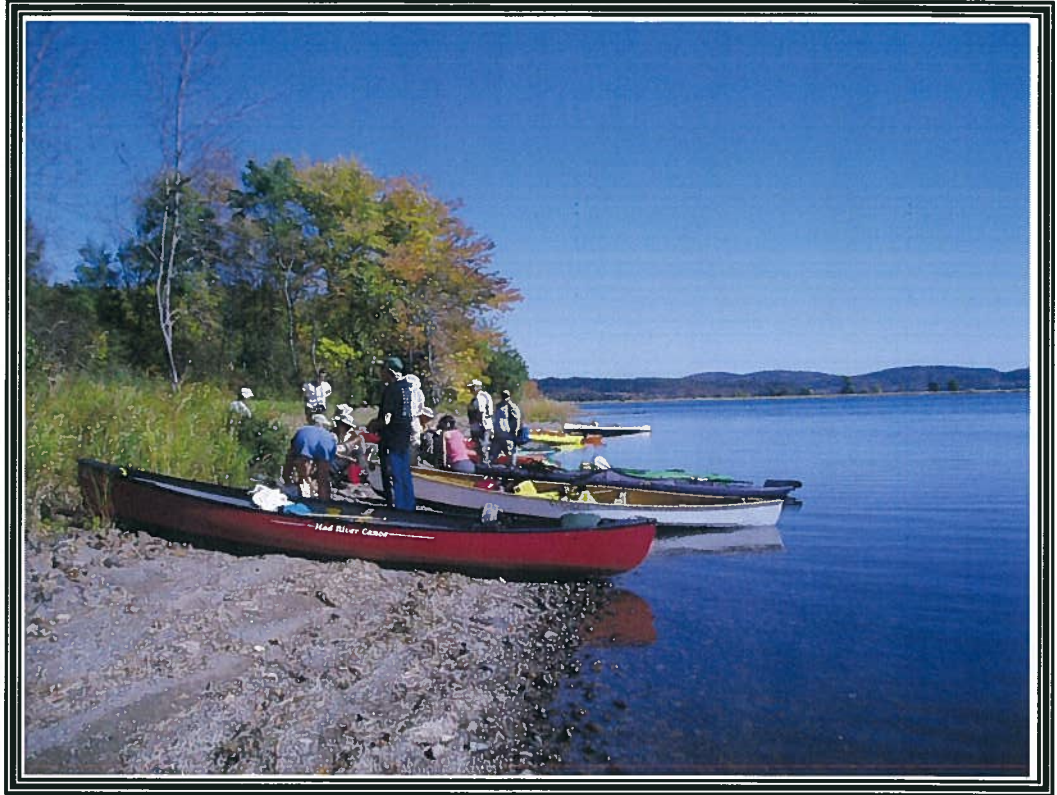


Apr-June 2012

NEWSLETTER



“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die discover that I had not lived.”

Henry David Thoreau

Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2012 newsletter as we say goodbye to a strange, but short winter that kept our snowshoes hidden away in the closet or at least were only used once or twice. Many events were cancelled due to the lack of snow, but icers became well used over the past few weeks.



The more memorable events we experienced were the hike led by Jack Saunders and Trevor Fotheringham from Rockville, Aitons Hill and Parlee Brook, or better known as the “Notes in the Snow” hike. Someone, who shall remain nameless, but Ruth knows him extremely well, doesn't she Donny, wrote “Wrong Way” in the snow with an arrow pointing in the opposite direction. As a result about a third of the group followed another trail for about 45 minutes until it was realized that the original trail was indeed correct. Our rendezvous with Jack was delayed by an 1.5 hours. However, it was all good fun and some of us achieved a longer hike as well.

Quite a crowd turned out for both the 10 km loop hike to Nice Lake on the Kingston Peninsula and Bill's icy hike to Fuller Falls— both were enjoyed by all.



I also have to mention the hike to Midland Ice Caves—a first for me—again, very icy conditions and treacherous in places. This was followed with a short hike to Redden Falls led by Jack Burnham. Again the conditions were less than favourable and the hike had to be terminated before we reached the falls as the terrain was very difficult, crossing the brook several times with fast-flowing water, loose or brittle icefloes and steep icy banks. Of course, team Don and Gerry, intrepidly continued along the trail reaching the falls, gloating with their pics on the SJOE Facebook page as a result. Good job guys!

Our most recent hike, led by Peggy McNaughton, to Gooseberry Cove has become a favourite with many of our regular hikers. Beautiful coastal scenery as well as woodland trails.

Tragically, we also lost our good friend, Michel Arseneau, who is greatly missed by all who came into contact with him. I have included Trevor's eulogy to Michel in this edition.

Pictures:

Top left—Waterfall behind Adairs Wilderness Lodge

Bottom left—Midland Ice Caves

Top Right—Rockwood Park

Editorial Continued...

2012 Annual General Meeting—

Date: Friday April 13, 2012
Place: Church of St. John and St. Clement (Mission Church)
815 Millidge Avenue, Saint John
Time: 6 p.m. (Pot luck Supper)
7 p.m. Directors Reports and Elections

For the meal, members are reminded to bring a favorite dish to share and the utensils to serve them. In addition, bring your own plates, cups, cutlery, etc.

If you have an issue that you wish to include on the agenda, or you are interested in becoming a member of the executive, please contact Phyllis Hart on 849-5408.

Memberships expire on March 31, if you have not renewed prior to that date, please complete the waiver/membership form and your fee to the meeting. A table will be set up to process applications prior to supper.

