sketches, please contact the [Trails Committee](#) for a copy of the newsletter).* Plans are afoot for a showing of his work on the island next year. Paula and George Marcus from Connecticut also dropped by in August. Regular trail users in recent years and working from their R. V. they continued exploring our trails. Paula donated a nice sketch of the shoreline from Red Point. Also in August Ada Rosenberry from Arizona was here as part of a Travel Learn group. She donated a fine sketch of The Swallowtail. [top](#)

## **Our trails challenge**

On many sections of our trails you must watch where you put your feet. Small children will need to be given a hand. If you are recommending a hike to a newcomer it is well to remember how casual our trails are. Compared to what they might encounter in a State of Provincial Park, they will find our unimproved trails more challenging. The excellent trails (including the boardwalk) from Red Point east through the Anchorage Provincial Park with its several spurs are the only groomed trails on the island. [top](#)

## **Memoir**

*The following memoir was received this summer from Sergeant Chris Ingersoll, Canadian Armed Forces, serving in Macedonia. His late father, Frederick Ingersoll of Seal Cove recorded his youthful memories in longhand and his daughter, Claudia, is presently typing them up.*

From: Chris Ingersoll  
To: gmtouris@nbnet.nb.ca

I am Chris Ingersoll and originally from Seal Cove, Grand Manan. I found your site (a great one) from a cousin and thought I could submit the following story

written by my Dad, Fred Ingersoll of Seal Cove. He passed away in 1990 but before he died he wrote his autobiography for his grandchildren and this story, plus many others, was one my children heard when they were little and still remember. I have permission from Mom to submit this article. The story has a background the trails of Grand Manan and one particular camp which some of your senior readers might remember. The camp was called Kamp Kumfort and used by many Scouts at that time for an overnight location while they traveled through the backwoods and trails.

Let me introduce my Dad, Frederick Ingersoll of Seal Cove. Dad lived his life on Grand Manan except for the years of World War II. Before he left home for the war he grew up and was active with his many good friends around Seal Cove. He knew of the many trails at that time which led out to the back of the island from Seal Cove and Southern Head. When he told us stories such as this, his recollections were clear and gave us many good times as he remembered his youth and the many friends he grew up with.

He starts with: " I feel that in those days, we boys and girls were very privileged and fortunate to be able to hike all around the wooded part of the island between the Village and the back part of the Island with no one to bother us. There were no drugs, no crime, not even any smoking amongst the group. We enjoyed many of these hikes together and later on when I was a member of the Boy Scouts, these areas were visited many times by our Scout Patrol or the Troop complete."

"One day, Colin Harvey, and I went to Kamp Kumfort in January to stay all night. (*this was located at Sloop Cove on the back of the island.*) After we had our supper, we read and talked, then went to bed. After we had been asleep for a while, we woke up after hearing a noise. We laid there listening, it was very quiet. There was a frost on the ground and we could hear someone walking down the trail from the pulp camps toward our camp. We kept very still and just listened. We had left the oil lamp on the table which was in the front of the window on the side of the camp. We had known that a pulp cutter, one of the Finns, had been found dead and under strange circumstances, so we were rather apprehensive as to what was going on. We heard the steps approaching the window and stopped. While we watched, the front end of a rifle was placed against the window. It tapped the glass. We held our breath. The steps moved away toward the end where the door was. The rifle tapped on the door. We expected that the person would open the door and just walk in. We did not know what to expect. The person stepped down off the steps and we heard him walk away."

"The next morning after breakfast, Colin and I walked down to Sloop Cove to go down to the beach to watch the S.S. Saint John, a passenger ship from Saint John to Boston, go down by the Grand Manan Channel. When we got down to the beach, we found a fire burning in against the bank. It was sheltered by a hugh rock and a paper bag was on the ground where our night visitor had spend the rest of the night and had his lunch, then just disappeared. It was one of those experiences that boys

have. We never did find out who it was and we used to talk about the scary feeling we had that night in old Kamp Kumfort." [top](#)

## **Tabled at G. M. Tourism Assoc/Chamber of Commerce joint meeting, October 18th.' 99**

Re: Present Trails Committee Organization

This outline of our organization and activities details how we function and breaks down our workload into specific tasks. These jobs can be accomplished individually or by a number of committee members. Volunteers who are presently accomplishing a job are named. The remaining tasks have been done by Don and Maureen Baldwin.

1999 will be the last year in which Don acts as co-ordinator of the Trails Committee. He and Maureen plan to do some summer traveling. Don no longer enjoys robust health.

If the existing format is to be continued members of the association will need to pick up several jobs outlined here. These can be done by volunteers or persons financed by the association.

Activities:

- **Trails Committee Co-ordinator.** Oversees the recruitment of committee members, hosts their meetings and seeks to encourage a consensus amongst the individual members in planning future activities including -
- **Finances.** Collecting and disbursing donations. Keeping accounts of all receipts and expenditures. Corresponding with donors and fund granting bodies, acknowledging donations on behalf of the trails committee. We have been self-sustaining for the last two years, thanks largely to the generosity of ' Friends' .
- **Hiring occasional laborers.** Supervising and equipping them. Establishing priorities.
- **Producing and distributing the Annual Newsletter.** This is distributed to all members of G.M. Tourism Ass., Chamber of Commerce members, ' Friends of Grand Manan Trails and Trails Adopters. Maude Hunter has taken an active role in circulation and at her own expense. Presently there are 21 couples or individuals upkeeping a trail or portion thereof. The newsletter is the only source of information many Friends get.
- **Maintaining the card index of ' Friends of Grand Manan Trails** (presently 132 names not otherwise known to G.M.T.A. Maude Hunter has been very active in this role.
- **Revising the Heritage Trails and Footpaths guidebook.** A new revision is now overdue.
- **Collecting archival materials.** Maps, early guides and articles shedding light on our historic trails.
- **Production and Sale of our distinctive crest.** Cecilia Bowden has ably handled this task for several years. Proceeds constitute our biggest single source of income in some years.
- **Housing and Maintaining our simple inventory of tools, paints, etc.** John

Cunningham has voluntarily serviced our chainsaw in recent years.

- **Monitoring the activities of the New Brunswick Trails Council Inc.** We have a token membership in this organization in order to be aware of their activities on the mainland. Tom and Ann Wetzell receive and monitor their literature for items of interest to us.

Should the existing format of organization be retained (it has worked well enough over the years) Don and Maureen will be happy to retain the following tasks.

- Storing and maintaining equipment.
- Making signs and markers.
- Adopting a trail.
- Contributing to the Newsletter. [top](#)

### **Trails Committee - Fall, 1999**

Don Baldwin—Co-Ordinator, Cecilia Bowden, John and Dianne Cunningham, Billy Daggett, Eugene Gillies, Sidney and Barbara Guptill, Maude Hunter

September 17, 1999

### **Newsletters on the Web**

Laurie Murison has put all of the past newsletters on website. [top](#)



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**Have a Question? E-Mail us at: [info@grandmanannb.com](mailto:info@grandmanannb.com)**

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