



**Our Fundy-Our Future**

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Ready to go after months of planning, painting, building, winding and stacking.

Roger Outhouse photos

# In With the Tide

## The Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association Newsletter

### And Another Lobster Season Has Begun

Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly

Once again, there was a delay in the start of the lobster season. Only a one-day delay, this year and everyone agreed it was the right call as the weather conditions were not favourable to a safe Dumping Day.



The day before (Sun 24 Nov) the originally scheduled start to the season was such a beautiful, calm day with not a ripple on the water at first light; it was hard to believe nasty winds were on their way. It did give the crews time to move their boats to safety and check all gear one last time.



So, the time was set for 7:00 am, Tuesday 26. By early



morning all wharfs along St. Mary's Bay and the Bay of Fundy were buzzing with excitement. The sky was starlit clear with a glimmer of the sunrise on the horizon and just a light breeze. The air was warmer than it has been the past five years. The best conditions any lobster crew could ask for in November!



We wish all lobster crews a very safe season

## Projects Causing Concern for the BoFDCA

Twenty years ago, the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association (BoFDCA) was formed. We are a not for profit charitable organization whose members have entrusted us with a mandate to support sustainable ecotourism, help preserve and protect the habitats and life within. We aim to support efforts to educate the public on local ecosystems and cultural heritage in the Digby, Digby Neck and Islands area including the surrounding Bay of Fundy. Ecotourism involvement and sustainable communities are at the heart of our work. This is important to future generations as our connection to a natural and healthy environment is critical to the survival of our traditional fisheries, forestry and surrounding communities.

With this in mind, we feel it important that we provide you, our readers and supporters with the information that follows on two proposed projects in our community.

### Forest harvest coming to the Acacia Valley Trails

The Acacia Valley Trails, located in a beautifully diverse area of forests, bogs, and erratic rock formations have become a popular area for local residents and visitors to explore.

Lands and Forestry approved one set of harvests this summer for the Pine Brook Lot – look for those to happen this winter right beside about one-half of the Gray Jay Trail.

And then, the last week of October, they posted another batch of proposed harvests right over top of the Acacia Valley Trails where they are built on Crown land.

To learn how you can have a say about that, see the bottom of this article.

One block of the proposed cuts is on both sides of the trail at the far end of the Hardwood Ridge – if you've ever hiked back there, you'll remember those huge ancient hardwoods. It is a wonderful patch of true Acadian

Forest, which is harder and harder to find these days. The trees back there are undeniably some of the largest yellow birch and maple and even hemlock in Digby County.

And they are all adjacent to a well-established and well-loved community walking trail.

The Hardwood Ridge is a perennial favourite for the Fundy Erratics hiking club and countless other groups have visited to see this incredible forest and learn from it.

Forestry has a place, but is that place in a stand of old Acadian forest, in sight of a recreation trail?

The trail association had asked for a setback of 100m between the trails and any harvest but Lands and Forestry told the association that they will allow harvest to within 7m of the trail. If only they could be convinced to compromise?

There is lots of forest on the Pine Brook Lot for both nature-loving hikers and the forest industry.

To top it all off, this very area where the cuts are proposed is home to one of the rarest lichens in Canada. As some of you learned on the Erratics hike through the Acacia Valley in October, the Big Boot Swamp, at the foot of the Hardwood Ridge, is home to the Forest Jellyskin Lichen, which has only ever been found in two other places in all of North America. It is also home to two other Species at Risk Lichens: The Blue Felt Lichen and the Wrinkled Shingle Lichen.

To see the proposed cuts online, go to:

<https://nsgi.novascotia.ca/hpmv/> and zoom in on the Acacia Valley Trails area in Hillgrove.

You can submit comments about the proposed cuts by sending an email to Forestry Maps [ForestryMaps@novascotia.ca](mailto:ForestryMaps@novascotia.ca) with the subject: DI068521A.

The deadline for submissions is early December.

To arrange a tour of the area, ask any of the Fundy Erratics.

**Something Fishy is Afoot: \$500m application for Fish farming in Nova Scotia, including St. Mary’s Bay**

In mid-November, local fishers, business owners and reps from various community groups joined forces. Their goal is to gather information, identify concerns and organize against the potential of a large open pen salmon farm initiative in St.Mary’s Bay.

