

The Jewels of the Gulf

"OUR BEAUTIFUL MAGDALEN ISLANDS"

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in collaboration with The First Informer Inc.**

Hello there,

Welcome to our beautiful Islands. Although the Magdalen Islands are only 100 km. or so from tip to tip as the crow flies, there are many places to see and things to do during your visit. Distances between the communities are short and every drive is a "scenic route".

Red cliffs, white sand, green hills, blue skies and water - it's for sure you'll find the Islands colourful! But we're colourful in other ways too. There's a story behind every person you meet and place you see.



The languages spoken by Madelinots have a colourful history. One language is an Acadian variety of 17th Century French; Anglophone Islanders often speak with a cadence reminiscent of Scotland and Ireland. These languages evolved in isolation for nearly three centuries and are liberally salted with nautical terms. The lilting, melodious language is a delight to hear. The Acadian and Scottish/Irish descendants have always lived side by side, no animos-



ity darkens the history of these two communities. Didn't the two speak the same language? That of the sea!

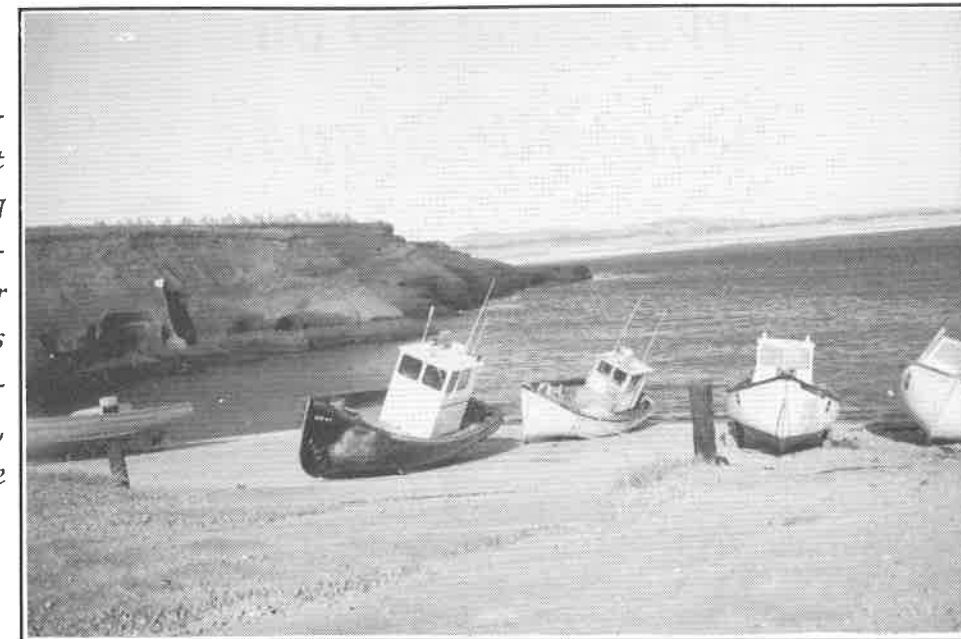
More than fourteen thousand people live on these "Jewels of the Gulf" scattered throughout the seven inhabited islands. Grand Entry (Grande Entrée), Grosse Ile, Pointe-aux-Loups, House Harbour (Havre-aux-Maisons), Grindstone and Amherst (Havre Aubert) are joined by long sand dunes and bridges. Entry Island is the only inhabited island not joined to the main islands. Some of the islands have both English and French names, but not all. The Anglophone population of the Islands is centered mainly in Grosse Ile, which includes East Point and Old Harry, and on Entry Island.

The Magdalen Islands have a gentle, marine climate with the least amount of annual frost in the Province of Quebec. Although the ice which surrounds the islands in winter delays the onset of spring, the sunny warm temperatures of summer often last until the end of September and the fall is usually mild and pleasant. Heated by the Gulf Stream, the water surrounding the Islands reaches 17° C (63° F), making the Island waters warmer than those along the banks of the St. Lawrence River.



When you're surrounded by more than 300 km. of beautiful white beaches as we are, most summer activities are centered around the salt water. These include swimming, sunning, windsurfing and excursions just to mention a few. The archipelago has all the elements it takes to be a paradise for lovers of water sports: climate, wind, the sea and beaches to rival any in the world.

The economy of the Islands is traditionally based on fishing. Most Madelinots still make their living from the sea, and from the transformation of its products. Lobster fished on the rocky bottom makes the Islands famous, and other species (scallops, mackerel, snow crab, cod, herring, sole, flounder etc.) are fished in season.



No seafood is better than that from the Islands! As for the delectable Magdalen Island lobster, in season from mid-May until mid-July, it is even better when eaten outdoors. Why not consider a lobster picnic on the beach?

The exploitation of the tourist industry is relatively new in the Magdalen Islands and the fragile ecology here has necessitated regulations which have helped preserve the islands in their natural state.

The Islands are a paradise for birdwatchers. Petrels, cormorants, garnets, razor bills, mures, gulls and other species abound.

If you enjoy bicycling, the bicycle is recommended as a means of transportation to vacationers who really want to soak up the glorious local colour. As you walk, drive or bike around the Islands the Madelinots will greet you warmly. They're helpful and easy to get to know. The hospitality enjoyed by visitors is often their most cherished memory of their Island vacation.

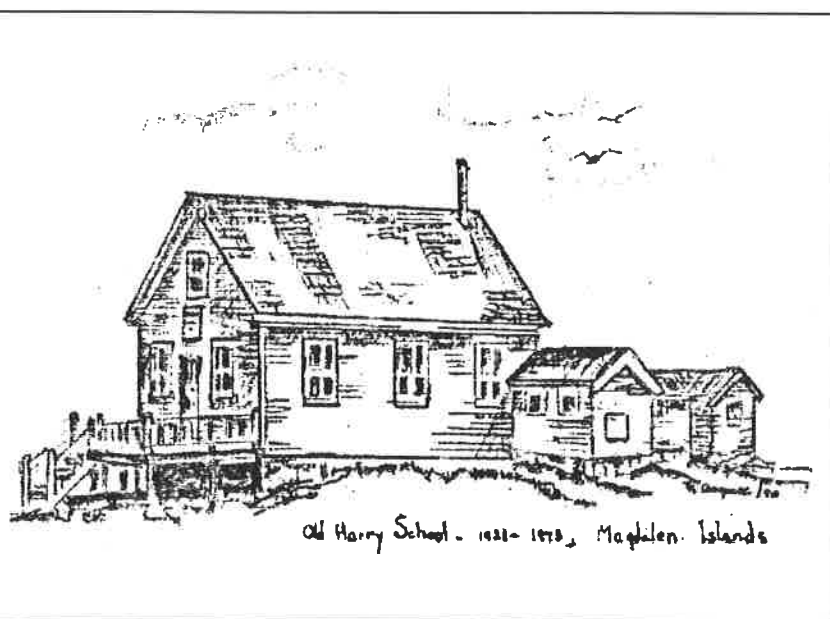
The First Informer

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vacation!*



Old Harry School - 1921-1973, Magdalen Islands

Old Harry School 1921-1973

C.A.M.I.

In 1989 C.A.M.I. (Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders) decided to start the process of a mini-museum, showing what it was like to be a student in such an environment.

This school is located about 52 km from the main island of Cap-aux-Meules (Grindstone).

