



# Grand Manan Trails Newsletter 2012

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## Trails Update - 2012

*by Bob Stone*

If the number of sales of the trails guides is any indication, this has been a record year for hiking on the island. More than 500 copies of the English and French versions have been sold, an all time high. While the English version far outsells the French one, new this year, there still have been enough of the French editions purchased to have made its production worth while.



Because the spring was much drier than the previous year, Anne and Jessie were able to complete their maintenance by the middle of June. They each spent 89 hours clearing trees, adding signs, and rerouting sections too close to the edge. We are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated people maintaining the trails for us. We also owe a great deal of thanks to our trail adopters. Our numbers continue to grow every year, and their never-ending task of clearing brush and brambles is vital for pleasant walking.

We have had quite a number of hikers contact us about hiking the entire back of the island, taking two or three days to complete the trek. Their comments following their hikes have been very helpful to us. There have been three occasions for small work parties, to clear the trail on the north side of Ross Island, to assist the New Brunswick Nature Trust with the maintenance and improvement of the Jim Munro trail, from Ashburton Head to the Whistle, and in the placement of a memorial bench at Southwest Head. You will read more about some of this activity further in the newsletter.

We once again owe a great deal of thanks to Laura Buckley, who hosts our year end fundraising dinner. She was also instrumental in assisting us with the publication of the French trails guide, and donates all the returns from empty bottles taken to the Transfer Station. You can well imagine that money received from bottles from the restaurant adds up to a considerable sum over a summer season.

Please note the photo above, taken by Eric Hadley when we were working on the trail for the Nature Trust. This double "Hole in the Wall" was only noticed this year through the alders, and may not be there for long, as it appears that the broken rock has fallen adroitly into place, and may fall out. It is on the trail from the Whistle going towards Ashburton Head, less than 100 metres past the large open space on the trail, before reaching the Bishop. If you haven't seen it, it is well worth visiting.

Happy hiking.



## Three Days on the Trail

by John Sutcliffe



Becky Dobson, on the trail near Dwellys Pond

*When John wrote to say that he intended to hike the back of the island in late May, I asked him to send us a report of his experience. Keep in mind that Anne and Jessie had only partially completed their annual maintenance.*

Our original hike dates had to be amended but we did get to Grand Manan last Wed. (30 May). We hiked Thurs., Fri. and Sat. and thoroughly enjoyed the trail. The first night we camped at Money Cove Brook and the second near Dwelly's Pond. Our first leg took us from Swallowtail around to Whale Cove. From there, we followed the routing through to Southwest Head. We were favoured by good weather. Day one was foggy but mild and no rain. Day two was in complete sunshine and warm

temperatures. Day three began with a mix of sun and cloud, becoming more overcast later in the day. We did see some wildlife, deer, rabbits, grouse, etc. Your guide was very helpful and we consulted it many times along the way, particularly useful when it's the first time on an unfamiliar trail. In general, the trail is in good shape. Happily, the very few damp areas we encountered could be easily negotiated. Just a couple of observations that I hope, will be helpful to you and your crew of volunteers.

- There are half a dozen blow downs across the trail on the Fish Head to Whale Cove loop.

- Shortly after leaving Whale Cove, we lost the trail for a short time, regaining it further up. This was probably inattention on our part. The red markers are always reassuring though.

- Approximately half way between Sloop Cove and Pandora Head, the trail crosses a wet area where beavers have been active and then makes a right turn. Beyond that, up to the area of the reddish coloured camp, the trail follows an old road. There are different blazes (blue, Canada Flags and playing cards) but very few red ones. We wondered if we'd missed a turn somewhere, (although there weren't many options for alternate routes). For first timers like us a few more red blazes would have been helpful.

- We found the timings you provide for each leg to be quite accurate and a good planning guide. The only one we found to be different was from Pandora Head to Bradford Cove. It took us one hour from Pandora Head to Merry Brook, where we had lunch.



John, checking the map.

Overall Bob, we had a great experience. The scenery was lovely. The trail provides a wonderful opportunity to see that part of the island's coastline, surrounding waters and beyond. Congratulations to you and the volunteers in the work you do to keep it in such good shape. Thanks too for the information you provided as we planned the hike. I hope to get there again.



