

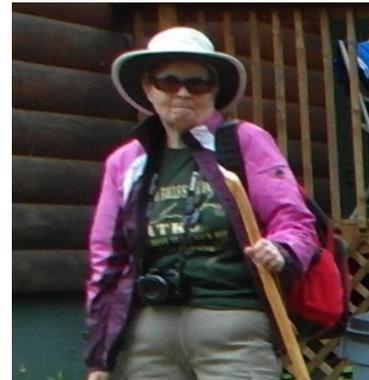
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January—June
 2014

Newsletter



25th Anniversary Edition



Whose Who

Top: Founder Members—Ross Francis, Martina Riordon, Virginia Cranke, William Cranke, Dorothy Francis, Art McFadden, Paulyne Lawton, Gloria McFadden.

Centre Left: Muriel Flood

Centre Right: Anne Chapman

History of SJOE

History of the Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts Club!

One day back in November 1988 Gary Bard from the Provincial Tourism, Recreation & Heritage Department met with Ross Francis of Scouts Canada in Saint John and they decided to explore the formation of a local outdoor enthusiasts club for the Saint John area. A letter was sent to existing organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and several local businesses that sold outdoor and sporting equipment. An ad was also placed in the local paper and a date was set for Monday, Nov 28th, 1988 at the old Saint John Regional Centre on the west side.

Alonzo Legere, the President of the greater Moncton Outdoor Enthusiasts Club was in attendance to share their Club's successful program and explain how such a club benefits the community. This meeting would set up a series of outdoor events over the coming months to determine future interest in a formal Club.

This first meeting turned out to be very successful with over 30 people in attendance. The group was joined in part by a small number of enthusiastic members of the former "Saint John Wilderness Hiking Club," who had recently disbanded when some of their key members moved away due to job commitments. I was one of those individuals who was transferred to PEI and had just returned to Saint John again with my job.

A letter was sent out following this inaugural meeting by Ross Francis for a second Planning Meeting on Dec 7th. The outcome of this meeting resulted in establishing our first outdoor hike at Rockwood Park on December 11th, 1988 to be followed by a Cross Country Ski Clinic on Jan 13, 1989 which I believe was at Rockwood Park also.

At a meeting in January 1989 the group established its' name to be "The Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts! An executive was elected and Ross Francis became our first President. Along with the usual Executive, an Events Committee was formed with me as Chair. A first Newsletter was published and mailed to all new members and interest groups.

A short while later Ross Francis, Bruce Chamberlain,

Roy McAlpine and I got together and developed our first Constitution and By-Laws document.

A year later on Nov 1989 we had 51 memberships, 90+ by June 1990 and by Jan 1991 we had 150 memberships. Not too many years later during my Presidency we had over 175 members.

Ross was President from 1989 – 1992 and Art McFadden held the position from 1992 – 1995. Dr Chris Nussbaum then took the Office for a few months in 1995-96. Lee DeLong took over from 1996 –1999 followed by Murray Goodman from 1999-2004. Glen Galbratih from 2004-2008 with Bonney Leblanc from 2008-2010. Then Henry Peiser held the reins from 2010-2011. Phyllis Hart became Pres from 2011 -2012. Currently Trevor Fotheringham has been President since 2012.

On a beautiful fall weekend in Sept 1989 the Club



held it's' first Annual Weekender at Camp Pascobac on Belleisle Bay with canoeing, hiking, softball, trivia games, pancake breakfast and wonderful campfires.

Other events held over the years included Winter Camping, Caving, First Aid, CPR, Canoeing & Life-saving Courses followed by wonderful flat water and white water canoe trips on the many rivers, streams and lakes in NB.

It is said the purpose of our Club is to foster courage, friendship, leadership while gaining skills and experience in looking after ones' self and others on Club outings. As a result, several Club members have

gone on memorable events on their own: Phyllis Hart solo hiked the Dobson Hiking Trail. Don Kredl and Peter Flemming each solo hiked the Appalachian Trail. Martina Riordon survived a white water canoe trip in remote BC.



