

News from The Friends

Fall 2022

The summer may be behind us, but there's no slowing down in Albert County! There's more going on than we can fit into a single newsletter, but read on to learn about upcoming events such as **Christmas in the Country** and the **Christmas Bird Count**, and catch up on events such as the **Alma Fleet Launch** and the **Fundy Connects Destination Development Summit!**



The fall started out warm but winter's just around the corner - now's a great time to peruse our selection of cozy sweaters and hoodies! Our gift shops will be open throughout the fall and winter with reduced hours, still stocked with unique products from local artisans, Fundy National Park gear, and assorted goods for families.

Outpost East, located in the Visitor Reception Centre of Fundy National Park, is open Friday - Sunday, 9:30-5:30. **Outpost Alma**, located beside the Post Office in the Village of Alma, is open Saturday - Sunday, 10-6. If you can't make it down to Alma, you can check out our online store [here](#). Be sure to follow us on Facebook [here](#)!

Christmas in the Country



The artisans, crafters, and producers of Albert County are once again inviting you to enjoy **Christmas in the Country!** Hosted by **Fundy Tourism**, vendors from Dawson Settlement to Alma will be open and offering a variety of specials and discounts on unique and locally made products over the first two weekends in December.

You can find the full rundown of events, participating vendors, and map on the event's [facebook page](#)

For more information, check our website
friendsoffundy.ca

Friends of Fundy AGM



Are you interested in learning more about Friends of Fundy? Are you thinking about joining a Board of Directors or volunteering on a community committee?

You are invited to join us on **Sunday, December 11th at 7pm** for our Virtual Annual General Meeting. We keep it light, snappy and informative!

Visit our website for more information on our organization - <https://www.friendsoffundy.ca/en/> - and RSVP community@friendsoffundy.ca to receive the zoom link!

Become a Friends of Fundy Member or RENEW Your Membership

Become a member of a growing organization that supports the environmental, social and economic goals of the Fundy region.

As the official 'Friends' of Fundy National Park, we strive to enhance visitor experiences that contribute to the region's conservation and community economic development goals. Here's a bit of what we do!

- Host one of New Brunswick's largest nature book selections to support learning and connecting with nature at all ages.
- Work closely with our partners to support annual events in such as the Rising Tide Trails & Tunes Festival as well as local community and regional events.
- Promote the Fundy Geo-caching Program and Fundy Challenge Awards for hiking 100 km in National Parks!
- Showcase the Molly Kool Heritage Centre.
- Work along side partners to support environmental projects within the region such as The Fundy Pollinator Trail and bird species at risk.

Your Friends of Fundy membership helps support the great work taking place in our region around community, economic and environmental goals!

As a small token of our appreciation members receive the following:

- 10% discount on all purchases at all of our Outpost Gift Shops and Online.
- Quarterly Newsletter.
- A locally designed cotton tote bag featuring some of the Friends of Fundy partnerships.
- Opportunities to support Fundy National Park and volunteer with Friends of Fundy events.

Memberships can be purchased at our gift shops, through our website or by contacting office@friendsoffundy.ca!

Individual \$25

Family \$40

Sponsor Membership \$50

Corporate Membership \$150



Rising Tide Trails & Tunes Festival

Building on the momentum of last year's Festival, we held **21 events** over 9 days this August. With attendance more than double what we saw in 2021, visitors and residents had over a week's worth of local food, music, trail hikes, art, and author readings inviting them to explore this incredible region.



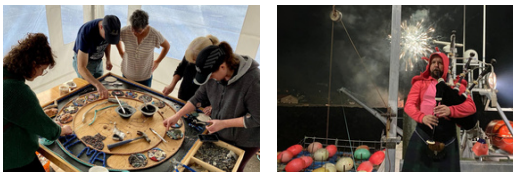
We also partnered with 2 brand new festivals this year: the **Albert County Museum's Children's Festival** and the **St. Martins' Fundy Sea Shanty Festival**. These two festivals had a fantastic first year and we look forward to seeing them grow!



As we turn our sights to next year's Rising Tide Trails & Tunes Festival there are some changes in the works - be sure to [follow us on facebook](#) to stay up to date on developments.



