

turtle tracks

Friends of Misery Bay P. O. Box 114 Gore Bay, Ontario POP 1H0 info@miserybay.ca

Fall 2017

From the Chair

My name is Ted Kilpatrick and I am the new chair of Friends of Misery Bay. My wife Sandy and I came to the island in 2009 and I became involved with Misery Bay three years ago.

It is very exciting to be a small part of such an extraordinary group! It is also remarkable that Misery Bay is the only provincial park run entirely by volunteers! You all are to be commended.

For those of you who have not had a chance to visit the park this year there is an amazing new set of educational displays at the visitor's center. This completes the work and vision that Don Wilkes had some ten years ago. Created by Science North under Ontario Parks and FOMB supervision, the displays allow the visitor to visualize and understand many of the unique features that make Misery Bay so special. Indeed although there is nothing like a stroll through the park on a beautiful day to understand what makes Misery so wonderful, these displays certainly help! On those wet windy miserable days they certainly will allow a much deeper understanding! Our hope is that over the next year we will be able to link the hotspots found on the introduction to Misery Bay display to signage on the trails.

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As well we plan to complete the accessible trail from the center to Our Friends shelter by the time the park opens next spring. Under the direction of our special projects chair, John Diebolt this endeavor will happen! It is about 1/3 completed but there is still much to do. If you have some hours to give to this project call John. Many hands make light work! This is a very positive development for the park that will allow guests with accessibility needs to enjoy this amazing park from the visitors' center to the water.

We have also completed our lottery fundraiser with the draw being held on Oct. 14/17 at the Kagawong Chocolate Works. Many thanks to Colin Frame for running the lottery this year and the great job he did! The lucky winners were:

1st prize – (Kayak) Ken Mackenzie

2nd prize – (Robert Bateman print *Cardinal and Apple*) Marlene Boyle

3rd prize - (Weekend in a yurt at Windy Lake provincial park -Jim Burke

4th prize – (Season's pass for Ontario parks) Dan Boivin

I would also like to thank our board member Jan McQuay for her fundraising efforts and generous donation for the first prize kayak for the lottery. It is much appreciated. Gaynor Orford also deserves a big thank-you for all her work at the



center in spite of this being her year off the board. Thank you Gaynor! And finally I would like to welcome Nicole Smith as our new membership coordinator and to thank her for taking on this important dossier.



Report from Special Projects Coordinator

John Diebolt

A lot of spectacular events have been taking place at our park on Manitoulin in the last little while. Our team of Science North, Ontario Parks and Our Friends have finally completed the exhibits at the Interpretive Centre (it took 8 years and around \$250,000). It's done and it is awesome and it was completed with funding from a lot of interested parties

and grants. Work on our handicap access trail is ongoing and is around 30% complete with a whole bunch more work left to do. Picture below is of the "Our Friends Shelter" in the building stage in 2016, at the end of the handicap access trail on the sand beach. From this shelter all of our Friends can see the wetland, pitcher thistle, pitcher plant etc.



The Sifferd Cottage has received over \$100,000 of Ontario parks funding that has upgraded it's very solid Sifferd built structure with new windows, doors and maintenance. It is getting closer to meeting the parks standards for accommodation. (You gotta love those Sifferd's- they knew how to build!) Upcoming plans that have been approved will lead to the historical upgrade of Ned's Shanty and also completion of a new trail (around 50 metres in length) that will lead to a large and significant Vernal Pool on the Coastal Alvar Trail just before the **Shelter at Saunders Cove.**

AND... some very significant news. We are working with Ontario Parks on the planning of the long anticipated boardwalk, that will connect the east and west side of our park by crossing the wetland, which is one of the most significant wetlands in Ontario. This boardwalk was part of the original park plan that was drawn up many years ago. The required Environmental Assessment

still has to take place, but things are moving forward on this huge project. We also have a new board as of our June 2017 Annual General Meeting with Ted Kilpatrick as our board chair. As part of the changeover of positions, we discovered that a lot of our valued Friends were not receiving updates on our activities, requests for help and our Turtle tracks publication. Blame it on ongoing computer memory lapses, my lack of computer savvy and glitches (some days we yearn for the old days when one simply wrote things on a piece of paper with a pencil and mailed it out). Our new membership co-ordinator, Nicole Smith, has spent many hours getting all of your information as current as possible based on the info we have, because, quite simply, we need to get our address book in order and up to date. We need your help. We want to let you know what is happening.