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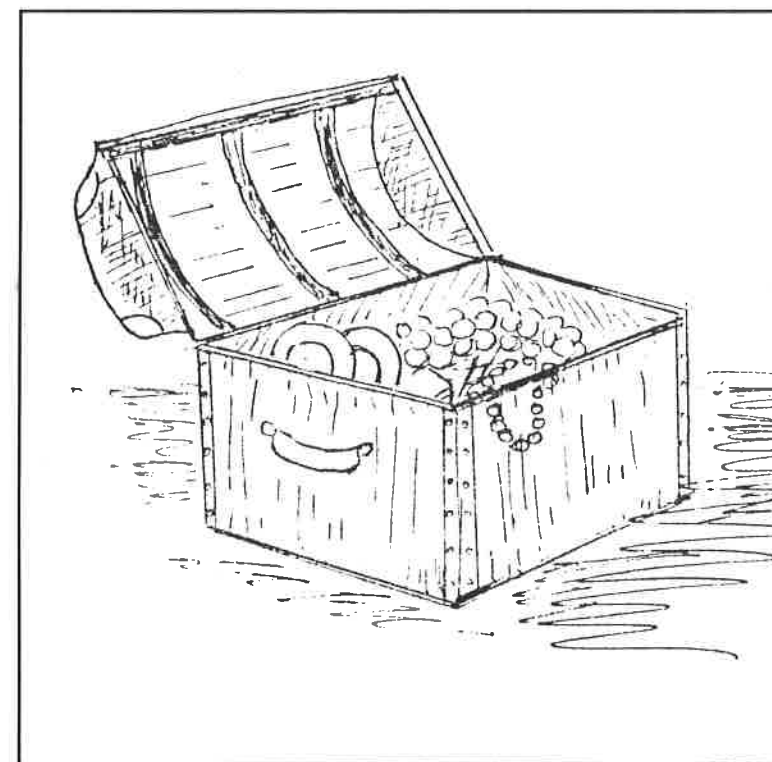
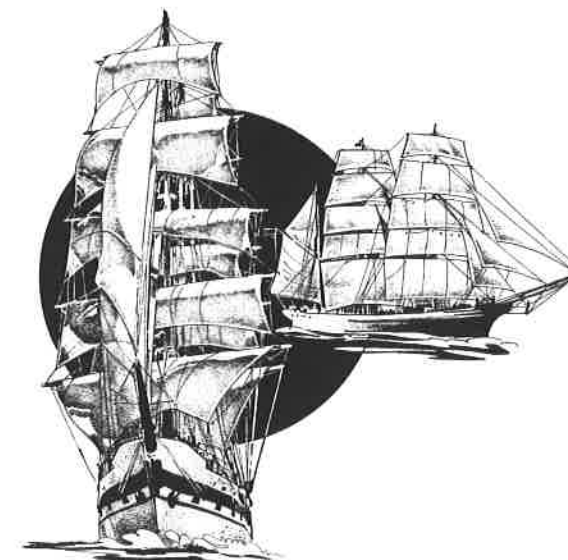
A Little History

Jacques Cartier first visited the Magdalen Islands in 1534. On his return trip in 1536 he named the islands "Les Araynes" (Latin for Arena), which signifies sand. The abundant fishing attracted fishermen from the European seacoast, and it's believed that the Malouins from Brittany renamed the islands "Les Rames" - Green Arbours, no doubt referring to the topography of the sand dunes joining the islands.

The name Magdalen was apparently given in honour of Madeleine Fontaine, wife of the Island's first signoral lord, François Doublet de Honfleur.

An English possession, the Islands were annexed to Newfoundland until 1774 when the Quebec Act annexed them to Lower Canada. The Acadians of the "Grand Derangement" in 1755 began the true colonization of the Magdalen Islands. In 1787 Isaac Coffin claimed the Magdalen Islands

and under his domination the first Madelinots, mainly fishermen and farmers, lived a hard life. In 1895 a Quebec law enabled the Islanders to purchase their land.



The Magdalen Islands have acquired a reputation rivalling that of Sable Island's as a marine disaster area. Some estimates put the number at 600, but precisely how many shipwrecks have occurred here is uncertain. The death toll mounts to thousands. Were the ghosts to haunt these isles, what a confusion of race and tongues would reign.

Though the islands have witnessed many wrecks with terrible loss of lives, other wrecks have brought additional settlers and unexpected bounty in the form of supplies and goods. Adventurers in increasing numbers are digging and digging for buried treasure, but thus far they've bought up more rusty propellers and portholes than gold or silver. The thrill of the hunt makes their experiences memorable.

An introduction to *Captains of the Shoals*

Father Frédéric Landry, a well-known Island historian and author recently had one of his books translated into English. The following introduction to the book aptly describes how the sea shaped the lives of Madelinots.

I lived a calm and peaceful childhood in nature, not in woods and forests, but in the more barren nature of sand, rocks and sea. Surrounded by the endless horizon, I enjoyed much freedom. The only walls hemming me in were those of school, but these were temporary.

The men in my surroundings, most of them fishermen, held no diplomas or degrees; for me, they had the necessary knowledge, rich with oral traditions and experience. They travelled over an immense sea and observed their environment attentively. At the helm of a small fishing boat or at the wheel of a ship of average tonnage, they had time to think. On the sea nothing is dull; everything changes, even the horizon, increasing our awareness of the relativity of things and of time.

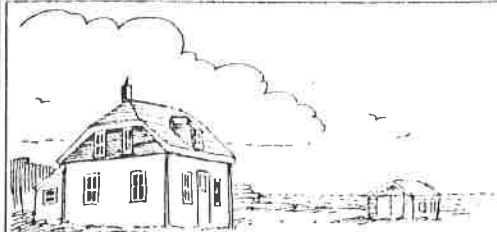
Our ancestors reached the Islands by boat. On each day of fair weather, they had to leave the shore to earn their daily bread; but often they had to return earlier, pushed by the winds, or were prevented from bringing in their lines, nets or cages by the swell or current.

If the horizon showed signs of wind for the next day, they would work on their plots of land which compensated for the meager catch of an entire fishing season. With calmness and patience they would wait for more clement weather before returning to sea.

The sea requires prudence. The sand and the rocks surrounding the Islands are traps for those who are unaware of them. These are the shoals which the experienced sailor approaches with caution. At the helm or wheel, exposed to the elements or in the wheelhouse, the *Captains of the Shoals* are men who, the only masters after God on their boats, sometimes have to face the wrath of the ocean.

