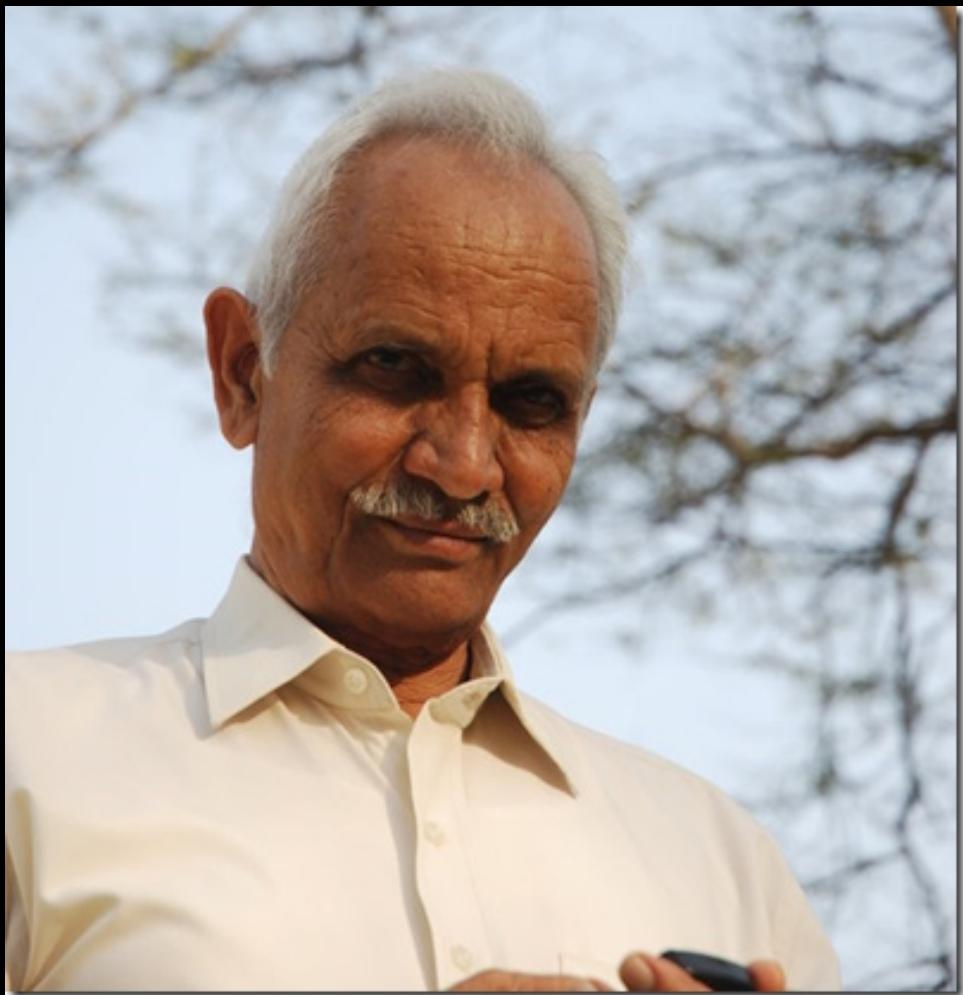




Precambrian Ediacaran Fossils

Mistaken Point, Newfoundland

While Mistaken Point fossils had been known to local villagers for quite some time, their existence was unknown to the outside world - until 1967 when they were re-discovered by S. B. Misra, a graduate student from India who was studying at Memorial University in St. John's.



Shiva Balak Misra - in the 21st century.

