



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF SHELBURNE - DISTRICT 4

Welcome to the community of Upper Ohio. You are enjoying Tourism Interpretive Site # 4 at Civic # 35 Doreys Bridge Road. Consists of the communities of Lower Ohio, Middle Ohio, Upper Ohio, Indian Fields, and Welshtown

The name "Ohio" was brought to Nova Scotia by the Loyalists and applied to several places- Lower, Middle and Upper Ohio along the Roseway River. Lower Ohio was granted to Loyalists in 1786, and the Bower family was prominent among early settlers. In the early 1800's some of them moved upriver and founded the place originally know as **Bower Hill**, later called **Upper Ohio**.

On the west side of the **Roseway River**, a group of Welsh settlers arrived from Carmarthen and Cardigan, Wales in 1818. This was the first Welsh settlement in Canada. They named their community New Cambria. The name was later changed to Welshtown.



Points of Interest

Welshtown Lake – is a lake located just 7 miles from Shelburne. Fishermen will find a variety of fish including brown trout, bullhead and white perch here.

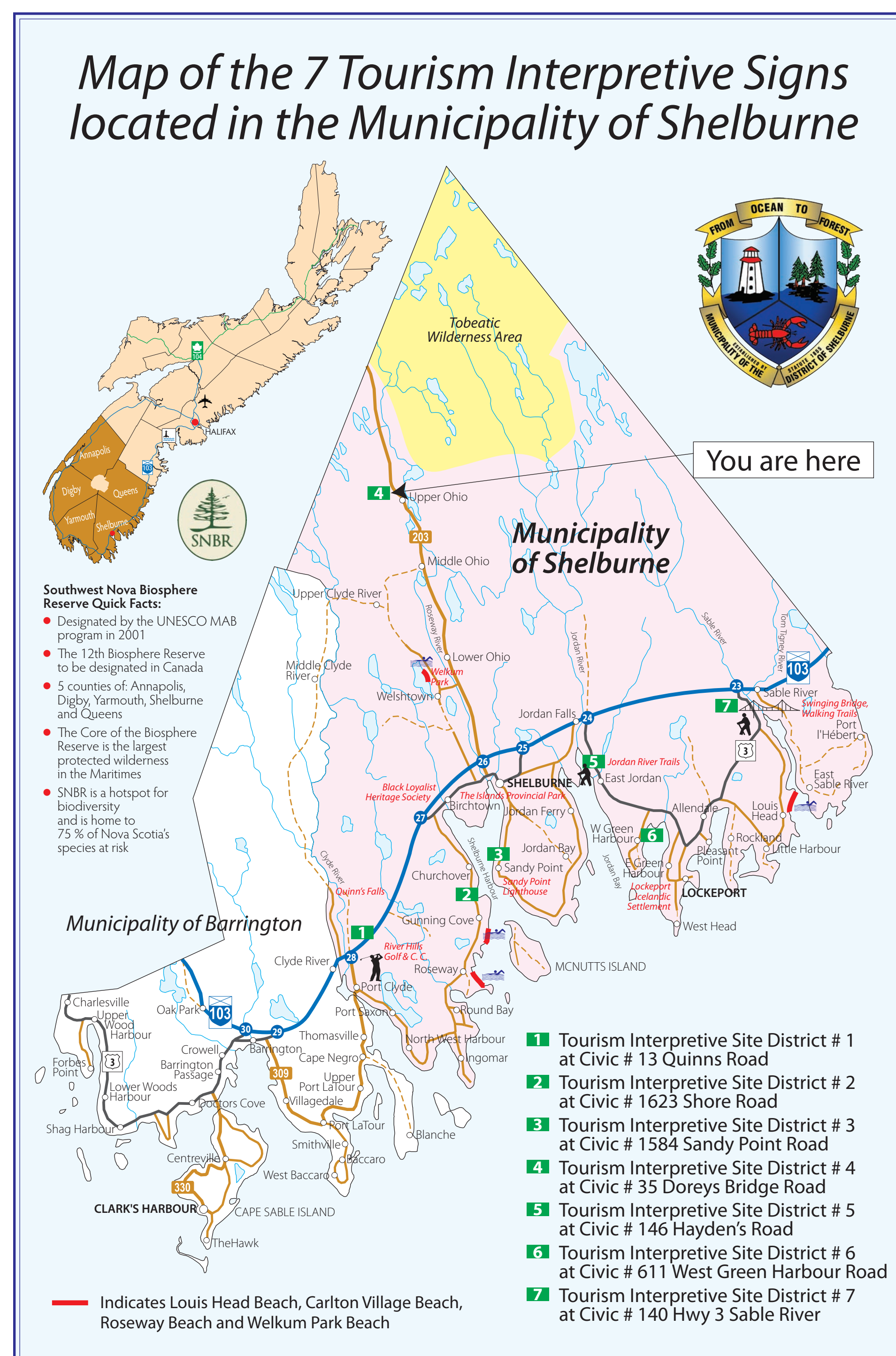
Welkum Park – Is owned by the Municipality of Shelburne. It is a small day use park tucked away on Welshtown Lake. Its features include a sand beach, unsupervised fresh water swimming, picnic tables, 3 gazebos, change rooms, washrooms, and garbage containers. During the months of July and August, Red Cross Swim lessons and Royal Life Saving Courses are offered by the Municipality of Shelburne Recreation and Parks Department.

Indian Fields – is a flat meadow land along the Roseway River. Today it is the only access to the Tobeatic in Shelburne County. Years ago, Upper Ohio men guided "Yankee Sports" into the woods of Indian Fields to hunt for moose.

