

In With the Tide

The Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association Newsletter



Our Fundy-Our Future

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Royce Elderkin of Little River captured this amazing shot in Whale Cove during a wild windy storm on 2 March 2021.

Sustainable Marine Unveils 'Next-gen Platform' ahead of World-leading Tidal Energy Project in Grand Passage

Dartmouth, N.S., February 1, 2021 - Sustainable Marine forged ahead with plans to deliver the world's first floating tidal energy array after unveiling its next-generation platform in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Construction of the pioneering new 420kW PLAT-I 6.40 floating tidal energy platform was recently completed at A.F. Theriault & Son Ltd. in Meteghan, Nova Scotia and launched today in the Bay of Fundy, which experiences the highest tides on earth.

It will undergo commissioning and testing in Grand Passage and will then be moved to the FORCE (Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy) site as part of the first phase of the ground-breaking Pempa'q In-stream Tidal Energy Project. The Pempa'q Project takes its name from the Mi'kmaq First Nation word 'Pempa'q' meaning 'rise of the tide', in honour of the Bay of Fundy's Indigenous communities.

The total in-stream tidal energy project will deliver up to nine megawatts of electricity to the Nova Scotia grid. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year and power approximately 3000 homes in Nova Scotia.

"This 'tidal technology is the result of a tremendous international effort combining world-class scientific and engineering expertise from our German, Scottish and Canadian teams, and is the culmination of a decade of research and development," said Jason Hayman CEO of Sustainable Marine. "We are very fortunate to have such strong support from our major shareholders, SCHOTTEL and Scottish

Enterprise, the Government of Canada, and a wide range of partners and collaborators. The PLAT-I 6.40 has been designed specifically for the [Pempa'q Project](#) - where we will deliver the world's first floating tidal array - in Nova Scotia, which has the best natural resources in the world to produce clean renewable tidal energy."

The Pempa'q Instream Tidal Energy project is a ground-breaking initiative and is being supported by the Government of Canada with \$28.5 million in funding- one of Canada's largest-ever investments in tidal energy.

"We are harnessing the power of our tides to power our homes, our businesses and our communities," said the Honourable Seamus O'Regan Jr., Canada's Minister of Natural Resources. "This is how we build our clean energy future."



"The construction and launch of Sustainable Marine's floating in-stream tidal technology is a significant milestone for Canada's marine renewable energy sector. The project has engaged many local suppliers and offers a sustainable and clean solution for electricity production using a local

resource. Projects and innovation like this are central to building Canada’s Blue Economy,” said Elisa Obermann Executive Director of Marine Renewables Canada

The PLAT-I 6.40 launched today builds on the lessons learned and experience gained from Sustainable Marine’s previous successful deployments in Scotland and Nova Scotia. It was designed specifically for the FORCE site, and produces 50% more power than its predecessor, the PLAT-I 4.63, which has undergone rigorous testing since 2017, firstly in Scotland before relocation to Grand Passage, Nova Scotia, in 2018. During testing the system has successfully produced power and has demonstrated it can operate in adverse weather conditions. It is also measuring crucial environmental effects and has not recorded any evidence of adverse impacts on fish or marine animals.

The innovative tidal platform only requires two meters of water for launching and towing and is moored with a turret configuration allowing it to align with the tide or the river flow. It has been designed so its easy to install and is accessible for

maintenance and servicing, addressing one of the key challenges experienced by earlier tidal energy developers.

This new technology was originally developed in Scotland with support from Scottish Enterprise’s WATERS funding, before arriving in Nova Scotia.



“This project highlights the innovation taking place in Scotland around renewable technology. Scottish Enterprise has been proud to support Sustainable Marine as it set up in Edinburgh, developed and tested its tidal solution off the shores of Scotland and will now be deployed in Canada’s first floating tidal energy system to power its communities and contribute to global net zero aspirations,” said Andy McDonald, Head of Low Carbon Transition at Scottish Enterprise. “Our investment arm was also very pleased to support the company on behalf of the Scottish Government via its Energy Investment Fund. It’s fantastic news that technology developed in Scotland will deliver environmental benefits across the globe and as COP26 takes place in Glasgow later this year, this is yet another example of Scottish ingenuity and low carbon leadership.”

