



QUAINT LIGHTHOUSES on Grand Manan Island provide picturesque stops

# Grand Manan yields diversion and dulse

By Elleen Cade-Edwards  
Special to The Star

**I**F YOU'RE planning a trip to the East Coast this summer, you may be interested in a visit to New Brunswick's Grand Manan Island, in the Bay of Fundy. The largest of the three Fundy Isles, it has many attractions to offer the naturalist, the adventure-seeker and those who are simply looking for a place to get away from the pressures of modern life.

But don't expect to find all the excitement and glamor you left behind you in the city, for on this small island there are no neon signs, no public houses and no nightlife. On the other hand, there are no nerve-racking noises, no noticeable automobile fumes and no sign of the rat race. And because the island is only 15 miles long from its northern to southern tip, you don't even need a car. Bicycles and mopeds can be rented to explore the island and arrangements for this are made at the marathon Inn.

For bird-watchers there is the Grand Manan Bird Sanctuary in The Anchorage Provincial Park where over 245 species of birds have been sighted. Besides the many woodland birds, Arctic terns, gannets, razorbills, eiders, black guillemots and many others gather every spring and summer in their thousands to feed and to nest in the safety of the cliffsides, for this bird paradise is the northern terminal of the Atlantic fly-

way.

**FOR THOSE** drawn to whale-watching, the island's Marathon Inn offers a week-long whaling package. Every evening marine biologists give lectures on these majestic mammals, while days are spent whale-searching with the assistance of a spotter aircraft. If there is space on the boats day-trippers will also be accommodated. Harmless, even affectionate, it has been said that in the Bay of Fundy waters it's possible to get close enough to a humpback to feel its breath! Maybe not everyone's cup of tea!

If geology is your thing, you will find plenty of rock specimens on the island. The flat eastern side is formed of sedimentary rock, while the more rugged west coast is formed of volcanic rocks. Both types meet in a strange overlapping, at which point black magnetic sand siphons out of a crack in the rock. There is also an impressive display of local artifacts at the Grand Manan Museum, which is well worth a visit.

**IF IT'S** adventure you're looking for, you may like to try your luck at digging for pirates' treasure where Money Cove, Brook empties into Dark Harbour. Captain Kidd is said to have buried part of his treasure around that spot. For the camera-buff there are countless wildflowers and neat, little white lighthouses. Swallowtail Lighthouse, perched above sea-sculptured cliffs, is particularly interesting. And from here, on a clear day, you may even be able to spot porpoises cavorting around the waters of Machias Seal Island.

Then there is the dulse. Whatever your interest or reason for coming to this island, don't on any account miss the opportunity of sampling its famous dulse. This edible seaweed, harvested from the shores of Dark Harbour at the rate of 36 tonnes a year, is rated the best in the world. The Islanders claim it's the Fundy tides that give it its quality. But even so, it takes some getting used to, for while people on the island eat it in its natural dark purple and rubbery state and find it extremely palatable, others declare it tastes like a combination of salty licorice and kipper paste.

**MOST OF** the island's dulse is shipped to areas throughout Canada and the United States, where it is sold in health food stores after being processed into various products. Experts aren't sure whether dulse is a food, a medicine, or both, but all agree it is nutritional, containing at least 20 known elements including protein, minerals, carbohydrate, potassium, calcium, iron, magnesium and sodium, to name a few. But try some "in the raw" the way the islanders eat it.

Grand Manan Island is accessible by toll ferries from the mainland terminal at Blacks Harbour. There are three inns on the island and several motels, also a provincial campground with facilities for 29 trailer hookups, as well as tents.

For information on ferries, accommodation, etc. write to Tourism New Brunswick, Box 12345, Fredericton E3B 5C3 or to the Marathon Inn, Box 129, North Head, Grand Manan Island, N.B. E0G 2M0.