Kenduskaeg River (April 18, 1992)

Jack & Lois Thompson, Ivon & Bonnie LeBlanc, Wayne & Sonia Arrowsmith & Art McFadden felt the wrath and sudden shock of lightning on top of Mt Katahdin. Steve Adamson & son Johnathan climbed Mt Everest. Back in the early '90s Ross Francis & Evan Young, Lawrence Galbraith & Art McFadden participated in the Annual Kenduskaeg River Canoe Races in Bangor, Maine.



Baxter Peak Before the Lightning (Sept 1997)

Others have gone on Club adventures as a group: Judy & Rod Gillis led yearly trips to Denmark, Holland, England & Wales, and one from Austria to Vienna. Trevor Fotheringham lead a trip along the Cleveland Way in England last year and just returned from a solo trip from France to Spain on the Camino de Santiago.

Ada McNamara won a Hall of Fame Award for Dragon Boat Fundraising & walked for Alzheimers in Ireland. Carol Ring broke her shoulder when she fell cycling. Dr Ed Doherty was rescued by club members from an overturned kayak on the Digdeguash River.

When I look back over the 25 years as a Club, I am sure we all feel a personal sense of loss for the passing of former members: Gordon Pitt, Betty Dearman, Gary Moore, Al MacDougall, Michel O. Arseneau, Gary Mittleholtz, Renee Arseneault, Dr Harry Flood, Dr Jack Thompson, Gary Long, and most recently, Martina Riordon. They were all great friends and contributed a lot to the success of our Club. We pay special tribute to the memories of these great past members. They are missed. If I missed acknowledging anyone, I sincerely apologize.

In summary I wish to sincerely thank all those members who have given of their time and expertise over the years to organize, co-ordinate and lead the many hundreds of events the Club has put forth since its' inception. You are to be applauded and congratulated for your dedication to this great and wonderful Club. With great co-ordinated teamwork our Club should continue for years into the future.

I wish to wholeheartedly thank all Members of The Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts for all their assistance, dedication, co-operation and hard work that I and others have received from All Club Members over the past 25 years. This is what makes our Club a SUCCESS!

If I have some of the event dates incorrect I apologize as a lot was done from memory and old records and photos. As I close I leave you with a favorite comment from our dear friend and TV personality Roy Rogers: **“Happy Trails To You ... Till We Meet Again”.**

Art McFadden



The Founders...

Ross Francis (First President)

Some of my fondest memories ... Hiking the Fundy trail - this was before the trail existed so we bushwhacked by map and compass from Fundy Park to Salmon River. We watched in amazement when one of the group (unnamed) drank a cold can of peas! You can probably still find our route as some of the group were carrying the blue ensolite pads and they were shredded by the end of the trip!

Paddling the Kenduskeag Stream canoe race (Maine) where my partner (unnamed) simply instructed me to "run them over" when canoes upset in front of us.

Building Quinzees and winter camping in Fundy Park. Our record was nine adults sleeping overnight in a quinzee, I thought it was going to melt! Quinzee's are normally very quiet but they weren't that night as we had quite a snorer with us (unnamed).

Climbing to the top of Katahdin and crossing the Knife's



Edge where one foot was on one side of the mountain and the other was on the other side with a drop of hundreds of feet on either side!

Canoeing the Allagash Wilderness waterway (Maine) where one of our group (unnamed) slept through a float plane landing right in front of our site and never heard a thing! In fact he didn't believe it had happened until we showed him the pictures!

Successfully running MacDougal Falls on the Magaguadavic River in the spring! I must admit that this was not by design but due to an error in map reading as my partner (unnamed) claimed "Oh no this can't be the big falls, we haven't gone that far yet!"

Canoeing the St. Croix in the spring. Some great runs and a few upsets (again unnamed). Lots of portaging as we ran

Little Falls again and again, seems to me we did it thirteen times one day!

Hiking parts of the AT (Appalachian Trail) and meeting the thru hikers coming north from Georgia. Everyone had a trail name Too tired, Red gear, Espresso kid, Market man, Kidney stone kid.

Canoe Days hosted by Gary Long (who has sadly passed away) Picture with over 40 people. Gary is on the far right with the white t-shirt and white hat. Our son Michael was just one year old but he was coming on some of the events at that point. You'll see him in my arms and Dorothy is on my left.

