

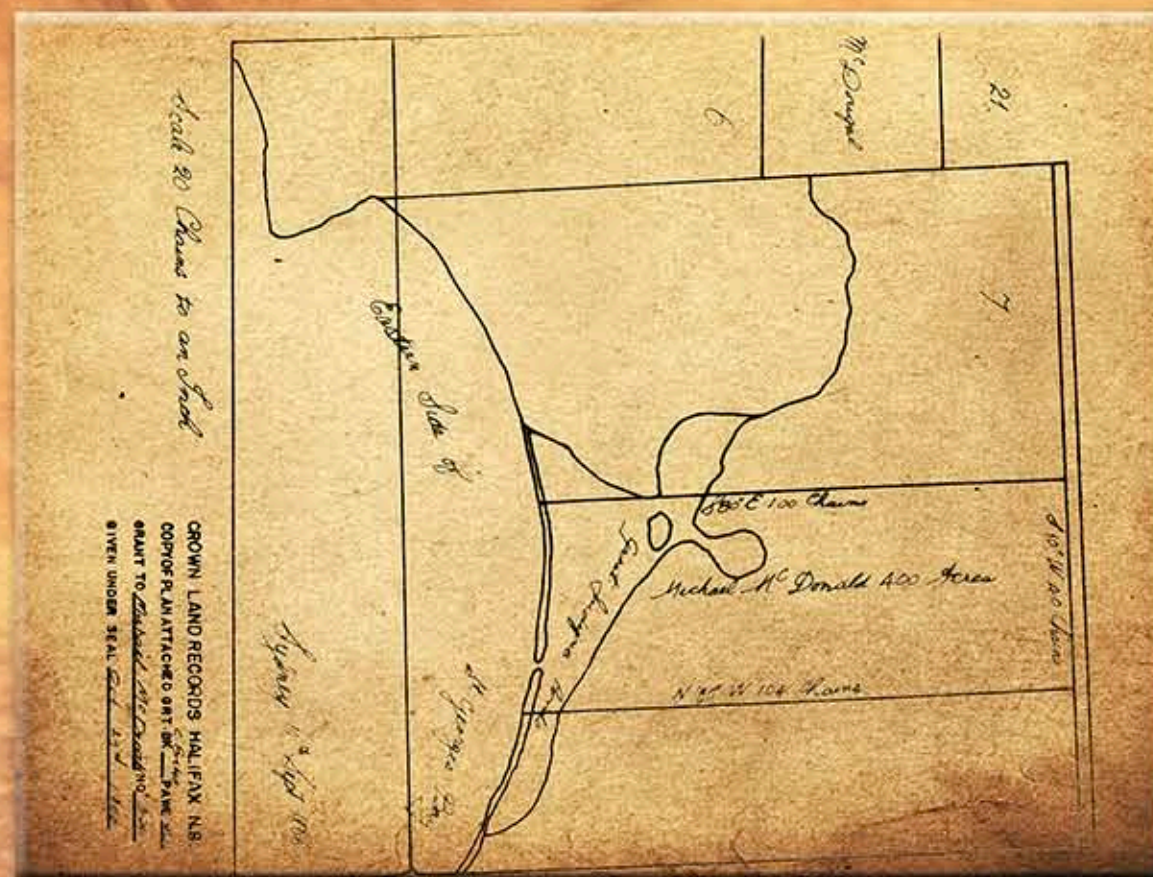


In 1975, prompted by Judiquer Hugh MacIsaac, St. Francis Xavier archeologist Dr. Nash, and a student crew began a study at Indian Point, Grand Judique Pond. Numerous arrow heads and axes (indicating that trees were cut for shelter), as well as pottery, led Dr. Nash to postulate that the site was that of a village (estimated at this site, to be appr. 200 meters long and 20 meters wide) and that the site was used for at least 2,000 years, except in winter.

At this site, a cairn honors Michael MacDonald, Judique's first settler who arrived from the Isle of South Ulst Scotland, with 210 emigrants, in 1772, in Prince Edward Island. He sailed aboard the brig 'Alexander' as part of a wave of Gaelic speaking settlers. He farmed at Hillborough P.E.I. and was a successful shipbuilder and merchant managing three ships which traded between Quebec, Halifax, Cape Breton, Newfoundland and P.E.I. In 1775, he spent his first winter here, alone, and passed the long hours awaiting the breakup of "the big ice" writing Scottish-Gaelic poetry. Several years later, many Highland families came to this area and cleared the forests making farmland and homes for themselves.



European settlers and merchants as well as trade goods crossed the Atlantic in a "Brig"



Michael MacDonald's land grant at Grand Judique Ponds was recorded in Sydney in 1806. Michael's Landing historic site, is managed by community volunteers.

Michael's Landing

Fair Is The Place

By Michael MacDonald (1775)

*O's alainn an t-aite
Th'agam 'n cois na traghad
'N uair thig e gu bhi 'g aiteach ann
Leis a' chrann, leis a' chrann, O...*

*O, 's fraoidhneasach, daoimeanach
Glan mar sholus choinnlean,
Am bradan le chuid shoillsainich
Anns gach allt, anns gach allt, O...*

*O, fair is the place
I have here by the sea,
When it comes time to till it
With the plough, with the plough*

*O, sparkling like diamonds here,
Shimmering like candles
Are salmon with their shining scales
In each brook, in each brook, O.*

*1st verse Translation by Sr. Margaret MacDonnell,
Emigrant Experience
2nd verse Translation by Donald A. Fergusson,
Beyond the Hebrides*



The cairn, at this site on the Judique Flyer Trail is on Michael Macdonald's original land grant and was erected, in 1975, during Judique's Bicentennial celebrations.

The inscription reads:

"In commemoration of Michael MacDonald, pioneer settler of Judique, and of his intrepid compatriots, to whom this community owes its noblest and most enduring traditions."

The narrow entrance to the Grand Judique Ponds with its ever shifting sand bars and eddies, has long been a challenge to small craft.

Judique costal wetlands are crucial stopovers for many migrating bird species.



Route 19 south to Judique
Celtic cross near trail at the site of the first Roman Catholic service in the early 1800's.



Photo: Lester Campbell

In the early days, the biggest task was clearing the land. Everyone worked: men, women, and children. Here they are at the "Black Frolic", in the "Black woods," clearing land for large potato fields, stretching for acres, the harvest from which fed large families.



Text & photos: The Judique Flyer trail committee
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Air Photo: Service Nova Scotia, Geographic Information

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Background sketch celebrating Michaels Landing by Kim Campbell. The sailing vessel depicted one masted sloop (a chaloupe in French). Michael also sailed a small two masted sailing vessel nicknamed a "plinky".

