



There's No Place Like Home To Roam



## The French Cross

Standing in silent remembrance of a dark period in Nova Scotian history, the French Cross looks out over the cold waters of the Bay of Fundy at Morden, Kings County. Made from rounded beach stones, this symbol of Acadian hope, determination and yearning for freedom marks the place where 300 Acadians from Belle Isle (between Bridgetown and Annapolis Royal) fled to in order to escape the Expulsion of 1755. Alerted by their Mi'kmaq friends that British troops were rounding up and deporting their fellow Acadians around the Minas Basin, the group from Belle Isle made their way up the Annapolis Valley, being careful to avoid detection by the British. They stopped outside what is now Kingston, where many of them suffered illness and died; the group then made its way over the North Mountain to the place that would become known as French Cross (until renamed Morden years later). Watching the British ships sail past down the bay carrying thousands of their compatriots, the Acadian refugees lived on wild game and mussels throughout the winter, losing more of their numbers to disease and harsh conditions. The following spring, those who still survived (either 60 or 90 depending on the account) escaped to safety across the Bay of Fundy by canoe. To visit, take Highway 1 to Auburn between Kingston and Aylesford, and watch for the road sign to Morden.



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## A Love Story For The Ages

While we are on the subject of desperate crossings of the Bay of Fundy, the first story being a tale of survival, this second story was all for love. Ebenezer Bishop, born in Greenwich, Kings County in 1784, grew to become a respected community member. He fell in love with Anna Lewis, who lived across the Minas Basin near Parrsboro. Fearing another suitor would win her before winter was over, he was desperate to reach her and propose to her. The winter of 1809 was unusually cold, and news came that the Minas Channel was completely ice-jammed (this is amazing in itself - billions of tonnes of seawater flow in and out of the channel twice a day). Ebenezer quickly but carefully hatched a plan and made his move. He hiked to Amethyst Cove on the far side of Cape Blomidon; from here he could see the opposite shore, 3 long miles away. He set out across the jumbled, jagged ice jam, and with the aid of a wooden staff, perilously jumped, vaulted and climbed from floe to floe, nearly falling through on more than one occasion. Incredibly, he made it to the other shore and proceeded to Anna's home at Halfway River. His marriage proposal was accepted, and he returned home (some say via the Minas Channel again, some say by land) until several months later when he returned for Anna by boat. This true love story should be a movie!!



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[www.scotianhiker.com/photocontest.htm](http://www.scotianhiker.com/photocontest.htm)



## The Hector

Anyone visiting the town of Pictou would be hard-pressed to overlook the towering full-size replica of The Ship Hector docked alongside the Hector Heritage Quay downtown on the waterfront. On September 15th, 1773, after a harrowing voyage across the Atlantic and enduring a smallpox outbreak, poor provisions and food and water shortages, 189 passengers arrived in Pictou harbour aboard the original Hector, founding the first Scottish settlement in Nova Scotia and establishing Pictou as "The Birthplace of New Scotland". This historic voyage led to an influx of more Scottish settlers looking to start new lives in the New World, free from English oppression.

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## Homegrown Trivia

1. What is the provincial tree of Nova Scotia?
2. What is the nickname for Nova Scotians?
3. In what year did women get the right to vote in Nova Scotia's provincial elections?
4. Which side did Alexander Keith support during the American civil war?
5. Nova Scotia was the first province in Canada to manufacture automobiles. True or False?
6. What town is home to North America's only tidal power generating station?
7. Who was Nova Scotia's first black MLA?

(Answers at bottom of page)

## What's New @ Scotianhiker.com

- New video featuring Waterfall Weekend 2 is coming, but in the meantime, check out the great footage taken by one of the WW2 participants, Daniel Marshall! Look him up at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/DanielBJ696> and watch his videos of Meander Falls, Cobby Irving Falls and Black Hole. Fun stuff!
- If you happen to be near your radio at 6:15 AM on the morning of Friday, May 22, tune into CBC at 106.5 FM in the Annapolis Valley and 90.5 FM in Halifax - Scotian Hiker is going to be discussed on Information Morning!
- New blog updates are on the way; a lot has taken place over the last week!



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## Outdoorosophy

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you." - Frank Lloyd Wright

"If a man walks in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer. But if he spends his days as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is deemed an industrious and enterprising citizen." - Henry David Thoreau

"To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves." - Mohandas K. Gandhi

## In Case You Haven't Noticed...

...the Scotian Hiker printed newsletter is now in black and white! To see the full colour version, visit <http://www.scotianhiker.com/newsletter.htm> and download any current or past newsletter as an Adobe PDF file. All you need to view them is the free Adobe Reader, available online.

## 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 May 28, Scots Bay Community Hall, Highway 358, Scots Bay, and Thurs June 4, Acadia University, University Ave., Wolfville.

**Interested in Hiking?** Be sure to check [scotianhiker.com](http://scotianhiker.com) for any upcoming day hikes and weekend events. St. Croix gypsum cliffs, upper Gaspereau River, and Amethyst Cove are in planning & TBA.



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