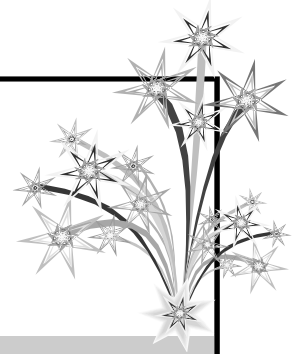




The Rucksack

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



Volume Nineteen, Issue 3/4

Celebrating 21 Years

Winter 2011/Spring 2012

Friends of McNabs Island 22nd Annual General Meeting

Wednesday May 2, 7 PM

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Lower Water St. Halifax

Geologist Gavin Manson of the Bedford Institute has studied coastal erosion for many years and will present new information on his 15-year research on the changing coastline of McNabs Island. If you have visited the island recently, you will know how rapidly the coastline, especially along sections of Garrison Road, has eroded.

For details or to volunteer to help at the AGM please contact:

Carolyn 477-0187 or Faye 443-1749 or mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca

Gavin Manson, M.Sc has been employed as a coastal geoscientist with the Geological Survey of Canada, since 2000, at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. His primary research interests are in coastal erosion, storm surge flooding hazards, and the impacts of changing climate on coastal processes and infrastructure.



Gavin has contributed to several projects investigating coastal climate change impacts and adaptation in Canada including the western Arctic, Prince Edward Island, southeast New Brunswick, the Queen Charlotte Islands and Halifax (including McNab's Island, which he has been visiting for almost 15 years).

He is currently involved in similar projects in Nunavut and the Yukon. Gavin is also undertaking Ph.D research at the University of Guelph investigating approaches to modeling coastal change and evolution under changing climate on the north shore of Prince Edward Island.

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Friends of McNabs Island Society Rucksack

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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.

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We welcome contributions, ideas and feedback.

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☞ Carolyn Mont

☞ Faye Power

☞ Sally Ravindra

☞ Royce Walker

☞ Greg Stiner

☞ Greg Noddin

Resolution to Change Membership Fees

A resolution to change the society's by-laws and increase the membership fees will be introduced at the annual general meeting on May 2, 2012. If passed, this would represent the first increase in fees since 1998.

"Be it resolved that the membership fees for the Friends of McNabs Island Society be increased from \$15 per individual to \$20 and from \$20 per family to \$25. In addition, be it resolved that the supporting fees would be increased from \$50 to \$75 and the sustaining from \$100 to \$150 per year."

Trails Notes

By Cathy McCarthy

We were very fortunate to have the Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculturalists (ISA) helping us by pruning the trees and shrubs in the abandoned Victorian Garden near the Teahouse. Originally planted by Frederick Perrin in the 1880s, this garden once rivaled the Halifax Public Gardens and has been neglected for decades. Stan Kochanoff, past president of ISA- Atlantic led an enthusiastic group of over 20 skilled arborists to McNabs on March 24 for a day-long work party.

Cobequid Trail Consulting has been hired to improve the trails in and around the Hugonin-Perrin Estate (Teahouse) area and to re-install the composting toilet. Work begins before the end of March and volunteers are need to help out with this project. If you are interested please contact Faye at 443-1749.

All the work this spring on McNabs couldn't have been possible without the generous support of Nova Scotia Health and Wellness, the Halifax Foundation, Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline, and fourteen Halifax Regional Councillors led by Councillor Jackie Barkhouse, who has supported our efforts to make McNabs Island a wonderful place to Discover. Thanks Jackie!!

Victorian Gardens Spring Spruce Up

To all our volunteers who made the trek to McNabs Island on March 24th and contributed so much on the arboricultural work carried out for The Friends of McNabs Island Society, a hearty thank you! As a group, we exceeded the project event expectations for the work originally planned. The additional work of pruning and clean-up of the large Linden trees and the Camper Down Elm at Ives Cove was an added bonus along with the trail-clearing work done to assist Garnet McLaughlin for his future trail construction work and the clearing around the Old Bottling Plant.

