

# The Rucksack



Newsletter of **The Friends of McNabs Island**

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Summer/Autumn 2002

## Annual beach clean-up

by Carolyn Mont

As Sunday, June 2, dawned, the big question in the minds of McNabs Island beach clean-up supporters was, "Is it on?" The weather report was iffy -- sunny, cloudy, possible showers, maybe thunder. After much discussion, it was decided that we would take a chance on the weather and go.

We had a smaller than usual crowd, just 64 people, so it was obvious that the weather played a factor on that day. As the group gathered at Murphy's On The Water, sun screen, bug spray and rain gear were much in evidence. We all came prepared to enjoy whatever came our way.

What did come our way? In terms of weather, we saw sun, clouds and rain. By the time we all met at Garrison Pier for the return to town, some people were huddled under trees or umbrellas comparing stories about what had been collected along the shore line.

As usual, an amazing array of "stuff" had washed up on the shores of McNabs Island. This year, 160 bags of garbage and 20 bags of recyclables were collected. We shake our heads in amazement at things like 2 car bumpers, a fuel tank from a truck and a vacuum cleaner that showed up on the beach. There was also an office swivel chair amongst the debris.

The trip back to the city was as pleasurable as the ride early in the day. We were all satisfied with the

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*Katalin Ohlsson at this year's beach clean-up.*

work we had done and, of course, given that it was raining by then, we were all happy to be out of the weather. It was interesting to observe the group of tired, cold volunteers at the end of the day. No one complained about the weather or being cold. All look forward to next year's clean-up and another wonderful day.

Because of weather concerns, no one got over to Lawlor's Island on our June 2 clean-up. However, a group of enthusiastic people, lead

*Clean-up continued on Page 2*

*(Clean-up, continued from Page 1)*

by Trevor Dewolfe of Eastern Passage, organized their own beach clean-up on June 21. Nine people arrived to help and managed to collect 42 bags of garbage, plus about half as much again in plastics that couldn't fit into bags. This would include large buckets and fish boxes. Mike Tilley, owner of McNabs Island Ferry, helped with removing the garbage. He told us that Trevor had contacted HRM, who sent a truck to Fisherman's Cove to remove the garbage. This was a tremendous effort on the part of a small group, almost half of whom were under the age of 10. Many thanks to them all!!

## **Friends of McNabs Island hold meeting on Island**

**Cathy McCarthy**

Insert photo of board.

*The board assembled in front of the Matthew Lynch House. From L to R: Carolyn Mont, Catherine McCarthy, Judith Campbell, Victor Dingle, Doug Bowes.*

The Board of the Friends of McNabs have been holding monthly meetings for the past 12 years. On Friday July 26th, for the first time ever, the board meeting was held on McNabs Island. The board members were ferried to the island by Captain Redbeard a.k.a. Mike Tilley of McNabs Island Ferry for a supper BBQ and meeting held outdoors on the Conrad property. Members in attendance were Carolyn Mont, Cathy McCarthy, Judy Campbell, Victor Dingle and Doug Bowes. Board members Loraine Beattie, Bill Mont and Anton Self were unable to attend.

## **2002 Calendar of Events**

### **Annual Paddle & Cleanup of McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park**

*Saturday, September 14*

*Rain date Saturday, September 21*

Join Friends of McNabs Island Society and Canoe/Kayak Nova Scotia in a leisurely paddle around McNabs and Lawlor Islands. Help keep the islands clean by collecting garbage from the shoreline of the islands and McNabs Pond. Participants must have their own canoe, kayak or row boat. For details contact Dusan at 422-4015 (evenings) or soudekd@ns.sympatico.ca

### **McNabs and Lawlor Islands to be Designated a Provincial Park**

*Sunday, September 22*

Natural Resources Minister Tim Olive will announce the designation of McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park during a planned visit to McNabs Island on September 22.

### **Fall Foliage Tours**

*Sunday October 20*

*Rain date: Sunday October 27*

*10 AM-4:00 PM*

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. Meet at Murphy's on the Water, Cable Wharf in Halifax. Groups of more than 10 persons must pre-register. Space on the boat is limited to 147 persons and available on a first come, first served basis. For more information contact Cathy 434-2254 or Carolyn 477-0187. Cost: \$ 6.50 members and children, \$ 8.50 non-members

Insert cropped photo of SSTA w/beetle trap.

Social Studies Teachers Association at Fort McNabs, with beetle trap in front.

## Walk and Talk Tour

By Carolyn Mont

The Friends of McNabs Island Society are frequently asked if we supply guides for teachers taking classes on field trips to McNabs. We don't do this but realized that there was a need to help educate teachers about the value of McNabs Island as an outdoor classroom. This spring, we approached the Social Studies Teachers Association with offers to provide workshops for teachers. The first of these took place on Friday, July 26, with a Walk and Talk led by Carolyn Mont and Catherine McCarthy. This workshop was co-ordinated by Bruce Fisher of the SSTA.

Nineteen teachers from across the province met at Fisherman's Cove at 8:30 in the morning. It was a wonderful day, with a hike from Back Cove to Fort Ives, with a stop at the old teahouse for a picnic lunch. Many classes go to McNabs for their June field trip but this group of teachers learned how a visit could support programs in many subject areas and grade levels.

Carolyn and Cathy look forward to following this Walk and Talk session with a workshop at the NSTU Fall Conference in October. They will present at the Social Studies Teachers Association, showing teachers how they might make use of our McNabs Island Kit which is at the Museum of Natural History and available on loan to teachers.

## Draft Management Plan for McNabs and Lawlor Islands Released

By Cathy McCarthy

The Department of Natural Resources has finally released the draft management plan for the proposed McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park. This is long-awaited good news for the Friends of McNabs Island Society that has been advocating a park on the harbour islands for 12 years.

The management plan was two years in-the-making and provides a vision and philosophy that will guide future management decisions for the park. The plan was prepared by the McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park Advisory Committee and Department of Natural Resources staff and is available on the department's web site at

[www.gov.ns.ca/natr/parks/mcnabs](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/parks/mcnabs)  
A limited number of copies are available from the Natural Resources library, located at 1701 Hollis St., 3rd Floor, Halifax. Contact the library for a copy of the plan at 424-5935.

As part of the public review process for the management plan, a series of open houses is planned for Dartmouth, Eastern Passage and Halifax. Members of the Park Advisory Committee and staff from NS Department of Natural

*Management plan, continued on Page 4*