If we have somehow missed you, please let us know the following:

- Would you like to be a part of Friends of Misery Bay?(oh yes please do)
- If so would you please let us know if you are interested in maintaining or renewing your relationship with FOMB
- Please let us know your address, phone numbers, cell phone number and email address (unless you have already done so based on a previous message we sent out)
- If you do not use email no problem –send us a letter and we will mail things back to you through Canada Post
- If you know someone who was a member and for whatever reason has not gotten any messages from us, please tell them about this message and pass this information – or let us know about them and we will contact them

You can send your info to us by the following methods:

Email to: fomb.memb@xplornet.com
Mail to: Friends of Misery Bay
P.O. Box 114,
Gore Bay, ON POP 1H0



Post-glacial shorelines at Misery 1

Peter J. Barnett

A large part of Misery Bay Provincial Park, over 70%, was inundated by post-glacial lake waters only 6, 000 years ago. The remainder of the landscape has only been exposed for about 10, 000 years. It is a very young landscape. How do we recognize the various pieces of evidence that the post-glacial lakes left behind?

It begins with the recognition of the components of a shoreline in an area of an emerging shore with a strong influence from the bedrock geology like at Misery Bay. Since the wastage of the last glacier, the land has been slowly rising in relation to lake level as the result of the removal of the weight of the glacier. Land in the northern part of the Lake Huron basin is rising at a faster rate than at the south end, basically flooding the southern part of the basin and exposing more land as the land rises at the northern end.

The resulting shoreline features formed along emergent shores includes: headlands composed of rock or resistant sediment, bedrock platforms, boulder lags or armoured shores and beach berms.

At Misery, headlands are commonly formed of bedrock cliffs that rise above the level of the lake (Figure 1). The height of the cliffs is dependent on the local bedrock geology, the thickness of the bedding and the patterns of joints and fractures. Being only recently exposed, the smoothing of the glacier commonly remains visible (Figure 1) but widening of joints and movement of large blocks by the effects of alternating freezing and

¹ Includes excerpts from "Post-glacial Shorelines of Misery Bay Provincial Park" by Peter J. Barnett commissioned by Ontario Parks, 2016.

thawing during the winter months combined with wave and current action throughout the year begin to displace the blocks lake ward.

Within the bays, there are three common components of a shoreline; a bedrock platform, boulder lag and beach berm (Figure 2). The bedrock platform develops at or just below lake level where the bedrock surface is flat and only slightly dipping; commonly a bedding plane with in the bedrock. Waves and currents wash most of the unconsolidated materials off the surface to be accumulated in the beach berm or the finer particles of silt and clay swept out into the deeper parts of the lake basin. Rare boulders remain on the bedrock surface.

Where till (material deposited directly from a glacier) is the material being eroded by the waves and currents; boulder lags develop. The fine sediments in the till are taken out farther into the lake, the sand and gravel components are moved into the beach berm and the boulders, too large to be moved effectively by the lake waters form a lag and armours the lake nearshore zone preventing further downward erosion.

Figure 2 shows an abandoned former shoreline of Lake Huron on the west side of Misery Bay where three of the main components of an emerging shoreline can be seen. The components consist of the bedrock pavement (foreground) that has become vegetated since being abandoned (now a coastal alvar), the adjacent boulder lag (mid left of Photo 2 and in Photo 3) and a large sandy beach berm

(ridge of sand in front of trees) that





Figure 1. Rock headland along Misery Bay eastern shore and corresponding bay (foreground) consisting of a wavewashed bedrock platform and the most recent and current sand and gravel beach berm of Lake Huron.

Figure 3. Lake Huron shore east side of Misery Bay near "Our Friends Shelter" showing boulder lag composed of numerous erratics (far-distant traveled boulders brought here by the glacier) that have been eroded from the till and the associated beach berm in the distance.