The addition of 6 more climbers than the original two estimated contributed greatly to the extra work for the Lindens at Ives Cove and helped to push our total in-kind contribution to FOMIS to \$10,560.00. Special thanks to those hearty 5 climbers who had the breezy conditions to work with while up in the trees.

Around the Tea House overlook area, the climbers and ground crew arborists did a great job on the Horse Chestnuts, English Hawthorns, Scotch Elms, Apple trees, and Caragana, Barberry and other assorted shrubs. The Purple Leaf or Copper Beech received extra special pruning attention by Kevin Anderson and our president, James Urbanowsky who came up with the unique propping idea of the remaining lateral branches.

The extra help provided by volunteers from "The Friends" in dragging brush and clean-up was greatly appreciated as well. All in all, a great day, the weather cooperated after a chilly start first thing in the morning to very comfortable working conditions in the sun and reduced wind around noon. Thank you all the individuals and firms who contributed their time, gear and equipment, it was a great day and a lot got accomplished! Special thanks to Faye Power and Royce Walker from The Friends for their guidance during the day and to Garnet McLaughlin on the trail work. Also, thanks to my two assistants Clarence Talbot and Ben Perry for helping to dole out the work and to everyone who contributed suggestions along the way.

Thank you everybody, it was great event for the chapter and from all reports, everyone enjoyed the day and the camaraderie. This may open the door for further trips to the Island to assist "The Friends" in their future development plans.

Cheers,

Stan, Project Leader, Past President ISA-Atlantic Chapter

Stan Kochanoff MCIP, LPP, RCA

Licensed Professional Planner, Registered Consulting and ISA Certified Arborist

Environova Planning Group Inc. / Planning, Landscape Architecture, & Consulting ArboricultureMaritime Landscape Services Ltd. / Tree Preservation & Transplanting Specialists

Falmouth, Nova Scotia B0P 1L0 Ph: 902-798-4798 Cell Phone 902 456 2773 URL: www.environova.ca

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now. ~Chinese Proverb



Arborist volunteers in front of the Copper Beech:

Kneeling left to right: Stephen & Jeremy LeClair(Pictou County), Art Embree (Cole Harbour), Gabe Chretien (Sackville, NB), Stan Kochanoff (Falmouth), Matt Lyons,(Windsor), **Standing, back row:** James Urbanowsky(Fredericton, NB), Brian Phelan, Jeff Talbot, Kevin Osmond, Clarence Talbot (all from HRM), Roelof van der Werve (Wolfville), Jason Clayton (Saint John, NB), Trevor Burton (Aylesford), Jeremy Campbell (Halifax)

In the tree: Ben Perry (Dartmouth) and Kevin Anderson (Sackville, NB)

Missing (off in the woods) : Patrick Allan (Newport, Hants County), Heather Roth, Halifax), Rob Young and David Jollymore (Halifax)

Faye's Wonderful Day

Saturday 24 March was such a fantastic day! I was so impressed by what was done with the gardens and trees. Twenty two professional arborists did their thing, some were swinging from the trees, some cutting the dead branches and felling the dead trees. They were clearing paths and underbrush, particularly near the teahouse and the bottling plant, as well clearing a lot of the trees in the sightline in front of the teahouse. The bottling plant is now in full view when you pass by, what a great job!

Arborists also cut down the evergreens that were causing the smaller Japanese Maple not to grow, this plant was of particular interest to Cathy McCarthy. We had a hard job finding it because it wasn't in bloom yet, but with a quick cell phone conversation Royce was able to help us locate it.

Royce had gone with a few arborists to the Conrad house to prune the linden trees that lined the lane. I haven't seen the results of that yet, but I'm sure their work is impressive. We did two runs one at 8:30 am to carry 20 arborists and seven volunteers to the Island (with a stop at Ives Cove on the way over) and the 2nd run at 9:45 am carrying two arborists and nine volunteers.