News about this open pen fish farming application first appeared last spring in early April 2019 with the announcement of an application for a \$500M project along Nova Scotia’s coasts by Cermaq Canada, a subsidiary of Mitsubishi, with operations in Norway, British Columbia and Chile.

Cermaq’s plans are to operate four sites in St. Mary’s Bay (see map) with two operating at any one time. Cermaq has stated that it needs between 10 and 20 fish farms with an annual output of 20,000 metric tonnes to justify coming to Nova Scotia, where it would also open a hatchery and processing plant.

**History to date:**

Cermaq was initially awarded options to investigate three areas for fish farming: Chedabucto Bay in Guysborough County, Bay of Rocks in Richmond County and our own St.Mary’s Bay. Those options, which were granted for six months, have been extended for another six month period and two more options added in Mahone Bay and St.Margaret’s Bay. An *Option to Lease* allows Cermaq time to explore the technical and social viability of an aquaculture site. It does not give Cermaq official lease or license to

any of these areas, meaning no fish farms can be established during this time.

**Community Reaction:**

Concerned citizens, lobster fishers, small businesses and community organizations from the Islands, Neck and Acadian shore grouped together two weeks ago in Freeport and formed **The St. Mary’s Bay Protectors – (SMBP).**

Deeply concerned about the economic prosperity, social well-being and environmental sustainability of our coastal resources, the St. Mary’s Bay Protectors (SMBP) believe Cermaq’s proposal to operate 17-20 open net Salmon fish farms, province-wide, producing 20,000 metric tons of fish (44 million lbs.) will result in the same environmental degradation seen in their own and similar aquaculture operations from British Colombia, Newfoundland, Norway, Vietnam, and elsewhere in the world.

**Risks to existing industries and ecosystem**

It has the potential to pose risks to the lobster and scallop industries, wild fish species, pollute existing ecosystems, and eventually, imperil larger aquatic species such as whales that thrive in our area. The Lobster industry that employs thousands in District 33/34 alone is worth over \$500 million annually. The same can be said for the Scallop industry in south west Nova, itself worth over \$100 million per year.

There are several types of Atlantic salmon farm systems, each one tailored specifically to meet the needs of the environment. According to their website these would most likely be the circular

farm type referred to as polar circles, more suited for our marine environment. They include employee accommodation, feed storage, automated feed systems, pens for the fish and predator nets. One polar circle covers an area approximately equal to three football fields and is more or less the same size as the rectangular farms used on the west coast.

“According to industry sources, a typical BC salmon farm holds 720,000 fish with an average weight of 5 kg when they reach market size. The combined biomass of all those fish is equal to 360 Indian bull elephants. The waste from all of these fish can build up under the pens smothering portions of the ocean bottom, contaminating the marine ecosystem and depriving species of oxygen. Or the bulk of waste may be carried away from the farm site by ocean currents, but this too ends up collecting in another place and causing localized pollution.

For more on the issue of pollution from open pen fish farming, read the backgrounder from the Lenfest Ocean Program: Dilution cannot be assumed the solution for aquaculture pollution.”

<http://www.bucksuzuki.org/current-projects/salmon-farming-campaign/salmon-farming-impacts/waste-on-the-seabed/>

To put it bluntly, an amount of feces roughly equal to that of at least 65,000 people.

[https://nsapes.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/waste\\_0.pdf](https://nsapes.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/waste_0.pdf)

Open net fish farming is an industry rife with controversy and there is ample information easily available from many sources describing the pitfalls of marine-

based farms. In its 2019 election platform, the Federal Liberal party pledged to end open-pen salmon farming on the west coast by 2025, shifting to a land-based model which eliminates many of the concerns with the marine operations. Nova Scotia already boasts one land-based operation, Sustainable Blue, operating in Centre Burlington. To this end, Bernadette Jordan, the Liberal MP for South Shore-St. Margaret's (Nova Scotia), who initiated that Liberal pledge, has been appointed Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Aquaculture.

**Concerns over the lack of Municipal Council transparency**

Beyond reading articles in provincial papers, or in various news reports by national stations, there has been little public information forthcoming from our local elected representatives, particularly the Municipality of Digby Council. This raises serious concerns regarding a lack of transparency, accountability and responsiveness. The one stand-out voice has been our own Councilor, David Tudor, who helped alert many of us to what has been going on.