For more information contact: Sustainable Marine

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Big Meadow Bog Trail Leads to an Amazing Experience

By Roger Outhouse

On October 15, 2020 I arrived mid-morning at the Big Meadow Bog trailhead and immediately got to watch a Belted Kingfisher repeatedly diving for fish in the water near the entrance to the trail. Then, overhead, twenty-one Turkey Vultures appeared gracefully circling in the wind updrafts. I decided to take the boardwalk into the trail and immediately got a good view of three pairs of Mallard Ducks swimming back and forth in front of a Great Blue Herron who was stalking its prey. Numerous Black Ducks, Black-capped Chickadees, a Double-crested Cormorant, a Pied-billed Grebe and a number of unidentified ducks were encountered during the slow stroll along the way.

Nearing the end of the trail I was surprised by a sudden swarm of American Goldfinch that flew in a

tight swirling mass that revolved in waves as they advanced out of the bog. I have been familiar with watching large flocks migrating before but never could I imagine the “organized chaos” in front of me. The flock was too tight to get any possible count but I estimated the swirling cloud to be about 30 meters long and 8 meters high. The swarm landed and took off several times as it advanced toward the more open area of the wetland. I was puzzled by the behavior and had no understanding as to the why. At that very moment the birds rose up again just as a Sharp-shinned Hawk flew past my left shoulder at full speed headed for the flock. The birds rose up higher than usual still in a tight formation. Just as the hawk closed in on what looked like a sure lunch the flock split into two groups heading in opposite

directions. The hawk seemed to be mesmerized by the maneuver and did not chase either group. Both groups again tightened formations and the hawk chased the one flying south. This group split again leaving the hawk frozen by indecision. Frustrated by its failures the bird of prey gave up and flew off in the distance; maybe my “why” had been answered.

I walked out to Jimmy’s Pond and observed schools of small fish boiling to the surface being chased by some unknown predators. As I turned to depart I glanced upward only to see about seventy Turkey Vultures with 7-10 birds in a group rising in funnel shaped formations (called kettles). I had never seen so many at one time! It was one INCREDIBLE DAY! My only regret is that I was the only person on the trail to see it!

Cooke’s Hatchery Proposal for Digby Neck
 By Gwen Wilson and Rick Wallace, St/ Mary’s Bay Protectors (SMBP)

In early January, 2021, Cooke’s Aquaculture publicly disclosed its proposal to a put a \$58.6M fish hatchery in Centreville, Digby Neck, on the shore of St. Mary’s Bay. While we stopped Cermaq (April 2020) from putting in new open net fish farms in St. Mary’s Bay, Cooke has sought to expand their open net fish operations around the province, most particularly in Liverpool.

As many of us will remember, hundreds of us were at the Digby Municipal Council in December, 2019, where Council voted 3-2 to oppose new open net fish farms in St. Mary’s Bay. Sadly, this Council voted to endorse the Cooke Hatchery proposal (Councilor David Tudor was absent for the vote), even though it is clearly tied to providing a basis for Cooke to solidify and expand their future operations and open net fish farming around Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (despite Cooke’s claim that this project is not contingent on the Liverpool expansion). It is also notable that Cooke, (Kelly Cove Salmon) who has been operating outside the boundaries of several of its leases, has secured renewal of their local leases in Westport until 2040, at Rattling Beach in Digby and in the Annapolis Basin until 2036. Cooke is not going anywhere.

The CBC article, (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/salmon-hatchery-digby-neck-nova-scotia-cooke-aquaculture-1.5871965>) states the facility will produce three million fish annually which will end up in open net pens in Nova Scotia waters.

The proposal, such as it is, was published on the government website and can be viewed at https://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/public-notice/Admin_Hearing-New_Landbased-AQ_1436-2021.01.14.pdf. The description consists of one short paragraph and a series of diagrams locating the property and some artist’s renderings of the hatchery.

During their time in the proposed hatchery these fish will use copious amounts of fresh water and produce large amounts of solid waste and effluent. This raised many concerns.

The St. Mary’s Bay Protectors took these concerns to our Digby Municipal Council in the form of a letter as soon as we heard

about their “ecstatic” response to the proposal. Council declined to provide any information, but instead directed us to the provincial and federal governments for our answers, despite the fact that they obviously felt comfortable enough with the information they had received from Cooke to endorse the project. This raised some disturbing and unanswered environmental, economic and governance questions that affect all of us along Digby Neck and Islands.