Frédéric Landry

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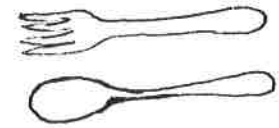
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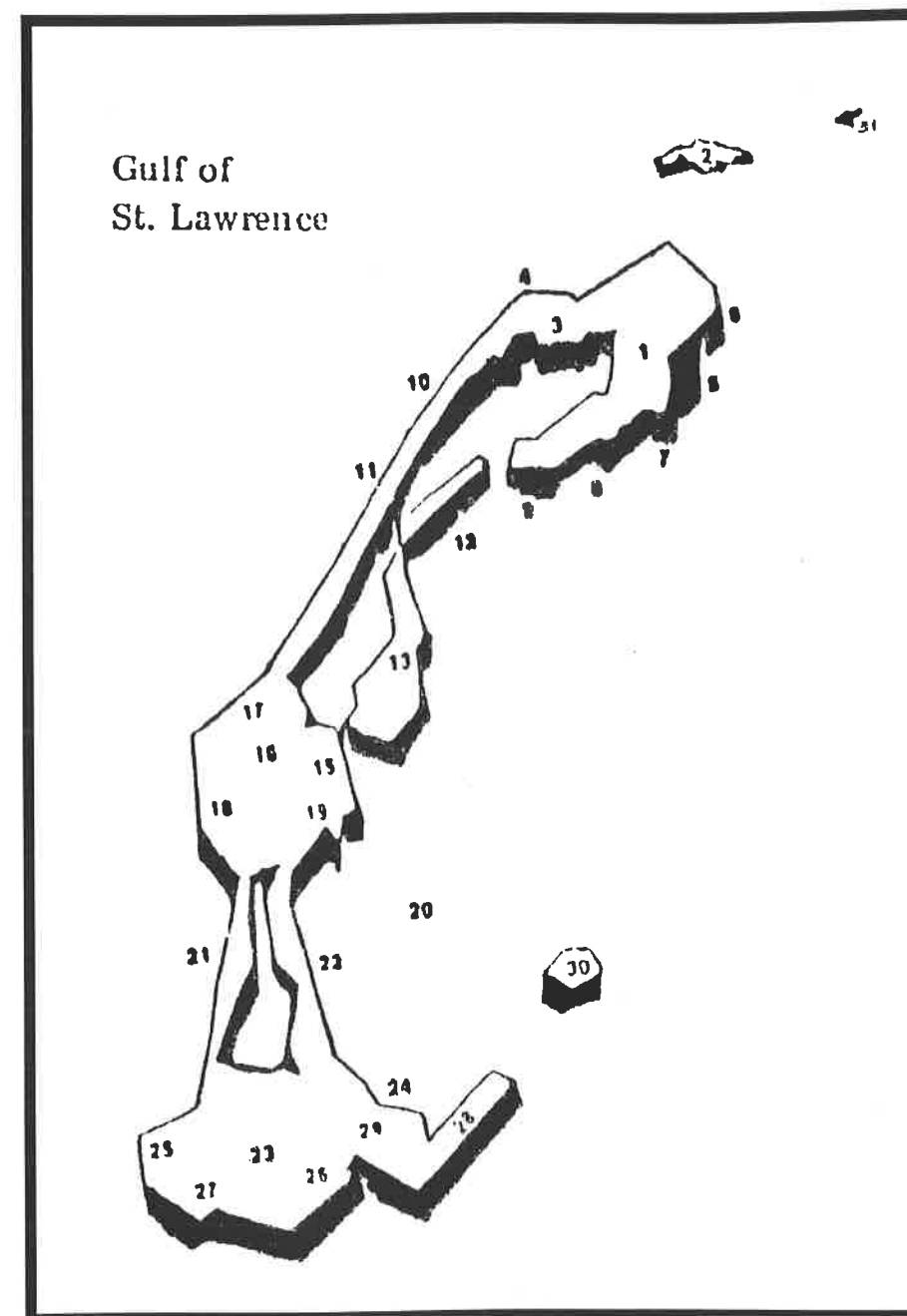
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The Magdalen Islands



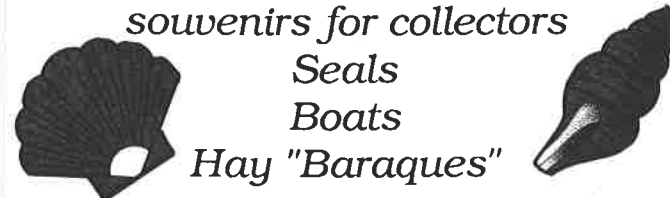
1. East Island
2. Brion Island
3. Grosse Ile
4. Cape Dauphin
5. Old Harry Beach
6. East Point
7. Old Harry Point
8. Grand Entry Island
9. Grand Entry
10. North Beach
11. Pointe-aux-Loups
12. South Beach
13. House Harbour
14. House Harbour Point
15. Grindstone
16. Grindstone Island
17. Fatima
18. Etang-du-Nord
19. Big Cape
20. Pleasant Bay
21. West Beach
22. East Beach, Martinique Beach
23. Amherst Island
24. Amherst
25. West Point
26. Bassin
27. Millerand
28. Sandy Hook
29. Portage-du-Cap
30. Entry Island
31. Bird Rock Island

References :

Pointe de l'Est National Wildlife Area (1989), Iles-de-la-Madeleine Tourist Guide (1992 edition), La Réserve Ecolo-gique de l'Ile-Brion (1992), The Magdalen Islands "Seeing Is Believing" (1989), Mines Seleine, C.A.M.I., Leonard Clark.

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Island Communities

Grand Entry (Grande Entrée)

The last island to be permanently settled (about 1870) this municipality has been called *The Fishing Capital of the Islands*.

At Grand Entry Point you'll find a fishing port filled with colourful fishing boats and a fish processing plant. It's possible to take an excursion from this port to tiny islands in Grand Entry Lagoon for birdwatching, fishing or deep-sea diving in inflatable boats.

The Club Vacances des Iles., located near Oyster Bay, offers accommodations, rental of water sport equipment, guided hikes in the National Wildlife Reserve at East Point and nature walks. Camping sites and restaurant services are also available there.

Take a drive along Pealey Rd. (Chemin des Pealey) and you'll see a typical Magdalen Island sight - houses spaced out from each other in the middle of fields. This pattern results from the traditional division of land by the Madelinots.

Although mainly French speaking, the friendly people of Grand Entry have no problem communicating with their Anglophone neighbours in the municipality of Grosse Ile, or with English-speaking visitors from the mainland.



Welcome to our beautiful Islands!

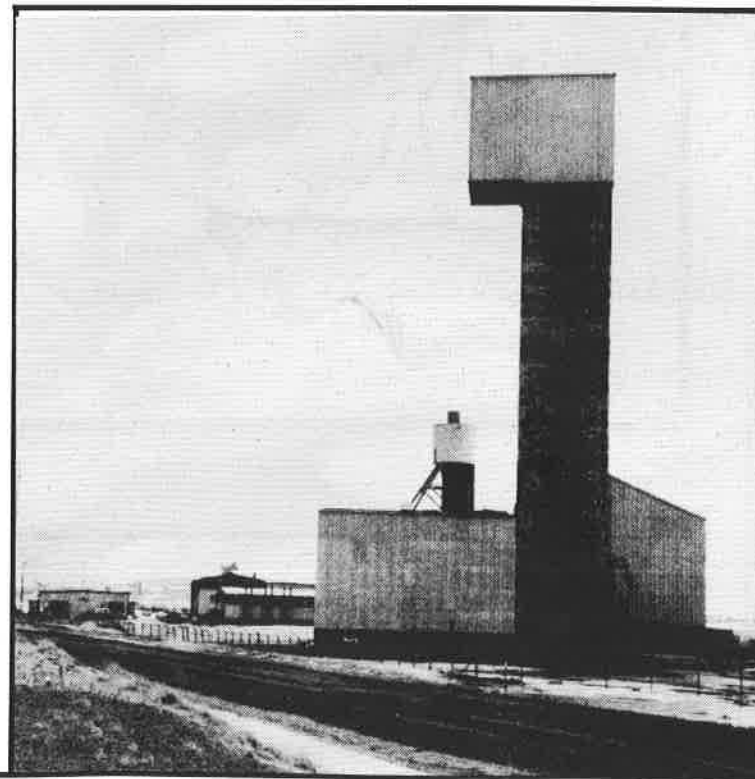
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The Municipality of Grosse Ile

Grosse Ile is an Anglophone municipality consisting of 3 communities: Grosse Ile, East Cape and Old Harry.

Here, like everywhere on the Islands, fishing is the principal occupation - especially lobster fishing. There are two fishing ports in the municipality, one at Grosse Ile North and one in Old Harry.

