

700

Fundy Coast

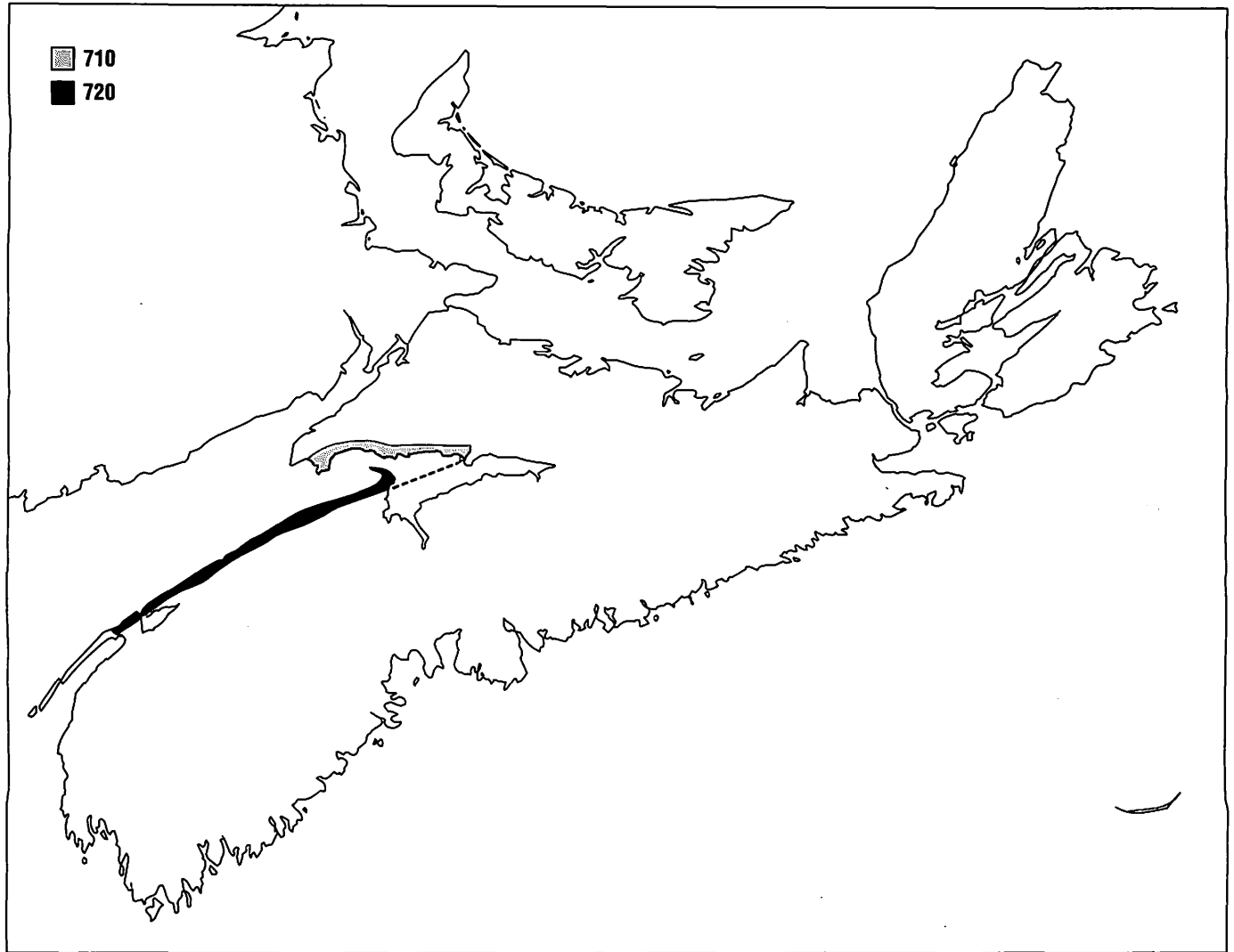


Figure 24: Region 700, Fundy Coast, and its component Districts.

700 FUNDY COAST

The Fundy Coast Region has two Districts:

710 Basalt Headlands

720 Basalt Ridge

REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

In the central sections of the Bay of Fundy, the coastal zone is protected from the extreme climatic conditions of the Atlantic Coast. Cape Blomidon on the south coast and Economy Mountain on the north mark the inland limits of this oceanic influence. The Fundy Coast is a climatic and vegetation transition zone dominated by basaltic rocks. Coastal sediments are locally abundant, forming small areas of salt marsh, gravel beaches, and mud flats. Wide intertidal platforms have been eroded in both basaltic and sedimentary rocks, giving a wide variety of coastal habitats.

GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

About 200 million years ago the Atlantic Ocean began to form as the continents drifted apart. The gently sloping, sandy arid plain between the Cobequid Hills and South Mountain sank down as the spreading continued. Tensions created by this movement opened rifts in the plain from which basaltic lavas welled up to spread over the sands and gravels. Faulting continued after the lavas had cooled, causing fractures, tilting, and offsets in the basalt.

Basalt occurred as far east as Portapique and is still preserved in four downfaulted blocks inland of Economy Point. From Gerrish Mountain west, on the north side of Minas Basin, a series of faulted basalt blocks form headlands with vertical cliffs. Inland, sandstone cliffs have been protected by basalt caps. South of Minas Channel, the basalt lava flows have formed the continuous ridge of North Mountain. High, continuous vertical cliffs are found on the outer side of this escarpment, on the coast from Cape Split to Cape Blomidon, and inland from Cape Blomidon to the Annapolis Basin.

Vertical or columnar jointing in the basalt makes it susceptible to erosion. Wide intertidal platforms have been cut at the base of the basalt, and even wider platforms have been cut in the sandstone bays of the northern shore. Erosion around the margins of the Bay of Fundy is still proceeding very rapidly.

During the glacial period the Bay of Fundy was deeply scoured by ice and then thickly covered by glacial debris. From 12,000 to 6,000 years ago the sea was probably excluded from the Bay. Before this time the sea had covered the Bay and adjacent land areas up to the ice front, forming beach deposits. These old beaches are the "raised beaches" found throughout this Region, up to 40 m above present sea level. Then, as the ice load was removed, the land began to rebound more rapidly than sea level rose and the Bay floor was exposed. During this period (12,000 to 6,000 years ago) the rivers flowing into the Bay incised their valleys down to the new base level.

When the last inundation by the sea began 6,000 years ago, the conditions for increased tidal amplitude were created by the shape of the Bay. Subsidence of the land and a slowly rising sea level worldwide have caused recently measured sea-level increases of 40 cm per century in the outer reaches of the Fundy coast. Rapid erosion of the soft rocks has been accelerated by this rise of relative sea level. Wide intertidal platforms, salt marshes, submerged forests, and freshwater marshes have formed, and large intertidal sand bodies have built up.

CLIMATE

Waters in the Bay of Fundy profoundly affect the climate of the adjacent coasts. Extreme tidal-induced turbulence prevents the coastal waters from freezing and, more important, prevents warming of the surface layers in summer. By late summer, surface coastal water in the Bay of Fundy is cooler than any other surface water off Nova Scotia's coasts, never exceeding about 12°C. This same water, after crossing sun-exposed intertidal sands, may reach 20°C or more.

Moist summer air masses result in thick fogs over the Bay of Fundy. These fogs commonly extend to the crest of North Mountain before being dissipated by the heat of the land. Although the climate is similar to that of the Atlantic Coast in temperature (moderated with low ranges of temperature) there is less exposure to winds (except on some cliffed headlands) and salt spray from ocean swells.

East of the Minas Channel, surface waters are considerably warmer, summer fogs are much less frequent, and coastal climates resemble a modified

Annapolis Valley temperature and precipitation regime. The climatic boundary is closely approximated by the eastward limit of basaltic rocks.

FRESH WATER

There are very few lakes, but many shallow, fast-flowing streams drain into the Minas Channel and Bay of Fundy.

SOILS

Coarse-textured soils, somewhat richer in nutrients than is usual among Nova Scotia's podzols and luvisols, are found on the basaltic rocks of the Fundy Coast. Glenmont and Rossway soils are better supplied with calcium and magnesium than other soils but are low in available phosphorous. This simple pattern of soil formation on the North Mountain Basalt Ridge (District 720) is complicated only by patches of reddish glacial till, carried south from the floor of the Bay of Fundy, on which fine-textured Wolfville soils have developed.

By contrast, the Basalt Headlands (District 710) on the north Fundy Coast has a great variety of soils developed from basalt, sandstone, shale, and extensive glacial outwash sands and gravels reworked by higher post-glacial sea levels.

