

# The Rucksack

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



Volume Fifteen, Issue 2

Winter 2006 - 2007

## Fall Foliage Tour a Grand Success!

Sunday, October 15 turned out to be a warm and sunny day for this year's Fall Foliage Tour on McNabs Island. The total number of visitors to McNabs Island was 85 and we had the pleasure of having a nature tour provided by Mike McDonald as well as joining Royce Parker for his historical tour.



Mike McDonald explains the dune system  
at Mangers Beach

Carolyn Mont and Carolyn Gallagher helped out visitors at the Conrad-Davis House. Despite all efforts, the Matthew Lynch House however could not be accessed. There is a great deal of interest in these historic homes. It would be tremendous advantage to see these treasures preserved and protected from deteriorating conditions.

Garbage was evident on the beaches, perhaps because our annual cleanup in June was cancelled due to bad weather. There is so much history and nature to explore on this beautiful Island in the middle of the Halifax Harbour!

by Katalin Ohlsson

Photo credits for this article:  
Cathy McCarthy

### MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

In the past few months, we have had a number of people submit membership renewals long before their membership has expired. While this is not a problem for the Friends of McNabs Island Society it is also not necessary. If your membership has expired or is going to expire within a few months, you will receive a notice with your Rucksack. We would appreciate it if you would send your remittance at that time. Any membership renewals sent by December 31, 2006, will, of course, receive a tax receipt for this year.

**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 also accept donations.

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**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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**Conrad house open for visitors**

**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 Mont, 477-0187 to get yours today!



**Send us your photos!**

Photo credits for the fall issue should have gone to Dusan Soudek and Scott Guthrie. Thanks so much for recording the events of the Paddle and Clean-up. Anyone who takes photos for a McNabs event is welcome to submit their photos for possible inclusion in the newsletter. Please send each file as a JPEG extension and we prefer files of around 100 kb each. Any photos over 1 M cannot be accepted.



**Carolyn Mont and Judy Campbell accept the award from Tony Turner**

## **GOLD LEAF AWARD**

On October 3, 2006, Judy Campbell and Carolyn Mont were delighted to represent the Friends of McNabs Island Society at the closing banquet of the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA). They were there to accept, on behalf of the Friends, CCEA's prestigious Gold Leaf Award. The CCEA is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to facilitate and assist Canadians with the establishment and management of a comprehensive network of protected areas representative of

Canada's interested and aquatic ecological natural diversity. This year CCEA held their 2006 Annual General Meeting at Oak Island Inn and Resort in Western Shore, NS.

The Gold Leaf Award acknowledges contributions of individuals, organizations and agencies to the CCEA mission. The Friends of McNabs Island Society was presented this award in recognition of years of dedication to the preservation of McNabs Island.

Presenting the award was Tony Turner, outgoing Chair of CCEA. by Carolyn Mont



**Carolyn explains the location of the island**



## **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? Why not submit it to the newsletter! Not all jobs take a lot of time, some can be one-time-only help with an event, making phone calls to members or mailing out newsletters. Please contact the executive through our email address: [mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca)

We made a mistake! In the article on Hugonin Battery in the last issue of the Rucksack (Vol. 15:1) we stated that the Battery was now owned by the provincial Department of Natural Resources. In fact, Hugonin Battery is still owned by the Department of National Defence and has not yet been transferred to the province.

**OOPS!**

If you wish to receive updates about the status of McNabs Island by **EMAIL**, please send your contact information to: [mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca)

## McNabs and Lawlor Islands Park Advisory Committee Updates

In the near future, the Department of Natural Resources plans to remove and replace Range Pier located on the Eastern Passage side of McNabs Island. O'Halloran Campbell Consultants has been hired to develop an engineering plan for a new pier to be located beside the existing pier. The old dilapidated Range Pier will be dismantled and removed before spring. Hopefully funding for a new wharf will be in next year's DNR budget.

Despite opposition from many members of the Park Advisory Committee, DNR plans to restrict camping to just the ten campsites near the Teahouse for the 2007 season. Many visitors to the island have complained that this site is not easily accessible from the Back Cove area which is the most popular disembarkation point on the island. DNR has agreed to look at more than one location once a permanent site for the campground is chosen.

DNR is constructing a new maintenance building beside the caretaker's house on the island. This building will replace the existing sheds on the property.

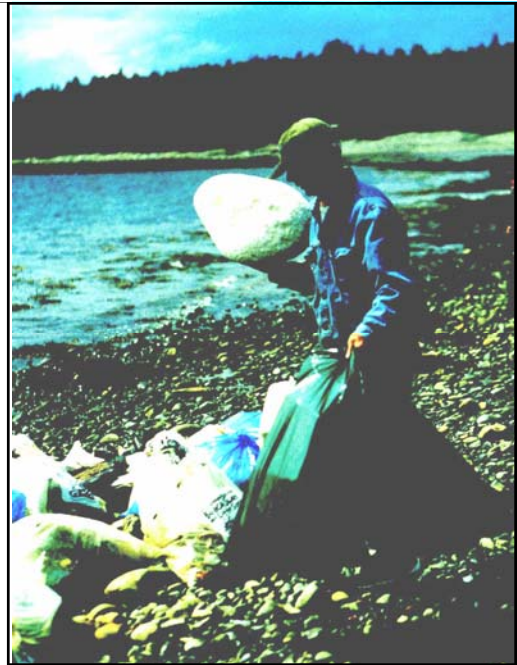
Since DNR is responsible for the care and upkeep of historic Fort Ives, the Department has established a Fort Ives Technical Working Group. This group of experts from various government departments will assess the condition of Fort Ives and recommend any stabilization work that needs to be done to maintain the historic integrity of the 19<sup>th</sup> century fortification.

by Cathy McCarthy

### Dave Seaboyer, McNabs Island Caretaker to Retire

After 23 years as DNR's full-time caretaker on McNabs Island, Dave Seaboyer is planning to retire this winter. Dave has been a watchful eye to the "goings-on" on the island over the years and has diligently protected the historic Conrad and Lynch houses. He has been an immense help to the Friends of McNabs Island, especially during our beach cleanups where he assisted in hauling garbage and recyclables to the wharf for pickup. It is hoped that the Department will fill Dave's position immediately so that the island's historic assets are not jeopardized.

**Thank you Dave and enjoy your retirement!**



***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)

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