

TRYON RIVER TRAIL TOUR GUIDE
by Jack Sorensen, May 2018
Permission to use, but please acknowledge source.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Sometimes the history of communities is taken for granted. Often visitors just drive by and discount an area as being no different from any other they have passed through. Even community residents tend to forget they are part of a landscape that is part of their heritage and may even be unique in some respects. If you look around you may discover things which are important to us. While this Walk and Talk focuses primarily on the community of Tryon, similar feature could be found in many other Island communities.

Insignificant on the map perhaps, being only about 4 square miles in area, we discover that Tryon has a rich historic background, traceable to the Paleo-American culture which existed in this continent as far back as 11,000 years ago, and probably beyond. Special emphasis will be placed on the river system, to create an awareness of rivers as an historical and continuing natural resource and something that needs to be protected.

The tour today will be conducted along the Tryon River Trail. Developed in cooperation with the Tryon Watershed Cooperative, and the Tryon Area Historical Society, the trail links the various natural and historic sites of the area.

On the tour specific natural and historic features of the area will be pointed out and we will discover how these features become part of this “living” historical collection and continue to be important. For example, the inherent characteristics of the river system have been an influence in attracting the early indigenous people to the area. The fertile marshlands along the river were an attraction for the early Acadian settlers and the ditches and canals dug by them provide evidence of their harvesting of marsh hay. The ponds left behind on the marsh tell of the excavation of the rich marsh mud to be used as fertilizer by the later English farmers. From a natural history point of view, native flora can also be identified which was used as a source of food, medicine, and building materials for these early settlers. Birds, and the occasional sightings of animals can also be experienced.

We will also become aware of the history of buildings, including homes, churches, and school. Although many have suffered the intrusion of modern methods of renovation and maintenance, elements of the original design and workmanship are still evident. In the past few years we have noticed an increased sensitivity of property owners when making changes to structure or appearance.

These and other features of our community tell about our heritage and continue to be an integral part of our lives. As we walk along an area close to the footpath of a much earlier people, we can't help but feel the spirit of these courageous and enterprising people.

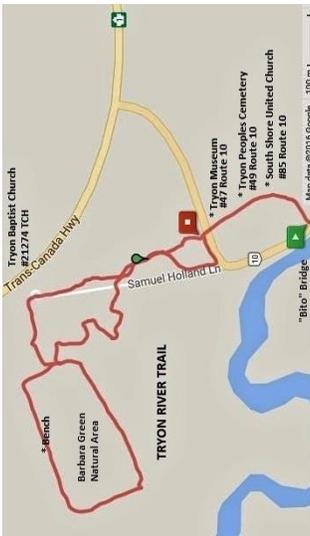
For those with cell phones, or devices with cellular features, going to this link will establish connection to the "Virtual Tour Guide" on our website.

#1 Poster – QR Code and URL to www.tryonareahistoricalsociety.com



It can be noted that various QR Codes at sites along the trail can be scanned to obtain more information.

#2A, B Posters – Aerial view of Tryon River Trail



ABORIGINAL VISITORS

This area attracted aboriginal people as far back as 11,000 years ago. A spear point found in the upper reaches of the river by Aage Sorensen is evidence of people visiting this area during that time. Named the Paleo-Americans, these indigenous people were part of a culture that developed in North America about 18,000 years ago and maybe even beyond. Nomadic in nature, they explored the entire North American continent, leaving behind stone-age implements and charcoal remains of their campfires. They were hunters, following herds of Walrus, Caribou and other animals which were necessary for their survival in this harsh climate. They were probably also explorers, being the first of a long line of inquisitive people out to explore their world.

#3 Poster – Spearpoint



The landscape at that time would have looked different than it does today. Scientists tell us that much of North America was covered with vast ice fields and the water levels would perhaps be as much as 100 feet lower than current levels. Most of what is now the Northumberland Strait was a land and ice mass connected to the mainland and would have provided convenient access to the area.

