

In With the Tide

The Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association Newsletter



Our Fundy-Our Future

In this Issue:

An almost clean beach	2
Creature of the Cove	3
Hike Nova Scotia	3
Plant of the Cove	4
DATA	4
Thank you	5
What's Happening	5
Ecotour maps	5
O2 hard at work	5
Who are we?	6
Join us!	6

High Cliff Cove, Gulliver's Cove: More than a beautiful view

By Jeff White

It was a spectacular morning to hike to the top of the cliff above Gulliver's Cove. I'd scrambled up a steep hill through trees and deadfalls to get there once before. My hiking companion this day knew a woods road that would easily get us there. The view would be amazing, as the early morning fog came and went through the little valley that opens to the cove on the Fundy side.

But it was the birds and the plants that caught my attention - as always - and beckoned me on this little adventure. The warblers were singing in every tree; I was especially glad to get a good glimpse of a Bay-breasted Warbler. A rare Nova Scotian mossy plant grows upon the rocks at the cliff-top, not to mention a lovely blooming plant called Pink Corydalis.

What is it that get's one headed

anywhere? Is it a special creature we hope to find? Or simply the journey itself, which shall be filled with natural joys both expected and surprising?

Among birders, when a rare bird is discovered, the Rare Bird Alert, or the Nova Scotia Bird Society Facebook page can let other enthusiasts know. And some of us will then make a special trip to the locale to see it. It's called 'twitching.' I am actually more likely to 'twitch' for a plant that interests me. And that's often easier, and can be done on my schedule. The plants don't fly or crawl off, though some die back and disappear as the season goes on, and most blossoms last a short time.

My hiking buddy and I got to the rocky outcropping of the cliff-top, and I enjoyed the pink and



yellow blossoms of the Corydalis (which has been re-classified as *Capnoides*, and is not in the *Corydalis*

genus anymore). With a bit of diligent searching, the rare mossy stuff was found too! *Selaginella*

rupestris is its name, *rupestris* meaning of the rocks. Such a tiny treasure grows in such a harsh and fragile rocky place - easy to



step on and dislodge.

I must admit I was inspired to take this hike for these two particular plants. But I saw so much more! Such as a miniscule fern, growing there among the mosses, in the full sunshine. What a tough little thing, its blades are only the length of my thumb. I believe it is called Rusty Woodsia (*Woodsia ilvensis*), and is widespread in Nova Scotia, not to mention the northern hemisphere.

When it's all said and done, I'd say the best paths to take are the ones we can frequent. Seeking a rare plant, bird, or other animal is a good goal, but taking the time in our own favourite haunts will reveal the treasures of nature that are there.

Hey, I could discover a few



dozen plants just in the lawn around my house, and learn the calls of all the birds that frequent my own neighbourhood. No 'twitching' needed.

A Beautiful Spring Day + Many Helping Hands = A Cleaner Beach

By Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly



The annual Sandy Cove Bay of Fundy Beach sweep sponsored by the Royal Bank held on June 4th just happened to be an absolutely beautiful day. The multi-age group of thirty-three helpers was made up of many

community residents, Digby Pathfinders and parents and Royal Bank staff members and their families.

The beach was mostly littered with fishing refuse including probably a few kilometres of rope and thousands of lobster bands. Some worked just at cutting rope entrapped in the sand, others spent hours picking up lobster bands and some rambled along picking up any loose items.

at the top of the hill was almost half full after all was collected and there was still much more left behind. The beach was left much cleaner but there was much still to collect. Let's hope everyone that visits the beach this summer will take out more than what they brought.



Creature of the Cove: False Scorpion

By Roger Outhouse

This eight-legged predator with poisonous pincers nearly as long as its body sounds like a creature we would be best to avoid at any cost. They are actually closely related to spiders and scorpions and commonly live any place humans reside. These animals are also known to



This ventral view shows the eight legs which makes this creature look a little more like a tick but we have nothing to fear from this dot sized creature with the "lobster sized" claws!

hitchhike rides to new locations by climbing on the bodies of beetles and birds; a sort of mass transit for the tiny travellers. The body length is a tiny 3mm and

their prey are much smaller mites and insects such as clothes moth larvae. Nearly invisible because of size they are most likely to catch our attention if they venture into a bathtub or shower for a drink of water.

