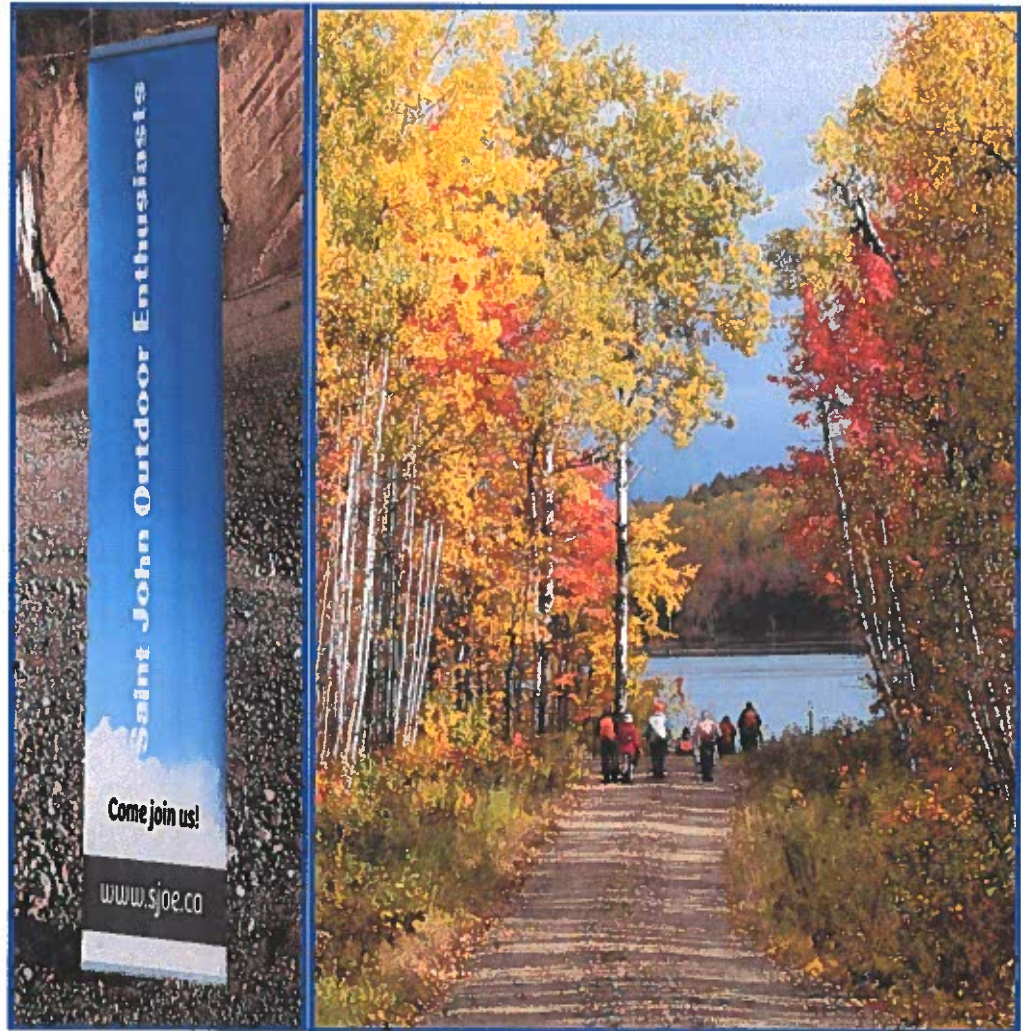




P.O. Box 691
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E2L 4B3
www.sjoe.ca

January, 2016

Newsletter



OF ALL THE PATHS YOU TAKE IN LIFE,
MAKE SURE A FEW OF THEM ARE DIRT.

~JOHN MUIR — PEAKS FOUNDATION~

Editorial

Welcome to all new and renewed members to the January 2016 newsletter covering events from July 2015 to December 2015. As the Club wrapped up yet another great year, we hope you enjoy this issue as we highlight each month and hear from one club member's memories of 2015 spent with the Outdoor Enthusiasts.

Highlights of Events:

July—Little Dam Falls

Mother Nature has really outdone herself. The view is spectacular whether looking at it from the top or climbing down to get view of the water cascading over the rocks.



August – Tweedle Dee Tweedle Dum Falls

This section of the Fundy Footpath, as challenging as it is, is the spectacular Tweedle Dee Tweedle Dum Falls found tucked back from the coast line. The weather was hot and a few wandered in the pool that surrounded the base of the falls to cool off.



September – Menzies Lake

Sometimes you wonder what kind of wild life you will see while hiking through the woods. On rare occasions, we even see moose. Little did we know we would actually see one in the form of a hunter's prize. I think we will call him Menzies Moose, RIP



October – Fundy Trail

We are so fortunate to have such a spectacular trail in our own backyard. It may be long but with its many panoramic views, we never get tired of it!



Editorial cont'd...

November – Rockwood Park

Most of us don't have to travel very far to enjoy Rockwood Park. It's such an amazing park located not far from the center of Saint John with miles of beautiful wooded trails and lakes. You can easily spend the day discovering its little hidden treasures like a shelter for a break or a cave to explore.



