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Enjoy nearby eco-tourism day trips such as Whale Watching off Digby Neck, exploring Kejimikujik National Park, canoeing the scenic lakes and rivers of Annapolis County and hiking Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail.
(Ocean Explorations)

Whale Watching

Whale watching adventures await you about an hours drive from Annapolis Royal from June to Sept. The Bay of Fundy's great tides create a rich ecosystem that supports abundant wildlife, whales and seabirds. The waters off the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, from Brier Island up to Digby Neck, are important feeding areas. Enjoy minke, humpback and fin whales, harbour porpoise and Atlantic white-sided dolphins. Right whales are often seen. Sperm, sei, orca and blue whales have also been spotted.

Humpback whales, "clowns of the sea," are the most likely to be seen. They breach (jump out of the water), flipper slap and tail lobe (bring the tail out of the water and slap it on the water) the most. They also spy hop, coming out of the water nose first, to look at people.

Finback whales are some of the largest at 60-80 feet, second only to the Blue. Minke whales are the smallest of the group of whales in the Bay at about 30 feet in length. They are quite friendly and often come close to the boats to delight

visitors. You might even see the rare North Atlantic Right whale. Only about 350 are still living.

Along with whales, you may also encounter seals, dolphins and harbour porpoises. The two kinds of seals most often seen are Grey and Harbour. The Grey Seal is the larger and has a noticeably square head. Harbour Porpoise are the most abundant. At times, white-sided dolphins run with the boat, swimming playfully along side, jumping in and out of the water.

This area of the Bay of Fundy is located on the Atlantic Flyway, a major migration route for many species of sea birds, shorebirds and waterfowl. Birdwatching is an added plus with Cormorants and Shearwaters, Puffins, Gannets and Petrels and Ducks, both common Elders and American Blacks.

Sport Fishing

The Annapolis Basin and lower Annapolis River are noted for striped bass, white bass, sea trout and white flounder. Public access is located just off Hwy 1 near the Tidal Power Plant. Record size bass have been landed.

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Bay of Fundy Recommended Experience

Walk for Grant
Annapolis Royal

(L. Powell)

Grant Potter 1963-2010

The 2011 Explorer Visitors Guide is dedicated to the memory of Grant Royce Potter who was the enthusiastic Recreation Director for the Town of Annapolis Royal from 1994 until his tragic death in a motorcycle accident in 2010.

Walk for Grant

Grant believed that almost everyone could get valuable daily exercise simply by walking at their own pace. Annapolis Royal offers 8 different scenic walking paths and routes, outlined in the popular "Walk Annapolis Royal" brochure he developed for the Town.

While exploring Annapolis Royal, we encourage you to pick up a brochure, and walk one of the beautiful routes in Grant's honour.

French Basin Trail

One of Grant's very favourite paths was the picturesque French



French Basin Trail (Potter)

Basin Trail. Located in the heart of Annapolis Royal, just off Hwy. 1, only a block from the traffic light, this 1.2 km easy walking trail encircles the scenic Annapolis River Marsh and is co-sponsored by Ducks Unlimited. Explore the marsh up-close with interpretative signage, and learn why wetlands are so very essential for a healthy environment. The French Basin Trail provides public education, improvement of the water quality, conservation of wildlife, plus fun eco-tourism adventures for all ages in every season. Abundant wildlife species make the trail popular all year with cross country skiers and bird enthusiasts.



Silly geese enjoy a dip. (Fry)

Send us your favourite "Walk Annapolis Royal for Grant" Photo for a chance to be featured in the 2012 EXPLORER. TheExplorer@hotmail.ca or Post to "Explorer Guide" on Flickr or Facebook

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