About 50 species are found in Canada and about 3,000 types of these peculiar animals exist in the world. Typically they like warm moist habitats including damp soils. They can overwinter by spinning silk protective nests (like their spider relatives). We do know that the life cycle involves laying 30-40 fertilized eggs which are carried on the underside of the mother. Once hatched out, the young then hang out near the adult before striking out on their own. This whole process of egg to leaving the adult takes about three weeks. The growth process involves three separate moults before reaching adulthood in two years and the typical false

scorpion's life span might be 5 to 6 years; a rather long life for an invertebrate so small.

There seems to be little known about these minute creatures but they certainly pose no known threat to humans and they may help save a few wool articles of wool clothing in your wardrobe from hungry clothes moth larvae!

When I photographed the dorsal view, it was amazing to see the two large pedipalps with the poison gland claws extended forward in a hunting mode.



Hike Nova Scotia Summit

Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly



Digby County picked a perfect weekend to host the Hike Nova Scotia Summit. The over 200 participants from all over the

province enjoyed 3 days of blue skies and warm sunshine as they explored the many sights, sounds and smells of our amazing environment.

Although there were indoor workshops to attend the participants could not wait to enjoy the many hikes scheduled including Van Tassel Lake Trail, Acacia Valley Trail, the

Balancing Rock and Althouse Trail on Long Island and Mount Shubael and TR Falls in Sandy Cove.



Plant of the Cove: Look, But Please, Don't Touch: The Pink Lady Slipper

By Roger Outhouse

This photo I took is of a rare encounter with an unusual sighting of a Pink lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium acaule*) on Long Island. These are recognized by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as a plant worthy of protection as they are sensitive to habitat changes and subject to low reproduction success. These plants can live up to 37 years but must form specific relationships with a type of mycorrhizal fungi in the soil that allows it to survive only there. Unfortunately people often try to transplant them to their own gardens not realizing that they are destroying the orchid's chance to survive and reproduce in the wild. Most often the attempt to move them kills the lady's slipper. Of great interest is that these orchids must attract bumble bees to help pollinate them and yet they have

no food (nectar) to offer the insects. They create false fragrance to lure the bees inside the bulging flowers. Once inside the bee is frustrated over not finding food and that they can't back out. They must burrow deeper into the bloom to leave through another very narrow exit. This new route makes sure that the bumble bee is plastered with lots of pollen which will fertilize the seeds of the next Pink lady's slipper they visit.

The bee is no dummy though and will likely only visit one or two more of this no nectar flower before they cross them off their menu. You can see why this rarity has a very tough time surviving and it must stay in its special place, Home Sweet Home!



This beautiful plant's survival needs our help. The photos are not showing as much pink in the flower as one would expect. Possibly the white appearance indicates the blooms are fading with age.



Digby Area Tourism Association (DATA) AGM

By Roger Outhouse

On 22 May 2016, DATA held its annual general meeting at the Digby Municipal Building. There was a good number in attendance and the meeting was very informative with a summary of the past year's activities and some small changes to the bylaws. I represented the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association as a voting member. While the meeting was conducted in excellent fashion, it was evident that the newly elected officers and directors are already undertaking an ambitious new year with involvements ranging from raising

of marketing opportunities, and supporting a number of worthy initiatives that can raise tourism potential in the region. One could not help but be impressed at the board member representation from all parts of Digby County and the tone of optimism that prevailed throughout all the presentations and discussions.

Continuing to reflect on the quality of DATA's work and achievements and the dedicated persons involved, one might wonder how businesses and organizations in our area might

boost. We all know that most businesses benefit from increased traffic in the area even if they are not directly involved in tourism operations. I would encourage all of them plus non-profit organizations to think seriously about taking out a membership in DATA. It would not only give more clout to their future efforts but more importantly, it would show the Board's Directors and Officers that they are appreciated for all the personal energy they invest on our behalf!

Check out www.data.ca to learn

Thank you!

By Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly

The day is upon us! The Digby Pathfinders and Rangers have been raising funds for two and a half years to attend Mosaic 2016, the national camp, in Sylvan Lake Alberta. At 6:40 am, Saturday 9 July, we will be on our plane heading west. There will be approximately 200 girls from across Canada, 200 from around the world and over 800 staff members on site. Amazing!

It is thanks to you, friends from all over Digby County, who have attended our many events,

purchased tickets for raffles and eaten many truffles and Girl Guide Cookies, that we were able to raise the funds to attend this event.



Thank you for supporting us! We will surely be filled with wonderful memories and stories to share when we return. And, who know how many new lifetime friends we will make while there.



What's Happening This Summer?

By Gwen Wilson

Digby Neck Farmers Market

The Digby Neck Farmers Market is a new venture that will help on the third Thursday of July and August. Located on the grounds of Digby Neck Consolidated School, or inside if the weather doesn't cooperate, there will be fresh produce, crafts, tarot readings and even reflexology! We'll be serving food, too. Come from 3:00-7:00 pm and have supper while you are there. If you are interested in participating as a vendor, tables are \$5.00. Please contact Melissa Merritt or Gwen Wilson at 902.834.2866 to reserve your space.

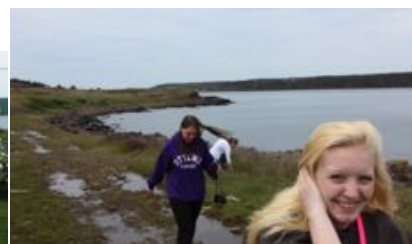
Cove Music Concerts

We are starting off the seventh season with Caleb Miles on July 2 at 7:30 at the Zion United Church in Sandy Cove. Doors open at 7:00 and tickets are \$15 available at the door. Future shows include July 14 featuring Susan Crowe and Cindy Church, July 29 with a classical performance by Paula Rockwell, Clary Croft on August 19 and the season finale on September 2 with Ryan Cook. Profits are returned to the community supporting the school breakfast program, Digby Neck Volunteer Fire Department and maintenance of our historic church buildings. Check us out at www.covemusicconcerts.com or find us on Facebook.

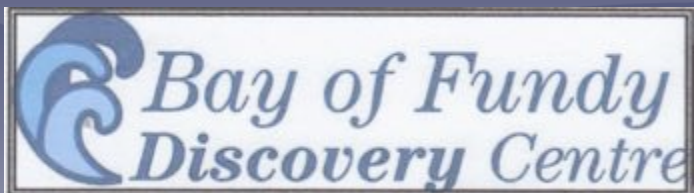
Breaking Waves Festival

Breaking Waves is a one-day music and art event being held in Freeport, Long Island. There will be music all day on the ballfield starting at 11:00 am and ending at 9:00 pm. The headliners are The Hupman Brothers who will play from 7-9 pm. Admission is by free-will donation. There will be food, a beer tent, a kids zone, and all kinds of fun! The Art show will be held in the Freeport Community Hall and several workshops will also be held. There are even t-shirts which are already available at retailers on the Neck. Please visit www.breakingwavesfestival.com or visit us on Facebook for all the latest info.

The first of 4 Digby Neck, Long Island & Brier Island Ecotour signs produced by the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association. Look for them at the Visitor Info Center in the Woodrow Outhouse Centre in Tiverton, The Balancing Rock Trail, parking lot in East Ferry and the waterfront kiosk on RE



Islands Consolidated students worked throughout the Spring clearing the trails on Long Island so they are ready for the summer tourist



Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association Board of Directors for 2015-16

- Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly (Chair)
- Peter Morehouse (Vice Chair)
- Roger Outhouse (Secretary)
- Shealee Newman (Treasurer)
- Frank Garron (Youth Director)
- Bonnie MacLachlan (Director)
- Jeff White (Director)



The Bay of Fundy Discovery Center Association

PO Box 66
 Freeport, NS
 B0V 1B0
righthouse51@gmail.com
 In With the Tide:
anna-marie.mackenzie-kelly@mail.mcgill.ca

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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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.