#4 Poster – Early Route to the Island



After the Paleo era, very little is known about native life in this area until about 2500 years ago when the **Micmac** made their appearance. No doubt these people were attracted to the same resources as their ancestors. They hunted and fished, and set up camps not far from the river banks. Even until the 1950s the Micmac were making and selling baskets to the potato farmers until large scale mechanization eliminated the need for these products.

THE ACADIANS

Through the millennia the river area had undergone drastic changes from that described for more ancient times. The melting of the ice fields resulted in the gradual rising of water to present levels. Areas that were once dry became flooded, forming a body of water on the south of the island which is now known as the Northumberland Strait, and becoming connected to the salt water of the Atlantic Ocean. The continual rising and falling of the tides deposited silt and organic matter, gradually forming the salt water marshes which are so common to the maritime regions.

Bounded on the river banks by the majestic trees of the ancient Acadian forest, this naturally unforested marsh area became an attraction for the first white settlers, the Acadians. They also realized the importance of the salt marshes. The abundance of grass commonly called marsh hay, tolerant to the salt water flooding caused by the tides, was free to use, and it is said the hay was much savoured by livestock because of the inherent salt content. With skills learned in their native French homeland the Acadian people set about constructing dykes and canals to drain and control the flow of water on the marshes enabling them to farm the fertile soil.

A census taken in 1752 records 5 Acadian families living at Tryon. Likely, additional people joined their ranks before the deportation in 1758. Holland's survey of 1765 notes 20 buildings and 450 acres of cleared land in the area. His map identifies the location of those buildings. The remains of a dyke on the river is attributed to be Acadian.

#5A & 5B Posters – Location of Acadian houses



#6 Poster - Acadian Dyke



#7 Poster – Repairing a Dyke



#8 Poster – Saltmarsh Haying



This location gives a wonderful view of the historical “**Bito**” **Bridge**, the name being a corruption of the French word “Aboiteau” which was a type of bridge used by the early farmers for controlling the flow of water on the marsh. Gates for this purpose were used on the Bito bridge until the mid 1940’s.

THE ENGLISH SETTLERS

After the fall of Quebec in 1759, Treaties of Peace were signed between France and England. By 1763 England decided to colonize its holdings in British North America.

First it would be necessary to survey its territories.

The person appointed by Britain to carry out the survey was Samuel Holland, a soldier and engineer who had been instrumental in the previous war efforts in North America.

In 1764 survey parties working under Samuel Holland's leadership started the survey with the Island of St. John, now PEI, resulting in the island being divided into 67 lots and 3 counties.

#9 Poster – Samuel Holland



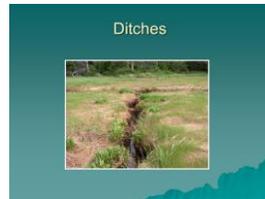
Capt. Holland was awarded the land encompassed in lot 28, about 20,000 acres, and like other early landlords was required to bring settlers to the area. The earliest settlers, around 1768, were the disbanded soldiers from Quebec. Soon to follow were people from England, Scotland and Ireland, and still later, the United Empire Loyalists from the colonies to the south, after The **American Revolutionary War** (1775–1783).

With the later arrival of the English settlers we see them continuing with the practice of farming the marshes.

#10 - Harvesting Marsh Hay



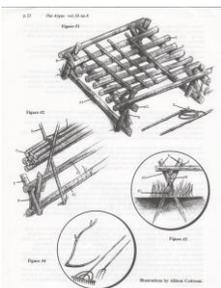
#11A, B, C Posters - Haystacks on the Tryon Marsh



#12 Poster - Saltmarsh Haystack



#13 Poster - The Straddle



Even until the mid 1940s tracts of marshland were described in deeds belonging to local farmers.

The river also became another resource for these people by providing a means of generating water power. Mills were established; grist mills, saw mills, carding mills, and even electric power plants. The Maritime Electric Company, last owners of the generating plant at North Tryon, operated well into the 1940s. Stansfield's, a well known woolen manufacturing facility in Truro, NS, had its origin in Tryon and produced blankets and garments for the soldiers in World War I.

