

The Annapolis Valley and Glooscap Mi'kmaq communities both live near Cape Split, a popular headland on the Bay of Fundy. The trail to Cape Split is about 13.2km long and considered a challenging hike...but it is also deeply significant in Mi'kmaq stories about Kluscap (pronounced Glooscap) and the beaver Kopit (pronounced gobit).

According to legend, Kluscap chased Kopit around the Bay of Fundy, and the events of their chase helped shape the land and trails we see today. For instance, Kluscap is said to have dug a great channel with his canoe paddle so the tides could flow out to sea, creating what we now know as Cape Split. It is called Plekteoq (pronounced blegdeoq) in Mi'kmaq.

Kopit continued to trouble Kluscap, and some of their many encounters are captured in a poem by Watson Kirkconnell. See below for an excerpt from 1965:

## **A RIME OF GLOOSCAP**

Watson Kirkconnell

**Now giant beavers built of yore  
From Blomidon clear to the Parrsborough shore  
A mighty dam with a pond to fill  
The Annapolis Valley from hill to hill.**

**Glooscap, out hunting, returned in ire  
To find the flood at his wigwam fire,  
While swimming near Kingsport and almost sunk  
Was the dragged form of his gunner the Skunk.**

**Angry was Glooscap. He took his axe  
And with a couple of monstrous hacks  
A four-mile hole through the dam he slit,  
And the water sent pouring out past Cape Split**

Cape Split is Kluscap's home and holds deep cultural significance to the Mi'kmaq. When Kluscap left earth, it is said that he left purple hearts for the Mi'kmaq women. Those hearts are now called amethyst, the only purple gemstone found in Nova Scotia, which occurs only in the Cape Blomidon and Cape Split region. Kluscap gifted the stones to women to help them with intuition and to bring calm in times of distress. Amethysts are still used similarly today for spiritual and emotional healing, removing negative energy from those who hold it.

Thank you so much to Wasuek Googoo and Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq for gathering and sharing this information.



Website Interactive Map Summary:

Cape Split is a 13.2km, challenging trail near the Annapolis Valley and Glooscap Mi'kmaq communities. It's known for being Kluscap's home and one of the only places in Nova Scotia where you find amethyst.

When Kluscap left earth, it is said he left the amethyst behind to support the women. Amethyst is known to provide emotional and spiritual healing, bringing calmness and removing negative energy.