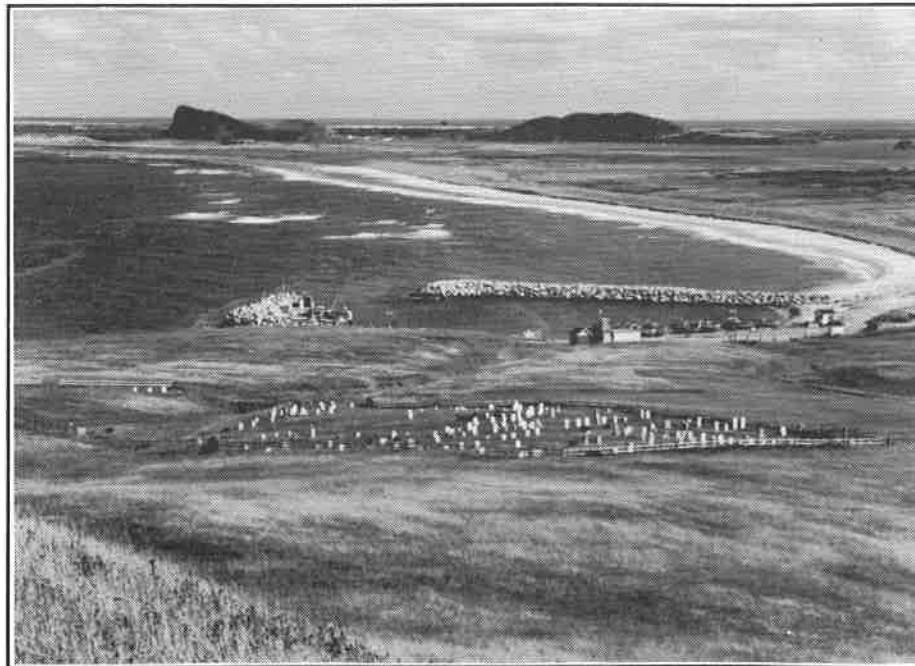
When you leave Grand Entry, Old Harry is the next community you will meet on Rte. 199. One place that you should not miss during your visit to the Magdalen Islands is Old Harry Beach (La Grande Echouerie). It is certainly one of the most beautiful of the Island beaches. Boundless white sand and sandhills run to the eastward as far as the eye can see.

Standing on the beach one can see the Old Harry fishing port with its boats moored to the wharf, lazily rocking with the movement of the sea. You can also see Ad's Cove where many local people and tourists bathe in the Gulf water. Numerous rocks, coves and caves made by the sea erosion cause a sound that you will never forget, when the waves wash upon them.

You may even be fortunate enough to see seals playing, popping their heads out of the water wondering what is happening along the shoreline. This single stop can become a day of adventure - photograph the surrounding scenery, walk along the beach, collect seashells and other articles, build sand castles, explore the caves and bathe in the soothing water.

You can also visit the cross that was erected in 1969 in memory of the *Miracle* disaster and of all the fisherman who have lost their lives in these waters. It is a long walk to the cross, about 10 km. so take your your lunch and plan a full day of walking, swimming and sunning.

While in Old Harry pause for a moment to admire the wooden sculpture honouring the arrival of Jacques Cartier's arrival at Old Harry in 1534. This sculpture was erected during a special ceremony in July, 1984.



The Old Harry Church has beautifully carved wooden doors placed in memoriam of a young man who lost his life at sea saving the lives of others. There are also lovely stained glass windows and delicate paintings inside this little church. This church, St. Peter's by the Sea, is the oldest Anglican Church in the Islands.

Located between East Cape and Old Harry, the National Wildlife Reserve shows the various kinds of terrain found in the Islands' dunes and their development. Migratory birds use this reserve on their migrations, providing a mecca for birdwatchers! However, it is best to be with a guide to explore this area and to identify the species of birds. Inquire at the Tourist Information office in Grindstone.

As we leave the reserve, a panoramic route passes by a little valley which shelters a few houses, well-protected by the cape. This tiny, but very attractive community is called East Cape. This is the place where Anglophones first settled in the Magdalen Islands.

As we continue along Rte. 199 towards the main community of the municipality, Grosse Ile, we reach an attractive little Tourist Halt provided by the Municipal Corporation. In addition to an information booth you'll find picnic tables, a play area and a mini-lighthouse.

The charming Church in the community of Grosse Ile, is adorned with an outstanding stained glass window depicting the life of fishermen.

If you drive up Mountain Rd., cross a little valley and take Keating Rd. to the foot of Rockhill Point you'll enjoy the beautiful view of Grand Entry Bay. A little further on, on Wide Rd. overlooking Grosse Ile, you can see Grosse Ile North, East Cape, and, on a fine day, even Brion Island.

As we approach the outer limits of the municipality we come to a salt mine which began full production in April, 1983 under Mines Seleine. Now owned by Canadian Salt, the mine provides employment for many Islanders. An Information Booth at the entrance informs visitors about all aspects of salt mining production.



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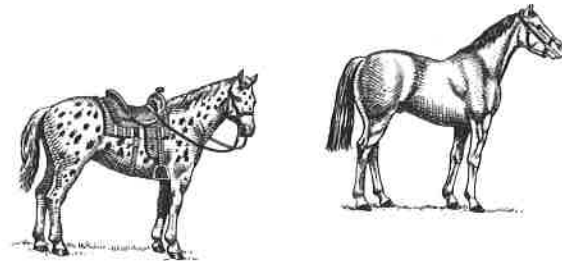
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Brion Island

Located 16 km. off Grosse Ile, Brion Island was once inhabited by several families, and seasonally inhabited until the beginning of the 1970's for fishing.

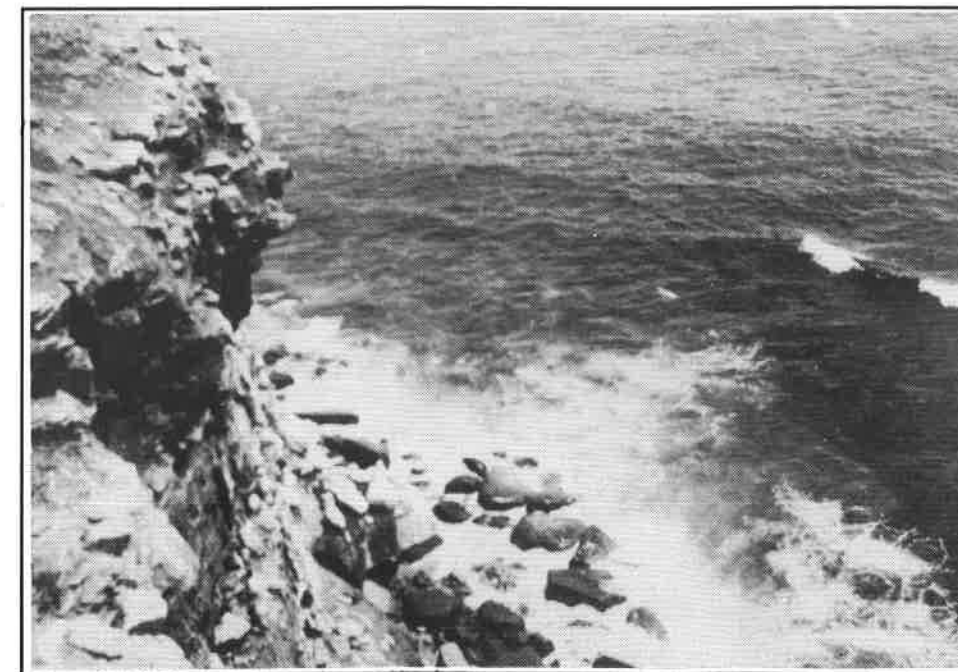
Uninhabited today, the island was recently purchased by the Government of Quebec for Conservation purposes. It is home to more than 140 species of birds and is considered as representative of the Islands as they were before they were settled.

The Corporation for the Access to and protection of Brion Island is in charge of the island for the Quebec Minister of Environment. It is the only ecological reserve in Quebec that open to visitors (for educational purposes, conservation, observation, and discovering the natural habitat). Only a limited number of visitors may visit at a time for supervised camping and a permit is required. For more information contact the Brion Island Access and Protection Corporation at 986-6622.



Bird Rock

Located 20 km. northeast of Grosse Ile. Bird Rock is a refuge for colonies of aquatic birds such as petrels, northern gannets, razorbills, murre, gulls etc. Since the automatization of the lighthouse, the island has been uninhabited, but the lighthouse keepers house and other buildings remain. In spite of difficult access it is one of the most important birdwatching sites in eastern North America.



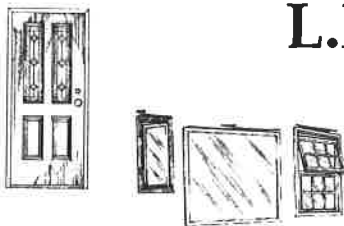
Few Island fishermen travel to the waters surrounding Bird Rock Island; although lobsters and other species may be plentiful in season, the trip is long and often hazardous in inclement weather.