The Sentinels (Figure 4) are examples of the large angular blocks of bedrock that were removed from a former bedrock headland. This headland was likely active about 1, 000 years ago during Unnamed Lake Level I of the series of post-glacial lakes that occurred at Misery Bay. At the head of Misery Bay, where there is less influence of the bedrock, sand and gravel beach berms dominate. Several of these features form arcuate ridges across

protects a vernal pool or temporary pond.



Figure 2. Former abandoned Lake Huron shoreline displaying a bedrock platform, boulder lag and beach berm; three of the main components of a shoreline in an area of emergent shores.

Figure 4. The Sentinels, large angular blocks of dolostone left on this former bedrock platform from wave and current action on an exposed bedrock headland about 1,000 years ago. Note the angular nature of these blocks compared to the glacially-transported and water rounded erratics in Figure 3.

the end of the bay as water levels fell (Figure 5) and were instrumental in creating the large wetlands of Misery Bay, home to Blanding Turtles and many other interesting plants and animals.

Now that the main components of shorelines that form along emerging shores have been described, as you walk from the Visitor Centre of Misery Bay Provincial Park to the present-day

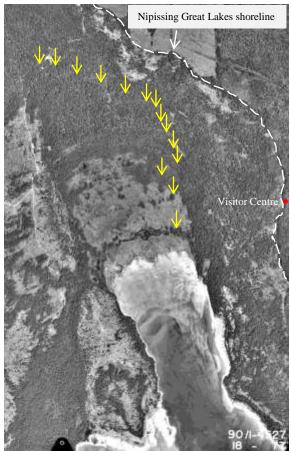


Figure 5. Multiple arcuate beach berms (yellow arrows) at the head of Misery Bay (air photo: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry).

shore of Lake Huron you will be able to pick out many of these features formed during the inundation of the landscape by the post-glacial lakes (Figure 6). During the last 6, 000 years there has been four main periods of high-water lakes each separated today by bedrock platforms. The oldest and longest lasting level is that of the Nipissing Great Lakes that flooded the landscape up to the base of the escarpment on which the Visitor Centre is located. Waters rose to this level about 6, 000 years ago and maintained this level for about 2, 000 years. About 3,000 years ago, erosion at the controlling sill or drainage way at Sarnia and Port Huron lowered the lake level to that of Lake Algoma (Figure 6).

Two other high water levels, both unnamed, occurred between 2, 000 and 1,000 years ago, Unnamed Lake Level I, and between 800 years and present, Unnamed Lake Level II. Figure 6 shows the hydrograph or lake level changes of waters in the Lake Huron basin for the last 5, 000 years.

The bedrock pavement exposed at the Alvar Arena separates shorelines of Unnamed lake Level I and Unnamed Lake Level II and the narrow bedrock pavement, the bowling alley, separates the older of the Unnamed shoreline level from the higher and older Lake Algoma Level. The bedrock pavement associated with the Nipissing Great Lakes level is at higher elevation and is by far the most expansive.

As can be seen in Figure 6, superimposed on the main high water stands are a series of smaller fluctuations of lake level. They likely occurred in response to variations in climate and local weather conditions. These variations are manifested in the numerous sand and gravel beach berms associated with each of the four main high water stands (Figure 7). At least eighteen (18) low relief sand and gravel ridges (beach berms) are crossed along the trails down to Misery Bay from the Visitor Centre. They were formed during one of the four post-glacial lake high stands; Nipissing Great Lakes, Lake Algoma, Unnamed Lake Level I and Unnamed Lake Level II. Figure 8 displays the general location of the shorelines of each of the main post-glacial lakes that occurred at Misery Bay and Figure 9 is the photomosaic map of the Park and its trails for reference. Each main level (Figure 8) and its associated multiple beach berms are separated by a bedrock platform.

