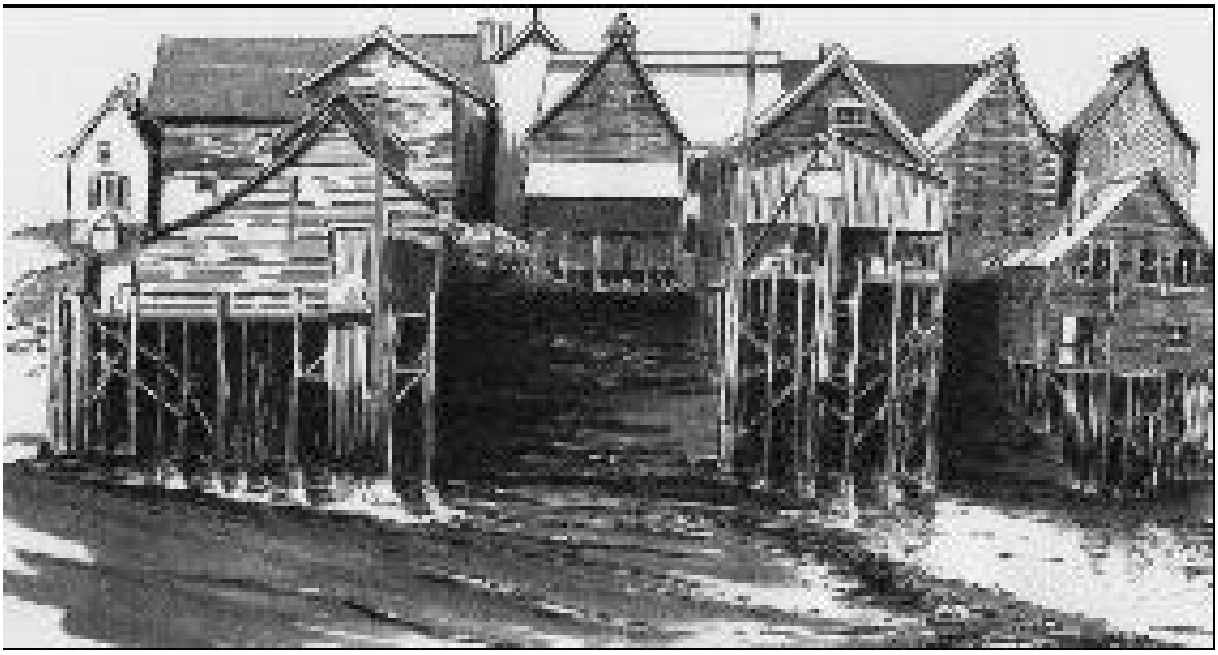
GRAND MANAN TRAILS

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



John Belyea

Smoke Stands at Seal Cove

Issue #12 October, 2004

THE TRAILS 2004

After a very windy winter and a wet spring, we found that there was a lot of cleanup to do on the trails this year. Thanks to the early assistance of Jessie James and Anne Mitchell, we were able to clear the worst of the obstacles. Susan Green and Kim Mann were also of help early in the year, as they walked the trails, chainsaw in hand, and cleared problems at the southern end of the island. Many thanks also to Philippe and Katrine Keity, their daughter Maya, Elise Bowers, and their dog, Caper for some great trail maintenance in late August. Assistance like this is greatly appreciated. Those of you who hiked to Money Cove would have been surprised and probably confused by the large pond where there used to be a small stream to cross. This is a result of busy beavers. In late August, we worked on a detour downstream from the dam, using part of the blue trail and the road going down to the cove itself. We'll check in the spring to work out the best route for next season.

One of the major problems we have had is having signs and markers stay in place. More than any other year in the past, we have found, particularly on the back of the island, that our signs and markers have been changed or removed. This does not make the trails inaccessible, but does cause some confusion to hikers new to the trails. We are hoping that this is not a growing trend, and that the problem may go away. We will certainly do what we can to maintain signage that will take the guesswork out of which way one should go. There are a couple of ways to deal with the problem. One is to paint the red markings right on the trees. A second is to have GPS readings for significant landmarks on the trails, and for points where trails intersect. We are very interested in making up a set of GPS settings for the back of the island, and hope to have that done by next year. We would have it as an addendum to the trails booklet, or as an extra sheet that could be picked up at the Tourism office in North Head, or perhaps added to the Grand Manan website.

