



# In With the Tide

Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Alligator Fish, Titanic, World's Oldest Rock, and a Tortoise Named Gus By Roger Outhouse

Now that we have your attention the task is to get the article title to make sense! While everyone else was hopefully enjoying their Victoria Day holiday weekend the Digby Neck/Islands Gulf of Maine Institute Team departed Friday for a three day excursion to Halifax with a mission in mind. Our mandate is to understand the greater natural history and cultural makeup of our region so we can become better stewards for the Gulf. To that end we scheduled:

- A visit and tour of Saint Mary's University with special emphasis on their new state of the art science facilities.

(Their guides and staff were wonderful)-Thanks for lunch.

- A self guided tour of the N.S. Museum of Natural History brought us face to face with Gus. Gus resides at the museum and is the oldest (80+ years old) tortoise in captivity.
- A look through our nautical history at the Museum of the Atlantic
- A meeting with Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society representatives Ashley Sprague

and Jonathan Feldgajer regarding an update on their work in our area and a letter our GOMI teams helped compose to government regarding coastal resource use.

We also had an amazing look through the

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## Halifax (continued from page 1)



their deep water fishery examples.

An ear bone dissection was conducted and we got the opportunity to see

cal history of our region with special focus on the significance and formation of the Digby Neck and Islands.

Rob showed us a fascinating rock considered to be the oldest rock in the world. The rock is from Yukon Territory and is on display at the BIO.

Add to all this the experience of living in Saint Mary's residences, a brief visit to the Waterfront Farmers Market, entertainment at the movies and an energetic swim at the Dartmouth Sportsplex and you have a unique and educational weekend to reflect on.

Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO) on a personalized tour conducted by Peter Comeau who works for the (see Halifax p.2)

Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Peter gave us a lot of insight as to the collection and construction of data base information used for research and policy development. He also gave us a view of the fisheries labs and aquarium facilities and introduced us to a host of deep dwelling fish and other commercial species. The frozen Alligator Fish was on display as one of

how the study of these organs can yield valuable information about quality of environment, age, and growth rates of fish.

Following this Peter prepared a wonderful BBQ for us while

Atlantic Geo-Science Society representative Rob Fensome gave a concise and revealing geologi-



## Rob Fensome to Visit our Area by Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly

Rob Fensome, who worked with Digby Neck/Islands Gulf of Maine Institute Team at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, will be coming to our area in late

July to work with our Association on producing geology interpretive panels.

We have already produced a

number of panels about sea life and the tides and there is quite a buzz about regarding the new panels. Geology panels would

## Bear River GOMI Conference: Truly Inspirational By Roger Outhouse

Each year Canada's Maritime Gulf of Maine Institute (GOMI) teams meet together in a mini conference while our U.S. counterparts do the same south of the border. With a dismal weather forecast of two cool rain filled days the 41 participants at the Bear River Conference were soon to discover that the "Great Creator", host Bear River Team and community volunteers had other plans for the youth and leaders of the visiting teams from Barrington, North Queens (Caledonia), Sackville (New Brunswick), and Digby Neck/Islands. The weather was warm and Bear River's hospitality even warmer.

From beginning to end information flowed, stories were shared, drums/songs/dance inspired high energy and love for Mother Earth, and new friendships were formed while old ones were strengthened. A common sense of mission emerged. Although we entered the First Nation Band Hall as several teams we came

away united in purpose to be a persistent voice of environmental stewardship for the Gulf of Maine. It is fair to say that the hospitality and philosophy of Mi'kmaq culture was the highlight of the Conference and was the guiding spirit behind all we experienced and accomplished. Special thanks are extended to Merwyn Longmire and Shalan Joudrey who helped organize and facilitate the two days of events. It was one experience after another: a traditional First Nations welcome, Endangered Species bingo, sunrise service, a hike through beautiful country to study the power dam installation and how it effects river flow, construction of an eel weir, learning how to weave eel pots with branches, crafting

flowers from wood, a brainstorming session facilitated by Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society in preparing a GOMI letter to government leaders on coastal resource use, guided tours of the Bear River First Nations Heritage Centre, a fascinating medicine trail walk, a popular mystery environmental game, blanket gift exchange, and of course great food.

One participant stated that it was sad to leave all that positive energy. Two friends remarked how wonderful and welcoming all the people were. Another member during the following week indicated that they were suffering from "GOMI withdrawal" and couldn't wait to see everyone this summer.