**Citizens interested in following and staying in touch with the St. Mary's Bay Protectors (SMBP) can:**

**Keep up to date and follow what's happening through**

- FB page of St. Mary's Bay Protectors
- Website ([www.protectourbay.ca](http://www.protectourbay.ca))

**Those wishing to actively support the goals of the SMBP can:**

**Sign the Online Petition**

- FB page (already has over 700 signatures in less than a week)

**Write and email** your elected representatives at all levels:

- Specifically contact **Jimmy MacAlpine**, Warden for the Digby District Municipal Council: [warden@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:warden@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

- **Ben Cleveland**, Mayor of Digby: [bcleveland@digby.ca](mailto:bcleveland@digby.ca)

- **Hon. Gordon Wilson**, Nova Scotia Minister of Environment and MLA for Clare-Digby: [minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)

- **Hon. Keith Colwell**, Nova Scotia Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture and MLA for the Eastern Shore: [min\\_dfa@gov.ns.ca](mailto:min_dfa@gov.ns.ca)

- **Hon. Bernadette Jordan**, MLA for South Shore-St. Margaret's: [bernadette.jordan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:bernadette.jordan@parl.gc.ca)

**Write directly to Cermaq:**

- **Cermaq: Amy Jonsson:** [amy.jonsson@cermaq.com](mailto:amy.jonsson@cermaq.com)

**Arrange a Public Meeting in your community**

Contact SMBP to help you with that.

- The St. Mary's Bay Protectors plan to hold their own public meetings in the near future and you can stay informed though their Facebook page or by emailing directly to [info@protectourbay.ca](mailto:info@protectourbay.ca)

**Attend Municipal Council meetings**

- The next one is December 9 at 5pm (Committee of the Whole). St. Mary's Bay Protectors will be addressing our Municipal Council on this issue.
- Join the soon to be created community group, Council Watch, who will report publicly on our Municipal Council meetings to ensure transparency, accountability from Council.

Whatever you decide to do, at the very least, stay informed. There is bound to be a lot more information coming.

**Cermaq's Community Engagement?**

You can read Cermaq plans for Nova Scotia at their own website: [www.hellonovascotia.ca](http://www.hellonovascotia.ca). You will see that they have plans for engagement with the community. In fact, there have already been two meetings in our area: one in July and another in October.

When Cermaq was asked why neither of the two initial meetings held -one in July and another in October in Sandy Cove - were advertised on their website as promised, the response received was that these meetings were intended for the fishing community only. Currently, (Nov. 25/19) there are still no public events advertised on their "Events" page which still continues to show a non-functioning link where events ought to be listed.

Despite claims on the "Community" page about the establishment of an advisory committee, which would hold its first meeting in October, this has not happened. Reading their November 7 Newsletter on the

“News” page shows in fact that, for the St. Mary’s Bay Area, public community meetings have been pushed ahead until the New Year.

