

TRAIL FEATURE

Dal Students Perform Trail Maintenance

(MacLellan Photos)



Dal students found Garnet McLaughlin sitting on a pile of lumber he wanted them to carry to site of a collapsed bridge in Thomas Cove.



It didn't take long to dismantle the old bridge.



Time and weather has taken its toll on the walking trail.



Dal students look on as the last spikes are driven in, bringing their volunteer community project to an end.



Students carried long pieces of driftwood to be used as bumper to keep people from falling off the new bridge.



Dalhousie Oceanography students are all smiles after completed the construction of a new bridge.

By Maurice Rees

On October 7th seven Dalhousie Oceanography Students traveled to Thomas' Cove as volunteers to assist the Kenomee Trail Society with trail maintenance. The students were led by Ian Hay who is working toward his Graduate Degree in Geological Oceanography and Coastal Erosion in the Bay of Fundy.

Hay is doing a literature review for his thesis proposal. The students whose home countries are South Carolina, Germany, India, and Massachusetts, trekked off through the woods to meet Garnet McLaughlin. Garnet was found perched on a pile of lumber which he informed the group needed to be carried to a site a few hundred meters away and they would be putting it to use building a bridge.

This bridge had totally collapsed and needed to be torn out, all nails and spikes removed and a new 16' bridge built. Each of these students pulled his/her weight, asked lots of questions and were totally in awe of with the Bay of Fundy.

They carried long driftwood poles found at Paddy's Cove along the trail to border their bridge to prevent anyone going too close to the edge. End result, Thomas' Cove has a new bridge on the Economy Trail. Users of the trail and Kenomee Trail Society are very appreciative that the Dal students, Ian Hay and his father gave up a day of the Thanksgiving to give back to the community.

All this came about when Anita MacLellan was approached by Dr. Paul Hill, Dalhousie University to acquire permission to fly drones in the area of Thomas' Cove. MacLellan mentioned she had seen disks on the Headlands Trail and wondered what was happening.

Dr Hill explained, "We have indeed been doing work already at Thomas Cove. The numbered disks on the cliff-top are part of our GPS surveying work. We survey them in repeatedly to get precise positions. We have also flown the drone at Thomas Cove. We have been flying as recreational users to gain the experience required to submit a credible application that is required to fly for research. I am in the process of preparing that application now, and that is what led me to track down the rightful owner of the property".

With plenty of emphasis on coastal erosion, Dr. Hill further

explained, "We are interested in Thomas Cove for a number of reasons. Two previous Masters projects have led to the hypothesis that the rate of cliff retreat has increased, so we are interested in conducting a more detailed study at a single site, rather than painting with a broad brush over the whole Minas Basin. Thomas Cove is a site of active retreat, and it is exposed to western winds and waves. From a practical perspective both the cliff tops and the shore are relatively accessible, which makes the survey work much easier. Besides that it's beautiful location".

In return for use of the area for the research, Dr Hill arranged for several students to rebuild the bridge, and his group would be happy to provide the Kenomee Trail Society with the results of their work, including aerial photos and digital 3D models of the shore".



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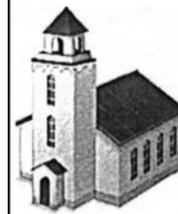
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