

Grand Manan Trails. Annual Newsletter #19
October 2011

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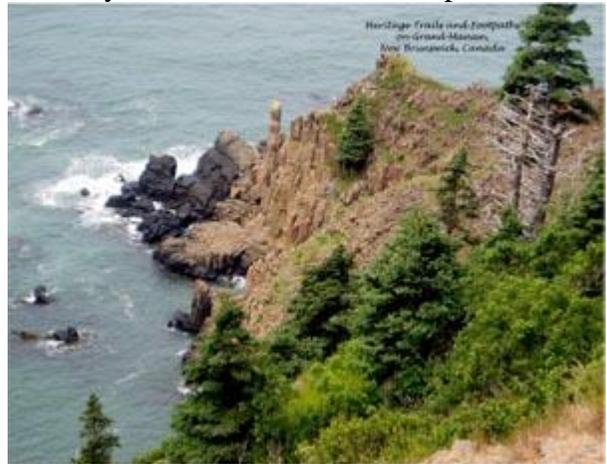
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TRAILS UPDATE 2011 - Bob Stone

Because of the wet weather in the spring, Anne and Jessie were not able to begin the trails as early as usual, and the continuing rain meant that they weren't able to complete them until mid to late June. In addition, it was an extremely bad year for blow-downs. Consequently, Anne spent 78 hours, and Jessie 84 in completing the maintenance, to a total of 162 hours. Keep in mind that, if we ever missed one year of maintenance, it would be hard to believe what shape the trails would be in. A good example was the trail on the northern side of Ross Island. Three years ago a work party spent a day clearing that trail. We had heard this past year that it was becoming very difficult to follow, and decided to concentrate on it again this year. Six of us and Jessie spent six hours making the trail once again passable.

We are finding that there are a number of places on the trails where the present reality differs from the trails booklet description. This is particularly true of the inland trails, which have been affected by logging and ATVs. Therefore, we will be introducing a major revision to the trails booklet, with a different cover and revised descriptions where necessary. We are also hoping to be able to produce a French edition, if we can gain access to government assistance for some of the costs. We have been assured that we will be surprised at the number of visitors who would prefer a French version. What you see in the accompanying photo is the new cover. Do you recognize the setting? If not, there's a hike for you next year. [The answer is on page eight.](#)



Again we have been very fortunate with the summer volunteer work of our trails adopters. This has been a bad year for blackberry bushes, and brambles of many sorts. It is difficult to keep up with them, but our volunteers have put in many hours trying to stay ahead of them.

Laura Buckley continues to host our annual fund raiser in October, which is our single largest source of funds. This year, the dinner raised \$1465, the largest total yet. That, combined with the sale of the trails booklets and your generous donations, allows us to finance the maintenance. We contributed \$2000 to the

Lighthouse Keepers Society (*sic Swallowtail Keepers Society*), to be used for the restoration of the grounds and buildings at Swallowtail. They are a doing marvellous job in that project. As I mentioned last year, we are able to carry out the maintenance of the trails without any public funding, thanks to your generous support.

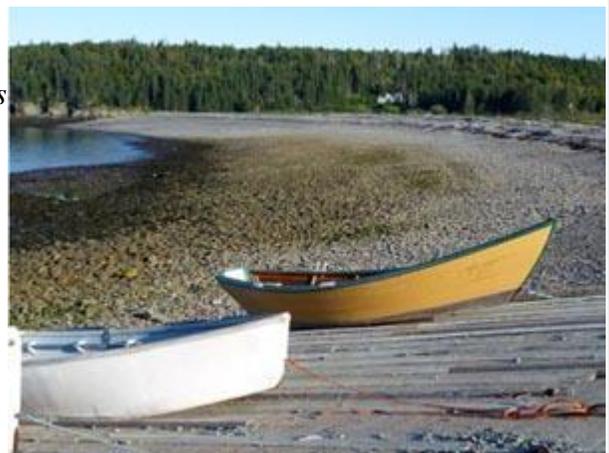
HIKING -- A NEW EXPERIENCE - Helen Daggett