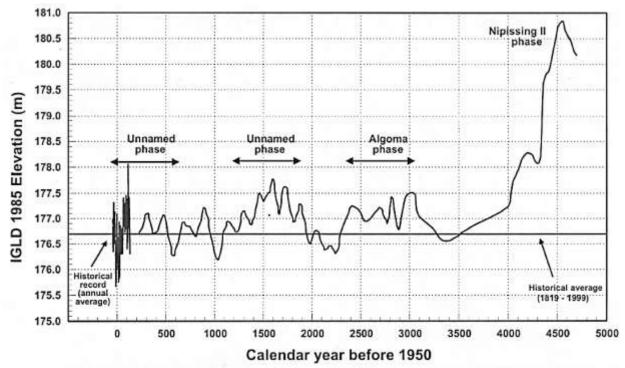


Figure 6. Hydrograph of late Holocene lake level for Lake Michigan at the Port Huron outlet. This graph was generated by removing long-term rates of vertical ground movement from the surveyed data.²



Figure 7. Multiple gravel beach berms (yellow arrows) associated with the Unnamed Lake Level II.

² Baedke, S.J., Thompson, T.A., Johnston, J.W., and Wilcox, D.A., 2004. Reconstructing paleo lake levels from relict shorelines along the Upper Great Lakes; Aquatic Ecosystems Health & Management Special Issue, Emerging Issues in Lake Superior Research, v.7, no. 4, p. 435–449.

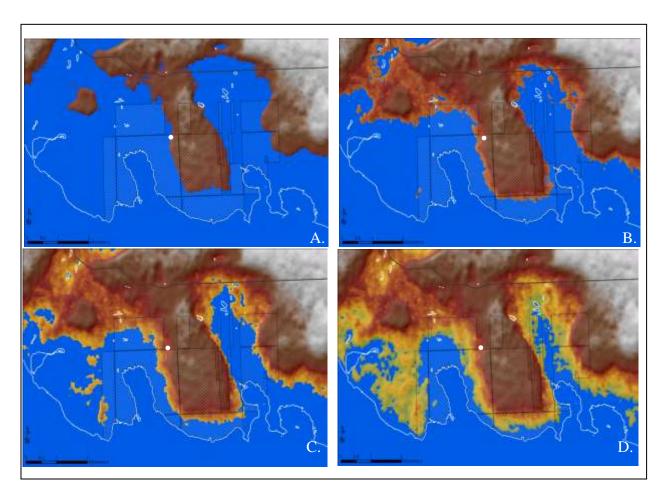


Figure 8. Paleogeographic maps of post-glacial lakes (blue) consisting of a colour-graduated elevation and hillshade map of Misery Bay Provincial Park area (Park land is in white hatch patterns) during: **A.** Nipissing Great Lakes (6, 000 to 4, 000 years ago), **B.** Lake Algoma (about 3, 000 years ago), **C.** Unnamed Lake Level I (between 2, 000 and 1, 000 years ago) and **D.** Unnamed Lake Level II (from about 900 years ago to present). White dot is approximate location of the Visitor Centre and the white line is the position of the present-day Lake Huron shoreline.

³ Barnett, P.J., 2016. "Post glacial shoreline features of Misery Bay Provincial Park, Manitoulin Island" unpublished report submitted January, 2016.

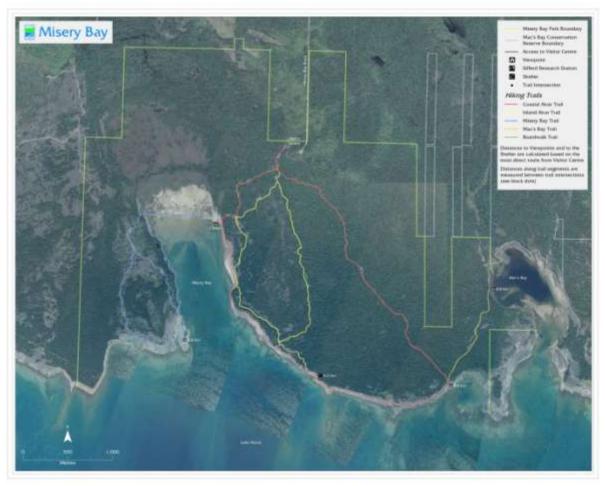


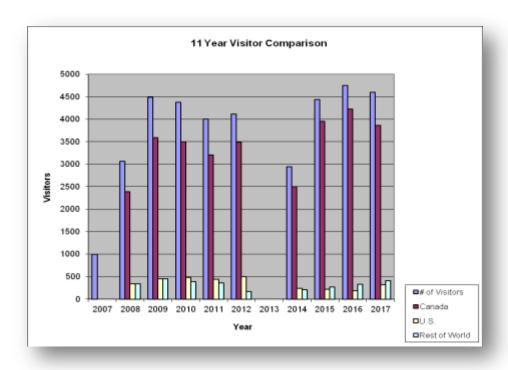
Figure 9. Photo mosaic of Misery Bay Provincial Park area with trails and the location of the Visitor Centre marked for reference. (https://www.ontarioparks.com/pdf/maps/miserybay/park_map.pdf)