Garnet McLaughlin, the contractor we have hired to clear the trails around the teahouse and move the compostable toilet, is going to move the piles of brush with his tractor in a couple of weeks. He feels we should organize another day of cleanup by volunteers before he starts on his trail work. We will be looking for more volunteers for that project, as well as helping Garnet with the trail work and the moving of the aforementioned toilet. We had such a wonderful day and could have stayed hours more. There was plenty of work that could have been done.

Regular volunteers left on the first boat back at 3 pm, the majority were wishing they could stay longer but the arborists fully filled the second run at 4 pm. Although cool early in the morning, and windy, the temperature improved and the winds died down. We were thankful for our layered clothing. All the volunteers that were not arborists said to let them know when our next project is planned.

Faye Cleveland Power (lighthouse keeper's daughter and a Board member of the Friends of McNabs Island)



Japanese Red Maple freed from the brush
Photo credit: Stan Kochanoff



Halifax, Nova Scotia

Abraham Pineo Gesner

Born May 2, 1797, Cornwallis, Nova Scotia

- ◆ Trained as Physician and Geologist
 - ◆ In 1830's 'discovered' coal and 'gum beds' in New Brunswick
 - ◆ By 1846 he was distilling Kerosene or 'Coal Oil' as it was commonly known
 - ◆ 1846 Gesner experimented with kerosene as a fuel for the lighthouse at Mangers Beach, McNabs Island, Halifax, as an alternative to whale oil
 - ◆ "no light as bright and steady had ever shone out over the Atlantic" and the masters of scores of ships altered course so they could witness this wonder.
- (cont on page 5)

DARTMOUTH FREE PRESS

DECEMBER 13, 1972

Bus Ferry Service to McNab's Island?

The Halifax-Dartmouth regional Authority hopes for positive action from the provincial government following a tour of the regional park on McNabs Island this week.

Three members of the cabinet—Municipal Affairs Minister Fraser Mooney, Attorney-General Lenard Pace and Provincial Secretary Garnet Brown—along with the regional authority reviewed the work that has been carried on by the inmates of the Halifax County Correction Centre for the past seven months.

An average daily crew of 12 men has been taken to the Island. The first jobs have involved clearing, grubbing and undercutting in preparation for camping sites in the park, which was former crown assets land turned over to the authority.

The province was asked for financial assistance in the provision of minimum facilities such as toilets, tables and benches, equipment for the work gangs, and new docking facilities.

It was also requested to take steps to have the islands of McNabs and Lawlors declared a sanctuary to stop the hunting and harassment of wildlife being carried on at the present time.

It was pointed out that the province is the only agency, through the R.C.M.P., that can police the islands.

Studies by conservation and naturalist groups have pointed to the vast number of birds on the islands, one of the few remaining nesting areas of the great blue

heron. The superintendent of the centre, Maurice Jones, said the men could construct 24 toilets and locate them on the island next spring if they had financial assistance from the province.

Provincial park authorities are paying about \$260 for each unit while the institution could make them for \$100, he said. The province has been asked for a \$2400 grant to help with the project.

Much cleaning has been done on the beaches and they are "beautiful", Mr. Jones said. But the debris is "astronomical" and equipment is needed to cut, pile and burn this, he added.

At present the centre has one small bulldozer and three chain saws but they soon wear out under such heavy use, he said. Inmates are starting 35 or 40 picnic benches but once again he said both the regional authority and the centre's budget has been "stretched to the limit".

Docking facilities will need to be renovated when the public starts using the park. If a dock was constructed on the island's shore near the Eastern Passage mainland, a direct bus service would be operated, it was noted.

Mr. Jones outlined the role of the work program in the rehabilitation of the inmates and said while work on the island was volunteer and "no pay", it was a "coveted job".

"It is impossible to turn their enthusiasm off and a great deal of jockeying goes on for the opportunity of joining the work gang," he added.