### Another Tree

You may remember that in last year's newsletter, we included a photograph of a birch tree and asked you to identify its location (between Bradford Cove and Big Head). While hiking recently, we spotted an old growth tree, possibly a white pine, which has somehow escaped the saws and axes of wood cutters. The question is: where is the pine located? You can see that five full size trees come vertically from the one gigantic trunk. It is an amazing conifer. After you have made your guess, you will find the answer somewhere on p.8. It is well worth a visit.



### Commemorative Bench



L to R. Back Row: Cecilia Bowden, Kevin Lawson, Front Row: David Eidt, Joshua Eidt, Andrea Folster, Bob Stone

Margot Folster was a long time visitor to the island, staying at Harrington Cove Cottages with her family. Unfortunately, she passed away in 2009. She loved the island, and especially the trails and vistas at the southern end. As a memorial to her, the Folster family has donated a bench, which has been placed along the trail to the east (left) of the lighthouse at Southwest Head. It affords excellent views over the bay towards Machias Seal Island, and a great spot for viewing sunsets. We thank the family for their generous donation, and hope that you will make use of this bench the next time you come to the southern tip of the island for a rest, or the sunset.

### The Nature Trust of New Brunswick

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick was established in 1987, with the goals being to protect areas in the province that are ecologically significant, and to educate the citizens about the province's natural heritage and the importance of land conservation.



There are two nature preserves on Grand Manan that are under the stewardship of the Nature Trust, the Thomas B. Munro Preserve, more commonly known to us as the Red Trail, from Ashburton Head to the Whistle, and the Meredith Houseworth Memorial Seashore, an area behind Whale Cove Beach. The latter contains a pond, a cobbled beach, forest, and wetland that is home to great blue herons, spotted sandpipers, soras, and other wading birds, as well as being a stopover for migrating songbirds, and seabirds.

On Saturday, August 11th, Nature Trust organized a work day for their two

properties. Approximately 20 volunteers arrived on the 9:00 ferry, with 3/4 assigned to maintenance and clean-up at the Memorial Seashore, and the other quarter working on the Munro trail. More than 50 bags of garbage were collected at the seashore. Because the trail on the Munro preserve is part of our overall trail system, our trails adopters had kept the trail in fine condition. The main tasks were to reroute three short sections that were perilously close to the edge, and to secure ropes at the two steepest sections, one on the side-trail to the Bishop, and the other at the steepest ascent/descent on the main trail. This was a section about which we had had concerns because of its steepness, and because there didn't appear to be any other location to relocate that part of the trail. Thanks to the hard work of the Nature Trust crew, guided by Eric and Jane Hadley, with three of our own volunteers assisting, the tasks were both completed. In the process, we were able to clear enough of the alders along the edge of the cliff to make visible the double "Holes in the Wall" which you see on the first page of the newsletter. We are grateful



Eric Hadley, securing the rope on the Munro trail

that the Nature Trust does take its stewardship very seriously, and they have expressed their appreciation for our maintenance of this trail.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Nature Trust, please go to their website: <http://www.naturetrust.nb.ca/wp/> . It was also helpful in providing background information for this article.



## Eel Brook Beach

by Nancy and Greg McHone

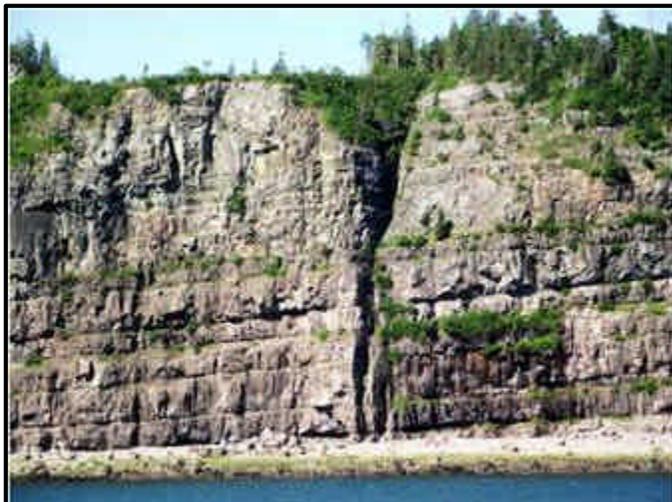


Eel Brook Beach is between Ashburton Head and the northern end of the cliffs called Seven Days Work. To get there, drive up the Whistle Road and park on the eastern side at one of the old entrance roads (blocked by boulders) into the closed dump. Just north of the dump is a trail head (an old jeep trail) that heads eastwards



into the woods. It is only about a kilometer or so to the shoreline, where there is a short but steep drop down to Eel Brook Beach, which has flat shingles and cobbles of basalt. The cove has a fault that separates Seven Days Work basalt to the south from Ashburton Head basalt to the north. Here is a view of Eel Brook Beach and Ashburton Head, near the scramble down.

