



## Fundy Model Forest

### *~Partners in Sustainability~*

**Report Title:** IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL SITES AND OLD PORTAGE ROUTES IN THE FUNDY MODEL FOREST

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***The Fundy Model Forest...  
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*“The Fundy Model Forest (FMF) is a partnership of 38 organizations that are promoting sustainable forest management practices in the Acadian Forest region.”*

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Canadian Institute of Forestry  
Canadian Forest Service  
City of Moncton  
Conservation Council of New Brunswick  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Eel Ground First Nation  
Elgin Eco Association  
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Village of Petitcodiac  
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ABORIGINAL SITES AND OLD PORTAGE ROUTES  
IN THE FUNDY MODEL FOREST**

by

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April 1998

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## 1) Introduction

In its ongoing goal of sustainable development, the Fundy Model Forest Partnership has accepted as a guideline the criteria, critical elements and indicators of sustainability developed and sanctioned by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) with a view of developing local level indicators related to sustainable forest management. With this in mind, the goal of this project was to develop a database of traditional Aboriginal sites and locate important portage routes within the Fundy Model Forest. Doing so, this project focuses on the protection aspect of the requirements of indicator 6.2b “*Extent to which forest management planning takes into account traditional knowledge and protection of unique or significant Aboriginal social, cultural or spiritual sites*”. This indicator is part of critical element 6.2 “*Participation of Aboriginal Communities in Sustainable Forest Management*” which is part of criterion 6 “*Society Accepting Responsibility for Sustainable Development*”.

The primary goal of this project was to create an inventory of known Aboriginal social, cultural or spiritual sites for the Fundy Model Forest. To meet the requirements of indicator 6.2b, traditional Aboriginal sites within the Fundy Model Forest must be incorporated into management plans to ensure they remain undisturbed by forest management and other activities. Failure to consider such sites during management activities could lead to site disturbance and/or loss of valuable Aboriginal cultural data. Damage or loss of traditional Aboriginal sites could significantly weaken Aboriginal historic knowledge at the local scale. Traditional Aboriginal sites in the Fundy Model Forest would benefit from special management guidelines (i.e., buffers) to conserve their uniqueness. To simplify sentence structure, Aboriginal social, cultural or spiritual sites will be referred to as traditional Aboriginal sites throughout the remainder of this document.

A secondary goal was to locate and describe old portage routes within the Fundy Model Forest. Portage routes, more importantly those linking larger rivers to one another, were essential to long distance travel in some areas of the province of New Brunswick up

until the early twentieth century. They also played an important role in early European exploration and discovery. The locations of old portage routes in the Fundy Model Forest provide additional information on the traditional use of the forested landscape by Aboriginal Peoples and early European explorers and settlers.

## **2) Historic distribution of the Micmac and Maliseet Peoples**

Before beginning this section, the Fundy Model Forest would like to state that the description of territorial boundaries between the Micmac and Maliseet Peoples for the Province of New Brunswick and for the Fundy Model Forest is based on W.F. Ganong's historical accounts. These accounts seem to be based in large part on intuitive interpretation with little scientific fieldwork. The actual territory boundaries may differ to some extent from those described in this document.

### **a) Distribution in New Brunswick**

Ganong (1899) used a rough system to describe Micmac and Maliseet territory boundaries. According to him, the eastern boundary of the St. John River watershed represented the boundary between the traditional Micmac and Maliseet territories (Figure 1). Ganong indicated that the Micmac People occupied the entire Gulf of St. Lawrence slope. Their territory was established as far north as the Baie des Chaleurs and Gaspé and extended south to include all of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Furthermore, he stated that the Micmac territory included the Chignecto Bay area and that it extended up to Martin Head along the Bay of Fundy coast. The Maliseet territory extended west from Martin Head and covered the whole of the valley of the St. John River and the Passamaquoddy region in the southwestern part of the province of New Brunswick. The Maliseet territory also extended itself into northwestern Maine and southeastern Quebec (Figure 1).