You may be aware that the Rotary Club is planning to undertake improvements to Swallowtail Lighthouse, including scraping and painting of the building. It is a major undertaking, as this work has been neglected for years. Our trails committee feels strongly that the preservation of the lighthouse is very important, and is allied to trails maintenance. Therefore, we have contributed $1000 to the Rotary Club, to assist them with the work.

At the end of the season each year, we hold a Trails Dinner at the Inn at Whale Cove, hosted by Laura Buckley. Through Laura's generosity, and that of her suppliers, the dinner costs us nothing, and brings in $700 to $800 in proceeds, our largest single moneymaker. We owe Laura a tremendous debt for hosting it, and also to the loyal islanders who attend each year. A special thanks to waitresses, Jana, Fredonna and Joanne, and Linda, Ce and Anne who slaved in the kitchen.

A special thanks to all who have so generously made a donation this past year to the trails to allow us to continue to maintain them. We also have some new trails adopters, who help to do light maintenance, such as brush clipping, and who will alert us that there is a section which needs to be rerouted, or fallen trees that need to be removed. This is very important in trails maintenance.

Bob Stone

GEOCACHING

Global Positioning System (GPS) units open many possibilities for trails users. Here's one of them - geocaching. Geocaching is pronounced geo-cashing, like cashing a cheque.

What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is modern day treasure hunting; all you need is a sense of adventure and a GPS. Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for GPS users. Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of a GPS unit. The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the Internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards, such as pencils, money or watches, usually protected in a plastic box. All the visitor is asked to do is, if they get something, they should try to leave something for the cache, whatever is available.

WHAT IS A GPS DEVICE?

A GPS unit is an electronic device that can determine your approximate location (within around 6-20 feet) on the planet. Coordinates are normally given in Longitude and Latitude. You can use the unit to navigate from your current location to another location. Some units have their own maps, built-in electronic compasses and voice navigation, depending on the complexity of the device. You don't need to know all the technical mumbo jumbo about GPS units to play Geocaching.

All you need to do is be able to enter what is called a "waypoint" where the geocache is hidden.

How much does a GPS unit cost and where can I get one?

GPS Units can range from $100 to $1000 depending on the capabilities you are looking for. The author uses a Garmin eTrex, which runs around $100, and can get you to within 20 feet of any geocache (depending on the location). The next step is one with a built-in electronic compass, topographic maps, more memory, etc.

You can usually find GPS units at any boat supply store, and some camping stores keep GPS units on hand. You can also purchase them online through Amazon.com and camping supply companies.

How do I use a GPS unit for Geocaching?

To play, you'll need to know how to enter waypoints into your GPS unit. Your GPS should come with instructions on how to enter a waypoint.

Personal Experience

I have found caches from Fredericton to Florida. Every vacation I go on I try my best to find a cache in that general area. Each cache I find takes me to a place where I would have never gone if I weren't into geocaching. My favorite cache that I found was one down in Florida where we had to take a boat just to get to the location of the actual cache. There I left some pins and information on Grand Manan.

(Information taken from www.geocaching.com) Casey Benson

SOME EARLY ECOTOURISM ON GRAND MANAN

From 1990 Don Baldwin spearheaded the development of Grand Manan trails. This account of early ecotourism will be updated in 2005.

In 1969 I was the Hon. Secretary / Treasurer of the Canadian Audubon Society which was soon to metamorphose into the Canadian Nature Federation. The Board had recently decided to follow the example of the Massachusetts Audubon Society in offering its members a programme of "nature tours." These were the beginning of the huge ecotourism industry of today.

The first such tour Canadian Audubon offered was an expensive but successful affair to Bathhurst Inlet. It involved much flying time seeking and finding Polar Bears, Snowy Owls, Belugas, and as one participant reported, "wall-to-wall" Caribou.

Following this ice-breaking(!), I approached Patrick Hardy our Executive Director and volunteered to lead a second tour if my wife Maureen and our young sons, Mark and Adam could be included.

"Why don't you go to Grand Manan and see the Puffins and whales" said Patrick.