It is with great anticipation



## GOMI Springs into Action By Roger Outhouse

Just as spring tends to bring out all the wildlife the GOMI Digby Neck/Islands Team spent several hours on Good Friday by helping out nature. They started by visiting all the interpretive panels in Northeast Cove and examining the information. While there the youth cleaned

up around the coastal areas and collected 16 large bags of garbage. They also managed to visit the Freeport Development Centre where they narrowed down their project presentations in preparation for the upcoming Bear River and Boston Conferences. A Democracy 250 video

was viewed and its theme was the importance of youth making their voices heard as they have a vital role in today's decisions. There was even a small pizza lunch held at the look off on the Fundy View Trail.

It was indeed a "good Friday"!



## Join a Great Team! by: Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly

Great things are happening on Digby Neck and Islands and we don't want you to miss out! The Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association is a volunteer organization that operates with funds from membership fees, community suppers, raffles, local organizations and project funds through government applications.

We hope that current members will renew their annual membership and

new members will join us.

Our environment is a fragile system that needs to be protected so many future generations of Nova Scotians, Canadians and visitors from far and wide can continue to enjoy the peace and natural beauty of our

Bay of Fundy and the communities along Digby Neck and Islands Scenic Drive.

When your renewal letter arrives, please, keep your membership active. If you would like to become a new member, drop us a line at the address on the



### Rising Sea Levels- a concern

Roger Outhouse represented the Bay of Fundy Discover Centre Association at a Workshop on Climate Change sponsored by Clean Nova Scotia. The workshop was attended by Digby Town and Municipal representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to gauge interest in developing a planning process to meet the challenges posed by global warming and rising sea levels.

### Music Week November 5-8

Join Music Nova Scotia in Yarmouth during Music Week.

Music Nova Scotia is a non-profit organization that has worked since 1989 to foster, develop and promote the full potential of the music industry of Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia Music Week engages the Music Nova Scotia membership and music industry at large while showcasing emerging and established artists to the public. Music Week is held over four days in November with workshops, showcases, receptions, a trade show and

dozens of showcases, including the Industry/Music Awards Brunch and Gala Awards.

If you have any questions please call Lisa at 902-423-6271 ext 7.

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# Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre

Our Fundy, our future

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## Bay of Fundy Discover Centre

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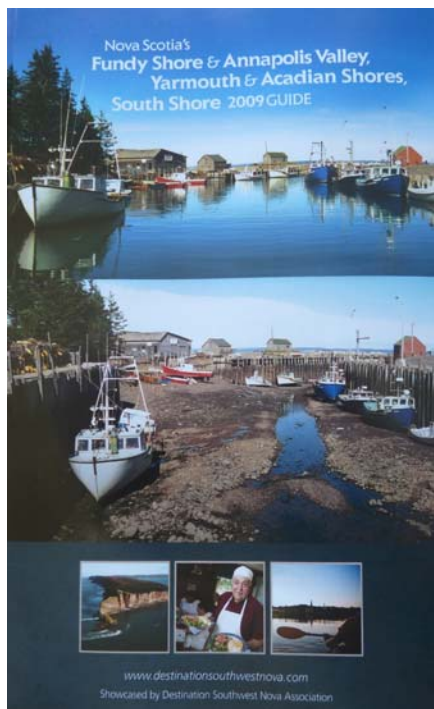
## Save \$200- It's Easy!

Keep your eyes open for some "funny money" going around. As part of the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre's Global Warming Project there are now Anti-Idling Bucks circulating in the local economy. Seems not only the government can print new money. Each Save 200 Bucks bill encourages the reader to save that amount by reducing vehicle idling. It also explains common myths related to idling vehicles. The bills come with a variety of seven different messages about issues of environmental interest and an open invitation for everyone to visit Northeast Cove and view its five interpretive panels on climate change.

Please don't sit IDLING;

## Teamwork at its Best! By Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly

The Destination Southwest Nova Scotia Association has a new and greatly improved guide



thanks to the cooperation of the many organizations in the area. The Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association played a role with input about Whale Watching, our interpretive panels, the trails in the area, the new Loyalist Park and much more.

Destination Southwest Nova Scotia has also published a birding guide to the area with input from our association.

We should be proud of the cooperation of all organizations focused on presenting our area as a great place to visit.