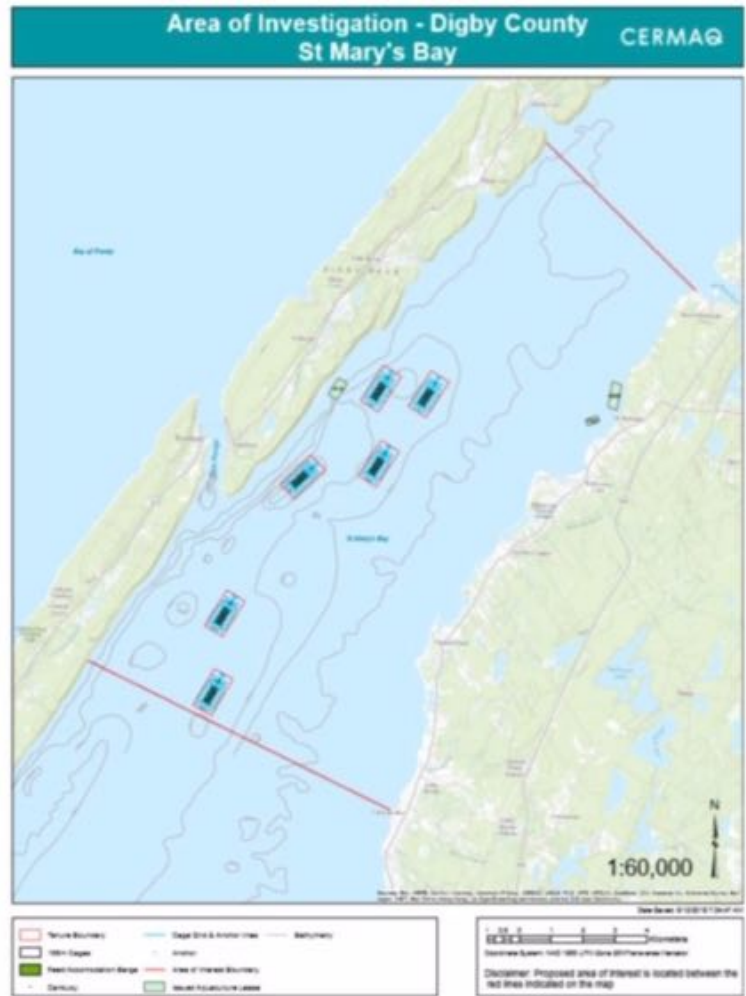
“We have been talking about starting community meetings and the Community Information and Advisory Committees in November, but due what we learned from our engagement in Sandy Cove, we are looking to slow the engagement process to ensure we are sharing information in a way that is easily understood, clear and to the point.

We want to make sure that our plans are transparent and understood – this includes the trust that we are not simply “checking a box” and do not consider one meeting to be engagement. We will continue to come out and talk with associations, special interest groups, communities and governments and look for a path forward together while identifying shared value and offsets. So, to this end, we have revised our community engagement planning and our engagement with the commercial fishing industry.”

(Newsletter, November 7, 2019)

Their current options expire March 27, 2020.

As a community, we have until then to communicate our feelings about Cermaq’s plans.



## Taking Steps to Save Energy

By Roger Outhouse



Smart things are happening at the Islands Manor apartments in Freeport. The entire exterior of the building is in the process of receiving new additions of insulation, siding and exterior windows. This is a great example towards saving energy and reducing our carbon footprint. And, if you look carefully in the foreground, you will see one wooden support for the new clothesline recently added to encourage residents to save energy by allowing nature to dry their laundry.

## Annapolis County Climate Action Summit

By Nancy Robinson

Just weeks after declaring a climate emergency, Annapolis County hosted a Climate Action Summit at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre in Cornwallis. Approximately 140 people attended.

Annapolis County Warden Timothy Habinski set the stage by pointing out that, at any time, Nova Scotia has only a three-day supply of food. He mentioned as well that the county used to grow food for the whole province.

Gregory Heming, Councillor and renowned climate change expert, said we cannot depend on governments: "Consumers and citizens are responsible for the fate of the earth." The industrial revolution was about resource extraction and money; the second industrial revolution, about 20 years ago, was about resource conservation and ethics; now, he

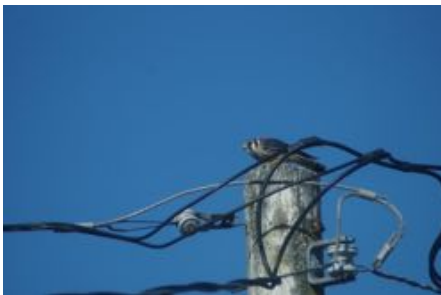
said, we are at the beginning of the third industrial revolution - a restorative economy and "right livelihood". The question we have to ask ourselves is: "What does it mean to live rightly on the earth?" We heard from an impressive array of people working or volunteering in the Annapolis County community: the Medway Community Forest, Acadian Seaplants, farmers, CARP, the Red Cross (72-hour Preparedness Protocol), a Youth Panel, community associations and halls, networks to help displaced persons, local awareness groups like Humanity Against Plastic Pollution, and people experienced in transportation, local energy production and creating food independence – all valuable resources to encourage and build on.

Going beyond county borders, Cliff Drysdale, Vice Chair of the

Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association, presented an online tool being developed by the Centre of Geographic Sciences in Lawrencetown with funding from Lands and Forestry, that will aid enormously in collecting and disseminating geographic and climate data of all kinds, for citizens and scientists alike: The Interactive Science Atlas. For the Smartphone app go to: [www.ScienceAtlas.ca](http://www.ScienceAtlas.ca).