### **b) Distribution in the Fundy Model Forest**



Based on Ganong's interpretation, the Micmac People would have occupied the Petitcodiac River watershed while the Maliseet People would have inhabited

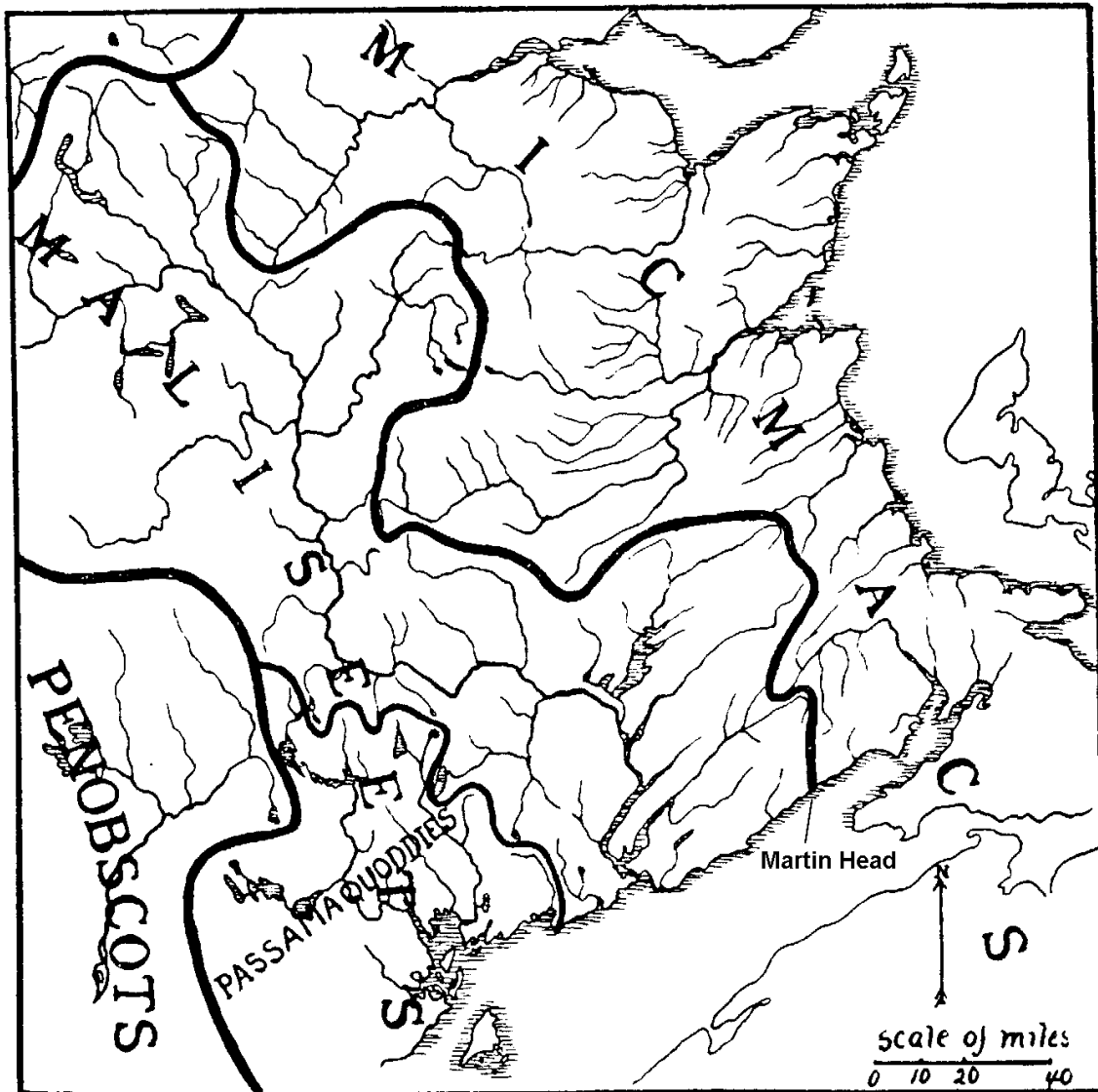


Figure 1 – Traditional Aboriginal territories and territory boundaries for the Micmac and Maliseet Peoples for the Province of New Brunswick (modified from Ganong 1899).

the Canaan River and Kennebecacis River watersheds. The boundaries of these watersheds would have formed the bulk of the territorial border between Micmac territory and Maliseet territory. In the southern part of the Fundy Model Forest, it seems Ganong established the territorial boundaries by using the watershed boundaries of rivers flowing into the Bay of Fundy in relation to Martin Head. Watersheds reaching the Bay of Fundy west of Martin Head would have been in Maliseet territory while watersheds reaching the Bay of Fundy east of Martin Head would have been in Micmac territory.

