

The Rucksack

Newsletter of **The Friends of McNabs Island Society**



Volume Twelve, Issue One

Winter/Spring 2003

Winter on McNabs Island



Martin Soudek cross country skiig at Fort McNab. Photo: Dusan Soudek

SO, YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED...

By Carolyn Mont

On Wednesday, April 9 the Friends of McNabs Island Society will hold our Annual General Meeting. At that time, we will review the events of 2002 and look to the next year. It is usual at an AGM to ask for those members who are interested to put their name forward to serve on the Board.

Many of you are thinking, "I'd go to the meeting but I sure don't want to serve on the Board. I'm happy to support the organization but don't have time to be involved in Board work." Chances are, though, that you don't know what being on the Board entails.

So.... What does it mean to be on the Board of the Friends of McNabs Island Society? A few years ago, I decided to join the Board without really knowing

the answer to that question but wanting to be more involved than just sending in my annual dues and participating in the Beach Clean-up.

I agreed to take over the position of membership secretary and found it to be more work than I had anticipated. As I muddled into the work, the members of the Board were understanding when I was slow or made mistakes. The Board members are dedicated to fostering the best interests of the Island but this is not a high pressure group.

We don't hold meetings at set times each month. An effort is made to meet every 4-5 weeks at a time convenient to as many members as possible. The location of the meetings varies and this past summer, for the first time, the Board was pleased to actually

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meet on McNabs Island.

What might you expect to do if you offered to serve on the Board? It is essential that you attend most meetings. If you miss more than three in a row, you would forfeit your spot. You would be on call for each of the events sponsored by the Friends. Currently, these are the annual Beach Clean-up, the Fall Foliage Tour, the annual Dinner and Silent Auction and the Annual General Meeting. We also have an active, if small, trails committee which is always looking for help. Another small committee responds to requests from organizations or groups to speak about McNabs Island. There is an ongoing need for a secretary and for someone with computer skills to work on The Rucksack.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, or interested in what's been happening with the Friends of McNabs Island Society in the past year, come to the Annual General Meeting. This year the meeting is to be in Dartmouth at the Helen Creighton Room of the Alderney Gate Library on April 9 at 6:00 PM.

PS: We promise that if you do come, there will be no pressure to sit on the Board.

Halifax Watershed Coalition Workshop

By Catherine McCarthy

Last year, a coalition of non-profit organizations applied for funding under the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF) administered by Environment Canada. Some of those organizations were including the Friends of McNabs Island Society, Ecology Action Centre, Clean Nova Scotia, MacIntosh Run Watershed Association, Sackville Rivers Association, the School for Resource and Environmental Studies, and the Eco-efficiency Centre. The coalition received \$84,000 in funding for a two-year project. The goal is to undertake a community-based watershed remediation plan to deal with non-sewage issues in Halifax Harbour.

Under the first phase of the project, the coalition will gather previous research on Halifax Harbour and identify items that need to be acted upon. During the second phase, these action items will be turned into

Friends at the Bedford Leisure Club

The Friends of McNabs Island Society was invited to give a talk and slide presentation to the Bedford Leisure Club. The Club meets on the first Monday of the month and on February 3, Carolyn Mont spoke to a group of about 40 of their members. A number of them had been to McNabs and were very interested in learning about the social and natural history of the island.



Above: Rusting tanks on the shores of McNabs Photo: Dusan Soudek

community projects provided that they fit EDF criteria. Projects that consider restoration or remediation of the harbour shoreline and watershed, improvements to the environmental quality of the harbour, and education and public awareness projects will be considered.

The coalition will be holding a day-long workshop on Halifax Harbour at the Weldon Law Building on Saturday April 5 from 9:00AM until 4:00PM. The workshop agenda includes a synopsis of previous studies on Halifax Harbour, a presentation of the Halifax Harbour draft plan prepared by HRM planning staff, discussions on how to improve the environment of the harbour and its watershed, and ideas for community projects. For more information, contact Jerry MacKinlay, Ecology Action Centre at 429-2202. All those interested in our Harbour are welcome to attend!

Fifth Annual Dinner

By Judith Campbell

Another successful event! The Board members are pleased to report that the Fifth Annual Dinner and Silent Auction held on February 22nd was enjoyed by all.

There was a splendid three-course dinner served in the 18th century Officers Mess, Royal Artillery Park. The historical building again provided a lovely setting for more than 80 people to make new and to renew friendships. By popular demand, Dennis Williams returned this year to entertain us all at the Grand Piano. Thank you, Dennis!

The Society appreciates the generosity of the community who donated items for the silent auction fundraising table. Then, the attendees were equally as generous. There was very competitive bidding for the items and over \$2,000 was brought in to our Society.

Discussions are already underway for the next dinner year.

Notices

McNabs Island Poster

Our poster has been updated and is available by calling Carolyn at 477-017. The price remains \$5.00 plus mailing.

Halifax Harbour Watershed Coalition

-Workshop, April 5, 9:00AM to 4:00PM
-Weldon Law Building

Annual General Meeting

-Wednesday, April 9, at 6:00PM
-Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Library, Dartmouth

McNabs Island 2003 Beach Sweep

-Sunday, June 1 (rain date June 8)
-10:00AM to 4:00 PM
-Depart Cable Wharf, Halifax

Walk and Talk Tour for Teachers

-Friday, July 25, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
-Contact SSTA, c/o Bruce Fisher at fisherbr@Staff.Ednet.NS.Ca

Park Advisory Committee News

By Catherine McCarthy

The McNabs and Lawlor Islands Park Advisory Committee met several times since November to review public comments submitted on the draft park management plan. There were thirty-one submissions from individuals and groups about the plan. Many of the suggestions can be incorporated into the draft plan, but other comments such as setting zoning boundaries for the park, choosing the best location for camping or not allowing camping at all, adopting a "green" sustainable park philosophy and how to implement the park plan require more discussion. The committee will continue to meet frequently throughout April and hopes to complete the revisions to the draft plan by early May. The plan will then be submitted to the Minister of Natural Resources for approval.

**Mail Me! THE FRIENDS OF MCNABS ISLAND SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM**

new membership renewal

I enclose \$_____ for:

donation supporting membership (\$50)
 individual membership (\$15) sustaining membership (\$100)
 family membership (\$20) newsletter only (\$15)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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** to: PO Box 31240, Gladstone RPO, Halifax, NS, B3K 5Y1 or phone Carolyn Mont at 477-0187 for membership inquiries.

Insert picture of Martin at Matthew Lynch House.

Winter at McNabs

Most people don't think of going to McNabs Island in the winter. Dusan Soudek and his son Martin paddled to the island to do some cross country skiing and provided us with all of the pictures for this issue of The Rucksack.

Insert cropped picture of Dusan skiing.

***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: (902) 434-2254**

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