The river also provided an abundance of waterfowl and fish to round out the peoples' diet of grains and vegetables, and with the abundant supply of timber being harvested from the nearby forests, the waterway became important for the emerging shipbuilding industry.

ORGANIZED RELIGION

By 1792 the first attempts were made at organized religion. The first preacher to visit this area was a person by the name of William Grandin who aroused the enthusiasm of community members to the Methodist persuasion, and later carried out by Rev. William Black. By 1817 the first church was erected on this site.

Another church was built in 1839, and again in 1882 this church was erected to meet the needs of a growing congregation. The **South Shore United Church** is the first Church on PEI designed by the well-known architect Wm. Critchlow Harris. Harris churches are noted for their architecture in what is referred to as the Revived Gothic style, and the attention he gave to acoustic make them a preference as performance venues for musicians and performers.

At the West end of the Church you can see the plaque and monument designating the Church as a National Historic Site and commemorating 200 years of Methodism in the area.

After 128 years the Church is still being used and a further expansion has been completed.

The Tryon United Baptist Church at the end of the trail is also an historic site. The present Church was built in 1864 and through the years it has been a friend and neighbour of the Methodist congregation.

TRYON PEOPLES' CEMETERY

The **Tryon Peoples' Cemetery** was Incorporated in 1920 as a non-denominational organization. Significant to this cemetery, and one of the oldest stones, is the **Holland stone** which honours the wife and descendants of Surveyor General Samuel Holland.

Holland married a French woman, Marie Josephte Rolette, and she came with her daughter to live in Tryon on the Tryon Point Road after the death of Holland in at Quebec in 1801. It is to be noted that Capt. Holland was not buried in this province but at the estate of his home in Quebec City.

The stones of many other pioneer families are present in this cemetery, and we point out one, John Lord. John Lord leased 300 acres from Capt. Holland and the property on which we are standing was part of his land. A new monument commemorates John Lord and his wife.

Probably the oldest stone is one near the church on the South West corner in which weathering over the years has made the inscription almost illegible. It belongs to Isaac Ives, a United Empire Loyalist. Born on April 20, 1747, he arrived here in 1776, and died in 1806.

Other early stones still surviving include Richard Lea, Neil MacFadyen and James MacRae.

THE LOOKOUT AREA

The rising and falling tides of the river are visible here and during the summer months Bald Eagles, Osprey and Blue Heron are frequently seen fishing in the Tryon River. The Tryon River was important to the early settlers for navigation and fishing and dams on the upper two tributaries provided power for various mills. Hay was harvested on the marsh for 200 years with the Acadians being the first to develop the system of dykes and canals for controlling the flow of water. This practice continued until the 1940s. Shipbuilding was also an important business carried out from the late 1700s till the mid 1800s. The opposite side of the river marks the location of the early Leard Brick Kiln. Now the river is mostly used for recreation and continues to be an important natural habitat for many wildlife.

The river also provided an abundance of waterfowl and fish to round out the peoples' diet of grains and vegetables, and with the abundant supply of timber being harvested from the nearby forests, the waterway became important for the emerging shipbuilding industry.

According to the 1863 (Lake) map of the province, a Lord dwelling was situated near this corner.

Evidence of old farmsteads can be found today by searching around place like this. For example, the Lilac.

There are approximately 25 species of lilacs, all of which are native to Asia and eastern/southern Europe. Lilacs were introduced into English gardens probably in the 16th century.

There are no native species in North America. Pioneers and colonists introduced the lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) here about 1650. Lilacs were a personal living memory of the settlers' homelands and were highly prized. Lilac plants could withstand a long sea voyage and grew well here.

As one researcher writes, "The Puritans, uprooted first from their homes in England, and later from the Netherlands, could bring with them only bits and pieces of their lives. Many chose the lilac, a living remembrance of home."