PLANTS

The Fundy Coast Region shows evidence of being a climatic transition zone between a more-inland type of regional vegetation and the true coastal forest, although the coastal influence is still strong. Red Spruce is abundant here (but is not found in the Atlantic Coast Region). American Beech and Sugar Maple are found here at higher elevations.

On exposed basalt cliffs, arctic-alpine plant communities are found, containing some plants with a boreal distribution. Cliff-top forests are of the true dense coastal-forest type but change within a few metres to a more open hardwood forest with a rich herbaceous understory.

Coastal waters support sometimes dense growths of marine algae where sediment content is low. Where sedimentary rocks outcrop at the coast, turbidity is high and species diversity is severely restricted.

ANIMALS

Deer populations are large, particularly in the Basalt Headlands District where they spend their winters.

Richer soils in the basaltic rock areas support diverse woodland soil fauna. At the coast, marine algae and nutrient-rich waters support a variety of marine animals.

CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Mi'kmaq legends surround areas of the Fundy Coast, explaining the origins of geographical features such as the Five Islands. Bay of Fundy fisheries provide an economic base for many communities. Weir-fishing and commercial clamdigging are particularly distinctive to this Region. Since the nineteenth century, small-scale farming and forest exploitation have been characteristic land uses. During the nineteenth century, several tidal-powered grist mills were in operation. Timber continues to supply sawmills. Fossil-bearing cliffs, where dinosaur remains have been excavated, are sites of immense interest to scientists and fossil enthusiasts. Rockhounds are also attracted by the presence of agates and amethyst in coastal cliffs of this Region. Impressive coastal scenery, hiking trails, and parks attract recreation and tourism to the Fundy Coast.



Associated Topics

T2.2 The Avalon and Meguma Zones, T2.6 The Triassic Basalts and Continental Rifting, T3.3 Glaciation, Deglaciation and Sea-level Changes, T7.1 Modifying Forces, T9.1 Soil-forming Factors, T10.4 Plant Communities in Nova Scotia, T11.10 Ungulates, T11.16 Land and Freshwater Invertebrates.

Associated Habitats

H2 Coastal, H6.3 Mixedwood Forest (Spruce, Fir, Pine-Maple, Birch Association; White Spruce, Fir-Maple, Birch Association).

710 BASALT HEADLANDS

GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

This District extends from Economy to Cape Chignecto along the northern shore of the Minas Basin. The geology and landscape are varied and interesting. Parallel faults and juxtaposed resistant basalts and erodable sandstones create a varied landscape of hills and lowlands, bays, cliffs, and headlands (see Figure 5).

The area has been cut by three major faults into a series of slices which have minor faults within them. At the base of the Cobequids, the east-west trending Cobequid Fault forms the northern boundary of the District and sets Carboniferous strata against the ridge of the Cobequid Hills (Unit 311). Here they form a line of hills from Cape Spencer to the eastern border of the District and beyond. Cliffs have formed along Greville Bay where these strata reach the coast. Further south, the Portapique Mountain Fault (which extends eastwards from Partridge Island) has brought younger erodable Triassic sandstone and resistant basalt into contact with Carboniferous deposits. Within this block, a smaller east-west fault, the Gerrish Mountain Fault, and other small crosscutting faults further divide the bedrock into small blocks. These have shifted vertically and in some cases have tilted.

From Economy to Partridge Island the hilly landscape reflects the contrasting resistance to erosion of basalt and Triassic sandstones. The sandstone is very soft and normally forms lowlands. However, where it is capped by basalt, it forms high, steep-sided hills, for example, Portapique Mountain (150 m), an unnamed hill north of Lower Economy (180 m), Economy Mountain (245 m), and Spencers Island (150 m). The high sandstone cliffs at Five Islands Park and on the islands themselves result from the protective effect of basalt. Some of the high basalt-capped blocks have cliffs with columnar jointing; for example, Partridge Island, Cape Sharp, and Spencers Island. Semiprecious stones are found in the amygdaloidal basalts at Partridge Island.

Exposed Triassic sandstone is easily eroded. At Lower Economy a tidal platform more than one mile wide has been cut by wave attack on the coastal exposures of these rocks. The low Triassic area immediately north of Cape d'Or will presumably eventually be removed completely, leaving the basalt-capped

sediments as stacks, similar to Five Islands and Isle Haute (in Unit 810).

Near the village of Parrsboro, younger Jurassic sediments which lie on top of the basalt are known to contain dinosaur bones and footprints.