(culled from the archives by Cathy McCarthy)

The Birthplace of the Petro-Chemical Industry

(cont from page 4)

- ◆ Gesner sensed the commercial possibilities of kerosene, and devoted the next 6 years to improving his process.
- ◆ 1854 moved to Long Island and formed the North American Kerosene Gas Light Company.
- ◆ US patent for kerosene dated March 27, 1855
- ◆ 1861 wrote "A Practical Treatise on Coal, Petroleum and Other Distilled Oils" that became a standard reference in the field.
- ◆ Gesner's company absorbed into The Standard Oil Company
- ◆ Gesner returned to Halifax in 1863 a wealthy man, and died in 1864.
- ◆ Buried in Halifax. Monument erected by Imperial Oil in 1933

'Gesner has saved more whales than Greenpeace ever will'

From a Powerpoint by Royce Walker





Kyle McWilliams (left) hamming it up with a friend at the campfire Summer 2006

Farewell Friends

In 1999 I took my children on the Fall Foliage Tour to McNabs Island and was hooked. The Island had wide open spaces to run, beaches to comb and fortresses to explore. That year the lighthouse was open to the public and I remember my kids scrambling over the wrecked boardwalk to get to the end of the causeway. It was an amazing experience. I brought my children camping and to visit the island many times after that and this was the

inspiration for me to join the Board of Directors of the Friends of McNabs Island and to offer to edit the Rucksack in 2003.

It has been an amazing journey for me. So many changes have occurred on the Island. Thanks to the efforts of Cathy McCarthy and the Friends of McNabs funding has been secured for so many projects and so many improvements. I'm so proud to have been a part of this marvelous organization. I also had the opportunity to bring quite a few school trips to the Island with my children's classes over the years. The history of the island needs to be shared with the younger generations!



Chilling at Back Cove Kira (centre) and Kody McWilliams (front) with friend Summer 2006

Unfortunately my life has gotten busy. I haven't had time to enjoy the events and with changes to camping regulations after Hurricane Juan I've not been able to return to camp on the Island. It makes me sad. I did continue to compile and edit the Rucksack and it has been my link to the Island but I feel it is time to pass the project on to someone with more time and energy to devote to it. Someone can breathe new life into this essential publication.



Taking a break, Fall Foliage Tour 2006 Photo by Ray Lefrense

I would like to thank all of the wonderful people I have worked with over the years. You have been the reason I've stayed on with the group. I have been inspired and supported by you and this I will truly miss. Some of the most dedicated and passionate people I know have been involved with supporting the cause of the Island. Together we've made a difference.

Thank you all for this amazing opportunity.

Theresa RolletMcWilliams

Editor Friends of McNabs Island Rucksack Fall 2003 to Winter/Spring 2012

(Children's photos credited to the author)

Why Become a Board Member?

by Carolyn Mont

Many years ago, I received a copy of Discover McNabs Island as a gift. McNabs has always been a big part of my life and when I discovered the membership card in the pocket of the book, I sent it in and joined the society.

Shortly after that, I was invited to join the board. At the time it seemed a great way to meet people with similar interests. I had very little board experience but that didn't seem to matter. What was important at that time was that I loved McNabs Island.

That was a good decision I made and I often thank my Aunt Janie who bought the book for me. Since that time, I was membership secretary for over ten years, I have led many tours for a wide variety of people, spoken to many groups, have written numerous articles for The Rucksack, interviewed interesting people who have a history with the island, cleaned up countless articles from the beaches, had occasion to attend meetings with government officials, been a spokesperson and advocate for the island and the society that tries to look after it and been involved in fundraising activities. On top of all that, I've made some very good friends.

As my time on the board comes to a close, at least temporarily, I want to recommend the experience as a board member. If you don't think you have any suitable skills, I can assure you that the board members are more than willing to help you discover untapped resources. It is also an opportunity to have a say in how things progress with the future development of the island.