Lots of hikes in Fundy Park, in fact we did the entire circuit (56kms) in two days at one point!

We had some great social events as well, Camp Pascobac, corn boils and sleigh rides at Angus and Reta's on the peninsula, paddling on the Saint John river from Ada McNamara's farm and Christmas pot lucks hosted by various members.

Our New Year's day paddles and chilli were always fun and led to a challenge to see if we could paddle at least once per month every month of the year. We surpassed that by many months!

I was always amazed that it really didn't matter what you did for a living, what gear you had or didn't have or how old you were, just the fact that you had a passion for the outdoors was enough and everyone was made to feel welcome!

As you can see we had some great times and formed great friendships.

I'm so pleased that the club continues to provide these opportunities and really look forward to seeing our old friends and meeting more "like-minded" Outdoor Enthusiasts!



The Founders...

Paulyne Lawton



Dear Outdoor Enthusiasts:

I wish to thank the Executive and Members for granting me a "Lifetime" Membership in the Club. I certainly consider it an honour.

This club, since its inception, has fulfilled its "reason to be" of putting people who like to do like things, in touch with one another, and then to enjoy not only the event but new friends.

May your personal achievements bring you happiness. Stay "Enthusiastic", Spring is near!

Thank you again, and kindest regards to all.

Sincerely,

Paulyne Lawton

Anne Chapman

I remember Frank Cleveland led an event on orienteering in Rockwood Park on ski hill. It was foggy and the only other person I can remember in attendance was Lynn Barber. Frank didn't think much of our skills with compass and the event didn't last long, however, I had a great time.

I remember taking my down sleeping bag, which was too hot for the event and I also remember going on a canoe ride where I sat in the middle, feeling like the Queen of Sheba, with my two trusty paddlers, one of whom, I think was Ross Francis.

Another time we went on a hike to Lavery or Moosehorne Falls and they had removed the cable across the river, so a guy stood on a rock in the river and helped us across by extending his hiking stick. On the way back, I slid down the muddy bank and Ross Francis told me later that I couldn't sit with my muddy pants on his car seat, so he gave me towel to put underneath my bottom.

I still have a ball cap with an Enthusiasts patch, which all original committee members received.



The Founders...

Virginia & William Canke

What fond memories William and I cherish with this club.

As new residents of Canada, and very new residents of New Brunswick, we were very fortunate to meet Ross Francis in the 'Scout Shop' in 1989, while purchasing some outdoor gear. An invitation to join the new Outdoor Club he was starting up, was a very exciting prospect for us as so little was known about our new country and we had no family in Canada.



The club quickly became an extended family to us and our 2 sons, Andrew aged 13 and Steven aged 14, who also enjoyed the adventurous hikes, weekend campouts and canoeing on many occasions. It helped us get to know and explore many areas we would never have found on our own and develop our love of the outdoors even more.

The one adventure that sticks in our minds was the weekend hike in Fundy National Park to Goose River. We were to carry all sleeping gear, food and water in, and camp for the weekend.

We purchased proper hiking backpacks to carry all our tents, sleeping bags, and gear. It was the first time to hike under such a load, so we struggled along with the others in our group, on a hot summer afternoon. Relieved to arrive at last, we set up camp, each choosing their spot on a small beach area.

During the night, in came the Fundy tide! Some unlucky campers awoke to find themselves in a wet cold pool. Tents were quickly dragged up to higher ground and we had a good laugh over a cold breakfast as no campfires were permitted due to the high fire hazard. Breakfast was not even completed when the park ranger arrived. Please could we vacate as soon as possible! There was a grass fire nearby and we were in danger of being cut off!

So down came the tents, packed up all the gear, food, and water and we hurried back on the trail with our packs just as heavy as when we walked in!! So much for our weekend at Goose River!

A year after the start of the club, William took up a job in Fredericton. The club events were a bit more difficult to attend due to the increased distance, but we have remained members even when we moved away from New Brunswick for work on several occasions.



Friendships still remain with many of the longtime members and we are very honored to receive honorary memberships during this 25th anniversary year. Thank you, one and all, for the part you have played in keeping this club going. Keep up the good work!

The Founders...

