

Community-led Initiative for Low-impact Trails in Pickard Quarry

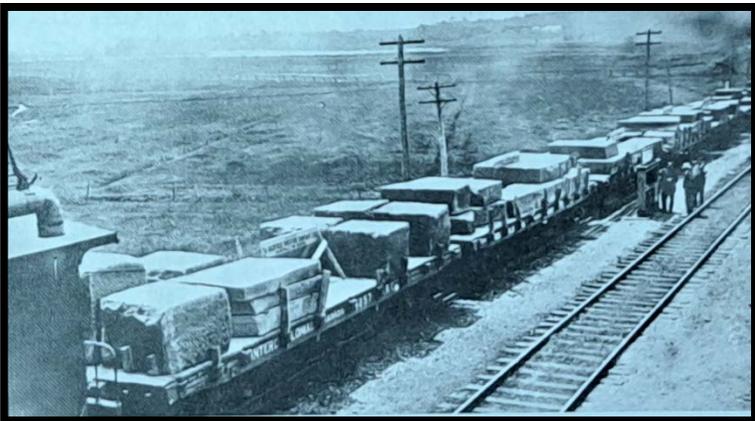
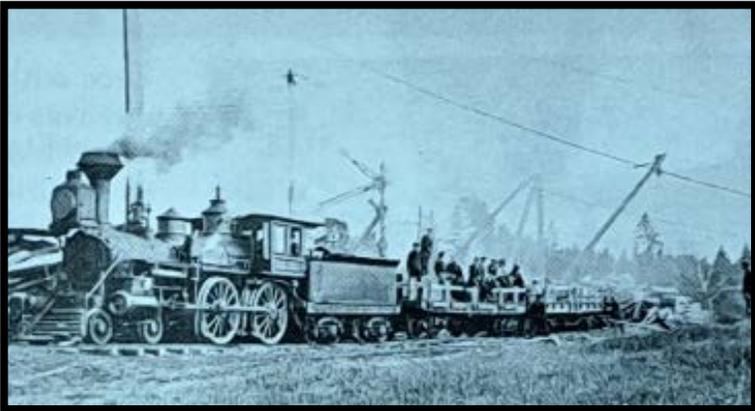
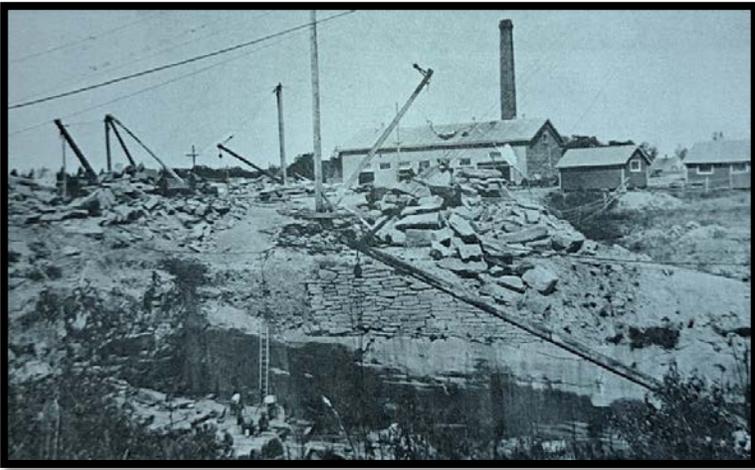


Richard Elliot – Tantramar Outdoor Club

Tantramar Council Special Budget Meeting - 19 September 2023

The History of Pickard Quarry

- Once an important source of **high-quality red sandstone** for buildings
- Huge enterprise, started by **Charles Pickard**, who founded the Sackville Freestone Company
- Quarried **7-800 tons/day** at peak, creating a hole **200 feet (65m) square**, up to **60 feet (20m) deep**
- Had many **large buildings**, four huge derricks, 12 teams of horses, linked by a spur line to the **Inter Colonial Railway**
- Used for **many buildings** at Mount Allison, in Sackville, and across Eastern Canada, including Ontario's Legislature, **from 1890s to 1930s**
- **Purchased by Mount Allison** in 1930s, last active in 1970s