December – Gooseberry Cove

It's a little chilly at Gooseberry Cove this year but that doesn't stop the Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts from enjoying this little gem offered once or twice a year compliments of Peggy. We're always happy to be there!



DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR SJOE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016!

Mail the accompanying application or sign up at the AGM
See the form sent with this newsletter
or go to: www.sjoe.ca
to print one

\$10. Individual / \$15. Family

SJOE Activity Badges!

See the President at the AGM
or call Becky (693-2299)
if you'd like your first or additional, SJOE badge



Looking back at 2015

2015 will be remembered as the year of snow. I hope it will be years, if ever, before we have snow like that again. Please. We all love winter. It is a part of being Canadian. We are proud of how well we handle the ice and snow and look forward to snowshoeing, skiing, and finding some of the incredible ice formations in our area. But in 2015, snow was the gift that Mother Nature just kept on giving... and giving... and giving. By the end of the season, there was so much snow around my house that I could strap on my snowshoes, climb up onto the snow piles, and clean off my roof! A natural wonder that left us all wondering if it would ever end.



I was the leader for the Hidden Valley ice wall snowshoe last February, and on the Friday before we had a snow storm with more snow predicted for Saturday. The weather was so bad – ice, snow, slippery roads – only Donnie and Jerry were crazy enough to commit to do the snowshoe to the ice wall with me. They would meet me in Sussex, but I had to drive from Rothesay to meet them. I was concerned Parlee Brook Road would not be plowed in the morning, and I did not want to drive all the way to Sussex without a Plan B. After some discussion, I agreed to at least make the attempt in the morning, with the idea we would walk somewhere. Imagine my surprise when Donnie called me back later Friday night to assure me Parlee Brook Road was plowed – he drove out to check, storm still raging! After that kind of dedication, I had to go, treacherous road conditions or not! There were only the three of us, but light flurries and fluffy snow made it a memorable, if challenging, snowshoe.

Hiking with SJOE has become the core of recreational and social life for my husband (Gordon) and me, so I resolved to give back to the group by leading a hike a month. Being an event leader mostly involves organizing and keeping track of participants. 2015 proved memorable for me a few times. The joint hike with the Saint John Adventurers and the Fredericton Outdoor Enthusiasts proved especially challenging as we had thirty-six hikers between the three groups! That day I met Mae Arseneau for the first time, at the Comex Parking lot. She impressed me immediately as a lovely, energetic, and brave lady, especially as she was in training for her planned trip to Spain to walk the Camino. Someone I immediately wanted to learn more about. So imagine the look on my face when I realized I lost her. Before I left the Comex parking lot I gave directions to meet up in Sussex to SJOE members, and off we went. Leaders of the other two groups did the same. In Sussex, Trevor looked at me and said "Where is Mae?" "I don't know," I said, "She is with the Adventurers". "No", said Trevor, "she is with us". Oh... I had a very guilty thirty minutes thinking I had lost one of our members, but then a couple from the Adventurers found me and explained that Mae realized she had another commitment and had voluntarily turned back. Whew!

One of the challenges I faced as a leader in 2015 came from an unexpected source, very close to home. Whenever I have a hike scheduled I check out the best routes and parking and generally spend a lot of time on logistics, often making reconnaissance expeditions in the weeks leading up to a hike. This is probably overkill, but it gives me an excuse to get outdoors. I made a couple of trips checking out the best way to access Turtle Mountain, and even had Gordon come with me one evening to help with my final plan. We drove the new route, and I talked to him at length about how we would drive up to the next interchange and drive back so we would be on the right side of the highway to make the turn onto the access road with our vehicles. On the day of the hike, I busily organized carpooling from Saint John and we regrouped at Brundage Point, where I gave additional driving directions. We would leave the parking lot and head up the old highway to the

Looking back at 2015 Cont'd...

next interchange, and then turn back toward Westfield. This way we would be on the right side of the road to make the turn to Turtle Mountain. A bit of driving but everyone would be safe. Five cars set off, Gordon driving our car and everyone else following us. When we left Brundage Point, Gordon did not go on the old road. No, we turned onto Highway 7. "What are you doing?" I asked Gordon. He said "I'm going to the access road". But this isn't how I told people we were going! Oh, he said, I am just going to do a U-turn on the highway. So we did. Five cars... turned left... on the highway. We made it

safely, thankfully, but dear Gordon still hears about that one....at least I think he hears me...

One of our 2015 hikes included dinner and food for thought. It was intended to be a hike to Goose Creek followed by a potluck supper at the end of White Car Road. We had some new people join us, including Angela, and Angela's mom Anne. They had quite an introduction to our group. We didn't make it to Goose Creek before deciding we were running behind schedule. The steep climbs in and out of Rose Creek and Brandy Brook on the warm summer day left most of us feeling a little tired, and we wanted time to eat. Maybe that was the reason most of the group decided to take a GPS shortcut. Three people opted to stick to the original plan, but ten of us set off to follow the Jim Beam trail and rely on Jack's GPS to get us back to the cars. After all, it was only a kilometer from the end of the Jim Beam trail to where we were parked. We should have known better – one kilometer on a GPS is not one kilometer on the ground, especially along the Fundy Coast. We bushwhacked through two huge ravines – the same two ravines we were trying to avoid – without a trail to follow. We were so deep in the bush we woke up a moose bedded down for the day. While the people at the front worried about finding a way back to the cars, I was at the back trying to keep the group together. We knew where we needed to go, but the landscape kept getting in our way. Our short cut proved to be so excellent that the three people who opted to stick to the original plan made it back to our cars almost an hour before us. Oops...When Angela and Anne left that day, we wondered if we would ever see them again. But they joined anyway: for the adventure.