Alma Fleet Launch



After a couple of challenging years, **Alma Fleet Launch** returned in full strength this Fall with all the hallmarks of Alma's signature event: fireworks, music, food, and activities throughout the weekend, plus some new additions like the Port City Pyrates and a Sound Bath!

One of the highlights of the weekend for us was the **Community Mosaic Art Project**, hosted by Tim Isaac, and built by community members and visitors. We're making plans to display the finished community mosaic art piece in **Outpost Alma** – stay tuned!

We'd like to send out a big **Thank You** to the **Village of Alma** and the **Alma! Committee**, who put a tremendous amount of time into planning the weekend!

Regional Destination Development: Fundy Connects Summit



On November 1st-3rd, community members and leaders, local business owners and operators, not-for-profit organizations, and representatives from all levels of government gathered from across the country and convened at the Poley Mountain Resort to share ideas, experiences, and plot a course forward for the Upper Bay of Fundy Rural Region. Based on what we learned together at the Summit, the Upper Bay of Fundy Rural Destination Development Project will focus on the following tasks over the next 6 months:

- Determine the organizational structure, governance, and funding model for a new stakeholder-led destination management organization for the Upper Bay of Fundy region that reflects the UNWTO principles and maintains the health and prosperity of local community economies at its core.
- Collaborate to host professional development workshops for operators and community organizations who want to build and develop businesses that incorporate regenerative principles and practices into their operations.



- Convene follow-up facilitated sessions to build off the work we began at the Summit related to trails development, housing, labour, and transportation. As well as connect stakeholders working on critical infrastructure items impacting our region.
- Continue to develop relationships and explore potential for formal partnerships with the Upper Bay of Fundy's five levels of government – municipal, regional service commissions, Indigenous, provincial, and federal.
- Continue to engage throughout communities in the region to welcome new people, groups, and organizations into the conversation.

Regional Destination Development: Fundy Connects Summit



On top of all the insightful presentations and conversations, there was plenty of creativity flowing about the Summit as well. Rachel Derrah captured key moments over the three days in a gorgeous mural.



Poley Mountain Resort rose to the occasion providing food and beverages to fuel the presenters and attendees, and we had a real treat as **Pete Grandy** (Holy Whale Brewing), **Angela MacDougall** (Fundy Farms), and **Jeremy Wilbur** (Topsy Tails Restaurant) joined forces to provide a delicious locally-sourced feast. Adding in some extra local flavour, Shane Douthwright provided an evening of music.

If you want to stay in the loop as this project moves forward, email community@friendsoffundy.ca and you'll be included in future correspondence.



Christmas Bird Count



The **Christmas Bird Count** is North America's longest running Citizen Science project, dating back to 1900! Volunteers gather on a day between December 14th and January 5th and, guided by a compiler, tally the number of birds and species they spot while following a prescribed route.

Fundy National Park is holding their count on Friday, December 16th with some info sessions December 3rd and 10th.

Friends of Fundy is collaborating with the group that holds the Bird Count in Riverside-Albert - founded by our very own **David Christie** - to offer a guided hike and introduction to the Christmas Bird Count at Mary's Point on Saturday, December 17th. Keep an eye on the Facebook pages for more details.

Photos by Olivia and Denis Doucet



Dog Days of Winter



The **Moncton Dog Runners and Maritime Association of Harness Dog Sports (MAHDS)** is gearing up for the **2023 Dog Days of Winter** at **Fundy National Park** over the Family Day Weekend, **February 18th - 20th**.

Dog Harness Sports are an exciting exercise in endurance and teamwork where a human and at least one canine companion work together to traverse a course. The weekend will feature races - including Canitrail, Skijoring, Kicksledding, and Bikejoring - as well as intro sessions, an evening snowshoe hike open to all, and more!

Information on how to register will become available over the coming months. Whether you're a Dog Harness Sport enthusiast, curious about trying it out, or simply want to watch these dynamic teams in action, plan to visit Fundy National Park and the community of Alma on the Family Day Weekend.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUR WEBSITE
FRIENDSOFFUNDY.CA