Current Use of the Quarry

- The quarry has since developed into a **naturalized wooded area and wetland** within Sackville, with a **network of small trails**
- Already enjoyed by many local residents for **walking, wildlife viewing, skating, and relaxing**
- Has also been a traditional hangout for **high school and Mount Allison students**
- **Town acquired the Quarry in late 2022** for use as a storm retention pond
- Ten-foot (3.1m) high **flood control structure** was built at the end of Quarry Lane in **June 2023**





Unique Recreational Opportunities

- Timely opportunity to make use of the Quarry as a **naturalized park and wetland**, with:
 - **safe, low impact trails and pathways**, and
 - **informative interpretive signs**
- Proposed focus on **recreational use, walking and snowshoeing, natural history viewing, and cultural history** appreciation to highlight its past
- **No vehicles on trails, no wide trails**, but with several small **parking** areas at entry points
- Tied in with the **network of trails** in Tantramar, and our unique status as a **Ramsar Wetland City**

Partner Contributions

TANTRAMAR

- **Tantramar Outdoor Club** – overall lead, coordination, planning, trail construction and maintenance
- **Chignecto Naturalists' Club** – natural history expertise
- **Tantramar Heritage Trust** – cultural history expertise
- **Town of Tantramar** – project co-lead, planning, funding for trail improvement and safety aspects
- **Mount Allison University** – access to adjacent university lands
- **Southeast Regional Commission (Plan 360)** – trail expertise, planning, design, and construction



