While on Kent Island this summer I began working on a research project about red tide toxin accumulation in marine snails. The Bay of Fundy is notorious for its severe annual blooms of the toxic algae *Alexandrium fundyense*, which contaminate shellfish throughout New England and Maritime Canada and cause widespread shellfish fisheries closures each summer. While there are hundreds of scientific articles examining how shellfish accumulate these toxins, far less research surrounds how the toxin travels through other parts of the marine food web. My project looks to find out if intertidal organisms accumulate this toxin and if the feeding strategy of different species affects how much toxin they accumulate.

To test this hypothesis, the experiment follows a 3-step process: 1) Collecting intertidal organisms during the summer algal blooms 2) preparing the dissected samples in a way that breaks down tissue and cells, so as to release any toxin harbored inside the cells 3) using an ELISA test to analyze the amount of toxins in these tissues. I performed the first two steps of the experiment while on Kent Island this summer. I collected periwinkle snails, dog whelks, green crabs, tortoiseshell limpets and soft-shelled clams and then digested their tissues using a process that involved acid, boiling, centrifuging and macerating.

I look forward to working on the analysis part of my experiment back at Bowdoin in the fall. The road to results is still a long and confusing one, but I have fallen in love with research here and I can’t wait to keep moving my project forward!