Since the watershed boundary of the Petitcodiac River meets with those of the Canaan River and Kennebecacis River in the eastern part of the Fundy Model Forest (Figure 2), Ganong's interpretation implies that the Maliseet People would have occupied the central and western part of the Fundy Model Forest. The Micmac People would have occupied the territory east of the Petitcodiac River watershed boundary and east of Martin Head (Figure 2). According to Ms. Pat Allen and Mr. Albert Ferguson of the Archeological Services Branch of the provincial Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing, the Micmac-Maliseet territory boundary would have been situated in the Sussex area.

There are presently no Aboriginal communities within the Fundy Model Forest. According to Chief Joe Knockwood, members of the Fort Folly First Nation near Dorchester inhabited the area now known as the Fundy Model Forest in ancestral times. The members of the Fort Folly First Nation are of Micmac ancestry.

### **3) Aboriginal villages and campsites**

#### **a) Factors affecting Aboriginal village site and campsite selection**

Villages were usually established in areas where the soil was suitable for cultivation. Ganong (1899) states that there were few Aboriginal villages with fairly

permanent populations in New Brunswick. He lists Meductic, Aupac (?) and Madawaska as permanent Maliseet villages and Richibucto, Burnt Church and Old Mission Point

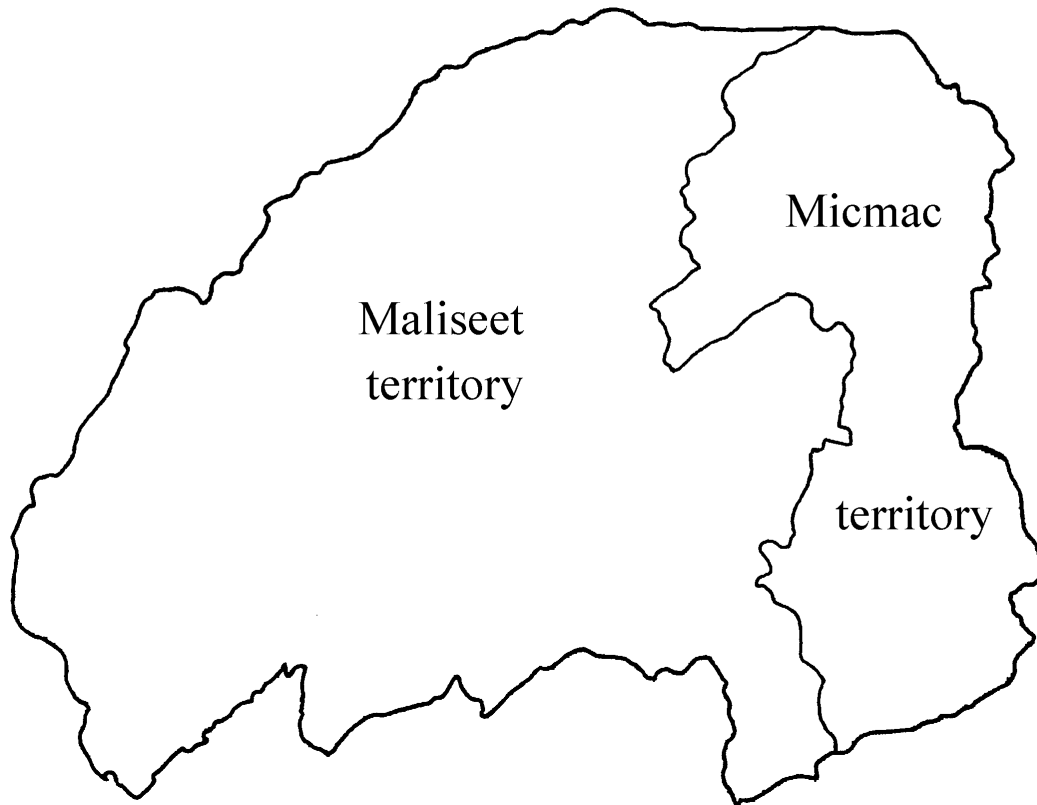


Figure 2 – Micmac and Maliseet territory boundaries for the Fundy Model Forest based on W.F. Ganong's interpretation. The Micmac territory is defined by the western limit of the Petitcodiac River watershed and by the watersheds of rivers reaching the Bay of Fundy east of Martin Head. The Maliseet territory is defined by the eastern watershed boundaries of the Canaan River and Kennebecasis River and by the watersheds of rivers reaching the Bay of Fundy west of Martin Head

(Restigouche) as permanent Micmac villages. The largest settlements were along the largest and most traveled rivers and at the intersections of large rivers. It would seem that he considered all other sites as being campsites where populations varied from season to season. These campsites were much more numerous.

