



Little Judique Ponds



On the night of December 28, 1944, a severe snow storm with a tidal wave swept the Inverness County coast. At this spot the Judique Flyer train was derailed on its journey from Inverness to Port Hawkesbury. Rising water during the night had eaten away part of the foundation bed. When the train made the turn here in the morning, its weight was leaning on the side of the rail bed which was solid. As the train straightened out, however, all its weight was once again on both rails. At this point the unsupported rail gave way and some cars, including the engine, tipped over. Travelling in the engine car was the engineer, Frank Philipot, of Port Hawkesbury. He died instantly as he was thrown from the car and pinned beneath it. All other crew and passengers survived.

Little Judique Ponds has long had excellent advantages for farming and fishing still the dominant pursuits of this area. As well, the Judique region has always been famous for its strong and powerfully built pioneer settlers.

The waters washing the coast abound in food fish, such as herring, hake, mackerel and lobster. Fish canneries in the nearby communities of Maryville and Harbourview bought lobster from the local fishermen. These factories provided many seasonal jobs for men and women into the 1950's.

Within a short distance of this marker the Captain's River flows into Livingstone's Pond, which in turn runs into St. George's Bay at Little Judique Harbour. These particular waters are rich in the production of eel and smelt harvested in the winter and early spring months.



Text: John Gillies
Photos Chestico Museum collection, Port Hood, NS
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Photo restoration and layout by MV Design, www.wdmv.ca

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