Large glacial outwash deposits are common along the Parrsboro shore. The town of Advocate is built upon an outwash plain. The harbour is enclosed by a bar and cobble beaches derived from gravels eroded from the outwash deposits. In immediate post-glacial time, about 13,000 years ago, a higher sea level created beaches on the hillside north of the present village. These raised beaches are remarkably similar to those in the present Advocate Harbour. At Parrsboro and throughout the District a nearly horizontal wave-cut surface can be seen on the glacial outwash gravels. This surface, eroded at the same time as the Advocate raised beach was being formed, gradually descends eastwards. The sloping nature of the former shoreline is conclusive evidence of differential recovery of the coast since the last glaciation and, hence, of differential crustal loading during the glaciation.

FRESH WATER

District 710 falls within two secondary watersheds that divide into numerous tertiary drainage areas and direct shoreline drainage into the Minas Channel and Basin. Streams draining this District tend to be straight and fast-flowing, with narrow, steep-sided valleys. There are many waterfalls. The mouths of the Parrsboro and Diligent rivers occur here. Many small bogs and shrub swamps are scattered throughout.

SOILS

The principal soils in this area are the Kirkhill and Diligence series. Both are developed on *tills from shale* of the Riversdale Group. However, Diligence shales are softer and produce clay loam soils, while Kirkhill shales produce shale loam soils. Other soils in the area have formed from extensive deposits of gravel laid down as glacial and post-glacial outwash plains. These soils are mapped as Hebert gravelly loams.

PLANTS

The coastal forest is somewhat modified because the climate moves through a transition from maritime to continental. Spruce, Eastern Hemlock, and pine forests with shade-intolerant birches, maple and aspen are found here, together with the more common spruce, fir and pine forest. Pure stands of pioneer White Spruce are found on oldfields. Blueberry fields are scattered on former farmlands in lowlands and sometimes far up the slopes. The exposed cliffs at Cape d'Or provide habitat for locally rare arctic-alpine plant species.

Some small salt marshes are found along the shore, but there is generally no Eelgrass. As turbidity of coastal waters diminishes westwards, seaweeds increase, for example Laverbread.

ANIMALS

The shore provides wintering habitat for deer coming down from the Cobequid Hills. Deer winter in

softwood areas and in spring are often seen in fields. In winter the coastal waters remain open and there is less accumulation of broken ice than is found further up the Bay of Fundy. Black Duck winter at Advocate Harbour and Parrsboro Harbour, and small numbers of other waterfowl species such as Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead are sighted along this coast during the winter.

Pinnacle Island at Five Islands and Spencers Island provide breeding areas for Double-crested Cormorant, Common Eider, Great Blue Heron, Herring Gull, and Black-backed Gull. Black Guillemot nest at Spencers Island. There are a few other breeding sites for gulls and cormorants.

In summer, large flocks of mostly male Common Eider are observed along the coast. Scoters and second-year loons are also seen. Cape d'Or and Five Islands have been release sites for a Peregrine Falcon reintroduction program. Blomidon is another release site (District 720). Bald Eagle nest near Five Islands.

The tidal flats and salt marshes at Advocate Harbour attract some migratory shorebirds, but not the



Plate 7: Region 700. View of the coastal landscape from Cape d'Or lighthouse (District 710) showing basalt cliffs topped by coastal spruce forest.
Photo: R. Lloyd.

huge numbers found in the larger mud-flat areas of the Bay of Fundy. Smaller numbers of varied species are seen, for example, Ruddy Turnstone and Black-bellied Plover. Willet and Sharp-tailed Sparrow are also seen, and Vesper Sparrow occurs in blueberry fields.

The shoreline is mostly gravel with considerable silt. The marine fauna is characteristic of rocky, cobbly, and muddy shores but with limited diversity because of the silty water. Shells of Slipper Limpets, sponges, and Hornwrack are commonly found washed ashore.

