

# *The Rucksack*

Newsletter of the Friends of McNabs Island Society

The society is a registered charity:

CCRA number 88847 4194 RR 0001

Volume Thirteen, Issue Three

Spring 2005

Friends of McNabs Island will be holding its

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 6, 7:00pm at  
Brightwood Golf & Country Club,  
School St, Dartmouth, NS**

**Guest Speaker will be Linda Frank - Superintendent, Halifax Citadel, Parks Canada, who will be speaking about Parks Canada's plan for Fort McNab National Historic Site and the Halifax Defence Complex**

**Refreshments will be served .**

**Space is limited to come early to ensure you have a seat!**

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## McNabs Dinner and Auction a Great Success



**John McCallum at his table**

On February 26th of this year the Friends of McNabs Island held their Annual Dinner and Fund-raising Auction.

Tickets sold out a month before the event in anticipation of the fabulous food supplied by Royal Artillery Park Mess staff in the glorious historic building that has been the venue for dinners past.

Special thanks goes to John McCallum, husband of our secretary Denyse Contrasty, who was our contact with the mess to arrange the evening. Faye Power was instrumental in promoting the sales of tickets for the event. We owe her a great debt of gratitude. Many businesses and individuals donated goods and services to the auction and they are thanked on page four of this issue.

Dennis Williams, Robert MacMillan and Paula Macquarrie provided musical entertainment for the guests .

A Powerpoint presentation was available to view showing scenes of the island and its historic past provided a subtle backdrop to the evening.

Dinner photos in this issue were taken by Chris Poulain, our webmaster.

A great time was had by all and the auction raised \$1600 for the Society!



**Faye Power at her table**

## Special Friend of the Island Award

Each year the Friends of McNabs Island Society recognizes an individual who has worked toward the preservation of McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park. This year we are pleased to announce that our **Special Friend of the Island Award** was presented to Brian Kinsman, Senior Park Planner with the Department of Natural Resources.

Brian accepted his award, which is a pair of commemorative Friends of McNabs Island ships mugs handmade by potter and member of the society, Sally Ravindra, at the Friends of McNabs Island Society's annual dinner and auction, which took place on Saturday February 26, 2005.



**President Cathy McCarthy presenting Brian with his award**

Brian has worked as a park planner for the Department of Natural Resources for the past 22 years and also serves as a municipal councillor for the Town of Truro. Since the inception of the Friends of McNabs Island Society in 1990, Brian has worked alongside the Friends toward the preservation of the islands as a provincial park. Brian has demonstrated a commitment to the islands over these past fifteen years that far exceeds his role as park planner. He has assisted the Friends of McNabs in innumerable ways, such as authoring a chapter in our successful book **Discover McNabs Island**. For the past five years, Brian has facilitated the McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park Advisory Committee. In that capacity, he has steadfastly guided the committee in developing a management plan for the islands, which is expected to be released this spring.

The Friends of McNabs Island thank Brian for his dedicated work over the past 15 years.  
Catherine McCarthy



### Email Updates

Receive updates email by sending a message to  
Carolyn Mont [carolynmont@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:carolynmont@ns.sympatico.ca)



**Carolyn Mont & friends  
with Dennis Williams**

## **Thank you**

**to those who donated items to the auction.  
Without your generosity this event wouldn't have  
been possible!**

**Gray Line Charters & Tours  
Aventix Animal Health  
Casino Nova Scotia Hotel  
Contours Express  
Courtyard Tennis Club  
Curves, Joseph Howe Drive  
Department of Natural Resources  
Eastside Mario's  
Ed's Charters  
Fraserway RV Centre Ltd  
Future Inns Halifax  
Hillcrest Volkswagen  
McNab's Island Ferry  
Montana Cook House and Bar  
Orb Factory  
Richardson's Law Office  
Shoppers Optical  
Silhouette Fitness Studios  
The Cutting Room**

**Amy McLellan  
Betty Hodgson  
Carolyn Gallagher  
Catherine Ross  
Christine Ostling  
Cynthia Hirschfeld  
Faye Power  
Jean Morrison  
Jim Cleveland  
Linda Johnston  
Royce Walker  
Sally Ravindra  
The Prince George Hotel  
Tom's Little Havana  
Topiary  
Touch of Gold  
Wade Company Ltd.  
Westin Nova Scotian Hotel**



## Oil Pipeline on McNabs Island

One of the items unearthed on McNabs Island by Hurricane Juan is an 800 foot long pipe containing heavy oil. The pipe now lies exposed on Maugers Beach and leads from the old oil pump house and storage site to Garrison Pier. It is believed that the pipe was used during WW II to carry oil from the pier to up to military establishments on McNabs Island that were active during the war years. No one knows how long the pipe really is and no one knows when the Department of Natural Resources will have the pipe removed and the site cleaned-up. In the interim, the pipe has been plugged to prevent the oil from oozing onto the beach.

