

## 7 Waterfalls in the Valley

*By - Lawrence Spencer*

### **Map #1**

**#1 - Baxter's Harbour** - Easiest to describe and easiest to get to - simply drive to the village of Baxter's Hbr. and drive down as far as you can go to the old wharf - look to your right and there it is ! If the tide is out you can walk right up to it - but watch if the tide is on the way in as it comes in fast on this shore and you could get trapped.....

**#2** - Continue EAST for Baxter's Hbr. on the dirt road and look on the left for an old road heading off towards the shore - you walk down this about 1/2 way (3-400 yds) then go down over the hill to your left to the stream (you should hear the water running below ) and follow it back up stream, towards the road, to get to the falls.

**#3 - Black Rock Falls** - this one is also down an old grown-up dirt road which is just beyond the one above. It is just as the road you are on makes a wide turn to the right - I believe there is maybe one other old road between these two ? This old road is narrow & goes in flat for a while, then has a lot of rocks in the middle and goes downhill - at the bottom it swings to the right. Just as it swings the area off to your left has been cut over - go off at 90 degrees to the left for about 100-150 ft and you will come to the river. The falls are just 100-150 ft downstream - you'll probably hear them. To get to the bottom you have to cross the stream, go up over the hills to your left and then further in and then down to the river and follow it back upstream to the falls.

**#4** - These fall are behind the Federal Agricultural Experimental Farm between Kentville & New Minas. Take the New Minas exit (at Irving Big Stop). Go down to then light at the junction with the old #`1 and turn left. Go til you reach the bottom of the hill and you will see the big sign for the Experimental Station on the left. There is a gravel parking lot to the left of the sign. Park there and you will see the path in front of you behind the rail fence with an opening in it. Take this path and follow it up through the small valley till you come to the falls - about 30 min walk.

**#5 - Morse Falls (?)** is just off the #101 highway - between the 2 exits for Kentville. One exit goes down to New Minas at the Irving Big Stop - and the other is the next which goes down into the centre of Kentville - comes out at the Inn. When you have left this exit and are heading East towards the New Minas one you go up a long hill - with a passing lane - about 1/2 way up, on the right there is a culvert and an old road where you can pull off and park - just ahead of this road down the hill is the stream - but just before it is an old cattle tunnel under the road. Go across through thus tunnel - the falls are on the other side of the road.

Then go about 2-300 ft. in keeping close to the edge on your right as you go - it goes downhill and at one point you will see the falls across the cut to your right. If you keep going you will finally come to the riverbed down a steep bank. Then you can follow the river back up to the falls.

**Map #2** - Note on this map they do not show the #102 continuing as it does now!

**#6** - On the old #1 Hwy from the centre of the town of Kingston - continue west towards Middleton. Keep watching until you see the small road sign (or ask) for "Vault Rd." on your right - take this road pretty well as far as you can go. It will pass under the #102 through a corrugated 1 lane tunnel - eventually turn to dirt and go by a series of old run-down homes (all the usual junk all around). Then it becomes narrow and rocky but easily driveable (always keep to the left at any junctions). After about 2 kms it will come uphill at a "Y" in the road where there is a sort of Quarry - lots of rocks and a rock cliff to your right - and the road continuing to the left- park at this "Y" and walk up the road about 100 ft and you will see the stream on the left - also a steep hill leading off in that direction - the "7 Falls" are on the side of this hill - go in and up as far as you want to see them - there is one right after the other up the hillside.

**#7** - This is probably the hardest on to get to in term of directions - although the easiest - but longest walk - "**Crystal Falls**". For this leave the centre of Kingston at the "T" junction & lights and head for Greenwood. As you enter Greenwood at the first lights - turn left - at the next turn right. This should take you past the large strip mall with a Shoppers Drug in the middle and a Zellers at the far end. Keep going until the road goes round a long left bend - then after it straightens out there is a road to the right - take this to the end. At the next intersection - turn right. Immediately after is a dirt road to the left - take that and follow it to the end - there are a lot of newer houses being built along this road.

At the end turn right and again immediately there is another old dirt road to your left - turn in here and it widens out a 100 ft in - you can park here. (I hope I got this right!). You walk in this old wood road - the total walk to the falls is about 45 min. Just so you know you are on the right road I'll describe some of the things you come across.... I'm not sure they will be in the right order though.... at one point it widens out with a lot of old rubbish dumped there (an old wood stove or furnace). There is a branch in the road to the right - with a sign on the tree that the bridge is out... and notices that they have released some animals here. Then it goes over an old set of cement pipes - with the road all washed out around them. Then it finally goes up hill - and another branch goes to the right - 'this is the one you want' - this is a smaller trail - old scrub woods and rocky path. ... this one ends at the Falls about 800-1000 ft in.... following the river for about the last 1/2 the way The woods around the whole area are quite open and easy to see quite far in all directions. If you can cross the river (we could not) you can actually get closer to the falls. Other wise you see them from a short distance across a pond.