This facility will require large amounts of both fresh and salt water at different stages. The smolts will be raised in fresh water for the first three stages and then salt water until the reach approximately 500g, when they will be shipped to marine based open net pens to mature to marketable weight. During their time in the hatchery, they will consume large amounts of food, produce large amounts of solid waste, and be treated with chemicals and pesticides as may be required because hatchery-raised fish also contract diseases. The resulting liquid effluent will be treated onsite and the released into the waters of St. Mary’s Bay. The 3 million smolts to be raised annually will produce sewage waste approximately equivalent to 300,000 people. While the sewage treatment, which according to Cooke is “the same as that of any municipality” will remove nitrogen and phosphates. Anything else in the effluent will end up in the Bay.

Here are the precise concerns we had hoped to see addressed.

Environmental

1. Are the proposed hatchery waters to be recirculated? How much fresh water does it intend to use? How much salt water does it intend to use? What will be the ratio of inflow and outflow from water sources?
2. What are the plans for the use or disposal of solid waste?
3. What would be done with any liquid effluent produced?
4. What effect might this effluent have on current and planned shellfish aquaculture in the Bay?

The proposed site in Centreville, a number of wells are indicated in the plans. The

numbering indicates five wells, although the locations of only three appear.

5. What public and science-based evidence can Council offer that effectively determines any impact on the water table itself?
 - Neighbouring properties and the wider community water table could be adversely impacted and irrevocably damaged depending upon the scale of fresh water accessed by the proposed hatchery.
6. What public and science-based evidence will Council present concerning the issue of possible contamination in our public waters, wells and water table?
 - Given the amount of solid waste, effluence and loaded nitrate waters from such a hatchery, there would be enormous concern over potential contamination on people’s drinking water, property values and community health.

Economic

Economically, the CBC article states the project will provide as many as 450 jobs during the three-year construction phase, and 14-18 direct and indirect jobs once in operation.

7. What does ‘direct jobs’ mean? Indirect jobs? Minimum wage jobs? Are these jobs guaranteed to come from our local community or will they be filled by workers already employed by Cooke’s subsidiaries? Beyond mere verbal assertions, what written assurances can Council publicly provide?

In Council’s letter from Jeff Sunderland, dated February 1, 2021, Mr. Sunderland stated, “Cooke Aquaculture has informed me they will make every effort to hire locally.” This is far from any kind of concrete assurance.

And, of course, there is the existing lobster fisheries and the jobs connected to it. It is important to ask Council the following:

8. Can Council remain certain that the environmental issues cited earlier will not

affect the lucrative lobster industry and those jobs in our waters? What science-based proof can Council publicly offer?

Governance and lack of due diligence

Our SMBP Presentation to Council:

On Monday, Feb. 22, 2021, St. Mary's Bay Protectors (SMBP) (Gwen Wilson and Rick Wallace) made a presentation to Digby Municipal Council. The Warden, Linda Gregory, had been "ecstatic" about the Cooke Proposal when it was announced, and promptly had Council send in a letter of support at Cooke's request to the Aquaculture Review Board during the Public Comment phase. We raised all of the above questions and received absolutely no answers from them. There was total quiet except for Linda Gregory who suggested we, ourselves, ask Cooke any questions.

We were respectfully asking Council to follow responsible process of governance, consultation and decision-making as part of their decision-making on this proposal of a hatchery. Sadly, our Municipal Council voted to endorse the hatchery proposal without critical environmental, economic and consultation issues having been adequately and publicly addressed.

We believe the Council rushed into an endorsement without consulting any of the constituents in our Villages and in the County. As far as we could ascertain, Council did not ask key critical questions

and did not seek to find any detailed answers. If they did ask those question, they certainly have not shared it with their constituents. The Council's vote to endorse this project was a dereliction of duty and a lack of due diligence. In short, a lack of research and questioning, really poor decision-making, and a complete lack of transparent and accountable governance.

We asked the Council to make a commitment to engage in due diligence, engage the public, commit to pro-active invitations when Council is aware there could be public interests. Further, we requested the Council to publicly investigate the environmental and planning concerns we raised and to report back publicly with details within four weeks. We received only silence from them.

