



Brier Island - Something for Everyone

Situated at the official entrance to the Bay of Fundy is a rugged jewel in Nova Scotia's crown - Brier Island. This small, rocky island is as far west as you can go in this province - being two ferry rides from the mainland - but it is well worth the trip. This special place is a world all its own, and does have something for everyone, especially if you seek eco-tourism adventures. Whale-watching tours launch from here during the tourism season, and even if you stay on the land, you can often see whales spouting close to shore. For bird-watching, Brier Island is unparalleled in the Maritimes; a large number of species can be observed here regularly, and its unique location on the Atlantic flyway results in a variety of rare birds stopping here during the Spring and Fall migrations. Seal colonies in Pond Cove and Seal Cove are yet another attraction for visitors to see.



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For those interested in plant life, Brier Island is home to 22 different orchids, dwarf birch, and the Eastern Mountain Avens (which is on the endangered list and legally protected in Canada), among many others. The Nature Conservancy of Canada owns 1/3 of the island, which helps preserve the natural environment here for the enjoyment of future generations of residents and visitors. Rockhounds are able to find jasper, agate and amethyst along the shoreline from Western Light to Northern Light; hikers and mountain bikers can follow the same route for the scenery and exercise. Hiking trails criss-cross the island, and with the exception of one small area, hikers are welcome to cross residents' property - and the tick population is nil! Lighthouse enthusiasts are not left out, either; Brier Island has two lighthouses: Western Light, Northern Light, and a third on adjacent Peter's Island. Stay and watch a spectacular Bay of Fundy sunset, and if astronomy is your thing, bring your telescope and enjoy the night sky as it's meant to be seen - without light pollution. Enjoy! :) *Editor's Note: Brier Island Lodge lends out field guides to guests, and can arrange group tours with knowledgeable staff and island residents.*

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Important Announcement from The Editor's Desk

After careful consideration, I've decided to stop producing the weekly **print** version of the Scotian Hiker newsletter for a while. I've been burning the midnight oil every night since March 1, maintaining scotianhiker.com AND issuing this publication on a weekly basis. I've enjoyed putting the spotlight on a number of great places and activities that are available to us here in Nova Scotia, and I do hope that people have benefited from the information provided so far. However, I am refocusing on maintaining, developing and promoting the website, which has a global reach and is receiving visits - according to my web stats - from around the world. The Scotian Hiker newsletter will be combined with my blog and will still be posted electronically on the website - and emailed out to those on the mailing list - every week as always. If you like it and wish to continue reading this publication, I invite you to download it from scotianhiker.com or join the mailing list. Scotian Hiker is **not** ending; I plan to make it even better. Thanks for your support! - D.C.



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Homegrown Trivia

1. Who led the disastrous military mission to Acadia in 1746 that resulted in the deaths of thousands of French sailors and troops during the Atlantic crossing and in present-day Halifax Harbour?
2. What town - no longer involved in coal mining - now benefits from geothermal energy as a result of its coal mining history?
3. What was the name given to the silent mystery man whose legs had been amputated, and was found on the beach at Sandy Cove, Digby County in 1863?
4. The town of Lunenburg has a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. What does the acronym UNESCO stand for?

(Answers at bottom of page)

More Brier Island Facts

- The ferry *Joshua Slocum* was featured in the movie *Dolores Claiborne*.
- The two main industries here are lobster fishing and tourism.
- Western Light is where the Bay of Fundy officially begins

The best show NOT on television.



Weeknights, on Brier Island.

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www.brierisland.com

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Annapolis Tidal Generating Station operated by Nova Scotia Power, Annapolis Royal, NS. *North America's only tidal power plant.*

Outdoorosophy

"The wind shows us how close to the edge we are." - Joan Didion

"For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move."

-Robert Louis Stevenson, *Travels with a Donkey*

"I chatter, chatter, as I flow, To join the brimming river, For men may come and men may go, But I go on forever."

- Alfred Lord Tennyson, *The Brook*

What's Going On Out There!? Event Listings

Cape Split Provincial Park Reserve Open House. The Dept of Natural Resources is seeking public input on a draft management plan. Thurs June 4, Acadia University, University Ave., Wolfville.

Annapolis Valley Shooting Sports Club is having an Open House and Shooting Fair, Saturday, June 6 from 10AM to 3PM.

Hikers and Explorers – keep an eye on www.scotianhiker.com for a list of upcoming day hikes and weekend events. St. Croix gypsum cliffs, upper Gaspereau River, Roxbury, Amethyst Cove and a Cave Crawl are in planning & TBA. Scotian Hiker is on Facebook and Twitter.

Scotian Hiker Photo Contest submissions deadline has passed. Thanks to all who entered! Winners will be announced on Saturday June 6 on scotianhiker.com



Boar's Head, Tiverton, Long Island, NS

To see this, take Route 217 from Digby down to East Ferry; visible across Petit Passage from here, or from the ferry during the ride over to Tiverton.

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