

NEW BRUNSWICK ICE CLIMBING AREAS

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INTRODUCTION

Joe Kennedy has compiled this guide, with significant input from Steve Adamson, Karrell Allard, Greg Hull, Pat Kelleher, Mike Fellows, Rob Lemmon, Pete Lloyd and Fred Berube. I have "borrowed" wording for some of the older climbs from Adamson's previous publication "Rock and Ice Climbs in New Brunswick". This guide is definitely a product from the ice climber's community in New Brunswick. Please let me know if there are new additions or corrections to make.

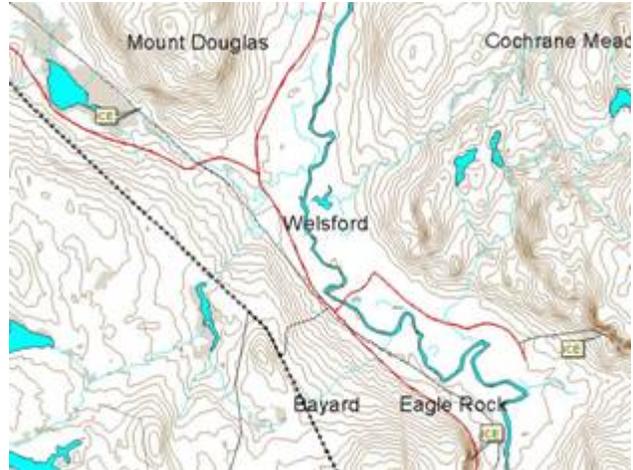
As editor of this guide, I have taken the liberty to adopt what I believe to be a standard in North America for the definition of "First Ascents" of ice climbs. That is, top-ropes are not considered first ascents, only ground-up leads. I have included top-roped routes with a "TR" designation in this first edition, but these should be considered projects, and may be renamed by the first lead ascensionist. Please let me know when these things get lead, guys. Have Fun!!

Joe Kennedy
Hampton, N.B.
January, 1997 (Updated 5 Jan 2006)

I. WELSFORD AREA

A. Cochrane Lane

This well-known rock climbing area also offers a few nice ice lines. Its' popularity stems from easy access, and visibility from the highway. Cochrane Lane is 1.6 km south of Welsford, to the east. Drive almost to the end of the lane, and park near a small gravel pit before the farm. Hike across the field, and follow the trail to the ice (20 minutes). The main concentration is on Waterfall Wall, and Cave Fever (occasionally) forms on Pooh Corner, 150m left and up from the Waterfall Wall.



- 1) Cave Fever: WI 5-, 60m. C. Bell, G. Lacroix 1977. Infrequently formed. Sensitive to afternoon sunshine, so beware of icefall. Grab it when you can, a real (scary) gem. Climb icicle to inside of cave, move right, ascend curtain to small gully leading to slab, and move up to small trees. Potential for runouts during thin ice conditions on these slabs. Finish with short pitch up the sweet gully to right. Bring large nuts and medium cams if it ain't fat!
- 2) Claustrophobia: M6, 15m. C. Sutton, 03/03. A mixed start to Cave Fever. The route follows a left facing corner to the roof then left onto the free hanging pillar which eventually joins and finishes "Cave Fever" proper. Rock gear is definitely necessary up to a Number 1 Camalot.
- 3) Chill Before Serving: 5.6 WI 4+ R/X, 40m. C. Sutton, 03/03. Begins up the Waterfall Layback ramp, then WI 4+ ice trends right up an extremely thin smear on the *Slippery When Wet* face. Rock gear protects the mixed start, but gear is unlikely on the ice smear for the next 20m. The first ascent was done leashless and without gloves because of the tricky rock moves at the beginning. Rarely forms, and will rarely be repeated.

The next three routes are within 20m of each other, and in good conditions may be joined

together for a 25m wide flow.

- 4) Curly: WI 4, 40m. C. Bell, G. Lacroix 1977. Furthest left big ice on the wall. Thinnest of the main three routes on the Waterfall Wall.
- 5) Larry: WI 4, 40m. C. Bell, G. Lacroix 1977. Central big ice that flows over small overhangs near the top. Steep.
- 6) Moe: WI 4+. 40m. C. Bell, G. Lacroix 1977. Major pillar on the far right. Often forms unusual and very interesting ice mushrooms.
- 7) Ice Walk: WI 4 mixed, 60m. P. Lloyd, K. Allard, 02/96. This follows the two rock climbs "The Boulavard", topped off by "Some Enchanted Evening". Start on face and corner, and pass blocky section to large belay tree. Finish up scary overhanging blocks to top. Bring spectres, pins and nuts to fill in between screws.
- 8) The Dike: WI 5 mixed, 60m. S. Adamson, C. Sutton, 01/97 (TR). Follows "The Dike" rock climb in The L-Shape. Always thin, and takes rock gear.
- 9) Talamasca: WI 5, 15m. R. Lemmon, TJ Jellinek, (TR) 01/97. On the Upper Teir. Thin. Can clip bolts.

B. The Quarry

Found along Highway #101, 2 km NW of Welsford, this abandoned quarry is best accessed by hiking in from Welsford along the abandoned railway (20 min.), staying left of the trail to Mt. Douglas. It may be viewed from the road by driving 1 km past the town. Route descriptions are from left to right.

- 1) Curtain: WI 3+, 25m. C. Bell, F. Doucette, 1978. The curtain on the left wall of the Drainpipe.
- 2) The Drainpipe: WI 3, 30m. C. Bell, F. Doucette, G. Lacroix 1978. An obvious deep cleft with a log across near the top. The right wall of this gully is formed by a noticeable large rock flake.
- 3) Iced Cheese: WI 3+, 40m. C. Bell, F. Doucette, 1978. A large ice flow within a square cut recess, 20m right of Drainpipe. There are a few lines up; left and center providing steep and sustained climbing, with the right side offering a corner (stemming) and a resting platform part way up (WI 3).