SCENIC QUALITY

The varied relief of this District allows a frequently changing scene. Basalt-capped hills jut out into the bay as cliff-lined headlands (and sometimes as islands). Behind them, a band of lowland is backed inland by the fault scarp of the Cobequid Hills. Panoramas across the bay are seen at some points (see Plate 7), while at others one finds intimate scenes along small inland valleys (e.g., along the Diligent and Parrsboro rivers). Settlement is light, but sufficient to create interest. Overall, this small District is one of the most scenic in mainland Nova Scotia.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, Champlain reported the presence of native copper on this shoreline. As a result he called this site "Cap des Mines," referring to an attempt to mine copper. Later it became known by the French as Cape d'Or (Golden Cape), even though copper is the principal mineral found here. Many interesting legends surround the great cliffs, beaches, and masses of rocks at Five Islands. According to one, these islands were great pieces of earth which Kluskap (Glooscap), the divine warrior, threw in a rage at his ancient enemy, the beaver. Fishing has always been economically important to communities on the Basalt Headlands. In the distinctive weir-fishing methods of this area, fish are trapped in walled nets with the rise and fall of the Fundy tide. A fleet of small boats works out of Advocate Harbour mainly for scallop, lobster, and Winter Flounder. Clamdigging has been commercially important here, but overexploitation led to the development of clamdigging regulations in 1993. Kelp is picked at extreme low tide near Cape d'Or. In the nineteenth century, communities on the Basalt Headlands were well known for shipbuilding, using local timber. Forestry and farming have been characteristic land uses. Fossil-bearing cliffs are distinctive

in this area, and fossil finds on the Basalt Headlands include some of the earliest dinosaurs.



Sites of Special Interest

- Parrsboro Shore, Five Islands to West Bay—long coastal section of basalt lavas and sediments across the Triassic-Jurassic boundary, fossils include fishes, and bones and trackways of dinosaurs and other reptiles; the site is protected under the Special Places Protection Act
- Cape d'Or (IBP Proposed Ecological Site 1)—windswept headland providing arctic-alpine habitat; plants include two species of Milk-vetch
- Moose River (IBP Proposed Ecological Site 7)—mature Red Spruce forest
- Economy Mountain Lookoff—to north and west, the steep escarpment of Cobequid Fault; in the foreground, low-lying Carboniferous and Triassic sediments
- Moose Island—agate and basalt sea stacks
- Partridge Island—semiprecious minerals
- West Bay—angular unconformity; fossil rain prints, ripple marks, mud cracks, channel
- Advocate—raised beaches 35 m above high water; spit across harbour
- Isle Haute—an island of Jurassic basalt is clearly visible from Cape d'Or; included in Unit 810 because of its open coastal character, with White Spruce forests, even though the main part of the Unit is some distance away on Digby Neck; the fauna is poorly known but includes nesting Common Eider and Black Guillemot
- Wasson Bluff—important exposed Triassic-Jurassic boundary with trackways and fossils, including those of early dinosaurs and other reptiles; site protected under the Special Places Protection Act; information available at the Fundy Geological Museum at Parrsboro

Provincial Parks and Park Reserves

- Five Islands Provincial Park—dinosaur bones and footprints below park; geological and estuary interpretation trails

Scenic Viewpoints

- Economy Mountain Lookoff (view northwards)
- Five Islands Provincial Park (view west to Five Islands)
- Clarke Head Trail
- Highway 209, Greville Bay shore
- Cape d'Or Trail

Associated Offshore Units

912 Outer Fundy, 913a Minas Basin.

Associated Topics

T2.6 The Triassic Basalts and Continental Rifting,
T3.4 Terrestrial Glacial Deposits and Landscape Features,
T4.2 Post-glacial Colonization by Plants, T11.6 Shorebirds.

Associated Habitats

H2 Coastal, H5.3 Cliff and Bank, H6.2 Softwood Forest (Spruce, Hemlock, Pine Association).

710
Basalt
Headlands

720 BASALT RIDGE

Jurassic basalt lava flows above soft sedimentary rocks form a ridge with a steep south-facing escarpment and a shallower north-facing dip-slope (see Figure 25). Cliffs of columnar basalt rise from wide wave-cut platforms along the Fundy shore. Semiprecious minerals occur within the basalt. The coastal forest gives way to hardwoods at higher elevations. Diverse and interesting rocky shore fauna are present on the Fundy coast, and relict arctic-alpine flora are found at Cape Split.

GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

On the southern side of the Bay of Fundy lies a steep-sided ridge (cuesta) which rises to more than 225 m

at its eastern end and slopes to near sea level in the west. The ridge is composed of several basaltic lava flows which dip northwest towards the Bay of Fundy at a shallow angle. They form the southern rim of a tilted spoon-shaped trough which underlies the bay. The rounded up-tilted eastern side of the trough can be seen in the curve of Scots Bay. The basalt in the lower western part eventually disappears under the water beyond Brier Island (District 810).

