

Grand Manan Trails. Annual Newsletter #14
October 2006

Contents:

[Trail Adopters](#)
[Trail Maintenance Par Excellence](#)
[Last Year' s Dinner](#)
[A Few of the Local Inhabitants](#)
[Grand Manan Trails](#)

[Bird Notes 2006](#)
[Trails Meeting](#)
[Hiking in the 1920' s](#)
[George Logan](#)
[Friends of Grand Manan Trails](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Grand Manan Trails Pin](#)

UPDATE - Bob Stone



This was a busy year on the trails, with more hours spent in May-June preparation by Anne and Jessie, followed by regular upkeep by our “ trails adopters” . We had more adopters this year than any previous year, and they have done a terrific job in keeping the trails in good shape. Generally the comments about the conditions of the trails have been very positive. In fact, on CBC’s Radio Noon, our trails were called the “ best maintained trails in New Brunswick. We do receive a few letters from hikers who have had some difficulties finding

their way, which emphasizes that the markings cannot be too clear. Beavers, clear cutting, and sign removal have been some of the challenges this year, but, overall, the trails have offered a great deal of enjoyment to many people.

[top](#)

TRAIL ADOPTION

Over the years the trails have been cleared and marked sporadically by funded crews and spontaneously by keen individuals. Starting in 1993 the Grand Manan Trail Committee began to recruit volunteers **Trail Adopters** who are looking after specific trails, monitoring work needed and carrying out light maintenance. Heavy work is typically done in the Spring before many hikers are out. The commitment of time is not onerous. All tools and materials can be supplied from our inventory and 90% of the work done simply involves a pair of hand clippers to combat intrusive growth. Keeping us informed on current trail conditions is probably the main contribution. Let us know if you are interested.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE PAR EXCELLENCE - Judy Stone

Hikers who have encountered Anne Mitchell and Jessie James at work express amazement at this unlikely dynamic duo. If you are meeting them, you first encounter a machete-wielding

powerhouse who mows down alders with the efficiency of a well-maintained machine. Once Jessie passes, you will be treated to the vision of a slim, elegant woman who looks as chic in her green Wellingtons and plaid shirt as she would in full formal dress. However, her choice of accessories, a chain saw and gas can, might give the observer a moment of hesitation. Thanks to these two dedicated individuals, the rest of those who take responsibility for trail upkeep find their sections in great shape at the beginning of the season.

We had the privilege of accompanying them and their faithful supervisor “ Pinky from The Whistle to Dark Harbour in May, and can attest to the fact that they take a personal pride in every aspect of the trail system, carefully checking red markers from both directions and clearing overgrowth with a vengeance. If a fallen tree blocks the path, Anne delivers the chainsaw to Jessie and then stands back. (She also stays clear of the cutlass, just in case of accidental beheading.) If the trail seems too close to the edge, they carefully re-route, doing as little cutting as possible, and tidying as they go. If a beaver pond threatens to force a major detour, as it did at the Money Brook crossing, Jessie, with a grin of one who loves a challenge, wades to the other side, boots filling with water, and hauls out dead trees and logs to make a bridge for his companions. If bugs are voracious, as they were that day, Anne and Jessie become banquet material and do not hurry their pace just to avoid being devoured (as did their companions). Only when they are totally satisfied that hikers will encounter the best possible conditions do they proceed to the next section.

We have hiked that trail many times, usually in 5 hours, but that day, despite the fact that Anne and Jessie took only a short lunch break, we arrived at the Western Head parking lot more than 9 hours after we had started. This spring, they each put in 79 hours getting the trails in shape, even building a solid bridge over Spring Rocks on the Hay Point Trail, and reports indicate that all their efforts are very much appreciated.

TRAIL ADOPTERS: 2006

Lydia Parker Frances Hodge Virginia & George Riseborough Adele and John Peacock Janice & Allison Naves Ineka & Jan DeVries Jane & Laird Sloan Marilyn & Peter Cronk	Sidney & Barbara Guptill Cecilia Bowden Peter Hoffman Sheldon & Shirley Cook Maude Hunter Beverly Parker Jackie Foote Signs Produced by: Carmen and Pete Roberts
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[top](#)



Maude Hunter who, together with Bev Parker, looks after the trail from Southern Head Beach to the Lower Flock of Sheep.