"Sounds great" said I. "Where is it?" (Maureen and I had had only one previous trip to the East Coast in Maine and down as far as Cape Cod.)

"We have a long-time member who runs a small resort on Grand Manan and is always encouraging our members to stay with him. He will help you set up an itinerary." Pat then set up a meeting between Jerry L'Aventure and me. Jerry's resort was of course the Anchorage where guests were mostly accommodated in cabins up the wooded hillside above the old farmhouse "cum" lodge where the meals were taken.

Jerry suggested a ten-day itinerary for July 1970. Boating was involved for five days with Gleason and Otis Green aboard Gleason's *Bonny Bride*.

We arrived five days early to scout the terrain and meet the islanders who would be aiding and abetting the group of twenty-three. Jerry put me in touch with Vernon Bagley, part-time Forest Ranger and part-time Fire Chief. It was he who took the time to introduce me to several of the hiking trails, mostly on the north end of the island.

It all came to pass. The weather was hot and sunny throughout with sunburn a major concern after the first couple of days.

Highlights were many and included a visit to Dr. Chuck Huntingdon at the Bowdoin College Research Station on Kent Island to see the Petrels. White Head was visited to search the ponds for waders and ducks and we enjoyed a lobster boil lunch on the shore of Wood Island where we searched for nesting Black Crowned Night Herons. (We didn't find them; they were on Long Island.). Gleason's "yarning" over lunch more than made up for our failure.

On another boating day, hand-lining off the Basin at Kent Island, we caught cod and five nice halibut, enough to feed everyone dinner back at the Anchorage.

A sunny circumnavigation yielded memorable views of Minkes, Finbacks and an adult Bald Eagle perched on the cliff near the Southern Cross. Using the rented school bus we made several visits to the Whistle, Eel Lake and Castalia. Wayne Guptill, then a young teacher from Grand Harbour, was home from his school in Stanley, NB and accompanied us on most days imparting all sorts of local lore.

One memorable evening was filled by Vernon Bagley recounting his recollections of the famous rescue at Southern Head and another by Elmer Wilcox showing us his comprehensive collection of island wildflower slides. (Prints made from these can still be viewed at the

Grand Manan Museum).

And of course, there were visits to Machias Seal Island. Whilst cameras were clicking in the make-shift blinds, Jack Russell collared me, sat me down to a bowl of lobster stew in his kitchen, and delivered a passionate lecture! His concern and that of the other keepers, was the fate of the nesting birds. It had just been announced by Transport Canada that East Coast lighthouses were to be automated. "Who's going to cut the grass and protect them when we're gone?" said Jack. His concerns didn't fall on deaf ears. The issue of caretaking this unique colony of birds had already been discussed at our headquarters in Toronto.

That fall I asked the Board to allow me to use the profit from the summer tour to study first-hand the problems associated with the unregulated stream of visitors. The Board readily agreed.

We returned for the summer of 1971 to supervise two students who were hired to cover the breeding season at Machias Seal Island. First came Roger Meservey, one of Bowdoin College's students. He was followed by Susan Merrill from Stanley, NB, a former student of Wayne Guptill who was just finishing high school. Their task was two-fold: first to compile a list of visitors and to suggest some do's and don'ts to them as they came ashore. Secondly, they were to take daily counts of the birds to allow better estimates to be made of the size of the populations.

Many more visitors were logged than had previously been estimated. Over 600!

That fall a detailed report was duplicated at the office and widely circulated on both sides of the border. *Machias Seal Island Bird Sanctuary: Its Present Status and Future* recommended to Ottawa the seasonal appointment of a warden to supervise the visitors. This measure was eventually adopted by The Canadian Wildlife Service and Machias Seal Island is wardened to this day.