- 4) Preparation H: WI 4, 40m. J. Kennedy, 2/94. An iced-up version of the rock climb. Just around the corner from Iced Cheese, climb a thin curtain to a ramp, and finish on thin ice to a dead tree on top.
- 5) Cosmic Orgasm: WI 3+, 45m. C. Bell, F. Doucette, 1978. Climb the 75 degree ramp to the right of Prep H. On top of ramp is a large ledge with a tree. Continue up a short steep step to top.
- 6) Debatable: WI 3, 30m. S. Adamson, J. Marceau, 1983. Ten meters right of Cosmic is a short but reliable flow. Climb up to a large ledge, traverse right, and up to top.
- 7) Holey Boy: WI 4, 40m. D. Flick, Feb 94. Immediately right of Debatable. Follow icicles to ledge, and continue on thin flows directly above to top. Thin and ephemeral.
- 8) The Flows: WI 2. At the far right of the quarry are several flows suitable for beginner ice climbers (the young fools!).
- 9) The Hinterman Traverse: WI 3, 150m. S. Adamson, J. Marceau, 1983.
 1) Ascend the ice face on the far right of the quarry to a large tree belay (35m). 2) Traverse left and down climb to an ice ramp on a lower ledge, and follow to a tree belay (50m). 3) Continue traversing left until you join the upper section of Iced Cheese (35m). 4) Traverse across the vertical face, then step around a corner to reach the Drainpipe (30m). 5) Finish the upper section of the Drainpipe.
- 10) Hoser Ice: WI 3, 20m. P. Monti, D. MacLeod, M. Hughson, 1981. This short ice wall is @300m past (NW) the quarry, up a talus field, near ridge top.

C. Eagle Rock

Located along Highway #7, 4 km S of Welsford, park at the provincial picnic area and walk N along highway (200 m) to the climbs, which all start among the trees.

- 1) Eagle Rock Flows: WI 2+, 25m. There are a few various routes available, all starting with a 10m slab which leads to a short headwall, An excellent area to learn ice climbing.
- 2) PWL: WI 3+, 65m. P. Lloyd, K. Allard, 94. 80(?)m right of the Flows,

string together ice thought trees to final steep wall at top.

- 3) Ramble On: WI 3, 60m. R. Lemmon, A. French, 93. 50(?)m right of PWL, low angle ice to steep finish that can be avoided by stepping right.
- 4) No Rest for the Wicked: WI 5-, 60m. R. Lemmon, TJ Jellinek, (TR) 01/97. Same start as Ramble On, but head left up snow ramp to 10m pillar.

II. SAINT JOHN AREA



A) Long Island

This large island in the middle of Kennebecasis Bay offers the most obvious ice climbing in southern New Brunswick. It is a 2 km walk over the river from the Rothesay Yacht Club wharf. Most lines are on Ministers Face, the large icefall on the right. On good years, two separate curtains will form near the top.

- 1) Heart Attack Gully: WI 1, 60m. S. Adamson, I. MacDonald, 2/84. This right diagonal snow gully is @200m left of Ministers Face. First Ascensionists were more concerned with the river ice than the difficulties encountered on the route.
- 2) Seams to Be: M4-, 30m. P. Lloyd, S. Adamson, 01/98. The thin diagonal seam just right of Heart Attack Gully. Very thin with poor protection.
- 3) Cedar Gully: WI 3, 50m. Furthest left line, route follows a little gully through trees.
- 4) The French Route: WI 3, 40m. J. Marceau, E. Seheult, 1/87. Just left of dihedral, ascend bulging ice to top ledge/ice cave.
- 5) The Canadian Route: WI 3+, 30m. I. MacDonald, S. Adamson, 2/84. Just 4m left of "Brit", ascend center of ice bowl to top ledge into ice cave. Rap off or do a curtain.

- 6) The Iron Curtain: WI 5, 50m. J. Kennedy, S. Adamson, P. Lloyd, 3/95. Basically an extension of the Canadian Route, stay left, and continue past the cave up the hollow curtain, if it is formed.
- 7) The British Route: WI 4+, 55m. S. Adamson, D. Adamson, 1/77. The right most line. Possible to belay/rappel on cedar trees on top ledge (WI 4), or continue up curtain (crux) if formed, for a loong pitch.

B) Red Head

Located near Canaport, east of Saint John, this area offer several ice lines right on the water. About 1 km before Canaport, park beside a field, and walk along the trail through it. Go left at the woods, then your first right, then a left, then a right. Keep heading towards the coast and you should come out on the water. Look left and you will see the ice. Route descriptions are for right to left.

- 1) Promise Land: WI 3, 15m. TJ Jellinek, R Lemmon, 02/97.
- 2) Marine Atlantique: WI 4, 15m. K Allard, MJ MacGraw, 02/97. A beautiful pillar, the "plum" of the area.
- 3) Unnamed: WI 2, 15m. M Hawkes, S Bethune, 02/97.
- 4) Unnamed direct: WI 3+/4, 15m. K Allard, MJ MacGraw, 02/97. Two separate pillars that offer direct starts to the WI2.
- 5) Alder States: WI 3+, 10m. TJ Jellinek, R Lemmon, 02/97. A straight up pillar.