Sheldon and Shirley Cook who work on the trail from Bradford Pond to Southwest Head.



Paddy and John Duford from Rochester, N.Y. helped clear out the trail around Net Point.



Ce Bowden, together with Peter Hoffman, looks after the trail from Deep Cove to Bradford Cove and Hay Point.



Laird and Jane Sloan from Texas do the trail from Ashburton Head to the Whistle.

[top](#)

LAST YEAR' S TRAIL DINNER

This was again held at Laura's shortly after Thanksgiving, 2005, and again the dining room, which can cope with forty people, was filled to capacity. This is about the fifth year that Laura has done it for the benefit of the Trails, and it is always extremely popular. She donates all the food (this year the menu was meat lasagna and dessert) and some of the wine.

In the kitchen were a number of people helping out for free, including: Ce Bowden, Anne Mitchell, Linda L' Aventure, Joanne Ingalls, Fredonna Dean and Jana Gatta. We are very grateful to all of them.

At one end of the room the Stones had set up a computer slide show of scenes along the various trails. Basil Small, as head of the Rotary Club of Grand Manan was there to thank the Friends of Grand Manan Trails for their contribution towards the cost of painting Swallowtail Light. Altogether it added about \$1000 to our budget for keeping up the trails and it was a great success.

A FEW OF THE LOCAL INHABITANTS

When the Loyalists settled here, there were no large mammals on the islands. The only non-flying, non-swimming species native to Grand Manan are two rodents - the meadow vole and the deer mouse. Both are bigger than their mainland counterparts. • Beavers were brought over about 1948 by residents, presumably for the purpose of establishing a population which could be trapped for pelts. The otter came by himself, swimming over from the mainland. Muskrats were introduced about 1935, to be trapped. The Norway rat and the house mouse probably came by ship. But nobody is quite sure how the red squirrel got here.

[top](#)

GRAND MANAN TRAILS

• Net Point Trail	0.8 km
• Swallowtail to Fish Head	1.7 km
• Fish Head to Hole-in-the-Wall	0.3 km
• Whale Cove to Hole-in-the-Wall	1.0 km
• Whale Cove to Ashburton Head	4.2 km
• Ashburton Head from Whistle Road	1.0 km
• Ashburton Head to the Whistle	1.4 km
• Whistle to Indian Beach	2.0 km
• Whistle Road to Eel Lake and Indian Beach	2.7 km
• Indian Beach to Money Cove	2.3 km
• North Head to Money Cove (2 trails)	5.0 km & 4.0 km
• Money Cove to Dark Harbour	4.5 km
• Dark Harbour to Western Head Lookout	1.4 km
• Western Head to Little Dark Harbour	5.0 km
• Little Dark Harbour to Dwellys Cove & Pond	1.75 km
• Dwellys Pond to Big Head	4.0 km
• Big Head to Bradford Cove	4.0 km
• Bradford Cove to Southwest Head	4.0 km

• Deep Cove to Bradford Cove	1.5 km
• Southwest Head to Pats Cove via Flock of Sheep	2.5 km
• Red Point to Anchorage Prov. Park	1.5 km
• Anchorage Park to Ox Head & Ingalls Head	2.0 km
• White Head Island	9.0 km
• Ross Island	7.5 km
• Castalia Marsh	1.0 km

In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.

