

# In With the Tide

The Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association Newsletter



Our Fundy-Our Future

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## Starting 2013 with a Big Splash



The extreme waves crashing ashore on the Bay of Fundy beach in Sandy Cove were rather frightening and a quick decision was made to take the traditional New Year's Day Polar Bear Dip to the calmer but one-degree colder, St. Mary's Bay beach. That was a smart decision!

A crowd of about 20 supporters cheered on the four brave dippers, Janet McNeil, Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly, Willow Walker and Molly Warner. It sure gets the blood flowing.

Janet hosted a warm, delicious reception following the dip and supporters were encouraged to make donations to the Digby Food Bank.

2013 here we come!

# As the Snow Melts

A photo collage by Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly and Roger Outhouse

## Beautifully



*Dancing witch Hazel blossoms,  
Pheasant on snow,  
Skunk cabbage poking through,  
Deer searching for lunch*

## Naturally



*Sturgeon on marsh,  
Seagull in tree,  
Mink(?) out to dry,  
Abandoned Lobster  
shell,  
Bleached carcass on  
rocks*



**"Litter"ally  
in less than 500 metres**



Two dollars worth of refundables  
 No fish in the box  
 Many cups of nonsense  
 Two bad habits  
 Fetching water from the brook, really?  
 All just a mess  
 Not a barrel of fun  
 Why is it this way?

**Great News!**

The Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association property in Freeport has been sold to the Southwest Health Authority. This completes our members' mandate of selling the property to benefit the greater communities of the Neck and islands. To have a modern Islands Health Centre giving the paramedics, nurse practitioner, medical secretary and other visiting health professionals comfortable and an excellent working space that they deserve will go a long way to attract and maintain staff for the facility. Just as important will be the privacy, comfort and quality medical services provided to our residents and visitors who deserve health care close to home in emergencies. This may be our single most important role toward the future sustainability of our fishing communities.

## Creature of the Cove – Amphipod (Gammarus)

By Roger Outhouse

This fabulous creature is known mostly by nicknames such as scud or side swimmer. It spends most of its time sticking to cover under rocks, seaweeds and crevices coming out under cover of darkness to do most of its feeding. They are a very important food for fish and shorebirds and can be found in the thousands under decaying seafood (seaweed and dead animals). Although they are scavengers they also feed on microscopic plants and animals.

They can be up to a centimetre plus in length and just like a lobster, the body is comprised on a cephalothorax made of a head with well-developed eyes and two sensitive pairs of antennae. The thorax is formed by seven segments of armour.

The abdomen has seven segments plus a flipper-like tail called a telson. The seven pairs of legs are divided into those that are helpful in walking and others that help the animal swim. The word “amphi” means both and “pod” means legs; hence both kinds of feet.

The amphipods



A clingy couple - This larger dark red female amphipod is paired together with her smaller brownish male partner until they are ready to mate.

mate from February to October depending on water temperature. Females and males pair up when mating and stay together until the female loses her outer shell (called molting) and the eggs can be fertilized by the male. During the pre-mating time the happy couple cling to each other with the smaller male carrying the much larger female on its back. In this day of liberation I would hazard to say that it looks more like the stronger female is holding and doing most of the swimming while protecting the small male. The female shell hardens for protection and then after a couple of weeks the fertilized eggs hatch inside her abdomen in a brood pouch. A week later, she molts a second time and releases the young.

At times when they are exposed to the light they can be seen jumping for cover and can propel themselves over a metre through the air. An Olympic athlete would have to do a long jump the length of a football field to equal the amphipod's performance.

**Have you purchased your tickets for a chance to win a certified Robert Bateman print? Only a few days left. The draw is set for March 28, 2013. Don't miss this great opportunity to support our youth participating in the Islands Birding projects and Gulf of Maine Institute (GOMI) projects. See page 6 for more details.**



### GOMI Prepares for Visitors

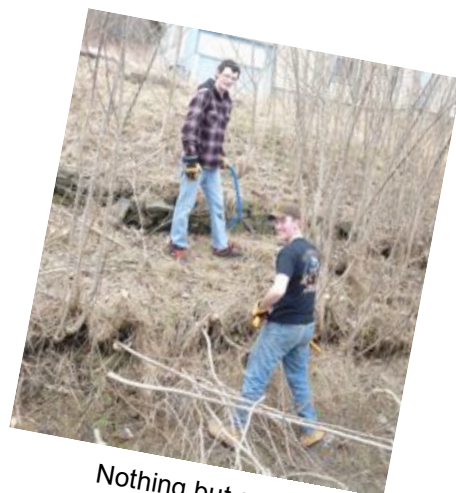
– By Roger Outhouse



The job sometimes can be quite prickly when you are fighting blackberry and rosebushes.

During March Break some members of the Digby Neck / Islands GOMI Team got together at the Freeport Development Centre to clear some briars and tree growth that were blocking the view of would be visitors to the parking lot which serves those wishing to travel the Fundy View Trail, enjoy the Loyalist Park, or research their roots in the Islands Archives.

The work crew did a great job of removing the obstructing vegetation and making the area safer for arriving and departing vehicles. We are looking forward to better weather so we can get back for work in the gardens and cleanup of the trail.



Nothing but smiles as the crew tackled fourteen-foot trees; some being larger around than your arm; good growth in just four years!

GOMI Youth left to right: Hayden Titus, Frank Garron, Page Ivens, and Jessica Balsler



NOW WE CAN SEE!

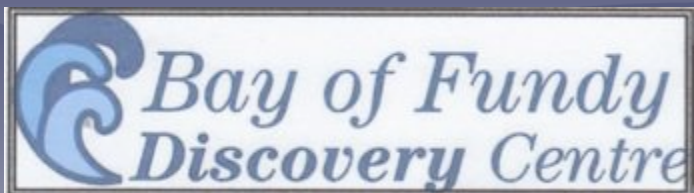
### Want a Robert Bateman Print? **LAST CHANCE**

Five Robert Bateman prints were donated to assist with fundraising to continue our projects promoting the Bay of Fundy, helping Heather Prime with her birding contest and work with our GOMI youth. GOMI students and Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre members and others will be selling tickets in the New Year. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets can contact us at: [righthouse51@gmail.com](mailto:righthouse51@gmail.com) or [anna-marie.mackenzie-kelly@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:anna-marie.mackenzie-kelly@mail.mcgill.ca)

**Draw date: March 28, 2013**



Hairy Woodpecker on Birch 12" X 17"  
 Snowy Morning Blue Jay 8.5" X 11.25"  
 Chickadee and Rose Hips 7.5" X 5"  
 Blue Jay Winter Blue 5" X 7"  
 Woodworker Pileated Woodpecker 11.5" X 12"



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Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association Board of Directors for 2012-13

- Roger Outhouse (Chair)
Peter Morehouse (Vice Chair)
Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly (Secretary)
Bonnie MacLachlan (Treasurer)
Pat Sollows, Wanda VanTassel, Terese Crocker



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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the applicable membership category:

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

Please make cheque payable to: The Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association and mail to the address above. Charitable receipts are issued.