Our local communities, whom Council have been elected to represent, deserve a lot more information and independent critical analysis than has been made public to date, especially to do with waste management, effluent, drinking water, science-based research on the impact on other aquaculture projects (Oysters, Scallops). Until such a time, a Council resolution supporting Cooke's proposal for a hatchery on the Digby Neck is premature.

To be absolutely clear, we have not stated opposition to land-based sustainable fish farming nor to aquaculture projects involving oysters or scallops. To be absolutely clear, SMBP supports the lucrative lobster and fishing industries

(\$900 million), the 4000 jobs that are part of that, and the safe uncontaminated drinking water that communities depend upon.

Council begins every meeting first of all asking for guidance, and second, stating their Mission Statement:

"To provide, promote, or facilitate municipal services that meet the community needs while preserving, supporting and enhancing quality of life for all."

Perhaps some thoughtful reflection on what these words actually mean in terms of duty to their constituents might be useful.

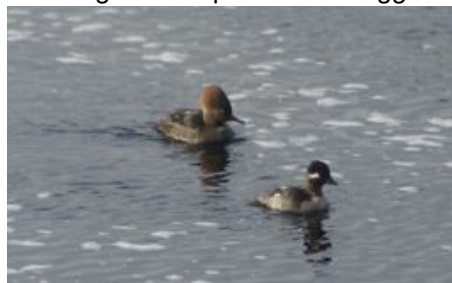
Faced with a lack of response and responsible governance from Digby Municipal Council, we will work with the Healthy Bay Network, a province-wide coalition of communities committed to keeping Nova Scotia waters healthy and sustainable. Together with the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax, they will be meeting with members of the new Liberal Cabinet; and looking to raise the lack of details on the proposal, together a lack of due diligence by our local Digby Municipal Council. We have all fought to protect and will continue to fight to protect the fisheries, tourism industries, local economy and clean water sources that are vital to our communities.

Creature of the Cove: Hooded Merganser (Lophodytes cucullatus)

By Roger Outhouse

My photo shows the smallest of all merganser ducks in North America. This female Hooded Merganser with the notable cinnamon head crest has been hanging out with a smaller female Bufflehead Duck in Freeport's Northeast Cove just above the bridge on Overcove Road. Unlike most of my articles I have to address the pair because of their antics. Both are superb diving duck species but what drew my attention was the close distance between them as they swam and dove in search of food. While the lone merganser was obvious as it is rarely seen in our area and particularly so in winter months. On the other hand, groups of Bufflehead Ducks abound in our

waters during the fall and winter seasons. As I watched them over a period of weeks, they seemed to be the odd couple (or odd ducks) and they clearly swam close, often times taking breaks together on the shoreline mud, sailing in formation and diving for food in the same spots. I was thoroughly entertained viewing the merganser capture and struggle to



choke down several slippery eels. Granted, it was a fairly small area for hunting, but their presence was one that attracted them both to remain there from the beginning of Dec. 2020 till late Feb. 2021.

I wanted to get some photos and so stalked them with camera and actually got fairly close expecting to see both fly in panic. Strangely they swam close to each other and closer to me. The Bufflehead swam back and forth in front of me and then swam tight circles around its larger buddy. After a short time evaluating my presence both continued diving about eight metres in front of me; highly unusual behavior. It was like they were bravely

supporting each other! I finally walked away scratching my head over what I had witnessed. Now, back to the Hooded Merganser story!

The female has a cinnamon-colored crest (reminds me of a punk rock hairdo), grey head and a dull greyish brown body. She has the sole responsibility in raising the family. Once the male mates he is off on his own deferring all duties like incubating the 5 to 13 eggs for up to 41 days, watching over the young till they learn to fly weeks later. Thank goodness that the young tumble to the ground within 24 hours of hatching and go to water where they actually hunt their own food. Pretty amazing young

offspring given the first step from the nest in the hollow of a dead tree to the ground can be anywhere from 10 to 90 feet. In addition, the mom will protect the eggs or pretends to have a broken wing as she lures predators away from her young. Those enemies include raccoons, mink, black bears, pine martens, European Starlings, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers. It should not be surprising that she only produces one brood every year!