The talent and depth of knowledge of the speakers was impressive - there will be more Summits to continue the work of this one. Communities have to work together, as they usually do when faced with a crisis. Habinski mentioned the supreme effort of the British during WWII with Victory Garden effort. He emphasized that we have to do this with compassion and generosity.

## Autumn Oddities: Results of Climate Change?



This photo taken Nov. 1st amidst power outages, school cancellations and gale force winds. This poor little American Kestrel has its talons dug into the top of a power pole hanging on for dear life. Later around Northeast Cove I observed 20 Turkey Vultures riding the forceful winds with ease and grace.

Roger Outhouse

Blueberry farmers across the province had harvested their berries back in August. In November, recent storms had blown away most of the leaves, but I was still picking blueberries!



And, our witch hazel bush that usually blossoms in February decided to put on a second show, this year, in November!

Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly

### A Local Greenhouse for Seniors

Reported by Bonnie MacLachlan

The Freeport Community Development Association, together with the Freeport Village Commission, received a grant to build a greenhouse that would be accessible for seniors, and would enhance their lives by participating in the growing of food for at least three seasons of the year. Plans have been developing, the land secured (next to the School Street Market), and there is hope that next summer will see it in operation. Ann Schweitzer, who has had experience with local weather conditions and the need for accessible building, has her own greenhouse and oversaw the building of her own house off the grid. She is lending her hand to see the plans for this greenhouse take shape.

The design is intended to ensure an annual harvest without killing frost or devastating windstorms, incorporating both traditional and new information about

greenhouse planting and operation. She has hosted two workshops this fall, reviewing this material and making it available for those who want to participate in the proposed community greenhouse, or to develop their own.

The first workshop included the ways in which we can work with the position of the sun here throughout the year, using passive solar energy to heat a greenhouse (or cold frames). She presented various options for, e.g., how to balance insulation and ventilation in a greenhouse and manage the source, delivery and drainage of water. She discussed the best materials for this, including those for framing the building and for glazing.

The second workshop focused on the interior choices to be made for an appropriate greenhouse, including the height of raised

beds that would be most accessible, slip-free floors, paths that would be sufficiently wide to accommodate wheeled aids for mobility, user-friendly hand tools and a watering process that would be easy to operate. A space would be reserved for rest, comfort and social interaction, with reference books available. There was also a discussion of plants that would do well in this setting for year-round planting and harvesting. Succession planting and intensive planting options were also discussed.

Judging from the lively discussion among those who attended, this appears to be an exciting development in the community, with local seniors actively providing food. Watch for further

information and workshops to come. For further information contact Ann at [ann.honeywind@gmail.com](mailto:ann.honeywind@gmail.com)

### More Trails to Enjoy: Expanding the Gulliver's Cove Trails

By Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly

It was a picture-perfect day to hop on my bicycle and head to Gulliver's Cove to work on clearing the Gulliver's Head Trail and finding new area to expand the trail. The views along this trail are amazing. If I lived a little closer, I would walk these trails every day! But then, there are beautiful places to hike all along Digby Neck in all seasons.



## Look Out! At Gulliver's Cove

By Jeff White

Returning to a favourite hiking spot has its rewards. There is always another route, a new trail to blaze, or a fresh vista to discover. In October, a group of hiking enthusiasts explored Gulliver's Cove, with a plan to explore as many 'lookoffs' for good views as possible. Some of us hiked to five different viewpoints, each well-worth exploring.

The well-known and level trail to the view of the high cliffs at the cove was our starting point. The season for seeing Peregrine Falcons here was pretty much over, but through the summer they are frequently observed against the backdrop of the 80 m cliffs and wind-blown trees.



Our next journey was up the hill and through the woodland to the top of the rocky cliff. We were encouraged to step lightly, for the sake of the mosses, lichens, and other life that survives - even thrives - on the bare basalt. This includes a rare spikemoss (*Selaginella rupestris* - Rock Spikemoss), found in NS only on a few places on Digby Neck.

