



# *Phenomenal Fundy*

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Photo: Right Whale calf by Laurie Murison

The book **Phenomenal Fundy** (available November, 2014) marks BoFEP's 10<sup>th</sup> Fundy Science Workshop and draws from almost two decades of Fundy research and innovation. From archaeological revelations about Fundy's first inhabitants to the plight of the Right Whale and growing tidal tech, **Phenomenal Fundy** offers a compelling story. Lead author Jon Percy guides the reader above and below the Fundy waves as we look at the ecosystem through the eyes of many expert researchers, reviewers and contributors.

BoFEP was founded in the mid 1990s, as scientists familiar with the Bay of Fundy were becoming alarmed by the declining health and productivity of this unique region. Many of the changes couldn't readily be explained and it became clear that this complex, dynamic ecosystem deserved much closer examination. In 1995, a half dozen concerned individuals met to discuss some of the emerging problems and potential solutions. These discussions evolved to create the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP). Our inaugural meeting was held in 1997 in St. Andrews, NB as part of the second Bay of Fundy Science Workshop.

The mission of BoFEP is to share information about the Bay of Fundy ecosystem to the public and foster stewardship of this vibrant ecosystem. This book, **Phenomenal Fundy**, is one of the tools that we hope will be used to increase sensitivity to this unique needs, incredible biodiversity, and the future potential of the Bay of Fundy. We hope that you and your families will find these stories about the Bay and its unusual ecosystems informative, thought-provoking and inspiring.

Check out our website, follow us on facebook or sign up for email updates on how to order your copy of Phenomenal Fundy this fall!

*[www.bofep.org](http://www.bofep.org)*

*[www.facebook.com/BoFEcosystemPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/BoFEcosystemPartnership)*



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## CHAPTER 1. FASCINATING FOSSILS

The fossil beds at Horton Bluff/Blue Beach flank of the mouth of the Avon River near Avonport, Nova Scotia. Within four kilometres of shoreline, visitors travel back through time along 30 distinct sedimentary layers. The fossils of Horton Bluff are especially exciting and scientifically important; they are from an age when fish-like vertebrates were beginning to emerge from the water. Crucial links in the evolution of terrestrial animals have been preserved in the eroding Fundy cliffs. Before the discoveries made here, the earliest four-legged animal (tetrapod) fossils were very fish-like, resembling lobe-finned fishes like the famous "living fossil," the coelacanth.

## CHAPTER 2. WABNAKI PEOPLES

The great Glooscap is the cultural hero of all Wabanaki people, although the legend may vary from Nation to Nation. In the Mi'kmaq legend, Glooscap dwelt atop Cape Blomidon, which juts dramatically into the upper Bay of Fundy and guards the entrance to the Minas Basin. It is a place long revered by Native people and closely associated with important materials for toolmaking, such as high quality variegated chert and native copper. In Passamaquoddy territory, Glooscap made his home on a mountaintop as he prepared for his epic battle with the Giant Beaver. Similar legends describe how Glooscap would drive the Giant Beaver from the Wolastoq (Maliseet for their "beautiful river"), protecting it for the Wolastoqewiyik forever.

## CHAPTER 4. SALTMARSH SAGA

Coastal salt marshes are a principal source of food for sea creatures in the Fundy region. Their efficient production process has been aptly called a "nutrient pump" that feeds the bay. The incoming tides deposit sediments rich in inorganic nutrients (fertilizers) onto the marshes. The *Spartina* grasses absorb these and grow lush and luxuriant. The leaves eventually die, fall off and slowly decay into fragments of the rich organic detritus, the principal currency of the salt marsh economy. Some of this is eaten by the abundant organisms that live in the marsh mud, but even larger quantities are washed out to sea with the tides to feed other marine species.

## CHAPTER 9. MANAGING FUNDY'S FISHERIES

The Bay of Fundy region has been in the forefront in exploring new, innovative and decentralised approaches to fisheries management. An early example involved the purse seine fishery for herring. In 1976, faced with declining herring populations, decimation of the herring stock on Georges Bank and low market prices, then Minister of Fisheries, Romeo LeBlanc, closed the herring reduction fishery. He encouraged the formation of the Atlantic Herring Fishermen's Marketing Co-operative for the purse seine fishery which to this day is the body that manages the purse seine fleet. LeBlanc also encouraged the establishment of a weir fishermen's association to oversee that traditional inshore fishery.