Don Baldwin

DONORS

The following is a list of donors from the time the newsletter was published last year:

Peter McParland
Judy Stone
Len Young (saws)
Penelope Purvis
Linda Duchin
Elizabeth Douglas
Greg and Anne Hancock
Andy and Adrienne McIntosh
Henry Biedrzycki and Valerie Evans
Sue Vetterlein and Colleen Thomson
Ed and Nora Parker (Compass Rose)
Patricia Tripp
Malcolm Bull
Joan Fellows
Neil Shepherd
Claude Cinqmars
John and Sue Stevens
Melinda and Clinton Coulter
Laird and Jane Sloan
Steve and Anne Green
Fundy Hiking and Nature Tours

HIKER'S GUIDE TO LOGGING NEAR GRAND MANAN TRAILS: HARDWOODS

Grand Manan is covered by a lot of mature forest that needs to be harvested before it succumbs to fire or old age. A number of companies as well as wood lot owners are engaged in cutting. To answer the question what species are being logged, we are providing a quick lesson on hardwoods. (Next year we will look at softwoods.)

RED MAPLE *(also known as soft maple)*

Mature height 22m. Life expectancy 80 - 130 years

Red Maple can be easily identified throughout the year by its red twigs and buds, and the uneven saw-toothed margins of the leaf. The seeds have wings and fall in early summer, germinating immediately.

Red Maple attracts a variety of birds and small animals that feed on the seeds, twigs, buds and flowers. Some birds use the leaves and twigs in nest building while White-Tailed Deer and Moose browse on the twigs and foliage.

Red Maple is not an important timber species though it is used in the manufacture of furniture, veneer and plywood. On Grand Manan it is mainly used for firewood.

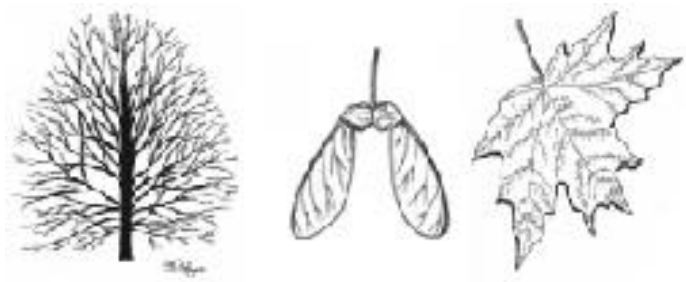
SUGAR MAPLE *(also known as rock and hard maple)*

Mature height 25m. Life expectancy 150 - 250 years

Sugar Maple is best identified by the five-lobed leaf with a smooth edge. The buds are brown and pointed.

Seeds of the Sugar Maple are eaten by small mammals and a variety of birds including Cardinals and Evening Grosbeaks. Large old trees provide nest cavities.

The Sugar Maple is one of the most valuable commercial hardwoods in Canada, and is especially desirable where strength and resistance to wear are necessary, such as for furniture, flooring, toys and cutting blocks. The "bird's eye" and "curly grain" figures are in great demand. The sap is the principal source of maple syrup and sugar. Forty litres of sap are required to make one litre of syrup. A stylized version of its leaf is the central feature of the Canadian flag and the Sugar Maple is Canada's national tree.



WHITE BIRCH *(also known as paper and silver birch)*

Mature height 24m. Life expectancy 80 - 130 years

White Birch is best identified by its white papery bark which peels off in curls.

White Birch provides food, cover and nesting cavities for the Yellow Bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker and Black-Capped Chickadee. At least ten other bird species eat the seed as part of their diet.

The wood may be sawn into lumber, and large quantities are used for firewood. White Birch is among the best species to reforest areas that have been burned or cut. Isolated trees often die after the rest of a stand has been harvested. The Native people made over two dozen products from the tough, pliable, versatile bark, including their shelter, canoes, containers, toys and art work.

