

## NSIS EXCURSIONS 2023

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Annual excursions for members of the NSIS are a key component of the Institute's program. They take place in the spring, summer and fall months, and include visits to museums, historic sites, parks and other points of scientific interest in the Province. We are always looking for ideas and leaders for such trips. We had two excursions this year, described here.

### URBAN GEOLOGY – EXPLORING THE HALIFAX CITADEL

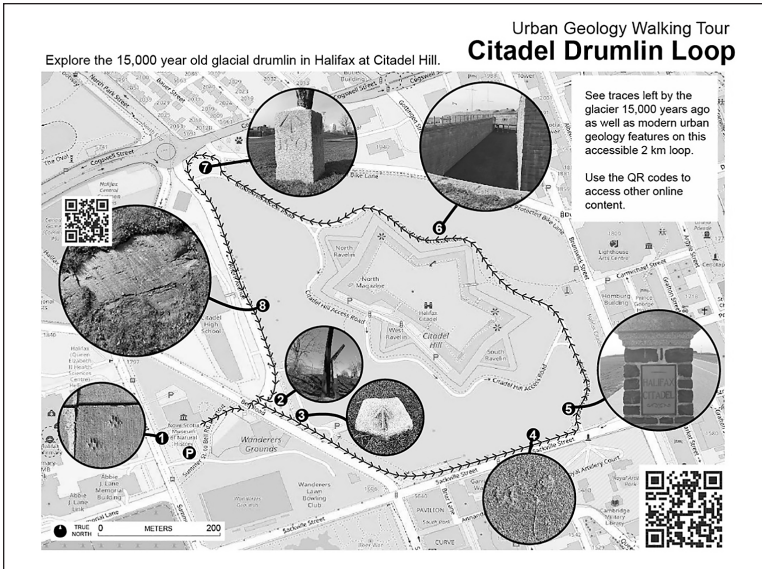
In April, we had a pop-up excursion co-sponsored with the NS Museum of Natural History. Tim Fedak of the Museum and the NSIS led a group of about 20 people on a 2 km urban geology walk on the Halifax Citadel drumlin. It was a pleasant and educational outing. We learned quite a lot about the geological aspects of this feature which sits right in the centre of our city as part of the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site.

The tour included historical references to the Halifax Explosion (1917), a British Survey monument (c. 1817), and information about the glacial drumlin that was deposited and shaped by glaciers 20,000 years ago. Participants were encouraged to visualize 1-2 km of ice above the ground during the glacial period 80,000 to 15,000 years



**Fig 1** Our guide giving explanations of the Citadel's geology.

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**Fig 2** Route map of the Citadel Drumlin Urban Geology Walking Tour (Pers. comm. Fedak 2023).

ago. The excursion also included looking at the glacial striations at the base of the Citadel drumlin in the field across from Citadel High School (Figs 1-2).

## KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK AND NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

In early July, nine of us went to Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site for a guided outing that included learning about the petroglyphs of Kejimikujik (Keji) Lake and having a nature hike in the woods near Grafton Lake.

We had an enthusiastic interpretation of the petroglyphs in the morning, by a knowledgeable Parks Canada employee. This took place in front of the historic site monument, Mi'kmac Cultural Landscape at Kejimikujik, (see front cover of this Issue), and at a talking circle close to Keji Lake. Although on this trip we could not see the petroglyphs on the lake rocks due to the unusually high water level, we were able to view a range of carefully made impressions of them, rock carvings that date back hundreds of years.

In the afternoon, we embarked on a nature walk with a park naturalist. This walk focused on some of the unusual botanical features in the Park, especially fungi and lichens present in the forest undergrowth. In between the two events, we had a nice picnic lunch beside Keji Lake, and learned a lot about indigenous canoe-making from the long-time resident expert. It was a perfect weather day and we enjoyed Kejimikujik park at its best. Stay tuned for another visit in 2024 (Figs 3-6)!



**Fig 3** A talking circle, listening to the story behind the petroglyphs of Kejimikujik Lake.

**Fig 4** An impression of one of the petroglyphs found on the rocks along the lake. This is a protected site.



**Fig 5** The birch bark canoe display, with master builder, Todd Labrador, in the foreground.



**Fig 6** Listening to the naturalist describe features of the mixed growth forest near Grafton Lake.