



In With the Tide

Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 4

Nova Scotia Trails the Centre of Attention

By Roger Outhouse

From Oct. 1 – 3 representatives from across the province met at the Annapolis Basin Conference to share and encourage the continued planning necessary to maintain and improve existing trails and also promote cooperative efforts to develop new ones. It was hard to ignore all the dedication, collective wisdom and enthusiasm among the presenters and participants. It was exciting to have so many people focused as the future for trails was mapped out. The conference title “Planning Tomorrow’s Trails for Today” certainly lived up to its name.

There were many training sessions available and the three I chose were on trail building, the magic of trails for children, and water trails. I was also one of a dozen participants to become a trail warden by completing the Nova Scotia Integrated Trail Patrol Training Program.

WHAT IS A TRAIL WARDEN?

A trail warden is actually an ambassador of a specific trail. That means the person has been recommended by the local trail group and has completed the training program. Wardens can participate with wardens on other trails provided they are granted advance permission to do so. Wardens do not act as police and do not issue fines or warnings. Rather they patrol the trails to ensure they are safe and enjoyable for everyone. They can help users by answering questions, handing out trail use information, and offering assistance when possible. Trail wardens carry first aid kits, a cell phone for emergencies, and are very familiar with the local area and trail. At times they communicate with other groups such as the Department of Natural Resources on safety issues. The only two motiva-

tions for becoming a trail warden to patrol on foot or motorized off highway vehicles are to be helpful to others and promoting safe trail usage.

I would like to give special thanks to the members of the Freeport Community Development Association for sponsoring my participation in a great conference.



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WARNING!

If you meet this man while hiking along a trail, BE PREPARED. He will make you see so much in nature that you never imagined was possible. He will show you living things of all sizes in the soil and the water and the air. He will bring your surroundings to life.

You have been warned.

Only at Pearson

Terese Crocker



Terese and some of her classmates by the Pearson World College Sign.

“United World Colleges (UWC) makes education a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.”

That is the foundation under Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific. Having been given the opportunity to experience it for myself, I now understand this concept far more than I ever had before arriving. Pearson College is more than a school. It is a second home for many, including myself. It is also a brand new world. Pearson is a 180 person community of 85 different nations combined into one. We are exactly what the statement articulates; a force of unity for the future in sustainability and peace. Example being, Pearson is a place where the Israeli and Palestinian conflict is pushed aside and these two groups live in peace, together.

Terese and a group of students dressed in their national costumes.



Ethnicity, religion, and cultures are all accepted as they are, just like an ideal world should. But not only are they accepted, they are celebrated here at Pearson. There are 3 days of each school year devoted to three certain regions of the

world. These are called Regional Days. What is done on each of these days is that everyone on campus comes together and explores new cultures from a certain region. It is completely organized by the collaboration of students from a certain region for the Pearson community, and they always turn out to be spectacular. For instance, October 16th was Latin American Regional Day. There were activities, such as salsa danc-

ing, food from Latin America, a show, and lastly a Latino inspired dance party. These days are eye openers to a place that otherwise I may have never learned about.

It has only been a few months since I first arrived here on campus, and at first it was scary. It was a whole new world. I had never been this far away from home and I wasn't sure if I could last. As the days went by, then a couple of weeks, I knew this was the place for me. I knew that with all the supportive people around me that I could, and can, do anything. Here at Pearson we, the students and staff, give each other the strength we need to persevere in this highly stressful, yet absolutely miraculous and life changing experience.

Thus far my life at Pearson can be described by “only at Pearson”. I am seeing things I have never seen and also seeing life in a new

light and only Pearson has helped me to achieve this. We always grow as we experience more, and this place is definitely enticing intercultural understanding and personal growth within me.

If anyone would like to ask more about Lester B. Pearson College they can e-mail me anytime, or go onto the website and check out what this place is all about.

My e-mail is tersecrocker269@hotmail.com

The website for Pearson is <http://www.pearsoncollege.ca/>

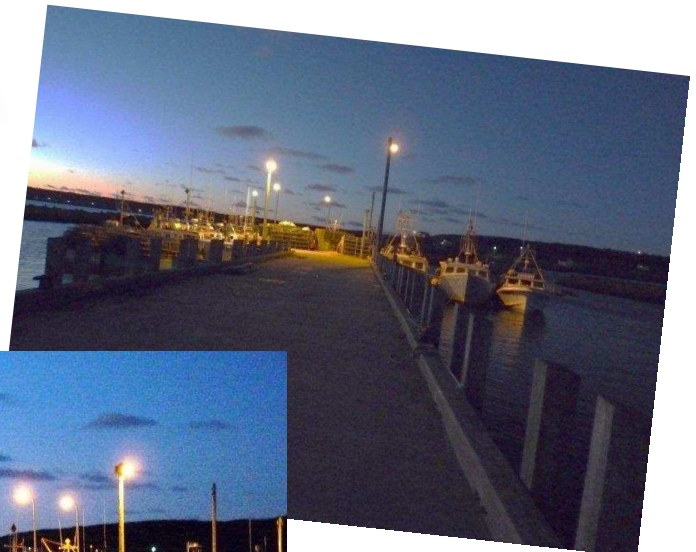


Left to right Terese and her three roommates - Denyse, Thao, and Jenny.