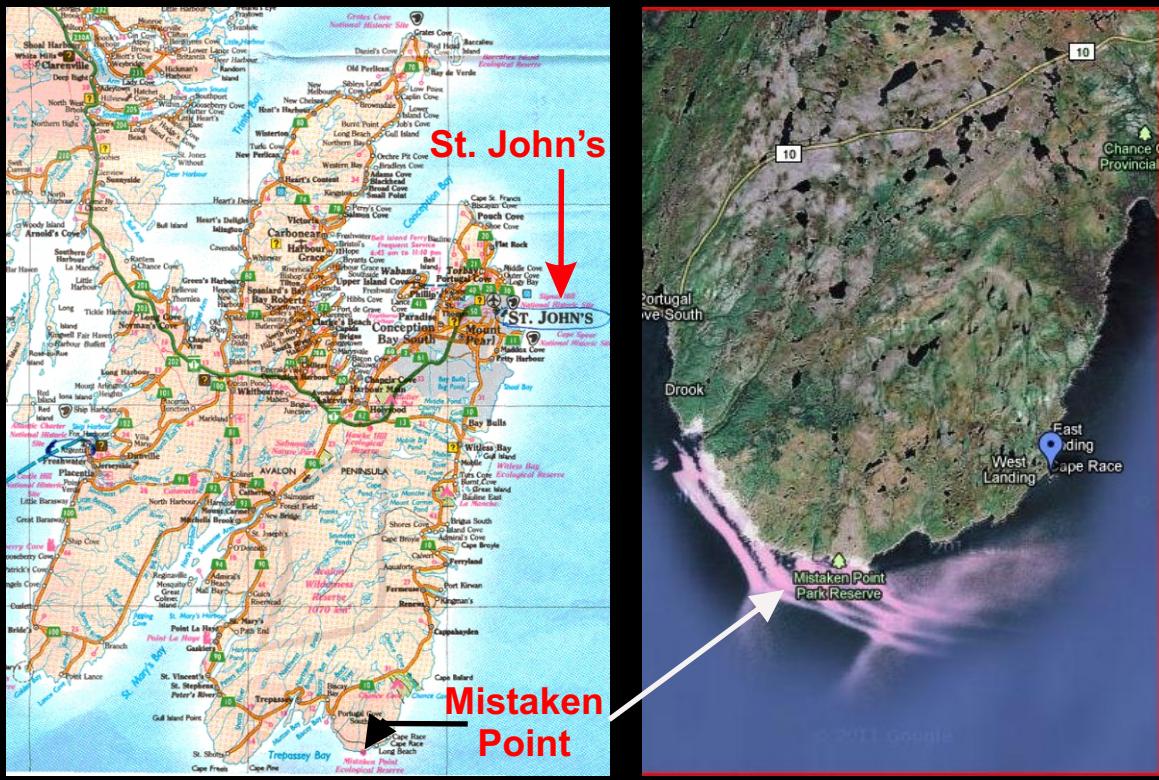
<http://www.mistakenpointfauna.com/index.html>



When word got out, Brian Kelly (above left), Jim Migel and I, lecturers at the College of Fisheries in St. John's, decided to examine the find.

We followed the path to the site, about a 1/4 mile or so along the coast from the road, and spent several hours examining and photographing the fossils.

Gerald Porter



<http://www.mistakenpointfauna.com/index.html>

The Ediacaran (/i:di'ækərən/; formerly Vendian) biota consisted of enigmatic tubular and frond-shaped, mostly sessile organisms that lived during the Ediacaran Period (ca. 635–542 Mya).

Trace fossils of these organisms have been found worldwide, and represent the earliest known complex multicellular organisms.

The Ediacaran biota may have radiated in a proposed event called the Avalon explosion, 575 million years ago, after the Earth had thawed from the Cryogenian period's extensive glaciation. The biota largely disappeared with the rapid increase in biodiversity known as the Cambrian explosion.

Most of the currently existing body plans of animals first appeared in the fossil record of the Cambrian rather than the Ediacaran.

For macroorganisms, the Cambrian biota appears to have completely replaced the organisms that dominated the Ediacaran fossil record, although relationships are still a matter of debate.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ediacaran_biota









In 2008, Jill Forrest and I visited Mistaken Point, to which had been added an information centre and conveniences.

