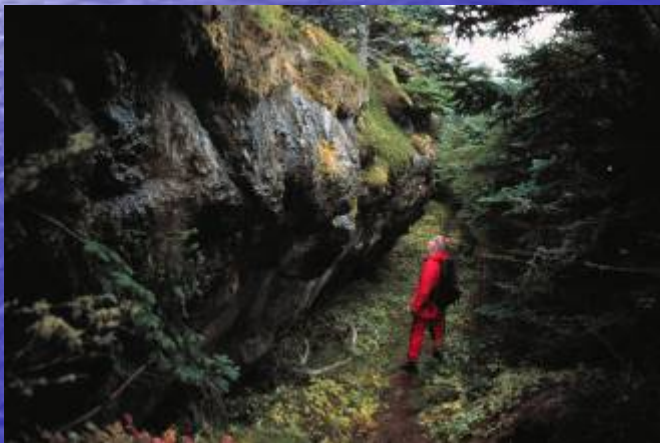




# Cow Head: Natural/Cultural Heritage Inventory

Presentation by  
Intervale Associates, Inc.  
Integrated Coastal Zone Management  
Workshop,  
Cow Head  
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# Natural Heritage – a Tombolo



- Cow Head is a bedrock island connected to mainland by causeway of gravel and cobble.
- 8,000 years ago sea level fell/ island exposed/ causeway built up/ coastal lowland uncovered.
- Fall in sea level evident from undercut raised sea cliff on Highpoint at Head.

# Geology – World Famous

- Bedrock is Ordovician Limestone interbedded with shale.
- 492 million years old.
- Full of fossils of marine organisms from shallow and deep water organisms.
- World famous among geologists for preserving a complete record of fossils from Cambrian to Ordovician periods.



# Tide Pools –

Brimming with marine plants and animals

- Seaside aquariums.
- Fish, crabs, shrimp, marine snails, starfish, sea slugs and lobster.



# Bird Life



- Common/Arctic Terns
- Herring Gull, Greater black-backed Gull, Ring-billed Gulls, Common Eiders, Guillemots.



# Flora of Cow Head

- Basic soil conditions.
- Fairly common plants for Gulf of St. Lawrence but unusual for botanists from elsewhere on continent.
- Blue-Island loving gentians, Dwarf coastal iris



# Tuckamore

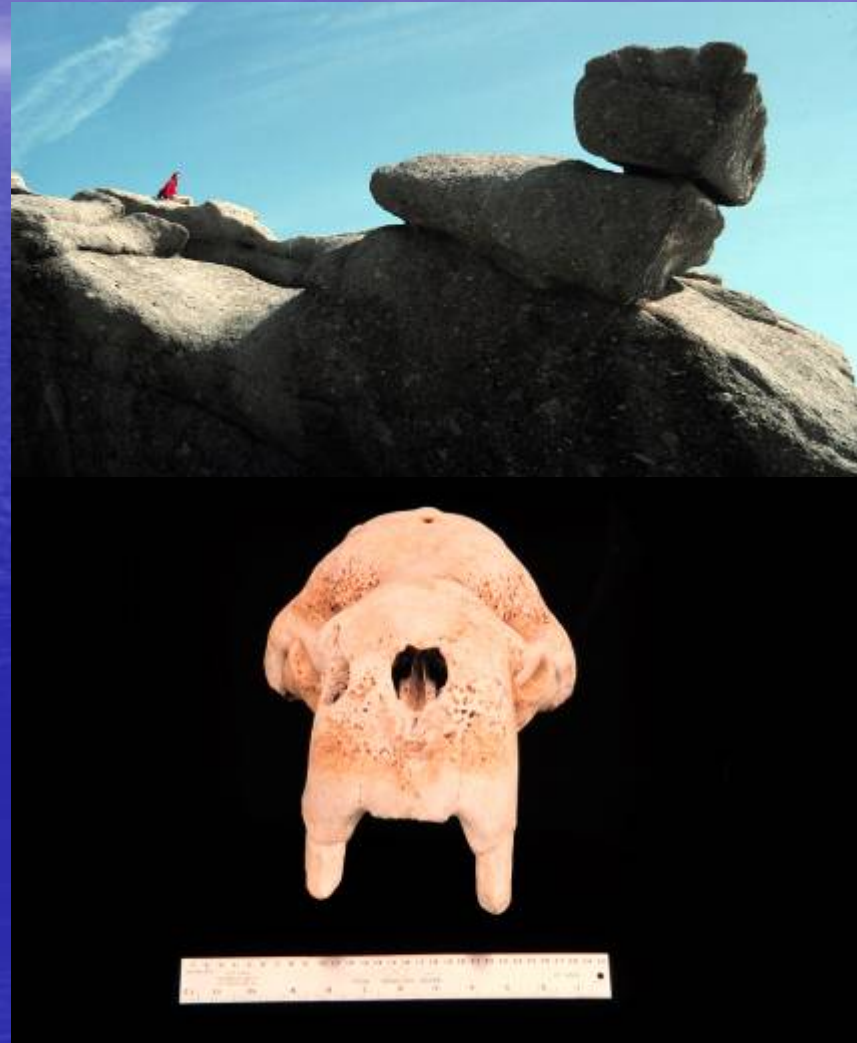


- Densely-intertwined, wind-dwarfed forest of White Spruce and Balsam Fir.
- Trail to tip of Cow Head shelters trail from wind, protects walkers and each other.

# Cultural Heritage –

## Origins of the name Cow Head

- Early maps – Cap Pointu – Pointed Cape
- Cow Head – originated from rock on the point or
- French name for walrus: vache de mer
- 1993 Obediah Payne found a walrus skull on the beach 700 years old.



# Chert – Important Tool Material for Prehistoric Peoples



- Hard glassy rock.
- Found in limestone and shale.
- Discovered at archaeological sites along the west coast of Newfoundland and in Labrador.
- Two important sites on Cow Head.

# Thousands of Years of Settlement

- Settlements for prehistoric peoples 4,500 years before present.
- Viking explorers, Basque whalers, French fishermen.
- Permanent European settlement early 1800s.
- Lighthouse – 1909.
- Transhumance – migration from Winterside to Summerside for fishery.
- 1968 resettlement to Winterside.
- Still fishery today.



# Recreational Opportunities



- Hiking
- Kayaking
- Bird-watching
- Tide pooling
- Botany
- Theatre



# Preserving the Heritage of Cow Head for Future Generations



# Acknowledgements

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