The gardens of Thomas Jefferson in 1767 and George Washington in 1785 contained lilac displays, making them part of America from the beginning.

Pioneers from New England took seeds and slips of the Lilac with them. The lilac is a long living shrub, and many still mark the location of original homesteads such as this.

The Lilac broadcasts its presence and fragrance everywhere in late May and early June.

The genus or Latin name for lilacs is *Syringa*, which is derived from the Greek word "syrinx" meaning "hollow stem". Lilacs appeared early in history and had value beyond their appearance and fragrance. Ancient Greek doctors supposedly used these stems to inject medications into their patients or bleed them (looking at the size of the stems, you may appreciate present-day needles!).

Double whites were used as an aid for Egyptian women in childbirth. Reed pipes and flutes were made in Turkey, Britain, and Europe by hollowing out the stems. They were called Pipe Trees in the Middle Ages. Lilacs were a treatment for stomach aches and paralysis. The Chinese made tea from the small leaf lilac. The florets are edible and can be used in salads, on desserts, and as a garnish.

Other old ornamental standards often marking the location of old homes are Lily of the Valley. Like the Lilac, these ornamentals provided little care, and were often used for fragrance, bouquets, and sachets.

TRAIL HEAD – Opposite #49 Route 10, Tryon

The two acres we are about to enter was originally called **Crawford's Corner**. The property is shown in Meacham's 1880 Atlas as belonging to Mrs. Crawford who is reputed to have operated an inn and tavern. Observing this area, we get an appreciation for this location at a crossroad being a likely place to set up such an establishment.

FIELD AND A WOODED AREA

Continuing our walk on the trail from the Route 10 Trail Head we will become aware of various plants, shrubs and trees, all of which shown their beauty at various season of the year, and which are an attraction for birds and wildlife.

Sites important to human and cultural aspects of the community will also be noted.

Native trees and shrubs, some of which have been replanted, are labelled for interpretation purposes and represent species that were part of the ancient Acadian Forest. The importance of dead trees and brush piles to wildlife is also demonstrated.

Native plants used for medicinal purposes can also be seen. A word of caution though. References to medicinal use of plants is often passed on as folklore and exacting research needs to be done to verify effectiveness and safety of their use.

Poplar. This grove of native Poplar is important for the Woodpeckers. The soft wood of the tree is easily tapped with a series of “wells” which when filled up with stick sap trap insects and provide a delicious food for the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. If you look carefully you may see neat rows of holes drilled in the tree.

The partly decayed wood of dead Poplar trees also makes for easy nest construction by the birds.

Thyme. Described in “Plants of Prince Edward Island” as naturalized European. The plant grows well in light, sandy, and even rocky soil. With its nitrogen fixing abilities it is often planted to build up poor soil. We have often experienced the plant seemingly “seek out” areas of poor quality on its own. The leaves make great tea.

Mullein. Is native to Europe and introduced to North America. It is a hairy biennial plant widely used for herbal remedies. It is especially recommended for coughs and related problems, but also used in topical applications against a variety of skin problems. The plant was also used to make dyes and torches. It has been given various names including "Our Lady's" or "Old Man's Blanket" because of its hairiness. A given flower is open only for a single day, opening before dawn and closing in the afternoon. The seeds maintain their germinative powers for up to a hundred years. Each plant produces hundreds of capsules, each containing up to 700+ seeds, for a total of 240,000 seeds). The seeds remain in the soil for extended periods of time, and can sprout from apparently bare ground, or shortly after forest fires long after previous plants have died.

Silver Weed. This plant grows well in gravel and sand and is often found around site of old homes. The Roots of the plant are like parsnip, served as survival food. Tea can be made from the plant which contains Tannin and used as a mouthwash.

Musk-mallow. Musk-mallow is an ornamental, but often escaped from cultivation. It was brought here by early settlers, often to be found around old homesteads. The sweet sticky latex from its roots was apparently used to make marshmallows.

Chicory. This plant is an ornamental, often escaped from civilization and sometimes claimed to be invasive. Its roots can be ground as coffee substitute.