Martina Riordon

It seems like such a short time ago, actually the Fall of 1988, when a group of eighteen or so one evening sat around at the DVA Hospital in West Saint John, discussing the possibility of creating some type of organization which would facilitate individuals getting together to share and enjoy the outdoors. I will not forget the evening. There was such excitement, enthusiasm and energy. Everyone was onboard! The Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts Club was formed. It was the beginning of many memorable times.

The Club has been everything I ever hoped it to be and



much more. Indeed, it exceeded my expectations. How gratifying that it is still active.

What I particularly liked about the organization was its simplicity. Its main objective was to have like-minded people come together to share their interests with others in enjoying and preserving our natural environment, the outdoors. It was for people of all ages, of all abilities, of all skill levels, participating in a diversity of activities. I know that this objective has been met and I believe continues to be attained.

What has the Club meant for me?

Fun, new friends, new experiences, learning opportunities, self-development, exploring primarily south western New Brunswick but also various parts of our province, of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Maine and Europe.

Walking, hiking, rappelling, kayaking, canoeing, cycling, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, spelunking, camping, dragon-boar racing, touring geological sites, erecting quincys, horse-back riding, ex-

ploring waterfalls, geocaching, maintaining and upgrading trails, savouring sunrise breakfast, mountain climbing, touring maple-syrup operations, attending meetings, swimming, visiting dairy, wild boar and elk farms, exploring cranberry bogs, back-packing, skating, pool playing, bowling, curling, participating in courses and workshops, enjoying mountain top pot-luck suppers, coordinating events, bringing in the New Year, attending film festivals, embracing Earth Day, participating in marshmallow roasts and sing-songs, attending Christmas parties, welcoming the summer and winter solstice, relishing corn-boils, competing in the Wilderness Adventure Challenges, feasting on local cuisine etc.

Most Memorable and Exhilarating Experiences

Crawling across parts of the Knife Edge on Mt. Katahdin. Oh, Baxter's Peak was so welcomed! Returned on a much more accommodating trail.

Rappelling Bald Peak at Welsford. Never was I so anxious as when I backed off the cliff. However, awesome!

Assisting with the building of a quincy at Fundy National Park. It was extreme sub-zero weather. When spending the night with seven others or more in our newly constructed abode, it soon became too warm. What a night!

Floating in the Salmon River. Following an exhausting hike in back of Sussex and having spent the last two hours or so of the long day searching for one of our party, thus causing a late departure, it was decided to take the short-cut home. Yes, the short-cut! It meant driving on rugged dirt roads many miles to the East side of the river. We needed to be on the West side. This was before the bridge was installed. Fording was in order! Waters were high. However, it was determined that it would be safe to cross with our vehicles – trucks and sport utilities. To turn back would have been another several hours to home, taking the short-cut – the river, a little better than an hour. So we thought!

There were about six vehicles in total. One of the first to cross became stuck approximately fifty feet from the bank of the West side. Low and behold, it was pulled out even if one of our members did have to wade into the icy river waters, hip-deep to attach the tow rope. Thanks to our emergency doctor, he was fearless and got the job done! Vehicle rescued!

The Founders...

An aside: All vehicles were male driven and male owned except one which was female driven and female owned. Guess which vehicle was the only one with towing and survival equipment!

Back to fording the river. Another truck went across and took in water. The floor was damaged and later needed attention.

The Sunday evening was drawing on. All vehicles were now successfully on the West side except one – yours truly. I was driving a 4x4 Blazer. Because of this, it was decided that I would cross last just in case a vehicle would need a tow from the East side, not necessary. By now the river bed had been rendered almost impassable. I cautiously proceeded into the river and was about three-quarters of the way. The Blazer lost traction. Yes, we (another member and I) started floating towards the Bay of Fundy. NO TRACTION. We were in water up to the headlights. What a feeling! My passenger was not a happy camper and clearly, loudly and colourfully expressed her sentiments. Finally the tires took hold. The car was re-headed toward the West side gradually arriving safely, however, to a take-out point considerably more south than where the other arrived. What a thrill! There was no time to be nervous.

With a sigh of relief and the evening closing in, there was no local cuisine that night. All headed home thanking their lucky stars. What a short-cut! (I do believe my passenger kissed the ground).

enjoyed many, many outings, made dozens of new friends and cherished the learning opportunities. Several members became mentors.