III. WATERFORD AREA

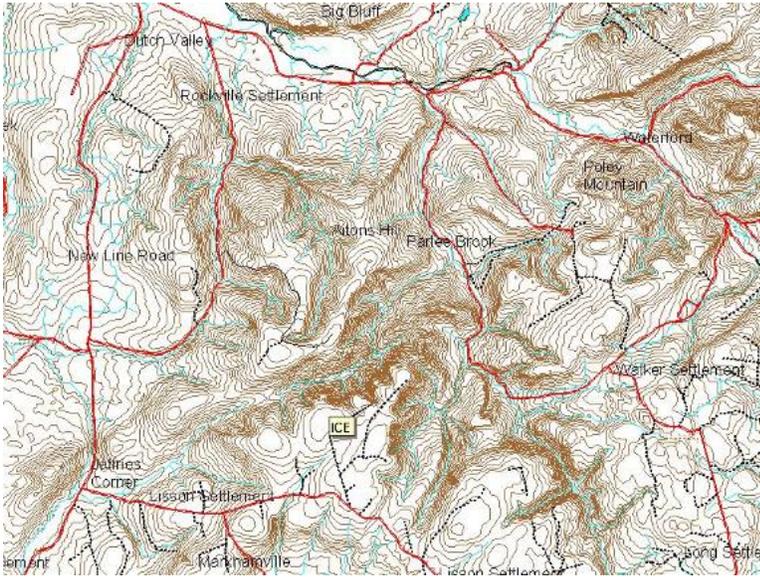
The hilly terrain around Poley Mountain Ski Hill, 10 km E of Sussex contains several potential ice climbing areas, of which the biggest two have been climbed and described.

A. Parlee Brook

Recommended access is by Lisson Settlement Road, off Route # 111, @ 10 km S of Sussex Corner. Once on Lisson Settlement Road, drive straight until you hit a snowbank (end of road). Then walk or ski the 5 km (1.5 hr) meandering trail, following logging roads through cuts and plantations. Travel 3 km. along main road, passing blueberry barrens,

and on top of a large hill the barrens turn into jack pine plantations. Take the first left road into the plantation, go 500m to a Y, turn right and travel 500m to the next left road. From here travel straight for 1km. past hardwood clearcuts, to a dip in the road (look for flagging tape). A small clearcut should be just up the road. A little brook flows to the left, feeding the ice flows you are looking for. Follow this downhill until you see ice, and then rappel into the "Hidden Canyon". An alternative access route is by the Parlee Brook Road. Previously, access through there had been an issue because of one landowner. Recently, the road accessing the Parlee Br valley has been deemed a Crown public road, and DOT has even erected a road sign. It took me 30 min to ski the 2 km to our little canyon, and another 10 min hike up to the ice. Definitely the best way to get to Hullholmes Falls. If you use this

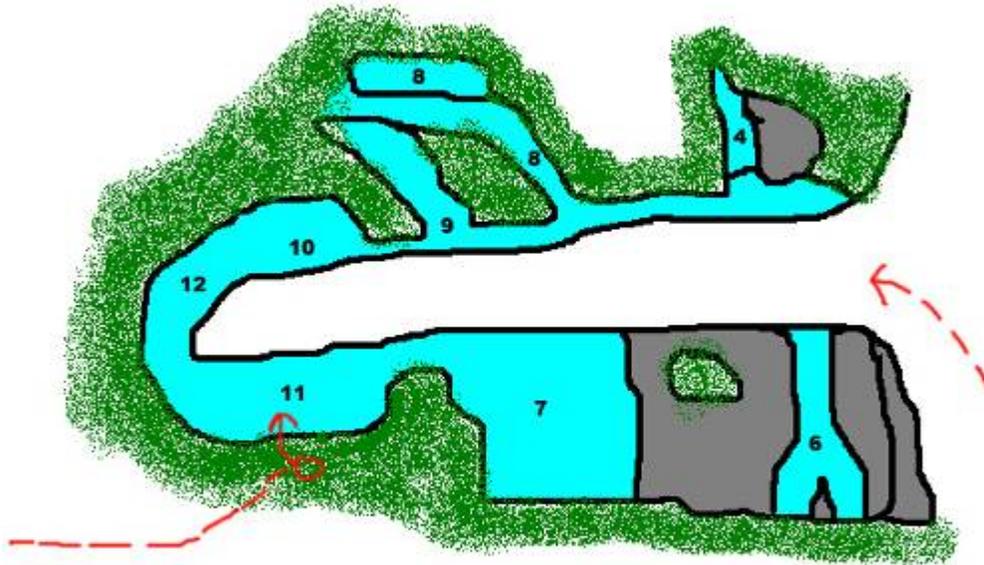
approach, please be sensitive to the landowner by "The Abbey". He is probably not too happy about the whole situation. So park well away from his parking lot, driveway, or road entrance. I parked well past the bridge, and that seemed OK.



The topo is provided by Fred Berube. The routes are described from the bottom of the canyon towards the top.

Parlee Brook Ice

by Fred Berube
2005



4 Patrick's Choice WI3+
6 Three Amigos WI3
7 Sunbake Wall WI3
8 KF Gully WI3

9 Yellow Pillar WI4
10 Blue Pillar WI4+
11 All the King's Horses WI2+
12 Back Wall WI3+

- 1) Hullholmes Falls: WI 5-, 45m. G. Hull, J. Holmes, 2/93. At the very bottom of the canyon, where this little tributary meets Parlee Brook, lies a camp on the right, and icefalls behind the camp. The route trends up slab, to a vertical to overhanging section, and finishes up a small slab to trees.
- 2) Breathless: WI 3, 65m. S. Bethune, Feb 99. Across from Dog Gully, on the west side of the valley. About 200m of snow slogging brings you to a narrow line off to the left. Follow gully to a 7m headwall on right.

Dog Gully - This is the large gully at the bottom east of main climbing area, which provides a hiking route to the canyon. Described not as a route but as a landmark. On the gully walls are a few lines that occasionally form; only the upper-most smear has been climbed.

- 3) Trampless: WI 4+, 35m. J. Kennedy, S. Adamson, 2/96. Uppermost left smear in Dog Gully, 5m left of an ice pencil. Quite sustained.

