

## **Ballantyne's Cove Wharf History**

**Ballantyne's Cove was named for one of the early settlers, another Scot, David Ballantyne, who settled in the area around 1810. There is reference to the place also being known as McNair's Cove, but the origin of this name is lost in antiquity.**

**In 1872 a contract was made for the construction of a 400 ft. breakwater. Work was completed in November 1873. The pier was built up to offset settling into the soft bottom, this work was completed in 1875, a new block was added to the end of the structure in 1878 and this was badly damaged by drift ice in the winter of 1879. In 1883 the damage was repaired with 70 feet being rebuilt and an extension of 94 feet affected over the winter of 1883-84. In 1887-88 the breakwater was reconstructed from the outer end towards shore (160 feet). At the time it was thought to be strongly constructed and founded on a prepared bottom, the former structure removed for the preparation of the bottom.**

**In 1892 the construction of a stone talus to protect the seaward face of the 160 ft. extension was carried out over a three year period. The sum of \$6000.00 was voted in 1903-04 for the construction of an "L" at the end of the wharf, is 80 ft. long and 32 ft. in width with that work completed by June 1905. From 1908-09 to 1915-16 monies were voted for the continued maintenance and upgrade of the works undertaken, replacement of worn timber and construction of talus for the protection of the new "L".**

**Teredo, a small mollusk also known as shipworm, is mentioned as a major problem for the timbers. In 1924-25 the wharf underwent reconstruction of the cribwork on the now 78 ft. long and 25 ft. wide "L". The "L" was extended in 1930-31 by 82 ft. at a width of 25 ft. The next major period of renovation occurs from 1947-50, complete renewal of the inner 283 ft. of the 308 ft. long breakwater-wharf structure. The inner 50 ft. is rebuilt in stone and gravel replacing the original construction of cribwork, the remaining 233 ft. of renovation is torn down to the low water of spring tide (l.w.o.s.t) mark and completely reconstructed excepting the wave break portion of the structure.**

**From this point to the present day many repairs were made to the facility, mostly consisting of upgrades or replacement of the wave-break rock or armour. The wharf road to highway route 337 was paved in 1977. Ballantyne's Cove has a long history of the co-op movement in the area, witnessed by the present day organisation *North Bay Fishermen's Co-op* which operates from the location. Ballantyne's Cove is an important landing place for lobster, herring (spring), tuna, and groundfish. 24 boats use the facility for full-time commercial operations, and many other boats use the wharf seasonally. The average boat size of the 24 full-time commercial vessels is just under 36 ft. (35.91 ft.). For the purpose of our research Ballantyne's Cove and Livingstone's Cove encompass the area locally designated as "The Cape".**

**St Georges Bay Ecosystem Project (2000)**