Visitor Comments 2017

These are just a sample of the many comments left in the guest books. They are written freely, from the heart, by visitors who get the "Misery Bay experience." They are written by people from all walks of life, all parts of the world, first time visitors, and those who keep coming back to this wondrous place.

- Beauty view. Really appreciate all the effort by Parks and Volunteers to keep this place great.
- Found a paradise on Earth
- Peaceful, pristine, natural, relaxing
- A simply beautiful and wonderful array of diverse flora and fauna, cannot image a more amazing place
- Very mystical on a foggy day well worth the walk and the bugs
- Cool, overcast and wet, but hey, this is such a great example of God's creation, and I'm enjoying every minute of it
- Oh my saw a Pitcher's thistle, and a tiny orchid in bloom. Thank goodness for Friends of Misery Bay and Ontario Parks' protection of this outstanding habitat
- A great place to dream

Misery Bay Park Visitors Report 2017



In 2017, the Visitors Centre was staffed by volunteers of the FOMB on weekends from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving, and by our grant supported students, Robert Ross, William Scott (June), and Brooke Addison every weekday in July and August.

summer months. We are also grateful to the many local businesses and individuals who recommend Misery Bay as a destination to their families, friends and visitors.

The visitor count this year was 4,600, slightly down from 2016.

This summer we hosted visitors from the west to east coasts, and all points in between.

Our American visitors came from 17 different states, and folks from 23 countries around the world discovered Misery Bay this summer.

As always, the FOMB are extremely grateful to our dedicated weekend volunteers, without whose help we would have difficulty remaining open through the

| | <u># of</u> | | | Rest of |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|---------|
| <u>Year</u> | <u>Visitors</u> | <u>Canada</u> | <u>U.S.</u> | World |
| 2007 | 994 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2008 | 3065 | 2391 | 337 | 337 |
| 2009 | 4484 | 3587 | 449 | 448 |
| 2010 | 4372 | 3498 | 481 | 393 |
| 2011 | 4005 | 3204 | 441 | 360 |
| 2012 | 4115 | 3490 | 499 | 166 |
| 2014 | 2940 | 2499 | 235 | 206 |
| 2015 | 4437 | 3949 | 222 | 266 |
| 2016 | 4752 | 4230 | 190 | 332 |
| 2017 | 4600 | 3864 | 322 | 414 |
| | | | | |

No data in 2013

Misery Loves Company

Late Summer Orchids

Marcel Bénéteau

Orchids are the most abundant family of flowering plants on earth (over 25,000 species, according to some sources). North America is home to more than 200 species, of which 63 are found in Canada. Manitoulin Island's flora boasts of more than half of these – 33 species – and Misery Bay Provincial Park shelters an amazing 27 species within its borders.

Many visitors are familiar with the Ladies'-slippers – Yellow, Pink, Ram's-head and Showy – that flower in spring and early summer. But several more modest species flower throughout the spring and summer. We will focus here on two lesser-known groups of orchids – Rattlesnake Plantains and Ladies'-tresses – that can be found along the park trails in late summer and even into early autumn.

Fig. 1 Menzie's Rattlesnake Plantain

The Goodyera or Rattlesnake Plantain genus is represented by three species on Manitoulin, two of which occur in the park. The genus name refers to the orchids'

basal rosette which vaguely resembles plantain leaves and their markings that suggest a snakeskin motif. The most common is Menzie's (or Green-leaved) Rattlesnake Plantain (Goodyera oblongifolia) (Fig. 1 & 2). This is the largest of the Rattlesnake Plantains, reaching a height of 10 to 15 inches. The bluish-green leaves often exceed two inches in length and are the plainest of the group, marked only a variegated white stripe along the midrib. Ten to thirty greenish-white flowers are arranged in a loose, one-sided spiral up a strong hairy stem. It flowers from mid-August into the first week or so of September and is easily spotted along wooded, primarily evergreen trails.