From here, we took one of the new trails in development down the hill to Gulliver's Head, the point of land at the entry of the little harbour. The vibrant tomato-red of the 'mountain ash' trees is spectacular this season. These berries, along with those of the occasional winterberry bush,

surpassed the hunter's orange we hikers all were sporting.



We worked our way along the top of the rocky shoreline, among the junipers and grasses, to a stubby pinnacle of rock that is clearly frequented by Cormorants much more than humans.



We overlooked Gooseberry Cove and prepared to ascend the hillside where another rocky outcropping affords a view of the wide landscape, filled with innumerable Fundy waves, and twisted birch, maple and mountain ash trees on the coast. Just to the west, the turbines were almost always in view, soaking up the wind's energy in one accord.

Once we returned to a high spot, we headed along old roads into the woods that face the south and east. Our leader guided us up to a high clearing in the woods that the landowner dubbed 'The Ship's Bow.' From this vantage point, one can peek among a few trees to see Gulliver's Cove again, on the Fundy side, as well as St. Mary's Bay in the opposite direction.



The hours of hiking were ending for some of our group, but a few of us continued on, after we returned to our parking spot in the Cove. We crossed to the hill on the west side of the little valley that holds open Gulliver's Cove. By an old cottage, along abandoned roads we wandered into these woods. Even there, the rocky outcroppings and babbling brooks were well worth the journey.



But we were on our way to one more open rock to stand upon. From this side of the Cove, we can see where we had spent our earlier hours.



On the opposite scale, at our feet we saw the tough vegetation - unnumbered species of lichens and mosses again, plenty of common juniper - and one garter



snake trying to find some warmth from the mid October sun.

What is it about a lookoff that is so enjoyable? It is beyond words. Let's just be grateful for the eyes and ears and nose and skin to take in all that nature offers, from the rugged landscape of Digby Neck, to the small reptile residents.



(Trail information: <http://www.digbytrails.ca/gullivers-cove.html>)

### Creature of the Cove: American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

By Roger Outhouse

You could say this bird has a long Latin name (easy to forget) or go by some of its memorable nicknames including "mire-drum", "stake-driver", "thunder-pumper" and water-belcher. It is a wetland bird that frequents marshy habitats all across North America. The males have a booming "pump-er-lunk" mating call that sets them apart from all other birds. Typically, the American Bitterns live in isolation wading secretively through the shallows, tall grasses and vegetation. They have amazing camouflage and their patient stealthy hunting techniques make them nearly invisible to detection. The magnificent brown vertical stripes, buffy body and vertical posture with bill straight up blends them into the tall wetland grasses and bulrushes. Even with the head pointed skyward they can still watch for prey below them.

They are comfortable around freshwater, brackish water and salt water and sometimes venture into wet meadows and pastures. Frogs, fish and insects are main diet items and this predator sometimes pursues them but often lays motionless in ambush. Remaining invisible might stop here but the bittern resorts to extreme makeup to further

conceal its presence. Along the neck are long tiny hairs (called filoplumes). These produce tiny talc like brown flakes which are waterproof and tend to act like hair dye streaking the breast feathers for a final professional touch. Oh, and another reason most people never see them is they are mostly active at night (nocturnal) and in twilight conditions.



This beautiful American Bittern was photographed the last week of October at the head of Freeport's Northeast Cove. The bird was checking out some wet fields for prey and waited for me to snap the photo. Thanks to Bonnie MacLachlan for reporting the sighting.

While this bird breeds throughout most of Canada, the wintering grounds are mostly in the southern states of the USA (especially in Florida and its everglades), Mexico, Costa Rica, parts of Central America and the Caribbean. They arrive on northern breeding grounds starting in April and depart for warmer locations in

fall. Nests are built just above the water levels by the female on low platforms of old stalks, rushes, and sticks and lined with coarse grass. The male guards the nest and surrounding area. In the breeding season, the male's eye iris color changes from yellow to red.

The average nest would have six eggs with olive coloration and would hatch from female incubation in one month. The young are fed regurgitated (sounds more appetizing than vomit) food from the female. The young leave the nest after two weeks and are off on their own by week six. The oldest life span record of this specie (as proven through banding recapture) is 8 years and four months.

