

The Rucksack

Newsletter of the Friends of McNabs Island Society
The society is a registered charity: CCRA number 88847 4194 RR 0001



Volume Sixteen, Issue 3

Spring 2008

15th Annual McNabs and Lawlor Islands Beach Cleanup

Kick off Environment Week by joining the Friends of McNabs Island Society for the annual cleanup of McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park.

Date: Sunday June 1, 2008
(Rain date) June 7 OR June 8, 2008
Time: 10 AM - 3:30 PM

Meet at Murphy's on the Water, Cable Wharf, Halifax Waterfront before 10 a.m.
Space on the boat is limited & available on First Come, First Served basis.

Bring work gloves, drinking water, a lunch and ENTHUSIASM. We will supply the garbage bags and FREE transportation to the island for volunteers willing to clean up the beaches. Groups of more than ten persons must pre-register with the Friends of McNabs Island by calling Cathy at 434-2254 or Faye at 443-1749 or by e-mailing mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca. Visit www.mcnabsisland.ca for more details.

This is the 15th year that the Friends of McNabs Island have organized a beach cleanup of the islands. Since 1991, volunteers have collected 8,000 bags of garbage and recyclables from McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park.

This community event is sponsored by Clean Nova Scotia, Parks Canada, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Halifax Regional Municipality, Murphy's on the Water and McNabs Island Ferry.

For more information contact: Cathy McCarthy at 434-2254
mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca
www.mcnabsisland.ca

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**Friends of McNabs Island Society
Rucksack**

Web address: <http://www.mcnabsisland.ca>

Published 4 times each year: Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter

MEMBERSHIPS: Individual Membership or Newsletter Only is \$15 per year, Family Membership is \$20 per year, Supporting Membership is \$50 per year and Sustaining Membership is \$100 per year. We are a registered charity and accept donations.

Contact address: **Friends of McNabs Island**

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Gladstone RPO

Halifax, NS

B3K 5Y1

DEADLINES: 1 February for the Spring issue, 1 June for the Summer issue, 1 September for the Fall issue and 1 November for the Winter issue.

We welcome contributions, ideas and feedback.

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**Our Special Friend of McNabs Island
for 2008 is Becky Kent**

At our annual Friends of McNabs Dinner and Auction held on March 29, 2008, Becky Kent, MLA for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage was presented with our Special Friend of McNabs Island Award which is a set of ships mugs embossed with the Friends of McNabs logo. They are specially designed by renowned potter and member of the Friends of McNabs, Sally Ravindra.

Becky is a former HRM Councillor for Woodside-Eastern Passage and is credited with bringing together HRM Public Works, Department of National Defence and Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources staff along with 30 members of the general public to clean up old dumpsites on McNabs Island that date back decades. In total, 80 tonnes of garbage was removed from McNabs Island during the two – week cleanup of the island last spring.

CONGRATULATIONS BECKY!



Becky Kent receiving her ships mugs



Full house at the 10th Annual Dinner

10th Annual Dinner and Auction is once again a success!

March 29, 2008 marked the 10th annual Friends of McNabs Island Society's Dinner and Silent Auction held at the historic Royal Artillery Park. The dinner was a sold out event that featured musical entertainment by Dennis Williams on the piano, accompanied by Marjorie Williston on vocals. Special dinner guests included Peter Underwood, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, Jackie Barkhouse, HRM councillor for Woodside-Eastern Passage, Alexa McDonough, MP for

Halifax and Peter Stoffer, MP for Sackville Eastern Shore and Becky Kent, MLA for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage.

Special thanks to Denyse Contrasty and Major John McCallum for making all the arrangements with RA Park and to Faye Power for selling the tickets and pulling in so many donations for the auction. Funds were raised at the dinner and auction will go toward our McNabs Island Events and the publication of the Second edition of *Discover McNabs Island*.

A complete list of those who graciously donated items to the auction will appear in the next newsletter. Many thanks to everyone for their donations.
by Cathy McCarthy



Faye's thank you flowers

AGM Highlights

Members of the Friends of McNabs Island Society met at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on



Greg receiving his Lyttleton prints

April 29th for the 2008 Annual General Meeting. Reports from the President, Treasurer and Nominating Committee were read and approved. Departing Board member, Greg Haverstock, was presented with a set of Lyttleton prints depicting McNabs Island around 1860. Greg has been instrumental in the compiling and printing of the second edition of the Friends' book, *Discover McNabs Island* to be released shortly! (See page 6 of this newsletter). Guest speaker, Chris Mills, former light-keeper and local author, gave an informative presentation on the "Lighthouses on McNabs" with the assistance of Friend, Faye Power, daughter of Colin Cleveland, the keeper for the McNabs Island Lighthouse from 1932 to 1957.

by Denyse Contrasty

SUMMER ON THE ISLAND

by Carolyn Mont



At the cottage on McNabs Island

I recently had a phone call from Don Bianco who as a child and young man, spent his summers on McNabs Island. Don's wife, Elaine had picked up a copy of *The Rucksack* and that brought lots of stories back to him. Don is blind now but Elaine read some of the articles to him and he then called me and invited me to visit. I gladly accepted the invitation.