Before retirement it was not uncommon to be asked by a colleague “What are your plans for the weekend?” I was quick to respond “I’ll be off for my therapy – that is, to the outdoors with friends.”

It is a club in which individuals can enjoy the outdoors, appreciate nature and help in preserving our environment. It enhances physical, mental and spiritual well-being. The Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts is a welcome reprieve from our hectic society, a good wholesome organization which brings enjoyment and pleasure to many. May it thrive!

I take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for becoming involved with the Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts. It is because of each of you that we have had such a successful twenty-five plus great years. Special thanks to the board members, the executive members, the event leaders and co-ordinators and to all of you who have assumed positions of responsibility over the years. Your dedication, commitment, willingness to give of your time and knowledge and sharing of skills is heart-warming. It is very much appreciated. I know I speak not only for myself but for many.



Martina Riordon—4th from the left

Martina Riordon, 1948 - 2014

Editorial

Welcome to all new and renewed members to the July 2014 newsletter covering events from January 2014 to June 2014. This is a milestone year marking the Club's 25th year. We hope you enjoy this issue as we travel back in time and forward to the current day.

Highlight of Events:

Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party was yet another success filled with games, prizes, food and dance. Thank you to Trevor and Glenise for making this happen

January – Hidden Valley

This is a yearly event that never disappoints and this year was no exception. A beautiful trek through a flurry of snow and following the frozen stream to the amphitheater of ice walls.



February – Minister's Face

The hike began with a hike across the river to Minister's Face covered in frozen water fall. We then make our way to the top of the cliff with a spectacular view of the Kennebecasis River and Valley.

March – Midland Ice Caves



This is a must see. You never now what you're going to get. A phenomena of frozen water that forms over a ledge with an opening to an ice cave explored by all who visit.

April – Sussex Bluff

An exciting walk across the Sussex Bluff that extends to many different lookouts with a spectacular view of the farm lands as far as the eye can see.



May – Paddle from Sussex to Bloomfield

The paddlers kicks off the season on a warm sunny day led by Chris Kennedy as he leads them from Sussex to Bloomfield.

June – Maintenance on the White Car Trail

The Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts have adopted a section of the Fundy Foot Path called the White Car Trail as the group set out to clear and mark a portion that was re-routed and to set up a bear rope and pulley system.



Editorial

Pancake Breakfast

The annual McCrea's Pancake Breakfast and Sugar Bush Tour was very well attended and enjoyed, especially rolling up maple candy on the snow, Mmmm!



Walk for Wild Life

A few members gathered this year for the Walk for Wild Life held at the Little River Reservoir. There were ducks and evidence of beavers having worked hard over the winter.



Rothsay Hills

Several hikers gather on Tuesday evenings to improve their cardio and the usual socializing that is always enjoyed, as well as the views that Rothsay has to offer.



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

**Sizes up to XL are
\$15.00
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\$17.00**

**Contact June at
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place your order.**

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

Ramblings by the President...



Like most members of the Saint John Outdoor Enthusiasts, I am filled with mixed emotions.

My own journeys earlier this year, which included the completion of the 800 km Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, proved to be exciting and inspirational. I have many happy memories of special moments that I am looking forward to sharing with you in a presentation of my adventure on September 12, 2014.

The 25th Anniversary Social was an overwhelming success. We shared fantastic memories and awarded Life Memberships to the Founding members. I would like to personally thank June, Glenise and Art for all their great work and dedication in organizing this event.

I am deeply saddened by the tragic accidental death of Martina Riordon, one of our founding members. Martina, along with all the other founding members were sincerely appreciative to be honoured during the 25th Anniversary celebration. I, along with many of you, cherished the close friendship we had with Martina. She will be greatly missed.

We can look forward to many exciting events this summer, thanks to a very successful Events Planning Meeting with input from new and experienced leaders. As we pride ourselves on being an easy-going and fun loving group, it takes a lot of work and responsibility to plan and lead events. Don't forget to show your appreciation to these dedicated volunteers after enjoying an event.



See you on the Trails...

Trevor Fotheringham



In Our Next Issue...

Watch for stories from our members who have hiked abroad!