This beach contains scattered round black stones with lots of pits or holes (former gas bubbles in dense glassy lava). They are said to be ballast from the Lord Ashburton, a ship wrecked here in 1857, with the loss of 17 sailors. The stones are from a volcanic area in France where the ship started its voyage. Lavas from Grand Manan are coarser, more brown and crystalline, and gas bubbles here tend to be filled with silicate minerals.



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Walk south to the start of Seven Days Work cliffs to find the best beach minerals. This is a good place for a hard hat. Rocks often fall down these cliffs, and you should try to stay some distance out from their base for safer geologizing (yes, that is a real word, and it is used by Charles Darwin). Each time you come back there will be new piles of rocks and minerals.

Vegetation has penetrated the weaker boundaries between lava flows, and those zones are more deeply eroded. Gases that were trying to escape formed the finger-like pipe vesicles (when empty) and pipe amygdules (when filled by minerals, as are most of these). The white



mineral appears to be Mesolite, but you will see other minerals that have filled gas bubbles such as Chalcedony. Don't be confused by colours that are only stains, not minerals.

Perhaps the most interesting of these amygdule minerals belong to the zeolite group, which are alkali-alumino-silicates that have water molecules trapped in their crystalline structures. They



have commercial uses such as in water softeners, but mineral collectors provide their value here. Zeolites that you can find at Seven Days Work include *Mesolite* (or *Scolecite*) *Heulandite*, *Stilbite*, and *Chabazite*. White to pale pink needle-like crystals of Mesolite occur in masses that radiate in fans and cone-like forms (photo on the left). Mesolite is difficult to distinguish from its close relative scolecite, but scolecite (the calcium end member) is generally more rare. The sodium end member, with this same form, is called Natrolite.

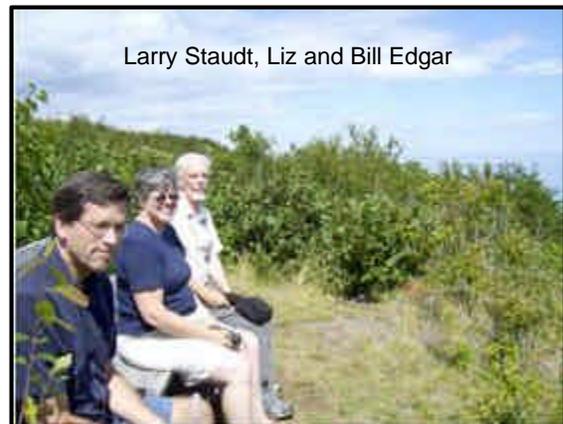
clear crystals of Heulandite. Wherever you find heulandite there might also be stilbite, which is usually white and is characterized by a narrow waist in clumps of crystals, like a sheaf of wheat as well.

Veins and chunks of Amethyst (purple quartz) are reported in this area, as well as small irregular pieces of pure native copper. Chalcedony in the varieties of jasper and aventurine might even be mixed with amethyst pockets, as in this boulder. It's hard to break into portable pieces, however. We also find small crystals of colourless quartz and calcite in pockets



Craft persons visit Eel Brook Beach for flat "shingles" of basalt, which make good bases for attaching sculptures, and driftwood.

*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>.*



Larry Staudt, Liz and Bill Edgar

**A Taste of our Trail -- Ashburton Head to The Whistle:** *by Liz and Bill Edgar*

On a warm day of silky breezes and glorious sun, this trail is a bit of paradise. Fledgling Guillemots fly from out of their nesting crags to land on the



protected waters that extend off to the horizon. Strong currents of blue water with "cake-icing" froth push their way round the tip of the island, driven by the dramatic tide that pours unimaginable amounts of water in and out the bay every 25 hours.