- 4) Patrick's Choice: WI 3+, 70m. P.Fenton, P.Kelleher 4/89. Travel up main canyon @100m to this long snowgully on right, with beautiful looking icefall in rock corner near top. Past icefall is a short snowfield, topped by a 5m icewall.
- 5) Unnamed: WI 3, 65m (not including @100m snow slog). P. Kelleher, G. Porter?? A narrow runnel between Dog Gully and Sunbake Wall, obvious across the valley from Patricks Choice. Ascends runnel/chimney/crack with ice, snow and/or rock climbing through "crux", to tree belay. Headwall consists of 7m WI 3-4 to top. Has a bit of an alpine feel to it. A short walk through precommercially thinned forest leads into plantation near the road.
- 6) Three Amigos: WI 3, 100m. P. Fenton, J. Cunningham, P. Kelleher, 1/90. This is the first obvious route up the huge left wall known as "The Sunbake Wall".
- 7) ECA: WI 3, 100m. P. Fenton, P. Kelleher, 1/90. Ascends Sunbake Wall through trees, to headwall at top.
- 8) KF Gully: WI 3, 80m. P. Kelleher, M. Fellows, 90. Opposite Sunbake Wall, climb steep but short ice to snowfield. Finish with 20m headwall.
- 9) Yellow Pillar: WI 4, 50m. P. Fenton, 90. The first route on the right as you enter the back of the canyon. Quality climbing.
- 10) Blue Pillar: WI 4+, 50m. Four meters uphill of YP. Steep, sustained: four stars!
- 11) All the Kings Horses: WI 2+, 40m. P. Fenton, 3/90. Generally describes the large easy flows on the left wall in the back of the canyon. It's the rappel route in, and a good place to solo climb out.
- 12) Back Wall: WI 3 - 3+, 15-20m. Well, it's the back wall of the canyon. A few curtains offer challenges. Can be quite overhanging (and way hard) early in the season.

B. Cedar Camp

Seen from Route # 121, @ 5 km E of Poley Mountain, from the small settlement of Cedar Camp. Hike past a cottage along a snowmobile trail to the base (15 min.).

- 1) The Dragons Lair: WI 3+, 14m. P. Fenton, P. Kelleher, 3/89. Short, steep, free hanging curtain over a cave. Beware the creature!

IV. FUNDY COAST

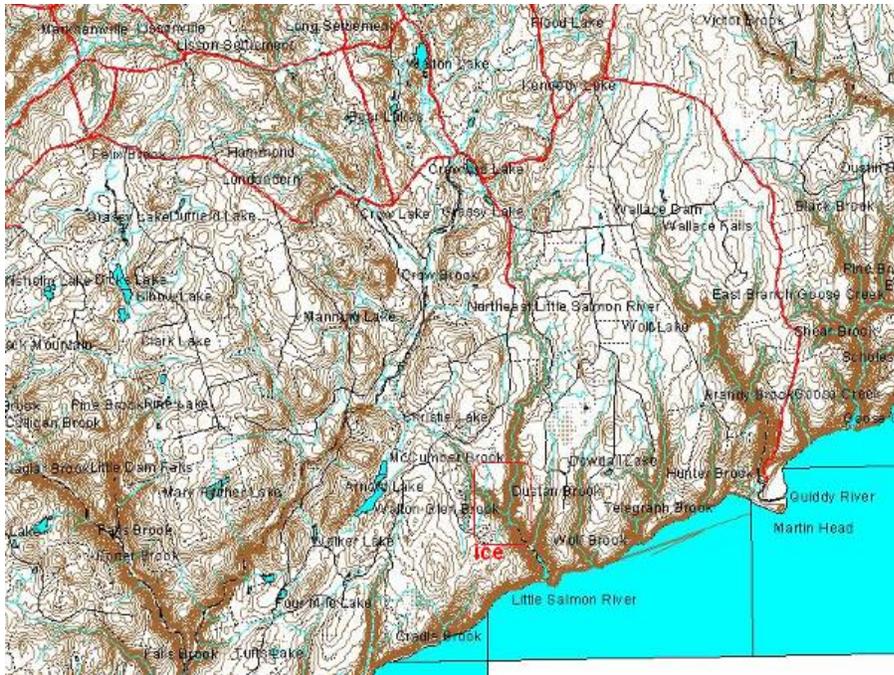
The entire Fundy coastline offers a stunning amount of ice lines, ranging from 4m icicles near Blacks Harbour to 100m lines by Martin Head. Further up the Coast, Shepody Bay and the Petticodiac River also contains some wondrous routes, and is described in a different section. The vast majority of the coastal ice lines are unclimbed, and new areas (Grand Manan Island!!!) hold tremendous potential.

Please note that some access descriptions are quite vague, as the country between St. Martins and Fundy Park is very confusingly strewn with new and old logging roads. It is best to join up with someone who knows the area, or try your hand at map and compass orienteering.

A) Little Salmon River

Talk about an ice climber's heaven! New Brunswick's best, biggest, and hardest routes are all concentrated in this beautiful wilderness. Halfway between St. Martins and Fundy Park, the Little Salmon River cuts through the Fundy Highlands and empties into the Bay of Fundy. Although most of the Highlands have been historically logged, the steep slopes and inaccessible areas within the river valleys contain 300+ year old spruce trees, NBs old growth forest. The Little Salmon River Gorge is a Conservation Area, so please tread lightly and carefully!

Access is relatively difficult if you don't have a snowmobile. Past Poley Mountain, drive straight following the road to Martins Head (not St. Martins). Past Walton Lake and Crawford Lake, drive straight until the plowed road ends (parking lot). From here, it is 12 km or 15 km to the gorge, West and East trails respectively. Snowmobiles should have packed good trails on both trails. East trail leads to the mouth of the river, following a series of steep switchbacks, ending at a camping site, and is recommended for routes on the lower section of the gorge. West trail is less developed, requiring bushwhacking between the end of the trail and the river. This trail is recommended for climbs in Walton Glen Canyon, and the upper sections of the river. Refer to a map for locational details.



The following description is for access to the top of Walton Glen Canyon. Drive 1.5 km past Crawford Lake to the intersection of Little Salmon River Road and the road to Martin Head.

