

ALONG THE MARSH

the photography of
DAN MACDONALD



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I first visited the Tantramar Marshes in 1996.

At that time, the marsh hay barns were still fairly ubiquitous, even though their numbers were steadily dwindling. Today, only a handful of the original 200 or so remain, most having been lost to time, weather, and vandalism. The barns have always been a popular and iconic subject for painters and photographers, and they are represented in many of the images included here.

My work also attempts to capture other views of the marshlands, either minimizing or even excluding the barns. In particular, I have been drawn to the berms and swales which shape and drain the fields and help to draw the eye through the landscape.

When I find little of interest on the land, I turn my camera skywards, leaving only a sliver of earth to anchor the bottom of the frame. The clouds, when present, become the main subject, adding form and texture to an otherwise empty canvas. Fortunately, for me at least, the clouds are almost always present.

I prefer to work in black and white since there is little colour to the area beyond the green fields and dirt roads. Most of my efforts take place in the spring and fall when the tonal contrast is the greatest. Black and white also lends a timeless quality to the photographs.

This monograph contains only a few select images from a larger, and ongoing, project.







































ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Dan MacDonald is a landscape photographer from Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Self-taught, he started with film in 1990 before switching to digital in 2006. For over a decade, he photographed sports at various levels, photographed recitals for two of Moncton's youth dance companies, and provided sports and editorial services to media and government. He has also taught introductory photography since 2011.

In 2015, Dan served as the Port Bickerton Lighthouse Artist-in-Residence and was also awarded a Creation Grant from the New Brunswick Arts Board. Several of his fine art prints have been selected for group and juried exhibitions.

Dan’s current work concentrates on rural and coastal scenery within the Maritime provinces.



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