Villages and campsites were near rivers since the Birch bark canoe was the principal means of long distance travel (Ganong 1899). Sites were also selected in relation to the presence of game, shellfish or good fishing areas. Aboriginal campsites in New Brunswick were abundant near the following areas:

- Great clam beds of the Bay of Fundy (Passamaquoddy Bay area)
- Great oyster beds of the North shore (Shediac to Caraquet)
- Waterfalls - great places to fish (Aroostook Falls, Grand Falls)
- Mouths of small rivers - great places to fish
- Ends of portages - these areas were mostly used for resting after long and tiring portage runs.
- Springs - often located near campsites, especially if a campsite was near salt water.

Ganong (1905) also specified some landscape features that could have influenced site selection:

- Well-drained areas
- Good supply of firewood
- Good beach to land canoes (sand and/or fine gravel)
- Proximity to White Birch groves for canoe construction and repair.

- Proximity to Ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) to make baskets and other articles.
- Proximity to White Cedar for lining and ribs of canoes.
- Open areas giving onto rivers offering a good view (of friends or enemies) and breezy enough to keep biting insects to a minimum.

Some sites may have been selected for their natural beauty (spiritual sites) while others may have been chosen for their proximity to flint and chalcedony quarries. The quarries yielded stones that were used to create tools.

#### **b) Known camp site locations in and around the Fundy Model Forest**

Ganong (1899) inventoried the known Aboriginal villages and campsites of New Brunswick into districts. Two of these districts, the St. John district and the Petitcodiac-Misseguash district, are in part situated in what is now known as the Fundy Model Forest. The St. John district covered the St. John River watershed and territory west of Martin Head along the Bay of Fundy coast. The Petitcodiac – Misseguash district included the territory east of Martin Head up to Baie Verte. Ganong did not describe many sites for the Petitcodiac – Misseguash district. He admitted that he most likely missed some important sites.

Only two of the traditional Aboriginal campsites described by Ganong seem to be located within the Fundy Model Forest. The first site, part of the St. John district, is situated near Apohaqui. Ganong (1899) explained that an Aboriginal Burial Ground could be found at the junction of the Millstream River with the Kennebecacis River. He also stated that a small village stood north and east of the junction of these two rivers (Figure 3). The second site, present on Figure 3 but not mentioned in Ganong's notes, would have been situated on the southern shore of the Canaan River. From referencing this small map to larger more recent maps, it would seem this site would have been located east of what is now New Canaan. This site would probably have been part of the St. John district and would have been located barely within the northern boundary of the Fundy Model

Forest. It may have been the end of the portage leading from the Petitcodiac River to the Canaan River described in further detail later in this document.

A third site, part of Ganong's Petitcodiac-Misseguash district, was situated near Salisbury. According to Ganong's map (Figure 3), this campsite would have been situated on the north shore of the Petitcodiac River, between its junctions with the Pollett



Figure 3 - Map of pre-historic Aboriginal villages and important campsites for the province of New Brunswick. Larger named dots indicate Aboriginal villages while small dots indicate important campsites. Campsites in the Fundy Model Forest area were situated near (#1) Apohaqui, (#2) New Canaan, and (#3) Salisbury (modified from Ganong 1905).

River and Little River. Consequently, this campsite would have been just outside the eastern boundary of the Fundy Model Forest. The Salisbury site was an important camping area and may have been the end of the portage leading from the Canaan River to the Petitcodiac River (Ganong 1899).