As a biology student at Acadia University I had a unique chance to see an American Bittern in captive surroundings. It was brought from a nearby marsh in shock and was being kept warm, safe and fed before re-release into the wild. A few of us were given a chance to go visit the patient while they were in the process of feeding it a frog. I expected to see a rather subdued bird; but this bird was amazing. He stood firm with glaring yellow beady eyes from an enclosed wire cage as his waiter approached timidly with his dead frog dinner.

What happened next froze everyone. This American Bittern crouched and emitted a sinister snake like hiss and looked ready to impale anyone who got closer. To look more diabolical, it partially raised its wings such that the body markings somehow mimicked two huge eyes; just in case you ignored the previous threats.

The amphibian was tossed carefully into the cage and we thought the customer would lighten up a bit. That is when the bittern

slowly got into its attack mode. It immediately drove its bill though the frog (just to make sure it would not get away) and hoisted it into the air on the long bill. Next it reached up with a single foot and pulled it from its beak dropping it to the floor. We were still trying to process what we had witnessed when the bird shifted into some dance like mode stomping the departed frog with vicious foot kicks. We later assumed that was to shatter the bones and tenderize the meat allowing for easier

digestion. The finale came when the frog was plucked up by the predator's bill and tossed so it was caught and swallowed head first. The dining experience was not quite finished as the swallowing took several minutes and repeated attempts to force the large frog down through a very long and narrow bulging throat.

I will never forget that personal introduction and the impression it made.

**Fundy Erratics Winter and Spring Schedule 2020**

Monitor the Fundy Erratics FaceBook page for more details, changes, additions...

Saturday 11 January	Winterfest at Acacia Valley (see page 11 for details) 10:00 am-2:00pm Meet: Acacia Valley Trails Parking lot, 155 Mill Road, Hillgrove
Saturday 8 February	Lake LeMerchant-Morganville snowshoe hike Meet: Digby arena at 9:00 am or at the Bear River Fire Hall at 9:30 am
Sunday 8 March	Van Tassel Lake Full Moon Hike Meet: 6:30 pm at the Van Tassel Lake Trails Parking lot, 859 Culloden Rd, Mount Pleasant
Saturday 25 April	Delaps Cove Hike Meet: 9:00 am at Digby Arena for carpooling or 10:00 am at the Delaps Cove trailhead. 8-9 km hike on a mix of forest trails, coastal trails and woods roads.
Saturday 9 May	Belle Isle Marsh and French Basin Trail birding walks Meet 8:00 am at Digby Arena Hiking and birding- the Belle Isle Marsh is a great place to see waterfowl and other birds as they pass through on their spring migration. We'll walk an 8 km loop; taking time to watch and even attempt to identify the birds. Then, over to French Basin Trail on the edge of Annapolis Royal for another 1.2 km loop with more birds.
Saturday 13 June	Red Head Hike Meet at Digby Arena 9:30 am for a 10:00 am start at Seawall on Digby Neck.

Ever wonder how and who plans the Erratics hikes? Answer: Avid outdoor enthusiasts at a potluck lunch, of course! With input from regular Fundy Erratics hikers, consultations with tide tables and past experiences, great hikes and experiences are planned...



Erratics also enjoy a great time with delicious food as was evident at the annual potluck on November 14

### WINTER FEST AT ACACIA VALLEY

Jan. 11 (Saturday), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 At the Acacia Valley Trails parking lot (155 Mill Road, Hillgrove)

We'll be celebrating the coolest season with an assortment of activities on the Acacia Valley Trails– consider this an intro to winter outdoor fun!

We'll have loads of snowshoes for people to try out, volunteers will be on hand to help you get started and we're laying out an obstacle course to test your speed.

A 4-km snowshoe hike to Tupper's Deadwater and Picnic Rock will leave the parking lot at 10:30 a.m. For the hike, dress in comfortable layers, bring water and snacks and maybe a thermos full of something warm.

The Erratics will keep a bonfire going near the parking lot with hot chocolate and the perfect coals for roasting hot dogs (with roasting sticks provided).

Snow sculpture contest with winners announced at 1:30 pm.

