

[Page 18 - The Meteorite that Shaped Cape Breton](#)ISSUE : [Issue 22](#)

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1979/6/1

this accurately, you will immediately see the great valley, which is now the Bras d'Or Lake, which in St. Andrews Channel is 981 feet below sea level. There is no reasonable explanation at present for this pronounced tilt. Possibly the southern part is trapped under another plate, as the moving land masses are called. In the late 1800s, the redoubtable Hugh Fletcher noted that Louisbourg was sinking quite rapidly. In three years of close observation, he recorded a drop of over two feet.. The pivot of the tilt appears to be north of Sydney, because Sydney Harbour is very much wider than it was 200 years ago. Forts constructed in 1720 are now under water in the harbour. Sydney is sinking as well as Louisbourg, so it may well end up as a deepwater port. Fortunately, the rate at which Sydney is sinking appears to be slowing down, at least there is little indication of sinkage in the past five years. There was a very famous cartoon published in World War I. It showed the veteran "Ole Bill" sitting in the ruins of a building with a very new recruit. Above their heads was a huge shell-hole. "What made that hole?" asks the rookie. "Mice," says Ole Bill. I was reminded of this when I asked geologists how the Bras d'Or Lakes were formed, and received the reply, "Glaciers." Let's consider this possibility. If you look at the map designed by the Cape Breton Development Corporation, which has shaded contours, you can easily trace the passage of the glaciers in the northern part of Cape Breton. Clearly the movement was north to south, and the same pattern is repeated along the south coast. The Bras d'Or Lakes equally clearly run from southwest to northeast. If the Lakes were cut by the same glacier that formed the contours of the northern part, it must have made a U-turn. To make a glacier turn postulates that it met an immovable object. Remember that at Halifax a 20,000-foot granite mountain was brushed away by the glaciers • what is there more immovable than that? If there was such an object it would still be there, but there is no sign of anything unusual in the area. The Lakes could not have been cut by the same glacier that formed the north and south of the island. Suppose the Lakes were already formed before this glacier passed over. This would mean that an unsupported bridge of ice over 20 miles long would have to pass over the Bras d'Or without sagging or breaking, since we have established that the last glaciation planed the Island flat. Such a happening is totally impossible. We are forced to the conclusion that the Bras d'Or was formed after the last glacier retreated. Similarly it would be impossible to have purely local conditions of climate in an area of 100 miles by 60 miles, such that a small glacier could form and gouge out the lakes on its own. especially since it. on Trans'Canada Hwy. 5 miles west of Baddeck Blue Heron Gift Shop TL BADDBCaC, N, S. 295-3424 s/ Gifts For Alt Occasions pj MARG and LLOYD MacEACHERN ;jij' ToHighSchooishMimHsihkikk'oftheMure Think of a future ini'riculture K • Heated Swimminf Pool • Laundron'at - Camper's Store • Playground - Hot Showers • Hookups - Canoeing The Nova Scotia Agricultural College is dedicated to helping young men and women prepare for a wide range of important occupations associated with food production, including related industries and management of our living environment. We offer technical



courses: • Agricultural Business Technician • Agricultural Engineering Technician  
• Animal Science Technician • Farm Equipment Technician • Plant Science  
Technician • Biology Laboratory Technology • Chemistry Laboratory Technology  
• Farming Technology • Ornamental Horticulture Technology We offer university  
courses leading to: • Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (16 options) • Bachelor of  
Engineering in Agricultural Engineering • Doctor of Veterinary Medicine for more  
information contact The REGISTRAR, N.S. Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E3  
BADDECK - CABOT TRAIL KAMPGROUND Department of Agriculture & Marketing  
Hon. Gerald Sheehy, D.V.M., M.M. 4stef :ENTRAI AND EASTERN TRUST COMPANY  
SENIOR VIP PLAN You're Moreover this candidate titles you to some titles.  
CENTRAL AND EASTERN TRUST • X) M.M. NY 225 Charlott\* St. Mt. Syto Mjr