Terese Crocker is a Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association Board Member and GOMI Member and is currently studying at the Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific in British Columbia.

BEST OF LUCK, this season

The fleet as it sets quietly at sundown; loaded with traps and ready for the busy day ahead, the first day of a new season, November 29, 2010. We hope the season is a safe and prosperous one for the many families in our communities who rely on the lobster fishery.



Creature of the Cove – The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

By Roger Outhouse

As you stare at the photo you will probably start wondering why I would feature this particular bird. Although they drop by our area mostly during spring and fall migrations the Cattle Egret is a spectacular world champion with no equal. This is the only Old World bird specie to establish permanent residence in the Americas. Numbers of them were first spotted in South America in 1877 probably carried by strong wind currents. They arrived in New England by the early 1950's. While its origins are Asia, Spain and Africa they have expanded their range to Australia, South America, Central America and on to North America (spotted as far north as Alaska and Newfoundland). Their range on the planet occupies 10 million square kilometres with an estimated population approaching 7 million; that is true success!

This majestic animal is covered with white plumage and decorated with a yellow beak and greenish-



This exotic looking Cattle Egret is a rare visitor to our coastal communities.

yellow feet. During breeding season they develop buffy orange plumes on the back, breast and crown. They are more commonly viewed in fields than along water as they feed on a wide variety of foods including: grasshoppers, spiders, crickets, flies, moths, frogs, and earthworms. In the event insects are not available they have been known to eat small birds and ripe dates. Their name is an accurate one because they prefer to be around wild animals or livestock where the animals grazing stir up lots of insects. By doing so it has been estimated that they can gather 50% more food while using only two thirds of the energy. In addition the birds have such amazing vision and hearing that they can act as an early warning system of approaching predators. To sweeten the deal these egrets give added relief to their neighbours by eating vast number of flies and other insects that often plague grazing animals. In fact egrets have been introduced to some locations like Hawaii to help protect cattle. They will follow tractors and other farm equipment around for newly exposed insects. They also like to stake out fields around airports as airplanes disturb the grass and rile up insects. Another novel fact about their feeding habits is they will often fly great distances toward the smoke from fires so that



This graceful flier has a wingspan of nearly a metre.

they can feed on the droves of insects trying to escape the blazing inferno.

Cattle Egrets nest in most U.S. states. The male must put on a display each season to attract a new mate (twig waiving and stretching the neck postures). After the bonded couple mate the female usually lays about three bluish white eggs in a tree nest. The young hatch in about 23 days, have a full coat of feathers by 21 days, start learning to fly by 30 days and strike out on their own after 45 days. Although we don't know their lifespan we do know that in captivity the Cattle Egret can live up to 10 years.

While these beautiful birds have spread their wings across the globe they are still uncommon here. But as global climate temperatures rise resulting in more turbulent wind storms we can expect to see more of them blown off course to our coastal communities.

An Update on the Development of a Coastal Trail in the Brier Island Nature Preserve



By Craig Smith

Nova Scotia Stewardship Coordinator, Nature Conservancy of Canada

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has undertaken the development of a multi-use trail in the Brier Island Nature Preserve. Summer 2010 saw the completion of Phase 1 of this project, which will continue into 2011. When completed, the trail will follow the old Shore Road between Western Light and the Camp Road, crossing the wall at Little Pond and ending at Pond Cove. The trail can be used in either direction.

In March, NCC held an open house at the Westport Community Hall to present the idea to the community and seek feedback. Thirty people showed up to hear what we had to say, and the evening resulted in many relationships that have proven helpful in getting the trail work underway. We thank all those who attended this meeting.

There are several reasons for developing this trail. It will provide better and safer access to the preserve for



those who live on the island and like to visit. It will also provide a better experience for visitors to the island who wish to view one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. But perhaps most importantly, is that a well-constructed trail will help NCC and the people

of Brier Island protect the rare and endangered plants, important bird habitat and sensitive ecosystems found in this very special place. By respecting the closures of old trails, staying out of the dunes and staying on the main trail, everyone can play a part in helping to keep the incredible ecological value of the Brier Island Nature Preserve intact.

Work conducted this summer saw NCC make significant improvements to a portion of the Gull Rock Road on the property, and the construction of new parking areas at both Western Light and Pond Cove. In addition, a long section of trail between the end of the Camp Road and Whipple's Point has been improved, the drainage corrected and the plentiful and dangerous ruts filled and



Brier Island Preserve, continued

some signage has been installed at Pond Cove. Thanks to Dan Kenney for this quality work.