Fig. 2 Menzie's Rattlesnake Plantain flowers

Dwarf (or Lesser) Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera repens*) (Fig. 3 & 4) flowers earlier – roughly during the first two weeks of August – and, as the name

implies, is a much smaller plant, rarely growing more than 6 to 8 inches in height. The basal rosette is tiny and could be easily covered by a loony, but the miniscule leaves are the showiest of the genus, looking like someone has outlined their veins with a silver magic marker. The diminutive flowers are less elongated than those of the previous species and tend to droop down slightly. Dwarf Rattlesnake Plantain prefers somewhat wetter environments than Menzie's – look for them in damp cedar and black spruce stands.

A third member of the genus – Checkered Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera tessalata*) (Fig. 5 % 6) has not been recorded in the park, but should be looked for, as it grows along with the other two species in the Mac's Bay Conservation area adjacent to Misery Bay. It is intermediate in size between the other two; the leaves are paler with less pronounced but more regular markings than Dwarf Rattlesnake Plantain's. The flowers are similar to Dwarf's but larger with wider sepals.



Fig. 3 Dwarf Rattlesnake Plantain leaves



Fig. 5 Checkered Rattlesnake Plantain leaves



Fig. 4 Dwarf Rattlesnake Plantain flowers



Fig. 6 Checkered Rattlesnake Plantain flowers

Late summer is also the time to find members of the Ladies'-Tresses (*Spiranthes*) genus in the park. The name refers to the spiral, braided arrangement of the flowers on the stem. Northern Slender Ladies'-tresses (*Spirathes lacera var. lacera*) grows in dry, open areas with sandy soils, often near pines and other coniferous trees (Fig. 7 & 8). A single row of dainty white flowers radiates in a loose spiral around a slender stalk about 10 to 15 inches in height. The plants flower from mid-July to late August.

Fig. 7 Northern Slender Ladies'-tresses



Fig. 9 Hooded Ladies'-tresses

More common is Hooded Ladies'-tresses (*S. Romanziflora*) (Fig. 9 & 10), which grows in seasonally wet areas (such as vernal pools) and particularly on wet shorelines (the area around Our Friends' Gazebo on Misery Bay is a good spot to look for these plants). The flower spikes, 6 to 10 inches in height, are made up of three tight rows of creamy white flowers twisting around the stem – very much conforming to the "lady's tress" image. The elongated lip of the flower has a distinctive fiddle shape. You will find these from mid-August well into September.



Fig. 8 Northern Slender Ladies'-tresses flowers



Fig. 10 Hooded Ladies'-tresses flowers

Nodding Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*) (Fig. 11 & 12) have not been reported in the park but grow in several of the south-shore bays. This species seems to have become much more widespread on Manitoulin since the publication of John Morton's *Flora of Manitoulin and Surrounding Islands* and should be looked for in Misery Bay. The flowers are a brilliant white, longer and more tubular that those of Hooded Ladies'-tresses, with a slightly drooping appearance. The lip is long and pointed, and lacking the pinched sides that give the Hooded's lip a fiddle-like shape. (A fourth species, Case's

Ladies'-tresses, is very rare on Manitoulin and unlikely to be found in the park, as it only colonizes disturbed areas such as quarries and newly constructed roadsides. It is our latest-flowering orchid, persisting into the last days of September.)

Orchids are among the more fascinating members of Misery Bay's unique and diverse flora. Shy and fragile, many are easily overlooked – and easily damaged by careless visitors. Keeping an attentive eye out for them will surely enhance your appreciation of Misery Bay's wonderful ecosystems!



Fig. 11 Nodding Ladies-tresses



Fig. 12 Nodding Ladies'-tresses flowers



Moths in Maple Sap

Peter Ford

Anyone who taps maple trees in the early spring in order to boil it down to make maple syrup will be familiar with the appearance of bugs in the maple sap buckets. The numbers of insects found increases as the weather gets warmer and are often associated with the end of the sap collecting season. They must all be filtered out of course before the sap is boiled down. The insects to be found in the buckets belong predominantly to three groups, moths, flies and beetles. This article is just going to consider the moths.

