



## Amethyst Cove

**Amethyst Cove is one of those places** that is often mentioned, but few people seem to really know how to find it. I have been there several times (the first time being on a class field trip in Grade 6), but the trail always seemed vague in my mind and changing on each visit, so the path to the ropes proved elusive on more than one occasion. You will likely not find Amethyst Cove mentioned in official tourism guides, and even online references do not supply maps or directions (none that I have found, at least). In the photograph on the right, the red X marks the approximate location of the beach to which the ropes descend, and is the place commonly referred to as Amethyst Cove; the Nova Scotia Atlas pinpoints the cove as being further east along the shoreline, however. In any event, the terrain and topography along the entire section between Cape Split and Cape Blomidon is very similar, with high, steep cliffs



and rocky shoreline. Unless you visit by boat, the land on which you travel to get here is private property, and any signs posted should be respected. Amethyst Cove is a great day-hike, favoured by many rockhounds, gemologists and geologists for the wide variety of minerals, agates and semi-precious stones that can be found here. It also played a pivotal role in one of the greatest love stories you have never heard (unless you have already read Issue #11): a love-struck man from Greenwich, Ebenezer Bishop, was fearful of losing his girlfriend to another suitor during the winter of 1809, so instead of taking days to travel around the Minas Basin by horse to her home near Parrsboro, he hiked to Amethyst Cove and from there - in an incredible feat of courage and desperation - walked over 3 miles across the ice-jammed Minas Channel to Cape Sharp, risking death to propose to her. She said yes!

**The Scotian Hiker group assembled on June 20** and made the trek up and over the ridge from the Cape Split parking area to the ropes, and then carefully descended the 300-ft. steep slope to the beach below. We explored down the shoreline, some of us finding great amethyst specimens amongst the beach rocks and black sand. As shown in the photo on the right, the basalt cliffs are sheer and towering high above the person walking at their base. **WATCH THE TIDES!** This is a hard place to give directions to, but here goes: take Highway 358 north to Scots Bay, then take Cape Split Rd to the very end and park. Walk the trail to Cape Split for less than 10 minutes, the idea being to clear the fenced-in pasture and the basalt ridge behind it. Look for blue trail tape (if it's still here) that indicates a right turn off the Cape Split trail along an ATV path. Follow this path, pass an "ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK" sign on a tree, then turn left at the trail tape and proceed uphill on a



clear, wide ATV path, passing a cabin on the way. At the top of the climb, veer right at a Y and walk for no more than 5 minutes until you find more trail tape and a narrow footpath to the ropes on the left. **Use caution and smarts, or it can be dangerous! If you get lost or injured or dead, it is at your own risk entirely; you take full responsibility. Upper body strength is useful; it requires much physical effort and mobility to make the climb on the ropes. NOT a place for small kids!**



# Scotian Hiker

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## Homegrown Trivia

1. Nova Scotia's four moose-hunting zones are all in Cape Breton. True or False?
2. Who created the fictional Sam Slick character?
3. What does the Gaelic phrase "Ciad Mile Failte" mean in English?
4. What Japanese city was twinned with Halifax in 1982?
5. What famous inventor's great-grandfather emigrated to Nova Scotia after the American Revolutionary War?

*(Answers at bottom of page)*

Keep safe in the outdoors this summer! Here's a good site to explore:  
<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>

## Outdoorosophy

*"A vigorous five-mile walk will do more good for an unhappy but otherwise healthy adult than all the medicine and psychology in the world."* - Paul Dudley White

*"You need special shoes for hiking - and a bit of a special soul as well."* - Emme Woodhull-Bäche

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- Another video is in the works - watch for a video recap of the upper Gaspereau River hike soon! Brier Island, Amethyst Cove, etc. to follow.
- If you would like to see more photos that accompany the articles in this newsletter, visit <http://www.facebook.com/scotianhiker> - join up and add Scotian Hiker as a friend!


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## Reader's Corner

Something new and overdue for the Scotian Hiker newsletter - a spot devoted to submissions sent in by readers! If anyone has a trail or hike suggestion, outdoor gear reviews, tips for everyone's benefit, or interesting Nova Scotian nature or cultural photos to share, please send them along to Scotian Hiker and get them published in future issues!

To get things started, have a look at these great photos sent in by Manita Schouten, of a Luna Moth (Actias Luna) sitting on a window sill near Canning, here in the Annapolis Valley. Looks pretty big; maybe its name is Mothra. For more information on this: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actias\\_luna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actias_luna) ; for more details about Mothra, watch a Godzilla movie.



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