I guess you could say the male is not a “family man”. Their first and last step to fatherhood hinges on erecting their black bordered white head crest,

displaying two striking black stripes on a white breast, performing a catchy mating dance and following that with a song that sounds like a croaking frog. Just go online and enter (youtube videos of Hooded Merganser) and you can see the whole drama of their mating ritual.

Parting on a positive note the current population is holding its own and literature reviews indicate that the species is likely to expand its presence to more northerly areas due to climate change. The things that most encourage reproductive success are not filling in wetlands and not reducing nesting sites by removing dead trees next to waterways.

4 Kilometres Took 3 Hours

By Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly

My usual 45 minute, four kilometre walk around the loop in Little River took three hours on Saturday 17 January 2021. Why so long?

This time, I was pulling a wagon holding two milk crates and three garbage bags. The previous few walks around the loop were upsetting as I walked past so much garbage and beverage containers. Now, I planned to do something about it. I hadn't realized how much was there, so disturbing.

By the time I had completed the first kilometre, one crate, lined with a garbage bag, was full of garbage and the second crate was full of beverage containers. I tied off the full garbage bag, placed the milk crate on top of it and lashed it down to hold it in place and continued on my way. I soon found a large, heavy duty clear bag in the ditch so was able to continue to collect beverage containers while filling the second bag with garbage.

By the time I was nearing the 3 kilometre mark, in the wagon, I had two full bags of garbage, a crate overflowing with refundable

containers and I was carrying the large bag full of beverage containers and a partial bag of garbage. I was now hoping someone would help. And help came!

Along came Little River resident, David Gidney. Without hesitation, he piled everything I had into his truck. He offered to take the wagon and me, too, but I said I had to finish the job. And off I went, feeling much lighter!

I persisted to the Little River bridge, filling the last garbage bag and collecting another crate full of containers.



As I sorted through the pile dropped by the side of the house (amounting to three full garbage bags and \$5.80 in returnable containers), I was truly saddened. First of all, knowing what I collected is only half of what is on that 4 km loop as I only collected from one

side of the roads. Secondly, I spent more than thirty years working with the young people of our municipality from toddlers to high school age. A main focus all those years was the importance of caring for our natural environment. We all worked together to properly clean and dispose of recyclables, refundable containers, garbage and compost. It discourages me to think much of what I collected was discarded by some of the same young people with whom I worked. And more disturbing, 80% of the beverage containers were alcohol cans and bottles leading me to believe there is a high number of drivers with open alcohol in their vehicles.

Please, there is no excuse for tossing litter to the side of the road. We have programs that collect our refuse from our homes every two weeks. If you don't want to return your refundable containers to the depot, there are many volunteer organizations that are always happy to take them. Stop this polluting of our delicate natural environment.



Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association

You can help!

The Freeport Community Greenhouse Project is moving along quickly with the hope it will be ready for planting in Spring 2021.

In line with our association's mandate, the BofFDCA is an active supporter of this project as ecotourism involvement and sustainable communities are at the heart of our work. The greenhouse is important to current and future generations as our connection to a sustainable, natural and healthy environment is beneficial to everyone in our community.



Ann Schweitzer and Frank Palermo, two of the greenhouse driving forces inspect the progress on 10 March 2021. Photos by Roger Outhouse


Update submitted by Rick Wallace:

The Island Community Greenhouse (also known as "Ann's Community Solar Greenhouse", in honour of Ann Schweitzer) is moving along nicely. The materials are all here and Tim Crocker and Julie Crocker (along with Frank Palermo and Cliff Welch) have been putting up the walls and will be moving onto the roof and windows next week. The hope is to have the external shell done in the next week or so. Meanwhile, the Greenhouse Committee has and continues to hold meetings to design the interior space, confirm the lists of people and groups interested in growing, and planning on aspects of an outside community garden as well.

Financially, we still have the inside of the greenhouse to do including planting structures, tables, sinks, rain barrels and installations of fans. We have expected finishing costs (soil, ramp levelling walkway, electrical, etc) that will bring the final costs to approximately \$50,000. We are continuing to raise monies to ensure the greenhouse is physically accessible (ramp into the greenhouse, levelled driveway and walkway) and free for everyone to use including the soil, electrical, and seeds.