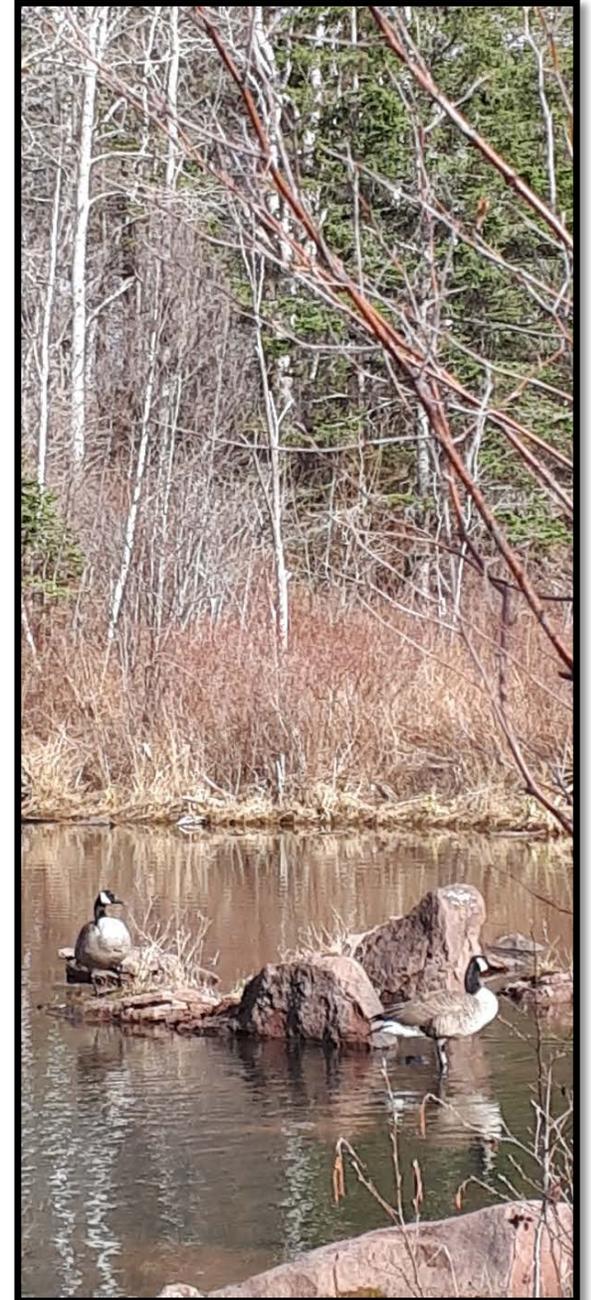


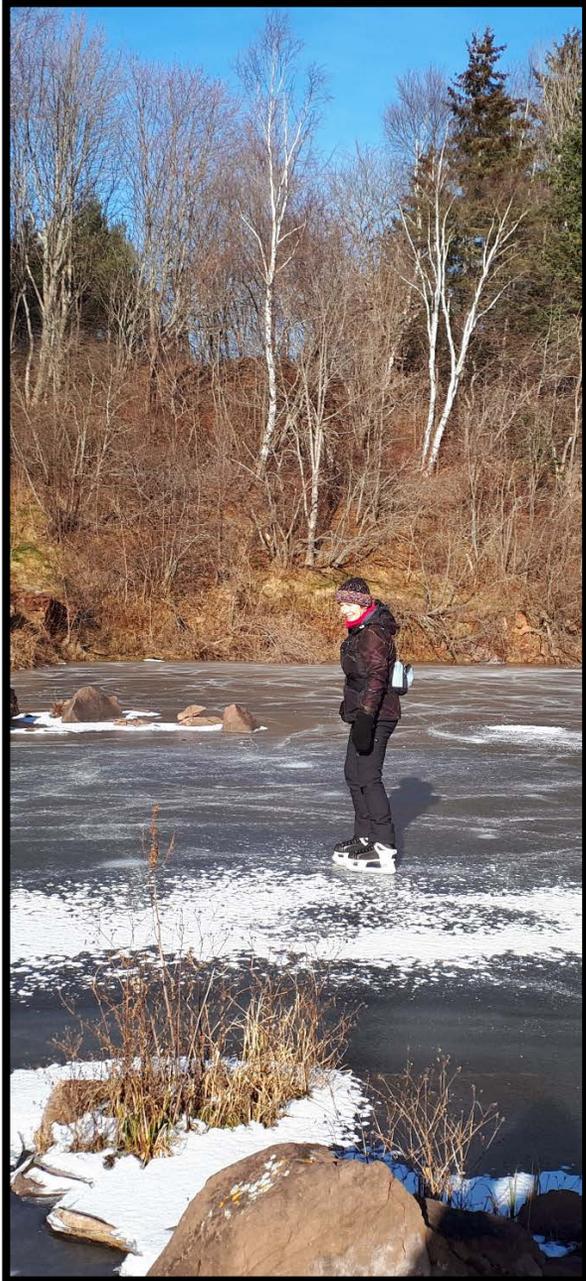
Significant Progress to Date

- **Planning underway in 2023** for initial trail improvements to begin in **2024**
- Have firmed up **commitments** for in-kind contributions from **most key partners**
- Have met with **Town managers and staff** (Matt Pryde, Jon Eppell, Todd Cole)
- Staff have provided **strong support** for concept, and propose funding of essential access and safety infrastructure
- Now completing an overall **conceptual plan** with Marc Leger from Plan 360

Municipal Funding Required

- Most labour will be provided by **volunteers** from the **Outdoor Club and its NGO partners**
- Services of **Plan 360** are free, will apply for **grants**
- **Municipal funding** will be required for **infrastructure development**, such as:
 - light gravel for smoothing of uneven **trails**,
 - erection of a few targeted safety **railings**,
 - design and construction of a **foot-bridge** above the waterfall
 - design, production, and installation of **interpretive signs**
 - design and construction of a small **wheelchair-accessible viewing platform**





Our Funding Request

- Infrastructure **costs have not been calculated** in detail
 - cost of foot-bridge roughly estimated at ~\$20-50K
- Propose that infrastructure be **developed over the next two years (2024-2025)**:
 - trail improvement and bridge construction initiated in 2024
 - trails, interpretive signs, and viewing platform completed in 2025
- ***Request that \$40K be allocated to the capital budget of the Active Living and Culture Department for FY 2024***
- ***Request for a similar amount anticipated for FY 2025***



Partner Acknowledgements

- In addition to those mentioned earlier, I'd like to thank the following:
- **Tantramar Outdoor Club**
 - Peter Manchester, Kate Bredin, Karin Aurell, Ross Thomas, Bruce Coates, and others
- **Chignecto Naturalists Club**
 - Sandy Burnett, Jeff White, Doug Bliss, and others
- **Tantramar Heritage Trust**
 - Al Smith, Paul Bogaard, Logan Atkinson, Mary Pickard, and others



Questions?