-John Muir

[top](#)

THE TRAILS MEETING

On June 6th there was a Trails meeting at Ce and Gene's place at Harrington Cove; almost all the trail adopters were present. The eighth edition of the Grand Manan Trails guide, edited by Bob Stone, has just been published, and for the first time it has a cover in colour and the price has been slightly increased. It has been revised over the winter, marking a number of changes. Also for the first time GPS waypoints have been included for major landmarks, listed by latitude and longitude. There was a discussion of trail adoption and what it involved; keeping the trail clear of brush and bramble, checking on erosion that would endanger the trail, and making sure that signs are clear. Trail adopters were handed out packets including clippers, a small saw, heavy work gloves and a copy of the new Trails guide. Jessie and Anne, who do the heavy work on the trails in May and June, reported on what they had done so far.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Bob and Judy Stone

Frances Hodge

Cecilia Bowden

Jessie James and Anne Mitchell

Pete and Carmen Roberts



BIRD NOTES, 2006 - Peter Pearce

It can be said to have been fairly quiet on the Grand Manan birdwatching front in 2006 because of apparent declining populations of many avian species. The forests hardly rang with songbird voices and there were unusually few shorebirds along the strand. But, as always, the island lived up to its reputation during the year as the place to see birds in considerable variety and of regional rarity.

So it was that a Common Moorhen, rare here despite its name, was at Whale Cove in the spring and a

much-sought-after Connecticut Warbler at Long Eddy Point in the fall. Several Peregrine Falcons, an endangered species, were noted - one on White Head Island spreading alarm and despondency among migrating shorebirds. Thanks to conservation efforts, Peregrines have staged quite a comeback in the last few decades. In contrast, a Piping Plover, an endangered bird hardly ever encountered on Grand Manan, spent a few August days on Long Pond Beach. On adjacent Great Pond a Eurasian Wigeon, a transatlantic visitor, joined the few pairs of its quite common American cousins breeding there.

One of the most exciting events during the year was the spotting of a Magnificent Frigatebird off northern Grand Manan in September. That was a bird from a faraway warmer clime that had not been reported in New Brunswick. At a different level of accessibility, a pair of Northern Cardinals brought their young to a Castalia bird feeder, to the delight of the homeowners peering from their kitchen window. And in Grand Harbour a Black-billed Cuckoo continued to sing, morning and evening, throughout the summer.

Included on a list of observed birds that might be characterized as usual unusuals were Egrets at Castalia Marsh, House Wrens and Prairie Warblers near Southwestern Head and a Clay-colored Sparrow at North Head.

In the short-term, the super abundance of mountain ash berries and spruce cones augurs well for some fruit - and seed-eating birds this coming winter. As for the long-term, in consideration of climate change - perhaps already manifesting itself in New Brunswick - who knows what exotic birds the future will bring to Grand Manan.

***** Peter Pearce was, in his professional life, a wildlife toxicologist, which meant that he was actually paid to watch birds. Now he does it for fun, and has been watching Grand Manan birds for nearly fifty years.

[top](#)

HIKING IN THE 1920s

Miss Jacobus (from Whale Cove Cottages) and friends going down to Dark Harbour. The road was little more than a cart track until a good one was finished in 1928. It was built mainly with " Statute Labour, a system whereby citizens were called out to work for certain periods of time depending upon an assessment made of their property. Enoch Green was one of those who helped to build the road-way which





ended where the steep entrance now begins. A footpath skirted the high hill and it was not until some years later, after Andrew Johnson carved the road extension from the rocky hillside, that vehicles could be brought in. For his services, Mr. Johnson was promised a supply of herring as fertilizer for his farm. “The Cottage Girls,” a group of young women from the United States who became the nucleus of Whale Cove Cottages, were very active in the 20s and 30s in walking the local trails and keeping them open.

**Photographs kindly loaned by Mary Mossman.

[top](#)

GEORGE LOGAN



George Logan died in June, aged 88, and probably just the way he wanted to— out on one of his many walks near Ottawa where he lived with his wife Helen. He was a keen hiker of the Grand Manan Trails and was usually out there somewhere in all weather, especially in the fog which he loved. He would seriously complain if a week went by without it.