YELLOW BIRCH

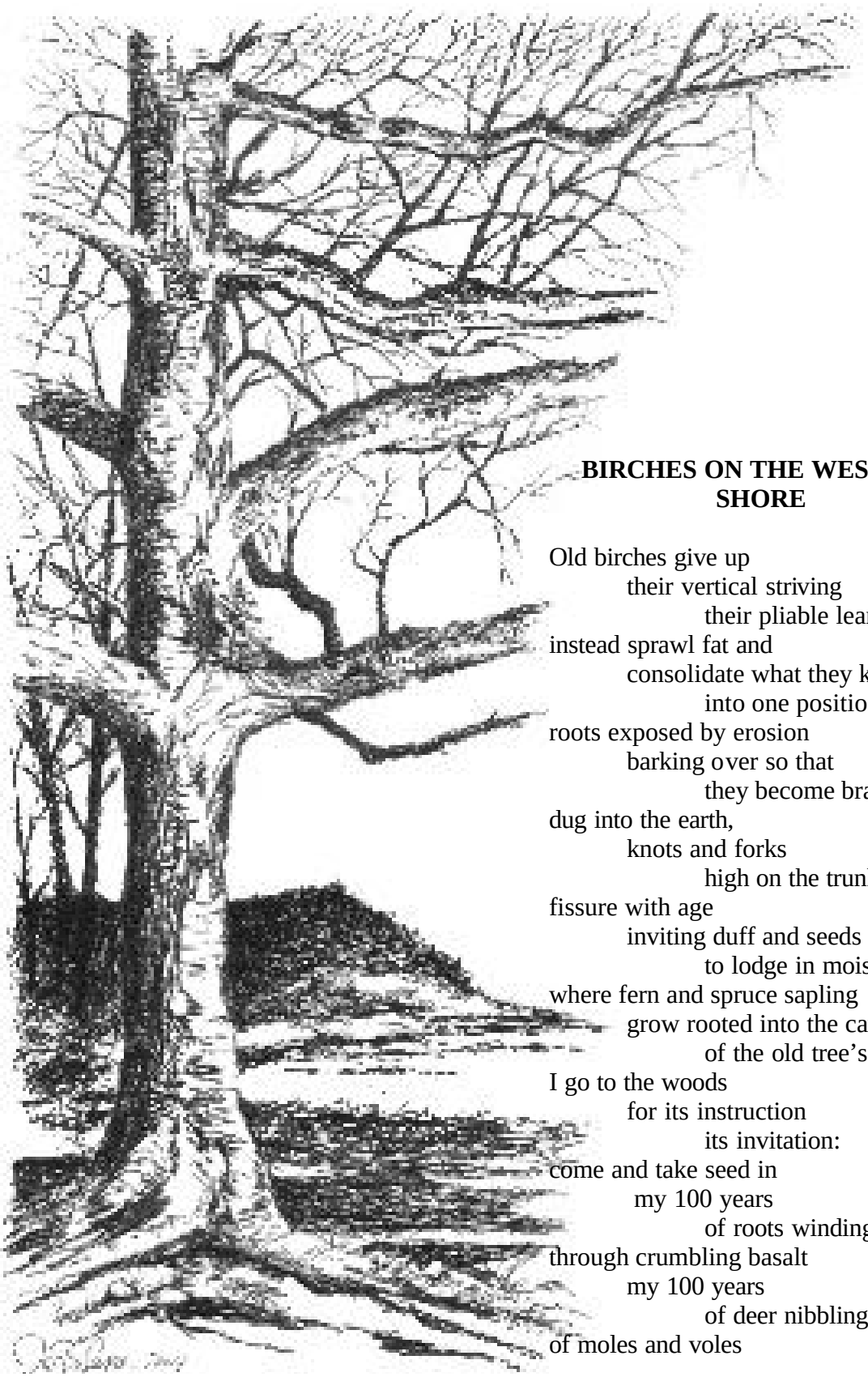
Mature height 25m. Life expectancy 150 - 250 years

The Yellow Birch is the largest of our native birches and is best identified by its yellowish to grey papery bark and the wintergreen scent in the sap of the buds and twigs.

Buds and seeds are commonly eaten by many birds and small mammals. The twigs and bark are browsed upon by Moose, White-Tailed Deer and Porcupine.

Yellow Birch is the most important hardwood tree in Eastern Canada. The wood is used extensively for flooring, doors, furniture, plywood, veneer and railway ties. The wood can be stained and takes a high polish. Yellow Birch is the provincial tree of Quebec.

The bugs and twigs which smell and taste of wintergreen can be steeped year round to make a delightful tea. In spring this birch can be tapped and the sap boiled down to make a wintergreen syrup.