The highest elevations and most dramatic scenery are found on North Mountain, particularly at Cape Blomidon where Cape Split sweeps around into the Minas Basin. The steep southern escarpment of the ridge may represent a fault line; the shallower northern side is a dip slope. The shore from St. Croix Cove

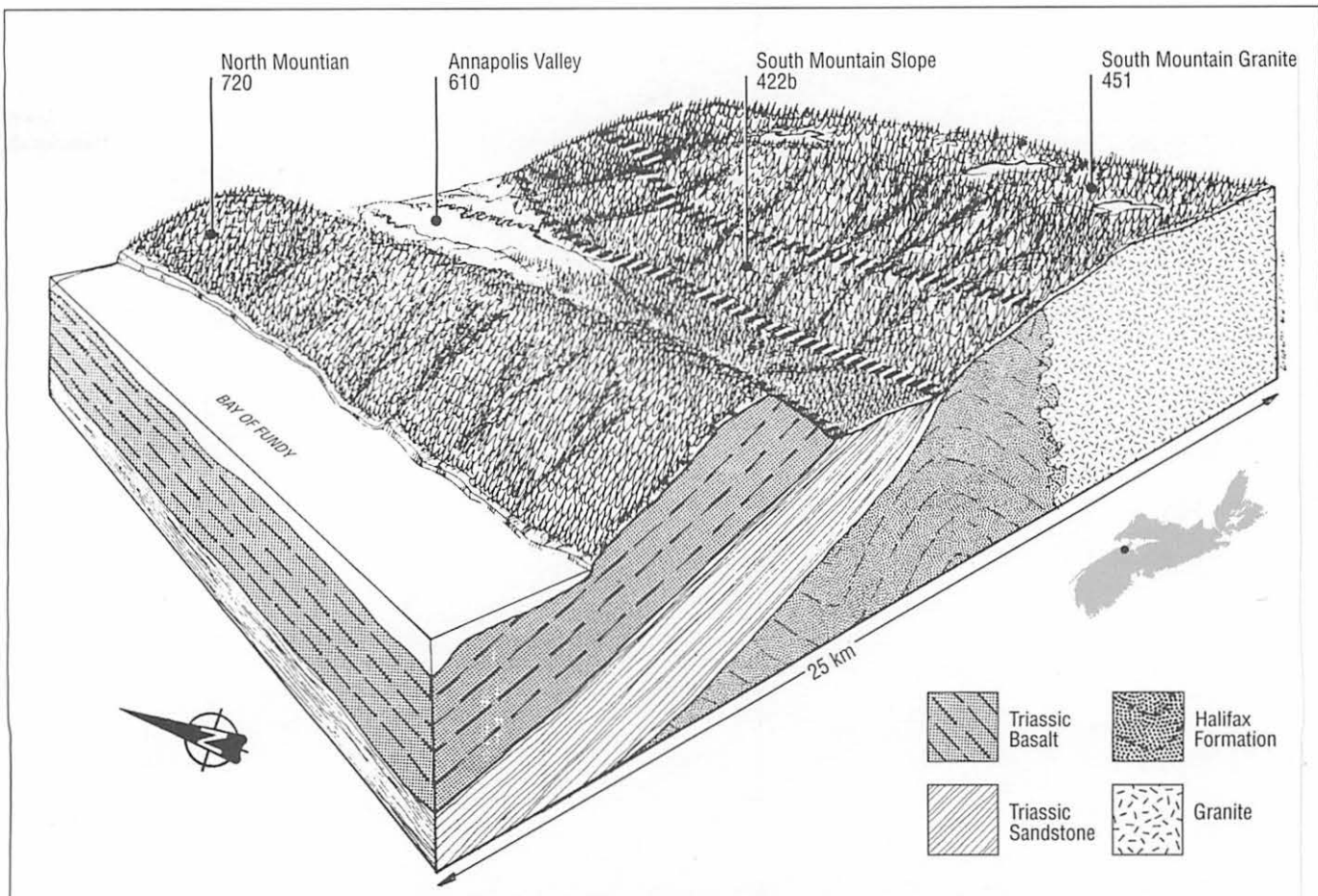


Figure 25: Annapolis Valley and North Mountain area. Basaltic lava flows of the North Mountain (District 720) effectively insulate the Annapolis Valley (District 610) from the climatic effects of the Bay of Fundy. The south side of the valley is composed of a dissected slope with deep, well-drained soils (Unit 422) and with thin, droughty soils derived from the enormous granite batholith which dominates South Mountain (Unit 451).

to Cape Split provides a rich ground for mineral collecting because fresh rock is exposed each year after the winter storms.