McNabs and Lawlor Islands Beach Cleanup
Sunday June 3 (rain date- June 10)
Time: 10 am – 5:00 pm

Kick off Environment Week by helping the Friends of McNabs Island Society cleanup **McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park!**

Location: Meet at Murphy's on the Water, Cable Wharf, on the Halifax Waterfront before 10 a.m. Space on the boat is limited to 190 people and 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 (434-2254 evenings) or Faye (443-1749) or e-mailing mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca. Visit www.mcnabsisland.ca or our Facebook page for more details.

In the past 22 years, volunteers have collected over **10,000 bags of garbage and recyclables** from the beaches of McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park.

McNabs and Lawlor Islands Paddle and Clean-up
Saturday, September 8 (Rain date September 15)
Time: 9:30 am

Join fellow sea kayakers and open canoeists of Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia and Friends of McNabs Island Society for a leisurely paddle along the shoreline of McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park in Halifax Harbour. We will stop at several beaches to collect litter. Plastic bags will be provided, and a motorboat will pick up the full bags afterwards.

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 work gloves, a lunch and drinking water.

Location: Meet at the Shearwater Yacht Club, 9 Avenger Place in Shearwater.

Contact Dusan Soudek (422-1045 evenings) or soudekd@ns.sympatico.ca for more information and to pre-register.

Fall Foliage Tours of McNabs Island
Sunday October 14, (rain date October 21)
Time 10 am – 5:00 pm

Join the Friends of McNabs Island Society for the annual Fall Foliage Tour of **McNabs Island Provincial Park**. See the island in its autumn splendour and participate in guided history and nature tours.

Wear comfortable shoes and bring a lunch and drinking water.

Location: Meet at Murphy's on the Water, Cable Wharf on the Halifax Waterfront before 10 a.m. Space on the boat is limited to 190 people and available on First Come, First Served basis.

Cost: \$12 (members and children) \$15 (non-members). Tickets will be sold through Ticket Atlantic. Check our website for details.

Groups of more than ten persons should pre-register with the Friends of McNabs Island by calling Cathy (434-2254 evenings) or Faye (443-1749) or e-mailing mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca. Visit www.mcnabsisland.ca or our Facebook page for more details. s

The Final Word

Gavin Manson: A speaker not to be missed

You might think that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of McNabs Island Society is just another business meeting. However, we always have a speaker on a topic related to the Island. A number of years ago, we were fortunate to have Gavin Manson of the Geological Survey of Canada address our members. He spoke about how normal weather and sea conditions change shorelines. The talk was fascinating and I find myself often thinking back on it and remembering his pictures in my mind. When I visit the Island, I can see where recent storm surges have made significant changes and wonder how they relate to Gavin's photos from more than ten years ago.

I am happy to say that I will be able to get some answers to my wonderings, as Gavin will be the keynote speaker at the AGM on Wednesday May 2 at 7:00 PM at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

In his own words, "*the future of McNabs Island shorelines in a changing climate will be explored using historical maps, aerial photography and other remote sensing technologies, (plus) almost 15 years of detailed monitoring surveys, and climate records and predictions*".

Gavin is the author of the chapter on this topic found in *Discovering McNabs Island*. He is an interesting speaker and is sure to engage his audience. I know this will be an interesting evening and I would strongly suggest that members not only attend but that it would be a great opportunity to bring guests. By Carolyn Mont



Royce Walker surveys significant erosion on Garrison Road near Lynch Rd in Spring 2011
Photo: Cathy McCarthy

Annual membership to the Friends of McNabs Island Society runs on the calendar year 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 cheque, payable to:

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Contributions, ideas and feedback are welcome.

Visit our website at: www.mcnabsisland.ca

Phone: Cathy (902) 434-2254 evenings

or email mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca.

This issue went to print April 2012

For email updates about McNabs Island, send your contact information to:

mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca or visit our Facebook group.

All memberships are renewable by the end of each year. Please fill out the renewal form enclosed with this issue. Your support for McNabs Island and our society is invaluable.

For any membership inquiries contact Lyn Underhill

at mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca or 902-444-7482.