At the beginning of July a number of his friends gathered together for a picnic to celebrate his visits here, and this is Holly Cheney’s memory of him:

My first view of George Logan was about this time of year in 2001. We had just bought the Motel and I happened to look out the kitchen window, when up from the beach came someone who looked like a cross between Ichabod Crane and Inspector Gadget, making long strides toward apartment #28 - George and Helen’s summer home here on the Island for many years. Wearing as usual a long-sleeved dress shirt (ironed), Bermuda shorts, knee socks, sturdy shoes, Tilley hat, the GPS around his neck and ski poles in hand. George certainly loved all his gadgets: computer, printer, digital camera, cell phone, handheld GPS. He would go



for a hike all day - Helen would drop him off and come home - and then he would call her on his cell phone to pick him up at the Whistle, or Dark Harbour, or the Anchorage, or out some dirt road at the back of the Island.” He only had to be rescued once, when he was brought out on the back of an ATV which he found a very scary experience. He insisted that he was not lost.

George was born in Saint John and finally settled in Ottawa where he worked for the Government. In 1999, he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution in founding the Canadian Microelectronics Industry. Besides his beloved wife, Helen, he leaves three children, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many friends on Grand Manan who remember him with great affection.

Photographs from Susan Sargent

[top](#)

FRIENDS OF GRAND MANAN TRAILS

Alcoe, Dr. Shirley, Fredericton NB	Hunter, Maude, Grand Manan NB
Amos, Ken, Fredericton NB	Ingersoll, Serg. Chris, Petawawa ON
Audubon Expedition, Belfast ME	Island Home Hardware, Grand Manan NB
Baldwin, Don & Maureen, Port Rowan ON	James, Jessie, Grand Manan NB
Bartlett, Betty, Manotick ON	Kenny, Robin & Paul, Flemington NJ
Bartlett, Paula & Tom, Tiffin OH	L'Aventure, Linda, Toronto ON
Belyea, John, Saint John NB	Leo Deininger, & Ruth Skully, Cleveland Hts OH
Beresford, Doris, Toronto ON	Leslie, James, Grand Manan NB
Biedizyck, Henry, Charleston MA	Liebowitz, Dick & Edith, Ballouville CT
Bouchard, Sylvia, Kanata ON	Logan, Helen, Ottawa ON
Bowden, Cecilia, Grand Manan NB	Longstaff, Frank, Hampton NB
Boyer, Marcel, Gatineau QC	Majka, Mary Harvey, Albert Co NB
Buckley, Laura, Grand Manan NB	Maker, Rodger & Elaine, Grand Manan NB
Bull, Malcolm, Oakville ON	Matt hews, Ivan & Kathy, Navan ON
Campbell, MaryLou, Grand Manan NB	McCall, Dr. Marnie, Kingston ON
Cheney, Kirk & Holly, Grand Manan NB	McIntosh, Andy & Adrienne, Mispec NB
Chudleigh, Ann, Chelsea QC	McParland, Peter, Oakville ON
Cinqmars, Claude, St. Lambert PQ	Mitchell, Anne, Grand Manan NB
Cohen, Carl, Ann Arbor MI	Mossman, Mary & Philip, Bangor ME
Conrod, Lionel & Lily, Dartmouth NS	Nature Trust of New Brunswick, Fredericton NB
Cook, Sheldon & Shirley, Grand Manan NB	NB Trails Council, Fredericton NB
Crabbe, Donald, Bristol NB	Nelson, Paul & Lynne, Islington ON
Cronk, Peter & Marilyn, Grand Manan NB	O' Donnell, Kevin, Fredericton NB
Dathan, Wendy, Grand Manan NB	Parker, Ed & Nora, Milford ON
David, Ed & Janice, Farrington ME	Parker, Lydia, Grand Manan NB
Demaline, Alan & Elaine, Orangeville ON	Peterson, Paul, New York NY
Deming, Alison, Tucson AZ	Pearce, Peter & Theresa, Fredericton, NB
Duchin, Linda, New York NY	
Dunderdale, Jill, Fredericton NB	