As I sit here on the cliff listening to the scolding of the mother peregrine falcon circling over the amazing blue water, my senses are bombarded by the beautiful sights, scenes and smells all around me. I wonder why hiking has always been so far down my priority list. My "away " friends can't believe I have never been to Eel Brook before and I have lived on Grand Manan all my life. Last year my sisters and I decided to take our first hike to Hay Point and we had a great day eating our lunch by the ocean and are planning another hike this year. I'm sure most island folks have not given much thought to this activity either and have also missed the hidden beauty all around us. Perhaps it is because we are too busy working and taking care of our families, but what a great family day this could be. We usually don't appreciate what we have right around us so I would highly recommend this free dose of health for body, mind and soul. Kudos to the many volunteers who keep the trails open for others to enjoy and also to Larry Small for organizing the group hikes. Happy hiking everyone. *Helen, sitting on the Cronk bench on Seven Days Work, looking out towards Eel Brook Beach and Ashburton Head. Helen, born in Woodward's Cove, has lived in Seal Cove for most of her life.*



The following is a letter we received this summer from a Grand Manan visitor.

*"Dear Bob and Committee:
Here is a small cheque to help you maintain the trails that we enjoy and appreciate so very much on each of our visits to Grand Manan. This last trip (May 27-30), we walked from Southwest Head to Deep Cove via Hay Point and Bradford Cove. Hay Point was particularly peaceful and lovely. It is our pleasure to send this cheque along in support of your hard work, and look forward to making annual contributions in the future."*



WHALE COVE. Greg and Nancy McHone

Whale Cove once had a small wharf and some fish sheds, and it was an alternative landing area for people coming by small boat from the mainland, as it was an easy walk to the village in North Head. It also has a large cobble beach, with a pond and marsh behind it. The Red Point Fault runs beneath the western beach, so that the west side of the cove has Mesozoic

basalts, and on the east is much older meta-basalt and schist.

A boat ramp is maintained for the fishermen, and access is easy. Turn north on to Whale Cove Rd. in North Head, drive to the end, and as always, be sure to park where you do not restrict the right of way of any of the people who use the dories there.

Most of the beach cobbles are basalt, but there is a good mix of glacial stones, with jasper and others types as well. Walk slowly, as the footing is unsteady on these stones. Notice how, as you go eastward, the proportion of the stones of younger basalt to older types gets smaller.



There is nothing to prevent you from finding artifacts such as tools made by the First Nations natives. After all, Passamaquoddy people spent their summers on the island for many centuries, right up to the 1940's. This basalt cobble in the photo looks like a pounding tool, but, in fact, the indented grooves are naturally eroded bands of coarser, softer basalt called "segregation sheets". We are often asked about odd-shaped rocks that people find. Almost always they are shaped that way because some of their features erode more easily than others, and not by an unusual property or origin. That doesn't mean you should not haul it home to become a garden trophy! Some prized shapes are ones that can be made into an inukshuk, or a sculptural human form of natural stones.

Nancy and Greg McHone are geologists who now live on Grand Manan. They are the authors of various books on geology. This article is taken from "The McHones' Guide to Grand Manan Stones". They can be reached at stones2gems@earth2geologists.net.

The famous Big Head birch



A BENCH FOR THE TRAIL - Joan Fellows

The following is a description by trail adopter Joan Fellows of the placement of a new bench on the trail. This article first appeared in the Facebook group "Friends of Grand Manan Trails". You might find this Facebook group informative and interesting.

