



Earltown Lakes  
 and Portage Trail  
 3.5 K from midway trailhead  
 6.1 K hiking / snowshoeing  
[www.cobequidecotrails.ca](http://www.cobequidecotrails.ca)

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Earltown Lakes and Portage Trail (Park at end of Kemptown Road) Lat 45.56665 N, Long 063.13991

EL1 **MacDonald's Woods** 0.0 K – To this property, now Edna Matheson's, Paul MacDonald received a warrant to survey in 1827. Paul married to Janet MacKay. Their son William's foundation was on the Rogart Mountain Trail. The first wood is a spruce wood followed by a sugar maple and yellow birch wood. Note evergreen, Christmas, and, in the sunny areas, hay-scented ferns.

EL2 **Rovie Hill** 0.4 K – In Rogart, Scotland, along Fleet River, Rovie, the community from whence Paul came, is covered in heather. The woods here contain sugar maple, red maple, yellow birch, white ash, hazelnut, & striped maple. Its ferns are New York fern, Christmas fern, evergreen wood fern, and oak fern.

EL3 **Marsters' Grant** 1.1 K – To this property, now Larry Marshall's, "at the head of the Tatamagouche River", 25 year old Robert Knowlton Marsters, farmer of Onslow, was given a warrant in 1815. His grant included the western side of Earltown Lake.

EL4 **George's Vernal Pool** 1.4 K - To this property, now Linda and Robert Sutherland's, George MacDonald received a warrant to survey in 1820. George is a cousin to John A. MacDonald's father. The trail goes on this property to the Taylor Lake Road.

EL5 **Earltown Lake** 1.9 K – This was formerly called MacDonald Lake. In winter it would have been a scene to skating, sliding logs across to the mill, and even horse racing.

EL6 **Logan Island** 2.0 K - Across the lake from here, a map of 1874 shows a mill, a blacksmith shop, and the residence of A. Sutherland. In 1905, John W. Logan, of Muir St., Truro, had a mill that made flooring and ginger bread trim for houses. To gain enough water head for the mill, Logan acquired, in 1905 and 1906, 99 year leases to raise the water level 10 feet. He also diverted two local brooks to feed the Waugh's River instead of the Salmon River, making this an island. His mill burned twice with the second fire in 1916. Leslie MacLeod operated a mill there in the 1920's. On Dec. 18, 1928, the mill dam broke destroying farm land, barns, cattle, and, according to tradition, all the bridges to Tatamagouche.

EL7 **Taylor Lake Brook** 2.1 K – Crossing onto a steep hill & an old wood. Note how large some of the trees are.

EL8 **Taylor Lake** 2.3 K – Across from here is the property of Robert MacDonald, of Merigomish, with wife and 4 children, petitioned for in 1817. Originally from Rogart, Scotland, and first cousin to the father of the first prime minister of Canada, Sir John A. MacDonald, Robert married Catherine McKay. Their daughter Marion married John Taylor, for whom the lake is named.

EL 9 **Taylor Lake Road** 2.6K The original road from Kemptown to Earltown shows up on a survey by Andrew Miller in 1819.

EL10 **Vaties and Annie (MacIntosh) Marshall's** 3.2 First granted to William Sutherland in 1819, this homestead belonged to Hector and Eliza (Munro) Bruce in the 1850's and then to Vatis and Annie (MacIntosh) Marshall sometime in the 1870's. Annie was born on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland. The land has remained in the Marshall family since.

EL11 **"Kemptown" Sutherland Homestead** 3.5 K. Originally granted to Joseph Thompson of Onslow in 1816, its stone bridge may date to 1819, when the surveyor, Andrew Miller, made a plan of the road. Living here later was the family of John "Kemptown" and Mary (MacKay) Sutherland. John was born @ 1812 in Sutherlandshire and Mary was born in 1815 at sea to parents from Clyne, Sutherlandshire. The Salmon River, in this area, was once known as Sutherland's Brook.

EL12 **Fraser Brook** 3.8 K This stream comes from the nearby Fraser farm. Alexander Fraser and his brother David came from Edderton, Ross-shire around 1840.

EL13 **Marshall logging camp** 5.2 K In 1950, Sandy Marshall had a logging camp nearby in the winter of 1950. Bessie, his wife, cooked for the camp and Vernon Marshall looked after the horses. In spring, they hauled the logs to John Sutherland's Mill.

EL14 **Salmon River Crossing** 5.8 K These waters will flow all the way to Truro. Perhaps nearby natives, coming from Truro, would portage their canoes over to the headwaters of the Waugh's River and head north to Tatamagouche.