## Park Advisory Committee Update

At a McNabs and Lawlor Islands Park Advisory Committee meeting in January, members of the committee were informed that the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency (CFIA) has advised the Department of Natural Resources that spruce trees damaged by Hurricane Juan must be removed from the island. CFIA has long believed that the European Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle is present on McNabs Island and must be eradicated. The Department of Natural Resources has determined that about 70% of the island is a high risk zone, which means the brown spruce beetle has been sighted in the area and there is also significant hurricane damage. The island will be severely impacted by this decision. Forestry operations are expected to begin this spring. All spruce trees larger than 10cm in diameter damaged by the hurricane and within the high risk zone will be removed. Unlike Point Pleasant Park where logs were transported to a sawmill for processing, the damaged trees on McNabs and Lawlor Islands will be cut and chipped on site.

**Discover McNabs Island** book is available for \$10.00. *Copies are limited* so get one now while you still can. This is an indispensable resource for people visiting the island.

Updated **Friends of McNabs Island Poster** is a bargain at \$5.00. Why not put one up in front of your desk at work so you can escape to the island anytime!

**Island Brochures** are available **free of charge** for individuals or groups.

For any of these items call Carolyn at 477-0187.



## Guide for School Groups

One of the mandates of the Friends of McNabs Island Society is to promote the Island as an outdoor classroom. One way this is done is with a marvelous, hands-on kit available to teachers through the Museum of Natural History. This kit can be used to complement the language arts, social studies and science programs in the elementary school curriculum. We would recommend this kit to any teacher who is planning to take their class to McNabs. Try to use it a few weeks prior to your trip to the island.

We have also conducted teacher workshops on the island as part of teacher inservicing. Some teachers have expressed an interest in taking their students to the island but are not familiar with the trail system or the history. Carolyn Mont, a retired school teacher and long time member of the Friends of McNabs Island Society, is available to lead tours and class trips on the island.

Teachers must make their own arrangements to get to the island but, if available, Carolyn will accompany them and their class. **Space is limited.** If you are interested, please call Carolyn at 477-0187 as soon as possible.

### How do I get to the Island?

If you call the NS Visitor Information Centre at the Halifax International Airport (873-1223 or 873-1224) they have current information about how to get to McNabs. The airport centre is open 7 days a week (even on Christmas) from 9am to 9pm and has brochures and maps of the island. You can also look in the yellow pages under Boats/Charters, Rentals.



Offering service to McNabs  
from Cable Wharf in Halifax to Garrison Pier  
Call Toll Free (877) 274-8421 for reservations or go to  
their website for more information on their offerings.  
<http://www.fourwindscharters.com/>



Offering ferry service from Eastern Passage to the island. For reservations call Captain Mike Tilley 465-4563 or outside Metro Halifax, NS- call 1-800-ECO-ILND (326-4563)  
<http://www.mcnabsisland.com>

### Murphy's on the Water

The largest tour boat service in all of Atlantic Canada. Offers service to the island from Cable Wharf in Halifax. To confirm departures call 420-1015.  
<http://www.murphysonthewater.com/>

## Mark your calendars! Upcoming Events

### McNabs and Lawlor Islands Beach Clean-up

Sunday June 5, 2005 (Raindate) Sunday June 12, 2005  
10 AM - 4:00 PM

Kick off Environment Week by joining the Friends of McNabs Island Society in the annual cleanup of McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park. Bring gloves, comfortable shoes, lunch and drinking water. Meet at Four Winds Charters on Cable Wharf in Halifax. Transportation to the island is FREE for volunteers. Groups of more than ten persons must pre-register with the Friends of McNabs Island. Space on the boat is limited and available on a First Come, First Served basis. For more information, contact Carolyn 477-0187 or visit [www.mcnabsisland.ca](http://www.mcnabsisland.ca) or e-mail [mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca)

### McNabs Island Paddle and Clean-up

#### *McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park, Halifax Regional Municipality*

Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM Rain date- Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM.

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 in Halifax Harbour. We will stop at several beaches to collect litter. Plastic bags will be provided, and a motor boat will pick up the full bags afterwards. **PFDs have to be worn while on the water**, while the safety equipment required by the Coast Guard (floating line, bailer, and signalling device) will need to be on board. The group will meet at the unpaved parking lot near Dook's wharf in Shearwater (across from Tim Horton's) on Eastern Passage Road. Bring your own lunch, drinks and rain gear. For information or to register contact: Katalin Ohlsson at 902-464-1236, (evenings) or at [KEOhlsson@aol.com](mailto:KEOhlsson@aol.com)

**The Nova Scotia Wildlife Festival** will be held on Sunday Sept 18, 2005 Fisherman's Cove, Eastern Passage. Come on out and say hello to Denyse and the gang at the Friends of McNabs booth!

### Fall Foliage Tours, McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park

Sunday October 16, 2005  
(Raindate) Sunday October 23, 2005  
10 AM-4:00 PM Cost: TBA

Join the Friends of McNabs Island Society for the annual Fall Foliage Tours of McNabs Island Provincial Park. See the island in its autumn splendour and participate in guided history and nature tours. Tour includes a tour of the historic island homes. Wear comfortable shoes, and bring a lunch and drinking water. Groups of more than ten persons must pre-register. Space on the boat is limited and is available on a First Come, First Served basis. For more information, contact Carolyn 477-0187 or visit [www.mcnabsisland.ca](http://www.mcnabsisland.ca) or e-mail: [mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca).

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

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL

Address:

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 order 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](http://www.mcnabsisland.ca)

Phone: Cathy (902) 434-2254 evenings or Carolyn (902) 477-0187

This issue went to print March 2005.