Drive straight south for 10 km, and you will come to an intersection, with the main road turning right. However you should take the left turn and continue straight south along this logging road for 2 km, until you come to a sign post for the TransCanada Trail. Walk along this wide trail for 800 meters to a Y in the trail. Go right along the narrow trail to Walton Glen Falls. But if you went left, the main trail bends left and down a hill to a bridge across Dunstan Brook. Don't go there. But back to the Walton Glen Trail. You should see a hand written sign or two indicating the head of the trail. Follow the trail with various coloured flagging tape for ~700 meters until you hit Walton Glen Brook. Go downstream, and the first ice line you encounter is:

- 1) Cave in Wall: WI 5, 10m. J. Kennedy, S. Bethune, 01/01. Overlooking the "Hole in the Wall" pool is this large cave. At the time we were there, four routes were formed or forming, but I bet in very good conditions the entire curtain would form. We ascended the largest, central line. A line to the right looked excellent, but we ran out of time. About 175 m upriver from Unnamed and on the west bank, it also lies just below the so-called Hole in the Wall, a 4m waterfall on a sharp bend on the LSR.
- 2) Unnamed: WI 3, 5m. S. Bethune, J. Kennedy, 01/01. Short wide wall on the west bank, 350m upriver from Alpine Gully.

- 3) Alpine (Lager) Gully: WI 2, ~150m. S. Bethune, J. Kennedy, 01/01. A very noticeable diagonal gully 150m upriver from French Immersion, on the east bank. More fun to glissade than climb.
- 4) French Immersion: WI 4, 60m. S. Adamson, E. Moran, 01/01. Roughly 600 meters upriver, this route is remarkably similar to Glenkitchie. On the east slope, this route ascends 30m of WI 4, topped by 30m of WI 3. A 10m WI 4+ section tops off the route, but the FA team didn't want to plow up the 40m length of deep snow to get to it, due to Morans wet foot.
- 5) Glenkitchie: WI 4, 45m. G. Hull, J. Kennedy, 2/98. 75 metres upriver from Grog, a sweet little wall is obvious on the east slope, at the back of a small amphitheater.
- 6) Grog: WI 3, 200m. J. Kennedy, G. Hull, 2/98. About 375 metres upriver from WGB, the river takes a sharp bend east, and then west again, shooting through a very narrow bottleneck. At the eastern most bend, climb a short ice step (10m) to enter a large snow basin with a big ice wall at the back. Have fun!

The following routes are found along Walton Glen Brook, starting at the head of a stunning 1.2km canyon. Travel is feasible only when the brook is solidly frozen.

- 7) Paid Vacation: WI 5, 30m. C. Sutton, J. Kennedy, 03/03. Found 4 m left of Deliverance. A thin line, but well protected.
- 8) Deliverance: WI 5, 40m. J. Kennedy, C. Sutton, 03/03. Located on the east bank 50m below the base of an access gully. The first ice line as you go down Walton Glen Brook. Hard to miss. Walton Glen Falls is 150m further downstream.
- Walton Glen Falls: 1000m up Walton Glen Brook from Little Salmon River, or 1400m from west trail.
- 9) Center Face: WI 4+, 100m. M. Fellows, P. Kelleher (?). Right up the middle. Quite variable. I have seen it fat and straight forward, and overhung and scary. Hope for the former.
- 10) Holey Moley: WI 4+, 100m. J. Kennedy, D. Belliveau, 2/94. Ascend left facing dihedral to cedar tree (belay), and traverse left, climbing to the top.
- 11) Dons Pillar: WI 4+, 100m. J. Kennedy, C. Sutton, 03/03. Ascend prominent pillar,

with same finish as Holey Moley. In memory of Don Belliveau.

The following routes are downstream on Walton Glen Brook. A significant landmark is the canyon, 700m downstream from Walton Glen Falls, and @400m upstream from the mouth on Little Salmon River. Absolutely gorgeous! Well worth a visit in the summer (during low water conditions).

- 12) Kardu: WI 4+, 60m. G. Hull, J. Kennedy, 2/98. 220 metres downstream of Walton Glen Falls, a line on the north wall is barely visible through the trees. Scramble up the slope to its base. Pitch 1 ascends thin ice to a ledge, and P2 follows a left tending ramp.
- 13) One Green Line: WI 4, 85m. P. Kelleher, K. Holmes, ?/95. About 400 metres south of Walton Glen Falls on the west side of brook is a large gently sloping snow bowl. At top of bowl and out of sight from the brook is a beautiful iceline. Climb the large pale green ice wall, steep and strenuous for first 15 metres, but slowly eases back for another 15 metres. A section of mixed ice and snow slopes is capped off by a final short section of blue ice. (55 metres). A four star route!
- 14) El Grotto: WI 4, 50m. J. Kennedy, G. Hull, 2/98. As you just enter the narrow canyon, a thin line is encountered on the east wall. During the first ascent, initial moves required dry tooling to mount a small overhang onto a verglassed slab. The line tended right to more substantial ice, and then took off straight up, ending in trees.
- 15) The Blue Wall: WI 4, 110m. P. Kelleher, K. Holmes, ?/95. Immediately after passing through the narrowest part of the canyon is an enormous blue wall. Climb a nearly vertical wall for 10 metres to easier ice and snow slopes above. Belay below a second vertical wall (45 metres). Climb the second vertical wall, easier on the left. Traverse up and to the right on easier ice. Pick a semi-hanging belay at some point (@45m). Continue traversing up and right to the top and trees for a belay.
- 16) Fireball Alley: WI3+, 110m. S. Bethune, D. Hamel, 04/04. Downstream 200m from Blue Wall on the south bank of WGC. A pretty step enters a snow/ice gully. A short 20m pitch reaches a belay tree on the left, before the final ice wall. About 40m of beautiful blue ice gets you to the top, and a large belay tree. Rappel from trees

in 2 or 3 raps. Be aware of potential slides in this steep-walled gully.

- 17) Radio Silence: WI5, 40m. C. Sutton, J. Kennedy, 04/04. A very narrow icicle hidden in a 2m wide couloir, found 100m upriver from the mouth of WGC, on the south bank, or 50m below Fireball Alley.

The following routes are along Little Salmon River proper.

