



the town of
Conception
Bay South

CONCEPTION BAY SOUTH T'RAILWAY.

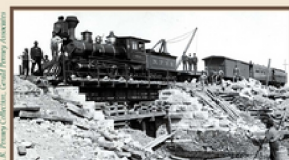
Upper Gullies. Lawrence Pond.

Early History - Upper Gullies.

Upper and Lower Gullies were named for the gullies formed by two rivers. The earliest settlers were from Port de Grave (Andrews) and Brigus (Coates) in 1832. Other family names of the 1830s are Garland and Scott; later Dawe, Morgan, Roberts, Stanley, and Warford. By 1891, there were 184 living in Upper Gullies and by 1971, there were 728 residents. Farming and fishing were the main sources of employment in the 1800s. After the downturn in the local fish stocks in the late-1800s, more reliance was placed on farming as well as working for a cash wage in the Bell Island mining operations which opened in 1895. Nurse and poet Georgiana Cooper wrote "The Beach at Upper Gullies" while convalescing here.

Riverdale, the area between Kelligrews and Upper Gullies, was formerly known as Lower Gullies and renamed in 1923.

Riverdale was last used on a 1955 voters list and is generally considered part of Kelligrews. Lower Gullies was settled in the early-1800s by Port de Grave area families. The area known as Hopewell was listed by cartographer Michael Lane in 1775. The *Census* of 1911 records 96 residents. Farming was the primary occupation up to the mid-1900s. These area names are no longer commonly used and not mentioned in the 1971 incorporation of the Town of Conception Bay South.



Repairing the trestle at Lower Gullies. Note the quarried retaining blocks.

Early History - Lawrence Pond.

Likely used as a winter-house of Upper Gullies, Lawrence Pond sits between Upper Gullies and Seal Cove Rivers, south of Peacekeepers Way. Land grants were issued in 1877 along the north end of the pond to Charles Morgan, Solomon Dawe, and Jassac Warford. It has long ties with farming, particularly on the eastern and western ridges. Summer residents were people primarily from St. John's who built pond-front cabins.

Newfoundland's first female lawyer, Louise Saunders, and businessman E.F. Barnes, whose company built the first all-steel vessel in Newfoundland, were both granted land at Lawrence Pond in the early-1940s. First recorded separately in the *Census* of 1966, the year-round population was then 11 people. Lawrence Pond joined the Town of Conception Bay South in 1986.



Above: An aerial view showing Lawrence Pond and the shoreline at Upper Gullies. Note the numerous farm fields on the east (lower) side of Lawrence Pond. St. Peter's Church is marked and some roads have been labeled. Below: A recent aerial of the same view as above. Note many of the farm fields have been reduced in size or disappeared completely. Peacekeepers Way bisects Lawrence Pond and Andrews Roads. New housing has dotted the landscape and continues to grow, attesting to the 'Bright town. Bright future.' town slogan.



Railway.



Engine 803 rolls through Upper Gullies in September 1973.

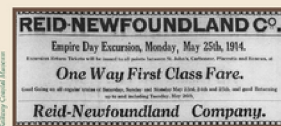
The Newfoundland Railway Company had cut corners and stretched engineering recommendations to the limits in its 1881-1883 construction of the rail line between St. John's and Harbour Grace Junction (Whitbourne). Mounting financial difficulties with large work crews (850 men) and the company's construction inexperience resulted in cost-cutting grades of 2.5% and curves of 12 and 14 degrees on the narrow gauge track – and slower trains. It was with great fanfare that the company announced the first passenger service to Upper Gullies in July 1882. By the Fall of 1882 passengers could travel all the way to Holyrood for \$1.20 return first class.

The first fatal railway accident occurred near Upper Gullies in July 1882. A lady requested to ride the open flatcars

with the labourers. Against the rules and her request denied, Mrs. Ryan attempted to board, but fell between the cars and was killed.



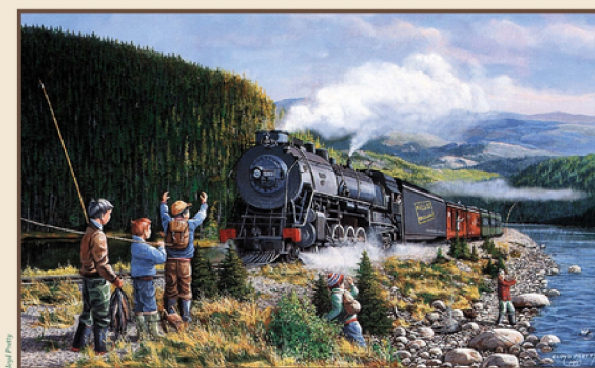
The Troutler's Special stops to entrain passengers in 1972.



Troutler's Special Memories.

From at least 1912, the railway offered up an extra run from St. John's with reduced rates on the holiday weekend in May, formerly known as "Empire Day". The run became known as the "Troutler's Special". Neither rain nor snow could deter folks from their quest to get to their favourite fishing hole. After all efforts of catching the greatest fish of the season were exhausted, there was the endless wait to be picked up for the return trip. The train was filled with singing (accompanied by fiddles,

accordions, and guitars that were carried along), jokes, and fish stories of 'the one that got away'; friendships were renewed and a little sip shared to keep the chill at bay. It was not the destination (or even the fish), but the journey that made their day. With the coming of highways and the extinction of the railway, the Troutler's Special is long gone, but anyone who experienced the trip, has the deepest sympathy for those of us who will never get the chance to ride the Troutler's Special.



Artist Lloyd Pretty's 1997 creation of hailing the annual May 24th Troutler's Special train after a successful day of fishing. They are likely saying, "Hurry, it's stopping."



At left, a section crew travel in a track motor car or 'speeder' to check their section of the railway. Section crews were responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the track and rail bed, including replacing ties or tracks where needed.



A sample of the Crown Grants that were issued by the Government of Newfoundland between 1937 and 1952.

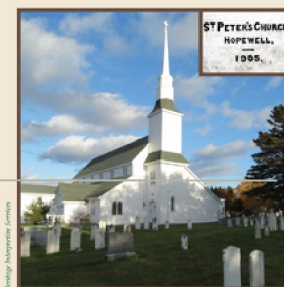


Part of the cadastral map for Lawrence Pond held at the Crown Lands Registry office in St. John's. Grants and Leases are much older on the eastern (right) side than the western side.

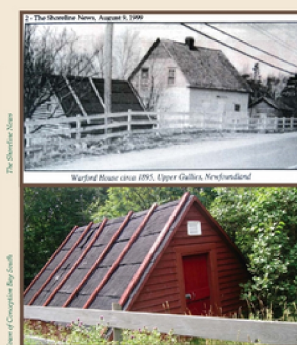
Heritage Sites in Upper Gullies.



The oldest recorded death in the Upper Gullies United Church Cemetery is 1897. The land was deeded to the Methodist Conference in 1866. A meeting house and the first church in "The Gullies" were built here, and traces of the rock foundation can be seen. The Cemetery was designated a municipal heritage site in 2008.



St. Peter's Anglican Church was consecrated in 1909. It was built in the Gothic Revival style by local craftsmen using area materials and funds raised by determined parishioners and residents. The Church and Cemetery at Hopewell were designated a municipal heritage site in 2002.



The wooden constructed Warford House was virtually unchanged from the time it was built in 1895 and moved from Lance Cove Road to the Conception Bay Highway until it was awarded the Town's Historic Trust Award in 1999. By 2005, only the high peaked cellar remained on the property.