Staghorn Sumac. An ornamental. It is a member of Cashew family. Partridge use the seed as grit. It has been determined that ninety-three species of birds eat the berries, (Grosbeaks for one). Leaves are rich in Tannic Acid. The tree is a source of dyes & ink. Its fruit is rich in Vitamin A, often used in Indian Lemonade and jellies. Medicinal uses: fruit for sore throats; leaves & seeds to shrink hemorrhoids; bark for rashes, astringent. musical flutes.

Choke Cherry. Very invasive, as name implies. Very poisonous leaves. Fruit is edible, used in pemmican and jellies. Fruit attracts over 30 species of birds and animals. Twigs used by foxes and partridge. Most medicinally used tree in North America, good for indigestion and effective as a gargle.

Bayberry. Aromatic wax can be extracted by boiling berries in water and used in candles, soaps. Four pounds of berries yield about 1 lb. of wax. Leaves are fragrant when crushed.

Black Locust. Root nodules are nitrogen fixing, used to regenerate soil. Came from last Ice Age, survived in southern Appalachians. Modern trees are offspring, planted throughout NA & Europe. Tough, durable, rot-resistant. Used as dowels for ships (treenails), and railroad ties. Bees attracted to late flowers. Leaves & bark are toxic but used by indigenous people as a laxative. The tree produces a natural fungicide.

Grey Birch. Triangular leaves. Wood used as barrel hoops.

Highbush Cranberry. Important as a survival food and cover for Ruffed Grouse, Cedar Waxwings, Grosbeaks. Lovely Ornamental. Micmac used fruit for swollen glands and mumps. Fruit contains Vitamin C.

Red Maple. A very common tree and fire-resistant. Very colorful in autumn. Wood used for furniture and accessories, esp. curly maple, and maple syrup. Dyes and ink can be made from the bark.

In 1898 Bliss Carman wrote: Let me have a scarlet maple
 For the grave-tree at my head,
 With the quiet sun behind it,
 In the years when I am dead.

When Carman died in 1929 his wish was granted when a scarlet maple was planted beside the poet's grave in a cemetery near Fredericton NB.

Red-Berried Elder. An ornamental. Twenty-three songbirds, and animals consume fruit including squirrels and racoons. Buds are used by Grouse. Berries are poisonous to humans, as are bark & leaves. Indigenous people used bark tea for extreme constipation, and to mitigate food poisoning. Wood can be used for pipe stems.

Sugar Maple. Often grow to be 300-400 years old. Bird's Eye effect in its wood, caused by fungus or disease, is prized for its beauty. Syrup and sugar first used by Native Americans. 200-250 gallons can run each day through a mature sugar maple.

Red Osier Dogwood. Red patches lessen the monotony during the drabber seasons of the year. Name derivation – used in Europe to clean mangy dogs. Good soil erosion qualities. Berries eaten by 90 species of songbirds (Grosbeaks included), also squirrels and racoons. Medicinal qualities – diarrhea (root bark), indigestion, fever (bark), smoking (leaves). Used in red dye.

Mountain Ash. Ornamental. Fruit for birds (Cedar Waxwings, Grouse, Robins, Grosbeaks.) Bark used for stomach pains, diarrhea. Berries contain Vitamin C.

Jack Pine. Stunted and crooked in this range. The inspiration of poets and painters, i.e., one of the "Group of Seven". Relies on fires to release the seed. Source of antiseptic pine tar and pine oil. Heated resin used to remove splinters. Caulking for canoes. Fine roots as sewing material. Used for utility poles.

Serviceberry. (Saskatoon Berry.) Berries edible as fruit and used in making pemmican. Wood used for fishing rods and arrows. Resistant to air pollution. Fruit – songbirds, (Robins, Chickadees, Blue Jays, Woodpeckers), squirrels. Winter twigs – foxes. Also, a nice ornamental.