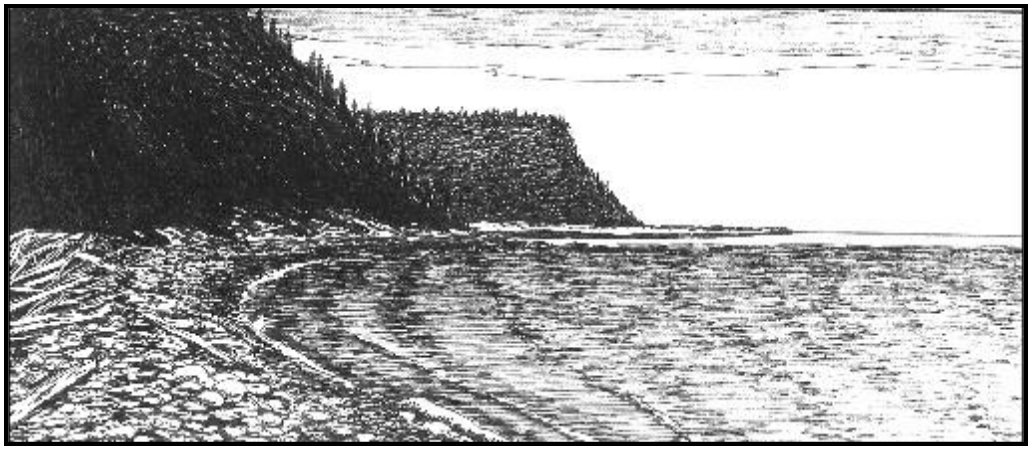
BIRCHES ON THE WESTERN SHORE

Old birches give up
their vertical striving
their pliable leaning
instead sprawl fat and
consolidate what they know
into one position
roots exposed by erosion
barking over so that
they become branches
dug into the earth,
knots and forks
high on the trunk
fissure with age
inviting duff and seeds
to lodge in moist creases
where fern and spruce sapling
grow rooted into the cavity
of the old tree's flaws.
I go to the woods
for its instruction
its invitation:
come and take seed in
my 100 years
of roots winding
through crumbling basalt
my 100 years
of deer nibbling leaves
of moles and voles

tunneling in root hairs
my 100 years
of gale and caterpillar
my 100 years
of children peeling
strips of bark
to make paper or boats
my 100 years of
catalytic sun
and exploding raindrop
and skin-sheathing ice
my 100 years
of raven and squirrel play
and gull gossip
of cicada song
and surf's steady heart
and fog fog fog fog fog
soft against the bark
my 100 years
of learning how
to stand in one place
and join
the earth to the sky.

Alison Hawthorne Deming

Alison Hawthorne Deming is a long-time summer resident of Grand Manan and author of several books of poems and essays including Writing the Sacred Into the Real *and* Temporary Homelands. *This poem was inspired by a spectacular old birch tree on the cliff trail between Dark Harbour and Money Cove that had a spruce sapling sprouting out of a cleft in its trunk at about eye-level.*



Looking South from Indian Beach John Belyea

WILL THERE BE A WIND FARM IN GRAND MANAN'S FUTURE?

By the time you read this, ground may already have been broken for construction of a 12-turbine wind farm at Dark Harbour, on the western side of Grand Manan. It would be the first such wind energy facility in New Brunswick. Eastern Wind Power (EWP) of Quispamsis, near Saint John, was chosen by the N.B. government in June as the successful bidder for the project. However, before construction can begin, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has to be approved.

EWP is actually a subsidiary of Western Wind Energy of Vancouver, but was the only N.B.-based company in the pack of six companies scrambling to become the first to construct a wind farm in the province. The project, estimated to cost $30 million, would be capable of generating up to 20 megawatts of electricity when the wind was blowing at optimum speeds.

Paul Woodhouse, president of EWP, said Grand Manan was a natural choice because it had the highest regular winds in the province. The company built a 60-meter meteorological tower at Little Dark Harbour in May of 2002, and a second at Dark Harbour in the fall of 2003 to determine what kind of wind turbines would be best-suited for the rugged western face of the island.

During the spring and summer of 2004, EWP conducted extensive investigations into the flora and fauna of the Dark Harbour Plateau, and submitted their EIA to the province in late July. Despite assurances from the author of this article that negative impacts on birds would be minimal, doubts were expressed by both federal and provincial wildlife biologists. Without absolute proof, the scientists were uneasy with my assessment, and demanded additional studies.

However, the parent company of EWP balked at the prospect of up to two more years of study, and will likely withdraw their financial backing if the EIA is not accepted by the end of September.