At one time a long staircase allowed people to climb to the top of the island but it has long since fallen into complete disrepair.

Birdwatching and fishing observation excursions are possible from Grand Entry.

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Pointe-aux-Loups

Pointe-aux-Loups is a tiny community belonging to House Harbour and separated from it by sand dunes. There is a fishing port on the northern side of the island and a wharf for smaller boats on the southern side of the lagoon.

On both sides of Pointe-aux-Loups are long, beautiful beaches stretching from Fatima to Grosse Ile. They are very accessible but the current can be deceiving so it would be wise not to swim too far from the shore.



House Harbour (Havre-aux-Maisons)

House Harbour is considered by many to be one of the prettiest islands, with its peaceful country side dotted with colourful houses. The Magdalen Island Airport is located on this island.

There are several sectors in the municipality: La Pointe, Pointe-Basse, South Beach and Petite Baie.

La Pointe, near the House Harbour Bridge has a marina and wharves. Blue mussel farmers work there and you can buy fresh or cooked lobster in season, as well as other seafood products.

A tour of Mounette Hill is a must. Take the scenic route to get a panoramic view of La Pointe and Petite Baie with Grindstone in the background. Follow Pointe-Basse Rd. and you'll see many examples of the traditional Magdalen Island homes.

For years this port was important for smoked herring and a few old smokehouses still remain. L'échouerie and its little lighthouse are a great attraction and from there you'll be able to see all of Plaisance Bay as well as Entry Island.

You can stop at South Beach, walk along the cliffs to Butte Ronde, and see gypsum formations of a colour you will find nowhere else.



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Fatima

The youngest municipality in the Magdalen Islands, Fatima includes three little villages: Les-Caps, Grand-Ruisseau and Cap-Vert. There are steep cliffs sculptured by the wind on the northern side and most of the hills in the center of the island are forested. Avoid going too close to the edge of the cliffs as they may be undermined.

The church in Fatima has the shape of a shell and is a lovely example of modern religious architecture.

L'Anse-aux-Baleiners is the recreation center of the island, offering many activities including snack bars, water games, miniature golf, and photo exhibits. There is a tennis court nearby.



and a large window in the cafeteria allows visitors to watch the employees at work. About one kilometer further on you'll find Gros Cap Camping Site. This area is known for its cliffs and caves which can be explored in calm weather.

Etang-du-Nord also boasts an excellent 9-hole golf course called the Club de Golf des Iles.

A pleasant public square with a wonderful sculpture by Roger Langevin waits for you at Etang-du-Nord's fishing port. You can walk along the coastline, bordered by impressive cliffs, all the way to the lighthouse one kilometer away.

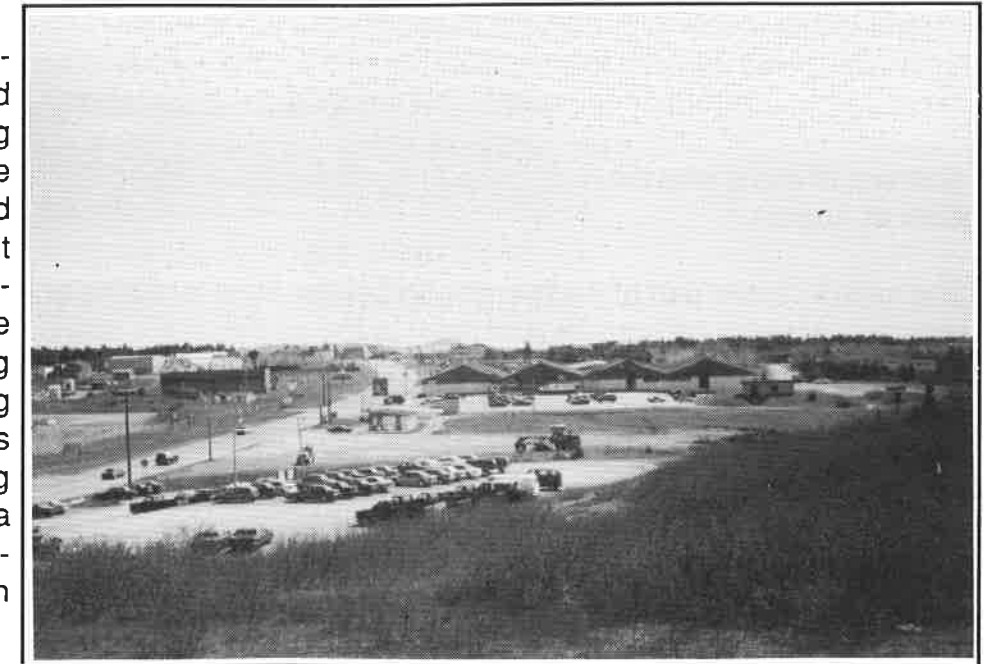
Grindstone (Cap-aux-Meules)

The name "Cap-aux-Meules" comes from the presence of a grindstone on the hill overlooking the port.

The tiny town of Grindstone is the administrative and commercial center of the Islands through which the Islands are provisioned. The large cargoes have made it into a seaport, the fishing boats a fishing port, and the sailing boats a pleasure port.



Grindstone Port is always bustling with activity: off-shore and coastal fishing, a fish processing plant, it's the arrival and departure point for the ferry to Prince Edward Island and the one to Montreal. It is also the departure point for excursions by boat. Not far from the port are boats in dry-dock waiting for the next fishing season or being repaired. A huge crane transfers the boats on straps, a fascinating sight for many tourists. There is a well-equipped marina for pleasure craft and there are Canadian Coast Guard offices nearby.



A tourist kiosk, fashioned after the old fashioned "hay barrack" once very popular with Madelinot farmers, greets visitors as they arrive in Grindstone. You may pick up information on various services, tides, accommodations, cultural events etc.

Grindstone has the Islands' only Hospital Centre as well as the main shopping districts, including a small shopping center, a modern church, a handicraft co-op for the Islands' artisans and several first-class restaurants and motels.



Amherst Island (Havre Aubert)

Amherst Island is located at the southern part of the archipelago. It has two main areas, Bassin and Amherst, which are divided into districts: Point du Cap, La Baie, La Montagne, L'anse à la Cabane and L'Etang des Caps.

The most interesting attraction in Amherst is, without a doubt, "La Grave" (from French "grive" meaning pebbly and sandy terrain).

This pebbly beach, which was a favourite spot for fishermen and businesses, has kept a maritime flavour, and preserved its original purpose as a favourite meeting place. The Museum of the Sea on Amherst Island is the sole maritime museum in Quebec which is centered in an environment of intense maritime life. Nearby is the Island Aquarium with live marine fauna and flora from the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Visitors can view the marine traditions of the Madelinot fishermen.

Amherst Island is also the host of the Annual Magdalen Island Sand Castle Competition held during the month of August.

The most forested part of the Islands, Amherst is ideal for hiking and discovering the forest flora. Small roads connect various hamlets and meet at the center of the island.

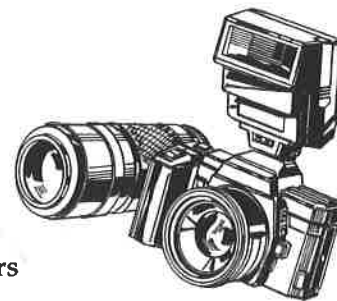
Amherst has a natural fishing and pleasure boat harbour and a modern fish processing plant.

This island has much to offer visitors, including shops, cafés, restaurants and cultural events as well as the delightful natural surroundings.

Bassin, on the western part of the Island may be reached by Bassin Rd. At L'anse à la Cabane you will have a wonderful view of the cove, fishing port, and the landscape shaped by valleys.