Beech. Often affected by Beech Canker. Used in lumber. Edible nuts. Presidents' Tree, Tacoma Park, Maryland - all president's names from Geo. Washington (1732) to Andrew Johnson. Can be used as a coffee substitute.

Witch Hazel. Ornamental. Micmac's steeped twigs and inhaled fumes apparently as an aphrodisiac. Coincidentally, reported to be effective in relieving headaches! Twigs distilled with alcohol to form Witch Hazel extract for bruises, sprains, etc. Wood used as water divining rods. Seeds are fired off 30 feet with a pop.

Snag Trees. Dead trees, great for attracting birds.

Ostrich Fern. (Fiddleheads.) Edible

Wild Rose. Important for stabilizing soil in zones close to water. Ornamental into fall & winter. Rose hips favored by Cedar Waxwings. Emergency food for other birds. Cover stock. Rose hips contain Vitamin C, can be made into tea,

Beaked Hazelnut. Edible nuts for humans and wildlife (squirrels). Buds eaten by Grouse. Related to American Hazelnut or Filbert tree. Ornamental. Twigs used for rheumatism, oil from nuts for toothache, bark to reduce fever.

Striped Maple. Shade. Related to species found in China and Japan. Referred to as "stranded species." Ornamental. Stepped bark used as emetic & swelling of limbs, tea for coughs. Arrows made from branches. Note the unusual stripped bark.

American Elm. Waterproof bark can be used on roofs. Subject to Dutch Elm disease. Ornamental.

Hawthorne. 200-1200 varieties in NA. Needles provide safe cover for grouse and birds. Fruit for birds like Cedar Waxwings, Grosbeaks, and Robins. Micmac made twig tea for rheumatism. Edible fruit. Thorns used as sewing awls. Wood used for melting pig iron.

Eastern White Cedar. Resistant to decay. Used in posts, shingles and boats.

Willows. Leaves were source of food for dinosaurs. Buds eaten by ruffed grouse. Bark tea for fever and headache. 19th century source of ASA (Aspirin). Beaver use for dams.

White Ash. Ornamental. Excellent tool handles.

White Pine. Once a predominant tree on PEI and used Ship masts. Can grow to be 200 to 450 years old, 100-150 feet high. Needles high in Vitamin A & C. Teas used to prevent scurvy. Lumber was shipped overseas. Described as the perfect wood, used for everything from cabin to coffin.

Spotted Jewelweed. (Touch-me-not). Water beads on leaves. Seed explodes for propagation. Used as anti-inflammatory and fungicide. Hummingbirds like them. A source of dye.

Ragged Fringed Orchid. Favors poorly drained soil like ditches, marshes, grass meadows. (Look carefully)

Pin Cherry. Ornamental. Subject to Black Knot Fungus. Fruit used by Robins, Thrushes, Grosbeaks, Foxes, skunks. Winter buds used by Grouse. Edible fruit. Seeds can last 100 years to break dormancy.

RECLAIMED BOG AREA

This area acts like a sediment basin for erosion problems. **Alders** were first to appear. Can be a nuisance if used as ornamental, but good for rebuilding soil and preventing soil erosion. Seeds good for winter birds. Buds for grouse. Bark & stems for beaver. Very popular medicinal – Micmac's made bark tea for Diphtheria. Acadians used as AP tonic, sometimes mixed with gin. Wood produces quick hot fires, like charcoal.

Alders followed by more upland trees like spruce, maple, birch, etc.

SALTWATER MARSH

Here we can notice the gradual appearance of marsh grass called Cordgrass as you approach the marsh. This indicates one of the different species of plants which are tolerant of the salt water which floods the marsh during the rising tides.

Salt marshes attracted the Acadians to this area around 1750. Cordgrass, often called Marsh Hay, is one of the most productive land plants in the world and was harvested as food for their livestock. Cordgrass is also important to hold the soil of salt marsh in place.

The practice of farming the marshes was carried on by the later English farmers. Even until the mid-1940s tracts of marshland were described in deeds belonging to local farmers.