- 18) Rain Dance Country: WI 3+, 75m. P. Fenton & Co., 3/90. Huge white ice wall on the west bank of LSR 300m south of WGB, very visible from the main river. Alaska Flashback is the stunningly beautiful blue line just to the left (south). Hike up the slope 100m to the base. Unless you're willing to simul-climb, set up a hanging belay before the final short vertical steps.

- 19) Alaska Flashback: WI 4, 90m. P. Fenton & Co., 3/90. I believe this is the best ice climb in NB! Certainly my favorite. Just to the left of Rain Dance and very visible from the river. Solo a fun 100m WI 1+ gully to the base. Ascend a curtain on the right leading to slab ice, and set up the belay. The second pitch follows a short vertical section, with WI 3 to the top. To descend, walk to trees about 30m north, and two raps drop you right on your packs.

- 20) Patricia: WI 4+, 60m. P. Fenton, J. Kennedy, 3/90. While walking along the main river, look for this ice line flowing down a large rock wall in a narrow gully 400m south of the mouth of Walton Glen Brook (WGB), on the west bank. There are usually 2 or 3 other narrow, thin lines formed just right of Patricia. Start with the vertical curtain to the slab (or alternatively hit the slabs from the right), then follow the route encountering two 3m vertical sections, and finish in the trees.

B) Mary Pitcher Falls

WI 3, 60m, and WI 2, 40m. J. Kennedy, 01/97. From Crawford Lake, take logging roads 13 km southwest to a washed out culvert over Bunnell Brook (Use a map!). Take next left and follow trail south (4.2 km) through clearcuts to Mary Pitcher Brook. Two separate falls: the first is 20m downstream from trail (WI 2), and the second is 120m further downstream. This is the mouth of the Brook, entering into Big Salmon River. Beautiful cascading falls down large granite slabs. Worth a hike in during the summer, too.

C) Fundy Park

Opposite Third Vault Falls on Upper Vault Brook, the Parks tallest falls. Routes are listed left to right.

- 1) Cowboy de l'est: WI 4, 30m. M. Dasous, 1999.
- 2) Kom Fou: WI 3+, 30m. M. Dastous and E. Matton, 1999.
- 3) Matinale: WI 3, 15m. K. Allard, 94?
- 4) Adonde va Usted?: WI 4+, 25m.
- 5) Smokey Gully: WI 2-, M. Dastous, 1999.

ST. MARTINS AREA



There is an abundant amount of ice along the Fundy coastline, but difficult access limits many areas. Fortunately the St. Martins area offers excellent ice with decent access, and beautiful surroundings. The main concern however is the tide. The world-famous Fundy tides come in twice a day, flooding 3 meters up the coastal cliffs. Climbers must refer to tidal tables and be aware of the schedules. We have found that many of the ice routes have ground access blocked off by the surf **three hours before high tide**. Climbing out is the only escape.

C) Rogers Head

- 1) Nautical Disaster: WI 5, 90m. J. Kennedy, D. Hamel, 03/03. Found on Rogers Head, @2km west of St. Martin's lighthouse, this narrow runnel ascends a prominent head of land on the Fundy coast. The route is barely visible from the road at Gardner Creek. A road 3.5km west of the St. Martins town sign (near a church) provides access to the route, but is usually not plowed. Follow this for 3.7km to the beach. A pleasant 1 km walk along the beach takes you to the base of the route. Tides come in 3 hours before high tide, right to the base of the route, so climbing out is the only escape. There is a small beach 200 meters before the route that is above high tide, and has an escape gully up the cliff providing access to the top in case the situation gets desperate. Of course tides wash out the bottom of the route, so 10 feet of rock gets you to a hanging curtain, followed by a series of lock-offs leading to a cave. Swing onto the vertical, and lead up cauliflowered ice for another 10 meters. A screw anchor should be made on a ledge just past the vertical section. After that, pitch 2 kicks back to a 50m WI 3 runnel, kind of alpine-like except for the surf and seagulls. For the walk-off decent, walk north through the trees (500m?) to a snowmobile trail that leads back to the beach.

D) Quaco Head

This very accessible area by the lighthouse at West Quaco offers several lines ranging from easy to extremely stupid, all in a beautiful setting above pounding surf. Best to time your arrival with the low tide if you wish to walk around the bottom of climbs. Generally the routes are moderate, soft, and about 20-40 meters. "We rappelled near the lighthouse, and a low tide allowed us to walk along the shore. There were some lines to the right and left of the lighthouse, but we didn't do them. We walked along the shore towards St. Martins, passed 2 or 3 lines, and came to a small cove, with a set of stairs ascending the back slope."

- 1) Ariel: WI 4+, 40m. J. Kennedy, S. Bethune, Feb 1999. The route 50m left of the stairs. Smooth and steep, leading into trees.

Walk around the corner into the "Flowerpot Wall". The wall has 3 or 4 lines up it.

- 2) Tide One On: WI 3, 25m. S. Bethune, J. Kennedy, Feb, 99. Large flow dead center of the wall. Fat ice on top of flow for an Abalocov, or climb loose unprotectable crap rock for @8m to the top, and anchor off of alder bushes.

- 3) Grace Under Pressure: WI 4, 25m. J. Kennedy, S. Bethune, Feb 1999.
Steepest line on the right side of wall. Tops out easier than "Tide..", and can use alders for anchors. Named not for the climb, but for the barely erect flowerpot.
- 4) Uncomfortably Numb: Grade 5+, 25m. C. Sutton, J. Kennedy, Feb, 04.
Found on the right edge of the cove. Dead vertical on bottom half to a small cave, followed by a 2 meter roof. Then go for the top!