The trail is high off the ocean and the vistas are a delight to see. Once there appeared a small armada of pleasure vessels coming north, heading to the safety of the North Head harbour. Almost always we see pleasure or lobster boats, herring carriers and the Grand Manan ferry plying the waters on its way to and from the mainland.

We have had the privilege of clearing this trail for the benefit of all who would care to enjoy this sample of nature's beauty. Trail maintenance is not all fluff. Every year some trees are blown down blocking the trail. We await the skill of Anne and Jessie who chainsaw and push them to the trail's edge. The more enthusiastic shrubs grow and need clipping by mid June. Some brambles with thorns present a bit more of a challenge and must be reminded that to grow over the trail means having their branches curtailed!

Whenever we have a chance, we take our visitors on some of the Grand Manan trails, including our daughter from Winnipeg. Early one morning we asked her to help us clean up our trail. She was reluctant to volunteer, saying that she did not want to pick up garbage. She was happy when we explained that clean-up meant cutting back the overgrowth!

When clipping is done for the season, we put the shears away. The cloak of fall and winter descends and nature's green disappears. When the days of moist air announce the coming of spring we feel the pull of the sun filled outdoors and the thought of walking in nature's glory once more.



## **Grand Manan Trails Adopters, 2012**

Net Point - Joanne and Mike 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, Walter Schenkel and Deborah Harrison

Whistle Rd. (Blue trail) to Eel Brook Falls (red)- Alexis Phillips and John Edwards

Ashburton Head to the Whistle- Bill and Liz Edgar, Megan Greenlaw

The Whistle to Indian Beach- Joanne and Mike Ingalls, Fredonna Dean

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

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

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, Peter Hoffman  
 Bradford's Pond to South West Head- Sheldon and Shirley Cook, Jackie Rayner, Jaclyn Munro, Jenna and Kohen Russell  
 South West Head to Lower Flock of Sheep- Maude Hunter, Susan Ballantine, Ken Bird, Bev and David Parker, John and Dianna Bastable  
 Lower Flock of Sheep to Frames' property- Alex and Dyanne Frame  
 Frames' property to end of trail- Janice and Ed David  
 Ross Island- Nils and Linda Kling, Jackie Foote  
 Above Dark Harbour- Jana Gatta  
 At large: Joel Frantzman, Judy Stone, Nadine McInnis and Tim Fairbairn, Wendy Rogers  
 Overall trails maintenance- Anne Mitchell and Jessie James  
 Signs- Carmen Roberts, Judy Stone  
 Newsletter- Judy and Bob Stone

*Dear Bob -  
 Enclosed is my check  
 for the GM Trails Assoc  
 and as always, Thanks  
 to everyone who works  
 to maintain this  
 source of beauty  
 for all of us to enjoy!  
 Best to you.*

Friends of Grand Manan Trails is completely self-supporting, through the sale of the trails booklets, an annual fundraising dinner, the sale of pins, and financial donations. If you would like to support the trails financially, please make out your cheque to "Friends of Grand Manan Trails", and send to Bob Stone, 51 Red Point Rd., Grand Manan E5G4J1. All contributions are gratefully received, and put to good use.

Answer: On the yellow trail between Money Cove and Tatton Corners, just east of the Hydro line

**Donations received Oct. 1, 2011 to Oct. 12, 2012**

- Ballantine, Susan & Bird, Ken
- Bartlett, Paula & Thomas
- Beachfront Cottages
- Beresford, Doris
- Bierdrzycki, Henry & Evans, Valerie
- Buckley, Laura
- Burgess, Scott & Leona
- Chudleigh, Ann
- Cohen, Carl
- Davis, Debbie
- Deming, Allison
- Duchin, Linda
- Fleet, Bev & Amy
- Folster family
- Frame, Alex & Dyanne
- Frantzman, Joel
- Hancock, Greg & Ann
- Hawkins, Mary
- Home Hardware, Allison Ingalls
- Hunter, Maude
- McCready, Chris & O'Keefe, Erin
- McMillan, Allan & Donna
- McMurtry, Margaret
- Millett, Rose
- Parker, Bev & David
- Ross, Mona
- Shepherd, Neil
- Sirota, Michael & Joyce
- Small, Kay
- Stevens, John & Sue
- Wallace, Doreen,
- Wheeler, Roy & Kathy
- Zocchi, John and Jane

**Total \$2341**