Dutchmen Construction Grand Manan NB
Duford, Paddy & John, Rochester NY
Edwards, Dr. Ken & Mary Kingston ON
Edwards, Dr. Kenneth Kingston ON
Eisenhower, Mr & Mrs N, Clear Brook VA
Evans, Valerie, Charleston MA
Faulkner, Nicole, Jamaica Plain MA
Foote, Jackie, Grand Manan NB
Frantzman, Joel, Sullivan ME
Fundy Hikes & Nature Tours, St. Martins NB
Gichuru, Anneke, Grand Manan NB
Gillies, Gene, Grand Manan NB
Green, Anne & Steve, Toronto ON
Guptill, Sidney & Barbara, Grand Manan NB
Hadley, Eric, Fredericton NB
Hain, Jim, East Falmouth MA
Hancock, Anne & Greg, Cobourg ON
Island Home Hardware, Grand Manan NB
Hodge, Frances, Grand Manan NB

Purves, Kyle, Fredericton NB
Rafuse, Penelope, Waterville, ME
Roberts, Peter & Carmen, Grand Manan NB
Ross, Mona, Toronto ON
Sargent, John & Susan, Ottawa ON
Schenk, Thisbe, Willowdale ON
Shell, Marc & Susan, Grand Manan NB
Sloan, Laird & Jane, Grand Manan NB
Smith, Ned & Diane, East Holden ME
Stevens, John & Sue, Toronto ON
Stone, Bob & Judy, Grand Manan NB
Thompson, Colleen, Hyannis MA
Tripp, Patricia, London ON
Turner, Mel & Sandy, St. Andrews NB
Vetterlein, Sue, Hyannis MA
Village of Grand Manan, Grand Manan NB
Wallace, Doreen, Fredericton NB
Wetzel, Tom & Ann, Grand Manan NB
Williamson, Irvine & Ethel, Shrewsbury MA
Young, Len, Stockton Springs ME
Zocchi, John & Jane, N Turner ME

If you wish to be included on the mailing list, or comment on trail conditions, observations (Ex: natural history, cultural, aesthetic, etc.) or suggestions to improve the trails, please write to:

FRIENDS OF GRAND MANAN TRAILS

c/o Bob Stone
51 Red Point Road, Grand Manan, NB E5G 4J1
rstone@nb.sympatico.ca

or

Grand Manan Tourism Association
Box 1310, Grand Manan, NB E5G 4M9
Phone: 506-662-3442 (1-888-525-1655)
gmtouris@nbnet.nb.ca
Web: www.grandmananNB.com



NOTE: If you would like to receive the newsletter by email or have changed your address, please let us know.

THE GRAND MANAN TRAILS PIN

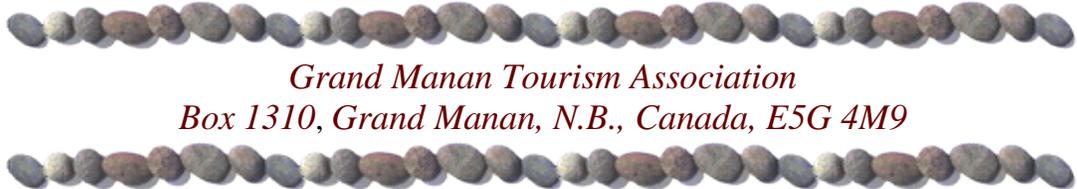
The idea that we should identify ourselves with a distinctive logo originated with one of the Island's scout leaders in 1993. When contacted, long time Friend O. K. Schenk promptly designed a sew-on crest which was later

transformed into a lapel pin. Mr. Schenk's beautiful watercolors are well known to Islanders and are included in some of our Island Museum's displays.

The design depicts a hard white shape symbolizing the Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) which is common during the summer, and always a source of pleasure". The background colour is a dark forest green and the white flower-center (or berries) a bright red. First offered for sale in 1994 as a crest and now as a pin, they have become our principal fund raising activity. They are sold for \$5.00 each, without profit to the sellers, by a number of GMTA members. They are available at the following places: The Grand Manan Business Centre, Island Arts, Marathon Inn, Shorecrest Lodge, Whale Cove Cottages, Grand Manan Museum, Harrington Cove Cottages.

Thanks to all of them.

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

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