They are in the buckets to feed on the sap which, although it is 97.5% water, actually contains 2.4% sugar mainly in the form of sucrose. The sap also contains minerals such as calcium and potassium in trace amounts.

Sap buckets have lids to keep out rain and twigs etc., but the moths find their way to the sap due to their keen sense of smell and can get in under the loose fitting lids. These moths do not just rely for their sap on people making holes in trees. Some sap will leak from damaged branches and sapsuckers, who are members of the woodpecker family, will punch holes in maple trees to get the sap on which they feed. Insects will take advantage of both of these sources. Some moths are capable of almost doubling their body weight at a single feeding and the nourishment thus taken on will last for two to three days.

The insects will have spent the winter in mature form hiding under the bark of trees or in the dead leaves on the ground and breed in the early spring.



Fig. 1 Maple Sap Moth (*Eupsilion tristigmata*)

The moths found in the buckets actually manage to fly at low temperatures, often around or just below freezing, warming themselves up by 'shivering'. Rapid small range movements of the wings generate enough warmth after a minute or two to enable the muscles to produce the power required to fly; the moths seem to be able to fly at temperatures just below freezing. The warming-up process seems to apply just to the flight muscles and the whole moth is not thought to be warmed by this process. Although many flying insects use shivering as a way of raising the temperature of the flight muscles, most are incapable of raising their internal temperature sufficiently at the sort of ambient temperatures that the "bucket bugs" seem to be able to.



Fig. 2 Rather bedraggled moth rescued from bucket- probably a Variable Pinion (*Lithophane palefacta*)

When the maple trees are first tapped in the early spring, the nights are usually well below freezing and few insects appear in the buckets. But as the night temperatures get up toward freezing point the number of insects in the buckets rises and, towards the end of the sap-collecting season, it is not unusual to see five, six, or even more moths per bucket, along with flies and a few beetles. By this time, the quantity of insects in the sap may become a nuisance by virtue of their volume. Most of the moths found in the buckets are the same genera, many being quite closely related species that are known to feed on maple sap and to be able to function at lower temperatures than most moths. Upwards of a dozen moths are known in this area to feed on maple sap and most belong to the family Noctuidae or Owlett moths. They are medium-



Fig. 3 Damp and rather tattered Mustard Sallow (*Pyreferra hesperidago*)

sized, with a wingspan of 3-3.5 cm. One member of the group is the Three-spot Sallow (*Eupsilion tristigmata*) (**Fig. 1**) which is also known as the Maple Sap Moth because of the frequency with which it is found in sap buckets. Many members of the Sallow Moth family are quite similar in appearance and bedraggled moths retrieved from sap may be quite hard to identify (**Fig. 2**) also because they have been in hibernation since the previous fall, they may not be in perfect condition (**Fig. 3**).

Many of these will have drowned before they are found but many are just rather wet and can survive if removed from the sap. It is worth saving as many moths as possible as they are an important part of the early spring ecosystem and a hundred or more sap buckets can drown a lot of moths.

Friends of Misery Bay Board of Directors 2017 P.O. Box 114, Gore Bay, ON POP 1H0

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Vice-Chairperson/V P Peter Ford, 705-377-5501, fordp@amtelecom.net,

Box 232, Mindemoya ON POP 1SO (1st elected term ends 2017)

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470 Silver Lake Road, Silver Water, ON, POP 1YO (1st elected term)

MISERY BAY PARK SUPERINTENDENT

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Erika Poupore, Assistant Park Superintendent, 705-966-0563, erika.poupore@ontario.ca

Robert Fortin, Halfway Lake, 705-966-2315 or -2315, robert.fortin@ontario.ca



YES! I want to become a Friend of Misery Bay!

| Name: |
|--|
| Address: |
| |
| Phone: |
| Email: |
| 2017 Membership Fees Student \$10.00 Adult \$20.00 Family \$40.00 Corporate \$200.00 Life \$350.00 Membership Fee Enclosed \$ I want to make a donation \$ Total enclosed \$ |
| Mail To: FOMB, P.O. Box 114, Gore Bay ON POP 1H0 |
| THANK YOU for your support |
| |