There was a lot of discussion about this hike afterward. My thought is this – we all love to explore new trails and most of us are up for a little adventure. "New" and "adventure" mean risk. We do try to use our good judgement, but every once in a while, we may find what seemed like a good idea doesn't work out as expected. When this happens, we just need to look out for each other, stick together, stay calm, and learn from our experience.

Sometimes a new route turns out to be great. I loved the hike to the Eye of the Needle this year – we went in August instead of September, and construction on the Fundy Trail Parkway meant we had to use the Dunstan Brook trail instead of our normal route. Water levels were low, water temperature was high, and a few people took the opportunity to go for a swim. Awesome. Twenty-eight participants to keep track of, but it was another excellent adventure with a group of great people.

I will never forget finding a young moose bedded down beside the trail to Loch Alva – all fifteen of us took pictures while the moose dolefully looked back. In September we had a photo op with another moose – and the hunters who bagged it – when we stopped for lunch at the water pumping station at East Branch. A truck and an ATV drove up, and the drivers ignored us and proceeded to head for the lake. Next thing we heard an outboard motor. Investigating, we found a small boat, loaded down with a moose, pulling into shore. One answer to the question "I got my moose. Now how do I get it home"?

Other memories of 2015 include: group camping in Fundy National Park, which featured hours of surprisingly comfortable hiking in the pouring rain and four river crossings. There was backcountry car camping on the White Car Road. Treego - although there were only eight of us, we had a blast! And who can forget hiking across frozen lakes so loaded with snow, liquid water was squeezed up through to sit in shallow pools on the top of the ice. (I was only a little scared.)

I really enjoyed hiking with SJOE in 2015 – and I hope you did too. Looking forward to sharing trails with you in 2016!

by Carol Lee Elliot

Upcoming Events

A week in Grand Manan. May 13-20th with plans to hike around the Island as well as around White Head Island and Ross Island. We will be hiking 15-20 km a day.

Some accommodations have been booked at the Surfside Motel and more are available. Call Ruth for more information @ 506-432-6462.

Possible hike in Newfoundland on the East Coast Trail in September. We plan to fly to St. John's, Newfoundland. The package includes cabin, 3 meals a day with transportation each day. We will be hiking 10-15 km a day.

More information to follow early April.



**SJOE
25th Anniversary
long sleeve
wicking shirts
are still available
for sale.**

**Sizes up to XL are
\$15.00**

**Sizes over XL are
\$17.00**

**Contact June at
847-4774
(evenings) to
place your order.**

**Some sizes are
limited so call
June as soon as
possible.**

SJOE **Annual General Meeting** **2016**

& Pot Luck Dinner



Friday, March 11, 2016
Bill McGuire Centre,
Renforth, N.B.

Expect Emails with Details

**The board is planning now,
and we hope to provide some good company,
good food, a bit of social time,
and oh yes, a business meeting too!**

See you there!

Ramblings by the President...



Hello Fellow Enthusiasts!

Your SJOE board and volunteers have kept busy in 2015 providing an activity almost every weekend throughout the year, plus several during the week. We continue to focus mostly on hikes, with a smattering of paddles or cycles and of course enjoyable social events too. Although snow has been sparse around here, lately, let's all get our snowshoes "shined up" for 2016!

For all of us, I offer thanks to all the organizers of the events, and the volunteers who keep the SJOE functioning with emails, newsletters, memberships and finances. Together, in 2015 they let us enjoy the outdoors all over southern N.B. and Maine, organized and supported two overnight camping/hiking trips, experienced a Tree Go site, and also, offered several social events including most recently, the Christmas Party. Their efforts help make SJOE and the outdoors very enticing!

The board has overseen a revamp of the SJOE web site – thanks to Jayne Brawn Vandenberghe who also designed new business cards and the SJOE banner you see in this issue. These items are used in self-promotion and in that regard, we have participated in two "wellness fairs" this year. As government agen-

cies in particular learn about us, they contact us or direct people to us as part of active community and healthy living initiatives. We will participate again in the January Warm Up to Winterfest Event. As President, I also respond to general queries from the public about once a week. We are now preparing for the AGM 2016 where we hope to see you, so stay tuned for pending announcements.

Finally, both the Fredericton and Moncton OE groups have reached out to us. Some of our members joined Art McFadden on a hike he organized last year and starting in 2016, some Moncton members hope to join our events on a more regular basis. They will also share their schedule with us - so let's see where else we may explore.

Whatever we do in 2016, may we do it outdoors, enthusiastically!

Becky Bourdage