Wind gaps through the ridge are found at Parkers Cove and Delaps Cove. These represent the abandoned lower valleys of rivers that flowed northwards from central Nova Scotia into the present Bay of Fundy and were captured by the Annapolis River. Digby Gut is the drowned lower valley of Bear River.

The emergent shoreline is smooth, exposed, and rocky with little coastal sediment.

Lava Flows

The number of flows varies along the length of the ridge. Up to seventeen have been counted at Digby Gut, but only two can be seen along Digby Neck. The total thickness has been estimated at 300 m. Layers of green grit are found between the flows. These represent the weathered surface of the underlying flow and are easier targets for erosion than the massive flows; thus the basalt pile appears banded.

Basalt lava flows exhibit interesting features that reflect their volcanic origins:

- **Amygdules:** Gas bubbles trapped in the lava are filled with minerals over time, for example, agate, amethyst, jasper and zeolite minerals such as stilbite and heulandite.

Erosion

Coastal erosion has cut tidal platforms 100–300 m wide along the Fundy shore, above which rise vertical sea cliffs. The columnar jointing can best be seen along this shoreline. Overlying the basalt is the Jurassic Scots Bay formation in which fossil fish and dinosaur footprints can be found. These sediments are present in six small inlets in Scots Bay.

Glaciation

Glacial ice moved across the Basalt Ridge both southwards and northwards at different times. The best evidence of south flow are pebbles of basalt found up to 200 km away along the South Shore. Basalt pebbles are very common in stony areas of the Annapolis Valley. Evidence of northward movement of glacial ice is provided by occasional boulders of granite, presumably from the South Mountain, which are scattered across the top of the Basalt Ridge. These were deposited late in the last glacial period when the South Mountain acted as a local ice centre (Unit 451). Deposits of glacial gravel are found along the Basalt Ridge at various points. The post-glacial emergence of this area is recorded in the raised beaches found at 40 m above present high tide near Digby and at 30 m on Brier Island.

The Basalt Ridge owes its prominence not only to the resistant nature of basalt but to the fact that it overlies soft, erodable sediments. The southern side of North Mountain has a steep scarp slope where these softer rocks have been carved out to form the Annapolis Valley. Along Digby Neck these same sediments have been removed to below sea level to form St. Marys Bay. Erosion is actively narrowing the Basalt Ridge on the Fundy side, although the energy of wave attack is diminished by wave-cut platforms. St. Marys Bay is more sheltered.

FRESH WATER

The southern boundary of District 720 follows a tertiary watershed divide across the top of North Mountain. Streams drain in a parallel pattern, directly into the Minas Channel. Gene pools of first- and second-order streams are isolated. Productivity is greatest where they originate on the higher elevations. The streams flow down the slopes quickly, but they are straight and small and have little erosive power. The area is heavily wooded and surface water is cool.

SOILS

Soils in this District are fairly shallow when developed from the underlying basalt. Rock outcrops as ridges parallel to the coast. The main soil derived from basalt is Rossway, a shallow, well-drained silt loam; this soil is associated with Roxville, a poorly drained sandy loam found in depressions. On the plateau along the crest of the Basalt Ridge a fine sandy loam appears. This soil, called Glenmont, developed from a mixture of basalt and red Wolfville Till, which originated north of the Basalt Ridge. Finer-textured Wolfville soils (not drumlinized) occur between Harbourville and Victoria Harbour. A large area of Middleton soil (moderately well-drained, sandy clay loam) is found between Mount Hanley and Arlington West. Small patches of Kingsport and Nictaux soils, developed from water-deposited sands and gravels, are also found in this area. Along the Fundy Shore some areas of excessively drained loamy sand (Gulliver series) have formed on wave-washed gravels.

The District is unusual because earthworms are found in large numbers in the woodlands and their activity has incorporated the surface "mull" into the mineral soil.