I have a particular interest in his stories because my mother, Billie (O'Brien) Mont was also a summer resident at that time. Like most young people, I heard my mother talk about her youth but didn't pay a whole lot of attention. Also, like most people, I now wish, too late, that I had paid attention. It was a treat for me to be able to ask questions of someone who had those details from his childhood clear in his mind. The following is what I learned in that visit.

Don was born in 1932 and has a picture of himself as an infant on the island with his mother, the former Freda Parker. Freda's family had long been summer residents of the island and Don created a wonderful oral snapshot of that period.

Don grew up on the corner of Victoria Rd. and Inglis St. but summers were spent on McNabs Island. As soon as school was out, he and his mother went to McNabs Island. Sometimes, as he got older and his Mom went back to work, he would stay alone on the island. Everyone in the summer community knew one another and he felt very comfortable on his own.

His mother's family had cottage on land owned by Matt Lynch but the Parkers owned the cottage. They paid taxes to the city but also paid \$10 per year to Matt Lynch for the use of the land. When Matthew died, they paid the \$10 to his daughter Gladys (Lynch) Conrad.

While on the island, they bought milk from Matt Lynch who had a cow. When they wanted drinking water, however, they went to the Deveau's. Mary and Leo Deveau had ten children and the only well between Indian Point and Ives Cove. The Deveaus let all the cottagers draw water from their well.

We've been using the word cottage but I remember my mother saying that they were camps, nothing like the comfortable cottages of today. Many of them had no electricity or running water. This came clearer to me when Don recalled a hail storm of 1938 which tore big holes in the tarpaper roof of his family's camp.

Long summer days would be spent swimming, fishing, boating, playing with other kids on the island. At this time, there were a number of full time residents on McNabs but things changed a bit as World War II approached. A year or so before the war began, it was necessary to have a pass to get on the island, a pass made available to the summer residents



Some of Don's family at Ives Cove

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

as well as the full time residents. With the increased military presence, entertainment became available. In the evenings, residents would walk to Fort McNab where they were able to watch movies provided by the army.

Don named all the cottages and full time residences from Indian Point to Ives Cove. Starting in Indian Point was Milton Roach. Next came Patty Morriarity, then Clara Power. The next was Leo Deveau, owner of the well. As he named these families, Don explained that they were not



Posing on the cottage steps



Don and his mother on the island

along a road; some were behind others so it was difficult to get exact orders. After the Deveaus came Bill Roach, John Parker, Bill Brown, Peggy Crosby (with whom my mother stayed), Tobin's, Art Sibley, Freda (Parker) (Bianco) Cook (Don's mother), Harry Wells, Gordon Fader, Doug McInnes, Morris Hurley, Corkums, Bouchards Perni Hurshman and next Perni's son Charlie Hurshman. Next to Charlie were the Hamiltons, then Ralph and Gladys Conrad, Matthew Lynch, and Harold Curran. Next came the Clevelands at the lighthouse, then Carl Fader and finally Jack Lynch. Harold Curran's mother was a sister in law to Matt Lynch and they lived with the Lynches. Cleveland's lighthouse is long gone but for many years there were two lighthouses on the island.

These were names that I had heard for many years but didn't know the details of where they lived. Don has a great memory but had a question I couldn't answer. He wondered who tore down the cottages at Ives Cove. His family paid taxes on them and he has never known how they were ultimately torn down. If anyone has an answer to this, please let us know.

New Natural Resources Strategy for Nova Scotia

Public consultations on a new Natural Resources Strategy are underway. The new Strategy will establish the future direction for Nova Scotia's forests, minerals, parks and biodiversity. It is important for all of us who love our province's parks and natural areas to make our voices heard at these public meetings.

A public consultation meeting held in Cherrybrook on May 20 attracted more than 100 people and included representation from mining and forestry industry groups. Participants were asked to briefly state their vision for Nova Scotia's natural resources. This took up the entire meeting and meant that the smaller group discussions on the four topic areas didn't happen.

The only other meeting schedule for HRM will be held Monday June 9 from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Holiday Inn (Robie and Quinpool). Written submissions and on-line comments will be accepted until July 31.

Visit <https://vp.gov.ns.ca/projects/resources> for more information.

The Friends of McNabs Island Society will be submitting a written submission. However we encourage all our members to get involved, attend the meetings and let the government know how much you value our province's parks and natural resources.

by Cathy McCarthy



McNabs and Lawlor Islands Paddle and Clean-up Saturday, September 20, 9:30AM

(Rain date Saturday, September 27, 9:30AM)

Join fellow sea kayakers and open canoeists of Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia and Friends of McNabs Island Society for the annual paddle and cleanup of McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park.