The Tobeatic Wilderness Area – is a protected area located in south central Nova Scotia, adjacent to and roughly three times the size of Kejimikujik National Park. It is a beautiful wilderness area to paddle, kayak or hike, spanning the five counties: Annapolis, Digby, Queens, Yarmouth and Shelburne. In 1998, the Tobeatic Wildlife Management Area (the successor to the Tobeatic Game Reserve) and additional Crown lands, were designated by the Province of Nova Scotia as the Tobeatic Wilderness Area. Access to the Tobeatic in Shelburne County is through the Ohios at Indian Fields by canoe or foot. All Tobeatic travel must be non-motorized.

The word Tobeatic means "Place of the Alder" in the Mi'kmaq language.

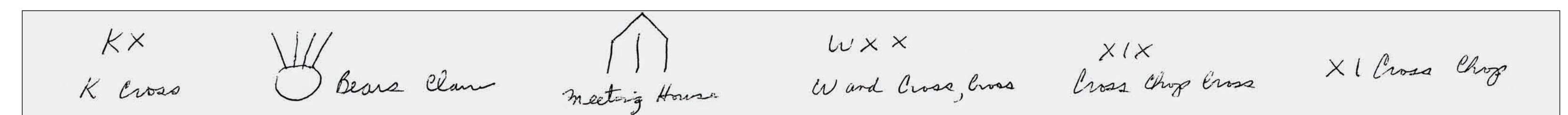
The region is drawn with rivers and studded with many lakes. It contains large areas of pristine Acadian forest. The geography of the Tobeatic is quite varied as it consists of wetlands, woodlands, scrublands and barrens. The following glacial features can be found here: glacial barrens, erratics, drumlins, eskers, glacial outwash (sandur) and kettle lakes.



Famous People

Dr. Gurdon Robert MacKay was born at Middle Ohio and went on to be a prominent dental surgeon in Boston. He and his wife Florence, a librarian, never forgot their roots and the people of the area. They maintained a home in Shelburne and returned regularly for long vacations. Upon his death in 1945 the MacKay Memorial Fund was established and the first free dental clinic for children in Canada was opened on King Street in the Town of Shelburne long before there was Government coverage for children's dental health. It has since become the Our House Youth Wellness Centre.

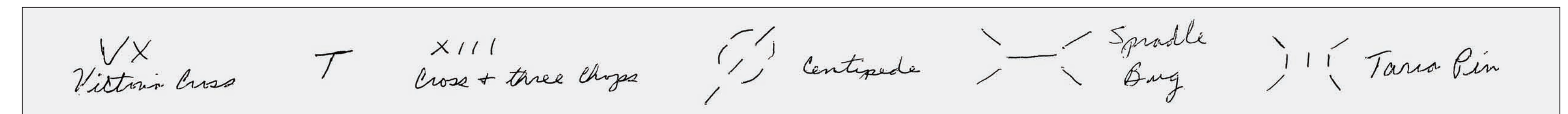
Sometime in the 1860's **Thomas Hamilton Bower**, woodsman and hunter, conceived the idea that a repeating rifle was possible and set about to invent the first magazine rifle. According to local oral history he took his model to Washington, the only patent office in America. His rifle was reloaded from a top magazine operated by a lever on top of the barrel. He was advised that an under the barrel lever, the shells thrown out by a spring would be superior and to experiment with this idea and not to patent his original idea for the time being. He returned to Ohio, ultimately produced the type of rifle suggested in Washington and applied for a patent - only to be told that an American had already patented such an invention. The rifle brought Mr. Bower neither fame nor the fortune his genius deserved. The American Patent was later acquired by the Winchester manufacturers and became the Winchester repeating rifle.



Most families were engaged in lumbering, mixed farming and fruit growing. A large portion of the timber used in Shelburne's lucrative ship building industry came from the Ohios. There were as many as five saw mills along the Roseway River where large amounts of lumber was produced. Ohio has some of the best scenery in Shelburne County. On the drive through District #4 there are no fewer than seven lakes.

Did you know? When the logs were cut and put into the river to send downstream to the mills they were branded and/or notched on one end with an axe. A log stamp hammer was used to burn a name, initials, or a symbol. A sharp axe was used to notch named symbols. Both methods represented the family who owned the log. Once the logs drifted downstream the logs were then sorted by the stamp or notching and collected by the rightful owner. Spring time saw many log drives on the Roseway River after a winter of cutting in the woods.

Earl MacKay's (early resident in the logging business and land owner) list of log markings has been printed around the info in these paragraphs.



Oxen

Years ago, every homesteader had his team of oxen used to clear the land, till the soil and haul wood from the dense forest of the Ohios. Often named Bright and Lion, oxen teams were a source of great pride. Shelburne County's first exhibition, held in Lower Ohio, included a hauling competition among pairs of oxen.



The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve – is a UNESCO designated and internationally recognized unique region of natural and cultural heritage, spanning the 5 counties of Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens. Along with Kejimikujik National Park, the Tobeatic is part of the UNESCO designated Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve.

The special qualities of our natural and cultural heritage are recognized here. Conservation and sustainable development supports our local economies and communities. We invite you to share and discover the deep sense of place within one of Canada's most unique regions.

Common Surnames: Bower, Davis, Harris, MacKay and Jones.



www.municipalityofshelburne.ca



www.discovershelburnecounty.com



www.destinationsouthwestnova.com



www.novascotia.com



www.swnovabiosphere.ca