#### **c) Known traditional Aboriginal sites within the Fundy Model Forest**

Traditional Aboriginal site data can be obtained from the Archeological Services Branch (ASB) of the provincial Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing. It must be noted that the ASB's database is not intended for public use. This is to protect traditional Aboriginal sites from site disturbance and/or artifact removal. The ASB agreed to supply the coordinates of known traditional Aboriginal sites after approving the following Fundy Model Forest management procedure:

- The central GIS database at the Fundy Model Forest incorporates land use data from many landowners and organisations. The Fundy Model Forest will only provide information concerning Aboriginal cultural site locations to groups or individuals if such sites are found on land that they are currently managing. Information will be handed out on a need-to-know basis.
- The above-mentioned groups or individuals will also have to agree not to reveal the locations of traditional Aboriginal sites on their landbases to the public. This is critical to the proper application of

this indicator. This might entail some sort of legal document to be co-signed by the involved partners (if this is deemed necessary).

- The Fundy Model Forest will not produce any maps, brochures or other documentation of Aboriginal cultural site locations for public use. Consequently, no maps describing the location of known traditional Aboriginal sites are included with this document.
- Detailed information about the traditional Aboriginal sites is not absolutely necessary. Types (Burial Grounds, Spiritual Sites, etc.) and locations of the sites should be sufficient for Fundy Model Forest management purposes.
- The traditional Aboriginal sites will be buffered to protect their integrity.
- The Fundy Model Forest should maintain two-way communications with the ASB. The ASB should advise the Fundy Model Forest on any new sites situated within its boundaries. Similarly, The Fundy Model Forest should advise the ASB of any sites accidentally located.

The Fundy Model Forest only gained access to Aboriginal cultural site data when the ASB as well as Chief Joe Knockwood and the Fort Folly First Nation Council accepted the Fundy Model Forest's procedures for Aboriginal cultural site management. According to Chief Joe Knockwood, members of the Fort Folly Aboriginal community inhabited the area now known as the Fundy Model Forest in ancestral times. Therefore, this community has say on how Traditional Aboriginal sites will be managed.

Not many traditional Aboriginal sites have been located and investigated within the Fundy Model Forest. The ASB has not been able to put much resources in locating and cataloguing traditional Aboriginal sites in the Fundy Model Forest area. There are undoubtedly more sites, but they have yet to be discovered.



In their database, the ASB represents known traditional Aboriginal sites as point data. None of the sites have been digitized but all have been referenced to 1:50 000 topographic maps with latitude-longitude coordinates. Northing and easting coordinates for each Aboriginal cultural site within the Fundy Model Forest were captured manually from the topographic maps. These coordinates were then transferred to the Fundy Model Forest GIS and a data layer was created and added to the database.

#### **d) Protection of known traditional Aboriginal sites**

The buffering procedure for traditional Aboriginal sites has yet to be determined. From what could be seen on the ASB topographic maps, some traditional Aboriginal cultural sites are situated along the banks of rivers and lakes. The buffering already in place along rivers and lakes may be sufficient to protect these sites. This may influence the management of the existing watercourse buffers in the general area in which traditional Aboriginal sites are located. The Fundy Model Forest partners, in conjunction with ASB and the Fort Folly First Nation, will have to agree on a buffering procedure for inland and waterside sites.

#### **4) Old portage routes**

Information on portage routes in New Brunswick is scanty at best. The best sources of such information come from documents written by W.F. Ganong in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In a monograph published in 1899, Ganong describes over forty portage routes found all over the province of New Brunswick. The portage routes described are the most important ones, linking the larger rivers of the province. Ganong stated that he was confident that he had located all the important portage routes linking the rivers of the province. Smaller portage routes linking streams and rivers that were not used as much are most likely lacking from his list. Furthermore, the portage routes described by Ganong are the ones that linked rivers to each other; no information is given concerning portage routes used to avoid obstacles (i.e., waterfalls,

large rapids, beaver dams and shallow areas) along watercourses. The descriptions of portage routes given by Ganong are based on fieldwork, interviews with local residents (of Aboriginal and European descent) and old maps and texts dating as early as the mid-eighteenth century. Ganong also produced hand drawn maps of some portage routes that he partially or wholly surveyed.

#### **a) Known old portage routes in the Fundy Model Forest**

Only two of the portage routes described by Ganong were located within the Fundy Model Forest. Other portage routes were situated along the Canaan River, Kennebecacis River and the Petitcodiac River and their tributaries but were outside the Fundy Model Forest boundaries. These portage routes were undoubtedly part of a network of routes that included those found in the Fundy Model Forest. However, these “exterior” portage routes are not the focus of this document and are not discussed further. Further information concerning portage routes in New Brunswick is available from the various documents published by W.F. Ganong cited in this document.

