



Gaspereau River Hike, June 13 2009

The day started out gloomy and overcast as our enthusiastic group of 12 set out on a hike along a section of the Gaspereau River. Meeting up in Greenwich, we parked a few vehicles at the Deep Hollow bridge in White Rock (our exit point) for later transportation, then carpoled 8 kms to the eastern end of Sunken Lake - the beginning of our intended route. Walking through the wet, tall grass growing in the ATV path, my worn-out, ratty sneakers were soaked before we hiked the first kilometre; this didn't bother me much as I knew we would be wading across the river at some point. After 15 minutes, we made the turn into the woods (marked by orange trail tape) onto a side trail that brought us to Little River Falls in short order. From here, we followed the trickling Little River a short distance to where it flows into the Gaspereau River, then began our journey downstream back to White Rock.

The river was full of granite boulders and rocks, but the water levels were not excessively high despite the recent rain. This turned out to be a blessing, because the river valley soon became steep-sided; when one bank became too steep to continue along safely, we were forced to wade across the river to the level walking space on the other side. Ultimately, we crossed the river six times (if I recall correctly) and trailblazed for six and a half hours through old-growth trees and tall grass, over moss-covered rocks, up and down slippery banks, around a sloping, sheer rock face, and through the water, before we picked up the actual, long-established walking trail on the north side of the river, an hour and a half upstream from the Deep Hollow bridge. At one point earlier in the hike, we stopped for lunch on an island which had seen at least one campfire and probably more. Several bald eagles perched and flew high above in the treetops, observing us just as much as we watched them. The rugged riverbank was littered with fish scales leftover from eagles' meals, as well as eagle feathers. Flora included moss, lichen, jack-in-the-pulpit, lady's slipper, and violets. Wildlife included eagles, big slugs, and bigger water spiders!



The clouds finally dispersed and the sun shone through, as we doggedly made our way around bend after bend in the winding river. The sunlight filtering through the trees made for some excellent photography; *I intend to walk this route again in Autumn when the leaves are changing colour as it will be an extraordinary photo opportunity.* At last, after 8 hours of hiking (longer than I expected) and 10+ kms, we emerged at the Deep Hollow bridge, tired and with a few back and knee issues (I'm speaking for myself) - and only one tick reported! Many thanks to my fellow adventurers for taking part in this event! :)



If you want to hike this route yourself, take Deep Hollow Road from Highway 1 in Greenwich, Kings Co., south to White Rock. Proceed straight through the intersection, cross the Deep Hollow bridge, proceed uphill and then right on Lower Sunken Lake Road. Travel for 7kms, until you see water on your left; you'll find a woods road on your right. Pull in here about 100 feet and you'll see an ATV path on the right. Park here (but don't block car or ATV traffic) and walk down the grassy ATV path west 20 mins to the bridge over Little River. Follow Little River downstream to where it meets the Gaspereau, then follow the Gaspereau downstream.



Scotian Hiker

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Homegrown Trivia

1. What Connecticut-born, Nova Scotian historical figure from the 1700s is possibly best known for the extensive, detailed diary he kept?
2. What are you likely to find if you wander the shoreline at Joggins?
3. Excluding St. Paul Island, what is the northernmost point of land in Nova Scotia?
4. What piece of legislation protects palaeontological, historical and archaeological sites and remains here in NS?
5. What prominent actor started out working for a radio station in Bridgewater at age 14?

(Answers at bottom of page)


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- I've decided to stop updating my Wordpress blog due to time constraints and redundancy, and merge my typical blog entries with this newsletter.
- If you would like to see more photos that accompany the articles in this newsletter, they are available on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/scotianhiker> - join up and add Scotian Hiker as a friend!



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FYI

- There's a new blog about Baxter's Harbour in Kings County, over on the Fundy shore: baxtersharbour.blogspot.com
- Scotian Hiker's next group excursion is this Saturday, June 20th to Amethyst Cove. Visit: www.scotianhiker.com/events.htm
- Explore Oak Island Days, June 19 - 21 2009 <http://www.oakislandsociety.ca/>

Outdoorosophy

"We don't stop hiking because we grow old; we grow old because we stop hiking."

- Finis Mitchell

Wave goodbye to stress.



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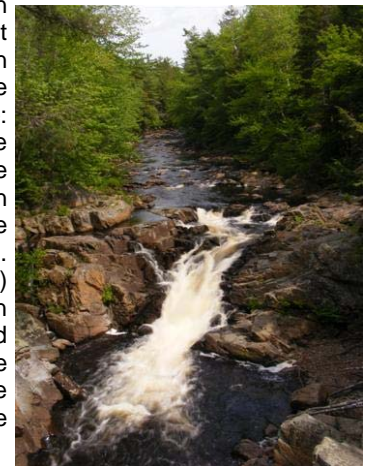
Annapolis Valley Shooting Sports Club Open House & Shooting Fair 2009

While it began as a rainy day, Saturday June 6th dried out enough for an enjoyable, successful shooting fair at the AVSSC in Canaan, Kings Co. Visitors could try out a good variety of weapons, including shotgun, handgun, bow & arrow, and rifle. It was a great, noisy time - literally, fun for all ages - in a supervised, safe environment. It's an annual thing, so look for it again next year. Visit <http://www.avssc.ca> for more information.



Douglas Road Falls

This pretty cascade is hidden away down a nondescript country lane in South Rawdon, Hants County. It was shown to me by a good friend of mine who hadn't been to it in years, so we decided to make an afternoon jaunt in to see it. This is yet another spot I intend to return to when the leaves are changing colour! To get here: from the Petro-Can service station in Brooklyn, drive exactly 18 kms west on Highway 14 and veer off to the right onto Douglas Road. Follow this rough (several ruts) dirt road for 4 kms, down around a bend to the right and stop at a metal one-lane bridge (spongy surface!). The falls are right there below the bridge, on the Herbert River.



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