In June, a volunteer work day was held at Pond Cove. Twenty five volunteers, including a hard working crew from the Gulf of Maine Institute, Westport locals and a few volunteers from Halifax showed up to help clear garbage from the beach at Pond Cove and fix the roping around the dunes. Danny Gaudet, Clifton Titus, Tommy Albright and Jim McDonald brought their ATV's to help retrieve hundreds of lobster traps. It then took Gary Stanton three dump truck loads to haul them all away. Visitors to the site will also

notice that we planted a few trees and placed some rocks in old trails. These trees and rocks are intended to keep traffic off of unnecessary trails and allow the vegetation to regenerate, which will in turn stabilize soil and sand and prevent erosion. Thanks to Jim Outhouse and nephew Jeff who brought their Kubota out to help move the rocks and trees. Thanks to all who participated in this productive work day. We may be calling on the community for help again next summer!

Phase 2 of the project, to be completed next summer will see the construction of new trail from the parking lot at Western Light out to

connect with the old Shore Road, and hopefully, creation of a viewing platform at the Western Light Bog, and the installation of several new interpretive signs to be placed along the trail.

The project has received financial support from numerous sources including the Province of Nova Scotia, Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Walmart – Evergreen Green Grant Program and the Regional Municipality of Digby.

We have received so much support for this initiative already, and are very excited to continue it into next year. Thanks to everyone who has been involved.



After the Storm

Roger took these photos on Monday Nov. 8th between 9:30 am and 11:30 am after all the rains since the previous Thursday. The deluge of rain that caused so much havoc throughout Southwest N.S. and the Fundy region offered an opportune time to take photos of the Freeport Brook.





Annual General Meeting Reveals Busy 2011 Ahead

By Roger Outhouse

On Nov. 20th the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association held its AGM at the Freeport Development Centre. The financial report was given for the past year followed by the installation of directors and officers for the organization. Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly is secretary, Bonnie MacLachlan is treasurer, Peter Morehouse is Vice-chairperson, Roger Outhouse is Chairperson and Pat Sollows, Terese Crocker and Wanda VanTassel are the remaining directors. In addition Kathleen Shea will be an advisor to the Board. Special thanks were also extended to volunteers Louise Chisholm who organizes our membership efforts and Doug Woodman who handles our book keeping. A power point slide presentation of the Association's work over the past year was presented. Thanks were given for the great support from our members and donors. Because of their help we have been able to participate in some great projects and partnerships with over 16 organizations and groups.

BAY OF FUNDY DISCOVERY CENTRE ASSOCIATION'S PLANS FOR 2011

1. Complete the 8 Balancing Rock Trail Interpretive Panels and also the design for the Road Signage (for location and way finding).
2. Work with our local youth Gulf of Maine Institute Team from the Digby Neck and Islands to:
 - Help with their project to establish a "REAL Garden" / Nature Classroom / Hiking Trail for promoting habitat preservation, healthy communities, outdoor education, and eco-tourism.
 - Assist in the Team's participation in local environmental efforts to clean beaches and work with organizations such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Clean Nova Scotia, Waste Check and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.
 - Participate in the 2011 GOMI Mini Conference in the spring at Shelburne and the week long 2011 GOMI WORKSHOP being held in Newburyport, Mass.
 - Create opportunities for the team to learn about environmental issues impacting our Fundy region and the Gulf of Maine.
3. Continue to keep the idea of establishing a Discovery Centre in Digby as an IMPORTANT issue for governments and other groups to foster.
4. Maintain and expand our circulation of our quarterly e-newsletter "In With the Tide". Note: if you want to subscribe to this free quarterly newsletter let me know)
5. Create better marketing opportunities for our existing trails throughout Digby Neck and both Islands.
6. Foster partnerships which promote environmental stewardship, healthy communities and sustainable eco-tourism.
7. Monitor and support governmental processes in relation to MPA's (marine protected areas) as they relate to the Bay of Fundy.
8. To maintain memberships in the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, Digby Area Tourism Association, and Digby and Area Board of Trade.
9. Publish regularly in "Passages" and GOMI's e-newsletter "Currents".
10. Maintain our financial obligations including insurances, project costs, and maintenance and mortgage payments for our property. Within that mandate we will also continue to seek options of finding a good community use for the property at Fish Point (Highway 217).

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED, TAKE OUT A MEMBERSHIP, OR MAKE A DONATION GIVE ME A CALL – (902) 839-2068 or email me at righthouse@cwswireless.ca

OUR FUNDY, OUR FUTURE!



Our Fundy,
Our Future

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This unusual sighting of this immature Glossy Ibis was taken near the Freeport Legion on Remembrance Day 2010.



Bay of Fundy
Discovery Centre
Board of Directors
for 2010-11:

- Roger Outhouse (chair)
- Peter Morehouse (vice chair)
- Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly (Secretary)
- Bonnie MacLaughlan (Treasurer)
- Pat Sollows
- Wanda VanTassel
- Terese Crocker
- Advisor: Kathleen Shea



Join our team!

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Please circle the applicable membership category from the table below:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|---------|
| Individual Membership | \$10.00 | Family Membership | \$25.00 |
| Patron | \$500.00 | Association / Organization | \$50.00 |
| Business | \$100.00 | OR: One Time Donation | _____ |

Cheque enclosed: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: THE BAY OF FUNDY DISCOVERY CENTRE ASSOCIATION AND MAIL TO: P.O. Box 66, Freeport, N.S. B0V 1B0