PLANTS

A much-disturbed version of the coastal forest is found at lower elevations in this District. Shade-tolerant hardwoods occur at higher elevations, where they may be above the cold air from the Bay of Fundy. Red Spruce is more common here than along the Atlantic coast, and White Spruce is also found throughout, often seeding in abandoned fields. Away from coasts, the spruce, fir, pine forest with maple and birch gradually turns into Sugar Maple, Yellow Birch, and American Beech at higher elevations.

Rare arctic-alpine and uncommon Alleghanian plant species are found in the Cape Split/Blomidon area. Seaweed growth (e.g. Laverbread) is extensive at the west end of the District but decreases eastwards as the silt content of coastal waters increases. Almost no salt marsh is found along this part of the coast.

ANIMALS

The Basalt Ridge provides mostly forest habitats with few lakes or wetlands. It supports a dense population of deer, but few bear or bobcat. Small-mammal diversity is moderate. The Basalt Ridge funnels the movements of migratory birds, particularly hawks and owls, as they head towards Brier Island in the fall. This funnelling may also occur with migratory bats which cross the Bay of Fundy or Gulf of Maine en route to their wintering areas. The exposed basalt along the shoreline provides good intertidal habitat with well-marked zones and large tidepools. Shells of subtidal molluscs and crustaceans are often found near wharves where lobster traps have been emptied. Some weir fishing is done.

SCENIC QUALITY

The North Mountain provides spectacular views of the Annapolis-Cornwallis Valley and the Minas Basin at lookoffs along its southern escarpment. On the north-facing dip slope, lack of relief and paucity of settlement often yield landscapes of indifferent quality. However, where higher-quality soils (CLI classes 3 and 4) have encouraged larger blocks of cleared farmland (e.g., West Glenmount, Burlington, Mount Hanley, Mount Rose), north-facing routes present impressive yet curious panoramic views, as if the traveller were being tipped gently but inexorably into the wide Bay of Fundy. The opposing shores of the Chignecto peninsula and New Brunswick's Caledonian highlands, which seem to float on the bay, add to the illusion. The vertically cliffed coastline is punctuated by "hollows" or "vaults" of eroding stream-val-

leys. Squeezed in at the mouths of larger brooks are delightful fishing hamlets such as Baxters Harbour, Halls Harbour, and Harbourville.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Many of the coastal communities along the Basalt Ridge focus on fishing as an economic base, concentrating on lobsters and weir-fishing. The latter requires very large net walls to catch fish trapped by ebbing Fundy tides. Small farms are a feature of parts of this landscape, as is forest exploitation. In the nineteenth century, tide-powered grist mills operated at Moose River and Parrsboro. The agates, amethyst, and zeolites found on cliff faces are world famous and every summer attract visitors who come to collect. Cape Split and Cape Blomidon feature dramatic landscapes with hiking trails, impressive scenery, and a provincial park that attracts recreation and tourism. Mi'kmaq Kluscap (Glooscap) legends are associated with this area.



Sites of Special Interest

- Cape Split (IBP Proposed Ecological Site 65)—primarily deciduous woodlands with rich herbaceous flora; rare minerals and semiprecious minerals found in amygdaloidal basalt
- Cape Blomidon—steep sea cliffs
- Cape Blomidon to St. Croix Cove—good mineral localities
- Digby—raised beach 40 m above high tide; Digby Gut; drowned lower valley of Bear River
- Point Prim—wide, wave-cut platform
- Scots Bay—limited occurrence of the Scots Bay Formation in a few small coves in the only accessible portion of Jurassic sediments that underlie the Bay of Fundy; fossils include algal stromatolites, plants, fish, and dinosaur footprints and bones

Provincial Parks and Park Reserves

- Valley View
- Cottage Cove
- Blomidon Lookoff
- Baxter Harbour

Scenic Viewpoints

- Cape Split
- Cape Blomidon beach
- The Lookoff
- Route 360 south of Garland (view of the Valley)
- Valley View Provincial Park
- Point Prim

Associated Offshore Units

912 Outer Fundy, 913a Minas Basin.

Associated Topics

T3.2 Ancient Drainage Patterns, T3.4 Terrestrial Glacial Deposits and Landscape Features, T9.3 Biological Environment, T10.12 Rare and Endangered Plants.

Associated Habitats

H2 Coastal, H5.3 Cliff and Bank, H6.1 Hardwood Forest (Sugar Maple, Yellow Birch, Beech Association), H6.3 Mixedwood Forest (Spruce, Fir, Pine-Maple, Birch Association).

