



Tidal Bore Another of the Seven Wonders

By Maurice Rees

A tidal bore is a tidal phenomenon in which the leading edge of the incoming tide forms a standing wave of water that travels upstream, against the current of a river or narrow bay. The word bore derives through Old English from the Old Norse word bara, meaning a wave or swell.

A tidal bore is indeed a true tidal wave and is not to be confused with a tsunami, which is a large ocean wave traveling primarily on the open ocean. Tidal bores take place twice a day during the flood tide and never during the ebb tide. A tidal bore may take on various forms, ranging from a single breaking wavefront with a roller to a smooth wavefront followed by a train of secondary waves (whelps). Large bores can be particularly dangerous for shipping, but also present opportunities for river surfing.

Tidal bores occur in just a few locations worldwide. These are normally places with a large tidal range where incoming tides are funnelled into a shallow, narrowing river or lake via a broad bay. The funnel-like shape both increases the height of the tide and decreases the duration of

the flood tide so it appears as a much more sudden increase in the water level.

One of the places where this spectacle occurs is at the head of the Bay of Fundy. The Chignecto Bay and Minas Basin form two arms at the head of the Bay, fed respectively by the Peticodiac River and the Salmon River.

With an aggressive and very noticeable tidal bore, the areas as the mouth of the Shubenacadie near Maitland, Hants County several entrepreneurs have established "up-river white water" rafting business. In a span of approximately 15 kms, there currently are six operators attracting 200-300 per day who want to experience of plying through a tidal bore with up to eight people in a Zodiac. The Shubenacadie River has become famous as the "tidal bore rafting capital of the world, and is famous because of its safety as the sandy bottom river bed is void of rock structures.

On the high tides, the wall of water, during part of the three to four hour river excursion, in a tidal bore can be as high as 20 feet offering an adrenalin rush for participants. Occasionally venturers

in some of the other Zodiacs report one of the boats disappears from sight, when the operator takes his customers on a trip into the center of the bore which can be compared to the circle of diminishing water when you empty your bathtub or sink. Within moments the Zodiac resurfaces, none the worse for wear with everyone intact.

At high tide, the extraordinary volume of water in the Bay floods into these rivers and, as the river banks narrow, the compressing waters rise in a spectacular surge and a visible standing wave, sometimes 1 meter (3 ft) in height! As the maelstrom of roaring, churning water races upstream at speeds close to 15 km per hour (10 mph) it generates rapids in its wake that are between 3 and 3.5 meters (10-12 ft) high. On extremely high tides, the Shubenacadie offers much more with a wall of water occasionally reaching 18-20 feet. Many people have likened the sound to that of an approaching railway train, and first-time viewers are usually struck with awe.

For those from afar, looking at high tide is like looking at a lake. Those arriving at low tide, see nothing more than an

expanse of red-like mud and wonder what all the fuss is about. If they are able to stay around the community for upwards of six hours, their experience is entirely different.

Those from the area realize it takes 12 hours and a few minutes to go from high tide to high tide. In between low tide is achieved in approximately six hours. Depending on where you catch it during its 6 or 12 hour cycle, the experience is overwhelming.



Photo Credit YouTube

Summer Youth Programs at Your Public Library

By Laura Miedema

Here is some information about three summer youth programs at the library:

The Millbrook Cultural and Heritage Centre will present a Talking Sticks workshop on Tuesday, July 4 from 10:30am - 12:30pm in the Malcolm & Charlotte MacQuarrie Maker Lab in the Truro Branch. (Ages 8 and up with a limit of 20 registered participants) Cost: \$2

On Friday, July 14, Starr Dobson is doing an author reading starting at 2:30 pm in the J. Harris Read Program Room in the Truro Branch. Families welcome! Come and hear Starr read her first two children's books, My Goat

Gertrude, about her experiences growing up in Six Mile Brook, and Gertrude at the Beach. We will have a draw for autographed copies of her books for the children in attendance. No registration required.

On Tuesday, August 15, the Truro Branch will be hosting Jamie Junger, children's singer/songwriter at 10:30 am in the J. Harris Read Program Room. Jamie Junger presents "Fishin' For Pickles," an original, whimsical and upbeat children's album.

Laura Miedema is Teen Services Assistant Coordinator at Truro Branch of the Colchester - East Hants Public Library



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