The rich mud on the marsh was often dug as fertilized, leaving behind ponds still visible on the marsh. Mud shoes were often used for horses because in the muddy areas on the marsh.

Directly opposite to where we stand, mid-way out on the marsh, exists a copse of Common Reed, visible in summer as tall dark green foliage, and in winter as a pale-yellow patch. This grass is commonly found in areas populated by the early Acadian settlers and may have been used by them as thatching.

#14 Poster – Common Reed



Today, as always, the salt water marsh is an important spring and fall migration area for Canada Geese, Black Ducks, Brant and Teal.

WETLAND

Here you can see a grove of Cattails which are a valuable food supply for the Muskrat. The area contained by the Cattails and Alders is very soft and muddy and is a favourite nesting place for the Red-winged Blackbird.

BARB GREEN NATURAL AREA

#15 Poster – Barbara Green Natural Area



Ten acres donated by Barbara Green to the Island Nature Trust.

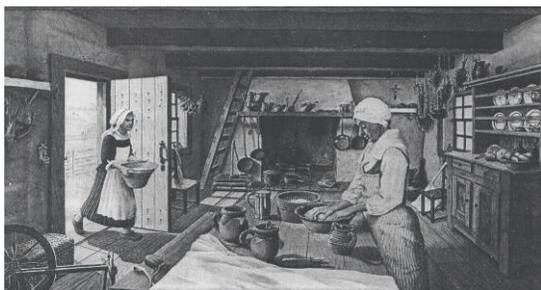
This area is being reforested to the native Acadian Forest with native plants, shrubs and trees.

In this location are several natural freshwater springs feeding a tiny stream and eventually emptying into the main river. The springs were a likely spot for the early Acadian settlers to set up their homesteads. Evidence to back up this assumption is gained by looking at the 1764 Holland map which shows buildings near this site.

#16 Poster – Acadian Home



#17 Poster – Inside the Home



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

For those who are interested in discovering other aspects of the trail, the trail continues from here to access the **Tryon United Baptist Church**. The present Church was built in 1864. Displayed inside are photographs from the **Millie Gamble Collection**. Millie, who was a local school teacher and nurse, photographed rural life in and around Tryon during the period from 1904 to 1920 and her prints have become a valuable source of information.

Tryon Consolidated School & War Memorial are situated on the property of the Tryon Consolidated School. Originally known as the Bog School (1841), the building was moved to the present site in 1902. In 1904 it became Consolidated, possibly the second to do so in Canada. Closed for graded classes in 1973, the school is now owned by the Tryon Women's Institute and leased to Helen's Homestay and English School.

Accessible a short distance by car on the **Tryon Mill Road**, the site of the **Tryon Woolen Mills** is visible from the Branch Road at Route 232. Using water as power, the mill opened in 1856 under the partnership of Charles E. Stanfield & W. W. Lord, and it marked the beginning of the famous Stanfield Company now located in Truro NS. The remains of the old sluice gate and dam are still visible.

SUMMARY

We have walked into the past and through original examples experience what others might have felt in earlier times. At the same time, we also discover that many of the characteristics of the "living" artefacts still provide a resource in our time and become a continually evolving heritage.

It seems one of the facets of human nature is that everything has an age, and often comes around on itself full circle. The Tryon River started as a completely natural resource in ancient times. It later became a means of survival for various groups of early settlers. But life advances, and the river has again retired to a more natural function. Gone are the mills, and except for the occasional boater or fisherman, the river is well left on its own. In fact, it is a good example of a highly developed eco-system. The vegetation on the marsh holds the land together by preventing the wasting of soil into the river. Small mammals such as mink and muskrat frequent the region year-round with the adjacent fresh water bogs providing them with abundant source of food. Many birds like the Osprey and Bald Eagle are often seen fishing in the water. The marshes provide an important stopping point for the annual migrations of geese and ducks, and fish use the waterway to access spawning grounds farther up the river. For these and other reasons, rivers need to be protected. The TRWC strives to encourage development of that attitude.