Keep an eye on the Fundy Erratics Facebook group for updates related to weather and changes to event

### Digby Neck Polar Bear Dip and Food Bank Fund Raiser



1 January 2019 Digby Neck Polar Bear Dip

Welcome in 2020 with a refreshing dip in St. Mary's Bay in Sandy Cove on January 1, 2020 at 1:30 pm (high tide is at 3:30). If dipping is not your thing, come out and support the brave ones. There will be a Food Bank collection that will be distributed to both the Islands and Digby Area Food Banks. And, as always, there will be a warm potluck luncheon with plenty of chili and chowder. For more info, contact Anna-Marie or check the Digby Neck Polar Bear Club Face Book page.



Warming up with great food, music and conversation following the 1 January 2020 Digby Neck Polar Bear Dip.

**From our AGM:** We extend our thanks and warm wishes to Shealee Newman as she has decided to temporarily step down as a BoFDCA director. Shealee was an active member of the Digby neck and Islands Gulf of Maine Institute (GOMI) Team during her high school years and then joined the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association Board and served two years as treasurer. Shealee does hope she will return to the team when the opportunity arises.  
 We warmly welcome two new directors, Amanda Addington and Hannah Charlton. Amanda and Hannah are currently students at Fleming College in Ontario. We will introduce them in our Winter 2020 In With the Tide.

## BAY OF FUNDY DISCOVERY CENTRE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2018 – 2019

- We have continued to support the Brier Island Trails Committee in their efforts in preparing for Phase 2 of the Big Meadow Bog Trail. The application for Trails expansion funding was unsuccessful. They have had fundraisers including a Music & Coffee Shop, ticket sales on an art work, and donations collected at the annual July 1<sup>st</sup> Community BBQ Event. They have held over

12 meetings over the past year and most recently are dealing with creating applications for funding in the upcoming year. Great strides are being made towards securing funds in support of Phase 2. Our Association supported Phase 1 in the amount of \$2000.00 and given \$700.00 toward Phase 2 plus pledging an additional in-kind contribution to produce two panel research and designs valued at \$750.00. A storage building kit has been purchased and will be constructed in the spring by volunteers. It will hold equipment and water storage in support of the many large flower planters. The Westport Village Commission has supplied a new trash and recycling bin for the picnic table area at the trailhead. BITC is getting ready to launch a new website which has an excellent design. The area is well attended through the summer and frequented throughout the seasons. A new interpretation sign is about to be installed later in this year.

- Wayfinding signs were replaced in Freeport's Northeast Cove to help visitors to the five kiosk interpretive panels on climate change.
- Trail cutting equipment was loaned out on four occasions to assist groups working on trails in Digby County. (Gulliver's Cove, Bear Cove)
- Produced four issues of In With the Tide. This is a great asset to our organization and informs people about what is going on in our area.
- Maintain memberships with Volunteer Canada, Digby Area Tourism Association, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, and Digby Neck Collective.
- Maintained our annual sponsorship with Digby Neck and Islands monthly newsletter Passages.
- Worked on trails Bear Cove (Tiverton), Fundy View Trail (Freeport), Gullivers Cove Trails on Digby Neck
- Helped coordinate Beach Sweep at Boars Head (Tiverton) on Nature Conservancy property.
- Participated in Sandy Cove Bay of Fundy Beach Sweep
- Attend meetings on tidal projects regarding Grand and Petit passages.
- Attended meetings on climate change hosted at The Schoolhouse Café
- Participated in Climate Change March in Annapolis Royal
- Conducted two fieldtrips for elementary ICS students (a mudflat tour and a geology walk)
- Loaned lichen field guides for group learning experiences.
- Participated in DATA AGM
- Participated in Fundy Erratics hike planning meetings as well as numerous hikes and led the Erratics Sunset Hike to Tommy's Beach



**Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre  
Association Board of Directors  
for 2019-20**

- Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly (Chair)
- Peter Morehouse (Vice Chair)
- Roger Outhouse  
(Secretary/Treasurer)
- Bonnie MacLachlan
- Jeff White
- Melissa Merritt
- Frank Garron
- Amanda Addington
- Hannah Charlton

- We continue to welcome new members. Please consider joining our association and continue to make this a wonderful place to live and visit.
- We want your stories and photos. Please let us know what you are enjoying along our beautiful Bay of Fundy. Please send your stories, photos and dates of upcoming projects to anna-marie.mackenzie-kelly@mail.mcgill.ca

**The Bay of Fundy Discovery Center Association**

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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.