The 'Big Head Bench' is now sitting nicely in the meadow between Big Head and Pandora's Head, at the back of the island. Eight intrepid trekkers (Bob and Judy Stone, Nils and Linda Kling, Bob Demaline, Joan Fellows, Gary Greenley and Milo Smienk) left the parking area on Bradford Cove Road at 9 am in the morning, carrying the bench pieces. The weather was perfect for hiking as we followed the orange trail, and then connected to the red coastal trail, heading north. We enjoyed the sights along the way, including the buoy cabin, the Big Head Birch, and

Linda, Judy, Nils, Milo, and Joan (in

horizontal position), testing the bench for weight capacity. It passed the test.



some amazing views looking back at Hay Point, and looking forward toward Big Head. Once at the Big Head meadow the bench went together quickly and we enjoyed our lunch in comfort. We even saw an eagle soaring between the two Heads. We returned via Bradford Cove and had an excellent view of the Bradford Cove Weir. The trek took 5 hours in total and we were tired by the time we arrived back at the parking area. But what a great day! The Big Head Bench now sits waiting to provide comfort and a superb panoramic view to our island hikers.

Gary, Bob, Milo, and Nils putting the bench together. It had been carried out in sections.



A ROSS ISLAND HIKE - Judy Stone



We had an opportunity to act as tour guides when the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists held their

annual "Festival of Nature" on Grand Manan on Labour Day weekend. The organizers had contacted Bob



early in the year requesting suggestions and leadership for an interpretive hike. Since we are not knowledgeable about flora and fauna, we suggested Ross Island and the Grand Harbour Light as a good destination when the tide was right. Twenty intrepid nature lovers managed the Thoroughfare crossing at 8:30 a.m. and we learned a lot from them as they discussed plants and studied the bird population while making their way to the gravestone of William Ross, son of an early settler, and then to the remains of the lighthouse.

Margaret Harris (*second from left, in the red jacket*), daughter of Winnifred and Percy Harvey, had spent five years there as a child and was the special attraction on this excursion. Her reminiscences about growing up as a "Lighthouse Kid" were fascinating and she answered the many questions about the original structure, the added kitchen and the everyday details of household life. Penny, her sister, who was unable to join us, had once commented that she felt really badly when her bedroom fell off the house and Margaret acknowledged that it was difficult to visit the site of so many happy memories, now that it was in such dilapidated condition. Many thanks for making this a memorable trip for the visitors and for us, Margaret. We have made that pilgrimage many times, but now have a greater sense of the Light in its heyday.

GRAND MANAN HIKERS - *Larry Small*

Grand Manan Hikers only managed six hikes this summer, due to a seemingly endless string of damp, cold Sundays.



Caelan Green and Marissa Charters



Adele Peacock, Austin Green, Linda Kling, the Otises, Laurel Hinsdale

Our first hike of the season was to Eel Brook beach, where some of us built a four foot tall beachrock monument. On a hike to Hay Point, 80+ year old Barbara Brown joined us as far as Bradford Cove Pond,

a place she'd always wanted to see. New on our itinerary this year was the Dark Harbour "Seawall Crawl", always an interesting place. More recently, on Sept 11 we hiked from the Whistle to Ashburton Head. It was our smallest group to date, with many islanders attending the funeral of one of our young soldiers. As we looked out at the beautiful, calm blue day, it was difficult to imagine a world that could also be so violent and troubled. Looking down at Eel Brook beach, we could see that the monument we built in June was still intact. Winters and nor'easters will soon put the stones back in their proper places. Two of my grand-daughters, Caelan and Marissa, were with me on this hike, and it is very satisfying to see an appreciation of nature growing in them. I happened to look at a calendar a few days later and saw that this Sept. 11 was also National Grandparents' day...fitting. So this summer is behind us, and we're hoping for a slightly drier 2012...See you on the trails, and thank you for tending them so well.

For more information about the hikes and hikers, visit and/or join their Facebook group Grand Manan Hikers.

ODE TO ANNE AND JESSIE - Joan Fellows



*There are stories and legends
about Grand Manan,
but the tale we love best
is about Jessie and Anne.*

*Every year around April,
and on into May,
they stock up their packs
and head out for the day.*

*They head for the trails
that we all like to walk,
to clear trees and bushes*

*For miles they trudge on
battling bugs, rain and fog,
every once in a while
they'll sip tea on a log.*

*The chainsaw gets heavy;
their work is no fun,
but they always stick with it,
'till all trails are done.*

*We're all very grateful
for their sweat and their toil,
and we salute Anne and Jessie*

and sometimes a rock.