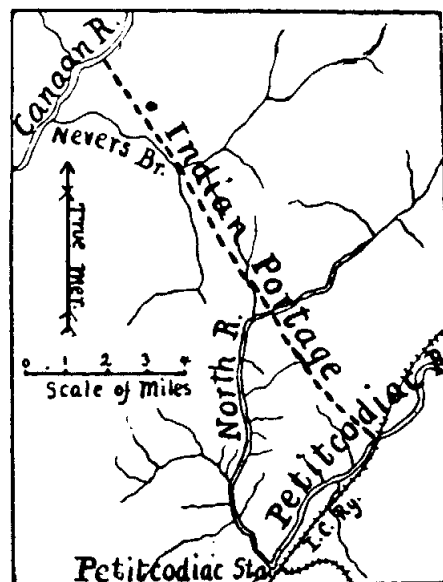
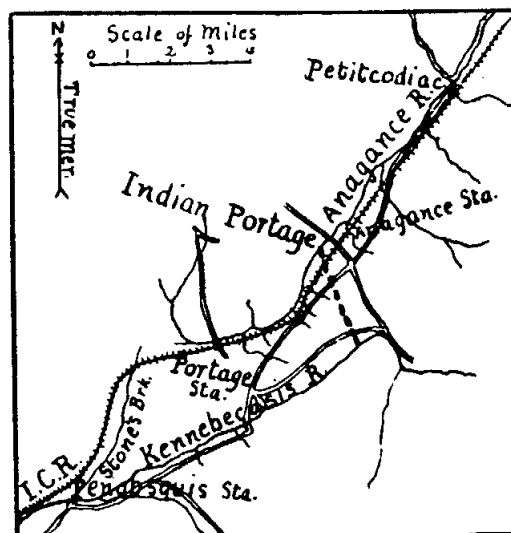
#### **i. Kennebecacis - Anagance portage**

This portage route linked the Kennebecacis River to the Anagance River, which is a tributary of the Petitcodiac River. Ganong briefly described this portage route in his 1899 monograph published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada. He describes the portage route and refers to a small hand-drawn map (Figure 4).

“This was an easy and much-used route, and a part of the regular route to Nova Scotia... The Kennebecacis has a very gentle current to the portage, and the Anagance (from the Maliseet, Oo-ne-gunce, a portage) is nearly a dead-water stream to the Petitcodiac... It leaves the Anagance River one-half a mile west of Anagance Station, and runs directly southwest to the Kennebecacis, distance two miles. This portage was made the starting point for a county line in 1787. It is mentioned in a report by D. Campbell in 1803, who calls it an Indian portage long established, and says that it was formerly the route of communication between Fort Beausejour and the Acadian settlements on the River St. John.”

Mr. Ganong eventually discovered that he had made a mistake in describing this portage route. He began revising the description of the route in 1906, then in 1914 and finally in 1929. He finally concluded that the portage route lay farther to the west. A review of the detailed description of Mr. Ganong's 1929 study of this portage route as well as a field verification of his findings, both conducted by Mr. Serge Lutz, are presented in Appendix 1. Documents cited by Mr. Lutz are available for consultation at the New Brunswick Museum Archives.

a)



b)

Figure 4 – Fundy Model Forest portage route locations described by W.F. Ganong in 1899: a) Kennebecacis – Anagance portage and b) Canaan – Petitcodiac portage (enlarged from Ganong 1899). Mr. Ganong later discovered he had placed the Kennebecacis – Anagance portage route too far east. He re-evaluated the position of this route in 1929 (see Appendix 1).

## 2) Canaan - Petitcodiac portage

Ganong also described this portage route in his 1899 monograph published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada. In it, he briefly describes the portage route with the help of another small hand-drawn map (Figure 4).

“This was a route much used in travel from the Beauséjour (or Cumberland) region to Quebec. The Washademoak or Canaan, River is fairly easy of navigation to the portage. Since the North River, the continuation of the Petitcodiac, is not navigable, the portage path crossed from the Washademoak, about two miles above Nevers Brook, to the main Petitcodiac, which it reached about five miles below Petitcodiac Station. It was hence about twelve miles long, one of the longest of the important portages of the Province. Its route, as given by a resident [Mr. J. Lounsberry, of Lewis Mountain], is shown on the accompanying Map [Figure 4]... I presume its course is only approximate; indeed, I have been told by an Indian chief that it started off near Salisbury - considerably farther down the river.”