We are immensely grateful to everyone who has donated to the Greenhouse through the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre. Those donations to date have totaled \$6,650. Such amazing support from people within our communities. Thank you to everyone. Those monies have been absolutely essential to getting this project done. In total, the Greenhouse Project has raised \$44,650!!! We are committed to raising another \$5,000 to ensure the final project is finished without any debt. If you feel called to donate any sum of money (anything), you can still do that through the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre. All donations are warmly appreciated."


Donations can be made by sending a cheque made out to the **Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association** and please state on the memo line that it is for the **Freeport Greenhouse Project**. Please send your donation to The Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association, PO Box 66, Freeport, NS, B0V 1B0. E-transfers can also be sent to bayoffundycassoc@gmail.com. If donating by e-transfer, please ensure you include an address to which we can send a receipt.






ROPE RECYCLING BINS

A Pilot Program from the Collaborative Remediation of Abandoned, Lost, and Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in Southwest Nova Scotia

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

 **10 rope* recycling bins** have been installed at wharves in Lobster Fishing Areas 33, 34, & 35 (NS only)

 Collected rope will be **recycled*** into **synthetic diesel** at **Sustane Technologies**, in Chester, NS

Rope recycling bin

See reverse side for recycling bin locations & waste resource management facilities

MORE PROJECT INFO AVAILABLE ONLINE
www.coastalaction.org/ghost-gear

Rope only. No household waste, please.
 Restrictions may apply. Materials will be responsibly managed.

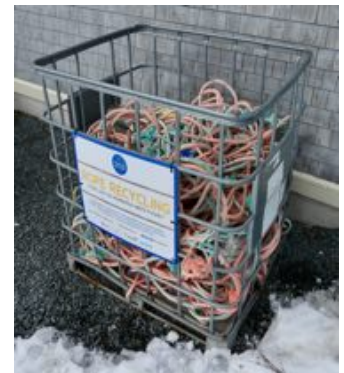
Questions? Email info@coastalaction.org
 @coastalaction

This project is possible thanks to the financial support of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Contribution Program (SFSRS/CSF).
 Project Partners: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Fishes et Océans Canada, Canada, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, Cime Association River Project, BRASS ROPES 3535, COASTWATER LOBBY ASSOCIATION

Rope Recycling Bins

To date, 11 bins have been installed 9 wharves as follows:

- LFA 33: Lunenburg Railway Wharf, Gunning Cove, Port La Tour
- LFA 34: Tiverton, Clark's Harbour (2), Wedgeport, Lower East Pubnico (2)
- LFA 35: Victoria Beach and Digby



Tribute to Our Fishing Communities:

In recent months several incidents have reminded us of the perils that face crews involved in the fisheries. The Freeport Baptist Church wants all of us to hold fishers in our thoughts and prayers. They are the lifeblood of our communities and their safe return is important to all of us.

As you pass by our church after dark you may notice that the bell tower has had red (port) and green (starboard) running lights added. These lights are to remind everyone that you are in our thoughts and our wish is that you navigate safely each day and reach a safe harbor at night.

Amazing Bird Life Around Freeport's Northeast Cove

By Roger Outhouse

I am writing this in hopes that some other readers throughout Digby Neck and the Islands might like to submit some of their monthly sightings and even photos of their sightings. It is remarkable to know what is in our area for viewing.

My sightings for February in the Northeast Cove include:

Mallard Ducks (male and female), Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal (male), Hooded Merganser (female), Common Merganser (male & female), Red-Breasted Mergansers (male & female), Common Golden-eye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Long-tailed Duck (male & female), Common Eider (male & female), Surf Scoter (male & female), Canada Geese, Double-crested Cormorant, Common Loon, Glaucous Gull (white second winter phase), Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Belted Kingfisher, American Crow, Northern Raven, Cardinal (male & female), Blue Jay, European Starling, American Goldfinch, Snow Bunting, Ring-necked pheasant (male & female), Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Flicker, Mourning Dove

Fundy Erratics Explore Dunn's Cove

By Jeff White

The rugged shorelines of Digby Neck are just that, rugged. This translates, in our eyes, to beauty; and many a beautiful creature - flora and fauna - reside on land and sea and shore in our area. In mid-January a small group of hikers set out to explore the woods and Fundy shore near a little cove the locals call Dunn's Cove. Thanks to Melissa Merritt for being our guide, and for opening to us the wild spaces where she and Adam live, and cut their wood, and wander.

