**Keluwoskap and the Giant Beaver**

**(Originally told by Gwen Bear)**

In accomplishing his mission for the good of mankind, Keluwoskap called all the animals to appear before him and asked of each animal what he would do if he met a man. When the bear was asked the question, he trotted off a short distance and looked over his shoulder, as he generally does now upon meeting a human being. Keluwoskap showed his approval.

The squirrel at that time was as big as a lion and when Keluwoskap asked him what he would do if he met a man, he flew at a stump furiously and tore it with his teeth and claws. Keluwoskap considered him altogether too dangerous an animal and reduced him to his present size. The big beaver, had been the cause of considerable annoyance to the other animals and was cautioned by Keluwoskap with regard to his future conduct.

In spite of the warning he had received, the beaver made himself very obnoxious by his behavior, and Keluwoskap determined to drive him away. He came to Passamaquoddy Territory (Peskotomuhkatihkuk)

and climbed up the hill on the east side of the place of many sugar maples (Oak Bay). From the summit of this hill he saw the beaver's house (Cookson’s Island), a dome-shaped island in the bay. But the beaver had been warned of his danger and fled up the river Waweig whence he afterwards went to Menahquesk (Saint John) where he made a dam across Wolastoq (Saint John River) at its mouth. He still continued his evil deeds and his dam was built so big it caused the water to flow back far up the river, and all the country from Jemseg to Pilick (Kingsclear) became a great lake (Kci-kuspem).

When Keluwoskap heard the beaver was still a source of annoyance he at once set out for Menahquesk (Saint John). He saw signs of the beaver's work at Manawagonish, and further east he had abundant evidence of his where about. Here the beaver had a feeding place called the beaver's landing place.

Keluwoskap explored Moose Creek as far as, the moose's path (Mus-awtik) but, not finding the beaver, came back to the mouth of Wolastoq (Saint John River) where he found the beaver's dam. This he broke with a blow of his hefty club and the great rush of water that followed swept a part of it out to sea. This fragment became the island, a piece cut out, and the falls are the beaver's rolling dam. A split rock, just below the falls, is Keluwoskap club which he threw away after it had served its purpose in the destruction of the dam. The great lake was significantly reduced in size but remains to this day a large lake (Grand Lake).

Keluwoskap pushed on up the river in quest of the beaver. A little below Boar's Head there is to be seen today in the rocky cliff the face of a man with curly hair called Keluwoskap looking out. They say that only Indigenous people can see it.

Still seeking the beaver, Keluwoskap went on and at length looking up the broad waters of Kennebecasis Bay, he saw in the distance the beaver's house, the beaver's nest. The beaver was very big and dangerous but Keluwoskap seized him in his brawny arms, strangled him and then flung him to the foot of the island several miles away, where certain rocks were stained red by the beaver's blood.

Keluwoskap destroyed the second sized beaver also, but the youngest one got away and went up Wolastoq (Saint John River). Keluwoskap followed him a little way and hurled after him two big rocks known as sea rocks, which may still be seen in the river a little below Negotkuk (Tobique). The beaver eventually escaped to Lake Temiscouata, where he built himself another house, which is now a big hill opposite the mouth of Mount Wissuk.