PFDs have to be worn while on the water and safety equipment required by the Coast Guard (floating line, bailer, and signalling device - e.g. whistle) will need to be on board. Bring your own lunch and drinks.

Location: Meet at the Shearwater Yacht Club. Contact Katalin Ohlsson at 902-464-1236, (evenings) or at Katalin.Ohlsson@ns.sympatico.ca for more information or to pre-register.

Fall Foliage Tours of McNabs Island Sunday October 19, (raindate October 26) Time 10 am – 4 pm

Join the Friends of McNabs Island Society for the annual Fall Foliage guided tours of **McNabs Island Provincial Park**. Tour includes a visit inside the historic island homes of “midway king” Bill Lynch and his family.

Location: Meet at Murphy’s on the Water, Cable Wharf, Halifax Waterfront before 10 a.m. Space on the boat is limited and available on First Come, First Served basis. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a lunch and drinking water. COST TBA. Larger groups must pre-register with the Friends of McNabs Island by calling Cathy at 434-2254 (evenings) or Faye (443-1749) or by e-mailing mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca.

Visit www.mcnabsisland.ca for more details.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

We are delighted to announce that the second edition of *Discover McNabs Island* will be published in time for the annual beach cleanup. This book has been extensively revised and will be a valuable information resource to our members and all those interested in the history, folklore, recreation, and wildlife of the Island.

Every effort has been made to publish both the text and cover in an environmentally sensitive format. The publisher, Halcraft Inc., is a company owned by Nova Scotians.

Be the first to own this book. The cost is \$19.95. To order a copy, please contact Carolyn Gallagher at 477-8624 or Faye Power at 443-1749.

We are also planning an official book launch for later this year. Please check our web site www.mcnabsisland.ca for date, time and place. Hope to see you there!



How can YOU help?

The Friends of McNabs Island Society runs on volunteer power, please consider giving a few hours of your time.

Do you have an interesting story about the Island? Submit it to the newsletter! Not all jobs take a lot of time, some can be one-time-only help with an event, doing call backs or mailing out the newsletter. Please contact the executive through our email address: mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca

McNabs Island Merchandise

For a unique souvenir or gift consider supporting the Friends of McNabs Island.

- ◆ **Discover McNabs Island** books are available for \$10.00
- ◆ Panoramic harbour view **POSTERS of McNabs Island** available for \$5.00
- ◆ **Brochures and Maps** are available for FREE.

Contact Carolyn Gallagher at (INSERT#) to get yours today!



New HRM Councillor for McNabs area JackieBarkhouse

Photo Credits for this Issue

Pages 4 & 5 - Don Bianco
AGM and Dinner Photos -
Denyse Contrasty

Article found in a keepsake box
from The Evening Mail,
July 20, 1892

The Picnic

There were between 3,500 and 4,000 people at the picnic at McNab's Island. The committee deserve credit for the manner in which they carried out the arrangements. Not an accident occurred on the grounds and, considering the large crowds, the order was excellent. There were a few drunks, but the police officers from Halifax who did duty on the Island looked after them. There was dancing in the pavilions and dinner and supper were served in the large dancing hall. A couple of folks started the three card monte game, but they did not run long before the officers put a stop to their business. Two wheels of fortune and a shooting gallery did a very good business. No liquor was allowed on the grounds. This fact evidently accounted for the good order maintained throughout the day.

Email Updates

If you wish to receive updates about the status of McNabs Island by email, please send your contact information to:

mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca

**THE FRIENDS OF McNABS ISLAND SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM**

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

RENEWAL

Ad-
dress: _____

I AM ENCLOSING \$ _____ FOR

DONATION

SUSTAINING MEMBER (\$100 annually)

SUPPORTING MEMBER (\$50 annually)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER (\$15 annually)

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (\$20 annually)

NEWSLETTER ONLY (\$15 annually)

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Willing to help out? _____

Annual membership to the Friends of McNabs Island Society starts on the date of payment of dues and includes a year's subscription to the society's quarterly newsletter, *The Rucksack*. We thank you for your continued support and welcome your interest!

Send money or cheque, payable to:
The Friends of McNabs Island Society

PO Box 31240
Gladstone RPO
Halifax, NS
B3K 5Y1

or phone Carolyn Mont at 477-0187 for membership inquiries.



The society is a registered charity: CCRA number 88847 4194 RR 0001

The Rucksack is published by the **Friends of McNabs Island Society**.

Contributions, ideas and feedback are welcome.

Visit our website at: www.mcnabsisland.ca

Phone: Cathy (902) 434-2254 evenings

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