



Black Rock Community Trail

There is an extensive, well-planned and scenic trail system in the community of Black Rock, Kings County, on the Bay of Fundy shore. Beginning and ending at the Black Rock Culture and Recreation Hall (not the Black Rock Community Centre up the road), the trail system winds through several kilometres of woodlands, woods roads and shoreline (the shoreline section is passable only within 3 hours of low tide). The different trails are marked with colour-coded signs affixed to trees and are quite noticeable, but it might be helpful to download the trail map before you set out on your hike. Find the map here:

<http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/trails/blckrock.htm>

It is important to note that the Yellow Trail is now closed to hikers. The trail developers have done a fine job of labelling some of the flora found on the trail close to the Hall, and new bridges have been installed over brooks.

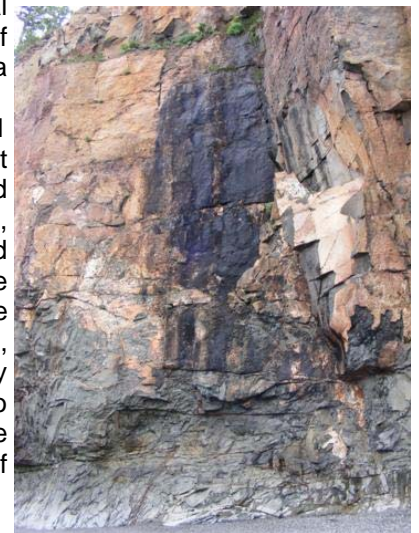
Our group hiked this trail system on June 28th. Leaving the Hall at 11:00AM to follow the Orange/Blue/Yellow trail overlap down to Murray Brook, we emerged onto the Fundy shoreline and Blue Trail to make the journey west to Canada Creek. Low tide was at approximately 11:00AM, so we had lots of time to explore the shore as we moved along; *if you time this wrong, there is no bank to climb up to escape the tide and return to the cliff tops, and you could end up wet or sitting on a pile of rocks for several hours.* Heed the warning signs that are posted. Roughly halfway along the shoreline portion of the Blue trail, we were greeted by a very agitated, noisy bird of prey that flew back and forth along the top of the cliffs and occasionally stopped to perch and observe. It turned out to be a Peregrine Falcon, and it was obviously nesting in that area and not too pleased to see us. We carried on our way, and when we had most of the shoreline behind us and knew we would beat the tide, we stopped for a lunch break.



We finally reached the wharf at Canada Creek and made our way uphill to the Wall Street portion of the trail. We walked along this dirt road for quite a ways, and re-entered the woods for the final leg of the hike. At 2:30ish, we all re-emerged at the Hall - the hike took us 3.5 hours, including a good break. This is a good local example of a stacked loop trail, where visitors can choose from several loops of varying length and terrain. I'm not sure how much visitor traffic it receives, but it's a great walk this time of year, and would be nice to snowshoe during the winter months.



To find this place, follow Highway 1 west from Kentville to Waterville; just past the young offenders facility and Waterville and District Fire Department, veer right to "downtown" Waterville and stop at the stop sign across from the Post Office. Proceed ahead and take the next right; go north through Grafton, cross the 101 overpass, cross Highway 221, and proceed straight up the hill to Black Rock. The Black Rock Culture and Recreation Hall is on the right. If you reach the wharf, you've missed it.





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Homegrown Trivia

1. Who wrote the epic poem "Evangeline"?
2. Isle Haute is home to how many different species of spider?
3. The earliest recorded mention of domestic sheep in Canada involves what South Shore island?
4. When was the first electric street light in use in Nova Scotia?
5. Who was the first Premier of the Province of Nova Scotia?
6. The Bay of Fundy area, southwest Nova Scotia, northern Cape Breton Island and the Gulf of St. Lawrence have all experienced tsunamis. True or False?

(Answers at bottom of page)

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- There will be some changes coming to the website soon. As Scotian Hiker is meant to be a commercial venture as well as a portal to outdoor adventure in NS, there will be goods and services for sale.
- If you have any trail tips or suggestions, or photos you'd like to share, feel free to submit them by email and I will post them on the website!



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FYI

- There's a new blog about Baxter's Harbour in Kings County, over on the Fundy shore:
<http://baxtersharbour.blogspot.com>
- Scotian Hiker's next group excursion is this Saturday, July 11 - CAVE CRAWL!. Visit:
<http://www.scotianhiker.com/events.htm>
- Explore historic and ghostly Wolfville NS
<http://www.wolfvillewalkingtours.com/>

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-John Muir

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Woodville Hiking Trail

The community of Woodville, Kings County has also developed a hiking trail: <http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/trails/woodville.htm>



To find this trail, travel west for 10 kms from Kentville on Highway 1, and turn right at the flashing light just past Central Kings high school. Go north for a few kms until you reach a stop sign; turn left here, and soon make a sharp right turn at a bend in the road. Proceed to the next stop sign at the intersection in Woodville. Go straight ahead for another km or so, then make a left-hand turn, then a quick right turn. Park at the top of this road, above a roof truss shop. Trailhead is here.

Cougars in Nova Scotia

The presence of these large cats in Nova Scotia has been hard to prove, despite the increasing number of sightings and reports made by a variety of people from one end of the province to the other. Here's a link to an article from April 2007, in which a cougar, or eastern panther, was spotted by the side of a highway in Shelburne County: <http://www.novanewsnow.com/article-93444-Cougar-sighted-in-Shelburne-County.html> Also, another link to a more recent story, also in Shelburne County: <http://www.novanewsnow.com/article-339108-Countrys-full-of-cougars-says-Shelburne-County-man.html> Other reports come from Cape Breton and Hants County, and elsewhere in the province. Assuming that these big felines are out there in our woods, and can easily travel long distances in search of food, I would suggest that hikers - especially solo hikers - carry a sturdy walking stick or a knife when in the wilderness. No need for alarm; attacks on humans are rare in general, with zero cases in NS. These are beautiful, elusive creatures that try to avoid us, but as with bears, they are worthy of our respect and it makes sense to take precautions when we are out in their element, and we are bumped down a notch or two on the food chain.

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