

Thrombolite trail 'journey into past'

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FLOWERS COVE — A new walking path from Burkes Road to Lawless' Point is a journey into the area's past — from the rebuilt bridge which first stood some 100 years ago over Lawless' Brook; to the more than 650 million year old thrombolites, the fossil-like remains of one of the earth's most primitive life forms.

The walkway's wooden planks start near where the trail intersects with route 430, and continues over the grass to the new Marjorie Bridge.

Sandra Burton, secretary with the Flowers Cove town council says the original bridge was placed there in the 1900's for a reason.

"Before the road was put in, this was the only way people had to cross the brook. Anyone going up or down the coast by horse and cart, dog-team or snowmobile, used this bridge," she explained.

It was maintained over the years, but in the late 1970s it deteriorated beyond repair.

Marjorie Myers, who grew up in Flowers Cove more than 80 years ago, said she had a single wish for the community at the Burke Come Home Year celebrations in 1998 — she'd like to see the old bridge in Flowers Cove restored to the way she fondly remembered it.

"This is why we decided to call it the Marjorie Bridge," says Ms. Burton.

On the other side of the bridge, the wood planking ends

and a gravel path continues along the coast line to Lawless' Point, where a large sign reads "Thrombolites or Living Rocks."

Lying where the waves break on the shore are the thrombolites, which resemble bun-shaped boulders, but are actually the fossil-like remnants of algae and bacteria growth. Though extremely rare today, these 'living rocks' were the only form of life on earth from 3.5 billion to 650 million years ago.

"A guy came here last year who studied birds, and pitched his tent here on Lawless' point," says Ms. Burton.

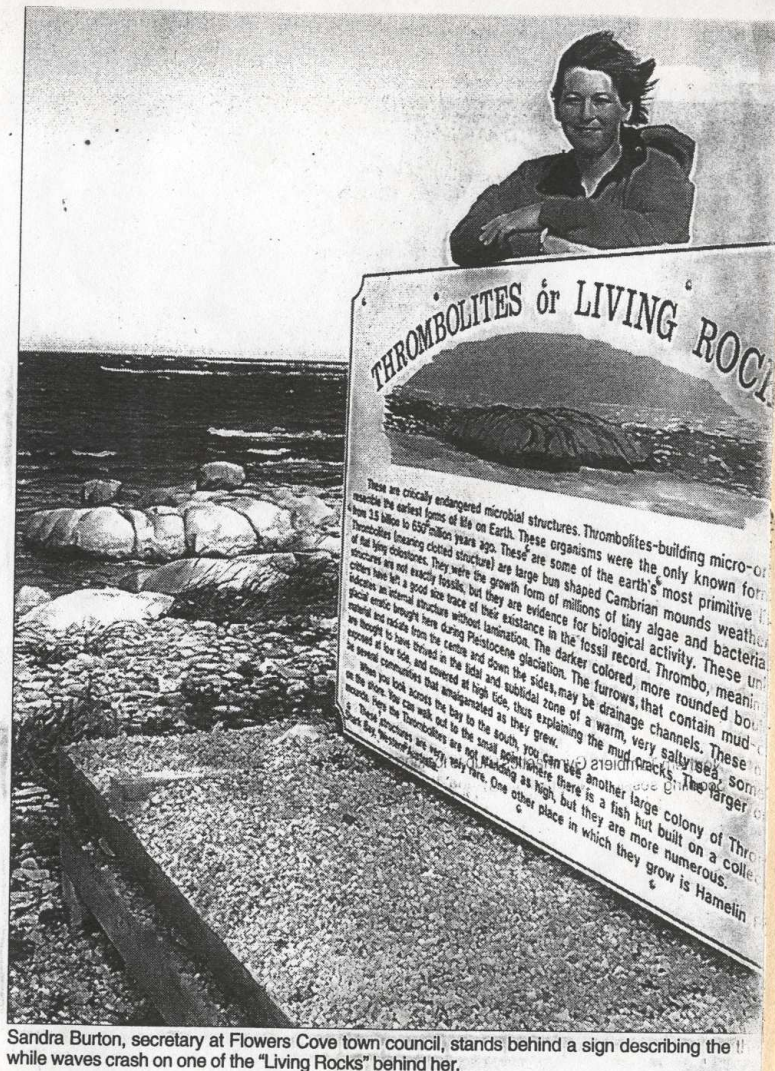
"He came in to the council office the next day and said 'Oh my Gosh! Those rocks! There's not a geologist in the world that wouldn't come here to see those rocks. They're amazing'."

What the town has to do now, she says, is let the public know what it has to offer.

"The more information we can get out to the public and make them aware of our attractions, the better."

The more that tourists have a reason to stop in Flowers Cove, says Ms. Burton, the more the town will benefit from the economic spin-offs.

"These are things that make Flowers Cove interesting and unique, things that we can promote for people to come and see," she states.



Sandra Burton, secretary at Flowers Cove town council, stands behind a sign describing the thrombolites while waves crash on one of the "Living Rocks" behind her.



The new Marjorie Bridge crosses Lawless' Brook at Flowers Cove.