Paul Woodhouse knew there would be concerns expressed over interaction between the wind turbines and birds, and came to me early in the process for my assessment. I told him point blank that the only area of Grand Manan I would feel safe with from a bird-safety point of view was that area of the island between Little Dark Harbour and Money Cove. Otherwise, EWP would not have bothered to consider Grand Manan as a wind farm site, and would have gone elsewhere.

At any rate, should the wind farm win final approval, hikers using the trail system down the western side of Grand Manan should get awesome views of the wind towers as soon as they start up out of Money Cove. It is proposed that each of the 12 towers will stand 78 meters high with three 39-meter blades. The life of the farm is expected to be 20 years, and the New Brunswick Electric Power Corporation has agreed to buy all the energy the farm's 1.8 megawatt turbines will produce. The wind farm will generate enough electricity to power 6,000 homes, more than enough for Grand Manan, with the excess exported to the mainland via existing submarine cable.

Also included in the project's outline is an interpretive centre with trails. So, besides generating clean energy and a return for the investors, it appears a valid tourist attraction could be in the works.

The wind towers at Dark Harbour will be similar to the one shown above, photographed near Matane, Quebec last fall. (Paul Woodhouse photo).

Brian Dalzell

PAINTING THE SWALLOWTAIL LIGHT

Everyone knows and loves the Swallowtail Light but closer inspection reveals it is sadly in need of attention. A committee of the Grand Manan Rotary Club has undertaken to oversee the scraping and painting. Sounds simple enough but for several hurdles: money, the tricky heights which require scaffolding and catwalks, and getting permission from the owners, the Canadian Coast Guard.

The Bay of Fundy is famous for its high tides and powerful tidal currents which were the main factor in the heavy loss of shipping, according to historian, Eric Allaby. Other factors also brought on disaster: dense fog, heavy weather, drunken crew and unseaworthy vessels. As settlements grew and ocean commerce developed, more ships came to grief on Grand Manan reefs.

The Swallowtail Light tower was build in 1859 and lit in 1860. About 1921, the fog bell house, built in 1914-15 was moved beside the tower and later attached to it with a covered breezeway. The Swallowtail Light was designated "recognized" by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office because of its historical association and aesthetic and environmental values.

The Lightstation is one of the oldest surviving wooden lighthouses in southern New Brunswick. It measures 45' from base to deck and the point of land on which it stands is 103' above high water making the elevation of the light 148'. The lantern is made of iron painted red with 12 panes of plate-glass 4' x 2' and 8" wide. The inside diameter of the lantern is 9'10". The tower is build of 45' logs covered in shingles. It is five-sided, 35' at the bottom narrowing to 6' at the top. In 1986 when the light was automated, two windows were removed and the most recent coat of paint applied.

The owners, the Canadian Coast Guard do not have the budget to maintain and paint the lightstation, nor do they need it now as a navigational aid; a galvanized steel pole with a radio repeater could do the job. Although the Province uses the Swallowtail in its tourist literature, it is reluctant to take over ownership and the related maintenance and public liability responsibilities.

The Rotary Lighthouse committee has completed negotiations for a license from the Coast Guard to scrape and paint the Swallowtail and replace missing shingles. Now the immediate need is for donations to finance the work which should be done professionally given the requirements for cat-walks hanging from above and scaffolding for reaching the lower sections.

If you love the Swallowtail and would like to make a contribution for which the Rotary Club will issue you a charitable tax receipt, please send a cheque to: Rotary Club of Grand Manan, Att: Mike O'Neill Treasurer, 130 Route 776, Grand Manan, NB E5G 4K9. With thanks for your anticipated generosity.

Ann Chudleigh

GRAND MANAN TOURISM ASSOCIATION
TRAILS COMMITTEE

Bob & Judy Stone	Cecilia Bowden & Eugene Gillies
John & Diane Cunningham	Sidney & Barbara Guptill
Maude Hunter	Ginny & George Riseborough
Anne Mitchell & Jessie James	Carmen & Peter Roberts

Trails Newsletter: Ann Chudleigh

Past Trails Newsletters can be found on the Grand Manan Tourism Website:
Http://grandmananNB.com

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