Ganong continues further by stating that this portage route was mapped and described by many travelers in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In an 1914 article published in the Notes on the Natural History and Physiography of New Brunswick, Ganong described this portage route in greater detail.

“This, though one of the longest, was one of the most important of all the early portage paths in New Brunswick...”

It left the Petitcodiac near its westerly bend and reached the Canaan somewhere on the southerly bend of Prices Brook... I was told some years ago by Dr. B.S. Thorne of Butternut Ridge... that the route of the portage, according to early settlers, is followed approximately by the present highway road from Petitcodiac through Havelock Corner to Canaan, excepting that... a half mile

from the Canaan end,... the present road swings out of the course of the old path, which kept on and reached the river a quarter of a mile below the present bridge [Figure 5]...

Now the position from which the path must have started seems fixed by the topographical conditions, for it could not have gone over the bluff, which is much too steep, for ascent, nor would it have run over the low intervale, since that is barred in large part by the swampy swale and muddy shoal bog; but every probability favors a starting point on the low terrace just to the

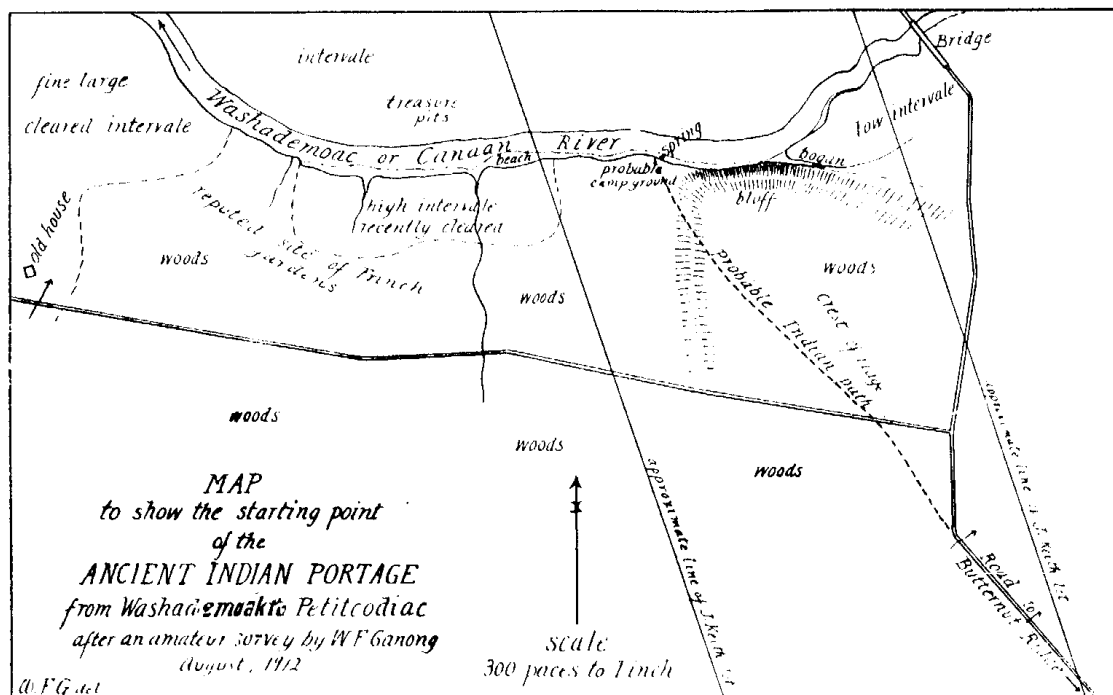


Figure 5 – Canaan end of the Canaan – Petitcodiac portage (Ganong 1914). This figure is approximately 1.24 times larger than the actual map copied from W.F. Ganong's 1914 article.

westward of the bluff [Figure 5]. This affords the nearest convenient access to the water to one coming from the direction of the present highway road, and it is indeed the place to which the continuation of that road points... The beach at this place is a moderate stony slope, making an excellent canoe landing, much the best for some distance up or down stream... just on the middle beach at this place there gushes out from under a conglomerate boulder a beautiful little cold spring... A better combination of features for the landing place of a portage can hardly be imagined... Here, accordingly, I believe the old portage path started, taking the course back to and along the highway road as shown by our map [Figure 5].

