

Tidal bore is far from boring

By Ann Corless
special writer

The city of Moncton is famous for two natural phenomena: the tidal bore and Magnetic Hill. Many people have heard of tidal bores, but few know about "The Hill."

There are two places in Canada's maritime provinces where a tidal bore can best be seen — Truro, Nova Scotia, and Moncton, New Brunswick. Moncton even provides a viewing stand with floodlights so you can see the bore if it comes in at night. Webster's New World Dictionary says a tidal bore is "a high, abrupt tidal wave in a narrow channel, having great force."

But the height of these bores vary from barely a ripple to several feet depending on time of year and phase of moon. The tide comes in twice a day and there are time tables available everywhere to tell you exactly when the bore will appear.

We were lucky to be there at the right time of year and month and were treated to the sight of a definite wave rushing in over what had previously been bare ground. The tides in the Bay of Fundy are the largest in the world and have been as high as 54 feet. That's a lot of water sloshing back and forth twice a day.

Although Moncton claims Magnetic Hill is the third most frequently visited attraction in Canada, it would be hard to find anyone outside Canada who has heard of it, although most guidebooks give it at least passing mention.

Unless you experience it yourself, you would be inclined to pass it up or push-pool the whole idea. The "hill" is a rather slight incline which you drive down, stop at the bottom, put the car in neutral — and find yourself going backwards "uphill" rather rapidly until you coast to a stop at the "top."

Logic tells you it must be an optical illusion rather than a giant magnet pulling you up (as the signs would have you believe). However, a logical explanation doesn't seem to fit when you're behind the wheel looking "down" at the bottom of the hill as you fight an inclination to step on the brakes!

Anyway, even doubting Thomases should give it a try, just for fun.

In my mind, Moncton's best attraction is the charming Hotel Canadiana where we had a most pleasant stay. The word hotel is really a misnomer as the Canadiana is far more like an inn, having only 17 rooms and the appearance of a very large house.

Each room has been lovingly re-

finished and decorated in individual ways, sort of a cross between Colonial and Victorian. All rooms have private baths and are spotlessly clean and comfortable. There's a lovely formal Victorian sitting room on the main floor and another lounge on the top floor for TV viewing, writing, or relaxing.

While breakfasts are not included, they can be obtained to order. The Canadiana also has the advantage of being centrally located almost in the heart of downtown, but yet away from heavy traffic.

Price for a double was about \$53. The address is 45 Archibald St., Moncton, New Brunswick E1A 4L6, (506) 382-1054.

HOPEWELL CAPE

Another scenic highlight of my trip were the "flowerpot" rocks at Hopewell Cape Provincial Park, about 20 miles south of Moncton. These are huge monoliths, standing up to 50 feet high on the beach, which over many years have broken off from the surrounding cliffs.

But trees and other vegetation continue to grow on top, hence the nickname, flowerpots. At low tide you can climb down a staircase from the cliffs and walk on the beach around these large formations, some of which describe natural arches.

There are also many caves to be found in the cliffs.

Here again, the high tides of the Bay of Fundy play an interesting part, as in less than an hour, what has been an exposed sandy beach is covered with water, rising rapidly to as high as 40 feet and leaving only the upper part of the rocks exposed.

From here one can continue around to Fundy National Park and pick up the main highway leading to St. John. Oh yes, one requirement of this trip is to stop at the little village of Alma, known as the "Home of the Sticky Bun," and pick up at least one of these delectable gooey delights.

FREDERICTON/KINGS LANDING

When you're tired of the coastal routes, one of the prettiest drives in the Maritimes takes you inland from St. John to Fredericton, following the meandering St. John River (Highway 102). One of the delights of this route is being able to cross back and forth over the river at several points along the way via the tiny car ferries that run continuously.

They are all free, and the crossings take just a few minutes. Fredericton, the capital of New Brunswick, is a gracious city of tree-lined streets and elegant homes. The downtown area has a self-guided walking tour which takes you around



LEE CORLESS

Ann Corless, author of this article (at right), contemplates a brace of oxen at Kings Landing, an historical settlement in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

the major historical buildings, parks and monuments.

A truly serendipitous experience in the Fredericton area was a side trip to Kings Landing, about 20 miles away. Kings Landing is a restored village typical of the loyalist settlements that sprang up after the Revolutionary War.