We also have a poster for the Wellness Movement/SJOE walk in Rockwood Park on April 21, 2012 being organized by Trevor Fotheringham—we are looking for member volunteers to assist on this event, so please let Trevor know if you are willing to help. Please print and post on your office and community notice boards in order to promote this event.

(Membership fees: \$10.00 single \$15.00 couple).

Additionally, we will be handing out the Event Log with all membership renewals.



Pictures:

Taken at McCree's Sugar Bush



New for 2012

Membership renewals for 2012-2013 will include an Event Log which will present a personal challenge for us all. For every 100 Km you hike, bike, paddle or ski on SJOE events only, you will receive a reward up to 500 Km. The Executive are in the process of deciding what the reward will be; possibly a ribbon, badge, pin or star. More details in the next newsletter.

A n SJOE brochure promoting the club is also in the final stages of production and should be available early in the New Year.

We also have a Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts group page on Facebook where you can post photographs and comments and share news with other members.

In addition to the Labour Day weekend Mt. Carleton campout, a four day hike along the 42 Km Fundy Footpath is being planned for the long weekend in August. More details will be published in the next newsletter.



Glenise Peck

Further Afield

Tramping in New Zealand

As some of you know, I spent most of February visiting my youngest stepson and his family in New Zealand. They live in Greytown which is about an hour's drive north of Wellington. While there I did manage to achieve 3 reasonably challenging hikes.



One was at the base of Mt. Holdsworth—a fairly steep 2.5 hour hike up to a platform overlooking the beautiful scenery of the Wairarapa valley, the second was another very steep trail at Coromandel Town. This took me about 3 hours to accomplish and consisted of many series of steps, both upward and downward as the trail meandered from one end of the town to the other through tropical bush. I recall it was a very hot day and I met several people totally unequipped for the terrain. The scenery, like anywhere in NZ, was stunning and there were several views overlooking the bay and harbour of the town.



The third hike, accompanied by Dave, my stepson, took us half way along the Rimutaka Rail Trail to the summit of the track, approximately 9 km each way that gradually inclined by 1 in 15 metres to the top, taking us through 3 railway tunnels up to where there used to be a small village for the railway workers and their families.



The trail was renovated from a rail route established in 1878 between the Hutt Valley and Featherston that carried passengers up the steep incline from the Rimutaka summit to Featherston until the opening of the Rimutaka rail tunnel in 1955. The innovative Fell mountain railway system pulled trains up the steep slope of the Rimutaka Incline using a centre rail and braking system on purpose built engines.



In Memory of Michel Arseneau

On behalf of the Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts I would like to express our condolences to his family and friends especially his wife Gerene. We all share the pain of this sad loss with you.

Michel was a close friend, a well-loved member of the Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts, with passionate interests in hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and paddling. A great companion when it came to these events. We enjoyed the crazy out-of-the-ordinary things he would do, all for a great photo, like balancing between two rock faces, or climbing a tree to get a better look and picture of a porcupine sitting up in an adjacent tree.



He gained fame in the winter months when we were out snowshoeing thru the woods. Michel would be tagging along on his skis. We called him our puppy dog, because of his habit of disappearing into the distance, either waiting for us to catch up with camera in hand, or amusing us with his animal calls or bird sounds, then returning back to the group. Always filled with enthusiasm and energy, he was so much fun.



Michel was constantly helpful, that well stocked roof rack contained everything he needed plus equipment to spare to lend to any person who needed it. Always keen to lend a hand when needed he once came to a members aid when her dogs got into some porcupines. He had the pliers to get the quills out and helped her son-in-law to remove them; this was an unpleasant task for both dog and man.



Everyone had fond memories of Michel. For example, how much he enjoyed a particular impromptu hike after visiting the Midland ice caves to see a beautiful waterfall. The trail was thick with lots of fallen snow. It was just an overwhelming sea of white snow sparkling in the big bright sun, which would leave anyone in awe.

Personally, I was looking forward to Michel teaching me how to cross country ski, we had made plans to start this endeavour, at Rockwood Park after the lakes had frozen and we had a decent amount of snow. He was known as a very patient teacher and I feel I have lost an opportunity to learn from one of the best.

Our group will always remember his smile and the great conversations we had with him. His face always lit up when anyone talked about the great outdoors. We all will miss that.

Michel, you will be greatly missed by all your friends, but never forgotten, you will always be with us, in our thoughts and memories, especially when we are following a trail or waterway that we have previously enjoyed with you.

Trevor Fotheringham

Future Events

Fundy Footpath—4 day hike Friday August 3 to Monday August 6, 2012

This is a challenging 42 Km hike that will involve backpacking, camping, water filtration and crossing tidal rivers. Please let Glenise know if you are interested in participating by June 15. We will be having a planning meeting sometime in July to organize the event and discuss how and what to pack.



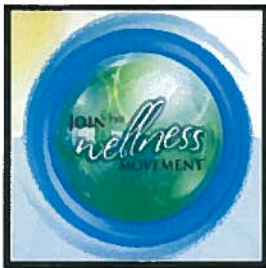
Labour Day Weekend Friday August 31 to Monday September 3, 2012

SJOE group campout and hiking Mt. Carleton, Mt. Bailey and Mt. Sagamook trails—Trevor Fotheringham will be leading these hikes. Be warned—these will be typical “Trevor Hikes” and certainly not for the faint-hearted! More details in the next issue.

Overnight Backpacking/ Camping

In order to prepare for the Fundy Footpath hike, a few members are planning some two day/one night backpacking hikes during the summer. If anyone wishes to join in, please let Glenise or June know so that we can include you on the trips.





The Saint John Outdoor
Enthusiasts
In support of the Wellness
Movement

Are pleased to announce
A public walk

To be held in

Rockwood Park
Saturday April 21, 2012