Our trek took place on a wintry Saturday, beautiful with some fresh snow down and still more flurrying down. The tough woodlands of the Neck were lovely, and just a few birds were heard and seen along the journey. We made our way up the gentle rise of this tail end of the North Mountain. It is not common to find large hardwoods in these parts, as we know, but a few old Red Maples stood out. Not tall, but spreading wide, they have character, and a bit of a lichen carpet on their bark, as expected. This day, we did not see the somewhat secretive Blue Felt Lichen, though I did spy one on a later trek in some nearby swampy woods.

As we arrived along the coast, the wind was strong. We were dressed for it. 'No such thing as bad weather -

just bad clothing!' We buttoned up everything we could button and made our way above the rough basalt, avoiding the ice. Over the unlevel, grassy, snowy, shrubby coastal headland we trudged, with the spectacular waves and spray below us. Every season, and just about every stretch of our Fundy coast, is worth seeing, along our Neck and Islands. On the rough seas we spotted various sea birds, who seem to love this weather. Any winter day you might see Eiders, various Mergansers, Long-Tailed Ducks, and various Scoter species, to mention a few.



On our hike a few of the amazingly coloured Harlequin Ducks were spotted, just as we arrived at 'downtown Dunn's Cove.' We ducked into a little ravine sheltered with Spruce trees to take a break and have a snack. It was cold in that wind. But those who choose to hike on a windy winter's day are the type who have great joy and fun, whatever the weather.



From the Cove we made our way inland, back towards Melissa's house along the trails where Adam cuts firewood. The return to the calm of the woods was restful, as our good conversations continued. We felt fortunate that the last hills back down to the 217 were not too icy. No one fell and hurt themselves, we did well with our physical-distancing, and a good time was had by all.

Check out the local woods and coastline somewhere you've never been or in a season of the year you've never seen it. Ask a friend to show you a path on their land - and take that path. You will find joy and beauty.



Fundy Erratics Explore the Shoreline

By Anna-Marie MacKenzie Kelly

As the tide began to ebb, a small group of Fundy Erratics headed out along the St. Mary's Bay shore from Timpany Lane to Seawall on Digby Neck. The plan was to search for shore birds but there was so much more to see and enjoy on this mid-February day. It was a beautiful day with warm sunshine and a slight breeze.



The red cliffs were ornately decorated in glistening ice sculptures- natural works of art! I think we were observing the beauty of the cliffs rather than looking out to the bay for birds!



Greg Turner lugged out a scope and tripod that allowed us to get a closer look at the waterfowl swimming in the bay. Our sightings included surf scoters, white-winged scoters, common eiders and a pair of long-tailed ducks.

We also observed why, when walking below a cliff, one should be as far from the base of the cliff as the cliff is high. As the sun warmed the cliffs, we watched as chunks of soil and rocks fell to the sand below. At times, rocks landed not far from where we were

standing. Please keep this tip in mind.



It was a day when we could have walked for hours but we must always remember to get back before the tide rolls in!



From our Readers



Winter with snow on the ground was very brief on Digby Neck and Islands and there was no time to waste- two beautiful days of snowshoeing in Little River- sure wish there had been more!



Good Afternoon Roger and Staff of In with the Tide,

I wanted to take a minute to say I enjoyed reading In with the Tide. It gives me an opportunity to see how things are going on the islands. I was pleased to see the pictures of the Greenhouse construction.

When I first read about this project in my council package, I got very excited about it and for everyone involved in it. I think it's a great idea and I can't wait to see the finished product. I will venture down this summer to check it out.

For now, take care everyone.

Sincerely,

Matt Ross

Brier Island Trails Committee (BITC) Fundraisers submitted



Looking for a unique local gift? Nova Scotia artist Pat Shattuck's original watercolour painting of The Big Meadow Bog on Brier Island has been reproduced as an 11 cm x 14 cm (4 in x 5.5 in) notecard (see the photo below). Sold in bundles of three or five, it's an opportunity to support BITC and give a gift at the same time! This beautiful reproduction of The Big Meadow Bog comes with envelopes and would make a great gift. The notecard can be used as a greeting card or placed in a frame (not provided).