It's a bit like Greenfield Village, but far more of a living museum covering 300 acres of picturesque countryside containing homes, stores

and farms depicting life as it was in New Brunswick's past. Costumed residents carry out daily tasks, and farm animals are used as they were in days gone by.

A huge waterwheel-powered sawmill still cuts timber and provides one of those perfect picture opportunities as you see the building reflected in the river below. Kings Landing really makes you feel part of a way of life long past.

History converted to stone in Canadian wonderland

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technic firms participate in this event, competing in the classical and pyro-musical categories.

Two million fans will watch entries from France, Holland, USA, Canada, Spain, Australia and Italy on Wednesdays and Saturdays. For more information, call (800) 363-7777.

CALGARY STAMPEDE

The Calgary Stampede is scheduled for July 5-14 in Calgary, Alberta. This western festival includes rodeos, chuckwagon races, agricultural exhibits, craft exhibits, Indian dances, pancake breakfasts and balloon races. For more information,

call toll-free (800) 661-8888.

KLONDIKE DAYS

Edmonton, Alberta, celebrates the western Canadian frontier July 18-27 with parades, casinos, gold panning, the World Championship Sourdough Hot Race and pancake breakfasts. Costumed locals fill the streets during the Sunday parade. For information, call toll-free (800) 661-8888.

GATHERING OF CLANS

Nova Scotia holds the International Gathering of the Clans, a celebration of Scottish heritage, June 27 to Sept. 1, with festivals, cultural activities, events, clan gatherings and

competitions.

The gathering, nominated as the top event in Canada by the American Bus Association, has its official start at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo in Halifax July 1-7. For more information, call toll-free (800) 341-6095.

OUTHOUSE RACE

Nothing else amuses you, you can watch them pushing outhouses through the streets of Dawson City, Yukon, Sept. 1 during the Great Klondike Outhouse Race. For more information, write to Tourism Yukon, P.O. Box 2700, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 3C6.

Canadian rail ride a rousing revelation

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In lieu of dessert, passengers are treated to beautifully crafted and equally delicious chocolate truffles, the highlight of the meal as far as I was concerned. After-dinner liquors are offered.

Service attendants do their best to meet other needs as well. I didn't get a chance to buy a Sunday paper before boarding, so I asked the attendant for one and he brought it within minutes. As the attendants offered more wine at dinner, several passengers asked for other beverages instead.

Shortly thereafter, the attendant returned carrying a tray laden with these special orders. He got all of

them right on the first try.

Lauren Michalowski from Sterling Heights enjoys traveling on the Club Car. "We've always taken the Club Car and it's definitely worth it to me," she said. Michalowski booked the Club Car both ways: Friday morning from Windsor to Toronto, Sunday afternoon for the return trip. She said the amenities on the morning trip were similar to what was offered in the afternoon. In fact, the entrees were the same.

Mike Boberg, a reservations agent for Via Rail, says Michalowski is not alone in her enthusiasm for first-class railroad rides. "The Club Car is quite popular, especially with busi-

nessmen," he said. "A lot of tourists also use the Club Car, although you don't see many families because of the extra cost per person." (One of the disadvantages for families is that there's no discount for children.)

Boberg also called attention to the pre-boarding benefits. "One of the advantages of traveling on the Club Car is that you can use the first-class lounge at the Toronto train station which is the largest train station in Canada. You can also pre-board the train, avoiding the long lines. I guess the agents have noticed, like coach passengers, what Union Station in Toronto is like on Sunday afternoon."

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FDR's cottage a favorite New Brunswick attraction

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their children. The red Roosevelt Cottage still stands beside the sea in the park and can be toured.

If you're lucky, Linnea Calder will be there, talking in an aging voice about the days when her father and mother worked at the cottage. "The park inherited me," she says.

The Roosevelt Campobello International Park occupies 1,200 acres at the bridge end of the island. Alice Gough works "next door" at the Herring Cove Provincial Park, with its sand beaches, picnic areas and campsites, and she cheerfully drove me around the rest of the island.

Campobello has 1,300 residents and three villages, each tied to the sea with colorful fishing boat docks. We drove uphill to the Owen House, where painter Joyce Morell runs a bed-and-breakfast. We saw the historic churches and the East Quoddy Head Lighthouse on Head Harbour Island at the opposite end of the island from the bridge.

"My son and his children walked across to the lighthouse at low tide once and stayed too long," Alice said. "They were trapped there for hours until the tide went out again."



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