E) Berry Beach, Fownes Beach

Along the Fundy Coastline are several possible ice lines, some of which are visible from the St. Martins lighthouse. These routes are quintessentially New Brunswick in character. Beautiful steep ice lines ascending sea-side cliffs, with seagulls overhead and lobster boats passing by. Most of these routes require hiking along seaweed-covered rocks during low tide. Several access points are available, depending where you are heading. The easiest access is to Berry Beach, taking you to the Superbowl area. The "Controls" area can be accessed by the start of the Fundy Parkway. To get there, park at the intersection of Melvin Beach Road and Little Beach Road, and walked past a white summer home, down open fields to the coast (~600m). Enter the woods on the left edge (east) of the field, and find a little brook ravine. This will lead you to the top of "Fit 2B Tide" and rappel down. It is advisable to leave a fixed rope (50m OK) for escape purposes, as high tide prevents any alternative retreats. High tide results in a water line 3m from the base of the route. Be careful!

- 1) Superbowl: WI2+, 50m. J Kennedy, D Kennedy, 02/04. Found 500m east of Berry Beach, it is the first large flow encountered from the beach.
- 2) Fit 2B Tide: WI 4/4+ 30m. S. Bethune, J. Kennedy, Feb. 00.
The biggest of the group, which starts off with a 6m vertical wall to a WI 3 section, and then to a headwall of manky ice, tending left to the top.
- 3) Time and Tide: WI 5-, 26m. J. Kennedy, S. Bethune, Feb. 00.
A free hanging icicle, the left-most in a group of three. Starts off with some mixed moves up sandstone and crappy ice (no pro), traverses left to the base, and then up the 10m icicle.
- 4) Creating a Disturbance: WI 5, 50m. C. Sutton, J. Kennedy, 02/03. About 40 meters east of "Fit2BTide". It ascends a 20 m hanging curtain, and trends left for another 30m to the trees.

The following routes are found roughly 1 km west of Fownes Beach, or roughly 1 km east of "Fit 2B Tide". It is easier to hike down the Fownes Beach, and continue west along the coast.

- 5) In Control: WI 5. 40m. C. Sutton, S. Bethune, 01/03. Left most of a group of three slabby looking routes. Nice fat plastic ice on the vertical section with some thinner ice on the slabby upper portions. Ice finishes about 5m shy of the top and some root pulling and dirt climbing gets you to the belay tree.
- 6) Outta Control: WI 5++, 35m. C. Sutton, S. Bethune, 01/03. The middle sick-looking thing with no bottom. A series of one-arm pull ups are necessary to get feet on ice, followed by 20m of 90+ degree ice. Another 15m of slab and a short WI 4 section to the belay.
- 7) Cheers to Civility: WI 5, 30 m. J. Kennedy, C. Sutton, 03/03. The right, wide route, dead vertical except for a ramp in the middle.. Again, the bottom section of ice is washed out by the tide, so more lock-offs are necessary to get on the ice.
- 8) Fownes Beach: WI 3+ to 4+, 5 - 15 m. S. Bethune, J. Kennedy. Several short routes and pillars can be played on right on the beach. Just hike the Fownes Beach Trial for access.

G) Grand Manan



Grand Manan is the southern most part of New Brunswick is surrounded by the Bay of Fundy. Therefore the climate is typically warm and winters are often free of snow and ice. But there are many 100+ meter seaside cliffs, so the potential for long and hard ice routes during cold winters are pretty good. An exploration in 2004 put up a few routes, and hopefully this winter will cooperate, and further development will continue. So far, all routes are around North Head, either Seven Days Work or Indian Beach.

Seven Day's Work:

Access for Seven's Days work is via Whale Cove, just north of the Ferry terminal. Find a way down to the water and walk north along the beach to the cliffs. There is also a road a little further north that leads to some cottages. Ask permission before parking here. Along this shore there is serious potential of getting caught by the tide. There are no escape gullies and not all the ice goes to the top!

- 1) Water Cooler: WI 2-3+, 20m. D Lister and S Kruse (right side); M Bourgeois (left side), 02/04. A nice flow with a low angle face to the left and a short steep face to the right.
- 2) Cold Fusion: WI 3? F Berube, 02/04. Sorry, no info on this one.
- 3) Day of Rest: WI 3+, 30m. S Kruse, D Lister, 02/04. Big fat flow near the middle of Seven Days Work.

Indian Beach:

Access via the Whistle Road, park just down hill from the lighthouse and walk to the beach. Good ice to the (climber's) right. Thin stuff to the left.

- 4) Rowdy: WI 3, 20m. D Lister, S Kruse, 02/04. Easiest looking gully on the far right end on Indian beach.

V. KINGSTON PENINSULA AREA

A. Hampton Marsh Flow

Halfway between Saint John and Sussex lies one of the most rich and important wetlands in New Brunswick. The northern edge of the marsh is bordered by the rocky and steep bluff of Kingston Peninsula, on which a waterfall freezes, providing a few local sickos a place to bash their knuckles during winter. The flow is 9 km from Kredles vegetable market along the Lower Norton Shore Road. Drive along the edge of the marsh, staying left at two intersections. The flow is obvious from road edge, behind a summer cottage. Route descriptions are left to right on the flow.

- 1) Teal: WI 2, 20m. J. Kennedy, 1991. Left most route on the flow. Straight up gentle slope.
- 2) Mallard: WI 3, 20m. J. Kennedy, 1991. Shallow, right-tending corner.

- 3) Widgeon: WI 3+, 20m. J. Kennedy, 1991. Vertical face just right of Mallard.
- 4) Bufflehead: WI 4, 20m. J. Kennedy, 1991. Vertical to overhanging face in the middle of the flow. Often covered with chandeliers.
- 5) The Black Duck: WI 4, 20m. J. Kennedy, 1991. Obvious vertical pillar right-most on the flow.
- 6) Halogen: WI 5-, 20m. J. Kennedy, S. Bethune, 1/98. Found 200m down the road, in the second gully left of the large rock formation beside the road (Red Rock). Forms infrequently and always hollow.

B. Moss Glen

About 6 km. from Gondola Point Ferry, turn left by the Fire Hall and go @800m to a small pull off on the left. The icefall is just below. WI 2, 25m.