To purchase your bundle of three or five notecards, send an e-transfer to marielaurehansson@gmail.com, and **include your name and mailing address**. Once your e-transfer is received, BITC will mail your notecards through Canada Post. We'll mail the cards to your address, or to a Canadian or American address you provide.

The cost for a bundle of three notecards is \$15.00 CAD or \$15.00 USD, and a bundle of five notecards is \$25.00 CAD or \$25.00 USD. Price of three or five notecards includes the mailing cost. Send marielaurehansson@gmail.com your name and mailing address to complete your gift giving!

You can be part of building a beautiful nature trail through Big Meadow Bog on Brier Island

Brier Island Trails Committee (BITC) is fundraising to build 375 metres of The Big Meadow Bog Trail. Your financial support will help complete Phase Two, a 375-metre-long, wheelchair accessible boardwalk, in 2021!

For only 17 days, beginning Wednesday 10 March until Friday 26 March 2021, BITC will sell metres of the boardwalk at \$250.00 per metre.

When you buy a metre or more of boardwalk, your name/business will be listed on signage at the Trailhead as:

- GOLD donor: 5 or more metres
- SILVER donor: 2 - 4 metres
- BRONZE donor: 1 metre

Payment for a boardwalk metre is easy!

To donate and receive a tax receipt, place your donation through the NS Trails Federation website <http://nstrails.com/donate-now/>

In the pulldown menu on the NS Trails Federation website donation page, select Brier Island Trails Committee and complete the form. BITC will receive your donation, and you will receive a tax receipt from Canada Helps.

FUND

Brier Island Trails Committee ▼

Please be part of this fundraiser. Your donation will help build a unique local trail that offers recreational enjoyment and highlights Brier Island as an ecotourism destination.

Please visit our website www.brierislandtrails.ca or Facebook group Brier Island Trails Committee. Brier Island Trails Committee is a non-profit organization with Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock companies. For more information, please contact Steven Lombard at 902-839-2023 or slombard@dbkenneyfisheries.com.



Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association

Dear Members and Donors:

Well, as we all know, it has been an 'interesting' year. Despite the lockdowns across the nation and around the world, the communities along Digby Neck and Islands as well as most of Nova Scotia consider ourselves very lucky to be living here. With the most amazing summer weather, coastlines and wooded areas to explore and gardens to tend, so many were out and about rediscovering the beauty of our province.

On the Islands, the BofFDCA continues to work closely with the Brier Island Trails Committee (BITC) in their efforts on the Big Meadow Bog Trail. The Balancing Rock trail got a good clearing with more gravel spread and a beautiful patch of blue felt lichen (Nova Scotia's provincial lichen) was discovered on the trail! We participated in many meetings to discuss the expansion of open pen fish farms and we were pleased when the company withdrew their interest in working in Nova Scotia.

Sustainable Oceans Applied Research (SOAR) continued to work in the community including an interactive summer program, "Creature Features", and continuing work and research on the Grand Passage tidal power system. Do check out SOAR's FaceBook page to see all the exciting things they have been doing.

On the Neck, activities were much quieter but with the great weather, Lake Midway was a popular spot with many local families and Nova Scotians from around the province enjoying 'staycations'.

BofFDCA welcomed two new directors, Amanda Addington, currently working in land-based aquaculture in the Yukon and Hannah Charlton who recently completed a project with Clean Annapolis River (CARP) and has been working on our BofFDCA FaceBook page. Yes! We are now on social media.

It is once again the time to renew your membership to continue to support our association and the many activities we work on or support each year. The projects embarked on by the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association to maintain, protect and promote our natural environment are so important. Please take a few moments to send in your renewal and encourage others to join. We are also looking for fund raising activities so we can continue to do what we do best- promote our Bay of Fundy along Digby Neck and Islands. If you have a creative fundraising idea, please share with us!

The membership form can be found on the next page. Memberships can be sent in by mail or, we can now accept e-transfers to bayoffundydcassoc@gmail.com. Please put 'membership' in the memo line.

Our Fundy, Our Future

AGM: We are looking into setting up a ZOOM meeting near the end of April. With fingers crossed we hope we can figure out how! Anyone interested in helping out with the technology, give us a shout! We will post the date when it comes together.



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 Centre Association

PO Box 66
Freeport, NS
B0V 1B0

righthouse51@gmail.com



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.