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Your stay in the Magdalen Islands would not be complete without a visit to Entry Island, the only inhabited island not joined to the others.

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Entry Island is located approximately five miles east of Amherst and nine miles south of Grindstone. It is pentagonal in form.



Two and a half miles long and half a mile wide, it offers an unusual variety of scenery and attractions for its size. The western half forms a gentle slope broken by charming meadows, pasture lands with cattle grazing peacefully and fragrant grasses, ending abruptly in dark red cliffs 50 to 100 feet high.

The eastern part of Entry Island is mountainous. The highest summit is approximately 580 feet above the level of the sea and looks higher, it is so steep. This spot is called "Big Hill".

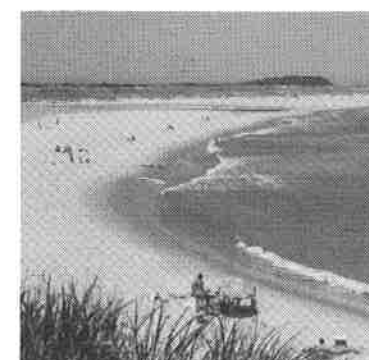
The first All Saint's Church on Entry Island was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Andrew Hunter Dunn in 1900. It was torn down and replaced in the late 1940's. The new Entry Island church was consecrated by the Most Rev. Phillip Carrington in 1953. Inside this lovely wooden structure there is a stained glass window dedicated to the memory of 5 young people who lost their lives at sea in the fall of 1987.

On this small but beautiful Island there are 3 grocery stores to serve you as well as 2 canteens. There are two Bed & Breakfast establishments, and visitors always have tales to tell of the hospitality they received from the Entry Islanders!

A Windsurfing Paradise



The Magdalen Islands offer truly ideal conditions and exceptional sites for windsurfers. Whether you're an amateur or professional you'll be thrilled like never before - thanks to great winds, enormous warm water lagoons, and the beautiful beaches. Each year at the end of August, dozens of world-class windsurfers travel to the Islands for the Canadian International windsurfing competitions.



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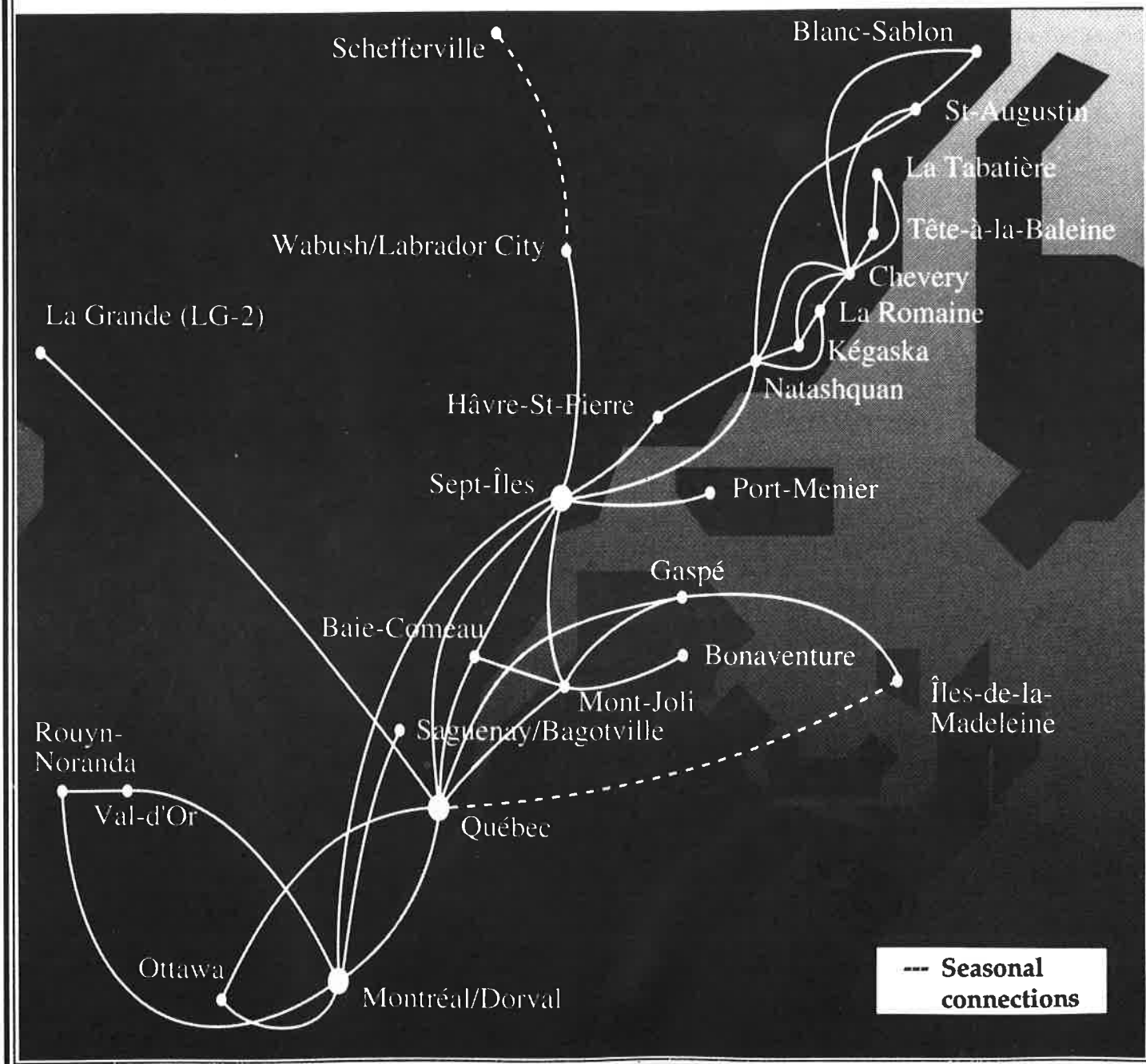
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Tales from the *Magdalen Islands*



The Magdalen Islands *"Snowman" - A True Story*

On Sunday, November 22, 1871 the Magdalen Islands were hit by a terrible blizzard. No one could leave their homes until the storm abated on Thursday.

On that day, two youths in Pointe-aux-Loups found the wreckage of a ship scattered at the foot of the cliffs, beyond the high tide mark. For several hours they gathered salvage from the wreckage. At dark they lit flares and started homeward. As they passed a large mass of wreckage a gigantic creature, eight feet tall and snow white, emerged from behind it. Dropping everything, the boys fled for home.

The next morning the storm returned in full force, but abated by afternoon. About twenty men went down to the shore where the disaster had taken place. Few of them paid any attention to the strange story of the two boys, dismissing the huge creature as a giant white owl or polar bear which had come in on an ice floe. All day long the men salvaged from the wreck they found to be the "S.S. Wasp". When night fell, they lit their flares and began their homeward journey. As they passed a hay barn, an enormous white shape, eight feet in height reared up at them from out of the snow drifts, and slowly advanced. The creature was so terrifying that every man dropped what he was carrying and ran as fast as he could for home, screaming with terror.

They told their story to Father Charles Boudreault, who tried to comfort them. He promised to accompany them to the scene the next day.

Early the next morning, Father Boudreault and a dozen men, each armed with a gun, set out for the haybarn. The others stayed home to protect their wives - or so they claimed. They found no evidence in the morning, and in the afternoon walked to the scene of the wreck, and again to the haybarn.

In the meadow behind the barn, Father Boudreault found footprints twenty-two inches long and twelve inches wide, which they followed and found to be those of a two-legged creature. On and on Father Boudreault led the others, all with their guns ready to shoot the creature - ghost, giant, or polar bear, whatever it might be. Then, far in the distance, they saw a huge form lying on the beach. The men lit their flares and Father Boudreault advanced alone. On reaching the form, he touched it, and encountered frozen snow. He walked around the creature, and found it to be more than nine feet in girth, and almost eight feet long, with a head almost four feet wide and three feet long!

