

## Annual Report of the Schoodic Scenic Byway Corridor Management Committee

The Corridor Management Committee of Schoodic National Scenic Byway is happy to report on our progress in 2008 and the start of 2009.

### **Transportation Improvements**

- ♦ Improvements on Route 186 between Birch Harbor and Winter Harbor are well underway. Modest shoulders have been added that provide space for walkers and cyclists completing the Schoodic loop.
- ♦ The Schoodic Point Shuttle bus continued to operate during the summer.
- ♦ Construction of the Ayers Junction to Ellsworth Down East Sunrise Trail is 50% complete. The trail will pass just north of Route 1 in Gouldsboro and Sullivan in 2009. Walkers, cyclists, horses, skiers, snowmobiles and ATVs are flocking to the new facility.

### **Visitor Facilities**

- ♦ New privies, landscaping and visitor facilities were constructed at the Taunton Bay and Long Cove rest areas in 2008. Plans are underway for an informational kiosk on the historic rail bed, trails and granite benches for Taunton Bay.
- ♦ In 2008 we installed new interpretive signs at scenic byway turnouts including the Taunton Bay gateway, next to Dunbar's store and Long Cove in Sullivan. Additional signs have been manufactured for Tidal Falls in Hancock, the Winter Harbor Village and Prospect Harbor, and more are being planned.
- ♦ We continue to refine a design for an interpretive facility in Prospect Harbor. We hope that this concept will compliment the new school and summer shuttle service on the Schoodic peninsula. This year we received an \$80,000 byway grant to pay for construction and interpretive materials.
- ♦ We continue to open views along the byway by working with land owners and public properties to prune trees and bushes.
- ♦ We have completed contracts with Acadia National Park and the Maine Department of Transportation to install new directional signage for Acadia National Park and replace some of our confusing road signs.

### **Funding for Future Improvements**

- ♦ We are preparing new grant proposals to the Federal Highway Administration to continue our planning efforts and support improvements of Gordon's Wharf should the two choose pursue acquisition.

### **Public Participation**

- ♦ The Schoodic Byway was represented at the Maine Scenic Byway Conference in Rangeley. We are working with byways statewide to improve web-base communications, establish a standard for guardrails and coordinating efforts toward long term sustainability.
- ♦ We prepared a series of smaller interpretive panels as part of our geo-tourism initiative. Samples and other resources have been posted to [www.downeastexplorer.org](http://www.downeastexplorer.org). The geo-tourism initiative celebrates local culture and environment. We will be adding local voices, places to visit and more to this site in 2009.

We would like to thank all who have supported byway planning efforts, including members of the select boards, planning boards, Town offices, historical societies, Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations. We would also like to thank the Hancock County Planning Commission, the Maine Department of Transportation and Acadia National Park for their technical and financial support.

The Schoodic National Scenic Byway Corridor Committee is a collaboration of Hancock, Sullivan, Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor and Acadia National Park to protect and promote this scenic corridor. Area residents are always welcome to attend byway meetings. You can learn more at [www.schoodicbyway.org](http://www.schoodicbyway.org) or by calling Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission at 667-7131.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara Shanahan, Chairperson