We consider now the probable course of the portage path across country. Dr. Thorne told me that it is believed to follow approximately the course of the present road... but there are three facts which tend to show that the portage path after following the present course of the highway for some distance, deviated to the eastward, approximately as shown upon the larger map [Figure 6]. First, as our large map shows, the present road makes a bow which lengthens markedly the direct distance between the Canaan and Petitcodiac... Second, the present road both north and south of Butternut Ridge runs over some great hills, which,... are at least partially avoided by a more easterly course. Third, and most important, it probably ran through an old French site, which, as Dr. Thorne first told me, occurs about a mile and a half east of Havelock Corner on the farm of Mr. Howard D. Hicks."

On Mr. Hicks's farm was a field known locally as the French Field. Mr. Hicks explained to Mr. Ganong that this field seemed somewhat like a garden when Mr. Hicks's father had established the family farm. He also said that an old log cabin could be found a

short distance from this field and thought that this might have been an old French or Aboriginal camping ground. The cabin was beside an old road or trail that Mr. Hicks thought linked the Petitcodiac River to the Canaan River. He said it was a very rough road through the woods and that it wended around trees and other obstacles. Considering this information, Ganong continues his interpretation of the Canaan - Petitcodiac portage.

“Now there seems to be no reason why such an early clearing should have been made, in this wilderness, a mile and a half away from the old route of travel, but on the other hand very good reason why it should have been made as a half way station on the main trail which was long, some twelve to fourteen miles. Mr. Hicks’ mention of the road to Petitcodiac, with his emphasis on its winding character, points directly to its identity as the Indian portage. Accordingly, I believe the portage path passed through Mr. Hicks’ place, thus taking the more direct route indicated by our map [Figure 6]... Beyond Butternut Ridge, the new road had to be continued to Petitcodiac, and did not again meet the Indian trail until near Bennets Brook.

As to the Petitcodiac end of the portage, that I believe was at the mouth of Bennets Brook, with an accessory trail across to the main Petitcodiac, as shown by our large map [Figure 6]. This part of the subject, however, I reserve for further study; and I hope to report thereon next year in connection with a Note on the Petitcodiac.”

It seems that Ganong never published the description of the Petitcodiac end of this portage route. No reference of it could be found in subsequent publications of the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick. However, references to this end of the Canaan – Petitcodiac portage might be found in the extensive collection of unpublished Ganong documents available for consultation at the New Brunswick Museum Archives.

## **b) Management of known portage routes**

Portage routes locations will not be integrated into the Fundy Model Forest GIS database. Described paths taken by portage routes are most often generalizations or best guesses. Most descriptions given by Ganong were based on exploration of starting and ending areas of portage routes. The placement of the remaining sections of the routes

were mostly based on known landscape characteristics and the interpretation of the impact of these landscape characteristics on over-land canoe transportation. The exact locations of portage routes, needed for effective management, are not available.

The portage routes have probably not been used since at least the early 1900s. They are most likely grown-over and would be impossible to distinguish from the surrounding forest. Furthermore, the absence of Aboriginal communities within the Fundy Model Forest creates an absence of traditional

## **Figure 6 on legal size**



knowledge on local portage routes. This traditional knowledge would have a been a great help in precisely locating Fundy Model Forest portage routes.

### **5) Acknowledgements**

The Fundy Model Forest would like to thank Ms. Pat Allen and Mr. Albert Ferguson of the Archeological Surveys of New Brunswick for agreeing to share their data on Traditional Aboriginal sites with the Fundy Model Forest. Mr. Gary Hughes, Ms. Felicity Oespchook and other staff members of the New Brunswick Museum Archives were instrumental in helping locate documents from the W.F. Ganong collection. Thanks go out to Mr. Serge Lutz for sharing information on possible data sources and for investigating the Kennebecacis - Anagance portage. The Fundy Model Forest is also grateful to Chief Joe Knockwood for approving the Model Forest's management procedure and for agreeing with the Archeological Services Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing to supply the Aboriginal cultural site data for the implementation of this indicator.

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## **APPENDIX 1**