The creature was carried into a house, and from within the fantastic shape emerged a man six feet eight in height, and weighing no less than 300 lbs! It was his enormous physique that saved him. He was found to be Augustus Le Bordais, the first mate of the "S.S. Wasp", and the only survivor. He had clung for a full day and night to a piece of wreckage in the sea and had eaten nothing for days but snow. That Augustus Le Bordais did not perish during his long exposure is rather short of miraculous.

Le Bordais' sufferings were terrible as his limbs began to thaw. A week after his rescue, the islanders realized that his legs would have to be amputated, and it took 10 men to hold him. But he lived! When the ice floes melted at the end of May, 1872, LeBordais was taken to Quebec for another operation. He was fitted with peg legs. Returning to the Magdalen Islands, he eventually founded the government office there, at Grosse Isle. Even with peg legs he could stand up against anyone in a fight!

(N.B. The Government office he founded was the first telegraph office in the Magdalen Islands.)



Tragedies at Bird Rock

Bird Rock has been visited by many famous people, including Jacques Cartier in 1534, and Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939, but the ones with the stories to tell are the lighthouse keepers.

Shortly after the turn of the century, there was a prolonged spell of thick, dense fog in the Magdalen Island area. In those days there were no automatic fog horns to warn away ships at sea, and a cannon was fired at regular intervals during the heavy weather - day after day, night after night.

The three keepers, John Turbid, Paul Chennell, and John Pigeon grew tired of carrying only three charges of gunpowder at a time to the cannon (as regulations permitted). One day they took the whole barrel of gunpowder over to the cliff.

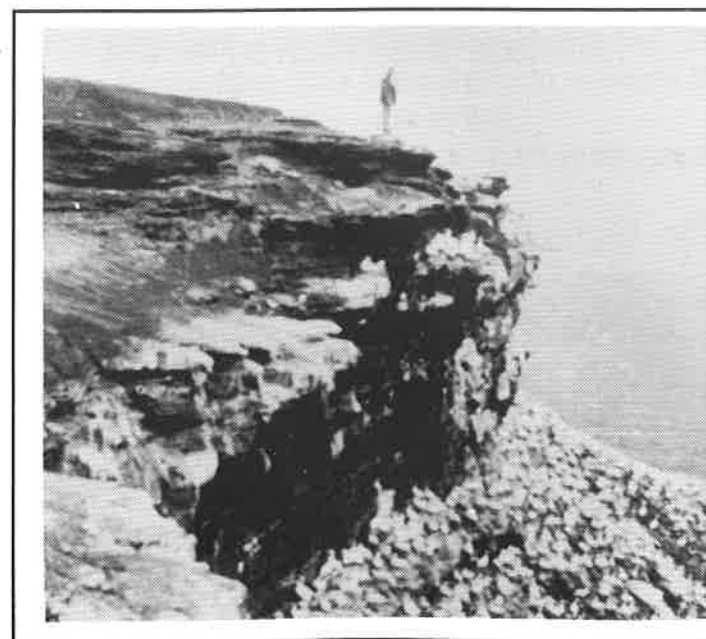
Inevitably, soon after the lighthouse keepers began this forbidden practise, the cannon backfired, and the priming cap flew into the open powder barrel. In the explosion which followed Chennell and Pigeon were blown to pieces, one of the keeper's children was killed, but Turbid, who had been blown into the sea, survived to swim ashore, and made his way back to the lighthouse.

Another disaster at Bird Rock took place during one seal hunting season. In the early winter the seals penetrate the Gulf of St. Lawrence in great herds. By the middle or end of March the female seals climb up on the floating ice to have their young, which they nurse for the next three weeks.

The winds of March usually push one or two of these ice-packs, loaded with seals, against the shores of the Magdalen Islands, and this particular spring was no exception. When the seal came to shore, the lighthouse keeper Whalen, his son, and his assistant J. Pigeon went out onto the ice and killed many seal. They took with them a galvanized iron floatboat for safety.

That night the wind came up, pushing the ice off shore, and they were unable to return to shore. Before morning, both Whalen and his son had frozen to death. Pigeon was still alive and he decided to make an effort to reach Bird Rock.

He abandoned his boat and made his way over ice packs which were bobbing and crashing; by the following morning the wind had shifted, and the icepack began to move back towards the Magdalenes. Pigeon was soon in sight of Bird Rock and battling his way across slush and soft ice, he reached Bird Rock late in the afternoon, and told the tragic news of death to Mrs. Whalen. The two of them continued to run the lighthouse until help came a month later.



Several years later, about 1910, Lighthouse keeper Telesphore Turbid, his son, and keeper Damien Deveaux, went out on the ice floes after seals, leaving Mrs. Deveaux alone on the island. The wind increased, and they floated off towards the South. The lighthouse keepers soon froze to death but young Turbid somehow reached Cape Breton Island alive. Here he was rescued in an unconscious condition and cared for. As he was taken to the hospital, he revived long enough to tell his tragic story. Then young Turbid said, "Annie Deveaux is alone on the rock. Will you save her? Within an hour he died.

The following morning a government icebreaker was on its way through the ice, and three days later Annie Deveaux, a solitary prisoner at Bird Rock for four long weeks, was rescued.



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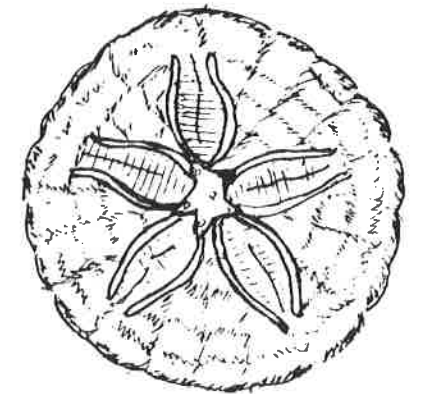
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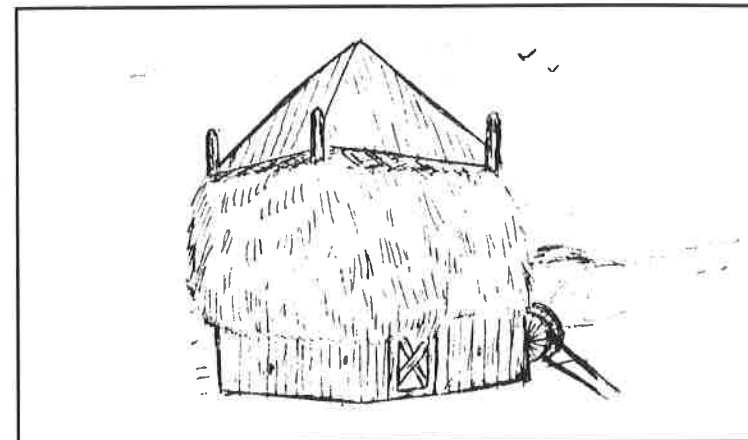
The "Magdalen Islands Sand Dollar"

The markings on this shell symbolize the Birth, Crucifixion, and Resurrection of Christ, and it is sometimes called the Holy Ghost Shell. On the top side of the shell can be seen the Easter Lily, and in the center, a five pointed star representing the Star of Bethlehem. Reversing the shell, the outlines of a poinsettia appears. When we open the sand dollar we find inside five little birds called the Doves of Peace.



Magdalen Hay Barrack

A Madelinot invention! These cleverly designed structures without walls consisting of four poles and sliding roofs, are used to store and shelter hay. Since less and less hay is being cut here today, these shacks are being relegated to folk history.



Kitty's Brook

Not far away from Wash Pond on the south side of Entry Island is a place called Kitty's Brook. Legend has it that there was a vessel sailing by the island supposedly going into port somewhere on the Magdalen Islands.