*They are the masters
of the cut and the trim,
and Jessie's machete
makes quick work of a limb.*

*They replace our trail markers
of yellow, orange, red and blue,
so we won't lose our way
and get back good as new.*

for being so loyal.

*The Grand Manan Trails
are renowned far and wide;
thanks to Anne and Jessie
we can smile with great pride.*

Joan Fellows - June 18, 2011

TRAIL ADOPTERS: 2011

Net Point - Fredonna Dean and Joanne Ingalls and family

Hole in the Wall to Whale Cove- Marilyn and Peter Cronk

Whale Cove to Eel Brook Beach- Adele Peacock , Janice and Allison Naves

Ashburton Head to the Whistle- Bill and Liz Edgar

Whistle to Indian Beach- Joanne and Mike Ingalls

Dark Harbour to Western Head - Debbie and Olivia Charters, Patti Davidson

Tatton's Corners to Money Cove (yellow trail)- Marilyn and Peter Cronk

King Street to Sloop Cove- Sidney and Barbara Guptill

Big Head to Bradford's Cove- Joan Fellows and Bob Demaline

Bradford's Cove to Bradford's Pond- Cecilia Bowden

Bradford's Pond to Southwest Head- Sheldon and Shirley Cook

South West Head to Southern Beach - Alex and Dyanne Frame

Southern Beach to Lower Flock of Sheep- Jane and Laird Sloan

Lower Flock of Sheep to Frames' property- Alex and Dyanne Frame

Frames' property to end of trail- Janice and Ed David

Ross Island- Jackie Foote, Nils and Linda Kling

Above Dark Harbour- Janna Gatta

At large: Joel Frantzman, Judy Stone, Maude Hunter, Nadine McInnis and Tim Fairbairn

Overall trails maintenance: Anne Mitchell and Jessie James

Signs: Carmen and Pete Roberts

Treasurer: Bob Stone

Trails Booklet: edited by Bob Stone

Pins: Cecilia Bowden

Newsletter: Frances Hodge and Bob Stone

Many thanks to retired adopters Ginnie and George Riseborough, and Ineka and Jan deVries

Volunteer "Trail Adopters" look after specific trails, monitoring work needed and carrying out light maintenance. 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

would be interested in helping out. [top](#)

DONORS:

The following people have given a donation to the Trails in 2011 for a total of \$2,260. Thank you!

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bartlett, Paula and Thomas | Green, Anne and Steve | Naves, Janice and Allison |
| Beresford, Doris | Home Hardware, Allison Ingles | Parker, Beverly and David |
| Blair, Eric | Hunter, Maude | Peacock, John and Adele |
| Buckley, Laura | Hurley, Lena and Scott | Roberts, Pete and Carmen |
| Bull, Malcolm | Ingersoll, Ken | Shaffleburg, Hilda, |
| Campbell, Mary Lou | Korwin, Sue | Sloan, Laird and Jane |
| Cohen, Carl | Lawson, Bill and Sedgewick, Sue | Stevens, John and Sue |
| Daggett, Claude and Helen | Majka, Mary | Stewart, David and Belinda |
| Davis, Debbie | Maker, Rodger and Elaine | Vertfeuille, Jan and Abramson, |
| David, Janice and Ed | McCready, Chris and O' Keefe, | Benjamin |
| Demaline, Bob and Fellows | Erin | Wallace, Doreen |
| Joan | McIntosh, Andy and Adrienne | Wheeler, Roy and Kathy |
| Duchin, Linda | McMurtrey, Margaret | Wylie, Mary |

If you wish to be included on the mailing list, give a donation, receive the newsletter by email, 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

Web: www.grandmananNB.com

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

Answer to pg. 1 question: Pandora's Head

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: Island Arts, Marathon Inn, Shorecrest Lodge, Whale Cove Cottages, Grand Manan Museum, Harrington Cove Cottages.

Thanks to all of them.



*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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