VI. PETTICODIAC RIVER AREAS

A. Hillsborough

Five Kilometres north of Hopewell Cape, and just past green "Hopewell Cape" sign on right side of road, find pulloff opposite house and garage. Rappel to bottom. Several lines in area, ranging from WI 2 to 6. 13m. K. Alert, 1992.

B. Pollet River Falls

Gordon Falls are 2 km south of Elgin. Drive across the Pollet River bridge, and immediately turn left, and park near a cabin. Walk along the trail to the top of the routes. Rappel to the bottom, and watch out for thin ice on the river. Routes are listed from left to right, looking at them from the roadside edge of the river.

- 1) Waterboy: WI 2, 25m. M. Dastous, 1999.
- 2) Main Street: WI 3+, 30m. M. Allin, 1998.
- 3) Spanky: WI 3, 30m. M. Dastous, 1999.
- 4) Unnamed: WI 3, 30m. M. Allin, 1999.
- 5) Out of the Blue: WI 4, 30m. M. Dastous. 5m pillar.

C. Dorchester

Walk around Dorchester Cape to north (@1km) to obvious flows. Apparently easiest flow is:

Le Retour de Beausleil: WI 3, 40m. K. Alert, 1993.

"Lots of potential for harder routes".

VII. OTHER AREAS

A. Falls Brook

WI 3+1/4, 45m. Located a short distance from the main Southwest Miramichi River in a very photogenic setting, it has the dubious claim to be the "Highest Waterfalls in N.B." Although very impressive in summer with its high volume output, Falls Brook is a distant second in height to Walton Glen Falls near Little Salmon River. Falls Brook is accessible by car in winter, as long as the road is plowed, and not too icy (It's usually both). It is a private road owned and maintained by N.B. International Paper, so they have the right to close the road at anytime. Please be respectful.

Just as you enter Boisetown on HWY #8, take a left on HWY # 625 towards Taxis River. Follow the signs towards Porter Brook, and after crossing the Miramichi bridge, drive straight north, past the right turn to Holtville. You should soon see NBIPs gatehouse, and hopefully it's open! Now drive for 13.6km along the curvy logging road, and start looking for a trail on the left side of road, just as the road drops toward a small bridge over Falls Brook (near Electrical Pole #L360 295). You can either walk 20 min. along the trail to the base of the Falls, or walk along the Brook 10 min. to the top.

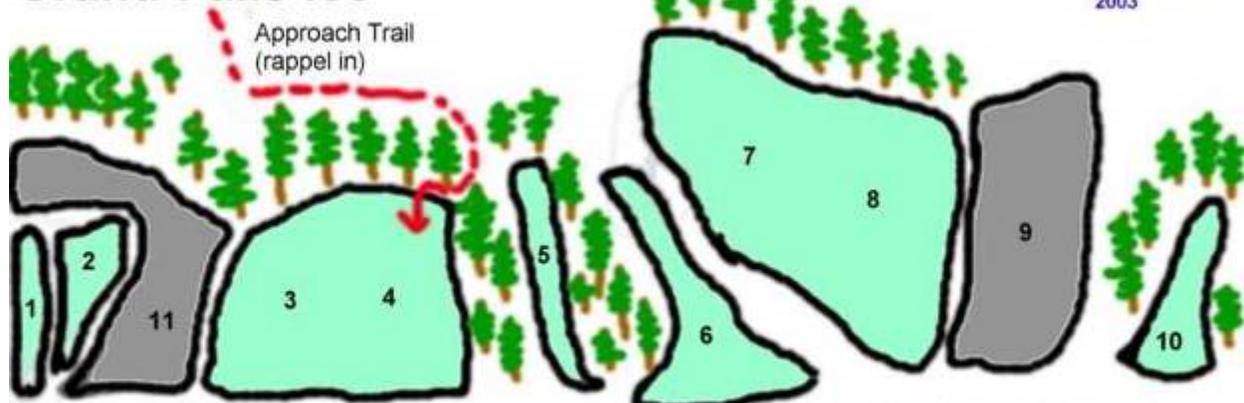
B. Hayes Falls

WI 3, 40m. Located 5 Km north of Meductic, access is much improved by the new TransCanada Highway. Now it is a 3 minute hike along flat ground. When heading north on Hwy 2 reset your odometer as you pass exit 212 (Canterbury/Meductic Exit) and you'll reach the Maliseet Hiking Trail culvert at 9.3 kms., which passes under the four-laner through big culverts, and walk east towards the Saint John River.

C. Grand Falls

Grand-Falls Ice

by F. Berube
2003



- 1 - WI4? 20 m Vertical pillar up to rock face (albacove rappel required)
- 2 - WI4? 15-20m Short pillars (albacove rappel required)
- 3 - WI2-Wi2+ 25m Easier towards the left.
- 4 - WI3 25m Grade 3 near bottom with vertical finish
- 5 - WI3+ 20m Nice hidden line.
- 6 - WI1 40m Snow/Ice ramp (can use as escape out of gorge)

- 7 - WI4-WI5? 25m Usually rotten ice
- 8 - WI3+ - WI5? 40m Usually rotten ice
- 9 - Big chossy rock face
- 10- WI2+ Obvious line found about 300yds around the corner
- 11 - Rock face

Thanks to Fred Berube for providing an excellent topo of the area, and the following access description. Not much info on the history of first ascents, but rumors have it that groups from Maine and northern NB have been climbing here for decades. On the TCH highway take the Grand Falls exit just after you cross the Saint John River. You are now on Madawaska Rd. Drive past the mall etc., and the falls are obvious on the right. At the intersection near the bridge, go straight and head up the hill onto Tobic Road for 200m, and park at the Caisse Populaire. Access the gorge via the "Needs Convenience Store" parking lot. A 2 minute roadside scramble takes you to the edge, and a 60m rappel is necessary to get into the gorge.

D. Kingsclear

WI 2-3, 4m. Short flows on a road-side rock cut on the old Trans Canada Highway, just past the Kingsclear Dam on the south side.