Aboard this vessel a little girl about the age of eleven became very ill shortly after they left port. As the days went on, the little girl progressively worsened and around seven o'clock one morning, she died.

The little girl was the Captain's daughter. They brought her ashore at Entry Island and buried her in a beautiful little spot close to a brook that ran down to the sea.

The little girl's name was Kitty.

Her name marks the place known today as Kitty's Brook.

Story of Wash Pond

Wash Pond is under a high hill on the south side of Entry Island. It was used in the early days as a place where people did washing. The main use of water from this pond was to wash

The wool from the sheep was valuable to the people, because it was spun into yarn to make knitted clothing for each family.

There were other sources of water on the island from which water was carried to their homes. But, it was easier to take their clothing and wool to the pond than it was to go and carry the water home. The clothing and the wool were laid on the rocks around the pond to dry.

Not only was the pond called Wash Pond, but the hill was given the name also.

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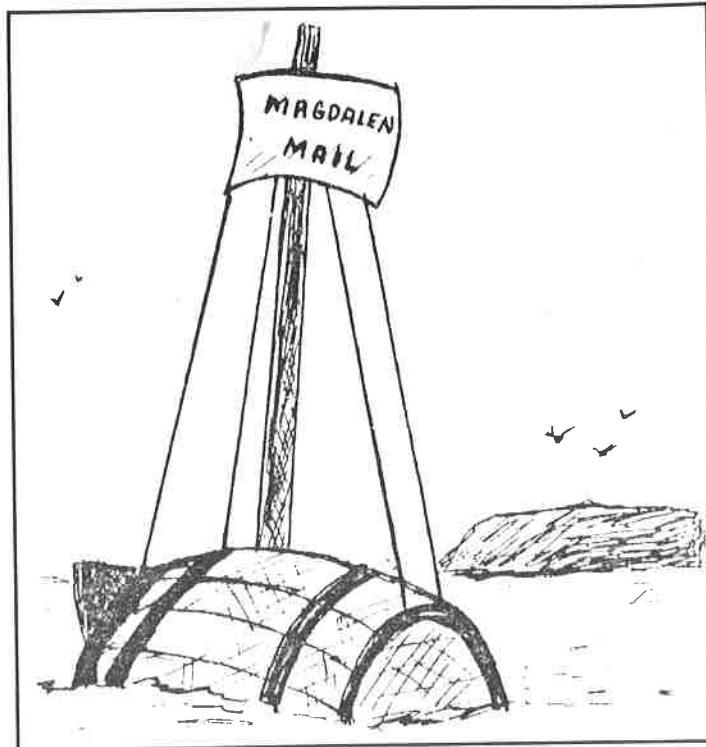
In the winter of 1910, stranded without any means of communications with the mainland, the residents of the Magdalen Islands sent out some mail and an urgent request for help in a molasses barrel (puncheon). This was found at Cape Breton Island, N.S. The Federal Government reacted swiftly and the icebreaker *Stanley* was promptly sent to the rescue. Though used only once, the puncheon became famous in Island history; models of it are sold to this day, to tourists throughout the islands.

A Story of Heroism

One winter day two men, Paul Chennell and Rubin Welsh set out in a fishing boat off the Magdalenes, and a gale of wind blew them out to sea. A change of wind carried them into the mouth of Grand Entry Harbour. There they became trapped in the ice.

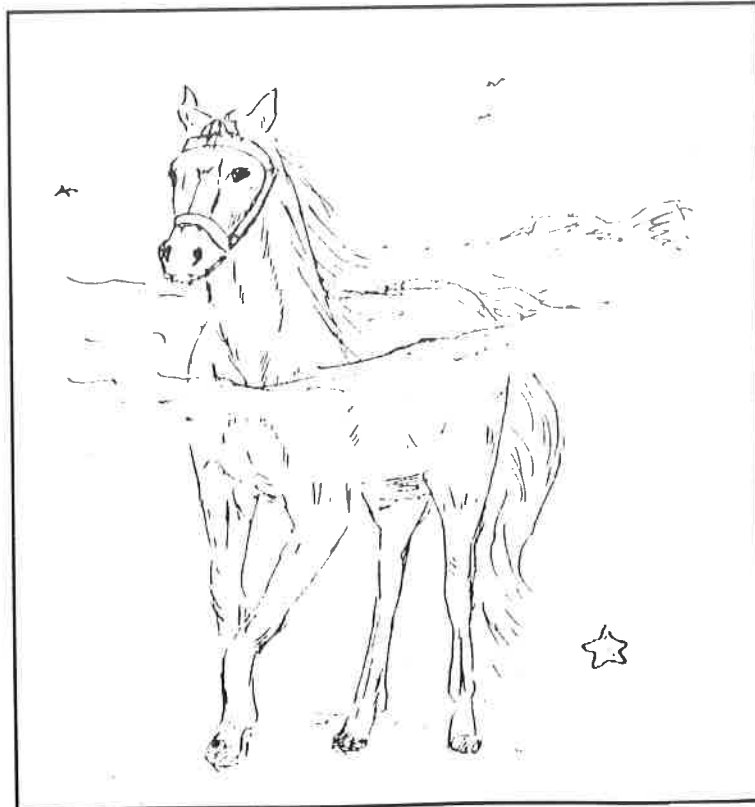
Three other men, Alan Clarke, Jack Keaton, and Daniel Dunn went out on the thin ice in an attempt to save them. Clarke crawled along the jagged ice pack with two dory oars and a rope. Finally, they reached the boat, drove a line through the painter, and hauled the two men almost to shore.

Jack Keaton and Daniel Dunn then hitched a horse to the boat and pulled it high on the beach. Clarke had been struggling on the broken ice continuously for almost eight hours, and his clothes were frozen stiff. He collapsed after the others were saved. For this daring rescue, the Canadian Humane Society awarded Alan Clarke, Jack Keaton, and Daniel Dunn with bronze medals.



Farmer

The story of Farmer, the ocean going horse of Entry Island, is well known in the Magdalen Islands. In March of 1925, Farmer was traded by his owner, Richard McLean, who took the horse over the ice to Amherst Island, three miles away. He then drove the horse across Amherst Island, up along Grindstone, Pointe-aux-Loups, and Grosse Isle, where he delivered him to his new owner. Farmer became homesick, and in June galloped back the route he had travelled, swam the three miles to Entry Island, and reported to his old owner. He had come more than fifty-five miles under strange conditions, but he had accomplished his purpose. Richard McLean allowed Farmer to stay on Entry Island for the rest of his life. And, not unlike Farmer, many former Magdalen Islanders return home, again and again.



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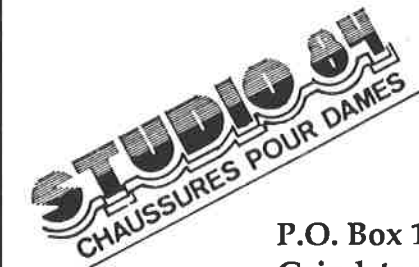
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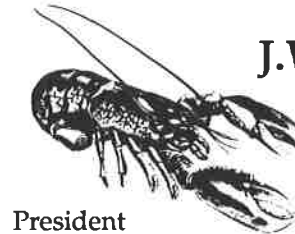
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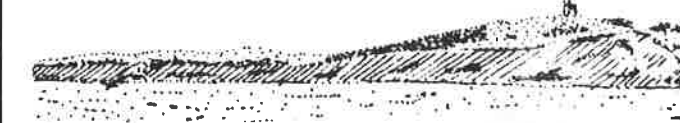


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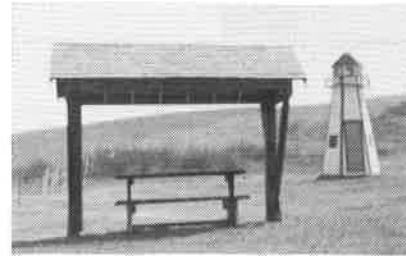
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